

African Union (AU)



Topic A: Terrorism in West Africa

Topic B: HIV/AIDS Crisis in South Africa

Director: Faith Kim

POSITION PAPERS DUE on October 17th by 11:59 pm to Committee Email

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To Delegates of CHSMUN Advanced 2020

Dear Delegates,
Welcome to CHSMUN Advanced 2020!

It is our highest honor and pleasure to welcome you all to our 2020 online advanced 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 advanced 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. With this strong circuit consisting of 6 schools and over 500 delegates, CHSMUN Advanced 2020 will provide a quality experience for intermediate delegates to enhance their speaking and delegating skills.

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

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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.

Case Study: Boko Haram's Influence within West Africa

Boko Haram, formerly known as Jamā'at Ahl as-Sunnah lid-Da'wah wal-Jihād is a terrorist group that originated within the Islamic State in West Africa or the Islamic State's West Africa Province. With their first known attack being in 2003, over 200 armed men began to attack police stations all along the West African coast. Although at this time, West African governments did not divert much attention to this small group, over the course of 8 years, this terrorist organization continued to grow and cause some of the most destructive attacks known to West Africa. With about 6 years of inactivity, Boko Haram had launched their next biggest uprising in Bauchi, spreading out to the cities within Borno in 2009. Although this had led to the loss of over 500 Boko Haram members, with their rates of constant recruitment and endless illicit funds at their disposal, this uprising simply left a lasting impact only on the citizens living within the region. With this attack, Boko Haram became a name that West Africa had begun to fear. Throughout the course of 10 years, Boko Haram had carried out over 550 individual attacks, claiming the lives of over 10,000 lives, while injuring thousands. However, these numbers do not effectively measure the destructive impact that Boko Haram has had on West Africa. Although the number of attacks carried out by Boko Haram had decreased in the past two years, the impact and influence of the group has led to the uprising and creation of other terrorist groups. Further, with continuous technological developments, Boko Haram and similar groups are starting to attack with less numbers, but more force. In 2019, it was reported that the use of drone automated guns and explosives were becoming increasingly common, with Boko Haram at the forefront of the terrorist groups which utilized such methods. Currently, the largest victim to Boko Haram's attacks has been Nigeria, who has been victim to over 200 of the estimated 550 attacks. One of the most well known impacts was the sheer number of humanitarian crises caused by Boko Haram as a whole. Within Nigeria, there are currently and estimated 244,000 refugees that are currently displaced due to terrorist attacks. As Boko Haram has continued to target key infrastructure points such as roads and hospitals, although the death toll has been less than expected, the lasting damage from these attacks has been much more devastating. By 2020,

the Nigerian military, who has been in close partnership with Benin, Cameroon, Chad, and Nigeria's military, has succeeded in pushing out Boko Haram from several areas of territory within Nigeria, yet the terrorist group has continued to occupy scattered areas within the country. Within these disputed areas, many individuals, namely women and children, have been falling victim to suicide attacks and mass shooting committed by the terrorist group.

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 with in West Africa have been able to deflects 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 an actual involvement with in 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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Topic B: HIV/AIDS Crisis in South Africa

Background:

The earliest ever confirmed case of AIDS within South Africa had been in 1959 when a man died from a blood related infection in Kinshasa near the Belgian Congo. Since then, the virus has travelled and killed over 35 million humans in the entire scope of the planet. Primarily within South Africa, the current AIDS and HIV outbreak has reached an all-time high and progress to eradicate this crisis has been slow. With their main method of transportation being through shared rivers, and with medical access and care being extremely scarce, South Africa has become a hotspot for the AIDS and HIV epidemic. HIV is a virus that primarily causes infections within the body, while AIDS is an immunodeficiency syndrome that can occur at any time. However, the risks of contracting AIDS are higher if HIV is already present within a person. According to the UN, since the first confirmed ever case of HIV, over thirty two million people have died of AIDS related illnesses. Now, as of 2020, there are currently 37.9 million people living with HIV. The main reasons as to why South Africa is at the biggest risk and the epicenter of this entire epidemic is due to many underlying conditions. First, South Africa's economy has been very unstable since the 1980s, and there has never been proper health infrastructure set in place in order to bring adequate healthcare and medical services. Accessible sanitation is a scarce commodity, and especially within large cities, shared needles are a constant and leading threat to the spread of this disease. Furthermore, constant civil wars, turmoil, and humanitarian crises have only made the situation much more difficult to handle. Civil wars such as the Soweto uprising were one of the main catalysts to South Africa's plundering economy since the 1980s, and the permanent damage to South Africa's economy has stunted the growth of infrastructure, primarily in the medical and educational domain. Since then, South Africa has yet to recover, and furthermore, corruption within governments has made change extremely slow to come. As of 2018, according to WHO, South Africa has been facing the worst healthcare crisis in the world. With a current ratio of 1 doctor for every 2,457 people, access to health care is often limited, and within remote and rural cities, it is practically impossible to see any certified healthcare provider without large sums of money. Training in South Africa to become a doctor is often extremely expensive, and only those who have already existing connections to the medical industry are often granted access into medical education. This has led to a constant decrease in the number of available medical caregivers within South Africa, and majority of individuals who are sick or have contracted HIV/AIDS simply do not make efforts to seek professional help due to the difficulty and expenses of receiving aid. The biggest concern however, is that HIV and AIDS consistently lowers the amount of individuals that are able to serve within the active workforce. This lack of healthy, able bodied workers has continuously weakened South Africa's economy, and has led to food insecurity, economic instability, and humanitarian crises. With this continuous loop, the workforce continues to be diminished, education becomes scarce, and those who are needed to sustain South Africa's population are constantly declining. As of now, the General Assembly has projected that in the next 10 years, South Africa's population will decline by over 9%, while the ratio of healthy

individuals to AIDS/HIV-infected individuals will only continue to worsen. Furthermore, with the addition of South Africa's current biological, social, and cultural factors, the overall subject of AIDS and HIV has become taboo. Currently, South Africa is the only country in Africa that has legalized same-sex marriage, however, within smaller and rural communities, the lines between governmental legislation and tribal customs becomes blurred. Within larger cities with higher governmental influence, many more people are understanding and tolerant of homosexual relationships, however this behavior has yet to spread to the rural communities of South Africa. With some of the main contractors of HIV and AIDS being young women who become pregnant as teenagers, those in homosexual relationships, and sex workers, the topic of HIV and AIDS is one that has come to be shamed. Due to this, even if individuals suspect contracting HIV or Aids, they tend not to seek any help in fear of rejection or shame within society. According to a report made by WHO in 2019, 30% of all individuals within the world that have HIV or AIDS are currently living within South Africa. Within that 30%, it has been reported that 85% of those individuals do not feel comfortable seeking treatment or reaching out to somebody for help. This constant cultural taboo has only contributed to raising the number of cases and stalling the timing in which individuals can seek help and treatment.

United Nations Involvement:

In response to this crisis, the United Nations has created a multitude of frameworks and coalitions to combat this issue. First, in 1996, the United Nations created the UNAIDS, which is a joint United Nations program on HIV and AIDS. Originally launched with the intention of creating an innovative joint venture for the United Nations body, its main mission is to bring joint efforts throughout the 11 UN system organizations which include the UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, UNFPA, UNODC, the ILO, UNESCO, and WHO. Recently under this body, in 2016, the General Assembly held a high-level meeting on the ending of AIDS, which allowed for the development of the Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS. This Political Declaration outlined a set of targets that were meant to be achieved by 2020 in order to meet some of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that were outlined for 2030. Some of its main targets include reducing the number of new infections of total HIV cases to less than 500,000 per year, and to generate yearly investments from development countries in order to ensure that all individuals have access to antiretroviral therapy and treatment. Currently this declaration is the most active declaration and coalition dedicated to fighting the AIDS and HIV crisis within South Africa. In the UNAIDS, numerous mandates, functions and powers were defined within the Economic and Social Council Resolution of 1994 / 24. It allowed for the coordination of efforts between the UN systems and provided global leaderships fueled by country partnerships, especially within third world countries that have struggled with development. With a firm partnership with ECOSOC, this resolution not only allowed for economic aid to be delivered to countries, but also ensured that proper funds were given directly to healthcare initiatives, rather than to corrupt governments. Furthermore, resolution 60 / 1 (2003) was passed by the General Assembly with a request that the Secretary-General address ways of ensuring that even during humanitarian crises, care and support would be able to be given to those affected by AIDS and HIV. Later, this concern was reiterated through the 2006 Political Declaration on HIV / AIDS,

which ensured that during humanitarian emergencies, allied/affiliated countries would be obligated to provide financial and health support to countries most prone to risk of HIV and AIDS within South Africa.

Case Study: Cape Town's AIDS/HIV Epidemic

Cape town, the capital of South Africa, has been faced with the largest number of HIV/AIDS within the entire country. Being a densely populated city with only a few doctors and medical infrastructure set in place, this environment was largely responsible for the rapid speed in which HIV/AIDS began to spread. Beginning in the 1970s, it was said that water travel (the primary way for South African commuters) was responsible for the spread of viruses, with the most common virus being HIV. Throughout the 1990s, the HIV infection began to lower immune system health throughout over 300,000 individuals, which later would develop into AIDS for 60% of the 300,000. With Cape Town being a hotspot for industries such as sex work and prostitution, by the 2000s, the epidemic of AIDS only worsened. Furthermore, although same-sex marriage had been legalized within South Africa on 4 August 1997, many citizens of the state have yet to overcome the stereotypes and discriminative acts against the LGBTQ community. With 3 in 5 victims of AIDS/HIV within Cape Town being males who are in same sex relationships, the constant stigma against these individuals has only worsened the rates at which those who contract AIDS/HIV are given proper health care access. Teen pregnancy, which also has contributed to increased cases of HIV/AIDS has been reduced by 5% within Cape Town, which although is not a drastic figure, it is a step towards being able to prevent perfectly avoidable cases. As of legislation put in place by Cape Town, little to no governmental aid or intervention has been carried out, as other crises such as the current water crisis and unemployment are the current largest concerns. Therefore, the majority of progress made for HIV/AIDS prevention has been carried out by citizens and other NGOs, such as the Aids Foundation of South Africa has been dedicated to providing health care access to those within South Africa as a whole. By providing necessities such as new and sanitized needles, necessary medications, and prevention education, cases throughout more concentrated cities, such as Cape Town, have seen decreased numbers of HIV/AIDS victims. With many other NGOs providing similar care Cape Town, even with its high number of cases, has been able to slightly flatten the curve and reduce avoidable deaths.

Bloc Positions:

Western Bloc: Within the Western Bloc, the United States and countries within Europe do have a constant amount of HIV/AIDS cases. However, seeing as they are firmly developed countries both economically and politically, it is not an issue for them to be able to eradicate large outbreaks. Seeing as countries within Europe and the United States as a whole are strongly developed countries within the sector of healthcare, even if there were to be large HIV and AIDS outbreaks, access to proper healthcare and services is rapidly available and accessible.

In terms of aid for South Africa within the HIV/AIDS crisis, the entirety of the Western Bloc is not deeply immersed within relations to provide active health care services or immense economical aid. However, with both the United States and Europe being a part of the UNAIDS body, both of these nations have been sending periodic financial aid and health care assistance to South Africa.

Latin America and Caribbean Bloc: Similarly to South Africa, the Latin American Bloc along with the Caribbean has a significantly weaker economy in comparison to other blocs. However, unlike the concentrated epidemic crises of South Africa, the Latin American and Caribbean block currently has a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS cases within select and certain groups. An estimated 2.4 million individuals are currently living with HIV within Latin America, and over 70% of those individuals do not have access to proper care or antiretroviral treatment. Furthermore, the current stigma and violence against HIV positive individuals has been hindering growth within this bloc, and has been a significant barrier in the rehabilitation of its victims. In response to the South African crises, seeing as the majority of the countries within Latin America and the Caribbean do not have the proper economic funds to sustain mass developments, aid is often limited in this bloc.

African Bloc: Within the African bloc, the current AIDS / HIV crisis is at the all-time high. Due to this, the amount of economic and social infrastructure that is being dedicated to the eradication of this crisis is very large. Being the single continent where the most HIV and AIDS cases are centered around, the African block is the bloc that has the biggest role in ensuring that the current crisis can be eradicated. Although the current economy within South Africa is extremely unstable, numerous programs and body organs such as the UNAIDS are currently working with numerous sectors to ensure that the current crisis can be resolved. In terms of health infrastructure projects, the African bloc is currently dedicating over 2.8% of its total amassed GDP towards rehabilitation projects for the treatment and diagnosis for AIDS/HIV affected individuals.

Asian-Pacific Bloc: Within the Asian Pacific bloc, the Southeast Asian region is currently the region with the most cases of HIV and AIDS positive individuals. With a total number of 3.5 million people currently living with HIV, combating this issue remains the top priority within this block. Seeing as some regions within this bloc are already highly developed, other underdeveloped and third world countries still remain with a large threat of accessibility to healthcare measures and potential treatment in case of contracting HIV/AIDS. Seeing as stigma against HIV / AIDS patients is still rampant in many Asian countries, many individuals that are infected are still shunned from being able to receive any treatment or support. Even more appalling, some countries are currently enforcing laws that prevent key affected populations and targeted demographics from being able to access services which further creates a higher risk for HIV/ AIDS to spread.

Basic Solutions:

In order to avert this crisis, multiple aspects of this problem must be addressed. First, the lack of economic stability within the South African region must be eradicated before any potential moves of creating more medical infrastructure can be carried out. Seeing as the current economic crisis is further fueled by in-country wars and civil conflicts, the eradication of HIV and AIDS has been slow to be carried out. One of the most important aspects is the lack of access to healthcare, especially within poorer regions. Countries with corrupt governments are often lacking in the proper infrastructure funds that are necessary to provide research and access to adequate healthcare, especially those who are affected by AIDS / HIV. Being able to provide remote healthcare access should be a top priority, and ensuring that funds that are circulating within governments should be handled appropriately, while ensuring no corruption occurs. Economically, countries that are not strong financially tend to have poorer living conditions, which contributes to the spread of disease. Lack of funding also leads to a lack of medical supplies and access, resulting in the sharing of needles which is one of the most primary ways that HIV/AIDS is spread. By ensuring proper fiscal responsibility in each country, being able to find adequate Medical Services would be much more accessible and living situations can be relieved. Lastly, the stigma behind HIV / AIDS victims must be eradicated before any significant progress can occur. Seeing as the majority of HIV / AIDS victims are those are either under age, in same-sex relationships, or in the sexually affiliated work industry, those who are often victims of HIV and AIDS are not able to go receive discreet care and health care assistance without being shunned. Due to certain cultural practices and religious beliefs, those who are victims of AIDS / HIV are often seen as “unclean” and giving priority to their health care is not prioritized. In finding ways to eradicate this cultural difference/stigma while respecting cultural boundaries, it can ensure that HIV/AIDS victims will be more comfortable receiving and allocating care to themselves. This is extremely important, as those who do not receive the proper care for their illnesses will only continue to further spread it, and the constant ratio of those who are unaffected and affected will only continue to increase.

Questions to Consider:

1. How has your country been impacted by AIDS/HIV? If they have had previous outbreaks in the past, in what ways did they address it to ensure that proper actions were taken? Can similar actions be taken within South Africa to relieve their crisis?
2. How will you be able to address the current cultural and religious taboos against AIDS/HIV alike? How can you ensure that your country does not overstep boundaries while being able to provide adequate care and services?
3. Given the current economic state of South Africa, are there any solutions that can be applied without too much economic damage? If so, what solutions can be used, and if possible, could they potentially alleviate economic struggles as well?
4. How can your country address the current crisis of a diminishing workforce and the number of healthy individuals within South Africa continues to decrease? In what ways or what solution can be applied to this situation?

5. Even with adequate measures of giving treatment to individuals who have been affected with HIV/AIDS, what kind of countermeasures or prevention measures can be put in place to ensure that future generations will not have to go through the same crisis? Are there, if any, proper measures to ensure that outbreaks such as these do not happen in the first place?
6. How has ongoing humanitarian crises contributed to worsening conditions in which HIV/AIDS is spread? How can your country come up with solutions to ensure that treatment and adequate access to healthcare can be distributed even in the midst of civil wars and conflicts throughout South Africa?

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