**Committee: General Assembly**

**Topic: Mistreatment and Underrepresentation of indigenous people**

**Country: Somalia**

Somalia is a country located on the Horn of Africa, with a population of around 8 million people. They are known for some of their exports and agriculture, including bananas, corn, fish, and charcoal. The country has a life expectance rate of 46 due to their lack of healthcare and continuous fighting. Somalia’s political situation is led merely by clan-based rivalries that have occurred since the early 90s. After the civil war that occurred, Somalia ceased to work under a national government. The results of the loss of a national government, has led to even higher rates of poverty and health issues and epidemics as well in the poorer areas of this slowly declining country. Both, UN and US Armed Forces have made an entrance into Somalia to try and create unity amongst the clans in the country, however they left with large amounts of casualties and not much improvement.

As the delegate of Somalia, I would like to address an urging issue that is quite underrepresented in Somalia. This issue of importance is the mistreatment and misrepresentation of indigenous people from Somalia. One of the groups of indigenous people in Somalia is the Gabaweyn. The Gabaweyn is a tribe of around 30000 members that speak their own native language, called Af-Maay. Initially, the Gabaweyn tried to remain relatively quiet so that the political government would not disturb them. However, since the land that they used was their main source of living and resources, it really affected them when their irrigable land was found to be extremely vulnerable. In the 1970s, government conspired and took the land away from the Gabaweyn tribe (who were merely farmers), and provided them with very low amount of compensation. Nevertheless, it wasn’t a simple task for the government as the tribe showed dominance so the government forced confiscation of the land by using bulldozers and gunmen as a threat to them.

Minimal amounts of aid have been provided to these this tribe in specific. The solution for the tribe personally has so far been to relocate into Kenya because they have not been helped in Somalia. The United Nations Operation for Somalia (UNOSOM) has tried to protect and prevent the clash of clans and humanitarian issues such as this. However, they have pretty much failed to make a positive impact. Some of the potential ways to solve this issue include creating realistic promises and firstly, apologizing to these groups of people such as the Gabaweyn for stripping them of their land and therefore, the access to resources and preventing them from having their own independence and reaching their own standards of an efficient quality of life. Also, compensating the tribes based on the land that was stripped from their ancestors. This would create a politically content situation and potentially lead to a cease in the civil war that is currently happening right now. Additionally, the government needs to step up and understand where they went wrong. It is important for these minority groups like the Gabaweyn to receive the treatment they deserve while living in the country that they call and consider as their home.

**Sources**

De Waal, A. (2010). The UN and Somalia's Invisible Minorities. Retrieved November 10, 2016, from <https://www.culturalsurvival.org/ourpublications/csq/article/the-un-and-somalias-invisible-minorities>

Somalia Facts , Somalia Flag -- National Geographic. (n.d.). Retrieved November 10, 2016, from <http://travel.nationalgeographic.com/travel/countries/somalia-facts/>

Traynor, R. (2007). Sample Position Paper. Retrieved November 10, 2016, from <http://www.unausa.org/global-classrooms-model-un/how-to-participate/model-un-preparation/position-papers/sample-position-paper>