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**Topic 1: Access to Education for Women and Girls**

Education for all humans, regardless of their gender, is essential to the development of a country as it aids breaking the cycle of poverty, as well as encouraging its people to participate as active citizens. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland recognizes the importance of distributing equal opportunities and providing education for all genders. The United Kingdom especially acknowledges the fact that women and girls in particular lack access to proper education due to numerous circumstances. In order to combat this pressing issue, the United Kingdom has implemented multiple international development education programs. An example of this is the Let Girls Learn initiative, in partnership with the United States of America. This initiative, based upon investments from the worlds leaders, focusses on advancing education for girls, particularly in countries affected by conflict and crisis, such as Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, and Liberia. In the Democratic Republic of Congo alone, this program is expected to benefit over 755,000 adolescent girls in the next five years. In addition to this program, the United Kingdom is also known to be one of the leading promoters of girl’s education because of its Girls Education Challenge (GEC), one of the largest global funds dedicated solely to girl’s education, which is expected to aid up to one million girls who are the most in need all across the world.[[1]](#footnote-1)

The UN has founded organizations and implemented programs to resolve this problem, the main one of them beings the United Nations Girl’s Education Initiative (UNGEI). The primary goal of this organization is to promote girl’s education by using three main strategies: technical outputs and capacity development, policy dialogue and advocacy, and coordination and alignment with aid architecture. This initiative deemed to be successful, as it targets all aspects of the issue and efficiently allocates its resources amongst them to solve each underlying problem at its core. Although the UNGEI has not yet fully achieved its mission, the UNGEI has properly analyzed its actions for the past decade and realizes that it, along with all stakeholders must take the following steps to attain their goal: “maintaining and enhancing investments in interventions that have led to increased enrolment and retention of girls, focusing attention on policy, finance and programming that pertain to gender equality, mainstreaming gender in education at all levels, ensuring gender-responsive education in emergencies, ensuring that interventions are responsive to the needs of boys, as well as girls, and integrating gender in social protection and poverty alleviation.”[[2]](#footnote-2)

The United Kingdom believes that the key point to emphasize in order to make progress towards a world where education is accessible to girls and women all over the world is cooperation and building upon the already existing aforementioned initiatives. The United Kingdom calls upon stronger, more developed countries to lend a helping hand to those in need by contributing to organizations such as the GEC and UNGEI. The United Kingdom, in collaboration with the UNGEI, also insists that the governments and ministers of education all work together to achieve the mandate set by the UNGEI.

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**Topic 2: Foreign Direct Investment in Africa**

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in Africa is one of the main steps for the continent to be integrated into the global economy and in turn, generates employment and increases product efficiency.[[3]](#footnote-3) Thus, it is essential for Africa’s growth on the global scale. According to a joint study by the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) estimates that external financial flows to Africa have quadrupled since 2000.[[4]](#footnote-4) The United Kingdom recognizes that FDI plays a crucial role in the development of Africa, and is in fact one of the largest OECD (Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation) countries investing in Africa at US$4.1 billion.[[5]](#footnote-5)

The United Nations have yet to reach the eight Millennium Development Goals in Africa and thus, have decided to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which resolves to free the human race of poverty throughout the next 15 years. Two examples of specific targets relevant to foreign investment that are included in this framework are targets 9.a, “facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development in developing countries through enhanced financial, technological and technical support to African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and Small Island developing States” and 10.b, “encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to States where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes”.[[6]](#footnote-6)

The United Kingdom calls upon its fellow developed countries to collaborate and provide financial aid to the continent of Africa in order to fully integrate it into the global economy. The United Kingdom accentuates the importance of promoting Africa’s economies to other potential investors, and increasing the FDI attractiveness in the continent to achieve said goal. It is also crucial to properly educate and provide resources to Africa in order to establish a proper exit strategy to avoid aid dependency in order to maintain a stable economy.[[7]](#footnote-7)

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**Topic 3: Promoting Integrity and Transparency in Democratically Elected Governments**

Africa is no stranger to extreme corruption. In fact, the continent is home to six of the world’s most corrupted countries.[[8]](#footnote-8) Corruption also highly contributes to poverty, the violation of human rights, and decreases the FDI attractiveness of Africa; all of which are pressing issues for the continent at the moment. The United Kingdom Is also a victim of lack of transparency, but has managed to limit the problem. According to the Corruption Perceptions Index of 2015, the United Kingdom ranks 10th on the global scale at a score of 81, whereas African countries such as Angola, South Sudan, Sudan and Somalia hold rankings above 160 at scores of 15, 15, 12, and 8 respectively, which are amongst the lowest in the world.[[9]](#footnote-9)

The United Nations had decided to put in place the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) in 2000. The UNCAC has been implemented in African countries throughout the years. Studies show that although there has been progress with aligning domestic legislation to the requirements of the UNCAC in most countries, there remains several obstacles in the path of the successful implementation of the convention. The main reasons for these challenges are the following: “lack of ownership, unrealistic planning, inadequate prioritization of reforms, insufficient involvement of non state actors, lack of coordination and monitoring and other implementation shortcomings.”[[10]](#footnote-10) According to Marianne Camerer, in a paper published by Global Integrity in 2008, there a several requirements that must be met in order to achieve effective implementation of an anti-corruption reform: “having the necessary data to inform strategy and policy; comprehensive legal and institutional safeguards to prevent and combat corruption; and, the most difficult to secure, the necessary political leadership and will to tackle corruption credibly and put in place long term reforms.”[[11]](#footnote-11)

The United Kingdom proposes administering aid to African countries in order to combat the issue of corruption by administering funds under the form of foreign direct investment to create stable and reliable employment for Africa’s citizens, so they won’t be forced to turn to bribes to ensure their income. The United Kingdom also proposes the creation of an intra-African monitoring body to watch over corrupted governments as to not pose a threat to national sovereignty.[[12]](#footnote-12)

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