Delegation: Angola

Delegate: Nathan Sonnenfeld

Committee: UNESCO

Angola, after the civil war ended, began reconstructing their economy and government to combat corruption. The International Monetary Fund stated in 2013 about the progress of Angola’s efforts, “The authorities have made significant strides in improving the transparency and accountability of public financial management, but challenges remain. The government has improved collection and reporting processes for oil revenues and transfers, which is expected to enhance transparency and accountability in oil sector management.” (IPOTNews, 2013) The government of Angola has implemented several significant measures to reduce and eventually eliminate corruption including the Public Probity Law, which regulates the behaviors of public officers concerning conflicts of interest, reporting requirements, and general principles relating to the conduct of said officers. Another law passed in Angola is called the Public Contradicting Law, which is similar to the Public Probity Law but is not limited to public officers, and includes vendors, among others. This legislation expands on corruption, rather than just mentioning passive corruption (individuals doing something for some sort of compensation or incentive), to include private sector employees who initiate acts of corruption. This bill is similar to the United States Foreign Corrupt Practice Act and the UK Anti-Bribery Law, which both focus on active corruption, rather than passive corruption. Angola has recently passed a new bill called the Law on the Criminalization of Infractions Related to Money Laundering (CIML), which includes subjects such as laundering, kidnapping, human trafficking, arms trafficking, currency counterfeiting, tax fraud, and criminal conspiracy. The CIML’s chapter on corruption explicitly prohibits receipt or solicitation of bribes, bribery of government officials directly or indirectly, influence peddling, and other related actions.

Working with the UN World Food Program (WFP), Angola has launched a three-year pilot school meal program, and is currently budgeting for a nationwide program, with funding from our nation but also from The Brazilian National Fund for Education Development, who has agreed to assist with the implementation of a national system. At this time, roughly 150,000 children in most conflict-affected areas of Angola are benefiting from these programs. (William Lambers, 2009) School meal programs can be a live-saving initiative for many students without regular access to food, and can create an incentive for these children to attend school.

To improve the Angolan education system, between 2000 and 2010, our annual spending on education has increased three percent, to 8.6% percent of our total government spending. (WorldBank, 2016) Angola’s efforts in education have been very effective as between 1998 and 2011, the literacy rate (both genders) has increased 28.4%, from 42% to 70.1%. (CIA World Factbook, 2016) Angola, in 2013, joined an initiative called the Big Push, along with nations such as Kenya, Liberia, DRC, and Uganda, in attempt to improve the likelihood that all sub-Saharan African countries achieve all six EFA goals. The initiative’s methods include creating effective partnerships throughout communities and encouraging an active role of the private sector, and reevaluating educational investments.

The nation of Angola does not currently have any world heritage sites, but has 11 on the tentative list. Despite not having any sites, Angola is one of 21 members of the World Heritage Committee, and as such, can participate in votes on the inclusion or rejection of site submissions, among other things. Despite not having globally-recognized sites, Angola does have locations with strong cultural significance, including sites with ancient rock art dating back to at least the Neolithic Age. With cooperation with France, one of our esteemed allies, and UNESCO, we are developing a strategy for protecting and preserving these works of art, with research being conducted by leading experts and recommending that the sites be added to the World Heritage List, so that they can receive the preservation funding given to the world heritage sites, around $4 million USD annually. (UNESCO, 2010)

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