

FORUM: Sustainable Development Sub-Commission 1

QUESTION OF: Increasing the proportion of members and voting rights of LEDCs in international organizations

SUBMITTED BY: Togo

CO-SUBMITTERS: Zimbabwe, Lithuania, Belarus, Yemen, Eritrea, Venezuela, Ethiopia, Tajikistan, Congo, Dominican Republic, Somalia, Barbados, Ghana, Lao PDR, Vietnam, DPRK, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Georgia, Sri Lanka

THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION,

Pointing out that the United Nations (UN) is based on a principle of sovereign equality of all its Member States (Article 2. UN Charter) which aims to measure the degree to which States enjoy equal representation in different international organizations,

Recognizing the United Nations M.49 statistical standard related to the definition of what developed and developing countries are,

Further recognizing Goal 10.6 of the Fourteenth Annual Coordination Meeting on International Migration: Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions, and Sustainable Development Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities,

Recalling Sustainable Development Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and the fact that a higher proportion of members and voting rights for developing countries would help to achieve this,

Bearing in mind Sustainable Development Goal 17: Partnerships, and the fact that support for the goal from all countries comes from giving all countries a voice,

Noting that, while countries in developing regions represent over 70 percent of the membership of the General Assembly and World Trade Organization (WTO), which utilize a one member, one vote system, their voting share in other international organizations remain far below these levels,

Affirming the reform made the 26th of January of 2016, which states that more than 6 percent of the quota from overrepresented members would be given to underrepresented members in order to maintain/preserve their vote,

Noting with deep concern the usage of a so-called ‘gentlemen’s agreement,’ dating back to 1944, between the United States of America (USA) and a number of European nations stipulating that a European shall be director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) whilst a United States citizen shall be director of the World Bank, allowing them significant influence on the development of the world’s economy,

1. Calls upon all member states to take the importance of the issue into account and hold annual conventions in Lausanne by reminding the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN in order to discuss and increase membership and voting rights of less economically developed countries (LEDCs) in international organizations, while considering that the essential thing to do is to reform the voting procedures and membership criteria for specific organizations in order to:
 - a) emphasize the vitality and the priority of the issue in order to come to an agreement on the issue which should pay regard to the expediency of LEDCs, more economically developed countries (MEDCs), and that specific organization
 - b) find and develop suggestions for an appropriate voting system for that specific organization while taking into consideration the needs of both LEDCs and the related organization
 - c) provide the legitimate and trustworthy environment for finding intersections between MEDCs and LEDCs in order to find and develop a new, convenient voting system based on

the bilateral benefit of countries' rights;

2. Encourages all member states of monetary-based organizations which have weighted representation and voting systems to reform their quota systems and voting methods according to the guidance of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in order to increase the voices of less developed countries which are not able to contribute as much as the MEDCs but still are in need much more than the MEDCs in monetary-based organizations by methods including but not limited to:
 - a) creating new fractions of in-favor votes required to pass an outline or solutions
 - b) establishing a new quota by paying regard to both increasing the representation and voting rights and maintaining equality between the MEDCs and LEDCs
 - c) forming a particular quota for those organizations which would ask a peculiar number of in-favor votes from the member states which are labeled as LEDCs in order to pass a resolution;
3. Invites member states of monetary-based organizations, especially the World Bank and IMF, to gather in a conference that will be held in Bern in order to discuss the voting method and quota system that is currently being used in the IMF, which is a weighted system mainly based on wealth that designates voting and representation quotas of member states linearly by the monetary contribution they have made to the organization, and reforming it by means of:
 - a) suggesting adding a poverty index to the IMF's quota system which is calculated by four criteria: GDP, the openness of the economy (the ratio of trade to GDP), economic variability, and international reserves, which criteria are obsessively focused on the wealth of the countries rather than the poverty of the countries, in order to:
 - i. consider the poverty fact that is vital in the utmost for LEDCs while creating a new quota system, since the IMF's main goal is to assure the stability of the international monetary and financial system, which includes the alleviation of poverty in order to ensure the preservation and expansion of LEDCs
 - ii. stabilize the voting quotas between the LEDCs and MEDCs by keeping in mind both sides' necessities while considering the notions of equity and equality
 - b) highly emphasizing the cruciality of operating under a double majority voting system, in which both the states' votes are required, including LEDCs' majority and the majority of weighted votes, which would provide:
 - i. the judicious equality of all member states by considering the states' votes as majority alongside the weighted votes
 - ii. the prevalent hierarchy of economic power, which is an acceptable case considering the fact that all countries have been contributing differing amounts of financial resources
 - c) increasing each state's base votes to set a higher percentage of base votes, currently 5.502% of total votes, in order to:
 - i. strengthen the importance of state votes compared to the dominant influence of weighted votes
 - ii. prevent the overshadowing of LEDCs' membership and representation rights by the enormous gap between the monetary contributions that the LEDCs and MEDCs have been making
 - d) changing the current system of determining votes by the amount of funds donated to an organization to a system of determining votes by the percentage of a country's GDP donated to the organization;
4. Recommends forming a team according to the guidance of the Human Rights Council (HRC) to conduct, for a year-long period in LEDCs, monthly seminars directed at young adults, whether or not the young adults are interested in political science, in order to:
 - a) identify the young adults interested in political science who will presumably become the leaders and politicians of the future, and to establish a special political science course program, which should be highly focused on the rights of both less and more developed

countries in international areas, particularly in intergovernmental organizations, which will aim to educate the young generations of LEDCs about their countries' rights and how to improve their membership levels and voting rights in order to:

- i. grow future leaders and important political personalities in the finest way possible by first making them conscious about the political affairs and political rights of their country
 - ii. raise a generation of politicians fully conscious of their rights and how to properly voice their opinions in intergovernmental organizations
- b) draw all LEDCs' young adults' attention to the rights of their country in the international area so they can voice their opinions about the issues argued about in those specific organizations and to consciously educate them about what can be done to increase the membership and voting rights they have in those specific organizations in order to:
- i. make the youth more enterprising and demanding, since spreading their opinions and defending their rights of their people must be their priority in international arena
 - ii. generate an egalitarian perspective on the young adults of LEDCs
- c) emphasize the vitality of equality in intergovernmental organizations, since the suggestions that have been made usually become decisive and constructive for many laws, which laws are also ultimately vital for the future of youth and on which every government should have equal right to decide;
5. Calls for an indicator of the proportion of members and voting rights of LEDCs in international organizations that includes:
- a) calculations for eleven different international institutions: United Human Rights Council Pakistan (UHRCP), World Health Organization (WHO), UNDP, UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), UN Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), United Nations Economic and Social Council, the African Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the WTO, and the Financial Stability Board
 - b) a computation method that uses published membership and voting rights data from each institution's respective annual report and in which the proportion of voting rights is computed as the number of voting rights allocated to developing countries divided by the total number of voting rights, and the proportion of membership is calculated by taking the number of developing country members divided by the total number of members
 - c) an independent body, the United Nations Equal Voting in International Organisations (UNEVIO), comprising a mixture of representatives from 50% MEDCs and 50% LEDCs, to calculate and provide a separate quota annually for each international organization, aimed at slowly increasing the proportion of members and voting rights of LEDCs and at an eventual one member, one vote system for all reviewed international organizations.