

Committee: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugee

Topic: Protection for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

Country: The Republic of Guinea-Bissau

Delegate:

As a country that contains internally displaced persons, The Republic of Guinea-Bissau considers the issue at hand one of extreme importance. Internally displaced persons are defined by the United Nations as “persons or groups of persons who have been forced or obliged to flee or to leave their homes or places of habitual residence and who have not crossed an internationally recognized State border.” These groups of people flee their homes as a result of war, abuse of human rights, or disasters. From 1998 to 2010, the number of internally displaced persons universally has risen from around 17 million to 27.5 million. The problems that the internally displaced persons face include living in unhealthy environments, the separation of families as a result of continuous travelling, and the disruption of schooling for children. Since no official institution has provided full dedication for the IDPs, unlike refugees, it is our duty as members of the United Nations to support these people and provide them with suitable aid.

Guinea-Bissau has had success in the past in ensuring the safety of the internally displaced persons. From 300,000 to 350,000 citizens were internally displaced as a result of the 1998 civil war in Guinea-Bissau. Fortunately, nearly all of these citizens were returned to their homes safely. In 2000, our nation has opened up all its areas to welcome returning citizens to their homes. As a nation that dealt with the issue of internally displaced persons and as a member state of the United Nations, it's Guinea-Bissau's duty to help nations that are in a similar situation to its situation fourteen years ago.

The Republic of Guinea-Bissau recommends the formation of an official branch of the United Nations to deal with the issue of internally displaced persons and to give the issue the attention it needs. Guinea-Bissau encourages nations to open its areas to the internally displaced persons and to welcome them back to their homelands to maintain safety in the region. Seeing that the number of IDPs in the world is increasing at a high rate, Guinea-Bissau calls for providing fast and sustainable solutions for the issue at hand.

