

Delegation from
Central African Republic

Represented by
ESCP Europe (London Campus)

Position Paper for General Assembly Third Committee

The topics before the General Assembly Third Committee are: Advancing Technology to Progress Development and Peace; the Implementation of a Global Standard of Education; and Implementing the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development.

I. Advancing Technology to Progress Development and Peace

The Central African Republic transportation and communication network is composed by 429 kilometres of paved road, no railroad and no domestic air service, with many regions inaccessible during the rainy season. The telephone system functions imperfectly. Medical facilities are thinly spread, with under-equipped hospitals. Patients are charged much more than they can afford for treatment and basic medication, with the result of a dangerous dependence on traditional healers. The Central African Republic needs to import big quantities of food, textiles, petroleum products, machinery, electrical equipment, motor vehicles, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, consumer goods, industrial products. We ask the international community for economic help in developing or using technologies principally for improving communication network and medical facilities.

II. The Implementation of a Global Standard of Education

Assuming education as one of the fundamental human rights and is one of multiple elements that are crucial to empower women and prevent violence against them. In the CAR we want to highlight the following problems. AIDS-related deaths have taken a heavy toll on teachers, contributing to the closure of more than 100 primary schools between 1996 and 1998. Primary school attendance rates were unavailable for the Central African Republic as of 2001. While enrollment rates indicate a level of commitment to education, they do not always reflect children's participation in school. The educational system's meager budget and salary arrears have resulted in a shortage of teachers and an increase in the number of street children. We ask to undertake the following measures: increase the CAR educational system budget, contribute to reopen primary school and to find teachers, establish a new system to obtain education ratios.

In 2000, UNICEF estimated that 63.5 percent of children between the ages of 5 and 14 in the Central African Republic were working. Children work in agriculture, mining, domestic services, cattle rising, and street vending. Some girls reportedly engage in

prostitution. The most urgent and necessary measures are fighting against the worst forms of child labor and defending girls from prostitution exploitation.

III. Implementing the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development

The Declaration calls on States to achieve measurable reductions in the global burden of armed violence and tangible improvements in human security by 2015. Grave violations against children are being perpetrated by all parties to the various conflicts in the Central African Republic, including rape and armed recruitment into the fighting forces. Non-State armed groups and bandits are kidnapping children as a means of recruitment and to threaten and extort ransom from the population, while abuses against youngsters generally are committed in a climate of impunity. Attacks on and the burning of villages by all parties have resulted in the deaths of hundreds of children. The frequent and systematic abduction of children, especially in the North is a critical concern perpetrated mostly by rebels groups and highway bandits. We ask to UN to work with all CAR parties to end the abuses, to ensure that the rights of children are taken into full consideration in establishing peace and in the post-conflict recovery and reconstruction phases. 200,000 Central Africans are internally displaced by the fighting or forced to live as refugees in neighbouring Chad and Cameroon. We ask the UN to push internal authorities to take specific measures allowing the displaced to exercise their right to return, as well as their right to security, food, housing, health care, education and participation in public life.