

Position Paper for the Committee of the African Union

Libya is highly pleased to be part of the African Union Committee and believes that the three given topics should be thoroughly discussed for the well-being of African countries and their societies. These topics consist of: Access to Education for Women and Girls, Foreign Direct Investment in Africa and Promotion of Integrity and Transparency in Democratically Elected Governments. Libya is strongly in favor of the three subjects as they can bring further development and prosperity to every African country. Libya invites all Member States to work together in order to find sustainable solutions.

I. Access to Education for Women and Girls

Libya strongly supports women's access to education as it is of capital importance in ensuring further sustainable development, awareness of discrimination against women and gender equality. Facts show that two halves of an estimated total of 63 million young girls of either primary or secondary school age might never have the chance to be a scholar (UNICEF, 2015). Indeed, the lack of education among women affects their health as they possess little knowledge about diseases and medical treatments (UNICEF, 2015). Previously, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) was implemented in 1979 (OHCHR, 2016). Other treaties such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) both state in article 3 that men and women are equal (OHCHR, 2016). Aware of the importance of education, Libya signed and ratified both the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Women's Rights Protocol) (ACHPR, 2016). Furthermore, Libya has made education a right with article 14 of the 1969 Libyan Constitutional Declaration (DCAF, 2014). The country works hard in order to allow all children to attend school by saving money that shall be later reinvested in education despite the actual political instability (WB, 2016). Libya believes that women rights to education are to be highly respected by every country. With efforts, Libya seeks to accomplish Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4, to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, and SDG 5, to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, in three propositions. First, Libya suggests holding conferences that work toward defining the economic, political and social benefits of female education on a country's population. Such conferences will raise awareness on women's capacity and the aid educated women can bring, and initiate further investments for better gender equality. Second, the CEDAW should be applied more strictly to reduce the inequality that women face by doing a general report on its implementation in countries who signed once every two years. Third, Member States are invited to work together and to share their policies with others in order to greatly reduce girls' lack of education.

II. Foreign Direct Investment in Africa

Libya wants to grow and extend its economic development, and is therefore in favor of the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) across the African continent. Such investments greatly help countries enhance their economy, develop technologies, create employment and improve the living conditions of their population (Amarjeet Singh Deo, 2015). However, countries carrying out FDI are more attracted to other continental countries than African countries, especially in Asia (AU Background Guide, 2016). Moreover, FDI flows in Africa decreased from four per cent to 54 billion dollars compared to 2014 (UNCTAD, 2015). Reasons for this phenomenon being: countries with low political stability and low economic management disinterest FDI sources (Tejvan Pettinger, 2016). Organizations such as the Minimum Integration Programme (MIP), the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the World Bank (WB) support the African Union on this matter (AU

Background Guide, 2016). Since the late 90's, Bilateral Investments Treaties (BITs) have been signed with numerous countries such as Algeria, Croatia, Egypt and more (UNCTAD, 2013). Libya works hard on building strong economic relationships with powerful countries such as the United States of America with whom we signed the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement in 2013 (UNCTAD, 2013). Libya is also part of the Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community in which all Member States of the African Union (AU) are involved (UNCTAD, 2013). Libya seeks to develop its economy by providing more job opportunities with FDIs. Correspondingly, the State of Libya suggests solutions to gradually accomplish SDG 8, to promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all, and SDG 9, to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation. First, Libya suggests that countries with low FDIs enforce their communications with FDI sources for more beneficial agreements. Second, we invite the AU to provide workshops and information sessions to Member States in need to stabilize their country's political situation. Third, Libya believes that infrastructures and innovations are to be reinforced, stabilized and secured in countries in order for powerful ones to trustfully invest. Some ways are to be considered such as the implementation of new law on this matter and the operation of further social security diligence with rules.

III. Promoting Integrity and Transparency in Democratically Elected Governments

Libya recognizes the capital importance of integrity and transparency in a country's government. As the Corruption Perceptions Index of 2015 states, six out of the ten most corrupted countries are located in Africa which is an excessive amount (AU Background Guide, 2016). Countries with political instability are more susceptible to corruption (Abu Nurudeen, 2015). Libya believes that this situation is especially hurtful to a country's unity, population's trust and national security. The African Union (AU) priority established the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) with the purpose of stabilizing governments, improving economic growth and firmly promoting sustainable development of its members (AU Background Guide). In 2004, the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combatting Corruption submitted by the AU was divulged for reducing frauds (50008, 2003). The Libyan government, though facing challenges from terrorist groups, aims to improve its integrity and transparency in order to better serve its people. According to Foreign Policy, Libya's General National Congress (GNC) established in 2013 the National Identification Number (NID) project in order to ensure that money transfers and payments are done within the respect of the law (Mohamed Eljarh, 2013). Furthermore, since 2011, Libya reduced corruption and increased transparency within its borders through the Libyan Transparency Association (LTA) (UNODC, 2016). Libya proposes to first, accentuate the implementation of existing anti-corruption treaties for all the countries of the AU, because we believe governments can make further efforts to reduce corruption. Second, we suggest offering conferences to a country's population that encourages better relations with their government and improve standards of well-being which would address SDGs 8 and 9. Third, with the support of the AU, Libya recommends every country's government to ask for its population's needs in order to provide improved services and amplify transparency.

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