



Research Report General Assembly 4

The question of ongoing bribery and
corruption in North-East Asia

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Research Report
Model United Nations Alfrink
2019

Introduction

Corruption and bribery in politics are both significant problems. Corruption, for example, can have a severe impact on the social development and the economy of a country.

The ongoing bribery and the corruption in North-East Asia in particular has reached an all-time high. This topic has been discussed a lot in international conferences. The North-East Asian governments have close ties with the business world to help stimulate its economic growth. This has, however, resulted in corruption.

Corruption and bribery can be addressed but it requires a lot of effort and commitment. As part of research done by Transparency International, 22,000 people in the Asia Pacific region were interviewed. The results show that 38% of the poorest people in society had paid a bribe. This was the highest percentage of all income groups. Another outcome is that younger people were more likely to accept a bribe. Another shocking result was that fact that the population of China thought that the amount of corruption within the country had changed.

“Without proper law enforcement corruption thrives. Bribery is not a small crime, it takes food off the table, it prevents education, it impedes proper healthcare and ultimately it can kill,” Ugaz, The Chairman of Transparency international said.

The fact that the inhabitants of the those countries in North-Eastern Asia feel the impact of corruption and recognise the possibility of bribery only accentuates the need to develop ideas on how to tackle this major issue.

The Committee

General Assembly 4, mostly referred to as GA4, is one of the four GAs of MUNA 2019. General issues in this committee revolve around special political situations and decolonization. GA4 is a ‘normal committee’. This means that resolutions have to be prepared by each delegate. During the debate we will entertain these resolutions as a whole at once. In order to have your own resolution added to the agenda there have to be at least eight co-submitters, who also want your resolution to be discussed. This does not mean that they have to be in full agreement with the content of the resolution.

In the General Assembly all member states have one vote. Matters are decided on by a simple majority. All General Assemblies together have the function and power to discuss questions relating to international peace; they make recommendations for peace settlements, protect human rights and international economic collaboration to name just a few.

The Special Political and Decolonization committee is often abbreviated as SPECOL and is one of the main bodies of the United Nations. The fourth committee deals with all issues related to decolonization and the rights and self-determination of people who live in Non-Self-Governing-Territories. While there are only a few official colonies remaining, the significance of SPECOL is still apparent since there are various territories which are controversial (such as the North Pole) and there are still indigenous peoples who are in need of protection.

In comparison to other committees, the General Assemblies together participate in the Plenary session. This will take place on the last day of the conference, where several passed resolutions will be discussed as a whole.

Keywords

Corruption Perceptions Index shows how corrupt the public sectors of a country are measured by Transparency International.

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Bribery is the crime of giving someone money or something else of value, often illegally, to persuade that person to do something you want.

Asia Pacific is a business region consisting of the whole of Asia as well as the countries of the Pacific Rim.

Overview

The World Bank Group considers corruption to be a major challenge. Achieving a reduction in corruption is one of the Sustainable Development goals, together with bringing about a reduction in extreme poverty by 2030, and increasing the share of prosperity of the poorest 40% of the world population. The aim of reducing corruption is also behind the ambitious targets set for financing development. Corruption is known to have the greatest impact on the most vulnerable layer of society. It increases costs and reduces access to primary services such as education, justice and health care.

The rates of corruption in the Asia Pacific region are sky high. International Transparency has done research on this topic, as mentioned before. The results of this research shows that Police Forces occupy the number one position when it comes to bribing a country's own population. Just a little under 1/3rd of the people who have been in direct contact with police officers have admitted they have paid a bribe.

It is not just bribery that has a huge impact on a country's population, it can also really damage layers of society. According to the people, corruption is still increasing, even though plans have been made in order to try and reduce the amount of corruption. 73% of China's population feels that the level of corruption in its country is increasing. These numbers are simply way too high. In 2017, inclusive development was high on government agendas all around the world. As a diverse region, it is essential that the countries in the Asia Pacific region achieve equitable development for all. Due to corruption this is undermined; it distorts the democratic process and even more concerning is the fact that it promotes private interests over the interests of the public.

Arguments

The people of the highest ranks especially in the countries located in the Pacific region, or countries battling corruption elsewhere might argue that corruption is not so bad. They state that corruption must always be needed worldwide. Corruption is a cycle in the world of politics and business. It is a 'necessary evil'. It keeps government and business stable at times. Moreover, it reduces bureaucracy and speeds up the implementation of administrative practices governing economic market forces. Nevertheless, a way bigger share of the world population argues that corruption is a bad thing and not a 'necessary evil'. They feel corruption and bribery are a real threat and feel the urge to tackle the issue. The World Bank group has done research and has come up with six solutions, which can be found; <https://blogs.worldbank.org/futuredevelopment/six-strategies-fight-corruption>. Also Transparency international has ideas on how to solve the problems; https://www.transparency.org/news/feature/corruption_in_asia_pacific_what_20000_people_told_us.

Resolution

General Assembly four is a committee in which all delegates have to prepare their resolutions beforehand. A resolution should give an insight to your country's opinion and its stance on the issue. It should mention possible solutions, and how these solutions can be entertained. A very important note while writing a resolution is that the delegate should only defend its country's own ideologies and not form his or her own perspective and ideas.

Sources

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