

I. Preserving Economic Development in times of Internal Conflict

The French Republic understands the struggle many nations face with promoting and establishing economic development. We therefore support, and will aid, any Member State's attempt to establish stable and effective economic projects that promote growth within Member States' borders. We are especially aware of the need to promote economic growth in Member States in African and Middle Eastern regions. In France, agriculture, energy, and tourism are economic powerhouses that provide economic wealth, both for the country at large and for French citizens, in the form of well-paying jobs. We have taken many actions that have successfully increased economic growth. Minister of Finance Bruno Le Maire stated, "Growth is solid. It probably reached 2[%] in 2017 for the first time since 2011. In 2018, we will probably do better than our forecast of 1.7[%]..." In our Parliament, legislation has been passed to create higher employment, better education, affordable housing, and public infrastructure projects. International trade has been a crucial aspect to improving the economy of France as a whole.

In the past, the French Republic faced a major hurdle due to the negative economic effects of the Second World War. We have found it effective to promote policies of interventionism to stabilize markets and prevent economic collapse. Nationalization of economic sectors such as railways, aeronautics, and armaments improved the economic situation in the post-war period of the French Republic. The creation of social programs such as universal healthcare, worker pensions, and improvement of education provided boosts to our economic well-being. The improvement of public transportation provided upward growth to the economy. Colonialism provided a boost to the economic development of France; however, we recognize these actions were wrong and they are today condemned by the French government. In order to maintain economic growth, the French government constantly strives to improve social programs. Social programs provide benefits to citizens, which in turn stimulate economic growth. Increased free trade with foreign nations additionally provides an opportunity to stimulate economic development. In order to maintain economic development, France strives to continually commit policies that provide economic development while continually providing social benefits for citizens.

The French Republic, therefore, proposes the **Public Works, Education, and Transportation (PET)** Programme. The **PET** Programme suggests that Member States use this plan as a guideline in three steps; **first**, to create programs in infrastructure such as roads, bridges, and railways; **second**, to focus on creating an education system that will improve literacy and create a future workforce that is prepared for advances in technology; **finally**, focusing on transportation projects such as subway systems, airports, and high speed rails in order to provide an effective way of transporting people and materials. These three key areas will provide economic development beneficial to Member States in years to come. In order for Member States to flourish, economic development is key to providing the growth they need. The

PET Programme will receive financial support from any Member State willing to donate funds. Non-Governmental Organizations are also encouraged to fund this programme, should they desire to do so. The **PET** Programme is an effective strategy to create, maintain, and continually build economic growth in Member States during times of internal conflict. With effective cooperation and dialogue, members of this committee can work to improve the quality of life for all Member States.

I. Promoting Gender Equality to Enhance Economic Development

The French Republic is fully committed to equality for women, and acknowledges the advantages that equality can provide to any economy. France is particularly committed to equality for women in government and the workplace. We passed an omnibus bill in 2014 that, in addition to furthering the rights of women in social aspects of life, also focused on preventing discrimination based on maternity leave and cracking down harder on companies and organizations violating current equality laws or harassing female employees. We've instituted gender quotas in public institutions and larger private companies, which have proven very successful.

France has been developing a framework of gender equality laws since the 1970's, focusing particularly on equality in the workplace and politics. Our first comprehensive gender equality law was passed in 1972, and we have passed eleven similar laws since. In 1984 we established the *Service aux Droits des Femmes et à l'égalité* (Service for Women's Rights and Gender Equality, or **SDFE**), which monitors women's employment and funds women's rights agencies. The **SDFE** has twenty-two offices in France and two bureaus overseas. In 1995 we established *L'Observatoire de la Parité* (Observatory of Parity, or **OP**), an agency designed to provide data and expertise for policy and decision-making regarding gender equality. The **OP** was later transformed into the High Council for Equality between Women and Men, which reviews all legislation that may affect gender equality.

To encourage equality in the workplace, the French Republic proposes a multi-step plan to be overseen by the UN Gender Equality Fund. **First**, we propose more funding to the UN Gender Equality Fund. **Second**, we propose the funding of girls' schools in Member States with historically low rates of educational equality. This should include education for boys in all countries about women's rights through discussion of prominent women in the present and in history, both in their home countries and around the world. **Third**, passing legislation prohibiting discrimination of women in the workplace, promising wage protection for women, and guaranteeing equal pay for men and women working the same job, for Member States who do not already have similar legislation. **Fourth**, passing a small gender quota of 10% for government agencies, taking into account equity as well as equality, based on our own successful gender quota system. These measures, if successfully implemented, should significantly improve the lives of women in many Member States.