

[Country Name]

[School Name]

[Committee Name]

[Delegate Name]

Topic A: Global Climate Change

Gambia is deeply concerned about the neglect of global climate change in current international politics. Western Africa, like many developing regions of the world, experiences exacerbated effects of climate change through increased natural and social epidemics. Gambia understands firsthand the dangers that come from this neglect with about half the nation living below 1.25 USD/day. Gambia recognizes that the current trend of fossil fuel consumption is unsustainable for the future but financially unable to invest heavily in renewable technology. The inability to invest in solutions to environmental and social repercussions from global climate change is a growing fear felt among many developing nations. The Gambia looks to the United Nations Population Fund to create solutions for global climate change from a two-prong approach forming cooperation between unilateral government agencies and private/public partnerships.

Gambia believes the first prong must include the cessation of energy intensive practices. Reduction of hydrocarbon emissions, the transformation of consumption habits, and implementation of renewable networks are the only steps to mitigate current climate patterns. Based on assessments from the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and multiple UN talk on climate change, developing nations are at high risk to become dependent dirty energy (fossil fuel) and need active contributions from developed states partnered with multinational organizations to create renewable energy infrastructure. The Gambia believes polluters like USA, China, and Western Europe should be expected to develop renewable energy infrastructure recommended in the Global Trends in Renewable Energy Investment (GTR 2016) in their own nations and those around the globe. Photovoltaic Energy has some of the highest return on investments and can exponentially cut carbon emissions.

The second prong comes from embracing the world will no longer be the same and governments must adapt to a poisoned planet. The Gambia lacks measures to protect itself from deforestation, drought, and increased disease. Organizations like World Health Organization, Red Cross, Red Crescent, UNICEF, UNDP, Doctors Without Borders, and others need to partner with state and local governments to build resilience. The support of the sustainable development goals 3, 9, 11,12 (Good Health and Well-Being, Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, Sustainable Cities and Communities, and Responsible Consumption and Production) partnered with the Accordia Global Health Foundation, the Foundation for NIH, and investments from the UNFPA itself can bring stability to the nations that need it most.

Topic B: Child Marriage and Adolescent Pregnancy

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 16 million girls between the ages of 15 and 19 give birth each year. This accounts for 11 percent of all births worldwide. The Gambia would like to recognize that the majority of these cases come from the states of Bangladesh, Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria and the United States. Conversations are controversial about solutions to adolescent pregnancies and in Gambia, almost one in five women 15 to 19 have had a child. The Secretary General's Envoy on Youth attributes the danger of childhood pregnancy to the 39,000 girls that are married under the age of 18. Over 140 million girls who will marry before the age of 18, 50 million will be under the age of 15. The UN Commission on the Status of Women exclaims that Child marriage is a global issue but rates vary dramatically, both within and between countries. In both proportions and numbers, most child marriages take place in rural sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

In July of 2016, The Gambia passed a law decreeing that marriage prior to the age of 18 illegal. The law specifically targets parents, siblings, family members or religious leaders who may pressure the youth to engage marriage with repercussions of 21 years in prison. The Gambia has joined the African Union's movement to illuminate and abolish the practice of child marriages. The Gambia is working to alter a patriarchal narrative in with major help from The Children and Community Initiative for Development (CAID), the Conscience International (CI), Gambia Committee on Traditional Practices (GAMCOTRAP), The Girls' Agenda, and the organization Think Young Women.

The Gambia looks to the United Nations Population Fund to create narratives at the local levels that increase the value of women and their potential in society. This potential comes through regionally based alliances that establish empowerment for local women & youth. In Gambia alone, Girls Not Brides is a powerful non-governmental organization that believes, "there is no single solution to ending child marriage and that everyone has a role to play. Ultimately efforts to address child marriage must respond to local contexts and accordingly programs and investments may take different forms" (Girls Not Brides). The Gambia believes strongly in the work that Girls Not Brides is doing and hopes to strengthen its global partnership with the UNFPA.

Following global legislation prohibiting child marriage, there must be active groundwork to invoke a new culture. A shift in cultural norms through countries that disseminates child marriage as an inherent evil has been prevalent in the many Developed States. However, there is a serious lack of this mentality in the developing world. The UN Commission on the Status of Women has Goodwill Ambassadors in regions like Southeast Asia, The Middle East, and South America that work to mediate these norms. However, these women, professional actresses, are few in number and greater emphasis on targeting African women must occur.

Women like Omotola Jalade Ekeinde or Genevieve Nnaji have helped bring women's potential mainstream. Granting better access to education, history, and the success of African women is a necessity to combat their subordination