

Topic: Access to Education for Women and Girls

Committee: African Union

Country: Sao Tome and Principe

Massive progress has been made in increasing women's access to education. Literacy rates among young women in Algeria have gone from 20 percent to 80 percent over the past 30 years. This trend is evident all over Africa. However, this is merely the beginning. Tens of millions of women are still not in school. This stems from many factors including geographical, sociocultural, health, economic, religious, legal, political, and initiatives. Very importantly, women often are not incentivized to go to school as men do because the working sector is less likely to employ them. In order to properly tackle this issue, Sao Tome believes that the committee must not simply focus on educational opportunities but also post-educational opportunities.

Sao Tome encourages governments begin giving tax breaks to business's with more than 20% of their employees educated women. This will incentivize women to receive an education as they will have jobs waiting for them. Also companies will look to provide educational opportunities to women in order to get educated women that could later within their corporation. This tax break, in the end, is also in the best interest of the government because it will provide them with a larger working force and boost their GDP. More Women need the opportunity to attend school, which is why Transfers for Education, a program that provides small money transfers to families with girls, will incentivize families to send their female children to school. Another incentive for girls to attend school is by having the NGO "Building Schools for Africa" talk to school-aged children, especially females, about things they would like to see in schools to make them feel more welcomed and important. Women and Girls Lead Global is an NGO that shares stories of hope and transformation within documentary films to promote gender equality and Woman's empowerment. They attempt to spark conversations about difficult and unknown topics to educate the general female population about gender discrimination, child marriage, gender-based violence, and political participation in an attempt to dispel faux ideas about the aforementioned topics. By increasing the influence of this NGO, not only will the adult women become more educated on commonly confused topics, but also the youth will, in turn, have a sense of understanding that they can pass on to future generations. Women's security is another issue that can easily be addressed by creating World Monitoring for Security (WMS) that uses the International Telecommunication Union's (ITU) International Monitoring System to monitor reported suspicious activities and connect government representatives with police forces to combat human trafficking and make traveling to schools safer for girls. In regards to the working sector, governments are suggested to give tax breaks to businesses where more than 20% of their employees are women. This business incentive will greatly encourage more women to attend school because of the increased possibility of a job after graduation.

Sources

<http://www.nei.org/Knowledge-Center/Nuclear-Statistics/World-Statistics>

<http://womenandgirlslead.org>

<http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/mdgoverview/post-2015-development-agenda.html>

<http://www.nei.org/Issues-Policy/Safety-Security>

[http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/themes/pcpd/promotion
-of-gender-equality-in-crisis-situations/](http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco/themes/pcpd/promotion-of-gender-equality-in-crisis-situations/)

Topic: Foreign Direct Investment in Africa

Committee: African Union

Country: Sao Tome and Principe

Foreign Direct Investment is essential to continued rapid growth of Africa. The proportion of people living in poverty has fallen from over 50% in 1981 to less than 45% in 2012 and is projected to decline to 41.2% in 2015. Foreign Direct Investment has shown it can be an excellent impetus for growth yet it comes with an extreme downside. The investment creates economic dependence on developed nations and banks by African countries. This hinders future growth. Increased instability and lack of unity within Africa also detracts investors. The African union has attempted to counter this by shifting to a single African currency by 2021. This is believed to shift inward investment and increase African competitiveness.

Sao Tome believes that Africa must move to a single currency before 2021. By switching sooner rather than later, the economic benefits will be far larger. A single currency will increase economic stability and make investments more attractive for foreign parties. This will also reduce transaction costs and exchange rate costs. The move will be very expensive, however, if prioritized this goal is very feasible. In order to reduce foreign dependence, Sao Tome suggests countries do not go past a 50/50 partnership with foreign investors. Rather than handing over full control over a state owned industry to a foreign company, we suggest that they split the partnership. This new entity would be more fair and balance as the government gets a say on how it operates and benefits from the capital provided by the foreign investors. This idea worked extremely well in the Botswana in which they shared a 50% stake with the company De Beers in the diamond industry. This partnership has allowed for much of the money generated from the diamond industry to stay domestically in Botswana while receiving aid from Da Beers and also being profitable for them as well. This solution could very well limit economic dependence on foreign entities. The single currency would also make this partnership more feasible by again lowering the transaction and exchange rates. These ideas would then solve the problems arising from African dependence while also boosting foreign direct investment.

Sources

<http://www.reuters.com/article/ozatp-africa-currency-idAFJOE5230HR20090304>

<http://www.ey.com/gl/en/newsroom/news-releases/news-foreign-direct-investment-in-sub-saharan-africa-on-the-rise>

<http://www.kwm.com/en/UK/knowledge/insights/overview-of-foreign-direct-investment-in-africa-20141014>

<http://www.tradingeconomics.com/south-africa/foreign-direct-investment>

<http://www.wsj.com/articles/SB10001424052702304422704579571363402013176>

Topic: Promoting Integrity and Transparency in Democratically Elected Governments

Committee: African Union

Country: Sao Tome and Principe

Corruption is an epidemic within the African continent. The high levels of corruption stem from poverty in Africa. Citizens with low wages often use bribes to supplement their income. Corruption also adds to the poverty level by giving those with money a leg up on their competitors through the use of bribes and can even lead to exploitation and poor ethics through nepotism and corporate favors for sex. If corruption continues, economic development will be hindered and could lead to future political instability. This issue has become endemic because corruption has become part of African culture and is accepted among the common people. Those who do not accept bribes or steal are sometimes even looked down upon. In order to properly combat corruption, this committee must tackle the culture of corruption that has arisen on this continent.

Sao Tome believes African nations must implement the Integrated Personnel and Payroll Information System(IPPIS) which will eliminate corruption associated with money laundering and corrupt management of funds by storing and processing information such as listing all transfers for all government workers. This would also create transparency within government payroll systems by preventing the modification of information, preventing system errors through automation, and finding ghost workers. In order to combat the culture of corruption within Africa, by promoting the corruption awareness program (CAP) within nations affected by corruption. This program will provide public anti-corruption seminars that will aim to improve individual's ethical decisions and provide individuals with knowledge on common forms of corruption such as bribery. It would also focus on educating public officials on how to detect corruption and identify which areas of government are at the most risk of corruption. This program would be in collaboration with organizations that currently provide anti-corruption education such as U4 Anti-Corruption Online Training, Economics of Corruption (EOC), International Center for Asset Recovery (ICAA), and Corruption Training and Consulting. Youth Integrity funded by Transparency International could also educate youth on anti-corruption by educating them on the causes and consequences of corruption and teaching them how to effectively fight corruption. By starting younger, this could successfully tackle the cultural problem of corruption at the root.

Sources

http://www.giaccentre.org/corporate_training.php

<http://www.transparency.org.uk/our-work/business-integrity/bribery-act/anti-bribery-training/>

<http://www.workplaceanswers.com/courses/anti-corruption-fcpa/>

<http://www.transparency.org/what-is-corruption/>

<https://www.unitar.org/thematic-areas/promote-economic-development-and-social-inclusion/law-enforcement-anti-corruption-training-programme>

