

## SHAMUN Conference

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Honorable chair, member states, the delegate of France is pleased to be included in such an important event.

According to famous Greek Legend, Pandora opened a box she was told keep shut. From that box, came genocide, the holocaust, and unfair wages.

France is a proud signatory of the 1970 Minimum Wage Fixing Convention held in Geneva by the ILO. A national minimum wage has existed in France since more than 50 years ago. The SMIG (Interprofessional Guaranteed Minimum Wage) was set by a law asserted in 1950. This law was later replaced by the SMIC (Minimum Growth Wage) in 1970. Such laws protect wage earners from unduly low wages and exploitation. This guarantees that every wage earner is a part of the general economical progress.

The delegate of France would like to remind member states that there are still many workers globally, who earn the bare minimum and less. Without a fixed standard for wages, there will be too much variation concerning the pay of workers. For example, workers employed by sweat shops in China and India are being paid as less as 50 cents an hour. While the minimum wage level for countries such as the United States is 5 dollars and 85 cents. That's roughly a ratio of 1 to 12.

One of the reasons that these outrageous wages are allowed to exist, is because of the heavy demand for high volume but low cost products, Companies continuously search for manufacturers that can provide the demand but with the lowest costs. These companies are barely paying to meet the cost for raw material, let alone fair wages.

People are not receiving the wages which they deserve. Without money, children cannot be sent for an education. Clean food and water cannot be accessed. With no money, the suffering people cannot help themselves. For these reasons and many more, the delegate of France urges all member states to pass the resolution for fair wages.

The delegate of France looks forward to a successful conference that will benefit all.