



African Union: Famine in East Africa

I. Background of Topic

Throughout Africa's history famine has nearly always been prevalent. These sort of famines have been recorded from around the mid-22nd century BC and onward from there. Famine in Africa is much due to the hot and arid climate that it has. According to many historians, one of the worst famines Africa has ever endured was the Famine of 1888. In said famine, cattle began to die off from disease, and 90 percent of the herds that roamed in Ethiopia died off. This famine along with a wide spread drought killed thousands of Africans, for example one third of Ethiopia's population was killed off. More recently famines have become increasingly worse and quite frequent. A main contributing factor to these famines is that many nations in the African continent are not self-sufficient when it comes to producing food. Along with droughts that Africa constantly must endure, this can be devastating on the people of Africa and the economies within it. Things that also can greatly affect food shortages in Africa are; soil infertility, land degradation and erosion, and livestock diseases. War and corruption of the government have led to mishandling of food supplies which in turn causes food to either go to the wrong people or no one will get food at all. Although in more recent years, there has been little political instability among nations when there is a famine. It is thought that due to the worsening soil and growing population of Africa, it as a whole may only be able to feed 25% of its population by 2025. Sadly in October 1984 a "biblical" famine struck Africa that killed just fewer than one million people in only a year. Aiding events were held in the United Kingdom and the United States which raised money strictly for NGOs to help those starving in Africa. In twenty years there has not been a famine this horrific in Africa; this is mainly due the growing population and drought that it is experiencing. Famine is a problem to the world because it can effect the world economy, even if the nation is small, which obviously effects everyone in the world.

II. UN Involvement

The United Nations has been involved with Africa since its creation in 1945, but for several different reasons. One of the United Nations many jobs are to provide peacekeeping and humanitarian aid to those in need of it. For obvious reasons the frequent famines in Africa come in as a major priority to the UN. Committees that have been and or are specifically involved with African humanitarian affairs are United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), World Food Programme (WFP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). UN peacekeepers are almost always present during food distribution, including troops from a select few countries. Due to the presence of troop's distribution of food often goes fine. Many NGOs (Non-governmental Organizations) are present during food distribution and famine relief acts



III. Possible Solutions

Obviously famine, just like any other natural disaster, will always be in the world. Your job as delegates is not only to provide aid for those countries who suffer from famine but to also put in place measures that can help any nation that finds itself in the middle of a famine. One thing that would be smiled upon is to possibly start up a non-perishable "food pantry" which nations can access once deeply into famine. Or even possibly create a specific committee to deal with world hunger and famine. These solutions are used as examples, and can be used in committee, but it would be highly smiled upon that delegates present their own ideas.

IV. Bloc Positions

Although almost all nations will stand with helping Africa, it is still necessary to think about your countries own internal problems, if any, it has that can affect the amount of aid ones country can sent to the African nations in need of help. Due to this factor, bloc positions should be;

All African Nations standing together to get aid. (Although some may want more than others)

1. Big 5 nations will most likely send large amounts if aid to help.
2. Those in some sort of economic turmoil will want to stay away from these issues altogether.
3. Any country that competes with goods coming from Africa may stand against sending any aid.

V. Guiding Questions

1. Has your nation been involved with any sort of African issue before? (Includes any aid previously sent or any NGOs that operate from inside your country.)
2. Is your country's economy affected by the status that Africa is in?
3. Can your country help, or does it have too many of its own problems that it must solve first?