

TORONTO MODEL UNITED NATIONS II

AFRICAN UNION

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Director's Letter

Hello Delegates,

Welcome to the African Union committee for TMUN 2024! My name is Claire Jie, and I will be your Director and chair for this committee! I am currently a grade 9 student at St. Robert CHS. I have had the opportunity and privilege to compete and win on the local and international level, as well as in the Ivy League. As your director, I look forward to facilitating high-quality debate, amicable solutions, and creative ideas. As your chair, I hope to create an environment full of endless opportunities and excitement that may be carried onto you.

I believe a committee of the African Union will allow students participating to exercise key Model United Nations skills and negotiating abilities that will stay with them for a lifetime. I hope the students can experience compromise while retaining the foreign policy. To be respectful, but critical when necessary, and understand the African Union by looking at it from different perspectives. In today's world, where much of the African continent has been historically silenced but finally able to express and voice their opinions; it is more important than ever to listen to the discussions of the AU and more important than ever to be participating in those discussions.

This background guide has been created to provide you with all the necessary information and context on our topics. Delegates will represent an African country and achieve the African Union's visions whilst going against the threats and external pressures of the world. I encourage delegates to research beyond what is presented to truly grasp the knowledge required to enhance overall performance. Achieving the goal of the African Union is no easy task, and there may be many setbacks along the way. In this committee, we will be discussing the issues preventing Economic development in Africa as well as the 2021 Malian coup d'etat.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you who will be joining us. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. My contact email is Clairejjie.canada@gmail.com. Finally, whether this is a first experience or just another Model UN day for you, I wish you luck and I look forward to seeing you all soon!

Sincerely,
Claire Jie
Director | African Union
Toronto Model United Nations 2024

Content Warning

Although we want all students to be comfortable and understand that everyone has different perspectives on a certain topic, we would ask the delegates to refrain from personal opinions but rather represent their countries' viewpoints with diplomacy. As well, fake accents are considered inappropriate and will not be permitted. Additionally, cheating by pre-writing speeches, resolutions, as well as the use of AI (ex. ChatGPT), is prohibited. Finally, delegates should refrain from personal insults and remarks as the committee will not tolerate such behaviour.

Position Papers

For this committee, as it is a General Assembly, position papers will be required to be submitted by March 21st to be eligible for awards. Delegates are strongly encouraged to be creative with their Resolutions as well as to follow basic guidelines. More information will be provided in the form of an email and on the official Toronto MUN website.

Terms and Abbreviations

AU- African Union

OAU - The Organization of African Unity

PSC - Peace and Security Council

EU - European Union

ECOWAS - Economic Community of West African States

CNSP - formation of the National Committee for the Salvation of the People

MINUSMA - The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali

RECS - Regional Economic Communities

Ethno-linguistic - A study of the relations between linguistic and nonlinguistic cultural behaviour ¹

Socio-economic - Relating to or concerned with the interaction of social and economic factors.

Coup d'état - A coup d'état is a violent overthrow or alternation of an existing government. ²

Colony - A country or area controlled politically by a more powerful country.

Military Junta - A military government that has taken power by force, and not through elections ³

Interim President - The First Vice-President replacing a President who is not able to serve

Transitional Period - A temporary state, until a permanent solution is established; things are changing from one state to another ⁴

¹ <https://www.merriam-webster.com/>

² Ibid.

³ <https://www.collinsdictionary.com/>

⁴ Ibid.

Constitutional Court - The Constitutional Court is the highest court in the country when it comes to the interpretation, protection and enforcement of the Constitution⁵

Decree - Official order or decision, typically one made by the ruler of a country

RECS - Regional Economic Communities

Insurgencies - A condition of revolt against a government that is less than an organized revolution and that is not recognized as belligerency.⁶

⁵ <https://www.concourt.org.za/index.php/about-us/role>

⁶ Ibid.

Committee Overview



(Delegates attend the opening session of the 33rd African Union (AU) Summit at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Sunday, Feb. 9, 2020. (AP Photo))

The African Union (AU) is a continental body established on July 26, 2001, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and launched officially in Durban, South Africa, in 2002 as the successor to the “Organization of African Unity”. It consists of the 55 member states which make up the countries of the African Continent. The union focuses on the promotion of unity and solidarity of African states, economic development, and promoting international cooperation. Its primary goal is to drive Africa’s financial advancement and the continent’s development.⁷

Its predecessor, the OAU, was focused on decolonization and ensuring territorial sovereignty, but as time went on, the African Continent required a new organisation with a focal point on strengthening the continent. Amid political crises in Ethiopia and Nigeria, the lack of response from the OAU created a sense of distrust among the African people. They questioned aspects regarding the

⁷ <https://www.britannica.com/topic/African-Union>

committee's effectiveness. The leaders of the African states agreed to change the OAU as the states became more autonomous.

Soon, the African Union was born in July 2002 in Durban, South Africa and headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. It works closely with other policy makers such as policies with those of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). Its motto “An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa” has henceforth been the guiding principle for the organisation—to this day—sums up the message it wishes to spread to the world. It is guided by the vision, and the work of the AU is implemented through several principal decision-making organs.⁸ These include the Peace and Security Council (PSC) or the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs), Assembly of Heads of State and Government; Executive Council; Permanent Representatives Committee and the African Union Commission.

The AU was developed with a similar idea to the European Union (EU) and has different departments. These include:⁹

- Peace and Security;
- Political Affairs;
- Trade and Industry;
- Infrastructure and Energy;
- Social Affairs;
- Rural Economy and Agriculture;
- Human Resources;
- Science, and Technology;
- Economic Affairs;

The founding charter mandates the AU to work on “democracy, human rights and development”. The AU gave support for development endeavours in the continent and sent peacekeepers to resolve conflicts throughout Africa.

⁸ Ibid.

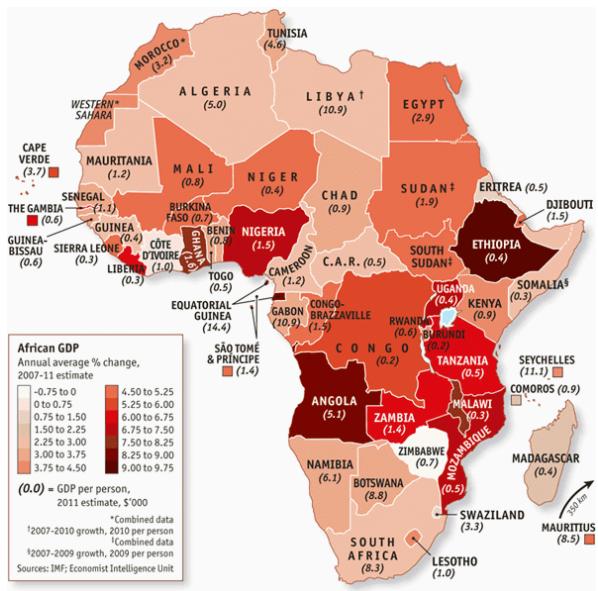
⁹ Ibid.

The African Union works to achieve Agenda 2063, and has instituted numerous reforms to boost Africa's economic growth and development and led to the rapid transformation of the continent through key "flagship programmes" in which the Agenda identifies.¹⁰ Agenda 2063 was proposed as one of the strategic frameworks of long-term transformation in the socio-economic sector of Africa. Today, the African Union has taken on the role as a mediator for all of Africa. The Union settles border disputes, prevents political catastrophes, and overall has done an impressive job of promoting solidarity and unity among the African Continent.

Topic A: Economic Development in Africa

Introduction

Africa is home to one of the world's fastest-growing populations and only continues to grow its Economy. The continent is rich in natural resources, and economic development should—more than ever—be one of the focal points of the African nations.¹¹ The continent holds at least a fifth of the world's natural resource reserves. These include a dozen metals critical for the energy transition, as well as raw materials usually exported overseas for manufacturing.



History

For much of the 15th century until today, trade between Europeans and Africans—both forced and voluntary—has left Africa in bad shape compared to its foreign counterparts. Africa was looked down upon due to racism, stereotypes, and other harmful opinions.¹² Wars fought over the transatlantic and Arab slave trade during the end of the 18th as well as the beginning of the 19th

¹⁰ <https://au.int/en>

¹¹<https://www.mckinsey.com/mgi/our-research/reimagining-economic-growth-in-africa-turning-diversity-into-opportunity>

¹² <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/sep/08/european-racism-africa-slavery>

century, rattled the political climate of the region, causing instability and disunity. Put simply, the international trade relationships between much of the West and Africa were overwhelmingly negative.

These situations combined with oppression and extractive colonial systems makes it hard to truly compare Africa's economic development with other regions of the world fairly and without prejudice. While the rest of the world's economy grew at stable annual rates, Africa's growth has often been in the negatives, especially in the 1970s to mid-1990s.¹³

As well, Africa faces many challenges due to its geographic location. The continent has a larger fraction of landlocked countries compared to others and a higher fraction of area in tropical latitudes. Problems that typically arise in tropical areas include disease, bad soil quality, and a higher dependence on natural resources. There has also been and continues to be ethnolinguistic fractionalization, but this has greatly improved over the years. As the world has advanced, these views dimmed down and Africa was finally able to speak out about the damage caused over the years to its countries as well as overcome natural difficulties.¹⁴

Although many aid programs have been conducted, most have not helped much, and it was decided new initiatives were needed, such as focusing on economic growth in Africa. To achieve this, African nations made reforms and passed laws leading to major improvements in economic governance. Improvements were made in basic infrastructure, and African countries made tremendous progress in reducing regional income inequality.

Current Situation

Today, Africa is set to outperform the rest of the world in economic growth. More than $\frac{2}{3}$ of the continent has registered overall improvement in the quality of economic governance in recent years. Despite facing significant pushback and criticism due to global socio-economic shocks, Africa has continued to persevere.¹⁵ However, there are still questions about the sustainability of economic

¹³

<https://www.afdb.org/fr/news-and-events/africa-is-now-the-fastest-growing-continent-in-the-world-12107#~text=The%20report%20just%20published%2C%20says,major%20improvement%20in%20economic%20governance.>

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ <https://unctad.org/publication/economic-development-africa-report-2023>

development and Africa's need to export everything, losing revenue in the process. Additionally, the inadequate infrastructure in many regions remains a major constraint to the continent's development.

However, the situation is much more complicated than what meets the eye, and countries have realised that their economy needs to be based on more than the provision of basic raw materials. Opportunities in African countries should be carefully approached to avoid situations where inherent challenges in linking African businesses to the rest of the world aren't addressed. African economies can become major participants in global supply chains by harnessing their vast resources of materials through high-value global supply policies and contracts. All are desperately required by the rest of the world to advance their growing consumer markets.¹⁶

Case study: Fair Chain Movement



For centuries, there has been a pattern of exporting cheap raw materials to richer countries that use them to manufacture valuable finished goods. As mentioned prior, much of the African continent is full of resource-rich countries such as Ghana or the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The countries only mine the raw materials, and export them, consequently, these countries are often

¹⁶ <https://www.nber.org/digest/jan04/economic-decline-africa>]

cut out of lucrative parts of the business like manufacturing. By adding other cheap ingredients to cocoa, chocolate is created, and the mark-up is huge. On average, cocoa farmers earn just 6% of the final value of a bar of chocolate.¹⁷ Millions of cocoa farmers work extremely hard under gruelling conditions, yet do not earn a living income and have never even tasted the final product of chocolate.

As rich corporations in the Global North keep getting richer, the countries providing the raw materials stay the same. The fair chain movement, however, makes it so that the entire production process of goods stays in the country of origin of the raw materials.¹⁸ By purchasing directly, producing, and packaging in the country of origin, 600-800% more value is retained within the nation's borders.¹⁹ This case study is a small snippet and one aspect of what could potentially aid Africa's economic growth greatly. They have in a way revolutionized the market by prioritizing workers' rights, which are regularly neglected. Workers receive four times the minimum wage as well as health insurance that not only applies to them but their families as well.²⁰

Long-term growth and the expansion of African economies is difficult to achieve and by continuously outsourcing work, it becomes nearly impossible to diversify Africa's economy and ensure sustainable development. Many nations are in debt from years of excessive government spending and borrowing, as well as issues pertaining to currency such as hyperinflation. However, governments have been able to make some progress. Ghana has raised the minimum price of cocoa and along with the Ivory Coast, accounts for 60 percent of the world cocoa market.²¹ This has led to economic growth in the country, with farmers being able to gain more profits.

¹⁷ <https://fairtrade.ca/>

¹⁸

<https://www.nytimes.com/2023/09/28/business/economy/ghana-cocoa-fairafrik.html#:~:text=Reimers's%20goal%20is%20aligned%20with,small%20investors%20in%20Ghana.>

¹⁹ <https://frankabouttea.com/en/blogs/featured/fairtrade-of-fairchain-wat-is-wat>

²⁰ <https://fairafrik.com/en/pages/fairchain>

²¹ <https://www.borgenmagazine.com/ghanas-cocoa-industry/>



Guiding Questions

1. What specific challenges do you think Africa faces compared to other places?
2. What is not implemented in Africa that can help encourage Africa growth?
3. What responsibilities do African countries have that need to be taken into account?
4. Are there policies that may be counterproductive?

Topic B: 2021 Malian Coup D'Etat

Introduction



(Map of Coups in West Africa)

Mali had two coups in 2020 and 2021 respectively, the first of which ousted President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita on August 18, 2020, and was led by Colonel Assimi Goïta. The second coup d'état began on the night of 24 May 2021 when the Malian Army led by Vice President Assimi Goïta captured President Bah N'daw. It was the country's third coup d'état in ten years, following the 2012 and 2020 military takeovers.²² In the 2021 Malian coup d'état, armed forces arrested Mali's transitional president Bah Ndaw and prime minister Moctar Ouane in a "coup within a coup".²³ Following the announcement of a cabinet reshuffle and the appointment of a new government, (the composition of which had been bitterly negotiated for more than a week), Malian army officers were angry.

²²

<https://arabcenterdc.org/resource/the-coups-detat-of-the-sahel-region-domestic-causes-and-international-competition/>

²³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2021_Malian_coup_d%27%C3%A9tat

History



As mentioned before, the 2021 coup wasn't the first one that had happened in Mali. President Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta was removed from power by a group of military officers in a coup 9 months prior.²⁴ In the early hours of August 18, armoured tanks and military vehicles were seen on the streets of a garrison town 15 kilometres from the capital. The president along with Prime Minister Boubou Cissé were arrested, and shortly after midnight, Keïta (whose term was set to expire in 2023) announced his resignation. The president had been essentially ousted and was accused of failing to address the deteriorating security situation and of widespread corruption. Of the \$79 million in U.S. foreign development assistance Mali received in 2020, only 1 percent went to democracy, human rights, and governance.²⁵

Soon after the resignation of President Keïta, on behalf of the military officers, Wagué announced the CNSP (formation of the National Committee for the Salvation of the People).²⁶ They pledged to restore stability and oversee a transitional period until elections were held within a

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ <https://www.usip.org/publications/2021/12/after-two-coups-mali-needs-regional-support-bolster-democracy>

²⁶ Ibid.

“reasonable” timeframe. On August 22, a key meeting between Mali’s coup leaders and ECOWAS mediators seeking a return to civilian rule ended after just 20 minutes.²⁷ However, the military junta was swiftly forced to accept the formation of a transitional government that wasn’t CNSP after pressure from the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union. The African Union and ECOWAS as well as the international community condemned the coup and the CNSP, preventing them from becoming the transitional government.²⁸

Soon, former defence minister, Colonel Bah Ndaw, became head of state on September 25, 2020. However, he quickly found himself against the military that maintained its influence in the country. There were months of unrest in Mali following irregularities in the March and April parliamentary elections. After the next cabinet reshuffle, Colonels Sadio Camara and Modibo Koné, (respectively the ministers of defence and security) lost their positions. On 14 May, the government announced plans for a new, “broad-based” cabinet. This is because the opposition M5 movement came into play, who had previously spearheaded the 2020 Malian protests against Keïta and now publicly called for the interim government to be dissolved. They wished for the government to be replaced with a “more legitimate” one. Although the military was able to keep the strategic portfolios it controlled during the previous administration in the reshuffle.²⁹ Other problems arose as the two national guard officers were also leading members of CNSP, the group behind the 18 August 2020 coup d’état. The CNSP finally officially dissolved in January 2021.³⁰

Still, there was tension amongst the members and on 24 May, the interim president Bah N’Daw, his prime minister, Moctar Ouane, and several other Malian officials were arrested and taken to the Kati military camp near the capital Bamako. Following that, Goïta announced that N’daw and Ouane were stripped of their powers because they tried to “sabotage” the transition, which Goïta said would “proceed as normally” and that scheduled elections will be held in 2022 in a public television statement.³¹

²⁷ <https://www.fpri.org/article/2023/01/a-deeper-look-into-the-west-african-coup-wave/>

²⁸ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/25/timeline-what-happened-in-mali-since-a-military-coup-in-august>

²⁹ <https://www.france24.com/en/africa/20210524-mali-soldiers-arrest-president-prime-minister-after-govt-reshuffle>

³⁰ Ibid

³¹ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/25/timeline-what-happened-in-mali-since-a-military-coup-in-august>

He believed that as a vice president in the interim, he should have been consulted on the cabinet shuffle (in which two soldiers affiliated with high rankings in the CNSP which he led had their positions lost). He stated that it was a breach of the transitional charter. Goïta then became head of the transitional authority and head of state following a decision by the Constitutional Court on May 28, 2021. However, these elections never came as on 7 June 2022, it was announced that the transition to democracy would be delayed for another 2 years. Colonel Assimi Goïta who was still the interim president, signed a decree prolonging the military rule.

Current Situation



(Malian troops taking part in the Bastille Day 2013 military parade on the Champs-Élysées in Paris.)³²

After the whole ordeal, on 25 May, former Nigerian President “Goodluck Jonathan” of ECOWAS began to lead mediation efforts with Mali’s military. After years of internal disputes and conflicts, data finds that 75 percent of Malians prefer democracy.³³ Malians are so exhausted with instability and graft, that they have turned to leaders from the military. Filled with corruption and

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

barely scratching the surface when addressing the country's longstanding challenges, On 28 May, Mali's constitutional court named Goïta the country's transitional president.

While in the past, the previous coup was met with a weak response from the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). ECOWAS's more heavy-handed response to the second coup increased popular support for the junta. After Goïta's swearing-in ceremony was held on 7 June in Bamako, Goïta indeed named Choguel Kokalla Maïga, a leader of the M5 movement and former government minister, as the interim prime minister of Mali's transitional government. After the coup and overthrow, many nations such as France deeply condemned the August 2020 overthrow of Mali's democratically elected president, Ibrahim Boubacar Keita. Following the second coup and Goïta firing the country's interim civilian leaders and becoming president himself, disagreements with the rest of the world have only continued to grow.³⁴

Though the military initially pledged to return power to civilians by February 2022, there was no update as it failed to organize elections by the deadline. Since then, the government said it would need two more years in power before it could organize a vote, incurring regional sanctions. Nations throughout the rest of Africa and countries all over the world have been affected in a butterfly effect and bubbling under the surface is a problem that will arise sooner than ever, harming Malian citizens and more.³⁵ Whether the ouster could be deemed necessary or not, it alone will not fix Mali's profound political, economic, and security challenges. Problems caused by the failure of government such as international relations, lack of infrastructure, education, and health care continue to exist in the country as well as throughout Africa.³⁶

³⁴

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2020_Malian_coup_d

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Ibid.

Subtopic: UN Peacekeeping Missions



Starting from the first Mali coup-d'etat ever: Resolution 2100 marks the start of the UN peacekeeping mission: MINUSMA (The United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali) following the coup d'etat that happened in 2012.³⁷ The UN peacekeepers have been in Mali for over 10 years and are finally returning. More than 15,000 troops were deployed and unfortunately, around 180 soldiers have passed away in this mission.³⁸

However, Mali is still struggling over military control. Due to the end of MINUSMA right after another coup d'etat, the withdrawal of the forces has caused some chaos within the country.³⁹ Whether that is burning down the weapons to not let them get into the wrong hands, or the already overtaken UN military bases that are now in possession by the Al Qaeda fighters and Taric rebels.⁴⁰ It is pretty clear to see that the problem in Mali is far from resolved and new solutions are needed urgently.

³⁷ <https://2001-2009.state.gov/p/io/pkpg/c10834.htm>

³⁸ <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/minusma>

³⁹ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/12/11/un-peacekeeping-mission-in-mali-officially-ends-after-10-years>

⁴⁰ Ibid.

The Bigger Picture



Former Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan, second left, is leading negotiations for the ECOWAS delegation following the latest coup in Mali⁴¹

Regions all over Africa have followed Malian's lead, and military coups have started to be put into discussion now more than ever.

Guinea,

In turn of what many consider the “positive outcomes” of the coups that have happened in Mali, Guinea had a coup of its own on September 5, 2021. It was led by Colonel Mamady Doumbouya. The country had been ruled for 11 years under President Alpha Condé, who controlled all and every aspect of the state.⁴² It was declared that the ousted Condé had been responsible for the rampant corruption going on within the government, disregard for human rights of citizens, and finally economic mismanagement.

⁴¹ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/5/25/timeline-what-happened-in-mali-since-a-military-coup-in-august>

⁴² Ibid.

Niger

In 2011, the country embarked on a democratic transition by organizing three elections, congruent with former President Mahamadou Issoufou's. Furthermore, the country was surrounded by neighbouring countries struggling with conflicts that would have reversed all necessary improvements such as insurgencies, and extremism.⁴³

His commitment put Niger on the road to democracy. After a decade of relatively stable progress toward democracy, suddenly the government was taken over and the formally democratically elected president (Mohamed Bazoum) was deposed. They did this under the pretext of the erosion of security in the country.

Gabon

But the series of coups spanning across West Africa doesn't stop there. Recently, army officers on August 30, 2023, seized power and ended the control of the Bongo family. The family had governed since independence for more than 55 years and had close relations with France. This seemed to be due to the results of the presidential election less than a day before the coup took place, where President Bongo won his third term in office.⁴⁴

The coup appointed Commander of the Republican Guard General “Brice Clotaire Oligui Nguema” as interim president in the transitional period. The army in turn took advantage of the tension of people who weren't happy with the election and ousted the president. The former president Ali Bongo was then placed under house arrest promptly and the coup arrested his son Noureddine for high treason as well.⁴⁵

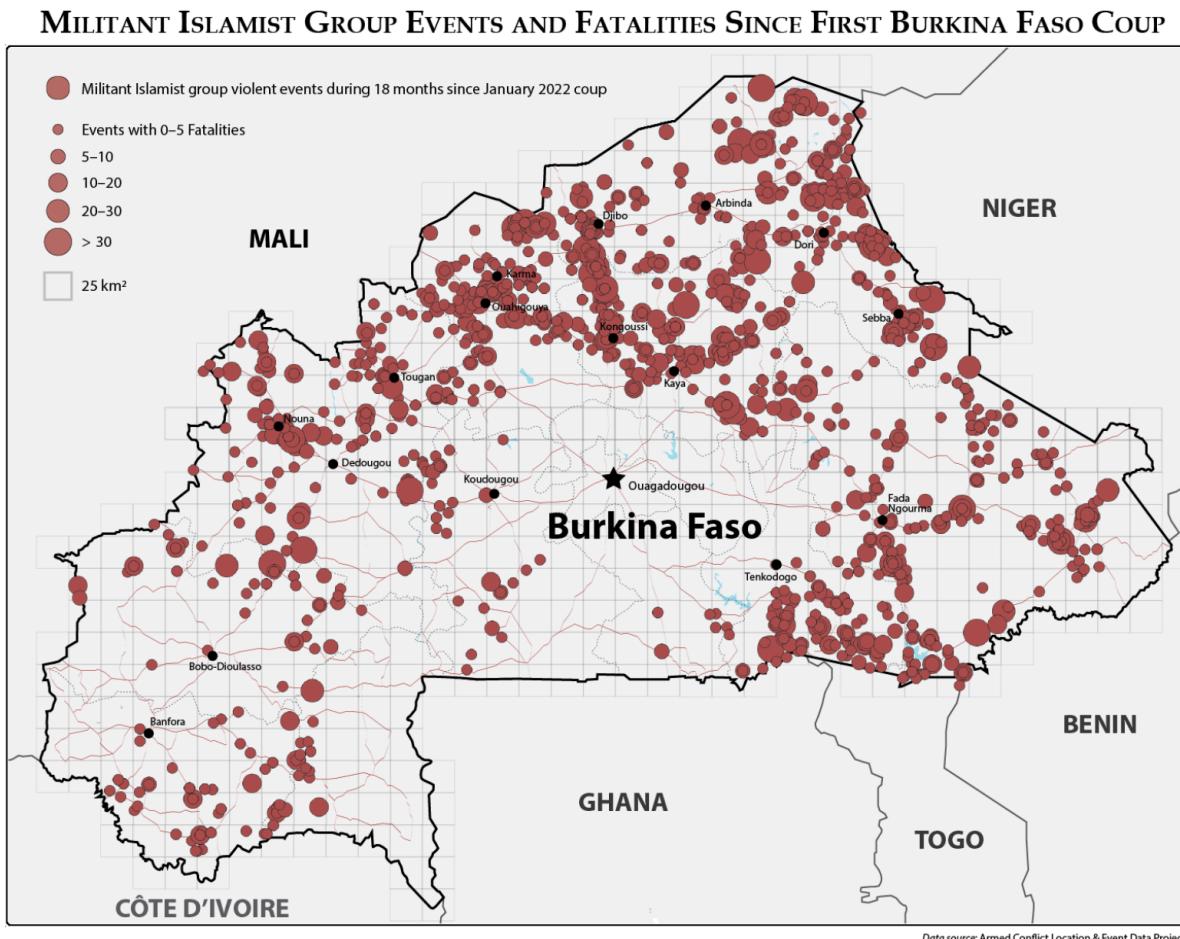
⁴³

<https://arabcenterdc.org/resource/the-coups-detat-of-the-sahel-region-domestic-causes-and-international-competition/>

⁴⁴<https://news.un.org/en/story/2023/12/1145207#:~:text=The%20UN%20Multidimensional%20Integrated%20Stabilization,a%20subsequent%20military%2Dled%20coup.>

⁴⁵ Ibid.

Case study: Burkina Faso



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A process of similar stature took place in Burkina Faso. Much like the Mali coups (exempting the 2012 incident recently discussed) Burkina Faso had two coups. Originating in Mali, militant Islamist groups threaten an increasing number of communities throughout Burkina Faso, this has greatly shifted the epicentre of violence in the Sahel in the past few years. The first coup happened in January 2022 in which Lieutenant Colonel Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba detained President-elect Roch Marc Christian Kaboré.⁴⁷ The president was blamed and held responsible for the failure to confront insurgent movements in the country, as well as oppressive military moves. However, Sandaogo Damiba was removed from power in another coup by 34-year-old Captain Ibrahim Traore.

⁴⁶ <https://africacenter.org/spotlight/burkina-faso-crisis-continues-to-spiral/>

⁴⁷ Ibid.

After Ibrahim Traore went into power in September 2022, the number of civilians killed by the military or VDP since the January 2022 coup has more than tripled. There were more than 762 fatalities, a great influx in deaths compared to just 18 months before the coup. Ibrahim Traore has since then made many speeches, which were overall very well received in Burkina Faso and neighbouring countries.⁴⁸ However, this doesn't erase the past. Over the last five years, terrorists are estimated to have gained control of up to 40 percent of Burkina Faso's territory, leading to 2,500 closed schools and over one million internally displaced persons. Issues of neocolonialism and imperialism were brought up along with discussions on democracy and an economic future, but have yet to be solved nor acted upon.⁴⁹

Subtopic: Constitutional Coups

Constitutional coups are defined as coups that are created to lead to change in the regime or government unconstitutionally. This entails the removal of the legitimate government, regardless of the party implementing them. The coup is often not backed by the support of the public and their replacement is conducted with illegal authority, bypassing the popular approval of democratic institutions.⁵⁰ Many examples of this have happened throughout the past in the continent of Africa and have yet to be brought to light or addressed as a focal point in many situations and countries. One of the many examples of this situation is the mid-2021 coup presented in Tunisia.⁵¹ President Kais Saied led a campaign against constitutional institutions and suspended parliament.

Following that, immunity was lifted from representatives. Saied proceeded to remove the government of Prime Minister Hichem Mechichi and began to run state affairs through presidential decrees, in the plan to dissolve parliament. This example of constitutional coupons shows the negative impacts it has, a government a decade in the making was essentially usurped overnight. Constitutional coups highlight the many problems many current regions in Africa are not immune to and may be affected in the future by.⁵²

⁴⁸ <https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15341.doc.htm>

⁴⁹ <https://www.usip.org/publications/2021/12/after-two-coups-mali-needs-regional-support-bolster-democracy>

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

Conclusion



Although the phenomenon of coups declined at the beginning of the twenty-first century, it has seen a resurgence in the last three years, especially in the African Continent and regions facing internal conflicts.⁵³ The political conditions discussed in Mali, Guinea, and Burkina Faso are closely related to each country's turbulent past and present. All coup leaders have stated amidst their changes that their motives were related to the deterioration of security and the spread of corruption. They pointed out and put most responsibility on their respective armies, expecting them to make necessary changes in governance. The Mali coup is just one of the many examples of coups, as well as one that led to something similar to a domino effect.

With negatively perceived presidents that do avoid these issues and allow them to spiral, citizens are more open than ever to these coups that may potentially harm thousands of lives, as presented in the case study. Even African countries that had successful military coups share similar accusations of an underdeveloped security system, economic failures and widespread corruption directed at democratically elected governments.⁵⁴ Mali and other regions have severe regional conflict raging throughout the continent and are in a dangerous loop of instability.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴

<https://monitor.civicus.org/explore/malis-military-coup-within-coup-no-elections-february-2021-journalist-abducted/>

Guiding Questions

1. What are some causes of coups in the first place?
2. What are the similarities and differences presented in the coups that have happened in the last decade on the African Continent?
3. What are some international players in these conflicts that delegates may want to keep in mind?
4. What are some recent takeovers in western Africa that can be used to develop creative solutions to deal with the current situation, prevention in the future, and other problems?

Next Steps

In this committee, delegates will be tasked with trying to find an amicable solution to the conflicts of the Mali coup d'etat (and overall coup issues throughout the African Continent) as well as advancing economic development as elaborated clearly in the background guide. It would not be appropriate for any delegate to simply state that they can fund all projects, as that is not how it works in the real world. Instead, delegates are encouraged to keep in mind and take into consideration what was discussed in the past and are heavily encouraged to bring in new and unique solutions.

Participating Countries

Central Africa:

1. Republic of Burundi
2. Republic of Cameroon
3. Republic of Chad
4. Gabonese Republic

Eastern Africa:

5. Union of the Comoros
6. State of Eritrea
7. Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
8. Republic of Kenya
9. Republic of Rwanda
10. Federal Republic of Somalia
11. United Republic of Tanzania

Northern Africa:

12. People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
13. Arab Republic of Egypt
14. Libya
15. Kingdom of Morocco
16. Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic
17. Republic of Tunisia

Southern Africa:

18. Republic of Botswana
19. Kingdom of Eswatini
20. Republic of Mozambique
21. Republic of Zambia

Western Africa

22. Republic of Benin
23. Burkina Faso
24. Republic of Ghana
25. Republic of Guinea
26. Republic of Liberia
27. Republic of Mali
28. Republic of Niger

29. Federal Republic of Nigeria
30. Republic of Senegal

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