**Team 3: Podoso (The External Kin of the Bongomians)**

Name: Podoso

Regime type: Democracy

Material capability: Same with Ruritania

Population: 45 million

People of *Podoso* share the same ethnic origins with the *Bongomians* in *Ruritania*. *Bongomians* are at risk of being repressed by the government of *Ruritania*. The polls show that majority of your constituency think that you should do something to protect the *Bongomians*. However, you do not want to jeopardize your relationship with Ruritania because of your strong economic partnership. Hence, in the first rounds, you only observe the developments.

First Round:

In the first round, you start with an internal cabinet meeting in which you decide your policy options in general.

* What will be your policy if the crisis escalates?
* Will you support the *Bongomians* if they resist government repression?
* What kind of support you would provide (diplomatic, economic, military)?
* How would this support affect your relationship with *Ruritania*?
* Would you risk a militarized interstate dispute with Ruritania to protect the *Bongomians*?

You also meet with the diaspora organization of the *Bongomians* to discuss their concerns. After the meeting, you organize a press conference to signal your future policy. This is not your final official policy and you will not take an action. But, it will signal your intentions to other players.

Second Round (If Ruritania Government decided to repress the Bongomians in the First Round):

In the second round, the *Bongomians* are being repressed by the *Ruritanian* government. There are protest movements in your country and the protesters wantthe government (you) to take action to protect the *Bongomians.* Nationalist parties and some NGOs put pressure on you as well. But, supporting the *Bongomians* might cause an interstate dispute with *Ruritania.* So, you are reluctant to intervene in the domestic affairs of *Ruritania*

You have a second cabinet meeting to discuss your policy options again after you learn about the government repression in *Ruritania*. You will meet with the representatives of the *Bongomians* and they will probably ask for your active support in their fight against the *Ruritania* government.

You have two policy options:

1. Stay out: You can decide to stay out of this conflict. Although you care about the well-being of *Bongomians*, you do not want to support them at the risk of an interstate dispute with *Ruritania.* This policy is likely to affect your relationship with *Ruritania* positively (signing new economic agreements, strengthened political cooperation, etc.). However, the public, media, and civil society organizations will launch a campaign against you. You will probably lose the support of the nationalist parties, NGOs, and citizens since they have been more worried about the security of *Bongomians*.
2. Support: You can support the *Bongomians* against the *Ruritania* government. However, you have to specify the level and kind of support you will provide. Keep in mind that providing diplomatic support (condemning the repression verbally) would have a low cost but not really help the *Bongomians.* Economic (e.g. sanctions) or military support (military threat against Ruritania government) are more likely to influence *Ruritania* government’s policy; but they might be costly for you. As the level of the support you provide to the *Bongomians* increases, your constituency will be more satisfied and your relationship with *Ruritania* will be more damaged.