Committee: United Nations Human Rights Council

Country or Position: Spain

Name: Sally Lin, Kate Huang

Topic Area A: Femicide in Latin America

 Femicide is a global issue and it is especially prevalent in Latin America. The term “femicide” is first used in 19th century in England to describe the killing of women. Most recently, it has been used to describe the mass killing of women in Latin America, both as acts of organized crime and extreme domestic violence. Although nowadays more and more women organizations use the term “femicide” as a legal and political term to refer to the murder of women because they are women, Spain believes that this issue still needs more concern.

 There could be a variety of causes of femicide. In Spain, the studies show a strong correlation between the murder of women and domestic violence. In fact, domestic violence is the most common form of violence against women in our country and it is very likely to end up in femicide. Therefore, Spain is dedicated to the prevention of domestic violence as well as the protection of victims. Spain is the first European country which enacts the domestic violence law. Our government also creates a specific group targeting on fighting against domestic violence. For the victims, the government provides vocational training and financial support; more than 50 offices provide free legal service. Furthermore, Spain establishes several professional medical centers, 454 shelters and hotlines. However, there are some problems that put those efforts in vain such as corruption and impunity of the police. Also, statistics show that a majority of battered women do not report abuses because of several reasons and this will result in the lack of credible data. It is important to notice the fact that these phenomena not only happen in our country but also in the whole world. Therefore, in order to come up with more powerful and feasible solutions, Spain is willing to cooperate with other countries, especially European countries.

Topic B: Rights of the child in Somalia

 Somalia had suffered from civil war, which resulted from the Italian and English colonial, since 1990s. With the neglect of colonial government, combined with the destruction of civil wars and warlords afterwards, Somalia now is in the adverse condition. In recent years, Somalia has encountered the most serious famine and desperately in need of help from other countries. Spain, based on humanitarian reasons, would definitely reach out the helping hand to Somalia. Spain has actively participated in numerous rescue acts and has donated quite amount of funds to NGOs for a long time. We are very willing to improve the situation of children in Somalia. The best way to help the rights of children in Somalia must largely rely on the cooperation of government and the international organizations. Therefore, we Spain promote the idea of platform that combines the governmental resources with non-governmental resources. In addition, to solve the problem thoroughly, comprehensive actions must be done. Spain urges all the countries in the world, especially those super power nations, to try their best to help the children in Somalia.