

# JoMUN XV

**Forum:** Economic and Social Council

**Issue:** Strategies to address the effects of the drought in South-eastern Africa on trade

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## INTRODUCTION

El Niño-driven crisis have hit South-eastern Africa, and malnutrition rates and food prices have increased for residents living in the region. Farmers, traders, and consumers in that region have been impacted by the consecutive seasons of drought that have ruined livelihoods and have burned harvests. Small-scale farmers, especially, will have hard time recovering all the bad harvests. Also, in countries like South Sudan where conflicts occur, farming is nearly impossible, and humanitarian access have been reduced, which will consequently lead to famine. Currently, this poor condition only applies to Sudan, but if emergency responses slow down, countries like Somalia will soon be in the same scenario. In South Sudan alone, more than 40% of the country's population - that is 4.0 million people- are in risk for food and nutrition assistance. Also in Ethiopia, one of the most severe drought in decades has hit the country. Sadly, the need for humanitarian access have tripled since 2015 as more countries in South-eastern Africa are failing to harvest crops and widespread livestock deaths have increased rapidly. Inevitably, as there is not enough supply of crops, the price of crops increase; however, there is barely any corresponding increase in people's income. In fact, some countries that have been affected by El Niño have managed to keep up with their macroeconomic growth rates (GDP), but people do not feel their benefits due to inflation (price of crops). Moreover, researchers from Africa Research Institute, Edward Paice and Paul Adams have predicted that those high prices will stay harsh even when the drought has ended.

To resolve the problem of this phenomenon, it is vital for governments to come through both short-term and long-term solutions immediately.

## DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

### **El Niño, El Niña**

Terms that mean the biggest fluctuation in the world's climate system that leads to various consequences across the Earth. Those consequences include: agriculture, infrastructure, and humans' health. El Niño is caused by the ocean and the atmosphere's strong and extensive interactions between them.

### **Drought**

Continued period of irregularly low rainfall that leads to shortage of water.

### **Agropastoral**

Relating to agricultural practices including growing crops and the raising of livestock.

### **Macroeconomics**

Economics that focuses on how aggregate (large-scale) economy works and its economic factors (e.g. interest rates and national productivity).

## **NTB**

An acronym that stands for Non- Tariff Barriers. It is any obstacle to international trade that is not an import or export duty. These barriers often come in the form of border control claiming an issue with a cargo truck's, or any other type of transportation, paperwork, and forcing them to turn back, or sometimes demanding a bribe to let them through. These types of barriers are highly common in Southern Africa. NTBs to trade may come from: import bans, complex regulatory environment, quality conditions imposed by the importing country on the exporting countries, general or product-specific quotas, occupational safety and health regulation, and so much more.

## **BACKGROUND ON THE ISSUE**

In East and Southern Africa, traders, consumers, and farmers have consecutively felt the devastating impact of drought that have ruined or negatively affected their livelihoods.

Drought in this region has been a recurring event. Hence, even though drought was not an abnormal event in South- eastern Africa, people had very little time available for them to prepare for their next drought.

In July 2011 until mid- 2012, one of the most historically severe drought hit the region. The main cause of the 2011 drought was the La Niña phenomenon. At that time, temperatures were lower than usual in the Pacific Ocean which consequently affected the global climate and conditions. During this event, more than ten thousand people died in Somalia because the Western governments decided not to provide aid to drought affected areas to deteriorate the Al- Shabaabs (group that pledged loyalty to the militant Islamist organization Al-Qaeda). This event emphasizes the importance of the role of a government and aid.

Another effect of the El Niño crisis was the hunger crisis which occurred due to severe and extreme weather conditions in early 2017. In some countries, this has been deteriorated by conflicts and economic collapses.

Statistics show significant changes in the African economy. Pastoralists have had insufficient income to afford for their food and other sources due to water shortages and pasture. Some examples include maize and sorghum harvests from Somalia estimated as 75% down from their traditional level and Tanzania's maize prices in Arusha almost doubling since early 2016. Also, food prices in South Sudan are now estimated as 2-4 times higher than its levels in the previous year while in Kenya, maize prices increased by 30%. Furthermore, costs of beans have now increased 40% more in Kenya, and 25% more in Uganda than 2015. Unfortunately, there has been no corresponding increase in people's salaries which makes the food more difficult to afford.

## **MAJOR COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED**

### **Angola**

1.2 million of the population at risk in 2017. As people sell of livestock, there are many worries of how to escape from drought conditions. Food prices keep increasing, but Angola has limited government services.

### **Burundi**

3 million of the population at risk in 2017. There were almost no rain in 2016 (last year) and there has been a one- month delay in the harvest activity which resulted in decrease of income which

affected the poor households. Food insecurity in this country is affecting quarter of the country's population. Burundi's population is also affected by the country's economic crises due to political violence that is present in the country.

### South Sudan

4.9 million people at risk (more than 40% of the country's population).

### Somalia

Currently 6.2 million people at risk in 2017 which is 1.2 million people more than year 2016. The United Nations estimated that out of those 6.2 million population, more than 363,000 children are malnourished and 70,000 of them are severely malnourished, meaning that they are in need of urgent assistance.

### Ethiopia

5.7 million of the population at risk in 2017. In 2016, the El Niño phenomenon led to a significant drought, leaving 10.2 million people starving. In 2017, 5.7 million more people joined the dreadful crisis. Farmers and herders found out that their farming will no longer be flexible after this year as they have significantly limited resources left to survive in the next and current recurring crisis.

### Kenya

2.6 million people at risk. The widespread crop failure and weaker trade for pastoralists have affected farming and agropastoral societies in the northwest, northeastern and coastal strip of Kenya. In 2006, Kenya saw their main rainy seasons failing. As there are displacement and water shortages, number of conflicts have increased tremendously, and approximately 4 million citizens are in immediate need of aid by early July if long rain in the country continues to fail.

### CAFOD

An acronym that stands for the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development. They are one of the international development charities and official aid agencies of the Catholic Church in England and Wales. They have been working in East Africa since their foundation in 1962. They have provided emergency relief and long-term development projects to some of the poorest in the world..

## TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS

<b>1983 - 1985</b>	World's fourth biggest droughts occurred in Ethiopia.
<b>2010</b>	Large scale, drought- induced Sahel famine. (Sahel is the zone of transition between the Sahara Desert (North of Africa) and the Sudanian Savannas (South). This gap covers approximately 3,503,200 square kilometres of the area.
<b>2011</b>	Severe drought affecting the whole of East Africa. The 2011 drought is known to be "the worst drought in 60 years" in Africa.
<b>2012</b>	Sahel drought that occurred due to global warming and the El Niño phenomenon.
<b>2012</b>	Malawian food crisis. Famine hit Malawi causing 300 – 3,000 deaths of the Malawian population. In fact, in February 2002, the government of Malawi

	has announced that there is serious food emergency going on in the country. However, in 2005, drought became Malawi's new national disaster, causing noxious effects on the country.
<b>May 2017</b>	Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta called for reorganization of relief assistance to be given by group of ministries. He asked that all drought relief should support to be distributed through one channel.

**RELEVANT UN RESOLUTIONS, TREATIES, AND EVENTS**

*The African governments, NGOs, and CGIAR's research on climate are working together to build resilience from climate change (in the case for farmers) and drought.*

**The East Africa Regional Development Cooperation Strategy 2016-2021**

**IGAD's Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) and IGAD's drought strategy**

"The European Union (EU) has been a key partner in advancing the resilience of East Africa, contributing to animal disease surveillance and the development of IGAD's Centre for Pastoral Areas and Livestock Development (ICPALD) and to IGAD's drought strategy".

**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)**

Investigating a global system that can successfully monitor upcoming droughts and warn citizens before drought starts (proposed by US government researchers, headed by Jay Lawrimore of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)).

**PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE**

*Food security outlook depends on the amount of rainfall that the region receives according to the FEWS NET (Early Warning Network). Because of this issue, leaders in South- eastern Africa gathered at the International Conference on Drought Situation in such regions in Africa to create various solutions. In addition, one of the leaders, Jayaka Kikiwete, Tanzania's President, decided to boost export of maize ban that existed in Tanzania.*

**Kenya**

Kenya's government is supplying food to regions where there is significant level of drought. They are also working on solutions that is sustainable for a long-term like investigating the community water sources (this will help the country to be independent from rainy agriculture). Kenya also came up with a solution of establishing a national drought management authority. This can predict all drought related matters and can advise or warn residents on incoming droughts.

**Ethiopia**

Ethiopia has come up with different drought mitigation approaches in many places in Africa. Ethiopia has launched "The Productive Safety Net Programme" that can positively affect the national food insecurity to be food self- sufficient for poor rural communities.

**CAFOD**

The Catholic International Development Charity (CAFOD) raised more than £3 million (3,830,700 US dollars) to support the East Africa Crisis Appeal.

*Powerful groups such as the African Union (with additional support of the world food programme), the Rockefeller Foundation, the United Kingdom, and the Swedish and the German government have showed interest in developing solutions to the issue of drought in Africa. They are working together to make an agency that can sell weather based insurance tools to drought hit countries. This is part of the public-private partnership.*

## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

### **Improvements to Infrastructure (long-term)**

The Tanzanian president, Jayaka Kikiwe suggested that there should be improvements of infrastructure such as roads and railroads so that the country can provide smooth transportation of food within the region. The leaders of the Horn of Africa “agreed that any lasting solution to the current crisis therefore requires holistic approach involving humanitarian assistance aimed at alleviating the suffering of Somali refugees, internally displaced people (Climate Refugees) and importantly, those facing hunger in both rural and urban areas in the countries of the Horn of Africa” (Musyoka, 2012).

### **Investment plans (long-term)**

Tumusiime Rhoda, the Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture at the African Union Commission said that if countries are implemented with investment plans focusing on strengthening water, sustaining, and managing, the recurring trend of drought in Africa will be solved. Rhoda said that Africa needs a “strong institution that passes through IGAD (the Intergovernmental Authority on Development)” (Clotney, 2011) because he believes that appropriate organization, leadership and tactical approaches are crucial. Also, he added that the African Union is currently arranging its resources and planning a fundraising drive to solve the problem.

### **Better co-ordination (long-term)**

Improvement of the tradability of food, successful coordination of the climate change tactics, and arrangements of meetings with the African Union to distribute 15% of the government spending to agriculture which will positively affect South-eastern Africa. Better coordination can deal more efficiently with the drought issue and equip residents through suitable gears and fulfil their needs of relevant resources to fully prepare for climate change. However, as these are long-term plans that needs few years to complete, there needs to be short- term solutions that can immediately address the current droughts that are going on at present..

### **Non-tariff barriers (NTBs) (short-term)**

Building non-tariff barriers (NTBs). A country may employ these methods to prevent the importation of certain items without placing an outright tariff or ban on them. Adapting this method will help the country to maintain high prices/ low competition for a certain industry and border control to want personal bribes in the form of money or other goods.

### **Non-tariff barriers (NTBs) (short-term)**

The Southern African population needs immediate help to prevent them from being poorly fed and malnourished. Therefore, building more NTBs will definitely lessen the malnourished population. In addition, more food importation in a country might disrupt the country’s production of staple foods which will result in a lower income for farmers, further stagnating agricultural trade, and overall, contracted the country’s economy. To prevent this, the government should support the county’s existing food industries with appropriate subsidies so that both the producing and the consuming

populations are satisfied. To further improve these methods, relevant data should be recorded every month (or every three months) so that governments can evaluate the results.

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