**Delegation from Swaziland**

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**Position paper for the African Union**

Topics to be discussed are: The Access to Education for Women and Girls; Foreign Direct Investments in Africa; and Promoting Integrity and Transparency in Democratically Elected Governments. Swaziland strongly believes that the second topic should be debated first due to its repercussions on the other topics. The third topic will only briefly be talked about by Swaziland due to its irrelevance concerning the country. Even though Swaziland is a small country it is important for it to adjust its politics and rules for a better adaptation of the current changes happening in its surroundings.

**1.Foreign Direct Investments in Africa**

Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) are very important for the economy of Swaziland. Currently Swaziland’s FDI is very low, which affects negatively almost every aspect of the country because if the economy is down not much can and should be done before it is up again. The reasons for the small amount of FDI received by Swaziland are issues that are not easily combated. The amount of FDI invested in a country directly relates to its infrastructure, economic stability (internal and external), and how open their economy is. If all of these criteria are fulfilled other countries are more likely to invest money in that country. On the opposite side if a country has a small domestic market without much power or possibilities for improvement it is less likely to attract FDI.

Swaziland’s FDI wasn’t always this low in 2001 and 2002 was higher and increasing due to its principal exports; textile and sugar. The economy in that moment was at its peak and made the country seem better so in consequence attract even more FDI. Unfortunately, this positive moment for the economy did not last long because in 2004 it started deteriorating (1). This deterioration was due to the country’s manufacturing sector which wasn’t performing as well as it should and neither did the agricultural rate of productivity. Swaziland doesn’t have written plans about ways to improve their FDI’s in the future but is trying to upgrade its infrastructure so trades, whether they are with a country from another continent or international are done more easily.

Having a high FDI is important but the international trades are important to keep in mind considering it is what other countries look at to evaluate the amount of FDI they want to place in that country and that if the FDIs suddenly stop coming in at their usual rate the country needs to prevail for itself. Other countries can also give Foreign Aid to a country. While the latest is simply for business and trade, foreign aid is only for the country’s development in order to be a better choice in the future for FDI.

Another difference between FDI and foreign aid is that FDI are given almost only by countries while foreign aid is often given by world associations. The African Union plans for Africa to attract more FDI and foreign aid by 2063 therefore creating an almost economically dependent country.

**2.Access to Education for Women and Girls**

This topic is very important as it defines a big part of the society and their future. Girls are more likely to abruptly stop their education at a low level due to the expectations put on young girls in Swaziland and their harsh realities. In Swaziland, a woman is seen as a lower-class citizen and in some cases, is considered as a minor all her life in the government’s eye. All their life is supposed to be dedicated to household tasks and lower rank jobs. The vast majority of women are unemployed and the women that do have jobs don’t have positions of power.

This ideal is deeply implemented in the society and would be hard to rectify because girls are exposed to that reality at a young age and are forced to live with it. In school manuals, we can see women at home and men doing things that require or give them a lot of power. This doesn’t give a positive view of themselves to young girls who also don’t see any women in positions of power. For these reasons if a family doesn’t have much money they will try to send their sons to school before their daughters.

With about two thirds of families living in poverty (2) and the this happens often and is also due to the fact that it is more expensive for a girl to go to school because of her more extensive uniform. Even if a girl is lucky enough to go to school her education can still be compromised by many factors. Male teachers abuse sexually the young girls and the other male classmates will often make fun of the girls in their school for simply being there. In Swaziland, many girls are in the sex industry or have to marry, without choice, an older man with a lot of money at a very young age to provide for their family.

A big issue in Swaziland are the amount of teen pregnancies and HIV AIDS which affect mainly women due to the facts mentioned above. Young girls affected by HIV and AIDS also leave school. Many things have been done to try and resolve this situation but they haven’t change much because the idea is deeply engraved in people’s minds and their society. The African Charter on Human and People’s Rights (also know as the Banjul Charter) was adopted in 1981 and is there to enforce peoples right while the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa that was adopted in 2003 tends more toward helping woman.

**3. Promoting integrity and Transparency in Democratically Elected Governments**

This topic doesn’t relate that much to Swaziland as it is the last complete monarchy in Africa. Its current king, Mswati lll , ascended onto the throne at the age of 18 in 1986. In 2006, Swaziland’s new constitution included a bill of right but everything in the country (including liberty of expression) is very restricted by the government who even owns one of the two daily mails.

Transparency and Integrity are very important for a country. You need to have the trust of your citizens and of other country in order to succeed. You can do that by being very open about the procedures you are taking and the future plans for the country so that everyone can see themselves in the country being created and upgraded.

This is important especially for Africa who has six countries present in a list of the ten most corrupt countries ( from Transparency International’s Corruption Perception Index). Swaziland has a lot of implementation to prevent and punish corruption. The most recent one was adopted in 2006 and is called Prevention of Corruption Act and it consists of everything concerning the subject.

Swaziland, unlike Angola, isn’t a very corrupt country. A thing that could help with stopping corruption in government is to be able to see their transactions and also for people to use government websites in order for small corruption not to take place as much. Its is hard to give money to someone illegally online.