

Model United Nations at UCSD presents
On Saturday April 25th, and Sunday April 26th, 2015

United Nations

Human Rights Council



TritonMUN XI



Introduction

Honorable Delegates,

Welcome to TritonMUN XI! My name is Kana Morikawa, and I am honored to be serving as your Chair for the United Nations Human Rights Council.

I am a first year thinking about majoring in International Studies with a disciplinary focus in Sociology. This is my fifth year participating in Model United Nations. Because I moved frequently throughout my life, the idea of the United Nations being a place of international cooperation has always appealed to me. I love that in Model UN, we can recreate an environment where people with different backgrounds and interests come together to create something that could potentially change the world. Outside of MUN, I enjoy travelling in my free time and I also sing with an acapella group at UCSD.

I have always found the Human Rights Council to be one of the key bodies of the United Nations because its focus tends to be on individual people and their fundamental rights as opposed to interstate relations. I challenge you all to critically consider your proposals and to engage in constructive debate to create thorough solutions for the issues at hand. I look forward to seeing you all!

Sincerely,

Kana Morikawa

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Hello Delegates,

My name is Layna Lowe and I am your Vice Chair for the UN Human Rights Committee for TritonMUN Spring 2015. I am a second year UCSD student studying International Studies – Political Science. During my junior and senior years of high school, I was a delegate myself at multiple international conferences in Europe. Now, I am excited to play the role of Vice Chair and help offer as rewarding an experience as Model UN did for me in high school to you all.

Aside from Model UN, I enjoy playing soccer for the UCSD Women's Club Soccer Team. I stay involved in student affairs on campus by serving as the Student Lead for a mentorship program for our university's international and out-of-state students. As much as I can, I try to travel often to immerse myself in different cultures. I have explored much of Europe and am curious to step into other continents. San Diego itself is so diverse that I love to spend time wandering around the city's different neighborhoods.

Model UN conferences serve as such an advantageous platform for inter-student collaboration and conflict resolution and there is much to gain from this spring's TritonMUN. What I hope to see from all delegates is passion for the issue at hand and fruitful debate. Preparation and enthusiasm will allow for our committee to be as productive and engaging as possible.

Sincerely your Vice Chair,

Layna Lowe

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Topic A: Protecting the Rights of Migrant Workers

I. Background

With the progression of globalization, international migration has increased dramatically. 232 million people live outside their home country today¹, most often driven by the desire to seek better opportunities for themselves and their families. Migrant workers are an integral part of society in almost all countries; they bring remittances and knowledge into home countries, and fill labor shortages in both low and high skilled occupations in transit and host countries. However, they are often subject to violence steeped in xenophobia, suffer from disparity in income and living condition, and are denied opportunities because of their status. There is also a need to adequately identify and respond to the needs of groups of concern within the migrant population, including irregular migrants, women and children, and low-skilled workers. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights clearly states, “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights”². This statement extends to all migrants, and therefore states should act in order to ensure that their people, regardless of immigration status, have the opportunity to exercise their universal rights.

Xenophobia

In many instances, communities see the development of xenophobia along with the increase in the number of migrants. Employers who have the incentive to increase revenue and cut costs hire migrant workers who tend to be willing to take jobs with low pay. As a result, local

¹<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Migration/Pages/MigrationAndHumanRightsIndex.aspx>

²<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>



people who work for higher salaries lose their jobs, causing resentment that could develop into xenophobia, discrimination, and violence against migrant workers. These burdens added on to the pressures of living in a foreign country, economic strain, and dire living conditions could result in a cycle of distrust and unrest in communities. Cultural or religious differences can also serve as a trigger for xenophobic attitudes.

Exploitation of migrant workers

In the interest of maximizing economic benefits, employers in the private sector often end up compromising the rights of migrant workers by exploiting their willingness to work for low wages. Migrants are also more likely to be working in dirty, dangerous, and degrading fields (the “3D” jobs). Other employers could exercise their control over the workers through debt bondage or by withholding essential documents such as passports to prevent the workers from leaving. These human rights violations are not penalized because of the lack of legislation or its implementation. Workers themselves also tend not to seek justice out of fear of losing their jobs. Many countries issue labor visas to individuals, which are only effective as long as they are working under a particular employer. Since the migrant cannot legally reside in the host country without the support of the employer, they are more likely to endure exploitation and human rights violations. However, it is important to note that the workers endure such severe conditions because having the job is better than not having any job. Merely taking away such job opportunities will not be in their benefit without providing another way to make a living.

Irregular migrants

Some of the people the migrant population who are most vulnerable to human rights violations are irregular migrants, defined as “every person who, owing to undocumented entry or



the expiry of his or her visa, lacks legal status in a transit or host country”.³ In addition to other burdens, irregular migrants are often denied access to social services such as health care and education because they do not have the appropriate documentation, and cannot reach out to institutions such as the judicial system to defend their rights. They constantly live in fear of detection until they leave the country or are eligible for regularization. However, it is difficult to determine the needs of these people because of the lack of research or data into this area.

Migrant workers’ rights at international borders

Due to the increase in concern regarding irregular migrants and migration in general, states have taken various steps in order to control migration at their borders. One method is to impose stricter border control, which can include increasing the number of officers, building fences, and changing immigration laws. These methods make it more difficult for migrant workers to enter the country, which may be effective because it deters some from entertaining the idea of migration itself, but can also propel others to take extreme measures to enter the country, causing more deaths and a rise in human trafficking across borders. Another is to utilize detention centers, where authorities hold migrants in until the decision is made whether or not the migrant will be permitted to live in the country on a visa. Many migrants are kept in these detention centers for months or years at a time without periodic judicial review of their case. The practice of unreasonably long imprisonment has drawn extreme criticism from the High Commissioner of Human Rights⁴ as well as many human rights organizations including Amnesty International⁵. This also fosters a sense of being criminalized among those imprisoned, further

³http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR-PUB-14-1_en.pdf

⁴<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=14998&LangID=E>

⁵https://www.icrc.org/eng/assets/files/other/irrc_857_zayas.pdf



fueling the negative cycle of xenophobia. As sovereign states, all countries have the right to determine who enters their borders; however, they also have the obligation to ensure that the fundamental human rights of migrant workers are protected no matter their immigration status.



II. United Nations Involvement

To address the issues that arose from migration, the General Assembly adopted the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families in 1990. The Committee of Migrant Workers (CMW) composed of independent experts was established in 2003 to monitor the implementation of the Convention. The Convention serves as the international standard of the treatment of migrant workers in member states. Instead of establishing new rights, its goal is to ensure that migrants receive equal treatment and opportunities that are already recognized as human rights. However, only 47 countries have ratified it⁶, with the notable absence of Western European and North American countries.

Along with the CMW, the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants takes an active role in assessing the issue surrounding migration. The mandate of the Special Rapporteur took shape in 1999, and since then he has actively visited countries and conducted investigations. Annual reports contain outlines of his activities as well as recommendations on specific topics, which serve as valuable sources of information to understanding the current situation and implementing solutions.

The UN has held High Level Dialogues on International Migration and Development in order to address issues surrounding migration in a comprehensive manner. It brings together member states, relevant organizations, NGOs and other interest groups. The first held in 2006 resulted in the creation of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD), a place for informal and voluntary interstate dialogue. In the same year, the Secretary General created the Global Migration Group (GMG) to coordinate interagency efforts, involving 18 organizations

⁶https://treaties.un.org/pages/viewdetails.aspx?src=treaty&mtdsg_no=iv-13&chapter=4&lang=en



specializing in various fields. The most recent one was held in 2013 to determine “concrete measures to strengthen coherence and cooperation at all levels, with a view to enhancing the benefits of international migration for migrants and countries alike and its important links to development, while reducing its negative implications”⁷. The High Level Dialogue was a valuable opportunity for the various institutions to look into the human rights aspect of migration, and the topic is represented in the resulting eight-point agenda of action. In response to this agenda, many agencies have started creating guidelines and recommended actions that focus on each point raised in the agenda. For example, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) has compiled data and analysis of the detention of children at borders in collaboration with the GMG called “Migration and Youth: Challenges and Opportunities,” making a case for the abolishment of the practice.⁸

⁷<http://www.un.org/en/ga/68/meetings/migration/about.shtml>

⁸http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_protect/---protrav/---migrant/documents/genericdocument/wcms_243383.pdf



III. Bloc Positions

North America

53 million migrants reside in North America today, of which 46 million are in the United States⁹. Exploitation of workers especially in the agriculture and manual labor fields are a cause of concern, as is the treatment and detention of migrants at the border. Unaccompanied children are found crossing the border, often fleeing from gang violence and poverty in their home countries. Recent changes in domestic law could have a lasting impact on immigration in the US, however it is not without controversy. Mexico is the world's largest source of migrants, but also has become a transit country that hosts migrants hoping to find an opportunity to travel to the United States.

Europe

Europe serves as the host of 72 million migrants, the largest number in the world by region¹⁰. The European Union has succeeded in developing a comprehensive set of laws for the region to manage migration and to ensure that most migrants enjoy the same rights as others, and at the same time allows countries to determine domestic policies according to their interests. However, Europe has also seen more ethnic conflicts within the region and is also seeing thousands of people perish while taking risky and illegal routes to enter the region by sea and land. It has also been reported that there is discrimination with minority groups, particularly the expanding Muslim population. Cultural differences that result in their unsuccessful integration into local communities have fueled tensions and is starting to show in forms of large-scale unrest.

⁹http://www.un.org/en/ga/68/meetings/migration/pdf/International%20Migrants%20Worldwide_totals_2013.pdf

¹⁰http://www.un.org/en/ga/68/meetings/migration/pdf/International%20Migrants%20Worldwide_totals_2013.pdf



Asia

Asia is the region with the second largest migrant population of 71 million¹¹. The region hosts the largest flow of irregular migrants especially between neighboring countries that includes not only workers, but also others such as those fleeing from environmental disasters and conflict. The Asian Development Bank predicts that environmental displacement caused by phenomena such as droughts and rising sea levels will occur in Asia at much higher levels of intensity in the future, and the region must work to build capacity in order to adequately deal with such a situation¹². Human trafficking remains a serious issue that has yet to be resolved. Countries in Southeast Asia such as Singapore have established communities in which migrants from various backgrounds coexist. The sex trafficking industry in Southeast Asia has gained attention during the past years, however measures to combat it have not yielded major results. Countries such as Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, and Taiwan attract many migrants within the region; however cultural differences continue to exist in communities. One of the unique aspects of migration in Asia is that countries find themselves in the position of a home, transit, and host country at the same time.

Middle East

Due to the demand of oil production, many countries including those that are part of the Gulf Cooperation Council and other regional organizations employ migrant workers especially from Asia, but the issue of their exploitation remains unresolved. The crisis in Syria has caused millions of Syrians, half of which are children, to migrate to neighboring countries, seeking stability and a source of livelihood but the influx of people puts pressure on the host country's

¹¹http://www.un.org/en/ga/68/meetings/migration/pdf/International%20Migrants%20Worldwide_totals_2013.pdf

¹²<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2011/sep/19/climate-migrants-asia-2010>



infrastructure and governance capabilities. There is still serious need for humanitarian assistance, and xenophobic attitudes are widespread. This region also serves as a transit point for migrants who take illegal and dangerous routes to enter Europe.

Latin America/Caribbean

Interregional migration to countries including Argentina, Venezuela, and Brazil is the major form of migration, however recent years have seen Latin American migrants return to the region due to the economic crisis. MERCOSUR has implemented policies that regulate migration, however issues such as human trafficking, labor exploitation, and irregular migration still exist today.

Africa

Southern Africa attracts migrants within and outside of the region, and also serves as a transit point for those who wish to travel elsewhere. Migrants use sophisticated smuggling and trafficking networks to reach their destination, however, many end up abandoned or tricked into forced labor. Another growing concern is the increase in the number of unaccompanied children that migrate at the risk of smuggling and abuse. Some other prominent reasons for migration in Africa include political instability, armed conflict, and droughts that cause crop failure. Weak governance makes border control ineffective, and governments are unable to ensure the protection of the fundamental rights of such migrants.



IV. Questions to Consider

1. What steps can be taken to bridge the cultural divide within communities?
2. Are there particular groups of people of special concern? What can be done to respond to their needs?
3. What positive or negative impacts will result from tighter control over immigration and employment of migrant workers? Will these outcomes be in the interests of the migrant workers?
4. What role can international or multilateral cooperation play in addressing human rights issues of migrant workers?
5. How will migration patterns change in the future? If migration increases, how can nations prepare in order to build their capacity to manage it without infringing on human rights?



V. Suggested Sites

<http://www.iom.int/cms/en/sites/iom/home.html> - International Organization for Migration

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/WelcomePage.aspx> - Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Migration/SRMigrants/Pages/AnnualReports.aspx> - Annual Reports of the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights of Migrants

<http://www.migrationpolicy.org/> - Migration Policy Institute

<https://www.cia.gov/index.html> - Central Intelligence Agency

<http://www.bbc.com/> - BBC News



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Topic B: Political and Humanitarian Stability in Somalia

I. Background

Because of the lack of any form of stable government in the country over the past few decades, Somalia has been riddled with anarchy, violence, and human rights abuses. Beginning with the collapse of SiadBarre's military regime in 1991¹³, south and central Somalia became an intensified conflict area. Factional fighting for resources between clans defined the disorder, but with the arrival of the 21st century, the violence principally became an issue between the Somali interim government and the armed groups of the Islamic Court Union (ICU)¹⁴. In 2004, the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia (TFG) was formed to restore peace and regain control of areas taken over by the ICU. The ICU was made up of armed groups opposed to the TFG, the most powerful faction being the Islamic armed group al-Shabaab. From 2006 to 2009, the Ethiopian armed forces intervened in Somalia¹⁵ to help support the TFG against al-Shabaab, and the UN-supported African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) became a major military assistance to the TFG. Despite the military support of AMISOM, Ethiopian and Kenyan armies, and allied militias, the security forces of the TFG as a whole was made up of disparate parts¹⁶, rendering an ineffective system unable to implement any concrete measures to ensure human rights.

This internal strife has continued to take the lives of thousands of civilians caught in the crossfire and has snowballed into several other human rights issues. While civilians of all ages

¹³ See Amnesty International [In the Line of Fire: Somalia's Children Under Attack](#), p. 6

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ See Amnesty International [In the Line of Fire: Somalia's Children Under Attack](#), p. 3

¹⁶ See Amnesty International [In the Line of Fire: Somalia's Children Under Attack](#), p. 16



are affected, the majority of the target population is made up of children, as 44% of Somalia's population is within the ages 0-14 years¹⁷. Armed groups are recruiting vulnerable children, some as young as eight years old, to join their forces. With over a million internally displaced persons (IDP) in the country¹⁸, large populations are in immediate need of humanitarian aid; however, access is often withheld due to restrictions placed by al-Shabaab and looting committed by both parties of the conflict. The replacement of the TFG with the Federal Government of Somalia in April 2012¹⁹ serves as an ever-important chance to build an adequate political framework to ensure the protection and implementation of human rights within the country.

Indiscriminate Attacks

Much of the fighting from Somalia's armed forces and its allied militias against insurgent groups has occurred in densely populated areas. The capital, Mogadishu, has been the predominant battleground for years. Starting in 2006, al-Shabaab began launching military offensives²⁰ in the capital, seeing the intervention of the Ethiopian army as a major threat. The use of mortars, rockets, and other heavy artillery in urban areas has been considered indiscriminate, resulting in a high number of civilian casualties. These indiscriminate attacks are violations of international law, as both parties of the conflict fail to take precautions to avoid harm to civilians. Many reports of mortars and bombs landing on civilians' houses have been recorded. Al-Shabaab has taken responsibility for multiple suicide attacks that have occurred in civilian-populated areas. Civilians often are not given warnings of impending military attacks and have to suffer the loss of family members, houses, schools, and businesses. The fighting has

¹⁷ See CIA World Factbook Somalia Profile: People and Society

¹⁸ See UNHCR Somalia Profile

¹⁹ See CIA World Factbook Somalia Profile: Government

²⁰ See Amnesty International [In the Line of Fire: Somalia's Children Under Attack](#), p. 7



caused an increased ratio of war-wounded patients in hospitals and a disproportionate effect of damage to civilians.

Recruitment of Children into Armed Groups

According to international law, recruitment of a child under the age of 15 into an armed force, forcible or not, is a war crime²¹. Al-Shabaab has continued to recruit boys ages 12-18 for almost a decade, using a “systematic pattern of recruitment”²². Collected from various testimonies²³ of Somali refugees, al-Shabaab has several techniques to recruit children. They promise children money and other luxuries such as phones; for children who have never known human rights or fair standards of living, these incentives are appealing. Al-Shabaab also resorts to ideological indoctrination²⁴, portraying the fighting as a jihad. Recruited children are often used to recruit others. More recent testimonies have proved that al-Shabaab is using more aggressive techniques. For those who refuse to join, threats to kill them and their relatives often force children into joining. Refugees have reported raids in schools and abductions in public areas as another method of recruitment. Girls have been recruited as well²⁵ to cook, clean, and perform other domestic chores for armed groups. Reports of forced marriages to soldiers have also been collected, constituting another war crime. Children who have lost their parents and/or shelter due to the violence are especially vulnerable, as they have minimal protection from armed group members. Because both parties to the conflict have committed human rights abuses over the years, some parts of the population have anger towards what the TFG and Ethiopian troops did and are more inclined to join al-Shabaab. While in authority, the TFG was on the UN

²¹ See Amnesty International In the Line of Fire: Somalia’s Children Under Attack, p. 23

²² Ibid.

²³ Amnesty International collects many reports from Somali refugees to investigate human rights abuses

²⁴ See Amnesty International In the Line of Fire: Somalia’s Children Under Attack, p. 25

²⁵ See Amnesty International In the Line of Fire: Somalia’s Children Under Attack, p. 32



Secretary General's annual list²⁶ of parties that recruit children in situations of conflict, even though the TFG denied it knowingly recruited children into its forces.

Access to Humanitarian Aid

Over the years of intensified fighting, less and less humanitarian aid has reached populations in need. The general climate of insecurity within the country has created obstacles for aid agencies. Indiscriminate attacks have threatened hospitals and medical facilities. Human rights defenders and humanitarian workers have been the victims of targeted killings²⁷ by armed groups. Because of this, there has been a withdrawal of international aid staff. In 2010, the World Food Program suspended its operations in the country. Al-Shabaab has banned various humanitarian agencies from operations in areas under their control. They cite that aid agencies have a political agenda that is pro-government or some other religious agenda. Despite the worsening drought that has created a food crisis throughout the country, al-Shabaab tries to justify their restrictions on aid agencies by saying that food aid undermines local farming. Children are the most vulnerable population of this issue, considering World Health Organization 2011 reports that one in four children in Somalia is acutely malnourished.

²⁶ See Amnesty International [In the Line of Fire: Somalia's Children Under Attack](#), p. 66

²⁷ See Amnesty International [In the Line of Fire: Somalia's Children Under Attack](#), p. 47



II. United Nations Involvement

The United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) was established in 1995 to assist the Secretary General in advancing peace in Somalia²⁸. UNPOS has been the backbone of several initiatives that has helped leaders of Somalia to stay committed to the country's progress. After the TFG's military forces gained more security in the capital by eliminating al-Shabaab's control there in 2011, UNPOS began holding high level conferences with Somali leaders and civic organizations to move the political mission forward. In August 2011, UNPOS held a meeting of all stakeholders in Mogadishu²⁹. In attendance were representatives of all major regional administrations. The goal of this conference was to ratify a provisional constitution and create a government to replace the transitional body while maintaining integrity and transparency throughout the process. Somali leaders created a "roadmap" to establish benchmarks of transitional tasks. Each task was assigned a deadline to keep efforts concentrated. The end result of the conference was a ratified constitution, a legislative body with increased female representation, and the fair election of a new president.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) took over the responsibilities of UNPOS in 2013 to continue efforts of peace building. UNSOM operates by training judges, prosecutors, police investigators, and prison officials to work with respect to human rights and by supporting the agenda of the Federal Government of Somalia³⁰. In October 2014, the Integrated Strategic Framework of Somalia (ISF) was created and signed by Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud and UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon to establish a

²⁸ See official website for United Nations Political Office for Somalia

²⁹ See Chronology of Events on UNPOS website

³⁰ See official website for United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia



comprehensive plan for the United Nations to assist in the country's development³¹.

In the most recent press release by the UN Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia published by the UN Human Rights Council, the Federal Government of Somalia was commended for its achievements in human rights implementation, but nevertheless, remains called upon to alleviate the situation of impunity and partiality that corrupts judicial processes³².

³¹ See Official Documents page on UNSOM website

³² See 12/16/2014 press release about Somalia in OHCHR News and Events archives



III. Bloc Positions

Africa

In 2007, the African Union established the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) as a regional peacekeeping mission with support from the United Nations. Its goals include providing support for the Federal Government of Somalia to politically stabilize the country and establish security while also offering humanitarian aid³³. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) is a trade bloc in Africa made up of eight countries: Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda, and Eritrea. Somalia was very recently able to host a one-day summit for IGAD member states at its capital, a sign of improved security in the country. The foreign ministers of IGAD member states stated their commitment to assisting Somalia in its fight against Al-Qaeda-linked Al-Shabaab³⁴. Under AMISOM, Burundi, Djibouti, Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia have been large contributors of troops and military personnel to establish security³⁵.

Europe

The European Union has shown much support in Somalia's transition. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland specifically has pledged millions of pounds to train Somali security forces and judges³⁶. In May 2013, the Somali Conference took place in London, England, co-hosted by UK Prime Minister David Cameron and Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud, to foster international support for Somalia's reconstruction. The UK has committed to developing humanitarian programs to reduce the adverse effects of famines,

³³ See official page for African Union Mission in Somalia

³⁴ See recent news articles concerning IGAD summit in Mogadishu

³⁵ See Global Humanitarian Assistance 2012 Somalia Briefing Paper

³⁶ See UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office news story on UK commitment to Somalia



providing military experts to build Somali armed forces, and boosting Somali's public finances by providing expert advisers. In September 2013, the Somalia New Deal Conference was co-hosted by the European Union and Somalia to further gain support from the international community in implementing the Somali Compact. The highest pledges were made by the UK, Sweden, and Norway, while 16 EU countries in total contributed through pledges³⁷. According to Global Humanitarian Assistance, in 2012, the EU donated US\$83 million followed by the United Kingdom (US\$82 million) in humanitarian assistance³⁸.

North America

The United States ended its embassy operations in Somalia in 1991³⁹ and has maintained political dialogue with Somali authorities through the U.S. embassy in Nairobi, Kenya. The United States has long provided humanitarian assistance to Somalia to alleviate issues of drought, famine, and refugee displacement. Since the recognition of Somalia's new permanent government, the United States has given more than US\$315 million in bilateral aid. In June 2014, Under Secretary for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman mentioned in a statement⁴⁰ that the US State Department has "obligated more than US\$170 million to help recruit and train forces that will be able to protect the country's institutions and citizens, operate under civilian control, fairly represent Somalia's population, and respect human rights and international law." The United States has offered support to the Somali National Army by training a 150-person advanced infantry company. Apart from this type of security aid, according to a 2012 report by Global Humanitarian Assistance, the United States has offered over US\$260 million in

³⁷ See official page for New Deal Conference in Brussels on 16 September 2013

³⁸ See Global Humanitarian Assistance 2012 Somalia Briefing Paper

³⁹ See U.S. Department of State U.S. Bilateral Relations Fact Sheets for Somalia

⁴⁰ See U.S. Department of State 2014 Remarks by Under Secretary of Political Affairs



humanitarian aid, ranking as the largest humanitarian donor to Somalia. Canada has also contributed largely to Somalia, offering US\$63.5 million in humanitarian aid as of 2011⁴¹.

Middle East

As part of the League of Arab States, Somalia has received much support in recent years from other Arab League member states to achieve domestic political stabilization. The Arab League calls upon the international community to re-open embassies in the capital. In March 2013, the 24th Arab League Summit was held in Qatar and in December 2014, the Prime Minister of Kuwait represented the delegation of the Arab League at a high-level meeting with Somalia's president and other officials. At both events, the Arab League stated its commitment to support Somalia in its development. At the summit, Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud proposed the creation of a reconstruction fund for Somalia and called upon states to offer Somalia debt forgiveness from the past 20 years⁴². The International Monetary Fund offers Somalia technical assistance in developing a financial management plan to win debt relief. While debt relief would help Somalia from regressing, states are hesitant to trust the Somali government with this direct aid considering fragile security gains. Wealthy oil-exporting countries such as Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait have offered hefty amount of financial assistance to Somalia⁴³.

Asia and Oceania

The majority of the Asian bloc has played a smaller role in the development of Somalia compared to other states. Some states in Asia, such as Malaysia and Indonesia, are hosts to

⁴¹ See Global Humanitarian Assistance 2012 Somalia Briefing Paper

⁴² See news article by Sabahi, a news website sponsored by United States Africa Command

⁴³ See Global Humanitarian Assistance 2012 Somalia Briefing Paper



Somali refugees and asylum-seekers. Japan has been a large humanitarian donor, offering US\$84 million as of 2011, and China has offered US\$16 million as of 2011⁴⁴. In a March 2014 press release from the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Australia, the Australian Government has pledged US\$10 million to support the state building efforts in Somalia. Australia announced their support to be in line with the New Deal Compact for Somalia created in September 2013. In addition, the Australian Government has offered US\$2 million to AMISOM and US\$8 million in humanitarian aid⁴⁵.

Latin America/Caribbean

Member states of the Latin America/Caribbean region have played a minimal role in the political and humanitarian stabilization in Somalia. No member state from this region attended the Somali Conference in London 2013. According to Global Humanitarian Assistance, Somalia's donors do not include Latin American/Caribbean states.

⁴⁴ See Global Humanitarian Assistance 2012 Somalia Briefing Paper

⁴⁵ See media release by Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia



IV. Questions to Consider

1. What should be the role of the international community in assisting Somalia to establish domestic security?
2. How should Somalia adjust to cessations in international aid when security is too unstable for humanitarian aid donors to enter the country?
3. What forms of monitoring agencies should be established to solve Somalia's issue of impunity in regards to human rights abuses?
4. What types of structures (education, employment opportunity, etc.) could be implemented to help prevent recruitment of child soldiers?
5. What has motivated member states of the EU and the United States to donate such large amounts of humanitarian and other types of aid that could also motivate other blocs (most notably Asia and Latin America) to contribute similarly to Somalia's transformation?



V. Suggested Sites

<http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/undpa/main/about/updates/pid/24266>- United Nations Video on Somalia

<http://unsom.unmissions.org> - United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia

http://www.unicef.org/somalia/SOM_resources_fastfactsJan2013.pdf - UNICEF Factsheet

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/so.html> - CIA World Factbook

<http://amisom-au.org> – African Union Mission in Somalia

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/countries/AfricaRegion/Pages/SOIndex.aspx> - Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights Somalia Profile

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