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**ECOFIN**

**MUN BRIEFING PAPER**

**The Question of Neo-colonialism on Development Programmes**

Hello delegates, my name is Aaryan Dhanani and I will be chairing the ECOFIN Committee alongside Avi Dodhia and Zain Hemani at HabsMUN 2024. I am optimistic that, like in previous years, we can make this experience equally enjoyable and powerful. It's a pleasure to welcome both seasoned and first-time delegates to join us for engaging debates. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding MUN or our topics of the upcoming debate, feel free to reach out via email at [dha001@habsboys.org.uk](mailto:dha001@habsboys.org.uk)

**What do you need to do prior?**

As a form of introduction on your country’s stance on the topics we require the production of a position paper. A position paper should be a 50-100 word summary on your agenda for the debate. Remember that if your country has a GDP of $1000 then for the majority of the population cryptocurrencies will be unattainable! As well as this we advise creating at least one resolution paper on what your country strives to do about the selected issues. These really enhance the whole experience and create a more realistic conference, as to why we urge you to write one. Your resolution papers can be brought with you on the day, but it would be incredibly helpful if you could also send a copy of your resolutions before the debate. You will already have been sent advice from the Sec-Gens on how to do so.

**Background Information**

The question of neo-colonialism in development programs refers to the examination and consideration of the impact of neo-colonial practices on initiatives and programs aimed at fostering economic, social, and political development in formerly colonised or developing nations.

Neo-colonialism is a concept that emerged in the mid-20th century to describe a new form of imperialism where, even after gaining political independence, former colonies remained as subjects of economic and political manipulation by more powerful nations. Instead of direct colonial rule, neo-colonialism operates through economic, cultural, and political influence.

In the context of development programs, the question arises as to whether these initiatives truly contribute to the genuine progress of the targeted nations or if they inadvertently perpetuate neo-colonial relationships. Critics argue that certain development programs may be structured in a way that benefits the interests of more powerful nations or international institutions, often at the expense of the autonomy and sustainable development of the recipient countries.

Issues related to neo-colonialism in development programs may include unequal power dynamics, economic exploitation, cultural imperialism, and the perpetuation of dependency. Analysing this question involves evaluating the policies, structures, and outcomes of development initiatives to determine whether they genuinely empower and uplift the communities they aim to assist or if they inadvertently reinforce historical patterns of exploitation and inequality. It's a complex and critical aspect of discussions on international development and global relations.

**Writing your Resolution:**

If you want to make an effective resolution under this topic, consider the following points:

Is your nation developing? Does neo-colonialism undermine the sovereignty of it? Is the decision-making autonomy altered by it?

Highlight the economic aspects of neo-colonialism, mentioning unequal trade relations resource exploitation, and the imposition of unfavourable economic policies.

Consider the issue of debt accumulation and its impact on the development prospects of countries. Then discuss debt restructuring mechanisms and the role of international cooperation in alleviating the burden on developing nations.

Address potential human rights abuses associated with neo-colonial practices and explore the cultural dimensions of neo-colonialism, such as the influence of global media, technology, and cultural products on local cultures.

Remember to produce a resolution and a position paper of roughly 100 words to inform your country’s stance on this Question. There are many more things you can discuss - explore as much as you can and have fun with it!

**Further Reading**

[Neo-Colonialism in Africa? An Analysis of a UK-Funded Volunteer Abroad Programme (e-ir.info)](https://www.e-ir.info/2023/02/06/neo-colonialism-in-africa-an-analysis-of-a-uk-funded-volunteer-abroad-programme/)

[14 Facts About Neocolonialism | FactSnippet](https://www.factsnippet.com/site/facts-about-neocolonialism.html)

[Neocolonialism | Definition, Examples, & Facts | Britannica](https://www.britannica.com/topic/neocolonialism)