AU Background Guide

AMBMUN 27'

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Dear Delegates,

We are honored to welcome you to AMBMUN 4.0, where you will be participating in the African Union (AU). As representatives of African nations, you will have the opportunity to discuss important issues affecting the African continent and work together to develop solutions that promote peace, unity, and development.

The African Union plays an important role in bringing African countries together to address shared challenges and build a stronger future for the continent. As delegates, you will be expected to understand your assigned country's position, consider the interests of other member states, and work towards solutions that benefit Africa as a whole.

Throughout this committee, you will be encouraged to explore different perspectives, exchange ideas, and engage in meaningful diplomatic discussions. You will face challenges that require cooperation, critical thinking, and compromise. Remember that every country has its own priorities, but successful diplomacy comes from finding common ground and working towards shared goals.

This background guide serves as a starting point for your preparation. We suggest that you research the country you are assigned, get a good understand of the stance, and come prepared with clear arguments and practical solutions. Do not be afraid to participate, ask questions, or share your ideas.

We are so excited to see you guys engage in debate and meaningful collaboration throughout the conference. What’s more important to us, though, is we hope you enjoy the experience and start a new love for debate.

Warm regards,

Yousif Alkasab & Lamees Mezher

Topic: Dismantling Post-Colonial Legacies: Border Redefinition, Economic Sovreignty, and Resource Control

The collapse of colonial powers did not immediately lead to the elimination of the political and economic structures that had been formed in the territory of Africa. The independence that was granted to the African states gave them the right to govern themselves; however, many of the borders they inherited had been drawn by European powers without considering the communities living within those territories. Moreover, the economic system that was established there was based on providing European powers with raw materials rather than support independent industrial development. Thus, there remained the effects of colonialism beyond independence and it is one of the problems facing newly independent African states.

The current African borders were mainly defined through the Scramble Period in the late 19th century. During the Berlin Conference of 1884-1885, European powers divided the continent into territories without consultation of African representatives. The borders were mainly defined based on the interests of the colonizers instead of the communities and governance that existed in the territories. Some territories had some parts of their country divided by two or more territories, and others were put under the same colonial government.

Colonization also had an effect on the economies of the African territories. Many countries were formed and oriented towards mining and exporting raw material such as gold, diamond, copper, and agriculture products. Infrastructure was mainly built to transport these raw materials abroad, rather than support local industries. Therefore, once these nations became independent nations, they had to inherit countries with economies centered on exporting raw materials with limited industrial development.

The topic of dismantling post-colonial legacies examines how African countries can address these inherited structures while maintaining peaceful relations with the neighboring countries. This raises and important question of whether current political and economic structures are

convenient for African nations today. Namely, delegates must consider whether the idea of redrawing borders is applicable in such situation, whether countries will manage to decrease their dependence on other markets, and what should African governments do in order to get control over resources within their territories

Previous actions:

After gaining their independence in 1963, the Organization of African Unity was formed with the aim of promoting cooperation between African nations. The members of the organization adopted the Cairo Resolution in 1964 in which they pledged to recognize the boundaries existing at independence in order to prevent any territorial disputes. In about the same period, the UN adopted Resolution 1803 (XVII), recognizing the permanent sovereignty of nations over their natural resources. These decisions established important principles for African countries seeking to protect their territories and manage their own resources.

In later decades, African countries implemented strategies intended at increasing economic independence. The first step taken in this direction was the implementation of the Lagos Plan of Action in 1980 and the Abuja Treaty in 1991 which were meant to create an African Economic Community. In 2002, the African Union replaced the OAU, continuing efforts towards continental integration. More recently, initiatives such as Agenda 2063 and the African Continental Free Trade Area were made to strengthen cooperation between African countries and reduce their reliance on foreign markets.

Analysis:

Colonialism still shapes Africa even after most African countries became independent. During times European powers split African lands based on their own politics and money goals, usually ignoring the people, cultures and old borders that already existed.

Because of this many African countries inherited borders that split communities, split groups and sometimes put valuable natural resources in more than one country. These split borders still cause arguments between countries especially when borders are not clear or are disputed.

A main challenge for the African Union is deciding how African countries should deal with these inherited borders. Some people say that changing some borders could bring together split communities and make borders fairer.. Moving borders that are recognised worldwide can also spark new arguments threaten national sovereignty and raise the chance of conflict. The African Union has long urged countries to keep the borders and solve disputes through calm talks and teamwork across borders. The task is to fix the problems from splits without making more trouble.

Economic sovereignty is another part of fixing post-colonial problems. Many African countries have resources like oil, gold, diamonds and other minerals yet their economies can still depend on foreign companies, money and global markets. Sometimes raw materials are taken in countries and shipped elsewhere for making products. This means that the countries may get a small share of the money made from their own resources. Building economic sovereignty means African nations must grow local businesses build better roads and infrastructure welcome investment in their own lands and work together in projects like the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

Control over resources is tightly linked to sovereignty. African countries must think about who gains from extracting and selling their resources. International companies can bring investment, new technology and jobs. People worry about unfair deals, pollution, corruption and uneven profit sharing. Governments must push for agreements that protect national interests and make sure local people gain from resources in their areas. Stronger regional teamwork can also let African countries negotiate better and boost their standing, in the world market.

In the end fixing legacies means that African nations must cooperate while respecting each other's freedom and sovereignty. The African Union must look at how old borders can be handled how African economies can grow more self-sufficient and how natural resources can help local communities. Delegates must think about the needs of their own countries and create realistic plans that bring unity, economic independence and lasting growth to the whole continent.

Questions To Be Answered in Your Resolution:

1. How can the African Union address colonial-era borders while preventing territorial disputes and conflicts between member states?

2. Should African countries consider redefining certain borders to reunite divided communities, or should existing borders remain unchanged?

3. How can African nations reduce their economic dependence on foreign countries and strengthen their economic sovereignty?

4. What measures can be introduced to ensure that African countries receive fair economic benefits from the extraction and trade of their natural resources?

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