

Topic 1

NAME, SCHOOL

Committee: Economic and Social Council

Country: Germany

Topic: Addressing Food Insecurity in the Horn of Africa



The delegation of Germany is deeply concerned about the hunger and food insecurity issues devastating the Horn of Africa. The Horn of Africa is comprised of 7 member states Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan. Since 2020, the Horn of Africa has faced four consecutively failed rainy seasons. Approximately 46 million people are suffering from severe acute food insecurity [1]. The drought has destroyed crops, killed livestock, and dried up essential water sources. Around 11 million children under the age of 5 are facing acute malnutrition. Families are leaving home to search for food, water, and anything that will help them survive. There are roughly 19 million IDPs and 5 million refugees [1]. The delegation of Germany believes in sending immediate aid to curb the food crisis or encourage the development of climate change infrastructure.

WHO has continuously documented food insecurity in the Horn of Africa from August 2023 to May 2024. In 2023, an Appeal for the Horn of Africa focused on providing healthcare to the region. UNHCR appealed for \$137 million in 2023 for the immediate needs of 3.3 million drought-affected people [2]. The funding is providing emergency shelter and increasing the water supply. In May 2023, Germany pledged to provide 210 million euros worth of aid within the next two years [3]. The aid will be distributed among the FAO, Help Age, and International Rescue Committee (IRC).

The delegation of Germany suggests a short-term solution providing immediate aid and a long-term solution developing climate change infrastructure. The short-term plan focuses on killing desert locusts, importing food, and drilling wells. A small swarm of desert locusts can consume as much food as 35,000 people [4]. Paying locals to catch locusts will provide jobs and food. Locusts are easy to catch at night, a cheap alternative to soy-based livestock feed, and can make much-needed fertilizer. A similar program implemented in Okara Pakistan has already seen success with farmers gathering 1000 kg of locust per night [5]. Additionally, farmers can train livestock to eat locusts. In Xinjiang China, 100,000 ducks cleared 1 million acres of grassland in 3 months [6]. In the meantime, emergency rations must be distributed throughout the Horn of Africa. Rations should be crops grown substantially, not crops with an active market to protect domestic agriculture. Lastly, the UN will fund The Water Project to expand into the Horn of Africa. The Water Project is an organization that specializes in drilling wells for water. The long-term plan focuses on forming farming cooperatives, land restoration, and desalination irrigation. The UN will fund NGOs (F2F) to help local farmers form agricultural cooperatives. These cooperatives can contact fair trade organizations, providing development funds for the local community. Next, the UN should fund the Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) initiative. Most land cleared for agriculture leaves root systems underground. FMNR stores land by regenerating these seed banks and root systems. Lastly, UN experts will work with governments to develop plants for desalination irrigation. Desalination technology is rapidly developing and could be a potential industry for countries near the coast. However, desalination infrastructure takes several decades to construct and should be started as soon as possible to remain on the frontier. The construction and management of desalination plants will also provide much-needed employment opportunities for skilled laborers.

Works Cited

1. *Food Insecurity and Health Emergency Snapshot*. WHO, 31 Mar. 2024, <https://cdn.who.int/media/docs/default-source>.
2. Ali, -Shamsa Amin, et al. "Horn of Africa Drought Emergency." *UNHCR*, <https://www.unhcr.org/emergencies/horn-africa-drought-emergency>.
3. Amt, Auswärtiges. "Fighting Hunger in the Horn of Africa." *German Federal Foreign Office*, 25 May 2023, <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/humanitarianassistance>.
4. *Massive Locust Swarms Bring Destruction and Heartbreak for Millions*. Concern worldwide, 13 Feb. 2020, <https://concernusa.org/news/locust-crisis-2020/>.
5. Khan, Rina Saeed. "Pakistan Turns Locust Threat into Chicken Feed." *Dialogue Earth*, 28 May 2020, <https://dialogue.earth/en/food/pakistan-locusts/>.
6. Ji, Yuqiao. *Documentary about Raising Chickens to Fight Locusts Goes Viral on Chinese Social Media*. Global Times, 2 Feb. 2020, <https://www.globaltimes.cn/content>.
7. "How We Work to Solve the Water Crisis." *The Water Project*, <https://thewaterproject.org/how-we-work>

Topic 4

NAME, SCHOOL

Committee: Economic and Social Council

Country: Germany

Topic: Reducing Debt Burdens of Developing Countries



In 2023, developing countries paid a record-breaking \$1.4 trillion in foreign debt as interest rates have risen to a 20-year high[1]. With so much money being taken for debt repayment, governments are short-handed to fund crucial sectors such as health and education. An average interest payment for IDA countries is around 6% of export earnings, but some countries see payments as high as 38% of export earnings [1]. Founded in 1944, the World Bank's goal was to provide loans that helped developing countries prosper economically. In 2022, private creditors received \$13 billion more in payments than loans, but the World Bank provided \$28 billion more in loans than payments [1]. However, 37 of the 66 developing countries that have been receiving money for at least 25 years are no better off today. Of the 37 countries, 20 are worse off today, and 8 countries have economies that shrunk by at least 20% [2]. The remaining 17 countries have economies that are the same size. The delegation of Germany suggests promoting economic freedom for developing countries and reducing lending.

This topic was recently covered by ECOSOC at their meeting in April 2023 [3]. The UN recommended creating a public debt registry to improve debt transparency. The IMF has been working on the G20 Common Framework for Debt Treatments to help low-income countries restructure their debt [3]. In 2022, Germany was the second largest OECD donor, providing \$36 billion in development assistance [4]. In recent years, Germany has been reducing international development assistance aid, but Germany remains a large donor. Germany cancels debt through

Paris Club Evian approach agreements and the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative. Germany has currently canceled \$6 billion worth of debt to date through the HIPC [5].

The delegation of Germany proposes two separate solutions targeting different countries. The first solution is recipient-side and focuses on helping developing countries stuck with stagnant or declining economies. The second solution is lender-side and targets sustainable foreign aid and transparency. A major reason why developing countries receiving aid have failed to grow is due to a lack of economic freedom. The World Bank's structural adjustment programs (SAPs) limit a recipient country's economic freedom significantly. This is a significant infringement on national sovereignty. Economic freedom is crucial to a country's development as shown by the 4 Asian Tigers: Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and South Korea. Their economic revival depended on freedom to follow an export-heavy policy and economic liberalization. UN experts will meet with developing countries annually to grow potential industries. These meetings will be reviewed by ECOSOC every 5 years to evaluate their effectiveness. Next, donors must only loan money to governments that are using the money for intended purposes. Foreign aid can be harmful instead of helpful. For example, the World Bank donated \$4.2 billion to the Chad-Cameroon oil pipeline, but the oil money was used to buy weapons instead [6]. The UN should establish credibility scores for countries and stall non-humanitarian aid to low-scoring countries. Additionally, the UN should pause all new long-term development projects, but continue existing programs. Instead, the UN should focus on providing more short-term aid instead. This will provide more funds for the emergency crises, helping countries recover faster. Lastly, the UN should keep track of where funds are going. The UN will require all UN funds to and from to be recorded. The UN would also invite international organizations like the World Bank to provide their records as well.

Works Cited

1. "International Debt Report 2024." *World Bank*, 3 Dec. 2024,
<https://www.worldbank.org/developing-countries-paid-record-1-4-trillion-foreign-debt>.
2. Johnson, Bryan. "The World Bank and Economic Growth: 50 Years of Failure." The Heritage Foundation, <https://www.heritage.org/the-world-bank-and-economic-growth>.
3. "Global Finance Officials Discuss Strategies to Help Debt-Burdened Developing Countries Overcome Poverty, Climate Risk, as Financing for Development Forum Continues" *United Nations*, 18 Apr. 2023, <https://press.un.org/en/2023/ecosoc7119>.
4. Hill, Cameron. "Stumbling Giant: Germany Cuts Aid." *ReliefWeb*, 8 Feb. 2024,
<https://reliefweb.int/report/germany/stumbling-giant-germany-cuts-aid>.
5. "Overview of German Debt Claims and Debt Cancellations - Federal Ministry of Finance - Issues." *Bundesministerium Der Finanzen*,
<https://www.bundesfinanzministerium/debt-claims-and-debt-cancellations>.
6. "Examples of Failed Aid-Funded Projects in Africa." NBC News, 24 Dec. 2007,
<https://www.nbcnews.com/id/wbna22380448>.