

Committee: African Union

Topic: Access to Education for Women and Girls

Country: Senegal

## A BETTER OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

As society progresses in other countries through aspects like education, Africa's access to education for women and girls has been a progressive struggle. However, with the help of other nations, headway has been achieved. It is crucial that access to education is granted to the female gender because as a result, the generations after them will have this knowledge as well. So many that do not have this access are below the poverty line, therefore education would close this cycle and give them a fresh start. Currently, there are around 28 million among the ages of 6-15 that do not attend school and about 29 million women live in poverty[i]. This is all in Sub-Saharan Africa, mainly in countries including Somalia, Niger, Liberia, and Guinea being in the bottom ten[ii]. Most of the time, there are five main reasons as to why these girls cannot access education. The first reason is their family. The first reason is their family. Especially families living under the poverty line, they do not typically want the girls getting an education when they could be happy with the job benefiting their family economically. Another reason is the violence that they face at school either from their male counterparts or even from their teachers. These girls and women do not feel the schools around their home are safe place to be so they would rather work. Lastly, how far their schools are from where they live, their cultural ties and society, and their own confidence play a role in the lack of access they receive.

The nation of Senegal has been making positive changes in our country with education for women and girls with the help of our president Macky Sall since 2012. In this year, it was noticed that boys in primary school actually had a lower enrollment rate than girls. His policy towards this issue correlates with the international community in that we must protect the rights of women and girls; we see the crucial role they play in society (both politically and economically)[iii]. Following our president's message, Senegal has worked and partnered with numerous organizations to create specific programs for our own schools and goals to work towards within the nation. In 2006, we added ourselves to the Global Partnership for Education and will continue to pursue progress until 2025. Through this partnership, we have had the success of obtaining grants for 98% of our schools and implemented plans of improvement for each one as well as constructing 190 new schools[iv]. In 2012, we released our "Girls and Women's Literacy in Senegal" project[v]. It was reached out to seven different areas throughout the country and has worked to not only improve literacy among these girls, but also provide them with a training basis for future jobs and improvement. UNESCO has been a huge aid in this project as well as UNIFEM. Overall, Senegal has been making corrections and efforts to progressively increase women and girls' access to education. Although we are not even close to our main goals, the work we have put in has made all the difference.

In regards to the topic, Senegal has created a variety of solutions to help increase the access to education for women and girls in Africa. First, we believe we implement our Multilateral Step Plan (working with World Vision's IGATE program), which will focus on the nine main barriers and factors of women and girl's access to education. This is a holistic approach focusing on all aspects rather than just one. Some of these barriers include personal and individual uplifting and encouragement, family connection, finances, the schools themselves, religious leaders, literal access, male acceptance and respect, clubs, and the overall community. We will work to empower women and encourage them to push for an education, provide financial alternatives and compromises with the families, and teach boys to respect women at a young age.

Next, we want to work with World Vision's Literary Boost and their pop-up reading camps in local churches and community centers: this is for families and girls who can just not afford (because of work or money) to go to an actual 5 days a week school. Studies have shown that even by just going to these reading camps there is been an overall improvement in positivity and literacy, even learning to read in their first language from that region in Africa. We have trained volunteers and citizens discussing one-on-one with the student and providing for her specific needs. In terms of the financial aspect for the families of these girls, we have also encouraged the teachers to use the objects found in nature, like rocks, leaves, and sticks, to teach basic curriculum in math (object lessons). Children and people in general learn better by doing than just explanations so it is crucial that we provide materials for this to occur. This way, we would not have to pay extra for any plastic counting blocks or supplies that are deemed unnecessary. We suggest this with the hope that families will be more positive on sending their girls to school. Any extra practice will help.

Another solution or incentive that could be implemented is to give as many girls as possible goats in their families. These goats could not only provide money from milk, cheese, and fur, but they can also help them sell them and make an even bigger profit. This would also give their families a better reason to allow them to receive an education.

Furthermore, Senegal has teamed up with Women and the Web Alliance, which is also in collaboration with World Vision; however we want to expand the alliance to every country in Africa possible, not just Kenya and Nigeria, bringing more than 600,000 women and girls to go online and improve literacy. It aims to increase opportunities for women, giving them a "global voice", connecting women and girls with other people outside of their country to get empowered and encouraged. Moreover, becoming educated online can increase chances of economic opportunities with more jobs.

Committee: African Union

Topic: Foreign Direct Investment in Africa

Country: Senegal

## INCREASING FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT IN AFRICA

Foreign Direct Investment has exponentially aided African nations in flourishing; however, Africa continues to be an area where a lot of strong developed nations are not aiming to invest in. The main and most important investor in Africa has been China, with their FDI hitting \$3.5 billion in 2013[vi].

Senegal has focused tremendously on improving our own nation to increase FDI and we have been extremely confident in our actions. Being in a perfect position on the continent, the western coast, Senegal has had a great advantage in getting investors to come to our nation. We have worked extra hard to keep our country the way it is and continue to improve: a stable democracy, educated elite, well-built infrastructure, and our progressing labor. Under the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, projects to better our nation as a whole, making it more appealing to investors, have persisted. We have created a Foreign Investment Portal, working through Santander Trade, to set out each asset of our FDI[vii]. After stating our figures and country comparison, we detail procedures of how to invest and why countries should invest. For example, seeing that France is one of our main investors, we link a website in French that takes investors to a step-by-step procedure on each part they can look into: sanitation, communications, infrastructure, agriculture, and tourism, to name a few. Switzerland and China have also become significant additions to our investors. Some of the major private investors and companies that have contributed to our growth are Dgcnet, the Africa Fortesa Corporation, Organisation Ecosen, and other French public and private companies invested \$7.8 billion to add to our economical growth[viii].

Moreover, with the goal of keeping investments and investors organized and well managed, we have a direct policy on how they invest and their rights and encourage nations in Africa to do the same. In order for a investor to gain incentives, Senegal requires all firms (excluding large firms) to invest at the least \$7,000 and take 3 Senegalese workers under them full-time, while keeping their work under our format[ix]. Large firms are required to hire 50 workers and put in \$145,000. There are also license and permit requirements to open a business in our country. If the business were to cease their payments, the license can be revoked. It is very convenient to invest because there is a two-business day registration. We see how for some companies this could be an abundance of requirements; therefore we would like to add recommendations from USAID-funded investors to create a more efficient process. In order to increase the amount of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Africa, the nation of Senegal believes in the implementation of our solutions. First, we wish to apply the FDIP (Foreign Direct Investment Portal). It will have countries create a portal with all of their

information about foreign direct investment, modeled off of Senegal's. In this portal, they will state in a list format their "strong points" of why countries should invest in them and their "weak points" along with government measures to motivate or restrict FDI. In addition, there will be charts included with how much FDI is already flowing in to the nation, following stocks and any important stats needed in order to be well educated. This will allow for countries willing to invest to have a clear understanding of this option. Doing this will also in a way encourage countries in Africa to take a look at the things they can improve on to show themselves as more viable for major investing countries. Because investing nations tend to look more towards larger countries, proving to them these other nations have something to offer will overall be positive for all.

Next, we understand that African countries contain an abundance of natural resources that may be used to benefit each specific nation, including oil, coal, gold, wood, and aluminum ore. By putting to use our ambitious development plan, the "Emerging Nations Plan" (ENP), specialized scientists and citizens of a country will work on the extraction of raw materials and further exploration within. Our plan will be focused on a series of 4 to 10 years to begin with as a goal and then continue as it progresses. This along with economic reforms will cause an increase in FDI as countries see newfound discoveries as incentives. Senegal's Ambitious Development Plan will further work to raise the GDP of the nations as it has done in our own and another focus on more private investment as well.

Committee: African Union

Topic: Promoting Integrity and Transparency in Democratically Elected Governments

Country: Senegal

## DISCUSSING THE ISSUE OF TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY IN DEMOCRACIES

Most countries positively look at democratically elected governments; however, any government can become corrupt, lacking transparency and integrity. Transparency International has created a list of the most corrupt countries in the world, and sadly, 3 African nations are on the top ten: Nigeria, Egypt, and Algeria[x]. In 2002, it was estimated that \$150 billion a year is used because of corruption in Sub-Saharan Africa[xi]. Another problem that arises within democratically elected governments is the fact that people bribe those in charge, so the power ends up in the hands of a limited, select group. Moreover, just like what happened in Nigeria's election in 2007, reelection and being in office could give a person extra rights, so there is a bigger stress for power[xii]. Typically, these governments fight to end corruption and increase integrity and transparency because of their investors and domestically as well. Because of this, reducing dependency on these foreign investors and trade partners would encourage an internal inspection to see what needs to be done within to increase transparency.

Senegal's president, Macky Sall has been working extra hard since he became leader of our country to fighting corruption and, therefore, ensuring "good governance". In 2011, the World Bank aided Senegal with a \$45 million project towards a financial goal to approve the yearly budget, release expenditures (part of transparency) and report audits[xiii]. Sall has instituted the National Anti-Corruption (OFNAC), which consists of twelve focused directly on fighting corruption and fraud within the government[xiv]. Furthermore, in 2011 Senegal was number 99 out of 174 on Transparency International's Corruption percentage Index, and in 2014 they moved up to number 69, proving we have made progress with these new efforts[xv]. These efforts have also included economic transformations through the business sector and overall making the country a better place to visit. Reforms have been our main focus. For example, just last year Senegal attempted to improve our airport and oil mining programs, therefore increasing jobs, having the citizens more involved, and informing nations on how to improve themselves.

Because of the importance of transparency within democratically elected governments, Senegal proposes a variety of solutions that will benefit the people of the African nations and the progress of each country as well. Our first solution we would like to implement is the PCA programme, or People and Corruption in Africa programme. Here, the government will frequently hold public hearings and workshops to discuss proposed initiatives (once a month or whenever is deemed fit). The PCA will allow people to verbally agree or disagree with government laws and policies, which will cause the leaders to not abuse their power. In

countries like Sierra Leone and Ghana there are monitoring groups to ensure health, agriculture and education are all taken care of in the best possible way. They use videos to record their research. These videos are sent out and made public to all in the country, adding to the transparency and integrity. This is a huge step in transparency because the citizens are always clued in.

Next, we believe that the children should have some say in the leaders of these African democratic governments. This does not mean they would propose the final decision; however, it is said time and time again that children are the best judges of character, so to avoid corruption in the government at all costs; we could have children there to meet these people. Feedback would be taken and then all else would continue like normal. If we can take even a short step towards progress, we can benefit as many as possible.

Finally, we the nation of Senegal, are confident in our Asset Declaration Law. This law states that public officials are required to submit their assets and follow a code to access information based on the nation's policy. These people will be trained as legal experts to be fair and effectively carry out policies and jurisdiction. We see how the proposal of this law may not be accepted in every country; however this law could ultimately limit corruption within African governments. This law is currently in Senegal and will be in collaboration with the World Bank.

Ultimately democracies in Africa will be able to become more transparent for the nation and forth people, therefore creating a better future for Africa as a whole.

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- [i] <https://gemreportunesco.wordpress.com/2015/03/06/no-girl-left-behind-education-in-africa/>
- [ii] <https://gemreportunesco.wordpress.com/2012/11/09/the-bottom-ten-countries-for-female-education/>
- [iii] <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2012/3/i-will-listen-to-women-and-promote-their-rights-says-senegal-s-president-elect-macky-sall>
- [iv] <http://www.globalpartnership.org/country/senegal>
- [v] [http://www.unesco.org/eri/cp/factsheets\\_ed/SN\\_EDFactSheet.pdf](http://www.unesco.org/eri/cp/factsheets_ed/SN_EDFactSheet.pdf)
- [vi] <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/opinion/2015/06/30/africa-still-poised-to-become-the-next-great-investment-destination>
- [vii] <https://en.portal.santandertrade.com/establish-overseas/senegal/investing>
- [viii] <http://www.mining.com/french-institutions-to-pump-billions-into-senegals-economy-98659/>
- [ix] [http://www.aabf.org/senegal\\_inv\\_guide.htm](http://www.aabf.org/senegal_inv_guide.htm)
- [x] [http://www.transparency.org/cpi2014/in\\_detail](http://www.transparency.org/cpi2014/in_detail)
- [xi] <http://www.cfr.org/africa-sub-saharan/corruption-sub-saharan-africa/p19984>
- [xii] <http://www.cfr.org/africa-sub-saharan/corruption-sub-saharan-africa/p19984>
- [xiii] [worldbank.org](http://worldbank.org)
- [xiv] [https://www.niajamaica.org/publications/GCR/2004\\_GCR\\_PoliticalCorruption\\_EN.pdf](https://www.niajamaica.org/publications/GCR/2004_GCR_PoliticalCorruption_EN.pdf)
- [xv] [http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/activity/poverty\\_and\\_corruption\\_in\\_africa](http://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/activity/poverty_and_corruption_in_africa)