

CLEIMUN19

“Collaboration in a Polarized World”

A Research Report

COMMITTEE: Security Council

QUESTION OF: The Question of Security in the Sahel region of Africa

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Information and Background:

The Sahel region of Africa is located across the northern half of Africa. The region is home to extreme weather patterns. It is largely grassland but the regions flora and fauna have taken a toll due to recent human activity. The nations in the Sahel region have weak environmental policies. This has led to deforestation, overgrazing, and continuous cropping. The grasslands of the Sahel have quickly been depleted to barren deserts. The extreme weather and environmental problems have led to a food shortage throughout the region. The food shortage only adds to the regional instability. Terrorists thrive in this environment where there are few other profitable options to turn to. The region lacks strong borders and so instability in one nation is likely to spread over to others.

How can the environmental issues be solved without harming the livelihood of many workers?

Many people rely on the Sahel's grasslands to allow their herds to graze. Others cut down trees and use the lumber for fires or for sale. Any measures taken to protect the Sahel regions

fragile environment must take into account those who depends on it for survival. Otherwise, people who have been forced to stop their work may turn to terrorism or crime making other aspects of the crisis worse.

How can the UN solve make progress for sustainable change while also directly benefiting those who are suffering?

Solutions to the environmental issues will not be quick. A short term solution must be created for those who are currently suffering from a lack of food. However, the short term solution should also empower the citizens and allow them to better their own situation. Any help should empower the people handing out relief may help directly, but this may only build dependence.

Is it sensible to provide resources to the nations dealing with the crisis in an attempt to stimulate their growth by having them solve their own issues?

Some governments in the Sahel region are corrupt. Providing financial aid to nations to adopt certain principles may only result in officials becoming more wealthy. With the proper funding shouldn't nations be able to solve the issue on their own? How useful will any financial aid be if some nations refuse it and do not help improve the environmental situation? The UN should also weigh how much a government is helping to alleviate the situation. The instability affects all the people in the region, and if governments turn a blind eye should there be some punishment?

Previous attempts at a Resolution:

The UN has been attempting to resolve the crisis. The WFP gave food to about 5 million people each month between harvests. The UN has been urging cooperation between the nations in the region in attempt to ease tensions. Cooperation between the nations in the Sahel region could mean more effective solutions. UN peacekeepers have been deployed to the region before in order to deal with drug trafficking problems. The UN has been working to promote mass irrigation throughout the Sahel region. The UN believes that irrigation could allow farms to produce enough food to alleviate food shortages. This would result in economic turnaround and thus a decrease in instability.

Possible Solutions:

Solving the environmental crisis is one of the most important aspects. This must be done by increasing cooperation between the nations and giving them resources to make change. Solving the food shortage is tied into the environmental crisis. A small short term plan for those in need of food would suffice. By the time the environment makes a comeback food will be less scarce due to larger grazing area for herds and cooler climates for better farming. Solving instability issues may require temporary peacekeeper force. It is also reasonable to foresee that solving the environmental crisis may increase stability. Pushing the nations involved to

cooperate and giving them the resources they need to solve the root of the crisis will likely solve all the crisis of the area.

Sources:

<https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2013/sahel-one-region-many-crises>