



African Union

Durban Conference First meeting of the AU, 2002



Table of Contents:

Letter from the Secretary General

Letter from the Committee Director

1. Introduction to the topic
2. History of the Committee
3. Statement of the Problem
4. Points of Contention
 - Political
 - a. Democratic crisis
 - b. Armed conflicts
 - Economic
 - a. Lack of employment
 - b. Dependency on international investors
 - c. Extreme poverty
 - Social
 - a. HIV/SIDA Pandemic
 - b. Extreme lack of education
 - c. Migration Crisis
5. Case Studies
 - a. Congo
 - b. Sierra Leona
 - c. Angola
6. QARMAs
7. Final Remarks
8. Position Papers
9. Bibliography



Letter from the Secretary-General

Dear faculty advisors, staff members, and fellow delegates,

My name is Dania Guerrero and this year I'm thrilled to be your secretary general. It is with the greatest pleasure to finally welcome you to CarMUN 2024! For more than a decade, Carmelitas Model United Nations has endeavored for the building of new ideas through the development of confidence and leadership skills, using diplomacy as a tool for the bettering of our world.

I joined CarMUN sometime around 2021 and 2022, the year after the pandemic, when everything was a fresh start for everyone, and it was not to be an exception for me. I became part of this "club" that I now call family in inspiration that my brother had before, and he also inspired me to better myself at this one thing. Today, I can objectively say that I've superseded him in this. At first, I was not really scared, but nervous of what was to come. The concept that surrounded MUN was such a positive environment that I was excited to finally see what the future was going to bring and what opportunities were to come. Being the youngest of our delegation was not easy, being the only one who didn't know a thing about the UN was even harder, nonetheless with the help of our faculties and coaches it came to be an entertaining and enriching experience where I was able to play a whole new persona. Now, after almost 3 years, I am able to say that the persona I used to play, is me! Finding myself and my path through MUN has been a blessing, and I know I'm not the only one who has done so as well. Guided by our school's values, the secretariat is dedicated to extending our ethos globally. One where respect and diplomacy reign the dialogue between all, where the principles of the UN are followed and rightfully recognized. The lack of seriousness in today's reality reflects in every single aspect of our world, even, in MUN conferences, treating woeful issues with flippancy. That is why this year's conference theme is "Making diplomacy great again".

This year's conference aims to cultivate your skills as a delegate, encouraging you to perceive beyond mere words spoken. Regardless of your role within the conference, we aspire for every delegate, staff member, and faculty advisor to have their voice heard. Beyond fulfilling the procedural duties of the organization we emulate, our goal is to foster meaningful debate. Collaboration is key—working together to identify and achieve shared objectives paves the way for a brighter future. Every fire starts with a spark, and it begins with believing in your limitless potential.

Dania Guerrero,
Secretary General



Letter from the Director of Committee

Dear delegates,

Welcome to the Historical African Union Committee! I am Luciana Palomino, your director for this committee. I have been on this delegation for a long time, as a delegate, Secretary General and now Coach. And I am very excited to be part of this conference, especially to discuss such a great topic as the first move of the AU.

First of all, I would like you to know a little about me. I joined our delegation in 2019, when I was 13 years old. Even though I didn't understand MUN very well at first, I fell in love with everything about it. It must have been the amount of knowledge I gained and all the people I met over the years that made me stay active until now. I had the opportunity to debate in multiple conferences, allowing me to learn a lot from each one of them. To this day, you can still feel the welcoming and caring atmosphere of the delegation.

To be honest, I don't expect anything specific from this committee. The only thing I want is for you to learn and have fun while debating. Don't be afraid to try something different or start a speech. Don't be frustrated if you don't understand something because I will always be open to questions. And don't be afraid to make mistakes; otherwise, you won't be able to get better.

Please remember to always stick to your country's policy and be respectful to all delegates in the conference. Maintain diplomacy while debating and always look for creative and viable solutions.

With nothing else to add, I can't wait to see you at the committee,

Sincerely yours,
Luciana Palomino
Director of HAU



1. Introduction to the topic

It's 2002, the world is changing, and Africa must change with it. Since the early 19th century, the continent has faced numerous challenges that have slowed its development compared to other regions. These challenges, seen in political, economic, and social dimensions, need cooperation not only within the region but also globally, in order to get a more peaceful world.

Looking for independence and justice, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was established. However, in today's world, Africa needs to shift its focus to achieve prosperity. That is why the Sirte Declaration of September 9, 1999, laid the groundwork for a new organization, culminating in the adoption of the Constitutive Act for the African Union in Lomé, Togo, in July 2000.

As noted earlier this year by Amara Essy, former Secretary General of the OAU, and Anil Kumarsingh Gayan, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Regional Cooperation of Mauritius, "the time had come to turn the page and get Africa working again." They made a press conference to emphasize the necessity of cooperation with other international organizations to achieve the new goals of the region.

Today, several factors complicate Africa's progress compared to the beginning of the century. Despite achieving independence, the continent faces significant challenges such as armed conflicts, diseases, and a lack of opportunities. However, with the establishment of the African Union, the region is ready to take the next step forward.



Notably, the organization played an important role in the fight against apartheid, being among the first to fight for equality and justice by implementing economic and diplomatic sanctions against the regime.





3. Statement of the problem

While the OAU facilitated independence for African countries, it did not adequately prepare the continent for the future, unlike other regional organizations.



In Europe, the European Union (EU) was established on May 9, 1950, with principles of freedom and regional cooperation among European nations. Despite a few challenges after WWII, by the time of the OAU's creation, the European Free Trade Association had already been launched, fostering regional prosperity and development. This forward-looking approach included significant milestones such as allowing citizens of EU member

countries to travel freely across Europe since 1995 (initially to 7 countries, but a starting point for many) and the introduction of the euro currency by early 1999.



Across the Atlantic, the Organization of American States (OAS) was founded in 1948 with the OAS Charter emphasizing peace, justice, solidarity, collaboration, and the defense of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence among member states. Despite economic challenges in many member countries over the past century, the OAS played an active role in conflicts in Central America and combating drug trafficking.

Notably, the Protocol of Managua, effective from 1996, aimed to promote democracy mechanisms in the region.

These organizations prioritized regional integration and economic strategies for globalization rather than only focusing on human rights and decolonization. Consequently, on September 9, 1999, the Sirte Declaration was issued, stating a shift for the Organization of African Unity's member states towards creating a new organization with a fresh perspective focused on economic prosperity for Africa. The Durban Conference of 2002, will be the starting point of the AU as they need to decide what they want to do first.



4. Points of contention

Much has happened since the establishment of the OAU, needing a critical analysis of various aspects—political, economic, and social—to ensure we are progressing in the right direction. As mentioned earlier, global attention shifted significantly following the 9/11 attacks. Therefore, it is crucial now to closely examine the current conditions of African nations across these dimensions. This approach will enable delegates to effectively organize and prioritize key issues, promoting mutual cooperation and sustainable development.

Political

a. Democratic Crisis

In recent years, African nations have encountered significant challenges in their efforts to strengthen democratic governance. Many countries are transitioning from authoritarian regimes to democracies, a process filled with fragility and incompleteness. For instance, Zambia hosted its first democratic elections on December 27, 2001, following almost a decade under authoritarian rule. Moreover, countries struggle with disturbing issues such as high levels of corruption, institutional instability, and a lack of transparency. Consequently, citizens across Africa often mistrust their governments, a situation aggravated by ongoing armed conflicts.





b. Armed Conflicts

Currently, armed conflicts stand as a significant impediment to Africa's development efforts. While the exact number varies, these conflicts contribute to numerous social and economic challenges. Many rebellions against governments come from issues such as inadequate access to basic services, religious or ethnic differences, and disputes over natural resources. Somalia provides a perfect example, grappling with persistent instability and armed conflicts involving multiple factions vying for control since the 1990s.

The severity of these conflicts has drawn international concern. On May 22, 2002, the Security Council established an Ad Hoc Working Group on Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa. This decision followed the President of the Security Council's acknowledgment of the urgent need for effective measures to prevent and resolve conflicts. In a January press conference of 2002, it was emphasized that the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council's role in supporting Africa. It was noted that whereas the OAU primarily involved governments and officials, the African Initiative (African Union) should reflect the will of the people rather than solely that of heads of state.





Economic

a. Lack of Employment

In many cases, one of the primary causes of financial crises in Africa is the lack of employment opportunities. This issue stems from various factors, including armed conflicts, rapid demographic changes (resulting in a higher number of young job seekers), and displacement. Additionally, most African economies traditionally rely on agriculture, but this sector no longer provides sufficient employment to meet demand. As a consequence, Africans often struggle to achieve economic development and stability, especially during periods of armed conflict, which frequently forces migration in search of better opportunities.

In South Africa, young citizens face particularly daunting challenges in finding employment. Approximately 30% of the population is unemployed, and this issue is especially acute among young people. Despite the end of apartheid in 1994, South Africa continues to struggle with social injustice and unequal opportunities. Even if they are one of Africa's most developed economies, the mismanagement of key economic sectors such as mining poses significant challenges for the country's future.



b. Dependency on international investors

Africa is abundant in natural resources but lacks industrial development, a situation that has persisted since the early 20th century, leading to significant dependence on international capital. For instance, countries such as Nigeria rely heavily on petroleum exports, while Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo depend on copper and other minerals. However, the continent's current situation fails to attract investors due to a combination of political and social instability. This lack of confidence extends across sectors, as investors struggle to identify promising opportunities for future growth.



c. Extreme poverty

Considering the multitude of challenges discussed, it becomes evident that many Africans are confronting extreme poverty. Families struggle to meet basic needs among ongoing instability across the continent. Following the independence of most nations, initial economic prospects were promising, but the "lost decades" from the 1970s to the 1990s altered their trajectory. Presently, the average GDP per capita in Africa goes around \$700-800, with notable disparities such as South Africa at \$2,867 (2001) and Ethiopia at \$119 (2001), according to the World Bank.

In June of this year, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) published the Least Developed Countries Report of 2002. It highlighted that in African least developed countries, nearly 88% of the population lives on less than \$2 a day—an increase from the previous year. And Sub-Saharan Africa faces the highest regional poverty rate globally, standing at 46.1%.

Among these challenges, Amara Essy, Secretary-General of the OAU at the time, emphasized on January 29th the importance of economic cooperation to address many of Africa's conflicts: "While political and social issues are significant, investing in economic initiatives is crucial for progress".





Social

a. HIV/AIDS Epidemic

In recent years, Africa has been grappling with a severe HIV/AIDS epidemic, with the number of affected individuals reaching unprecedented levels. Despite the global spread of the disease, 70% of diagnosed cases have been in Africa. Last year alone, an estimated 28.5 million people across the region were living with HIV/AIDS, resulting in 2.3 million deaths. It is particularly concerning the high number of children and pregnant women who have been infected. Countries with the highest prevalence include South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, and Lesotho.

The World Health Organization's Global Summary of the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in 2001 mentioned that in 16 African countries, at least 10% of people aged 15 to 49 were infected. One of the greatest challenges remains the prevalence of misinformation about HIV/AIDS, compounded by a lack of awareness among teenagers and young adults. UNICEF reported that 70% of teenage girls in Somalia, and over 40% in Guinea Bissau and Sierra Leone, have never heard of HIV or AIDS.



b. Extreme lack of education

The lack of education is caused by various factors. First, the lack of infrastructure due to current armed conflicts: children are not safe everywhere, and thus there are no spaces where affected children can continue their classes.



Second, the lack of quality teachers: since the HIV/AIDS epidemic (along with other diseases), the number of quality teachers has decreased; at the same time, due to insecurity, teachers prefer to find safe zones rather than work. Lastly, and one of the less recent reasons, is the disparity in opportunities for girls: considering the different communities (and cultures) in the region, there is no equal access to education for them. Even though this problem mainly affects children, it is extremely important to seek solutions for the lack of education. In this way, we are looking toward a better future for the region in all aspects.



c. Migration crisis

Another important factor to keep in mind is the migration crisis, which affects not only Africa but also countries around the globe. There are various reasons why people began to migrate, including the search for security, new opportunities, and better living conditions. These reasons are driven by the political, economic, and social instability in the region. However, their displacement can be to other countries within Africa (such as South Africa, Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, and Kenya) or outside the region (such as France, Spain, Italy, and the United Kingdom). This has also caused demographic changes in the region, leading to poor resource management.





5. Case Studies

It is important to look into specific conflicts in Africa, like the following:

a. Congo

The armed conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), known as the Second Congo War, is one of the most devastating and complex conflicts in recent history. Its origins date back to 1998, following the fall of dictator Mobutu Sese Seko during the First Congo War (1996-1997). The causes of this conflict include political instability and ethnic tensions that rise with Laurent-Désiré Kabila's ascent to power. Tensions escalated when Kabila sought assistance from Rwanda and Uganda. Continuously, these forces began to support various rebel groups, while countries like Angola, Namibia, and Zimbabwe backed the government.

This conflict has resulted in an unknown number of deaths and severe humanitarian needs, including a lack of schools, refugee camps, and basic services like water and food. The United Nations has been striving to stop the conflict and negotiate a ceasefire, in addition to providing aid to civilians in need. However, it is evident that this conflict is far from being resolved, causing widespread damage not only within the DRC but across the entire region.



b. Sierra Leona

Also known as the Sierra Leone Civil War, the conflict began when the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), led by Foday Sankoh, launched a rebellion against the government with the aim of reaching control of the country and its natural resources, especially diamonds. In recent years, the levels of violence, murder, and massive human rights violations have only increased. The RUF is notorious for using child soldiers and profiting from the sale of "blood diamonds."



British forces intervened in 2000, following the 1999 Peace Treaty, in an attempt to re-establish peace and security. Nonetheless, the conflict has resulted in thousands of deaths, displaced refugees, and damage that will not be easily repaired.



c. Angola

The Angolan Civil War, beginning in 1975, was one of the most prolonged conflicts in the region, starting after Angola gained independence from Portugal. Tensions arose between two major movements fighting for power: the MPLA government (supported by the Soviet Union and Cuba) and the UNITA movement (supported by the United States and South Africa). This conflict is particularly notable for the foreign investment and sponsorship that both sides received. Following the death of Savimbi in February 2002, the Luena Memorandum of Understanding was signed in April 2002, marking the official end of the war.

As a result, Angola suffered a large number of deaths and widespread displacement of refugees, similar to other conflicts. Additionally, the country experienced a massive loss of infrastructure, including healthcare institutions and schools. Moreover, since most of Angola's natural resources were exploited for profit during the conflict, it left an image of instability for investors.





6. Questions A Resolution Must Answer (QARMAs)

1. What frameworks should the AU establish to enhance regional cooperation and integration, similar to the EU and OAS models?
2. What role should the AU play in collaborating with international organizations to achieve its goals?
3. How can the AU ensure that its initiatives reflect the will of the people and not just the interests of heads of state?
4. What actions can the AU take to address the root causes of conflicts, such as ethnic tensions and disputes over natural resources?
5. What mechanisms can the AU put in place to prevent and resolve armed conflicts in member states?
6. What strategies should the AU adopt to create employment opportunities and reduce unemployment rates, particularly among the youth?

7. Final Remarks

- Before the conference, delegates must understand that the objective of this event is to plan what the African Union is going to do next.
- We already gave important points to have in consideration, however they are not all. This Study Guide is only going to provide a foundation of the research that delegates must do.
- Please also have in mind the policy that your country has. Because there are a lot of armed conflicts, some of them being international or caused by foreign movements/ armed groups; all African countries are not working together.
- Finally, remember that this is a historical committee, meaning that there are organs of the African Union that haven't been created. And the solutions that you propose must be in the context of the 9 of July of 2002.



8. Position Papers

For this year's edition, CarMUN will have position papers. This document, standard in Model UN preparation, allows delegates to research the policy of their country (or character), while putting their writing skills in practice. It should mention previous actions towards the committee date, and propose solutions.

Delegates should send their position papers via the Committee's email:

african_union@carmelitas.edu.pe

When sending the document, delegates must indicate their name, school (or delegation), and the country they're representing. It should be attached as a **Word file**. Furthermore, all documents must be written in **Times New Roman 11, single interspace, and standard margins**.

The deadline for sending position papers is **October 11th until 11:59 p.m.** Punctuality will be part of the evaluation.

a. Structure of the Position Papers:

Header: It should include the name of the committee, topic, delegate, and school. Next to this information, there should be images of the coat of arms and flag of the country to be represented.

First Paragraph: This paragraph should serve as an introduction to the topic, as well as your country's policy. Usually, this is the shortest paragraph on a position paper, so delegates need to summarize their ideas. The beginning and end of the paragraph must provoke interest in the reader. To do so, you can use a quote, question, or storytelling, among others.

Second paragraph: This paragraph comprehends your country's relations to the topic and committee, through past actions on the matter. It is a substantive paragraph, as delegates will mention what they have discovered during their research such as legislations, and resolutions, among others. The aforementioned does not mean that this paragraph should consist only of copy-paste, on the contrary, the country's opinion



should always be present. Take into account this is the largest paragraph of a position paper.

Third paragraph: This paragraph gives a purpose to the position paper, as it focuses on proposals. Delegates will be able to create solutions to the committee's topic, taking into consideration their country's policy. Also, there should be a strong closing sentence, since this is the last paragraph of the document.

Sources: On a second sheet delegates must cite all resources used in the preparation of the document, in APA 7 format. If a source is omitted, it will be considered plagiarism and will be sanctioned by the chair. It is recommended to read official, primary sources, such as the websites of international organizations, governments, or the United Nations itself.



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