Zambia’s Position Paper

Committee: UN general assembly on indigenous affairs

Topic 1: Indigenous Peoples, Healthcare, Mental Health, and Wellness

Country: Zambia

School: Lower Canada College

Within the recent few years, Zambia’s national priorities such as education and health care declined significantly while the government is managing to increase foreign investment in the country at the same time. Under President Kaunda, the government only provided basic health coverage for everyone including those people in rural areas when Zambia was still a wealthy country and it could afford to do so. However, recently, government hospitals have deteriorated significantly with major problems of understaffing and increasing numbers of sick patients. The major health problems such as AIDS, Tuberculosis and malaria are frequently seen and medicines, particularly those for AIDS patients, are in high demand. The disease has led to a huge orphan crisis in Zambia, which creates an overburden on an already stressed medical system and the situation is worse in the rural areas. Because of limited funding, even hospital maintenance has suffered.

Much of the support from NGOs (non-governmental organization) and foreign governments comes in the form of medical assistance such as medicines and equipment. There is a strong government immunization program for children in very rural areas, with traveling clinics for those five years or younger, where routine immunization shots and basic health care are distributed.

According to the cases of listed above, the situation that health care in Zambia keeps exacerbating so it’s quite necessary for the Zambian governments to shift their attention from investment to this and to formulate some realistic relatable policies. The government should provide more money for everyone’s daily healthcare coverage. Hospitals, as the most important places in a country, should be yielded with more funding to afford equipment and personnel.

<http://www.everyculture.com/To-Z/Zambia.html>

“Social Stratification”

<http://www.everyculture.com/To-Z/Zambia.html>

“Medicine and Health Care”

Zambia’s Position Paper

Committee: UN general assembly on indigenous affairs

Topic 2: indigenous Land Rights, Climate Change impacts and Environmental Protection of Resources

Country: Zambia

School: Lower Canada College

As many other countries in Africa, the indigenous people in Zambia are increasingly being dispossessed of their ancestral lands. It continues today where conservation interests, mineral exploitations, and other economic activities are leading to some encroachments and forced removals. Indigenous peoples have not let this happen without reacting and in some cases they have gone to court, challenging those who threatened them. However, defending the land rights of indigenous peoples in court has been an uphill battle with only few successes in history.

On the other hand, the Zambian economy is predominantly based on the exploitation of the country's natural resources. Climate changes to physical and biological systems are already being felt and exerting considerable stress on the country vulnerable sectors. The country's sensitive sectors such as agriculture and food security, wildlife, water and energy, and human health have already been adversely affected by climate change, thereby significantly affecting the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of its national sustainable development.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Lands, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection (MLNREP) was created in 2012 as part of a restructuring process of a number of government ministries in order to protect some scarce Zambian resources. However, more action should have been taken to fulfill this. The government should also be more in favor of the indigenous people’s side to support their rights, as they are the most original part of a country. In doing so, the government will get along with the indigenous people and they can fight together for the ongoing global climate change challenges.

<http://www.iwgia.org/publications/search-pubs?publication_id=2>

“Land Rights of Indigenous Peoples in Africa”

<http://theredddesk.org/countries/actors/ministry-lands-natural-resources-and-environmental-protection-zambia>

“Ministry of Lands, Natural Resources and Environmental Protection”

Zambia’s Position Paper

Committee: UN general assembly on indigenous affairs

Topic 3: Indigenous Peoples, Poverty, and Development

Country: Zambia

School: Lower Canada College

Many communities of indigenous peoples of Africa are very under-developed, and are in a poor state of infrastructure. They lack any form of social services such as schools, and health facilities and there are very poor, or if any, roads in these indigenous communities. As result poverty, mortality and quality of life is severely lacking in comparison to the rest of African population.

Zambia’s indigenous peoples are not provided with access to clean water, and universal education. This can create a strain on the general well being of the indigenous peoples in Zambia. Resources to hunt are also scarce, leading to lack of food and eventually leading to famine.

In response to these issues, Zambia has signed various human rights charters to solve this problem of socio-economic inequity. In July of 1984, Zambia signed the international convention on economic, social and cultural rights, and signed the African charter on Human and People’s rights in January of 1984.

http://www.achpr.org/files/special-mechanisms/indigenous-populations/achpr\_wgip\_report\_summary\_version\_eng.pdf

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN AFRICA: THE FORGOTTEN PEOPLES?

<http://www.iwgia.org/iwgia_files_publications_files/Southern_Africa_Doc_Intro.pdf>

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ RIGHTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA: AN INTRODUCTION