**Position Paper for African Union**

**Committee:** African Union

**Country:** Madagascar

**Topic One: Access to Education for Women and Girls**

Education can be a powerful tool, especially in a large society. But not everyone has the access to such knowledge, mainly with women. Lack of education in girls has continued to be a worldwide problem, especially in the African region. As a country with about 10 million people that are female which have no education, Madagascar is determined to find solutions to this international problem.

In efforts to deal with this lack of education, an organization called the National Movement for Education for All in Madagascar (NMEAM) launched a campaign for positive discrimination for girls’ education. Its main goal is to inform parents, governments and citizens that girls deserve an education. They want to make sure that Madagascar meets the Sustainable Development Goals, especially in Analanjirofo, a northern rural region of Madagascar where only 30% of girls move on to secondary education, while the rest of the 70% have dropped out, due to harassment of women and early marriage.

While organizations such as UNICEF came up with exceptional solutions, Madagascar believes that this is a problem that can be eliminated, starting with Africa. It could possibly help all developing countries to meet the SDGs. Madagascar would like this committee to consider one important measure: cooperation between countries regarding education.

It is necessary that this committee makes a good sense of country cooperation with regards to education. Although all countries except the ones in Africa have good education, girls probably have less of an education than boys do. By being a power of one, we can donate and help developing countries reach the SDGs and become a world that once lived in harmony and cooperation.

Madagascar is aware that the 2015 deadline for the SDGs has passed and the countries have not achieved gender equality and access to education to everyone. Only some progress has been made to achieve this, such as South Africa and Mozambique. A solution to this particular problem suggested by Madagascar should put this problem to an end.

The article “African Charter on Human and People’s Rights” include many promising ways that education for girls can be implemented, such as the protocol that ‘all forms of discrimination against women’ are eliminated and they are guaranteed ‘equal opportunity and access in the sphere of education and training.’ This protects the basic rights and freedoms that the citizens of Africa should receive and the points this article lists can be guaranteed. The article quotes: “Every individual shall be entitled to the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms recognised and guaranteed in the present Charter without distinction of any kind such as race, ethnic group, colour, sex, language, religion, political or any other opinion, national and social origin, fortune, birth or any status.” They also quote: “Every individual shall have the right to education. Every individual may freely take part in the cultural life of his community.” It proves that the African Union is determined to follow this protocol, since all states, except Morocco, has signed and ratified the protocol. In short, if the continent of Africa can follow this charter, there will be a happier Africa in the near future.

**Topic Two: Foreign Direct Investment in Africa**

Only about half of the continent receives the FDI that other countries donate to Africa, such as Egypt, South Africa, and Nigeria, the top 3 recipients. Madagascar receives USD 517 million as of 2015. As a population of 22 million people, Madagascar believes that we should receive much more than what is given to these countries.

This is all very simple, but can get out of hand easily. This can lead to the African countries becoming too reliable on their investors and act as a colony to that investor. What organizations have done in the past is the New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) have tried to improve basic necessities for Africans such as education and food security. African Development Bank’s Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA) focused on the development of African infrastructure such as energy and transport. Countries can all lend a hand by donating extra resources for faster development in such plans so that Africa can be as developed as everyone else.

African states can increase political stability and attract more FDI is import some supplies from various countries. It shows that it is possible to manage your own country by making improvements on it and just might spark an interest in those countries to become trading partners with each other so that when you are short on supplies, your trading partner (in Madagascar’s case: France, Germany and Italy) can help stock up on resources. This can very easily slide African countries out from aid independence, if every country is willing to help.

**Topic Three: Promoting Integrity and Transparency in Democratically Elected Governments**

Due to the 2008 coup d’état that ousted the democratic elected leader, corruption in Africa is unfortunately common, with 50% of governments being authoritarian, including Egypt and Zimbabwe. Some ways of dealing with corruption is an administrative reform – where it involves the creation of a watchdog that supervises other parts of the government, so governments don’t try to blackmail their subjects. There is law enforcement – where bribes from the government have more severe consequences if caught in the act and there is social change – which allows citizens to participate more in political processes. These ways are not enough for some countries like Ghana and Nigeria, so the “African Peer Review Mechanism” (APRM) came into play in 2003 to persuade corrupt governments to reform.

Some past actions that has been taken is this very program that the African Union has created. This is the only known method of reforming corrupt governments, but Madagascar can find a way to improve the APRM even better than before. It has been shown that the APRM aims to encourage the adoption of policies and programs that promote political stability, economic growth and sustainable development. The African Union has tested this on corrupt country Angola, and had a positive result. Angola has reformed for *less* corruption, but it is still corrupt as of today.

To conclude the topic, there is no other program than the APRM that can reform corrupt governments. Madagascar hopes that there is a resolution that all countries can agree upon so there are less corrupt governments for a more democratic Africa.