



PaxMUN 2022



Forum: The United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ)

Issue: Reducing the traces of colonialism in post-colonialist economies

Head Chair: Wynne Chu

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Personal Introduction - Chairs

Chair

Hey everyone,

My name is Wynne and I am currently a 10th grader (Class of '24) attending Frankfurt International School in Germany. Born in Hong Kong and as a Canadian, I have lived in four cities: Hong Kong, Taipei, Tokyo, and now Frankfurt. This will be my first time formally chairing at a Model United Nations conference, and in the past I have attended four MUN conferences; three as a delegate and one as an admin. Please do feel free to contact me if you need help or have any questions and I look forward to seeing all of you in June!

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Deputy Chair

Hello everyone,

My name is Neal and I am currently a Y10 ('25) attending the British School in the Netherlands. Likewise, this will be my first time formally chairing at a MUN conference, and in the past 2 years I have attended four MUN conferences, three as a delegate and one as an advocate in the ICJ. I can't wait to meet all of you in June!

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Introduction

The United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, also known as CCPCJ, is the major policy making body for crime, and develops worldwide strategies to solve these issues (Mindaoudou). The topic of reducing traces of colonialism in post-colonial economies is an issue that falls under what the CCPCJ aims to solve: the colonial exploitation of countries has caused great economic instability and inability for the formerly colonised to develop in the 21st century. Signs of economic instability and post colonial economic effects are clear and include factors such as but not limited to; a weak GDP per capita, low exports, lack of modern machinery, and national debt (Alcott).

Africa, as a continent, has been strongly affected by colonialism, with European control (mainly France, Germany, Britain, Italy, Spain, Portugal, and Belgium) increasing to 90 percent during the Scramble for Africa in the late 19th century ("The Scramble"). The UN has then tried to solve this issue, adopting the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in 1960, which was a document that proclaimed to end colonialism quickly and immediately in Africa. Two years later, they completed a resolution on 'permanent sovereignty over natural resources', giving newly independent African countries economic control without traces of colonialism (Mindaoudou).

However, coming out of colonialism and becoming independent, the backwards development of the African economy under colonialism resulted in colonialist ideas still being present today, and many African nations still struggle with economic development. This was because under European colonial rule, Africa was split into smaller countries and now could not rely on themselves. Therefore, these former colonies sold their raw resources to the colonial powers, and purchased their products since they were unable to produce them. This means that these developing countries have a high primary commodity dependence: the higher a country depends on exports of raw materials, the lower the development measured by GDP per capita (Coke-



Hamilton). Some major examples would be the imports of food into Africa, which shows the effect of colonialism on the food industry and their production of essential items. The African trade and marketing industry was also heavily disturbed, and still is today, with their focus shifted from local needs into solely import and export centres and routes ("Analysis of Colonialism" 49). As a result, the whole continent of Africa's share of world trade is less than the country of South Korea, with 2.34 percent as opposed to 2.93 percent (Fofack).

This can be seen under France's '*Françafrique*' regime with 12 countries still currently economically controlled by France though independent: Cameroon, Chad, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Central African Republic, Republic of the Congo, Benin, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo. Though it has weakened compared to the past, the CFA Franc which is tied to the colonialism of France still plays a big role and establishes their dominance in Africa.

In order to solve this issue, researcher Ian Taylor suggests, "The CFA has to go. It is such a ridiculous neo-colonial stunt by the French that it should have gone 60 years ago. The first step is to try to kill CFA, to try to actually move towards true independence for Francophone Africa, which would basically kill *Françafrique*." (qtd. in Fröhlich)

The traces of colonialism characteristics and ideas in post-colonial economies must be reduced in order for developing countries to be able to successfully modernise and become truly independent. Moreover, we must stop the neo-colonialist rule over economically unstable countries to step forward with the world as a whole.



Definition of Key Terms

Colonialism

“The direct and overall domination of one country by another on the basis of state power being in the hands of a foreign power” (“Analysis of Colonialism”). The peak of colonialism was during the 19th century (late 19th to early 20th for Africa), where the colonised were exploited (“Neo-Colonialism in Africa.”).

Neo-colonialism

MEDCs’ (more economically developed country) indirect control over LEDCs (less economically developed country). Under the indirect control, which includes the use of cultural, political, economic, and other pressures, the developing countries experience colonial-like exploitation. This is the power that some developed countries try to gain over less developed independent countries, due to the impracticality of colonial oppression. Neo-colonialism was formed after the liberation of colonies and is still happening in the 21st century (“Neo-Colonialism in Africa.”).

Primary Commodity Dependence

When a country’s economy is largely reliant on the exports of raw materials. This is mostly seen in developing countries, and it is quite common, with 54 percent of all countries falling under this category. Most of the heavily commodity dependent countries are in Africa, with commodities as 90 percent of their exports (Coke-Hamilton).

Françafrique

France’s sphere of influence over former French and Belgian colonies in sub-saharan Africa.



CFA (*Communauté financière d'Afrique* or *Coopération financière en Afrique centrale*) Franc

France's two 'colonial currencies' that are used in twelve formerly colonised countries, meaning the 'Financial Community of Africa' or 'Financial Cooperation in Central Africa'. The West African CFA Franc (XOF) is used in eight countries, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Ivory Coast, Mali, Niger, Senegal, and Togo. The Central African CFA Franc (XAF) is used in six countries, including Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and the Republic of the Congo. It was created in 1945 (along with the CFP franc used in the Pacific French colonies) with the aim of allowing ex-colonies to trade and benefit with France easily, mostly imports from France. As of 2019, the CFA Franc has been renamed the 'Eco' (Hayes).



Major parties involved

Organisations

UEMOA (Union économique et monétaire ouest africaine)

Meaning the West African Economic and Monetary Union in English, it is a currency and customs union between the countries that use the CFA Franc currency. They aim to enhance trade and introduce reforms to modernise other arrangements between the UEMOA and France.

IMF (International Monetary Fund)

An international financial institution consisting of 190 countries, established in July of 1944.

Represented Nations

Permanent 5 of the UNSC (United Nations Security Council):

- People's Republic of China: never formally colonised by Europe (though some parts were taken control as a result of the Opium Wars), now considered a neo-colonial power.
- France: colonised West Africa during the Scramble for Africa.
- Russian Federation: expanded into Eastern Europe, colonised some parts of America in the 16th century.
- The United Kingdom: Britain colonised East and South of Africa, as well as several other countries
- The United States of America: Not involved in the Scramble for Africa, already had sufficient open land

African Union (AU): all have been colonised at some point, except for



Ethiopia and Liberia

European Union (EU): consists of the major world powers that colonised Africa

Timeline of key events

December 26th 1945	The creation of the CFA franc
1960	The Year of Africa: 17 African countries achieve independence.
December 14th, 1960	The Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples is passed through the United Nations General Assembly, affirming self-determination as a right, foreign rule as a violation of human rights.
December 14th, 1962	The General Assembly adopted resolution 1803 on the 'permanent sovereignty over natural resources', ensuring that former colonial powers relinquished control over the natural resources of newly independent states.
September 9th, 1999	The Sirte Declaration is adopted by the Organisation of African Unity establishing the African Union (AU) and several other intergovernmental organizations such as the African Economic Community (AEC).



Previous attempts to solve the issue

African Union (AU)

The African Union is a continental union composed of all 55 states of Africa. Founded on 26 May 2001, it seeks to promote the economic and political integration of Africa and eradicate neo-colonialism from the African continent. Moreover, the AU has proved vital in improving dialogue and relations between African nations. Economic objectives of the AU are the following:

- To establish the necessary conditions which enable the continent to play its rightful role in the global economy and in international negotiations;
- To promote sustainable development at the economic, social and cultural levels as well as the integration of African economies;
- To coordinate and harmonize the policies between the existing and future Regional Economic Communities for the gradual attainment of the objectives of the Union; (au.int)

African Continental Free Trade Area

The AfCFTA is a free trade area founded in 2018, commencing as of 1 January 2021. It consists of 54 of 55 African Union nations and is the largest free trade area in the world. The agreement is hoped to achieve several objectives including the creation of a single market strengthening the economic integration of the continent, the facilitation of the movement of capital, goods, and people, easing investment, and steps towards the establishment of a future continental customs union, the achievement of sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development, amplifying competitiveness of member states in the global market and finally encouraging industrial and agricultural development as well as food security. In summary, this agreement hopes to encourage pan-African economic development and integration,



reducing the influence of foreign nations in African economies.

Possible solutions

A solution to this issue could be one that is sustainable and attainable to Africa. For example, if ways to allow Africa to become more self dependent are found, they would not have to be too dependent on outside capital and aid. It could be the strengthening of the free market in these less developed countries, or any other ways that could remove obstacles to international trade (Parenti).

Eco

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) have planned for the introduction of a new currency 'eco' to replace the CFA franc, in hopes of reducing France's control and influence of West African economies.

Furthermore, the adoption of a common currency is hoped to remove trade and monetary barriers, boosting economic activity, prosperity and co-operation in West Africa.



Appendix

- United Nations and Decolonisation:
<https://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en>
 - Past Resolutions:
<https://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/documents>
- The Scramble for Africa (background information for African colonisation history): <https://www.sahistory.org.za/article/grade-8-term-3-scramble-africa-late-19th-century>
- Results of European Colonisation in Africa (how the economy and other factors were affected):
https://trace.tennessee.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1182&context=utk_chanhonoproj#:~:text=Colonialism%20lasted%20in%20Africa%20or,standards%20of%20wealth%20and%20status.
- Potential Solutions to Neo-colonialism:
<https://stars.library.ucf.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=2173&context=honortheses1990-2015>
- More About Francafrique:
<https://globalvoices.org/2020/02/05/francafrique-a-term-for-a-contested-reality-in-franco-african-relations/>



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