COMITEE: United Nations Development Programme

COUNTRY:BELGIUM

Belgium, officially the Kingdom of Belgium, is a state located in Western Europe. It is a member of the European Union. It houses the headquarters of the Union and some international organizations such as NATO. Covering an area of 30,528 km², the population of the country is about 11.4 million people. Belgium's strongly globalized economy and transport infrastructure are integrated with the rest of Europe. The country's location at the heart of the highly industrialized region helped it become the world's 15th-largest trading country in 2007. The economy is characterized by labor, high GNP, and high exports per capita. Being the 25th largest economy in the world, Belgium has a strategic advantage due to its location in the center of Western Europe and its multicultural structure. Belgium, which has developed infrastructure in terms of transportation and communication to other countries in Europe, is integrated with the industries of the surrounding countries with its port, road, airline, and railway network in transportation and logistics. Belgium ranks 46th in the World Bank's "Ease of Doing Business" index.

The UNDP was founded on 22 November 1965 with the merging of the Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance (EPTA) and the Special Fund in 1958. The rationale was to "avoid duplication of (their) activities". The EPTA was set up in 1949 to help the economic and political aspects of underdeveloped countries while the Special Fund was to enlarge the scope of UN technical assistance. The Special Fund arose from the idea of a Special United Nations Fund for Economic Development (SUNFED) (which was initially called the United Nations Fund for Economic Development (UNFED). Countries such as the Nordic countries were proponents of such a United Nations (UN) controlled fund. However, the fund was opposed by developed countries, especially by the United States which was wary of the Third World dominating such funding and preferred it to be under the auspices of the World Bank. The concept of SUNFED was dropped to form the Special Fund. This Special Fund was a compromise over the SUNFED concept, it did not provide investment capital but only helped to bring pre-conditions for private investment. With the US proposing and creating the International Development Association within the World Bank's umbrella, the EPTA, and the Special Fund appeared to be conducting similar work. In 1962, the United Nations Economic and Social Council asked the Secretary-General to consider the merits and disadvantages of merging UN technical assistance programs and in 1966, the EPTA and the Special Fund merged to form the UNDP.

There are different fiscal, semi-financial and financial incentives in Belgium. These incentives are administered by regional or federal governments. Incentive programs in Belgium are given depending on conditions such as the employment that the said investment will bring, the contribution it will provide to development and exports, and the development of information technology infrastructure. There are many incentive packages such as incentives given to new companies, tax advantages for SME-type companies, export incentives, and incentives for research and development activities. It is known that they employed Europeans in Belgium since the beginning of the 19th century. According to the regulations of the Belgian Ministry of the Interior, in 1848, 19.5% of the employees were young children. and these children are in cities such as Ghent, Antwerp, and Bruges. Different servers such as mining, agriculture, and textile have been employed, but Belgium has almost no trace of child labor in the current years and is doing its best to remove child workers who are secretly employed from these jobs. The unemployment rate increased during the pandemic process and became 6.4% in 2021. Belgium's GDP in 2021 at current prices is 599 billion dollars. Apart from the 2008 global economic crisis, Belgium's economy has grown steadily in the last 20 years, and the per capita GDP is above 51 thousand dollars in 2021. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) data, the Belgian economy, which grew by 6.3% in real terms in 2021, is expected to grow by 2.1% in 2022.

COVID-19 crisis, Even if it has been brought under control, its effects are not over yet. We will see how quickly the economy, and especially the Chinese economy, will recover from the crisis and that any slowdown in global demand could take a toll on US manufacturing, which was already on the verge of decline by the end of 2000 2019. The Phase 1 US-China deal has given manufacturers some relief, but the coronavirus crisis has hit China hard. It could prevent India from fulfilling the end of the trade agreement and delay any Phase 2 agreement negotiations.

We believe that in order to Facilitate sustainable and resilient infrastructure development from least developed countries such as African countries to developing countries and developing countries through advanced financial, technological, and technical support we need to have a common understanding among all the members in UN. There are many possible ways, technologies and opportunities to provide the necessary support for the countries in need and we are always in favor of this kind of cooperation among countries.Technologies, such as machine learning, can be used to improve R&D decision-making. Documents need to be filed throughout the R&D process, for example, and the process could be automated to free up employees to do more complex tasks.

We would like to point out that as the Kingdom of Belgium, we are ready to support and encourage our people for all kinds of economic welfare and development, because for us worker welfare also means a good economy. Industrialization, done properly without harming the nature, is one of the only things our country strives to do.

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