



GOVERNMENTS FROM SOME G20 COUNTRIES MIGHT NOT BE FOCUSING ON ENSURING A SUSTAINABLE ALIMENTATION TO PEOPLE AROUND THE GLOBE

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ANALYSIS REPORT: GROUP OF 20 DEBATING ON HOW TO ENSURE A SUSTAINABLE ALIMENTATION - FEBRUARY 19TH, 2023

During the sessions of yesterday and today's Group of 20 commission, the different delegates, in representation of the governments of these 20 "premier economies", have been discussing in order to find a way of ensuring a sustainable alimentation worldwide. Nevertheless, this committee seems to be taking a wrong direction.

As it was expected, there were no delegations against of finding the perfect plan for a sustainable alimentation, but the problem that Amnesty International finds, relies on what members of the G20, consider to be a "sustainable alimentation". Most of the present delegations, were not having a full picture perspective on the topic - let's remember that G20 is formed by the most developed economies of the world, which means that most of them, might not have primordial alimentation issues. This means, in other words, that they are leaving behind the necessity of the rest of the globe.

IS THE APPROACH GIVEN BY G20 MEMBERS THE APPROPRIATE?

During the debate, diverse delegations such as the delegation of the United States and the delegation of Mexico, emphasized the necessity of tagging and taxing all those products that might not be the healthiest products in the market, such as products with large quantities of sugar and fats. Amnesty International recognizes this type of proposals as positive and good intentioned, but also believes that in the current world, there are more worrying problems than those presented by these delegations, and one of the most important ones worldwide, is hunger.

Amnesty International took the decision of getting involved in the debate, with the purpose of finding out how interested were G20 members on solving global hunger. At first, certain delegations, such as the Delegation of the United States and Indonesia, countered Amnesty International saying that efforts were already being made, and that they were keeping track of global hunger and solutions to treat it. But somehow, global hunger continues to be a major problematic in undeveloped countries, and some G20 member keep on talking about applying taxes to food. The question is, who would those taxes benefit?

Considering that those proposed taxes are supposed to be applied in the territories of the countries that propose them, they would benefit their governments, and although they told Amnesty International that those taxes, there is nothing that ensures the real purpose of those countries to built up global monetary fund to fight global hunger. Various other minor proposals were made, and Amnesty remembered the G20 the disposition of its budget to ensure human rights globally.

IS THE G20 FULFILLING ITS PURPOSE? OR IS IT JUST PROPOSING ADVANTAGEOUS RESOLUTIONS FOR ITS OWN BUBBLE?

One thing must not be forgotten when discussing affairs related to the Group of 20: Its purpose, is international cooperation. And although its approaches might be more related to economical affairs, Amnesty International strongly believes that International Cooperation should be primarily based on ensuring the good will of the people of every country in the world, given that without offering a good quality life to a country's population, that country will not progress; and when a country finds trouble to achieve this by itself, international forums formed by powerful nations - as it is the case of G20 - should resort to help.

But on its previous meetings, G20 has failed on this particular purpose of assisting the most affected countries by hunger issues. Delegates from the G20 have showed more interests on their own economies, and have vowed to develop plans that might not generate a positive impact in an international panorama. Delegates representing governments of countries such as Mexico, have even showed a bigger concern on the economies of different companies that might be affected by the warning tags that were previously mentioned, showing how some members of the G20 are even more interested on the economic growth, than in the healthy alimentation of their own people.



Image taken from the Daily Sabah

WILL THE G20 TAKE ACTION ON GLOBAL HUNGER?

According to United Nations agencies estimations, it would cost around \$267 million dollars per year to end hunger globally, as approximately 800 million people continue to struggle finding a meal every day. And who better to provide financial help to achieve this, than perhaps the most economically powerful alliance in the world: the Group of 20.

Countries with a low gross domestic product, happen to be as well countries that struggle with hunger, as it is the case of countries such as Somalia, where according to the United Nations, over 53% of the population lives under a hunger condition, or South Sudan, where around two thirds of the populations are at risk of falling under this condition. Instead, most of the countries belonging to the G20, don't really seem to show any kind of difficulties regarding hunger (around 2.5% of people living in hunger for the US, France, Canada and Italy, for example).

Now, Amnesty International does not necessarily believes that world hunger is a responsibility of the member countries of the G20, but it does affirms that if a group of economically powerful countries gather to discuss about sustainable alimentation worldwide, countries suffering from hunger should definitely be in their agenda, because at the end of the day, it is in the hands of these people to do or not something to mitigate global hunger. So, will the Group of 20 members ever follow an ethic purpose? Or will they just keep on finding ways to benefit their own economies? Will someone with the power to to something ever look out for the right to food of people all around the world?

Amnesty International hopes that this article, along with its brief intervention on the commission, makes the G20 member reflect on their objectives. And of course, it continues to look out for the rights of every human.