



**Committee: ECOSOC MS**

**Topic: Addressing “The Line” Project**

**Chair: Alejandro Alvarez**

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## **Introduction**

The United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is the central organ regarding sustainable development. ECOSOC has the goal to promote better standards of living, employment opportunities, as well as social and economic progress for each of its members. Culture and education are key factors for the committee, as the encouragement of human rights and freedom is the focus of ECOSOC. The committee is responsible for 70% of the human and financial resources of the United Nations. ECOSOC has the obligation to provide people the opportunities to grow and develop, both socially and economically. This is the reason why this committee serves as a guide toward the discussion of economic and social issues.

Sustainability has been a major concern for several countries in the past decades. Contamination, traffic, and excessive consumption have been threats to the environment. The situation has been getting worse as the years go on. The excessive amounts of Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere have raised the concern of weather experts. Several problems regarding urbanization and the creation of new cities exist. The growing concern about housing is also critical, as there are more people and fewer houses. The rise in prices calls for higher homelessness and unemployment. This is the reason why several architects and engineers in Saudi Arabia proposed “The Line”. This concept is an ideal futuristic city, considered a revolution for urbanism and human development. The objective of this project is to increase sustainability and create ecologic cities, as well as to provide housing and innovative solutions for society. Director Mohammed Bin Salman initially proposed “The Line” in January 2021. The project will cost an estimated \$500 billion, designed for 9 million residents in 34 square kilometers. As it will be powered by renewable energy, “The Line” is one of the biggest bets against global warming and re-shaping mankind's housing and city development.

The energy the project will spend is planned to be renewable, solar, hydro, and wind power will be used to bring energy to the megastructure. According to Bin Salman:

“No roads, cars or emissions, it will run on 100% renewable energy and 95% of the land will be preserved for nature.” It is estimated that it will be finished by 2030.

## **Development**

“The Line” is one of the most innovative and disruptive proposals in the past years. It covers issues such as transportation, pollution, and sustainability. It has been described as the “civilization's revolution that puts humans first”. Furthermore, it will use solar, wind, and hydrogen power to maintain green spaces and transportation lines. It also solves the housing problems, as it proposes to create a fair distribution among the citizens of the project. This situation is important as there are increasing rates of homeless people, which also tackles the increase in housing prices, as fewer people are being able to afford a house. The line seeks to solve this issue through its innovation. However, it is a reality that hundreds of critics have raised their voices against the idea. Many people argue that life quality will be put at risk, as the project is 34 square kilometers, meaning less than 4 square meters per person. If the project is realized under these conditions, experts argue that space will be a major concern. This raises several questions regarding the healthcare and life conditions people could have. It is known that having too many people in reduced spaces may cause an increase in infections and diseases, This can be a major concern as there are several problems if this were to occur in a zone that is far away from any other city.

Another concern that critics have is that the megastructure will need high amounts of power and electricity in order to build and maintain it. According to them, “The Line” would need approximately 500 acres of solar panels just to maintain itself through solar power. Experts plant the question of how the plan can be carbon-zero with the resources and tools we have today. According to the head of the environment school at the University of South Wales, Philip Oldfield, “Approximately 1.8 million tons of carbon emissions will occur with the materials used to build such a project.” This would represent a higher amount of power required than several countries in Europe and Asia. Even though the project experts state that it will be powered by renewable resources, it is still early to determine how can they reach the energy necessary and maintain it, as big cities such as New York and London have tried to implement carbon-zero emissions, and struggling, serving as an example that it will not be an easy task. The Line can be revolutionary if it solves the issue regarding the need for power in the megastructure. However, there are still questions regarding the real possibility of having the amount of energy necessary to sustain the lives of 9 million people.

Another problem is the threat it represents to animal migratory routes. Experts argue that thousands of bird species could suffer due to this project, as it plans a giant

mirrored wall in the middle of the desert. This could lead to thousands of animal deaths, as well as affectations on food chains and further environmental concerns. Migration is critical for the development of an ecosystem. Experts believe that this project can affect drastically the food chain in several regions in the Middle East.

Water could also be an issue for "The Line", as proper water treatment could be a major risk due to the distribution of the housing plan. In modern cities, water is becoming scarce. The efficient distribution of water is an increasing problem for every nation. The region of the Middle East has few water reserves. This situation may be concerning for the project as they seek to maintain 9 million residents. The amounts of water needed to power, clean, and maintain efficiency in the project can be very demanding.

Other concerns regarding this project are the well-being of people and the logistic process taken into consideration. Countries worldwide need commerce in order to receive food and products. The Line would be excluded from commerce, as there are planned very few entrances to the structure. This raises the concern that supermarkets and stores within "The Line" may suffer shortages if logistics are not planned correctly. Shortages in foods will cause further problems such as crime, which is also a major concern for the project.

Experts argue that fitting 9 million residents in 34 square kilometers is an impossible task. Even if housing is done appropriately, crime is a concern that will rise in the project. Security will need to be effectively implemented through police forces or even armies, to keep crime rates low. At the moment, the builders of "The Line" have not stated any solutions for criminals and robbers, they sustain that all members of the Line should behave and follow the rules established, in order to maintain society in peace. This project must ensure the well-being of people, and now there are several concerns regarding "The Line". Several critics argue that this situation could put more people at risk than solving the modern issues the world has. Researchers state that there are different ways of reducing pollution, however, if The Line can manage to solve this issue, it is a reality that it can provide revolution and innovation to millions of persons worldwide.

ECOSOC needs to have impartial decisions toward the well-being of people and the environment. Smart cities have been proposed by several experts for many decades ago. The revolution in sustainability and the innovation in infrastructure have allowed cities to create green buildings and reduce their carbon footprint. There exist several proposals that solve the issues in modern cities. However, it is important to consider what are humans up to risk in order to reduce pollution and ensure well-being. There are several concerns regarding this project. Housing, crime, and logistics are all factors that involve each city in the world. Through efficient solutions, "The Line" could become the revolution towards the creation of cities in the future. The

committee seeks to open dialogue among the nations and discuss further actions to take in account of this situation. “The Line” represents an opportunity for the future of city development, but will it be enough to convince the world?

## **Conclusion**

Saudi Arabia has innovated in technology, it is a reality that “The Line” represents opportunities for millions of people who want to live in a modern, clean, city. The environmental concerns that inspired this concept are critical. Contamination and carbon emissions have been affecting the environment for several years, this is the reason why proposals like “The Line” need to be deeply analyzed and considered. ECOSOC has the objective to provide people with well-being and maintain social and economic development. Some of the issues that the committee needs to consider are the impact of building the project, even though it is still a concept, the creators of “The Line” have stated that they want people to live there by 2024, in order to complete the ideal by 2030. Other issues are composed of the lack of water, the distribution of food and housing, as well as crime rates.

Some of the solutions for this proposal would be to create international cooperation in investments towards the project. This would allow the company to finish the project and create an international community with cultural diversity. Another idea to implement is the creation of economies within “The Line”. Have specialized jobs for citizens and improve their opportunities for wealth creation. Law enforcement will also be important for the project; therefore, the committee will need to implement effective authorities that ensure the well-being of citizens in “The Line”.

ECOSOC is always in favor of sustainability and environmental protection. This is the reason why the project must be deeply analyzed, and effective solutions are proposed for all members of “The Line”. Through effective solutions, the committee will cooperate towards seeking to ensure the opportunity of an enhanced lifestyle, environmental protection, and social development. The world needs to have an opportunity for a reduction in pollution and an increase in sustainability. The project of the Line has several initiatives that will provide solutions for modern issues. There are still several implications that need to be taken into consideration. Through the implementation of modern solutions, people can have a better understanding of sustainability and increase the possibilities of having a better life. The Line has all the characteristics to become an architectural structure that will exist as an example of sustainable societies for the future. Innovation is critical for the solutions implemented. This is the reason why modern problems require modern solutions.

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