

Somalia

Positions for the Economic Commission for Africa

Topic I: Examining the Role of State Governments In Encouraging and Managing Economic Development

Until August of this year, the Federal Republic of Somalia has lacked the central government required to develop, manage and sustain an extensive economic development project. Successive government systems in the past have tried and failed to spark any sort of economic stimulation despite the expenditure of an exorbitant amount of resources. Attempting to initiate such a drive with an infrastructure so fragile and fragmented has proved disastrous, and the general neglect of this council and body to the socioeconomic issues coinciding with these failed attempts is deeply troubling. The Federal Republic of Somalia must first ensure the health, sanctity and security of its people before it can begin reconstruction of any major industries or the reversal of agricultural ramifications due to natural causes and conflict. Somalia has appealed to this body several times for a unified aid effort that holds the best interests of Somalia at heart, and does not attempt to exploit or reform Somalia in such a way that it threatens the cultural fabrics of the people.

Somalia is enthusiastic and encouraged about the official inauguration of the Federal Government of Somalia this past August and already, President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud has taken great strides in developing measures to improve economic development in Somalia. Education, healthcare, infrastructure and state media initiatives have all been implemented and confirmed by the Federal Parliament as of September 14th, showing that Somalia is a sovereign state once again with the ability and desire to push Somalia into the future with a brighter future than ever before. These developments are still in their preliminary stages however, and with Somalia still forming logistical frameworks for many of its ministries, foreign aid will still be required while Somalia becomes efficiently self-automated. Somalia humbly requests the aid of this body to assist with the glorious goal of helping the Somali people grant our children a brighter future.

The Federal Republic of Somalia is the example that all of Africa should follow. Despite a tumultuous past, the Somali people have prevailed in the face of dictators, famine, illegal trade and piracy to rise and accept a unified republic that they feel holds their best interest at heart. It is imperative that the state be central in organizing their own economic development projects, without foreign intervention. One, to prevent encroachment of foreign powers as seen during the colonial days of the 19th century, during which Somalia was mercilessly exploited by lustful empires. Of course, in special cases where a nation is not logistically capable of providing for its people, then it may accept the aid of private NGO and other beneficial institutions. These should not be used as a crutch for development, but a catalyst for true change and sustainable, independent development.

Topic II: Addressing the Exploitation and Mismanagement of Natural Resources at State and Regional Levels

Africa has taken great strides in the past towards a better future for its entire people. Healthcare, education, transportation and communication have all progressed beyond initial expectations during the beginning of the development cycles. With every step

of progress, two steps of regression have been taken back due to corruption. The sensitive and fragile nature of these developing nations leaves them ripe for exploitation from within. Ministers and officials, sworn to defend the honor and integrity of their people, have fallen victim to greed and lust for power, halting and degrading all of the progress that has been made. Any action that harms the potential of the greater good is intolerable as it is unjust and any and all actions must be taken to cease such corrupt acts.

The Federal Republic of Somalia recognizes that there are times where officials are pressured by corporations and other institutions to make decisions detrimental to the growth of their nation. This forces the hand of this council to rethink its strategy when dealing with certain foreign and domestic investors. This council must consider not just the history and intentions of the organizations, but request that these companies disclose their financial information to avoid any “unspoken” discrepancies from appearing after binding contracts have already been signed between nations. This may initially limit the number of investors that can provide valuable monetary and physical aid to these developing nations, but in the long run, it will ensure that developing African nations are not being taken advantage of. Harsher punishments must also be put in place to combat the desire of officials to submit themselves to corruption.

The Federal Republic of Somalia just recently increased the penalty of corruption from 7-10 years of jail and a fine to 25-30 years with other penalties included. Subsequently, the newly established Anti-Corruption Committee has been implemented to oversee the overall reduction of corruption within federal districts of Somalia. The new committee is designed to focus on transparency, accountability, and integrity in order to speed up the fight against corruption as part of good governance. It is also needed to improve social services by protecting national interests, restoring law and order and improving the general policy for Somalia. It is a potential avenue that the Federal Republic of Somalia recommends for all developing nations across the African continent.

Topic III: Accelerating Progress towards Meeting MDG #1: The Eradication of Extreme Poverty

As previously mentioned, Africa has taken great strides in improving the lifestyle of the people across the continent. Unfortunately, from the standpoint of the Federal Republic of Somalia, the Millennium Development Goal of eradicating extreme poverty has fallen short of its desired effect. The Federal Republic of Somalia has not been able to adequately execute its short term goals for eliminating poverty due to internal issue coinciding with the transition of Somalia’s government to a federal republic, as well as a famine that has required the state’s full attention to ensure its people are being fed. Somalia had implemented a roadmap for the eradication of poverty after health and safety were secured. With most of Africa having at least 1/3 of its population still below the poverty line; the Economic Commission for Africa must attempt creative and high risk endeavors if it is to meet the deadline of the Millennium development goal. Part of the Somali “Roadmap for Poverty Reduction” was an extensive infrastructure project that would employ 7.5 million unemployed Somalis as well as provide the nation with the infrastructure that it so desperately requires. The Federal Republic of Somalia acknowledges the fact that not all nations will be compatible with this direct example, so each “roadmap” will have to be tailored to fit the socioeconomic needs and intricacies that each African nation possesses.