



2nd ECOFIN: Eradication of Poverty

I. Background of Topic

925 million people are starving on our planet. Almost 16,000 children die from hunger related causes everyday. In 2005 there were a reported 1.4 billion people said to be in extreme poverty. Due to the recent global recession this number is sure to increase. Poverty has been a global issue for decades and continues to be one of the leading problems in our world today. Poverty is not a sectional issue but a national one and continues to spread even throughout developed nations. At the 57th Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, it was stated that they "are gathered here today in the spirit of peace for the good of all human beings and for the care of creation...at the beginning of the third Millennium, we are saddened to see the daily suffering of a great number of people from violence, starvation, poverty, and disease." From this we can see the obvious impact poverty has on the world. Poverty strips away people's natural rights and subdues them into a seeming less nothing made up of starvation and sadness. In the past poverty has been referred to as a "Pervasive and paralyzing form of the violation of human rights." Therefore it is to the utmost importance to eradicate poverty in order to ensure these human rights are no longer paralyzed so we can live prosperously.

II. UN Involvement

In 1993 the UN established International Day for the Eradication of Poverty under the resolution 47/196 and was recognized on October 17. Its goal is to promote poverty awareness to emphasize the need to create a solution to end poverty. In 1995, at the Copenhagen Social Summit, the UN General Assembly proclaimed the First United National Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1996-2006). In 2000 at the Millennium Summit, world leaders committed their dedication to reduce the number of people living in poverty in half by 2015. Furthermore, the IMF, WTO, and the World Bank are working hand in hand to fund money for poor nations. Another organization working towards eradicating poverty is Bread for the World. The Global Community is seeking a way out of poverty by implementing built-in mechanisms for maximum input and oversight to guarantee the eradication of poverty. The UN strongly realizes that nations must work together to create a world without poverty without creating huge amounts of debts for countries that are already poor. To insure that there is enough food available world wide the Global Community has suggested the Green Tax Shift Policy Approach to make local-to-global public goods. In 2000 the UN established ten priorities for eliminating poverty: 1. Eradication of poverty cannot simply be solved by the use of charities 2. Discrimination of women must come to a close since women fall into poverty more easily 3. Employment and productive resources increase 4. Hunger and Malnutrition 5. Supply of water and clean environment 6. Healthcare 7. Education 8. Social Services 9. Protection of Human Rights 10. Global Alliance. With focus on these ten priorities the UN hopes to reduce poverty for all people world wide.



III. Possible Solutions

The goal of eradicating poverty consists of three targets. The first target is to reduce the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day in half. The second target is to achieve full and productive employment which includes decent work for all people including women and children. Lastly, the third goal is to reduce the number of people who suffer from starvation and malnutrition in half. The Global Community hopes to create a healthy environment for every global citizen, promote universal healthcare, education for all, free education, and post-retirement security. The Global Community also realizes that population growth is becoming a major concern. Our population is soon to hit 10 to 12 billion people which is an uncomfortably high number. To avoid such a large number, the Global Community suggests that every family limits the number of children they have to only 1 or 2. Another policy suggested by the Global Community is the green tax policy. The Green Tax Policy hopes to create fair distribution of wealth, environmental protection, basic needs for production, provision of adequate governmental services and peaceful resolution of territorial conflicts, instead of using tax money for other things such as weapons of mass destruction.

IV. Bloc Positions

Europe: About 16% of the European population is living in poverty. In 2010 on International Day for the Eradication of Poverty the EU decided it was time to execute a plan to eradicate poverty in the EU. In 2010 they aimed to recognize the rights and capacity of excluded people so they can play an active part in society, underline the responsibility of everyone in society to tackle poverty, promote social cohesion and reduce practices on inclusion, and reinforce the commitment of all major political players to take more effective actions.

Asia: About 900 million poverty stricken people live in Asia. One out of every three Asians live in poverty. Although these numbers are decreasing, the living conditions for these people has gotten incredibly worse. Over the past three decades the ABD has come together to focus on human development, gender equity and environmental protection.

Latin: Latin America is following the target goals under the Millennium Development goals and hopes to eradicate poverty in Latin countries as well as the entire world to live harmoniously.

Africa: It is estimated that 20 million people in Africa are living in poverty and have egregious living conditions. With the help of UNDP African Nations hope to eradicate the extreme poverty for their citizens.

Middle Eastern: There has been little improvement in the MENA region with poverty, but political leaders hope to change this.

V. Guiding Questions

1. How does your country plan to effectively eradicate poverty?



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2. How can we decrease population growth or limit it to ensure that we have enough supplies and resources for our global citizens?
3. How will we get the funds needed to eradicate poverty if we are in a world wide recession?
4. How can we get all nations to work together, even those who are barely effected, to bring an end to poverty?