



2ND ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL COMMITTEE



TOPIC A: ADDRESSING AID DEPENDENCY

When the Marshall Plan was introduced in 1948, it changed the concept of aid for the modern era. While the plan was largely considered a success for rebuilding postwar Europe, today countries have struggled to replicate this model. Too often, prolonged or excessive aid persists, hindering a country's development by creating a cycle of aid dependency. Countries such as Haiti have struggled to break out of this mold since NGOs continue to bring in free supplies that put local vendors out of business. This committee will look three different types of aid, charitable aid, emergency aid, and systematic aid, to ascertain how countries can help struggling nations. Additionally, we will focus on how to help those struggling nations without reducing their capacity for self governance.

Understanding why programs meant to help countries are having the opposite effects is of profound importance. This topic will show you the discrepancy between what a country actually needs and what the international community thinks it does. Aid dependency happens when nations are unable to support themselves without assistance following long term aid programs. In order to be self sustaining, countries have to have a functioning economy but the consistency of aid makes this difficult. Why would people pay for solar panels made by the company ENERSA in Haiti when NGOs are still supplying them for free from the 2010 earthquake?

Aid can be beneficial, the goal of this topic is not to convince you otherwise. As you research, I encourage you to look at specific organizations and how they have the ability to shape their region.

TOPIC B: THE FLIGHT OF HUMAN CAPITAL - BRAIN DRAIN

The flight of human capital or “brain drain” happens when highly skilled work. The primary reasons for leaving vary; migrants will leave to escape violence, seek higher wages, or to leave their country of origin to seek employment or education elsewhere (often a combination of all three). This complicates the issue; if there is no concrete reason why people are leaving, how can you incentivize them to stay? Moreover, do individuals even have a responsibility to their native country?

As you research, understand that this topic focuses on humanity and the economy. In the job market, workers are considered to be resources, or human capital. Keep in mind this is not how migrants see themselves. When they leave their country of origin it is rarely malicious. Sometimes they do not have a choice or they want something more for themselves or for their families. Even if a country is experiencing negative brain drain, it is near impossible to force people to stay in their country of origin if they are determined to leave. Therefore, your solutions should address country stances, and the individuals leaving.

This was one of the first topics I ever chaired. When I first approached the topic, I was under the assumption that brain drain was entirely negative. Now I have a new approach that has given me a stronger grasp of immigration as a whole. I chose this topic again to give delegates that same perspective. Regardless of your country's stance, I encourage you to dive deeply into both sides of the issue to determine your own opinion. Often MUN topics have a moral level to them that indicates there is a right and wrong side of the issue. Brain drain is truly a bifurcated topic though.