

African Union (AU)



Topic: Terrorism in West Africa

Director: Faith Kim

October 10th, 2020

To Delegates of CHSMUN Novice 2020

Dear Delegates,
Welcome to CHSMUN Novice 2020!

It is our highest honor and pleasure to welcome you all to our 2020 online novice conference here at Cerritos High School. On behalf of the Cerritos High School Model United Nations program, we are proud to host our very first virtual novice conference, where you will become more knowledgeable on international issues, participate in intellectually stimulating discussions, and create new and everlasting friendships.

The CHSMUN program continues to compete around the world as a nationally ranked MUN program. Our delegates utilize diplomacy in order to create complex solutions towards multilateral issues in the global community. Our head chairs are selected from only the best seniors of our program, undergoing a rigorous training process to ensure the highest quality of moderating and grading of debate. Furthermore, all the topic synopses have been reviewed and edited numerous times. We strongly believe that by providing each and every delegate with the necessary tools and understanding, he or she will have everything they need to thrive in all aspects of the committee. We thoroughly encourage each delegate to engage in all of the facets of their topic, in order to grow in their skills as a delegate and develop a greater knowledge of the world around them.

Although this wasn't what we expected, our advisors and staff have put in countless hours to ensure delegates have an amazing experience at the online conference. Our greatest hope is that from attending CHSMUN 2020, students are encouraged to continue on in Model United Nations and nevertheless, inspired to spark change in their surrounding communities. CHSMUN Novice 2020 will provide a quality experience for beginner delegates to develop their speaking and delegating skills.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us! We look forward to seeing you at CHSMUN Novice 2020!

Sincerely,

Anjali Mani and Karishma Patel

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Secretary-Generals

A Note From The Director

Delegates,

My name is Faith Kim and I'm so excited to be your AU Head Chair! I am currently a senior at Cerritos High School, and this will be my fourth year in MUN. MUN is a class that I have such a big passion for, and throughout the years of me being in the program, I've learned so much and I hope that this conference will also be a learning opportunity for you guys as well! This is the second conference that I have ever chaired for, and I will try my very best to ensure each and everyone of you guys have an amazing and fun experience filled with skilled debate. Outside of MUN, some of my passions are drawing, drinking peach green tea boba, and watching my favorite animes like hunter x hunter, naruto, and fullmetal alchemist. As a MUN delegate myself, I completely understand how nervous or worried you might be before the conference, so please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns! I really look forward to meeting you all on the day of committee!

Sincerely,

Faith Kim

Director, AU

Committee Introduction

The African Union (AU) is the United Nation's continental body which is composed of the 55 member states that reside within the African continent. Officially established in 2002, the AU served to be the successor and continuation of the African Unity (OAU), which was created in 1963 and operated until 1999. Beginning in 1963, the original African body within the UN was the OAU, also known as the Organisation of African Unity. In recognizing Africa as one cohesive body, the OAU was able to allow and cultivate the cooperation between all African States and smaller nations within the continent. In dealing with widespread issues such as risk of apartheid, lingering colonization efforts, and conservation of African heritage and culture, the OAU stayed in operation for over 36 years. In 1999, the Heads of State and Government within the OAU called for the creation of a new and reformed body, which was known to be the African Union (AU). This new body would maintain new and reformed objectives that the previous OAU had not addressed. With this, the AU was founded and officially launched in July in 2002. The primary issues that the AU deals with ranges from humanitarian crises, terrorism prevention, and cultural protections. Although there is no set specialty for this UN body to deal with, the majority of the issues discussed under this cohesive body reflect the largest problems that the continent faces today. The majority of the legislative actions made by the AU are operated under several organs. Heads of State and Government, Legality/Legislative chairs, Economic consultants, and humanitarian delegations are just a few examples of the decision making organs within the AU.

Topic A: Terrorism in West Africa

Background:

For multiple decades, it has been widely known that terrorism within Africa has been one of the longest running and pressing issues within the International Community. Africa's unstable economy, religious turmoil, and lack of political control are just one of the few factors that have been contributing to the rise of terrorism in both large and smaller states. With the rise of extremist groups such as the Al-Qaeda and other militant groups, terrorism within Africa has been raging within the continent since the 1980s. Without the proper infrastructure, economic stability, and governmental systems, terrorism continues to plague the entire continent. Prominent terrorist uprisings began in the 1990s, as West Africa was the most targeted for its weakened economy and political turmoil. At the forefront of these nations was the entirety of West Africa. Having been at the forefront of large extremist groups such as Al-Qaeda and Boko Haram, West African countries such as Nigeria, Mali, and Burkina Faso faced the largest impacts from terrorist attacks. Boko Haram came to be one of the largest terrorist groups that raged in West Africa, as they began to plague countries such as Northeast Nigeria, Northern Cameroon, Niger, Chad, Mali. Over the course of 5 years, Boko Haram continued to be among the top 5 terrorist groups that had contributed to terrorist attacks within the countries situated within the West African area. With an amassed 220 individual terrorist occurrences, the total death toll amounted to over 1,311 deaths and a total of 927 reported injuries. Another well known terrorist group, ISGS has been running rampant within countries such as Somali and Senegal. The ISGS, also known as the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara, has been carrying out terrorist attacks within West Africa, and accounts for over 40% of all combined terrorist incidents within over 10 individual states. With the addition of West Africa's weakened economy, responses to the majority of terrorist threats have been extremely slow. Infrastructure for counter-terrorist measures cost a country an average of 8-10% of its annual amassed GDP. However, within West Africa, such economic power is not available. Therefore, the majority of counter terrorist measures need to be carried out by vigilante groups or citizens within smaller cities. This has led to a large number of casualties since the 2000s, where majority of terrorist groups began to strike within this region. According to the UNODC, over 300,000 West Africans have died in the middle of combat, war, or civil turmoil. With this being the result of multiple uprisings against small terrorist groups, West African governments have been slow to respond to attacks. With government corruption slowing down response times by tenfold, the majority of countries within West Africa are currently at risk of political, economic, and social downfall. However, the issue of terrorism within West Africa is simply not a one faceted issue. The majority of terrorist groups within West Africa have differing motives, with the two main motives being for religious beliefs, and for personal financial gain. Although more well known groups such as ISIS and Al-Qaeda have been known to pursue terrorist attacks for religious reasons, many of the members within these groups often have little to no interest in the religious ties that their leader might have. Often, terrorist groups would recruit people in return for a financial or economic incentive, which within the currently corrupt African nations, is a

sufficient enough reason to join such terrorist groups. Therefore, as a result, without the repair of a solid workforce and access to alternative employment opportunities, the recruitment and growth of terrorist groups will only continue to expand. Furthermore, as West Africa has a large history of weapons, drugs, and human trafficking, these domains have only made it easier for terrorists to flourish within West Africa. Namely, illicit weapons trafficking has been the sole method for the majority of terrorist groups to get access to large sums of weapons, armory, and mass destruction weapons such as bombs. In 2019, it was reported that within all West African borders, over 50,700 weapons were smuggled between borders weekly. This amounts to an annual amount of over 2 million individual weapons parts being smuggled through West Africa. With border security being a low priority for governments, the constant influx of imports of illicit weapons has only projected to worsen the terrorism crisis by several decades. Even without the flow of illicit arms, the continuous acts of money laundering within this region continues to plague governments and countries with economic despair. Money laundering, which is the act of obtaining monetary funds illegally (either through banks, national funds, or other sources of economic outputs) and clearing all tracks of said illicit activity. The World Bank has reported that an average of 4-7% of West Africa's GDP is lost to money laundering. With this, not only are the already weakened funds of West Africa being drained, but that same money is being input into illicit gains for terrorist activity. Lastly, although West Africa is currently not fully technologically developed as first world countries such as the United States and China, West Africa remains at threat of cyberattacks from terrorist groups. Although development is slow, the majority of countries within West Africa have been pushing for the increased use of technological developments for everyday life. From banking to hospital operations, the use of electronically protected and technology-dependent systems are becoming increasingly common. However, this only poses another target for terrorists. SYMANTEC, a cybersecurity joint, has reported that in 2017, an alleged 58 individual cyber terrorist groups had attacked multiple banks and firms within countries such as Ivory Coast and Equatorial Guinea in a set of coordinated attacks. This had led to the shutdown of national banks within 5 countries for 2 weeks, which had resulted in large financial and GDP damage.

United Nations Involvement:

West Africa, Being a country known to be a prominent area for counterterrorism, has made significant efforts in being able to reduce the amount of effects that terrorism is had on the entirety of the continent. the United Nations has made a significant number of attempts in order to curb extremists and prevent the full scale outbreak of increased terrorist motives. In 2013, the UN multidimensional integrated stabilization mission in Mali was created through the Security Council in order to ensure that extremists activities would be able to be constantly stabilized and prioritize civilian safety in times of endangerment. Resolutions such as Resolution 2100, which helped to create the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), allowed for the cohesive cooperation between West African countries to ensure that humanitarian aid would be able to reach those affected by terrorist attacks. Further, similar resolutions such as Resolution 2231 (Expansion of the African Union Mission in Somalia), and Resolution 2164 (Reformation of the AUMS in 2014) have been continuously passed in order to

ensure the safety of the overall citizens within West Africa and prioritize the amount of counterterrorism efforts that emerged even from countries with weakened economies. With the United Nations prioritizing civilian safety & infrastructure on the forefront, multiple resolutions such as Resolution 2164 had been passed in order to ensure that political harmony is able to be prioritized and stabilized. The United Nations continues to prioritize humanitarian crises, as the majority of impacts caused from terrorist attacks have been dealing with areas such as infrastructure and human resources within West Africa. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) has partnered with multiple United Nations legislative blocs such as UNHCR in order to increase the amount of emergency funds that go towards rehabilitating impacted communities. However, even with a constant the United Nations involvement with in terrorism in West Africa, the growth of terrorist attacks only continues to spike, as the creation of resolutions and new cohesive blocs can only do so much.

Bloc Positions:

Western Bloc: Within countries such as the United States, majority of Western Bloc countries have been deploying troops into numerous areas within West Africa in order to prevent spread of terrorism into other influences. However in the past years, as the numbers of terrorist attacks have been increasing in the risk of keeping military troops has been increasing as well, the amount of troops that are being deployed have significantly lessened. Within Europe, countries with direct ties to West African trade sectors such as the UK and 10 of the 12 EU countries, all have contributed to relief efforts in hopes of preserving valuable economic trade value. Similarly to the United States, very minimal military assistance is given, as the majority of efforts made by the Western Bloc are in the form of post-relief and humanitarian aid. West Africa is a very crucial region amid numerous aspects such as trade and economy, therefore prioritizing the safety of the government and citizens as a whole is beneficial to the International Community. In response to this, minimal efforts and steps are being taken in order to mitigate terrorism Within West Africa.

Latin America and Caribbean Bloc: Although Latin America and the Caribbean do not have direct ties to any West African country, maintaining peace within the International Community remains a single objective for many of the countries within the world. Therefore, infrastructure Rehabilitation is one of the biggest priorities that Latin America and the Caribbean focuses on. Considering the fact that Latin America and the Caribbean does not have firm infrastructure structures on its own, giving Aid to countries within West Africa is difficult for economically weekend countries to achieve. However, through the distribution of resources to high crisis areas within West Africa, the majority of help and assistance coming from this bloc is in the form of humanitarian assistance and aid.

African Bloc: Being the forefront of West African terrorism, The African bloc is the most affected in this entire topic. First and foremost, West Africa has devoted the majority of its economy and military power and preventing all attacks from militant and extremist groups.

Although the entirety of damage caused by these terrorist attacks cannot be fully mitigated, efforts made by the countries within West Africa have been able to deflect majority of mass damages caused by West African terrorism. Other areas within Africa may not be fully affected by extremist groups that are centered within West Africa such as Al-Qaeda and Boko Haram, however efforts are still being made in order to maintain the peace of the continent as a whole. Considering how the economic stability of Africa is prone to fluctuation, infrastructure and humanitarian aid is the most common way for this bloc to be able to mitigate damages caused by terrorist attacks. Further seeing as the epicenter of West African terrorism is within this bloc, more specific countermeasures such as border control and legislative reforms are also one of the more common actions taken.

Asian-Pacific Bloc: Similar to The Latin American and Western bloc, the Asian Pacific bloc is not directly affected by West African terrorism. However the instability of Africa as an entire continent continues to affect other countries economically and politically within the International Community. Although direct troops in military help may not be directed to the continent of Africa, West African terrorism does affect the International Community as a whole. Therefore, the Asian-Pacific bloc may be more prone to devoting humanitarian aid and other forms of energy infrastructure help in order to mitigate the effects of West African terrorism on other nations. However in the aspect of money laundering, which is a common way for terrorists within West Africa to receive terrorist financing, the majority of money laundering attacks are linked directly into countries that are residing within Asia. Therefore lockdowns on numerous Asian countries have been promoted in the past in order to ensure that branches of money do not go directly into West African terrorist accounts.

Basic Solutions:

Although terrorism in West Africa is an issue that cannot be resolved without direct legislation and actual involvement within the country, however, solutions can be proposed in order to mitigate and alleviate the effects of terrorism throughout the country. One important factor to know is the fact that majority of terrorism incidents do have motives behind them. With the prevention of these motives the overall prevention of terrorism is possible. Even without ties to the direct motives that the terrorist group might have, being able to make a living is much more important to these individuals. Therefore solutions such as being able to provide an adequate education and job training system to prevent individuals from going into terrorist groups is extremely needed and necessary. Second, even with the adequate training and education of individuals, those who have direct links and motives to these terrorist groups will continue to remain in them. Therefore it is extremely important to provide countermeasures to terrorism, and if possible, prioritize the safety of citizens before anything else. The most common way for terrorists to attack communities is through the use of weapons that are illegally trafficked into the country. Border security is something that is extremely important in the topic of terrorism, seeing as majority of weapons and bombs that are utilized by these terrorist group is smuggled illegally from other countries. Money laundering is the most common way for terrorists to be able to acquire funds in order to maintain economic stability within their own

terrorist groups. Lastly, one of the most important aspects of terrorism within West Africa is the humanitarian crisis that often arises following terrorist attacks. Terrorist attacks are mostly fueled through the use of weapons, bombs, and firearms, and the use of such materials can come out to a deadly cost to communities. By being able to alleviate humanitarian crises that might arise following terrorist attacks, the amount of casualties and injuries that come from the aftermath of terrorist attacks can be alleviated. Currently in West Africa, over 7 million people are currently facing extreme hunger and even more are residing in inhabitable living conditions. Further worsened by the weak state of the West African economy and political turmoil, humanitarian aid is and remains one of the biggest issues caused by terrorism in West Africa.

Questions to Consider:

1. Has your country ever experienced any forms of terrorism in the past? If so, in what ways did they deal with the political, economic, and social impacts that terrorism had brought upon their own country? If terrorism is not a common occurrence in your own country, in what ways does your country prevent acts of terrorism, and how can similar practices be projected onto West Africa and their own situation?
2. How can potential solutions deal with deeper issues rooted within terrorism, such as money laundering, illicit weapons trafficking, and cyber attacks?
3. What previous resolutions has your country adopted in order to prevent terrorism, and can such resolutions be given in a similar way to West Africa to prevent terrorist attacks? How can such resolutions be utilized, and in what ways do they address the concerns and weaknesses of West African countries in the way they deal with terrorism?
4. If terrorism cannot be directly addressed in the present standing, in what ways can the prevention of terrorism be utilized in order to prevent future attacks on other countries within West Africa? What are some other solutions that can be utilized in order to facilitate the prevention of terrorism rather than the direct confrontation of it?
5. What is an example of a safe and efficient way to prevent the humanitarian crisis that comes out of the result of terrorist attacks? How would the solution be feasible given the current economic situation and condition of West Africa?
6. Even with potential solutions, how can such changes be made internally within governments to strengthen aspects such as economic strength, social standings, and political turmoil? How can you ensure that West Africa can become self sufficient in these aspects to prevent and deal with future attacks?

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