

Committee: WFP
Country: Ireland
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MITMUNC 2012 Position Paper

The question of famine and agricultural development in the Horn of Africa

Ireland endorses the World Food Program's mandate to address the famine and agricultural development issues in the Horn of Africa. Ireland is involved with the WFP in developing a proactive strategy to address the causes and make famine obsolete. This strategy focuses on the political, social and agricultural factors that will address the immediate issue along with long-term programs to prevent food and water shortages occurring in the future.

Ireland urges all delegates to commit to the proposed WFP initiatives focusing on solutions to end drought and famine. Ireland will continue to provide financial contributions for emergency relief to famine victims in drought-ridden Somalia, particularly targeting women and children. Ireland is also proposing programs such as food distribution along with donations and procurement to deal with immediate needs that exists within the region. Ireland calls for all WFP member states to commit to a UN supported operation using a geographical computerized information system to monitor the food situations in each of the developing countries. This includes the building of an early warning system for drought and desertification, which should be adopted at every level within the Horn of Africa. Ireland also recommends working with the WFP and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification focusing on causal factors, which are both natural and human. Ireland endorses strengthening intergovernmental cooperation with the region and will commit to empowering countries within the Horn of Africa to find cooperative solutions to drought and famine.

The question of market stabilization and local economy stimulation in Asia

Ireland recognizes that market stabilization and the stimulation of local economy is essential to the future success of Asia. Growing inflation is a major problem in Asia preventing countries within this region to successfully develop local economies.

Ireland believes that inflation must be combated first and proposes reducing market-based risk in Asia by improving resiliency in their markets. Working with governments within the region to safeguard markets by monitoring food prices, cross-border trade and trade and market policies will benefit and protect local farmers. Ireland also proposes food and agricultural security strategies designed to make markets work better for the Asian people. This can be achieved by including input and production indicators, improving pricing data, tracking policy responses and import tariffs. It is important to strengthen the local economy through social protection to reduce risk and enhance their markets. Ireland supports measures of the WFP to improve the production and efficiency of agriculture in partner countries in Asia through additional funding for rural infrastructure, water management, research and sustainable land management initiatives. Ireland encourages all WFP members to support the proposed initiatives to enable an independent and stable Asian economy.