

RESOLUTION TOPIC: European Development Aid

SUBMITTED TO: The European Parliament

SPONSOR: Euro YPFDJ

PROJECT: Minority Youth on European Development Aid (Youth in Action)

The European Parliament,

Applauding the EU and the international community for your commitment to deliver development aid to developing countries, desiring a better understanding of development aid and deriving a new model for effective aid delivery, development aid was one of several topics discussed during our conference on Sustainable Development in Oslo in April 2011.

WHEREAS the discussion focused on how European aid is channeled to developing countries, we have also raised the policies of the European Union and tried to identify the challenges these have on the donor and beneficiary countries. Furthermore, we addressed how development aid programs affect the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), food security programs and their contribution to sustainable development in the beneficiary countries.

WHEREAS this is a topic that affects the entire world, it is of great interest to our youth since we ourselves possess African heritage. Thus, we would like to increase our knowledge in this field. Africa continues to have a bad reputation because of dependency on aid and aid which is not put into proper use. As minority youth with African descent, this is a burden to us as European citizens. Our concern is to raise awareness and to understand how the lives of many people are affected by development aid and the impact it has on their daily lives.

WHEREAS there are continued appeals for more aid to achieve the MDGs by 2015, more aid without addressing its systematic problems is likely to continue to mean more aid unnecessarily wasted. We identify political and other self-interest reasons to be the main motives behind allocating development aid, and not as much the concern for humanitarian and development causes. Studies performed by Collier, Goderis and Hoeffler (2006) find that political shocks are more damaging to poor countries than natural shocks. Other factors that reduce the impact of aid are weaknesses in governance, lack of commitment to pro-poor development strategies, policies laid by aid beneficiary governments and conflicts.

The development of a country both economically and politically is best achieved when it starts “from within” as mentioned in Yash Tandon paper ‘Ending aid development’ : “... a long democratic process, that starts from within where

people participate in the decision that affect their lives, without imperial interference from outside, and aimed of improving the lives of the people and realization of the potential of self support, free from fear of want and political, economically, and social exploitation” .

Sustainable development is the main objective in a nation building process. Aid should be seen as an infusion which is intended to be applied in a defined period of time just to overcome extreme conditions and situations. Investment on the other hand, freeing from dependence of aid, is the ideal form for development process. The road map is to establish a progress from development aid to interdependency and finally to partnership.

Desiring an end to ineffective development aid, we propose the following clauses:

1. The goal of development aid should be to foster partnership between the developed and developing countries and enhance investment. One of the pillars to accomplish this goal is improved infrastructure (roads, telecommunications, power supply, airports, harbors etc). This can only be accomplished if the beneficiary country can build human capacity. Thus, aid needs to leverage information and knowledge - two key factors for sustainable development;
2. Development aid programs should be implemented in a national strategic plan for a limited period of time to alleviate poverty and diseases by confining them to the sectors of health, education, sanitation and water;
3. Development aid should not be used as a tool or extension of a political agenda. The interest and long term needs of the beneficiary country and people should always be the main target. This will not lead to a lean government where widespread corruption is a reality. Development aid beneficiary governments should be held accountable when aid funds are not utilized appropriately;
4. Non-governmental organizations operating in aid beneficiary countries should not replace or substitute the institution of government. This will limit the capacity building of the country;
5. The conditionality put in development aid should not undervalue the dignity and self-respect of aid beneficiary countries;
6. The policy of the EU should aid and encourage the flow of remittance to developing countries. More remittances, especially from the diaspora, means more money deposited and that developing nations have more hard currency to lend and invest;

7. EU should draw a policy of programs to encourage individuals and/or professionals to go back to their countries of origin, for shorter or longer terms, for the sake of knowledge and technology transfer and investment.

Oslo, 25th of April 2011

YPFDJ Oslo