

Proposal for Autumn Congress

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LYMEC Autumn Congress, November 8 to 9., 2019 in London

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Status: accepted rejected transferred to _____

The Autumn Congress may decide:

1 **Restructuring the distribution of foreign aid**

2 With steadily declining growth rates, escalating poverty levels, and unchanged anti-democratic
3 practices, several African developing countries have unmasked that the way in which the
4 international community deploys foreign aid needs to be altered. As internationally outlooking
5 liberals, we have a solemn obligation to take action when foreign countries are in dire need for
6 assistance to boost one's development rates, but we owe ourselves as well as the recipients of
7 foreign aid to make the system more efficient and thereby more humane.

8 **Noting that:**

- 9 • There is a sharp distinction between emergency aid and foreign aid, where the former
10 covers immediate assistance in the aftermath of e.g. natural disasters, while the latter
11 seeks to solve structural and societal issues of economic, social and/or institutional
12 character.
- 13 • The iconic words of Martin Luther King jr. remain as relevant as a guiding star today as
14 they did decades ago; "A threat to justice anywhere, is a threat to justice everywhere."

15 **Believing that:**

- 16 • Foreign aid is not a concept that can be globally revoked overnight and will require a long
17 process of global, political reformation. Hence therefore, a significantly more disciplinary
18 distribution of aid constitute the first step on the way.
- 19 • As an exemplifying case the Danish response towards recipient country, Tanzania, of
20 withholding aid donations until the Tanzanian government would abolish its legislation on
21 making homosexuality a criminal act proved rather successful in 2018.
- 22 • Donor countries tend to execute and evaluate their foreign aid-operations based on the
23 'shampoo-method', where pre-development is compared to post-development, which

24 hinders any legitimate evaluation, since initial, domestic plans for schools, hospitals etc.
25 are left out of the equation.

- 26 • The 'shampoo effect' has managed to blindfold the debate about the legitimacy of
27 foreign aid in cases where specific investments are made despite the fact that these were
28 already funded before donors interfered.
- 29 • No foreign aid should be provided without appropriate plans of development as well as
30 specific aims, such as literacy rates, percentage of children enrolled at primary school,
31 and number of doctors educated, utilising foreign aid as a motivational driver for
32 development to a much larger extent.

33 **Lymec calls upon:**

- 34 1. All donor countries to restructure their foreign aid programmes to be solely based on
35 discipline and conditionalities following the examples of e.g. Danish-Tanzanian relations.
- 36 2. A tougher discipline of recipient countries in accordance with the liberal values which
37 constitute the backbone of Western democracy in the forms of e.g. freedom of press,
38 freedom of assembly and LGBTQIA-rights.

Attention: This is a preview! The official text is printed in the proposal book for Autumn Congress 08 - 09 November 2019.