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Liberia is a country on the west African coast with a population of about 4.5 million. Liberia, since its foundation has been closely tied to America and American interests. In 1816, the American Colonization society was founded to resettle free African Americans in Africa. The result of this movement was the creation of the American colony Liberia in 1822. Soon after its foundation, Liberia declared its independence and peacefully became the Republic of Liberia. Today, evidence of Liberia's America Heritage is still evident, especially in its government, which is modeled almost completely after America's government. Liberia, like many other African Nations, has had a history of instability and civil wars, but with the election of the current president, Ellen John Sirleaf, there has been relative stability seen there for the a while. The issues that face the African Congress today are of vital importance to Liberia. Since the election of a female president, who is also a member of the Council of Women World Leaders, equality/protection for women's rights has been a major focus of the country. The question of foreign investment is vital for Liberia, as they have been traditionally economically supported by the USA, and under the current president repaired relations with China, a large foreign investor in Africa. Last, striving for more free and transparent elections has been a goal of the current president, stating that corruption is the biggest enemy of the state.

Women's history in Africa has been on of repression and danger. In some cases women have had no rights, no access to education and no power in government. Today, the issue we are focusing on is education access for women. To address this issue, we must look at the barriers that prevent women from getting an education. One such road block are the traditional cultural values of many African Nations. However, trying to force all African nations to get rid of all traditional values is ludicrous. The first action that should be taken is to create a African

Union controlled money pool called the “African Improvement fund”. This money will be regulated by the entire union, but will have a nation directly residing over its day to day functions. This fund will be given to nations that comply with the education reforms that I will try and implement. The required reforms will be to ban the creation of schools that prevent women from enrolling. Next would be to ban discrimination in the work force based off gender, as having an education is not very useful if it is not utilized. My last reform would be to appoint a African Union overseer to every nation that accepts the funds to monitor their usage. The creation of this fund will require a substantial amount of money, and this leads to the next point of foreign investment. Liberia has historically accepted a lot of money from the USA. However, in more recent years, foreign investment has gone down. This brings both positives and negatives for the economy of African nations. The money certainly helps as an immediate boost for the economy, but may in the long run negatively impact the stability and strength of the economy. To fix this problem, I suggest that a treaty be drafted that limits the amount of money a nation can accept yearly. Another stipulant of this treaty would be a requirement that 5% of a nation’s foreign investment be diverted into the “African Improvement fund”. Any nations found to violate the treaty will face sanctions from all other signatories of the treaty. Every 5 years, every signatory of the treaty will be audited by the African Union to assure that proper procedure is being followed. With all this money being used at the national and international level, the question of government transparency becomes very important. Almost all nations in Africa have had political instability. This has stunted the growth of these nations economically and politically. Liberia’s current president has stated her quest to show the world Liberia’s devotion to personal liberties, freedoms and peaceful, stable elections. To further this cause, the “African Improvement” fund will once again be used to incentivise political transparency. Nations that wish will sign a treaty that states they want to participate in removing corruption and increasing

transparency at all levels. All signatories will have an representative sent to their nation to evaluate corruption and transparency. Nations with low levels of corruption and high transparency will be given the most money for maintaining these levels. Next would be middling level corruption and transparency nations. They will receive slightly less money than the first bracket of nations, but only if they declare that they are actively striving for less corruption and more transparency. Last will be nations with very high levels of corruption and low transparency. They will receive no money until they can prove that they have reduced corruption and raised transparency. Once they get to middle bracket levels, they will receive middle bracket levels of money. These questions plague Africa and have been for decades, but with the creation of "African Improvement fund" and the reforms implemented with it, I hope to bring prosperity to Africa and all its inhabitants.