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Agenda A : Elimination of unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries

0. Explanation of the Committee

The General Assembly second committee, which is the Economic and Financial Committee, will intrinsically deal with issues relating to economic growth and development such as macroeconomic policy questions, sustainable development, globalization and interdependence, new technologies for development; and towards global partnerships between associated member states. Not limited to the narrow issue of the 'economic' field, this committee is recommending delegates to cover all of the topics and contents related with issues toward establishing well-oriented policies and solutions.

1. Background

In this session, the agenda is "Elimination of unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries". To realize the pillars of the organization, this committee undergoes researches and increases the sincere understanding of an issue, while guiding local states so that the treaties on the issues can be implemented. We presented the key activities related with the agenda and hope to focus on the issues of remedies and redress for victims of unilateral coercive measures, based on a review, assessment and evaluation of the various mechanisms available to victims. Finally, we recommend the steps to be taken to reinforce or create avenues for remedies and finally lead to the elimination of such forceful measures.

Unilateral measures have been present in the human history since ancient time. Already in 432 B.C ancient Greeks imposed a trade embargo on its neighbor Megara, which was the first known use of sanctions as we understand them today. Since then, economic sanctions have always played a significant role as an alternative to war, being far from a peaceful measure though. Nowadays, international community seems to perceive economic sanctions as a disturbance in peaceful co-existence of sovereign States. The United States, to this point, is the most frequent user of unilateral measures, which also tend to be the most problematic. The EU and Canada also have procedures of one form or another that are similar to the United States', but these were introduced to provide a means of retaliating against unilateral measures taken by the United States and are procedurally limited and applied only with extreme caution. Nevertheless, the number of economic sanctions being used by different actors seems to be growing, including actions by United Nations Security Council resorting to that measure more and more often.

Monitoring the imposition of unilateral measures and studying the impact of such measures on the affected countries, there have been 26 new cases of unilateral economic measures since 2000¹, these cases can be categorized into three groups. The first group refers to the introduction of new actions in cases of long standing, such as Cuba, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The second group refers to cases initiated after 2000 and



no longer in effect, including the Central African Republic, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, and Uzbekistan. The third group refers to ongoing cases, such as Belarus, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Fiji, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, the Republic of Moldova, Somalia, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Yemen and Zimbabwe. Recent trends suggest that the use of smart (or targeted) sanctions, such as an arms embargo, asset freeze or travel ban, has been increasing, while the use of a broadly defined trade embargo is still significant. Evidence indicates that unilateral measures, especially broad trade embargoes, can have severe adverse consequences for human rights, people's welfare, and the long-term growth prospects of the affected country.ⁱⁱ The magnitude of the impact on social and economic development of the affected countries depends on a wide range of factors. Thus, impact can be properly assessed only on a country-by-country basis.

2. Major Issues

Economic sanctions

Economic situation is being more deteriorated by unilateral coercive measures by reducing the trade with other countries. This sanction is detrimental to the domestic welfare and economic interests of related countries and impair the development of the trade. Also, it is not based on the WTO dispute settlement procedures, only based on the own criteria. More severely, the total GDP or employment could be depleted, which can't be justified under the name of 'sanction' by developed countries.

Food insecurity

Nowadays, many different developing countries are estimated to be suffered from food insecure, representing nearly half the population at the risk of insecurity. And developing countries are highly dependent on the agricultural sector, which contributed to the GDP and labor force. However, the agricultural sector are hampered by the unilateral coercive measures of developing countries by oil and economic embargoes or imports. It impairs the ability of the nation to purchase and prevents the country from paying for the things they can afford to import. As a result, the declining economy makes it more difficult to secure food for people.

Politicization

Unilateral coercive measures are being overused under the name of 'sanctions'. Developing countries already did 'politicization' by allying with other interested member states in order to dominate the target countries within all sectors. For example, anyone seeking to conduct international business with the target country must comply with multiple different rules or laws. Concerning this situation, the developing countries yield their power using this measures and it makes the target countries to be more vulnerable to the coercive measures. Finally, economic coercive measures could be overused in other sectors against the WTO agreement.



3. Previous Actions

<Case study on the agenda>

1) Syrian Arab Republic

The banning in 2002 of exports of United States products to the Syrian Arab Republic other than food and medicine placed a trade and development burden on the country, as a range of goods and services for development purposes became either unavailable or are restricted at a higher price than those from non-American sources. The Syrian Arab Republic, particularly the Government and the business sector, have been adversely affected by the technological sanctions (infrastructure, hardware, software and user licenses), which led to weak implementation of national strategies for using information and communications technologies for development. Furthermore, the Syrian Arab Republic has been facing an escalating crisis, turned all-out conflict, since March 2011. The effects of this crisis/conflict have been detrimental to the Syrian people and economy. The European Union imposed sanctions on the Syrian Government while the United States tightened the sanctions it had already imposed. The ban on Syrian oil exports imposed by the European Union has been the most significant of the new sanctions. However, given the scale and ferocity of the violence in the Syrian Arab Republic, it is difficult to assess the isolated impact of the sanctions.

2) Sudan

A total trade embargo imposed by the United States, the world's largest economy, has seriously hampered the trade and development trajectory of the Sudanese economy. In addition, the Sudan suffered an economic downturn after the secession of South Sudan in July 2012 and the consequent loss of the major petroleum fields and their income. This has led to inflation and the deterioration of the Sudanese currency in a significant and rapid manner. The Sudanese Government has formulated an economic recovery strategy, the implementation of which is hampered in part by United States sanctions. The lack of economic and technological contact with the United States leaves the Sudanese industries at a disadvantage. This policy has led to the suffering of innocent civilians in the Sudan under a Government targeted by American trade sanctions. The banning of exports and imports between the Sudan and the United States has also hurt local industries and consumers. Industries are unable to access the largest economy in the world while also missing out on technological goods and services from the United States, leading to inefficiencies in the industrial sector. Consumers are unable to purchase American goods and services which may be of better quality than the ones available to ordinary Sudanese. The sanctions also curtail employment growth; given the high birth rate, youth bulge and high youth unemployment rates in the Sudan, these sanctions tend to disproportionately affect the youth of the country. Overall, sweeping trade and economic restrictions with the world's largest economy significantly hamper the trade and development trajectory of the Sudanese economy. Access restrictions to the American market hamper exports and decrease potential income, with negative repercussions for economic development in the country, and delay the potential achievement of Millennium Development Goal



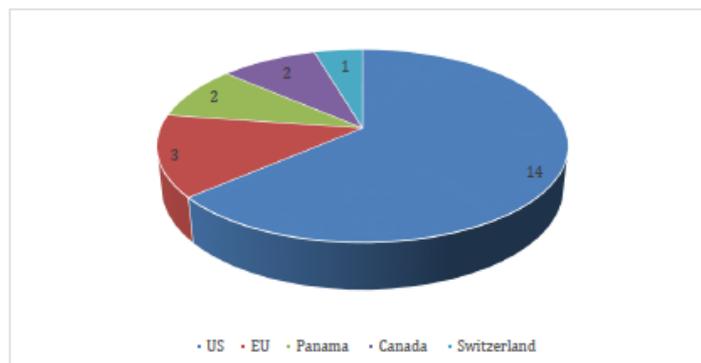
3)Palestine

The economic and movement restrictions have heavily affected Palestine across every facet of society. Economically, the Palestinian economy has become heavily dependent on both foreign aid and the Israeli economy. Heavy restrictions on imports have led to shortages of many basic commodities required for maintaining the Palestinians' standard of living. Export restrictions have also curtailed trade with the outside world and ensure Israeli hegemony over the Palestinian economy. Unemployment remains worryingly high, and has forced the Palestinian authorities to engage in hiring staff at the cost of an inefficient allocation of labor just to prevent skyrocketing marginalization of the labor force. The realization of the Millennium Development Goals remains difficult in the face of budgetary, institutional and infrastructural constraints, which can be directly attributed to the imposition of such restrictions. In spite of changes to its provisions, the Israeli blockade on the Gaza Strip has had significant ramifications for trade and development. Both import and export restrictions severely curtail trade not just with the outside world but also with the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Strict controls on "dual use" imports have also led to a lack of infrastructure, which was already in poor condition to begin with. This leads to poor water and electricity supply, which significantly impedes economic, and hence employment-generating, activities. The impact on the citizenry is both negative and widespread, leading to adverse educational, health (including psychological health), and income outcomes.

4)Venezuela

As of 2014, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has been subjected to a series of sanctions unilaterally imposed by several countries of North America and Europe, which has generated a rather serious impact on the enjoyment and exercise of the human rights of its population. Up to the date of the preparation of this special report, twenty-two instruments have been issued that impose unilateral coercive measures against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, from December 2014 until May 2018. The countries and communities that have imposed these measures are as follows: USA, Canada, the European Union, Switzerland and Panama.

FIGURE 1: UNILATERAL COERCIVE MEASURES BY STATE OR COMMUNITY 2014-2018



Source: personal



One of the most significant sanctions is the one decreed by President Donald Trump on March 19th, 2018, in which he bans any transaction through the use of the digital cryptocurrency Petro, created by the Venezuelan State in order to overcome the economic crisis originated from low oil prices as well as the economic, financing and commercial blockage imposed by the United States of America and its allies during 2016, 2017 and 2018. In May, they imposed two new unilateral coercive measures; the first one issued on May 18th, in which the US Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Treasury Department of the United States of America punishes some State officials and private entities, and also punished the transactions of United States citizens with persons or the entities mentioned hereof. The second measure is the Executive Order issued on May 21th, 2018, in which the following activities are bannedⁱⁱⁱ:

5) The Special Rapporteur

The Special Rapporteur was established by United Nations to conduct an official visit to the target country like Syrian Arab Republic (Syria) and other related countries to do more direct research about the issues. They held meetings with Ministers, Deputy Ministers and senior officials of the ministries of Foreign Affairs and other affiliated organizations to search more feasible solutions with the help of them. They presented the report regarding the impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights in target countries and considers the difficulties in making use of humanitarian exemptions under these measures. Also, it gave several recommendations on how to minimize the impact of unilateral coercive measures on the afflicted, and how existing measures for preventing this issues could be better implemented.

4. Possible Actions & Solutions

The international community has tried to contribute hundreds of millions of dollars in humanitarian aid to targeted countries on a regular basis. Despite this, such aid can only be delivered through the UN or the largest international organizations, excluding many humanitarian NGOs. It cannot be justified that basic humanitarian needs are only for some to be tortured by the abuse of the superpowers. So, UN should establish the organization for making network between affiliated organizations, which is capable of helping those countries with humanitarian aid. However, it is no doubt that the sole delegation of UN has the possibility of being deviated from the original purpose that prevents countries from enacting unilateral coercive measures as a means of force. Therefore, it calls upon the need of interrelation with other independent organizations such as OCED, ASEAN, WTO and many affiliated organizations we know.

And, the system of database, which prioritizes the donors, the extent of the damage, the countries in need should be archived, and it should allow the humanitarian aid to be more accelerated with flexible process. In order to implement this system, gathering information related with the unilateral coercive measures is needed for establishing the right system. So, in the process of establishing, the support from affiliated organizations are needed by exchanging information and deciding which actions are needed for improving the situation of



targeted countries. Now, there is some organizations for surveillance or observation such as Special Rapporteur of UN, but it has not much power or system for monitoring out of the forces of superpowers. It is urgent to establish the information system for scrutinizing the current situation with monitoring.

Also, confidence-building measures should be needed, which establishes confidence of target countries on the aspects of diverse fields addressing the survival needs of the people in target countries. It would be the use of importing agricultural goods, or other staples they can yield. Though this might be not huge amount, it could act as an important first step in encouraging good will of the target countries and the international community should dedicate to such aid, which has been deeply underestimated for many years. Not as unilateral coercive measures, it is needed to make the new program between countries with more reasonable measures by exchanging their assets with each other. For example, we can make a program that developed countries offer the teaching to developing countries and targeted countries pay it by providing the human resources, though it required a lot of steps and policies to make it actualize.

5. Definition of Key Terms

Unilateral Measure

A unilateral measure is defined as a retaliatory measure which is imposed by a country without being informed of the WTO dispute settlement procedures or other international rules and procedures and is enforced solely based on the acting country's own standard.

Em. Prof. Dr. Marc Bossuyt, the president of the Constitutional Court of Belgium, has presented a brief classification of unilateral measures for the sake of a relevant United Nations Workshop held in Geneva in 2013^{iv}. He divided the sanctions into economic measures and other measures. Accordingly, two basic forms of economic sanctions are:

- (a) Trade sanctions restricting imports and exports to and from the target country
 - (b) Financial sanctions addressing monetary issues
- whereas other forms of sanctions include:
- a. Sanctions against the travel of certain individuals or groups and sanctions against certain kinds of air transport
 - b. Military sanctions including arms embargoes and the termination of military
 - c. Diplomatic sanctions canceling visas of diplomats and political leaders
 - d. Cultural sanctions banning athletes from international sports competition and artists from international events

On the United Nations level, legal experts tend to use a different term to describe what we would commonly call 'economic sanctions' – coercive measures. For the purpose of the session on debating the legitimacy of such measures, a distinction between 'unilateral coercive measures' and 'collective coercive measures' has to be



established. A 'Unilateral measure' can be defined as measure that is in the first instance unlawful under international law.

Sanctions

Government actions taken by a country or organization against the economy of another country, such as refusing to trade with it, in order to force it to obey a law or a set of rules. So, this measures are taken by a state to force another to conform to an international agreement, norm or conduct and it includes 'economic, political or cultural sanctions'. It is mainly conducted by developed countries under this notion.

WTO dispute settlement procedures

This new WTO agreement provides some rules emphasizing the importance of establishing the dispute settlement in prohibiting the use of unilateral measures about issues within the WTO rules. It is provided to be the more powerful rules than previous one, which means unilateral measures are more explicitly banned by official organizations. Therefore, they proclaimed that the use of unilateral measures violating the WTO Agreement cannot be accepted under the obligations as the member states of WTO. Also, WTO-related disputes must be addressed within the range of procedures of WTO, not their own criteria. However, the developed countries evaded the violation of WTO agreement under the cause of 'trading partner's violation of the WTO agreement and justified their use of unilateral measures.

6. Affiliated Document & Organizations

■ United Nations Workshop in Geneva

Economic coercive measures have been a subject of a few reports by the Secretary General of the United Nations. Among those the Secretary General's report A/66/138 on 'Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries as well as the report A/67/118 on 'Necessity of ending the economic commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba' can be named in its Resolution 19/32 'Human rights council requested the office of the united nations high commissioner for human rights to organize a workshop on the various aspects relating to the impact of the application of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights by the affected populations in the State targeted. The workshop was held on 5 April 2013 in Geneva and the report from it has been submitted to the Council for consideration. Based on the requests, a series of the seminars, workshop is being proceeded, but it has still limitations to wholly fix the deep-rooted factors of the exertion of such forceful measures.

■ Human Rights Council (HRC)

As a result of a criticism of lack of a special monitoring body for the issue, the Human Rights Council in its resolution A/HRC/RES/27/21^v in its resolution has decided to appoint in March



2015 for a period of 3 years a Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights. The mandate of the Special Rapporteur shall include studying trends, developments and challenges in relation to the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures to make guidelines and recommendations on ways and means to prevent, minimize and redress the adverse impact of unilateral coercive measures on human rights ; “as well as making an overall review of independent mechanisms to assess unilateral coercive measures to promote accountability”.

■ Human Rights Council (the Report of the Special Rapporteur)

In the case of Syria (refer to the Case 2 in Case Study part.), despite the efforts to implement “smart” sanctions with humanitarian exemptions, the application of current sanction regimes has contributed to the suffering of the Syrian people. This report does not claim that the sanctions have caused the current humanitarian crisis, as it cannot be disentangled from the violence that has taken place in Syria since 2011. What is undisputed however is that they do contribute to a worsening of the humanitarian situation, contrary to their stated intentions.

7. Critical Questions to Consider

- What forms of unilateral coercive measures are being enforced and why do member states oppose this action?
- Why unilateral coercive measures remain as a complex legal issue based on the international rules or laws?
- What economic impacts can be occurred if such unilateral measures are conducted by the developed countries?
- Why does it not disappear in the international scenes, although this form of unilateral measures was being conducted from the long history?
- What are the negative consequences after being forced by unilateral coercive measures?
- What potential problems can be existed other than existing problems or damages mentioned above?

8. Bibliography

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^v A/HRC/RES/27/21 “Human rights and unilateral coercive measures”. October 01, 2014. Accessed on 8 January 2015:

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Agenda B : Combating Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and Desertification in Africa

0. Committee Introduction

The General Assembly second committee, which is the Economic and Financial Committee, will intrinsically deal with issues relating to economic growth and development such as macroeconomic policy questions; financing for development; sustainable development; human settlements; globalization and interdependence; eradication of poverty; operational activities for development; information and communications technologies for development; and towards global partnerships^v.

1. Background

In this session, the agenda is “Combating Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and Desertification in Africa”. Recognizing this agenda as one of the major issues is crucial as the global threat such as “climate change” are well known to the larger public, but, the threats by land degradation for the livelihoods of the poorest communities in most parts of Africa are drawing less attention too. Also, it is necessary to remain considerate and concerned of the business associated with agricultural needs and the damage drought and desertification is going to cause when the crops or livestock are damaged. We also recommend solving the fundamental issue in hand to the extent that is possible to solve by human efforts which are deforestation, climate change, overdrafting of groundwater, and more.

According to the report of the situations of desertification and devise the well-organized solutions for sustainable environment, finally, we recommend the steps to be taken to reinforce or create avenues for remedies and finally lead to the eradication of desertification in countries suffered from the catastrophic surroundings.

In the early 1900s, the word “desertification” was first introduced by the French scientist Aubreville (1949) in his report “*Climats, forêts et désertification de l’Afrique tropicale*”. The concept was discussed earlier by European and American scientists in terms of increased sand movements, desiccation, desert and Sahara encroachment and man-made deserts. At this time, desertification meant the spreading of deserts or desert-like conditions. The symptoms of the phenomena were often related to sand movement and encroachment into oasis and desert margins. Aubreville (1949) also stated that there are real deserts being born today, under our very eyes, in the 700-1500 mm annual rainfall areas.

However, in the late 1900s, a new definition introduces the idea that desertification does not need to lead to the development of deserts or desert-like conditions. It simply refers to all types of land degradation in the drylands of the world. And human adverse impact on the environment is considered to be the only cause of desertification.



2. Major Issues

Climate change

Climate change is one of the major challenge humanity faces in this era. The impacts of climate change have been revealing its presence in many ways. It is altering weather patterns which threaten food production, rising sea levels that cause many natural disasters from flooding to the frequent happening of tsunamis and hurricanes. To add on, the greenhouse gas emissions are now at their highest levels in history. Regardless of the environmental issues, it's disrupting many national economies. Human activity is the main cause of climate change. Humans burning fossil fuels and destruction natural ecosystem by converting land from forests to agriculture. Burning fossil fuels produces carbon dioxide which is a greenhouse gas. This leads to the "greenhouse effect" which makes the earth warmer and warmer as it traps the CO₂ inside the earth's atmosphere.

- **The UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**

This was a result of the collaboration of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) for the purpose of providing an objective source of scientific information. In 2013, the IPCC published its Fifth Assessment Report which made its conclusion: climate change is real and human activities are the main cause. It also provided frightful evidence that climate changed had led to irreversible changed in major ecosystems and the planetary climate system. A diverse range of ecosystems from the Amazon rainforest and the Arctic tundra has been showing the dramatic change through warming and drying.

- **Fifth Assessment Report**

This report includes a comprehensive assessment of the impacts of climate change, and its causes over the past few decades. From 1880 to 2012, over a period of about a century, the average global temperature has increased by 0.85 degrees. Due to this, the sea levels have risen by 19cm over a century, because of the melting of ice.

Excessive expenditure of water

According to the UN, the average person needs between 20 and 50 liters of water each day to satisfy their drinking, cooking, cleaning, and sanitation needs. However, about 319 million people in Sub-Saharan Africa aren't given the adequate amount or none at all.

Africa is known for the lack of clean water, however, there is a scarcity in water in general. This is also a big problem for the development of the country because a lot of time is consumed into finding water. Sub-Saharan Africa alone loses 40 billion hours per year collecting water; that's the same as a whole year's worth of labor by France's entire workforce. With much of one's day already consumes by meeting basic needs, there isn't time for anything else. The social and economic effects caused by a lack of clean water are often the highest priorities.

Due to the severe scarcity of water, earlier in 2018, the 'Cape Town water crisis' occurred. The problem is Africa is that there's also lack of comprehensive city plan regarding this issue and it's not developed enough to provide good water providing systems. This led to the Cape Town's government which is located in South Africa, to cut off all water they'll have for drinking, bathing, flushing toilets, and everything needed in life. This left 4 million residents without access to running water. Although some services like hospitals, clinics, and schools were exempt from this, the overwhelming majority of the megacity's residents were left having to work with their tiny daily allotment. The people were allowed with just 25 liters -- about 6.4 gallons -- of water a day.



Deforestation

Deforestation is the permanent destruction of forests in order to make the land available for other uses. Plants and animals create a balanced cycle because plants generate oxygen which humans consume. Humans generate CO₂ which plants consume. However, due to the decrease of forests, the balance is broken and there are not enough plants.

Humans have destroyed more than half of the world's tropical forests and the earth loses 18.7 million acres of forests per year, which is equal to 27 soccer fields every minute. Deforestation occurs around the world, though tropical forests are usually the target. It is estimated that in a century, rainforests may completely vanish.

Half of the trees are illegally being removed for the purposes of making more land available for housing and urbanization, harvesting timber to create commercial items such as paper, furniture and homes, creating ingredients that are highly priced consumer items, such as the oil from palm trees, and a very minor cause, but creating room for cattle ranching. There's a need to identify ways to achieve these without the process of cutting down trees.

Developing countries which are most of the countries in Africa rely heavily on wood fuel, the major energy source for cooking and heating. An estimated 90% of the entire continent's population uses fuel wood for cooking, and in Sub-Saharan Africa, firewood and brush supply approximately 52% of all energy sources. To address this issue, potential solutions such as the regulation of the logging industry, development of forest protection schemes, and monitor of human activities that promote deforestation should be enforced and implemented.

3. Previous Actions

<Case study on the agenda>

1) Latin America

Although well known for its rain forests, Latin America and the Caribbean are actually about one-quarter desert and dry lands (20,533,000 km²). The hyper-arid deserts of the Pacific coast stretch from southern Ecuador, the entire Peruvian shoreline and northern Chile. Further inland, at altitudes of 3,000-4,500 meters, high and dry plains (Altiplano) of the Andean mountains cover large areas of Peru, Bolivia, Chile, and Argentina. To the east of the Andes, an extensive arid region extends from Chaco's northern reaches in Paraguay to Patagonia in southern Argentina. Northeastern Brazil contains semi-arid zones dominated by tropical savannahs. Large parts of Colombia and Venezuela are highly degraded. In Dominican Republic, Cuba, Haiti and Jamaica, there are arid zones, as erosion and water shortages are noticeably intensifying in the Eastern Caribbean. Most of Mexico is arid and semi-arid, mainly in the north. Land degradation and severe droughts make the Central American countries vulnerable to extreme events, delaying their sustainable development. Poverty and pressure on land resources are causing land degradation in many of these areas. This is a region with 465 million inhabitants; around 110 million live below the poverty line.

2) Haiti

Severe environmental problems have been among the roots of Haiti's social, economic and even political crises. Haiti is catastrophically deforested, topsoil has been eroded, and there are zones of galloping desertification. The level of environmental degradation has made Haiti one of the world's most natural disaster-prone countries. Following the devastating floods of 2004, which killed approximately 3,000, Crisis Group warned about future ecological disasters. In 2008, a succession of hurricanes and tropical storms killed close to 800 and left some 100,000 homeless.^v

Deforestation in Haiti is a severe environmental problem. In 1923, over 60% of Haiti's land was forested. Deforestation accelerated after Hurricane Hazel downed trees throughout the island in 1954. Beginning in about 1954, concessionaires stepped up their logging operations, in response to Port-au-Prince's



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intensified demand for charcoal, thus accelerating deforestation, which had already become a problem because of environmentally unsound agricultural practices, rapid population growth, and increased competition over scarce land. Rather than using techniques which could make forestry more productive for fuel, like coppicing and pollarding, the lack of title on much land resulted in charcoal burners digging up and using tree root structures. There is also a less discussed problem with feral goats which overgraze and eat seedlings that might otherwise replace

3) India

India also has suffered from harsh desertification, especially like districts of Jhabua and Dhar of Madhya Pradesh state. During the past few years, these districts have faced drought several times. Added to this, the relentless exploitation of the natural resources in the form of soil cover, vegetative cover, and ground water due to increased biotic pressure mounted pressure on the fragile eco-system. Rural poverty and extensive unemployment amongst the casual farm and non-farm workers indicate inadequate work opportunities. As a consequence, the livelihood of rural people in agricultural areas has always been under constant threat.^v

4) EU

There has been some devised system from superpowers, especially from EU, DE Survey-A Surveillance System for Assessing and Monitoring Desertification. Commissioned by the EC in March 2005 with funding of 7.8 million euros over 5 years, the DE Survey project will deliver a set of integrated procedures for the surveillance and assessment of desertification status and land-use system vulnerability from regional to international scales. These procedures will be delivered through computer-based tools, tailored to the information needs of organizations involved in desertification policy and management. Each tool will address a different aspect of desertification (climatic drivers, socio-economic drivers, land-use and land condition change, water resources and hydrology) and be linked through a Desurvey database information system. The system will be developed and applied within the EU.

To evaluate the applicability of the DeSurvey system in desertification threatened areas globally, partners from Maghrebian and Sahelian countries as well as from Chile and China are involved in the project. However, it has the limitation to have the possibility for being used by superpowers intentionally.

5) United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA)

International Decade for Action 'Water For Life'

This was a project under the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) It recognized the severe dry state of Africa as it faces endemic poverty, food insecurity and pervasive underdevelopment. Almost all countries lack the human, economic and institutional capacities to effectively develop and manage their water resources sustainably. The goal was to guide the achievement of the United Nations water-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Although the project ended in 2015, it made a lot of progress. In 2010, the share of the urban population with access to an improved water source ranged from 52% in Mauritania to 100% in Egypt, Mauritius, Niger, and Seychelles. Also by 2010, no country had a coverage rate of less than 50%, an improvement from four countries with less than 50% in 1990. In 2011, African countries reported substantive political commitments to WASH, increasing funding allocations and leadership and coordination among implementing agencies. The majority of countries also set adequate WASH service provision targets. Countries also confirmed that the rights to water and sanitation are increasingly adopted in laws or policies.



6) The United Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)

All African countries are parties in the UNCCD. Most African countries have developed and submitted National Action Programmes (NAPs), which the preparation requires dynamic, continuous process and the status of each country that needs to change over time. For facilitated cooperation purposes, the African countries created five Sub-regional Action Programmes (SRAPs) and a Regional Action Programme (RAP). The current RAP outlines were adopted in 1999, and compose six thematic programme networks (TPNs) that concern: integrated water management, agroforestry, soil conservation, rangeland management, ecological monitoring, and early warning systems, new and renewable energy sources and technologies, and sustainable agricultural farming systems.

4. Possible Actions & Solutions

There is an urgent need for both short-term and long-term solutions, which can be done with climate change related events. Humanitarian Aid by the UN and developed countries is a short-term solution, which as the world can't forever focus on this issue and spend tons of money and effort on this. However, until Africa reaches a certain point of being able to obtain water without the help of other organizations and countries, help from the UN and developed countries will be needed. Although there is humanitarian effort still in Africa, the funding is inadequate and there's a lack of this.

There is a need to collect as much water as possible. Africa right now isn't doing a great job of obtaining rain, and to do that, there needs to be dams and water storage tanks to store the water to use it in various ways. This is also a more affordable alternative than desalination, a process of removing salt from seawater, which is another method to obtain water. This is too expensive, nearly impossible for a less economically developed continent can afford because on top of the desalination itself, the water needs to be carried out and dispersed throughout the continent, which is something that requires proper waterworks. The water storage tanks need coatings, which should be resistant to chemical attacks, lowest absorption rates and high retention characteristics. These coatings also cut down the maintenance costs. In Sub-Saharan Africa 95% of cropland is rain fed. However, this is challenged by climate change. By providing water when it is needed small-scale water storage will help many farmers adapt to this challenge.

Water scarcity in Africa doesn't only apply to physical meanings, but the investments in water resources and relevant human capacity are not substantial enough. This all comes down to financial means. It's very expensive to construct an infrastructure to bring fresh water from different regions to the people who need it the most. This is where the funding is needed. Although there's currently a lot of funding being used into the development of Africa, but humanitarian aid is a short-term solution and to help Africa in the long-term such investments in the infrastructure is needed. Such infrastructures include proper sewer systems, water works, water purification systems, and water storage tanks.

There is fresh water available near the Congo River basin, where the largest populations aren't anywhere near that area. The Congo River basin takes up almost 20% of Africa so much more people can create lives there, where there is fresh water. Also, there is biodiversity, which means that a lot of organisms live in the river, including fish and edible food sources for humans. There is a need to develop the Congo River basin vicinity and educate the future generation about how most of the population rely on surface water instead of groundwater, which isn't sanitary water. It is a necessity to develop areas like the Congo River basin that freshwater is available.

To change the fundamental issue of the change of the earth's climate to solve the drought in general, humans need to cooperate. There is a need for the promotion of reduction of deforestation and production of reforestation, through increase of penalties and punishments, emphasizing the importance of planting new trees to absorb carbon from the atmosphere.



5. Definition of Key Terms

Desertification

Desertification is land degradation arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from adverse human impact. "Land" in this concept includes soil and local water resources, land surface and vegetation or crops. "Degradation" implies reduction of the resource potential by one or a combination of processes acting on the land, including water and wind erosion, sedimentation and siltation, long-term reduction in the level of diversity in natural vegetation, crop yields, soil salinization.

However, the causes and consequences of desertification cannot be generalized on a global, continental, regional or even national level. They are site specific (Helldén 2003). Every site and case need its own diagnosis, based on an integrated and systemic research approach, before the right cure, often complex and integrated in nature, can be identified and implemented. A successful cure is likely to include action of social, economic, political, biophysical and local participatory character. It also includes an integrated monitoring and evaluation program to measure indicators of desertification, carry out cost-benefit analysis, recognize success, avoid repeated mistakes and initiate positive feedback mechanisms.^v

Land Degradation

There are a lot of definitions of land degradation. But it can be defined as the reduction or loss of the biological or economic productivity and complexity of rain -- fed cropland, irrigated cropland, or range, pasture, forest or woodlands resulting from natural processes, land uses or other human activities and habitation patterns such as land contamination, soil erosion and the destruction of the vegetation cover. Land degradation can be measured through experts' opinions, remote sensing, field monitoring, land productivity, and participatory surveys such as farmers' opinions. Although not a lot of farmers prioritize land degradation as the major problem, it has many issues. Land degradation decreases infiltration, water holding capacity, and transpiration, but enhances runoff and soil evaporation. Also, it affects the conservation of soil and water resources, because they are strongly linked to unfavorable changes in the hydrological behavior affecting soil water balance and soil moisture regime. There are evidence that land degradation processes leading to desertification in different regions to get worse. The prevention and choice of solutions for the problems of land degradation leading to desertification must depend on the right identification of the processes involved and in the precise analysis, diagnosis and understanding of the causes and potential effects at specific places. Not doing so may lead to catastrophic effects.

Ecology

Ecology is the scientific study of the processes influencing the distribution and abundance of organisms, the interactions among organisms, and the interactions between organisms and the transformation and flux of energy and matter.

The study of ecology is very important for environmental purposes. We need to realize the importance of studying Ecology because it gives us an understanding on how each species needs to other for peaceful coexistence. The lack of understanding ecology had led to degradation of land and environment which caused the extinction and endangerment of many species. All plants and animals needs to share limited natural resources and the overuse of such natural resources which leads to scarcity as well as exploitation and competition. Excessive expenditure of non-renewable sources like oil, coal, natural gas leads to pollution and destruction of the Ozone layer. Ecology is the key to communicating about the destruction that is already progressing in the ecosystem.



Water Availability

Water availability is the quantity of water that can be used for human purposes without significant harm to ecosystems or other users.

In the core of sustainable development, socio-economic development, energy and food production, healthy ecosystems, and human survival, there is water. Water is recognized as a right that all humans should have access to, especially women and girls must have access to clean, private sanitation facilities to manage menstruation and maternity in dignity and safety.

The reason water availability is one of the hardest problems to solve is due to the fact that population is increasing rapidly. Between 1900 and 2000, the increase in world population was three times greater than during the entire previous history of humanity -- an increase from 1.5 to 6.1 billion in just 100 years. This is the result of improvements medical facilities and reduced mortality rate. There are such limited resources of water as only 2.5% of the world's water is fresh and ready to be used by humans. Population is increasing and resources are limited which led to this situation.

6. Affiliated Document & Organizations

1) UNCED

There are commonly known responses for combatting desertification and promoting development (cf. UNCED, 1992) which are much talked about but seldom implemented such as:

- (a) improving national capabilities, including training and human resources development, for assessing water resources and determining water use on a continuing basis and for the planning and management of these resources
- (b) conserving water resources and optimizing their use through the employment of measures
- (c) augmenting the supply of water locally by exploiting surface water and groundwater which might be available in the area, taking into account long terms trends, the future demands of the local communities and other needs
- (d) increasing the supply of water by transfers from more permanent surface water sources (lakes and rivers) and from groundwater resources from humid areas, if practically and economically possible.

These responses require a major input of financial and human resources to undertake feasibility studies. If such an input is not available, there is little hope of halting the process of desertification nor of mitigating the ravages caused by long droughts. It is worth applauding the desire of several developing countries who wish to break the dependency syndrome, i.e. not to count entirely on the uncertain external aid (WMO, 1995). In any case, countries themselves deploy about 90% of the resources for developing and maintaining water supply systems.^v

2) Japan

In Nagoya, Japan, on 18-29 October, forty-seven decisions had been adopted, including the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from Their Utilization and the CBD Strategic Plan for the period 2011-20 in relation to drought and desertification, delegates discussed the CBD's Dry and Sub-humid Lands Biodiversity Thematic Programme.



Also, the COP adopted a revised delineation of dry and sub-humid lands and requested the executive secretary to convey this delineation to the Desertification Convention's Secretariat, so as to inform the ongoing process on the revision of the ten-year strategic plan under that convention.

The decision encourages parties to integrate issues related to dry and sub-humid lands into their relevant national strategies, plans, programs, and in particular, revised national biodiversity strategies and action plans (under the CBD), national action programs to combat desertification (under the Desertification Convention), and national adaptation programs of action (under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)) with a view to improving and harmonizing implementation where possible.

3) UNCCD

UNCCD divided into three categories for advocating the solution focused on these aspects.

1. Early Warning Systems: It is that if a drought is declared too late, it can have a devastating impact on lives and livelihoods. Yet when it is declared, it can often be very subjective and highly political. Early Warning System (EWS) would guide affected countries by providing timely information that they can use to reduce risks and to better prepare for an effective response.
2. Vulnerability and risk assessment: No amount of early warning will work without action to protect the most vulnerable. Some people and some systems are more vulnerable to drought as a result of social, economic, and environmental factors. It is important to combine better forecasts with detailed knowledge on how landscapes and societies respond to a lack of rain, and turn that knowledge into early intervention.
3. Drought risk mitigation measures: Proactive drought risk management could save lives and the livelihoods of millions of people. For example, the development of sustainable irrigation schemes for crops and livestock or water harvesting schemes could boost the recycling and reuse of water, explore the cultivation of more drought tolerant crops, expand crop insurance schemes and establish of alternative livelihoods that can provide income in drought-prone areas.

7. Critical Questions to Consider

- Is it possible that implementation of measures combating desertification by limiting water use or applying other systems in the time of drought can be used in those countries?
- Why such problems that have made in West African Sahel have not solved, even though there were numerous solutions and systems that had revised?
- How can the international society lead closer international cooperation between developed and developing countries to implement the solutions?
- How the Member States can make cognitively sensitive changes such as greater system of decision-making, improvement of land tenure systems and empowerment of women and farmers?^v



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