FORUM: Second Committee to the General Assembly (DISEC)

QUESTION OF: Supporting administrative developments in post-conflict countries

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POSITION: Main-Chair

INTRODUCTION:

Intrastate conflicts, such as civil wars, do more than inflict heavy human and material costs. Next to that, they diminish the capacity of a state to effectively deal with the underlying causes, which could increase the risk of future conflicts.

In a post-conflict country, administrative development is a big priority to ensure continuous stability in said country. Without a functioning state, the country could risk destabilizing the country itself or spill over into neighboring countries and other states, which can risk making whole regions vulnerable to intercommunal divisions, violence and wars.

SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM:

These risks make the objective of aid and how it is to be provided in said post-conflict countries of critical importance because of the hazard that lack of said aid and support could cause. This is because most intrastate conflicts are caused by persistent issues within the country such as economic, social and political inequalities. Without an institutional framework for how said aid should be provided and implemented, it will do little to solve any underlying issues of these post-conflict states.

By lacking such a framework equipped with the responsibility and capacity to reduce aforementioned inequalities to 'fair' levels, nobody can hope to reduce the above discrimination, disparity, and injustice. In fact, it is this institutional framework of aid put in place post-conflict, influenced by the donors, which will determine whether the root causes of past divisions and disorder can be eradicated.

Since permanent, sustainable, and unceasing peace for post-conflict states is the most important and crucial end goal that foreign aid and support can achieve, the effectiveness of all forms of foreign assistance has to be judged by how far they contribute towards achieving said objective.

HISTORIC DEVELOPMENT

Between 1946 and 2001, over 220 armed conflicts took place, half of which happened after the end of the Cold War in the late 1980s. This includes more than 140 civil conflicts (collectively with more than twenty million casualties and 67 million displaced persons – this is equal to half of the deaths and beyond double the sum of displaced persons in Europe during World War II).

Today, this number is even higher as a result of a combination of interstate, internal, and internationalized internal wars in countries such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In fact, the human cost of these armed conflicts is even greater than the data suggests, as civil conflicts are not the sole form of organized aggression and brutality. Intercommunal violence, coups, and high levels of organized crime, even genocide, have occurred in many countries such as Armenia, Venezuela, Thailand, and Zimbabwe. Furthermore, more casualties occur post-conflict through famine and the lack of essential medical services. Moreover, civil conflicts especially leave a substantial part of the population with serious physical and psychological disabilities as well. In Sierra Leone during the conflict, for example, many people lost limbs, joining an already large group suffering from physical disabilities, like those related to polio and leprosy. A high amount of mental disorders, such as depression and post-traumatic stress disorder are further observed in refugees of such conflicts. The United Nations Development Program has previously helped post-conflict countries. This includes the development of an extensive field office structure in Sudan, working remotely in Iraq and Somalia, and through involvement in integrated missions in Burundi. This demonstrates the United Nations Development Program's capacity to deliver in highly challenging environments.

PREVIOUS SOLUTIONS:

The United Nations Development Program has, as mentioned above, been working remotely in Somalia and has so far achieved supporting elections and selections of local and regional representatives in Central Somalia in the context of participation in the Djibouti peace talks.

In Timor-Leste, the 1999 violence saw 7,000 Indonesian civil servants flee the area, leaving behind a vacuum in state institutions. Shortly after, the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor was established to provide security, maintain law and order and exercise executive and legislative functions in the country. At this time, efforts were made to establish basic democratic governance mechanisms, including the adoption of the Constitution and creation of the National Parliament.

Decades of war has left Iraq's infrastructure in a decrepit state. Here, the United Nations Development Program has, among other things, rehabilitated the state's key infrastructure and the strengthening of access to basic services. Furthermore, a theatre for children and the main Convention Centre in Baghdad were rehabilitated. In Southern Iraq, United Nations Development Program is assisting town councils in sewage and water network repairs, civil works for hospital, and electricity distribution installations.

By looking through the previous solutions to the issue, delegates can find appropriate solutions to fit post-conflict countries.

KEY TERMS:

-United Nations Development Program (UNDP): The United Nations' biggest development program. The UNDP has five main focus areas: good governance, reduction of poverty, energy and the environment, HIV/AIDS, and conflict prevention. UNDP is heavily involved in promoting capacity development for resilient, responsive and legitimate post-conflict

governance in many countries. UNDP plays a leading role in promoting nationally owned capacity development strategies as the route from conflict to sustained development and peace.

-Capacity Development: Capacity development processes focus on technical or functional capacities, organizational change, leadership and social cohesion, or shifts in policies or other aspects of the enabling environment which can facilitate more effective use of capacity. (UNDP)

EXPECTATIONS FOR POSITION PAPER:

You are expected to write a Position Paper that is a minimum of two pages long. The Position Paper should contain general information on the issue in relation to your country and specific policies your country introduced to act upon this issue.

USEFUL LINKS/SOURCES:

Capacity is Development by UNDP: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/aplaws/publication/en/publications/capacity-development/capacity-development-in-post-conflict-countries/CD%20in%20post%20conflict%20countries.pdf

Post-Conflict Countries: Aid effectiveness and permanent peace: http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wess/wess_bg_papers/bp_wess2008_panic.pdf

Bibliography:

Salmon, Jago and Piza-Lopez, Eugenia, 2010. *CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN POST-CONFLICT COUNTRIES.* United Nations Development Programme. Available online at: http://www.undp.org/content/dam/aplaws/publication/en/publications/capacity-development/capacity-development-in-post-conflict-countries/CD%20in%20post%20conflict%20countries.pdf (last accessed on 14/8-2018; 19:00)

Panić, M., N/A. *POST-CONFLICT COUNTRIES: AID EFFECTIVENESS AND PERMANENT PEACE.* University of Cambridge. Available online at: http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wess/wess_bg_papers/bp_wess2008_panic.pdf (last accessed on 10/8-2018; 13:45)