



**UNSC**

# ***ANNEX GUIDE***



**PEMUN**  
Pernambuco Model United Nations

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# **PERNAMBUCO MODEL UNITED NATIONS**

## **UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL**

### **ANNEX GUIDE**

*Topic A: The situation in Somalia*

*Topic B: Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts in West Africa  
and Sahel*

**PERNAMBUCO MODEL UNITED NATIONS**

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**ANNEX GUIDE**

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*"Tsamina mina eh eh  
Waka waka eh eh  
Tsamina mina zangalewa  
This time for Africa."*

(Shakira)

## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS**

AU	African Union
AMISOM	African Union Mission in Somalia
AUPSC	African Union Peace and Security Council
AQIM	Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb
FDDC	China Friendship Development International Engineering Design & Consultation Company
CRDC	China Railway Design Corporation
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
EUCAP Somalia	European Union Capacity Building Mission in Somalia
EUNAVFOR	European Union Naval Force Operation Atalanta
EUTM-S	European Union Training Mission Somalia
FBI	United States Federal Bureau of Investigation
FDRE	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
FDDC	China Friendship Development International Engineering Design & Consultation Company
FOCAC	Forum on China-African Cooperation
GCTF	Global Counterterrorism Forum
HDR	Human Development Reports
IORA	Indian Ocean Rim Association
IDAT	Interdisciplinary Assistance Team
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
IDP	Internally Displaced Persons
ISIL	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
KEC	Kuwait's Energy Company
MNJTF	Multinational Joint Task Force
NFD	Northern Frontier District
OUA	Organization for the African Unity
TSCTP	Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership

MINUSMA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
UNITAF	Unified Task Force
UNOWAS	United Nations Office for West Africa and Sahel
UNOCI	United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire
UNOSOM	United Nations Operation in Somalia
UNOWAS	United Nations Office for West Africa and Sahel
UNSOM	United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia

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# 1 PERMANENT MEMBERS

## 1.1 People's Republic of China

Over the last years, China has turned into one of the countries which have invested more heavily in Africa. Its interest is explicit: numerous Chinese corporations are established in Africa with the purpose of searching for raw materials and energy to power their growing manufacturing capacity (MOURDOUKOUTAS, 2018). Considering the amount of investments made in the continent, the country is willing to expand its diplomatic influence over Africa's countries, and any significant issues in the area, as the situation in Somalia and terrorism in West Africa and Sahel, represents a reason of concern for Chinese diplomacy.

Somalia is an example of a country that receives great amount of Chinese investments. Bilateral trade volume reached 485 million US dollars in 2017, with year-on-year growth of 20% percent (CHINA GLOBAL TELEVISION NETWORK, 2018). Considering this, it is clear that the political instability causes a difficulty for the Chinese government to establish itself economically in the region. The country has been taking a consistent stance towards the situation: its main diplomatic objective in Somalia consists on offering aid and support to the Federal Government of Somalia.

Massive attempts to reinforce the infrastructure and combat humanitarian diseases are made by China. In 2018, for example, the Government of China provided 1.5 million USD for Somalia's humanitarian crisis following torrential rains and floods sparked by Jubba and Shabelle Rivers, and donated 6 million dollars' worth consignment including mosquito nets, water-tanks and tents (ALLAFRICA, 2018). Reinforcements on infrastructure are also one of the priorities of the country to help the Federal Government. The Asian country has built over 80 infrastructural projects like hospitals, stadiums and roads (CHINA GLOBAL TELEVISION NETWORK, 2018).

However, China is not only interested on the political stability of Somalia. China's massive investments and diplomatic influence turned the Federal Government into their close ally, with benefits for the Asian country. Somali waters are famous for being one of the greatest areas for fishing in the world. Despite an old struggle between the local fishermen and foreign vessels from large companies for the control of fishing areas, the Federal Government has granted 31 fishing licenses to China. Under this new development, the China



Overseas Fisheries Association, which represents 150 companies, has been allowed to fish for tuna in Somali waters since 2018. Coincidence or not, China was the first country who received the license since the new president of Somalia assumed the power (TAYLOR, 2018).

China's interests are also well manifested in West Africa and Sahel, with the country maintaining a close relation with the countries in the area. Nigeria, for example, the most populated country in Africa and one of the most developed, in 2017 was China's largest engineering contract market, second largest export market, third largest trading partner and major investment destination in Africa (GLOBAL TIMES, 2018). However, the most ambitious project of China in this area (and in the world) is an immense planned railway called Trans-Sahelian (or Sahelian-Sahara) Railway. This railway will connect Eastern and Western Africa, from the Port of Dakar, Senegal, to the Port of Djibouti, Djibouti, passing through ten countries. Two Chinese companies, CRDC and FDDC, are in the head of the project (GLOBAL CONSTRUCTION REVIEW, 2017).

Considering this, is it not a surprise that China is directly involved on fighting against terrorism in West Africa and Sahel. In January, at a UNSC meeting, the delegation of China called the attention of the international community to provide strong support for the countries in West Africa and the Sahel region in fighting cross-border crimes and terrorism (NEW CHINA, 2019). Beyond that, the government pledged \$44 million in support to the regional G5 Sahel force (BURCU; BERTRAND, 2019). Beyond that, Chinese actions of supporting the countries affected by terrorism in Africa also have the purpose to diplomatically isolate Taiwan. According to Alpha Barry, during the round-table in Brussels in February 2018, the People's Republic of China delegate made it clear that "[Beijing] cannot fund the G5 Sahel because of Burkina's presence. It created an uncomfortable situation both for us and our neighbors" (BURCU; BERTRAND, 2019).

Even though Chinese actions were more guided by non-interventionist policies, favoring commercial agreements (BASSOU, 2016); China has started to cooperate in military terms with African countries against terrorism. It brought senior military officers and officials from 49 African states and the AU to Beijing for discussions on regional security and military cooperation. It has also directly helped many African countries on military training. In Somalia, China has made military contributions through FOCAC. It is also important to notice that China is one of the top suppliers of arms in Africa, including West African countries, especially Nigeria (KOVRIK, 2018). Considering these facts, it is clear that China seeks to

broaden its power in Africa, economically and militarily, with the aid of diplomatic means to pursue its objective.

## 1.2 Republic of France

France, being a highly involved country in several international organizations, is an important protagonist in the fight for international peace and security<sup>1</sup>. It strongly believes in addressing the root causes of the issue and has a development assistance policy to promote sustainable efforts in developing countries in order to improve living conditions, human rights, environment protection, social progress, stability and peace<sup>2</sup> (FRANCE, 2016a).

Being the 7th largest global economy, France is a leader among European nations and the most visited country in the world. Therefore, the government's concern about terrorism is to be expected<sup>3</sup>, since extremists often enter a country disguised as tourists to attack soft targets<sup>4</sup>. On the national level, due to ongoing threats<sup>5</sup>, the French government has adopted several reactive measures, such as bolstering the counterterrorism legislation, reinforcing security procedures, conducting a series of arrests<sup>6</sup>, as well as making de-radicalization efforts through prevention and reintegration programs (COUNTER-EXTREMISM PROJECT, 2019). It also allocates additional resources for economically disadvantaged neighborhoods throughout the country to address conditions that terrorists groups exploit for recruitment (UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 2018).

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<sup>1</sup> For instance, the country plays a major role in the area of arms control and non-proliferation, having a goal of moving towards general and complete disarmament (FRANCE, 2018a) since the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction aggravates the risk of stemming the scale of terrorist threats (FRANCE, 2019b).

<sup>2</sup> President Macron announced that France's official development assistance will be increased by €1 billion starting in 2019 (UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 2018).

<sup>3</sup> France is also home to the largest Muslim population in Europe (NOSSITER, 2019), although about 65% of those living in France are of Christian belief and only 8% are Muslim (WORLD POPULATION REVIEW, 2019). This is important to note because Islamist extremists often target other Muslims considered sinners.

<sup>4</sup> Relatively unprotected or vulnerable, such as schools, churches, remote villages, markets and parks.

<sup>5</sup> There have been a number of high profile terrorist attacks since 2015 across France, such as the March 2018 attack in Carcassonne, the July 2016 Bastille Day attack in Nice, the November 2015 ISIL attacks in Paris, and the January 2015 Charlie Hebdo and kosher supermarket attacks. Since 2015, more than 240 people have been killed in France by people claiming allegiance to or inspiration from ISIL (STRAITS TIMES, 2018).

<sup>6</sup> In 2018, in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) — a UN mechanism used by member-states to express concerns and recommend for improvement of human rights violations and/or general abuse made by other members —, the French government was called out: since attacks in 2015, the counter-terrorism measures instituted exceptional emergency procedures denounced as discriminatory and harmful to the rule of law and human rights, besides being ineffective. The targeting of already marginalized groups in French society for interrogations, the identity discrimination based on ethnic origin or religion and the undermining of the French Judiciary sidelined and limited to appreciate state abuses were the main denounces made (WORLDWIDE MOVEMENT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, 2018).

France makes significant donations to the UN peacekeeping operations budget<sup>7</sup> and has heavily participated in a variety of coalition efforts in Africa, often taking the lead in these operations<sup>8</sup>. Regarding interventions, despite cuts in its defense budget, France maintains a strong military presence in Africa, with stated goals of preventing humanitarian disaster, disrupting terrorist networks, restoring territorial integrity and national sovereignty and consolidating political processes leading to democratic elections (GARDA WORLD, 2019). It is important to note that President Macron stated that a military response can never be the only action taken, as a concurrent political response is of great importance, such as peace and reconciliation agreements<sup>9</sup> (UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 2017).

The French delegation in the UNSC takes action beside international partners to combat terrorism, specially through military action, stabilizing liberated areas, enhancing cooperation — substantially to fight terrorist financing<sup>10</sup> and propaganda<sup>11</sup> — and committing to reinforce legal frameworks and intelligence cooperation (FRANCE, 2019c). The country stands as a strong supporter of the principle of self-determination, defending that to eradicate terrorist threats, national capacities must be built so that States can take their security into their own hands, specially those most affected (UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 2017).

France undertook joint counterterrorism operations with many EU<sup>12</sup> partners and plays an active role in counterterrorism capacity building in other countries, particularly in the Sahel region, both bilaterally and through the EU (UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 2017). France supports the development of a trilateral cooperation between the EU, the UN and the African Union to play a fundamental role in peacekeeping (UNITED NATIONS SECURITY

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<sup>7</sup> In July 2018, France was the second-largest European contributor to contingents to missions (FRANCE, 2018b) and the fifth-largest contributor to the UN regular budget and to the peacekeeping operations budget (UNITED NATIONS, 2014).

<sup>8</sup> France is known for conducting counterterrorism operations in Iraq, Syria, Libya, Mali, other parts of the Sahel region, and the Lake Chad region (UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 2017). In the Sahel, France has been present since 2013 through Operation Serval in Mali, playing a leading role in blocking the advancement of terrorist groups in the region (FRANCE, 2019c).

<sup>9</sup> Such as the Algiers Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali.

<sup>10</sup> A top priority for France, as the government reinforces actions for sharing information, combating anonymous transactions, identifying financing sources, anticipating the misuse of new financial instruments, besides making a collective commitment not only to vulnerable countries but also to failing countries (UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL, 2019a).

<sup>11</sup> France seeks to curb terrorist propaganda networks through efforts to stop the use of the Internet by terrorist groups to increase their influence and mobilization. The country is conducting high-level dialogue with digital companies to achieve rapid and lasting withdrawal of terrorist content online (EUROPEAN UNION, 2018).

<sup>12</sup> France has substantial importance in building up European military capabilities and developing its defence policy.

COUNCIL, 2019b), strengthening the multilateralism envisioned to prevent and resolve crises in Africa. The country also praises the rise of African-lead peace operations and supports the UN-mandatory contributions for such (UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL, 2019c).

France is firmly engaged in the fight against terrorism globally<sup>13</sup>. In Africa, the UN Operation in Mali (MINUSMA) is one of France's top priorities and, in the Sahel, France originated Operation Barkhane in 2014, providing vital assistance<sup>14</sup> to the G5 Sahel countries in ensuring logistical and operational support for the MJTF<sup>15</sup> (FRANCE, 2016b; FRANCE, 2019d). The country is a strong advocate for environmental-friendly development strategies<sup>16</sup>, regarding the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals as crucial mechanisms to ensure stability in areas like the Sahel, vulnerable to the climate factor which directly impacts the population (FRANCE, 2019e).

Regarding Somalia, the bilateral relation has been mainly continuous since the Somali independence, with France reaffirming in the Council the need to support and guarantee the means for the Somali government to reach territorial integrity and sovereignty moving towards stabilization (UNITED NATIONS, 2012), although the primary destination of the countries' bilateral assistance is Somaliland. The French government understands the cruciality of Somalia's political and economic integration and unification to solve all its current issues, therefore it has called for the cessation of all outside interference in the internal affairs of Somalia (FRANCE, 2018c).

In the humanitarian field, France provided aid of €4.8 million in 2017 (FRANCE, 2018e), while in 2018, the aid was of €1,385 million allocated for the internally displaced persons (IDPs) — in November 2018, more than 20% of the Somali population was IDP —, since the group constitutes about 60% of those suffering from food crisis and emergency in Somalia (FRANCE, 2019f). Notwithstanding, the majority of France's action and support in Somalia is channeled through the EU and the UN — since 2007, the EU has spent more than

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<sup>13</sup>Against Daesh, for instance, France launched Operation Chammal in Iraq and Syria, helping to liberate virtually all regions once controlled by the group (FRANCE, 2019c).

<sup>14</sup> At the request of such countries, four thousands French soldiers have been deployed in the region (NICHOLS, 2017). Operation Barkhane also has the authority to cross borders as it targets Islamic extremism in Mali, Chad, and Niger (COUNTER-EXTREMISM PROJECT, 2019).

<sup>15</sup> The combined military composition of units from the countries of Benin, Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria addressing cross-border security issues focused in the region of the Lake Chad.

<sup>16</sup> Such as providing and/or constructing sources of safe water and arable land, necessary conditions for maintaining stability in the area (UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL, 2019d).

€1.6 billion to fund AMISOM (FRANCE, 2018e). France contributes to EU actions<sup>17</sup> for Somalia and for the fight against maritime piracy in the Horn of Africa<sup>18</sup>.

### 1.3 Russian Federation

The Russian Federation, a permanent member of the United Nation Security Council, has always made a huge impact internationally. Even though Russia's mainly discussed topic in the international current stage is the scandal of their alleged interference on the United States' 2016 election, with rumors that there was a swaying in favor of President Donald Trump (BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION, 2019), and the attempts of some foreign actors to isolate Russia (COHEN, 2018), the country has been strengthening its relations with some other States (THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, 2018).

Somalia and Russia established their diplomatic relations in 1960 and this lasted firmly until 1977, in the age when the URSS still existed. The country helped to build facilities and welcomed young Somali students to complete their education in the Soviet Union. Nowadays, the State maintains its political support to Somalia, offering humanitarian assistance and developing cooperation with Mogadishu (THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION, 2018). Once observed the civil war atmosphere in Somalia, Russia wants to continue its development of bilateral cooperation regarding economic and political relations (MIDDLE EAST MONITOR, 2017).

Russia has stated its preoccupation regarding matters in Somalia, declaring the necessity of aiding AMISOM and strengthening Somalia's army. When recognizing the importance of AMISOM to the combat of Al-Shabaab, the permanent member of the UNSC acknowledges its role as part of the international community to make sure that the region is at its most guarded state (GAROWE, 2018).

Aside from the investments in security in Somalia, Russia has been expanding its presence across the whole African continent. The country strengthened military ties with

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<sup>17</sup> EU actions are many, such as the EUNAVFOR Atalanta (an operation to combat piracy off the coast), EUTM Somalia (regarding the training of Somali armed forces) and EUCAP Somalia (for maritime and judicial capacity building to combat piracy).

<sup>18</sup> France has been involved with maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea for 25 years through Mission Corymbe and related operations. In the Gulf of Aden, the country participates in EU activities under Operation Atalanta, seeking to encourage State cooperation (UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL, 2019e).

nations like Chad and Niger, components of West Africa and survivors of unpredictable climate changes. They are also working with the oil and gas market in Nigeria, building up their presence in Africa. An example of that is the substantial amount of money inserted in the continent to aid the military and security, aside from the deals made with African countries since 2015, like in the billionaire donations received by Egypt in exchange of a nuclear power plant built in the territory. The origin of this involvement, that fuses military compromises and economic attachments, is also in the interest of regaining ties with African countries that were first established by the Soviet Union (REUTERS, 2018).

This involvement has caused the United States to reduce its troops in Africa so they could focus on the opposition against Russia and China. This diminishing came as a contradiction to the urgent state of most countries in Africa, but showed the profound tension still existent between Russia and the United States (FLATLEY, 2018).

Russia, in the last few years, has invested itself in the mission of becoming a global power, as it is a permanent member of the UNSC, owns a veto power and has expanded its presence to the G4 and BRICS groups. Moscow has showed its appreciation for the UN Security Council, as it is a great opportunity for collective global governance. By being in possession of such privileges, Russia preaches about peaceful coexistence and is aware of its responsibility, even though it voted negatively in resolutions on peace and security in Africa (NIKITIN, 2012).

#### **1.4 United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland is a permanent member of the UNSC since the UN's foundation, and, although such position grants it special voting rights in this committee (UNITED NATIONS, 1945), the UK has not used its "veto" power since 1989, when, alongside France and the United States, it blocked a draft resolution concerning the US invasion of Panama (UNITED NATIONS, 1989). The UK is the 6th largest financial contributor to UN Peacekeeping Missions (UNITED NATIONS, 2019a), even though it only contributes with a fraction of actual staff members, ranking in the 36th place in March, 2019 (UNITED NATIONS, 2019b).

The lack of such use is due to the fact that "it risks raising broader questions of why the UK [exercised its veto power], as opposed to states with better claims to future great



power status” (GIFKINS, 2018), as Britain is getting shunned in international forums due to the outcome of the 2016 Referendum for leaving the European Union, marked relentlessly by Eurosceptic campaigns and the refugee crisis in the Middle East (DOES..., 2018). An example on such discredit is the loss of the vote for a British judge on the International Court of Justice in late 2017 (GIFKINS, 2018). Nonetheless, the UK is the 6th largest financial contributor to UN Peacekeeping Missions (UNITED NATIONS, 2019a), even though it only contributes with a fraction of actual staff members, ranking in the 36th place in March, 2019 (UNITED NATIONS, 2019b).

Britain’s colonial past has its share of guilt in the current situation in Somalia, as it occupied the territory of – British – Somaliland from 1884 up until the 1960 Declaration of Independence without significant investment in regional development (INITIATIVE & REFERENDUM INSTITUTE, 2001). However, current relations between the two countries are normalized, and both nations maintain amicable relations, even though Somalia is one of the British former protectorates and colonies who is not a part of the Commonwealth of Nations (COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS, 2019b).

The Department for International Development, part of the Executive Branch of the United Kingdom, as well as the National Security Council, together developed a strategy for fulfilling the UK’s national interests in the region, involving development and humanitarian goals and counter-terrorism measures (INDEPENDENT COMMISSION FOR AID IMPACT, 2017). Due to this, the UK is, as of 2015, the second-largest donor to Somalia, having donated 157,6 million USD to the State, described by the Independent Commission for Aid Impact as a leading player in efforts to build a viable and functioning Somali state (INDEPENDENT COMMISSION FOR AID IMPACT, 2017).

On the topic of international terrorism, it is worth noting that, before the end of the 20th century, the UK had suffered with terrorist attacks mainly perpetrated by those involved in the Northern Ireland conflict (KIRK, 2017), but its occupancy of a supporting role in the US-led coalition for the invasion of Iraq and the War on Terror (QURASHI, 2018) made the UK a target for international terrorist groups based on the Middle East, especially ISIS (KIRK, 2017).

When it comes to the situation in West Africa and the Sahel, the UK strongly supports the G5 Sahel Joint Force, contributing circa 15% of the EU’S package of support, as well as a sum of 2,6 million USD in bilateral support to the Force (UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT

BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, 2018). British officials also condone updates regarding human development and progress towards the objectives laid in Agenda 2030 in the region, and Britain has donated about 200 million USD in development and humanitarian assistance over the last couple years (UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, 2018).

## **1.5 United States of America**

The United States of America is a country composed of 50 states and a federal district, with a system of representative democracy, located in North America. The country is one of the major economic powers of the last century and the present time, exercising an intense political and financial influence on the functioning of the current globalized system (DAALDER; LINDSAY, 2003).

The United States had a primary role on establishing the UN and is host to the headquarters of this institution (KENNEDY, 2006). The US is the largest provider of financial contributions to the UN, supplying 22% of its entire budget in 2017 (UNITED NATIONS, 2016). From July 2016 to June 2017, 28.6% of the budget used for peacekeeping operations was provided by the country (GLOBAL PEACE OPERATIONS REVIEW, 2016).

The United States maintains regular dialogue with the Federal Government of Somalia, specially through the established US Mission to Somalia, located in the embassy of the US in Kenya (US DEPARTMENT OF STATE, 2019). On 10 September 2012, the Somali Federal Parliament elected Hassan Sheikh Mohamud as the incumbent President of Somalia (REUTERS, 2012), which was welcomed by the US authorities, who reaffirmed the United States' continued support for Somalia's government (UNITED NATIONS, 2013). According to the Department of State, the decision was made in recognition of the significant progress that the Somali authorities had achieved. The move granted the Somali government access to new sources of development funds from American agencies, as well as international bodies — such as the International Monetary Fund and World Bank — thereby facilitating the ongoing reconstruction process (VOICE OF AMERICA, 2013).

At the behest of the Somali and American federal governments, among other international actors, the UNSC unanimously approved Resolution 2093 during its 6 March 2013 meeting to partially lift the 21-year arms embargo on Somalia. On 9 April 2013, the US



government likewise approved the provision of defense articles and services by the American authorities to the Somali Federal Government (UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL, 2013).

In January 2017, after President Donald Trump took office, Somali citizens were temporary banned from entering the United States by the executive order 13769, or "Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States." This also includes Somali refugees who are willing to resettle in the United States through the US refugee admissions program (EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, 2017). After the election of Somali-American dual citizen Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed as the next Somali President, the US Secretary Of State congratulated the president-elect and stated it was looking forward to strengthening the relations between Somalia and the United States, affirming that the recent elections marked an important milestone in Somalia's ongoing transition to peace, stability and prosperity (US MISSION TO SOMALIA, 2017).

In 2016, the United States made considerable contributions toward the development and capacity building of the law enforcement sector. Somali law enforcement capacities have improved markedly with U.S. mentoring and training initiatives launched in prior years (COUNTRY REPORTS ON TERRORISM, 2017). Security and counterterrorism efforts in Somalia continued to progress through a combination of AMISOM offensives, U.S. military strikes against Al-Shabaab operatives, law enforcement operations in major urban centers and countering violent extremism initiatives (COUNTRY REPORTS ON TERRORISM, 2017).

Concerning terrorism, since 9/11 the United States has been one of the world's counterterrorism leadership. After the date, the country pioneered a vast number of cutting-edge counterterrorism apparatus — like information sharing, biometrics review and data analysis. In December 2017, the UNSC adopted unanimously the Resolution 2396, which requires all UN member states to adopt and develop the same capabilities and to deploy the same systems. (COUNCIL ON FOREIGN RELATIONS, 2018).

On 4 October 2018, President Donald Trump announced a new counterterrorism strategy, as it follows in his speech:

The National Strategy for Counterterrorism is an important next step. It outlines the approach of the United States to countering the increasingly complex and evolving terrorist threats and represents the Nation's first fully articulated counterterrorism strategy since 2011. It provides the strategic guidance needed to protect the United States against all terrorist threats, while simultaneously fostering the agility to anticipate, prevent, and respond to new threats. Guided by the National Strategy for Counterterrorism, we will use all instruments of American power to protect our great

Nation, and we will defeat our enemies with the full force of American might (US NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COUNTERTERRORISM, 2018).

An Interdisciplinary Assistance Team (IDAT) continued to work from the U.S. Embassy in Abuja, closely coordinating efforts with the Nigerian military at the Defense Intelligence Agency. Daily military-to-military engagement at the Joint Combined Fusion Cell and the Joint Coordination Planning Committee led to a more detailed understanding of Nigerian military operations and established relationships with mid-and senior-level officers (COUNTRY REPORTS ON TERRORISM, 2017).

The recruitment of violent extremists through social media remained central to the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) terrorist campaign in 2016. To lawfully counter and curtail the use of the internet for terrorist purposes, the United States and its partners worked closely with social media companies, which reduced the impact and influence of the ISIL publications on the internet and social media (MILTON, 2016). Furthermore, it is important to highlight the strong military air campaigns against ISIL conducted by the United States between 2014 and 2019 — through which the country managed to declare the group's defeat in March 2019 (BBC NEWS, 2019).

Therefore, the delegation of the United States in the Security Council seeks the promotion of peace, stability and partnership between the UN members, respecting its sovereignty. Beyond that, the US reinforces the necessity of fighting terrorism in all its forms and wherever it exists, focusing on the security and safety of world citizens through a coordinated whole-of-society strategy - including preventing terrorist radicalization and defeating violent ideologies, as said by the US Ambassador Jonathan Cohen in a meeting of the US Mission to the UN on February 4, 2019. Using mechanisms as the US Mission on Somalia, the AMISOM, the National Strategy for Counterterrorism and Resolutions approved by the Security Council, as the already mentioned Resolution 2396, the U.S. is willing to achieve its purpose as a grand actor for international policies, specially those towards security issues.

## 2 ELECTED MEMBERS

### 2.1 Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic, located in the Caribbean region, in Central America, was one of the founding members of the UN and is in its first mandate in the UNSC. The country strongly defends the dialogue and mutual cooperation between nations to achieve social and political stability and development, extinguishing land disputes and extreme violence (PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TO THE UN, 2019).

As a member of the Security Council, the Dominican Republic “underscored the strong and continued commitment of the international community to support peace, stability and development in Somalia, and reiterated in this regard their expectation of full cooperation between Somalia and the United Nations” in a meeting on 5 January 2019, presided by the Dominican Republic representative. With this statement, the country reinforced its role as a peacekeeper in the Council, searching for stability through the respect of Somalia’s sovereignty (UNITED NATIONS, 2019).

It is important to highlight that the Dominican Republic is not subject to the threat of terrorism and extreme violent acts. Nevertheless, the country adopted a series of counterterrorism measures, as said by the Dominican Republic representative in the High-level Conference on Counterterrorism, which transpired on 28 June 2018:

Concerning terrorism, advance in the investigation, monitoring and persecution of the terrorism and financing, we have put into operation in October 2014, the National Anti-Terrorist Center, where we have a fusion center inter-institutional to work together and act in a timely manner, taking a representative of each State intelligence agency and the institutions that they play a fundamental role in the prevention and prosecution of said threat.

In this sense, although we are not a country with a high rate of terrorism, we have created strong cooperation ties to exchange information, knowledge and training with different tactical and strategic courses on the part of countries with extensive experience in antiterrorism, such as : France, the United States and Israel, through which we maintain constant training programs for personnel of the National Anti-Terrorist Center, port and airport authorities and personnel of our Armed Forces at border crossings and our Armed Forces (UNITED NATIONS, 2018).

Therefore, the Dominican Republic delegation plays a role of mediator and peacekeeper in the UNSC, defending the diplomacy and political dialogue to achieve peace, security, stability, sustainable development and the struggle against the worst manifestation of

inequalities — respecting the sovereignty of the nations and the international laws (PERMANENT MISSION OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TO THE UN, 2019).

## **2.2 Kingdom of Belgium**

The Kingdom of Belgium, located in Western Europe, is a federal constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system. Belgium was a founding member of the UN, and this is the country's sixth term in the Council, with the first mandate in 1947 and the last one in 2007. It is important to highlight Belgium's contribution to UN missions, whose total annual value given to these organizations is close to 65 million dollars (PERMANENT MISSION OF BELGIUM TO THE UN, 2019).

Until 2018, Belgium was one of the few EU countries which did not have diplomatic representation in Somalia. The indication of an Ambassador to the country after a meeting between the Somali President Mohamed Farmajo and the Belgium Ambassador Nicolas Nihon in Mogadishu, on 12 June 2018, changed this scenario - giving a sign for the strengthening of diplomatic relations between the Belgium government and the Federal Government of Somalia (GAROWE ONLINE, 2018). Besides that, in 24 April 2019, the Belgium government decided to recognize diplomatic and service passports issued by the Federal Government of Somalia. It is expected that this measure significantly improve bilateral relations between Somalia and Belgium, and also facilitate Somalia government officials to engage with European Union institutions based in Brussels (INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT, 2019).

Belgium condemns terrorism in all its forms. The Belgian authorities defend that the fight against terrorism can only be launched in full respect of human rights and international humanitarian law. Combating terrorism presupposes strong international cooperation between States and within the major international organizations, mainly those dealing with human rights or the ones authorized to impose prevention mechanisms or sanctions within the framework of the fight against terrorism. The UN, the Council of Europe and the EU have set up prevention and sanction mechanisms to fight terrorism and its financing, providing the freezing of assets of persons suspected of aiding or belonging to terrorist groups — mechanisms supported by Belgium (BELGIUM FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, 2019).

Thus, the Belgian delegation in the UNSC plays the role of a peacemaker, working to accomplish a goal of peace by mutual cooperation. Through its participation and contribution — with resources, officers and agents — to peacekeeping missions, such as its role in the UNSC, Belgium tries to achieve its purposes with the search for political solutions, helping to prevent conflicts through respect for human rights, for the diplomacy and for internal and international law.

### **2.3 Federal Republic of Germany**

Reunited after the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Federal Republic of Germany has since occupied a leadership role in the international system, being one of the most prominent members of the European Union by contribution (STATISTA, 2019) and, consequently, a key player in other international organizations, among those, the UN.

Also, Germany is a part of the G4 nations, an association of States which claim permanent seats in the UNSC, with India, Brazil and Japan being the other three countries (SHARMA, 2015). H. E., Mr. Guido Westerwelle, Minister for Foreign Affairs, in Germany's opening speech at the 67th General Assembly, stated that "[...] Germany felt that the Security Council would be weakened if it failed to adapt to today's world. [...] to that end, that Germany, India, Brazil and Japan were prepared to assume greater responsibilities".

Germany participated in the EU Training Mission in Somalia from 2010 to March 2018, stationing 5 of its officials in the country to train the Somali military to better counter foreign agents in its territory. In 2018, however, due to lack of progress in the mission, Germany ended its participation, as well as the EU signaled its interest in shifting the mission's focus from military security to civilian security, deemed a more efficient use of international military aid (SHALAL; POMEROY, 2018).

When it comes to financial aid to Somalia, Germany has contributed more than 370 million euros in the fields of stabilization and crisis prevention, development cooperation, and humanitarian aid. On that note, Germany sits as a significant contributor in international efforts to rebuild the country and end the famine after the series of harsh droughts in the region (FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, 2017). Such position was also present during German presidency of the SC in 2011, H.E. Dr. Peter Wittig, Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations, formally expressed grave concern about the humanitarian

situation in Somalia, urging all Member States to contribute to the consolidated appeal for Somalia and urged the international community to come together to prevent the crisis from deepening (WITTIG, 2011).

Mr. Stefan Uecker, German Head of International Terrorism Task Force and Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community, stated, at the High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, that Germany stands as a country directly affected by terrorist threats, and proposed a two-fold strategy to prevent violent extremism (FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, 2018). The first step would be prosecuting radicalized persons who have already committed crimes, and the second step would be the prevention of such radicalization (FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, 2018). Germany also recognizes the importance of intelligence, police and de-radicalization measures, civil society actors and the mutual understanding of civil society and law enforcement to prevent terrorist acts (FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, 2018).

On the matter of international terrorism in West Africa and the Sahel, Germany has contributed, in the recent past, to the French initiative to support the G5 Sahel bloc in tackling terrorist groups in the region (WERKHÄUSER, 2017). On such note, the German State deployed approximately 1,000 forces in Mali, when taking into account the European training forces and the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) (WERKHÄUSER, 2017).

## **2.4 Republic of Côte d'Ivoire**

Côte d'Ivoire's diplomacy is known for its commitment to economic and political cooperation, fair trades, the mutual respect of state sovereignty and the promotion of peaceful relations between countries.

It is currently the third time the country features in the Security Council, standing by the same principles and with the foremost goal to promote peace. The delegation of Côte d'Ivoire has stated that the progress made by the country regarding stabilization gives it the opportunity to help other nations in conflict. Among other goals the country seeks as member of the UNSC, the ensuring the financing of African peacekeeping operations, such as the G5 Sahel force and AMISOM, is one of great importance. In addition, besides not seeing itself as fighting to become a permanent member, the country strongly supports a Security Council

reform with the granting of a permanent member status to an African country (FILLION, 2018).

The country has a history similar to Somalia's, as in 2004 it was immersed in a civil war which divided the country and left it besmirched by the lack of state authority. The UNSC requested for a peacekeeping mission<sup>19</sup> to protect civilians and support the Ivorian government in disarmament and demobilization. Parallel to Somalia, the country had its intercommunal conflicts, but with the help of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) the majority of those were de-escalated. It came to be known as one of the few peacekeeping successes of the UN in the past few decades, serving as inspiration to other peace initiatives (UNITED NATIONS, 2017). Therefore, the country advocates for UN missions and multilateral cooperation programs. Côte d'Ivoire has contributed with troops to UN Missions in Congo, Haiti, Mali and the Central African Republic (UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 2016a). It also serves as a logistics base for France's Operation Barkhane in Mali.

After March 2016, when Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) jihadists attacked an Ivorian beach resort and killed 19 people (BAVIER, 2016), the government bolstered domestic counterterrorism legislation and law enforcement, criminalizing recruitment and advocacy to terrorism, besides launching a major national investigation (UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 2016b). It continuously tightens its security, devotes additional resources to reinforcing its borders and improves the National Army's anti-terrorist capacity with continuous training and assistance, especially from France. Nowadays, the risks of major attacks continue to decline as Islamist groups focus heavily on the Sahel and have not staged any attacks for a considerable time in Ivorian territory nor its borders (GARDA WORLD, 2019). This notwithstanding, maritime piracy poses a moderate threat to Ivorian waters.

The country has been dealing with maritime insecurity and acts of piracy for years. To tackle these issues, the countries of the Gulf of Guinea developed a regional strategy in 2012. Although the number of attacks decreased between 2013 and 2015, they have been an upward trend since 2018 in the entirety of West Africa. Côte d'Ivoire calls for new tactics and

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<sup>19</sup> The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) was authorized by Resolution 1528 (2004) with a mandate to facilitate the implementation of the peace agreement signed by Ivorian parties in January 2003 (the Linas-Marcoussis Agreement). Following the 2010 Presidential elections, the operation worked to support the democratically elected government and ensure sustainable peace through disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants, as well as to monitor and promote human rights (NOVOSSELOFF, 2018).



sustainable mechanisms, as well as assistance on strengthening national capacities and cooperation among States (UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL, 2019a).

On dealing with terrorism, the country recurrently underscores the need for international cooperation and funding, in addition to the involvement in the fight against the financing of the phenomenon (UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL, 2019b). The country has committed to making the support for the G5 Sahel and the fight against terrorism in Africa some of its major priorities during the country's term in the UNSC. It reinforces its request for stronger action regarding UN Counter-Terrorism in Africa, which has seen less operations and support when compared to the Middle East. Besides appealing for global powers to support efforts made by African countries and the UN itself, such as the G5 Sahel, Côte d'Ivoire call for its coordination alongside the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF) and other peacekeeping actions on African ground (UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 2017).

Recognizing that terrorist groups are strengthened by the cycle of widespread poverty and endemic diseases, famine and malnutrition, the country develops policies to ensure economic growth, promotion of job opportunities for the youth<sup>20</sup> and better distribution of the outcomes of the growth to the population, especially the most vulnerable (UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 2018; UNITED NATIONS, 2018).

## **2.5 Republic of Equatorial Guinea**

Equatorial Guinea is one of the smallest and least populated countries in Africa and is marked by its unbalanced development, as the majority of wealth is amassed by a small elite (GLOBAL WITNESS, 2019). About three-quarters of the population live below the poverty line, with great levels of unemployment and many children suffering from malnutrition (HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, 2019). The country seeks foreign investments to improve the population's living standards, having used its oil wealth to establish many diplomatic relations with European and developing countries, as well as diplomatic missions in over thirty countries around the world (CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, 2019; EQUATORIAL GUINEA, 2019).

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<sup>20</sup> Explained by the fact that almost 60% of Ivoirians are younger than 25 years old (CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, 2018).



The country has been a full member of the UN since its independence from Spain in 1968 and is among the many which see the structure of the UNSC as obsolete, calling for more representation and partially blaming the UNSC for the recent conflicts in the Sahel (UNITED NATIONS, 2018a). Equatorial Guinea also denounces the marginalization of the African continent and the use of force as the only resource available to the UN (UNITED NATIONS, 2018b).

Equatorial Guinea advocates for the international law principles of non-interference in internal affairs, independence and sovereignty, criticizing armed interventions, which “never resolve conflicts but, instead, cause them to proliferate and to continue, causing devastation and destruction” (UNITED NATIONS, 2018c). It believes that the best path to tackle African issues is through national or regional initiatives, but also recognizes the assistance of the EU and UN to African-led peace processes, helping with capacity building and training. The country stands for the strengthening of the cohesion and cooperation between international and regional efforts (UNITED NATIONS, 2019). It defends that, in order to achieve international peace and security, the issues of underdevelopment, poverty and lack of solidarity need to be resolved.

Equatorial Guinea is a well-respected and influential country in Africa, with generally good relations with all of its neighbors. Its relations with the Nigerian government have been cordial as the two countries delineated their offshore borders to facilitate development of gas fields. Immigrants from Nigeria and other African countries represent a significant portion of the Equatoguinean labor force (GLOBAL SECURITY, 2019). The US is the largest bilateral foreign investor, buying great quantities of barrels of oil and with many American-based companies developing the national oil industry (US DEPARTMENT OF STATE, 2019).

Regarding Somalia, the Equatoguinean government donated 2 million dollars for humanitarian assistance to the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia in 2011 (REPUBLIC OF EQUATORIAL GUINEA, 2011). Since Equatorial Guinea vehemently stands for government centrality and control, following its principles, it believes that Somalia needs to strengthen its internal forces and structures under the rule of a national authority with control over its territory, making it possible to establish peace and security for the Somalis.

There has been relatively prevailing peace in Equatorial Guinea, despite the oil crisis and a few coup attempts, the last one being from December 2017. This notwithstanding, with 90% of its population being comprised of Christians, apprehension regarding Islamic

extremism is to be expected, especially when its neighbor Cameroon has suffered attacks from Boko Haram (US DEPARTMENT OF STATE, 2017). Equatorial Guinea does not have extensive domestic counterterrorism legislation in place, but bans terrorism and continuously agrees to follow international organisms' recommendations on the topic. The country cooperates with the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to strengthen its domestic counter-terrorism initiatives, and became a member of the Counter-Terrorism Committee in 2018 (COUNTER EXTREMISM PROJECT, 2019).

## **2.6 Republic of Indonesia**

Located in Southeast Asia, the Republic of Indonesia became independent in 1945, though it only regained its sovereignty from the Netherlands in 1949. It is now the region's largest economy and the world's most populous democracy (CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, 2018a). More than 87% of its population is Muslim, although the country is very ethnically diverse — to the point that the fracture of identities has led to many local conflicts and the emergence of separatist movements (GUPTA; AYESH, 2018). The territory is composed of more than 17,000 islands, heavily forested and very susceptible to natural disasters such as earthquakes and volcano eruptions, which are only worsened by climate change (KALLA, 2017; CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, 2018a).

While it underwent a period of political instability and authoritarianism after its independence, the country has since endeavored to strengthen its democracy, although it may prove permeable to the rise of intolerance and conservatism currently observed in many national political landscapes (LINDSEY, 2018). That phenomenon is fueled by local issues such as poverty (the rate was 9,8% in 2018), corruption (especially in the judiciary and security forces) and the government's inability to create efficient policies for the protection of human rights (WORLD BANK, 2018; MCWILLIAMS, 2018; HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH, 2019).

In April 2018 the country hosted the first Indonesia-Africa Forum, aiming to further their partnership and bolster economic cooperation, and will hold in 2019 the Indonesia-Africa Infrastructure Dialogue, which seeks the promotion of development (INDONESIA AFRICA FORUM, 2018; KALLA, 2018). Indonesia holds interest in many

aspects of the continent beyond its economy. First and foremost is the country's reiterated compromise with global peace and stability, which has been affirmed by its contribution of nearly 1,400 troops allocated into eight different peacekeeping missions in Africa (KALLA, 2017; UNITED NATIONS, 2018). It is also concerned with the granting of financial support and the betterment of such peacekeeping missions, all of which are said could be better coordinated by strengthening the alliance between the UN and the AU (UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL, 2018a).

Indonesia has also provided humanitarian aid to Somalia to help alleviate the famine in the region (TRIYONO, 2017). Further, 11% of the 14,000 refugees in Indonesia are Somali, though the support provided to these people in Indonesian territory seems to be lacking (UNITED NATIONS REFUGEE AGENCY, 2018a; LAMB, 2019). Finally, they are both part of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), which has as one of its priorities maritime peace and security, relevant to both countries' interests as they are known to have dangerous waters because of piracy and the frequent attacks on ships (INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION, 2017; CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, 2018a).

Indonesia condemns terrorism in all its forms, regardless of the motivations (UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL, 2019f), and declares itself fully committed to fighting it, specially terrorist financing, calling attention to the fact that it has become more complex and sophisticated in its methods. To that end, it defends better international cooperation, sharing resources and assistance as a way to conduct an effective and innovative approach to the problem (UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL, 2019g).

Furthermore, as a member of the Security Council, Indonesia supports the regional integration of African countries, defending that they should take a position of leadership in resolving local issues. Still, although it praises efforts such as the Joint Task Force of the G5 Sahel, it warns that

A military-focused solution alone is not sufficient to address the deeper drivers of insecurity across the region. Security initiatives must be complemented by efforts to address the root causes of instability. State presence and governance, development and social inclusion, employment and livelihoods, as well as environmental pressures, desertification and climate change, are areas that should be focused on. (UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL, 2019h).

## 2.7 Republic of Peru

Despite experiencing an economic boom in this decade, caused by foreign investments, attracted by the government and encouraged by the country's favorable raw material conditions, Peru is also a State where social inequality is a constant issue. The country generally has good bilateral relations with its neighbors, with the exception of a maritime territorial dispute with Chile, and is part of several international organizations. (BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION, 2018).

Although it is not on the spot of terrorist acts in the world, Peru has joined the international forces on the fight against terrorism. Specifically about Somalia, Peru has expressed its concerns about terrorist acts in the country. In 2018, for example, its Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned the terrorist attack that killed 45 people in Mogadishu (MINISTERIO DE RELACIONES EXTERIORES, 2018). In April of the same year, Peru condemned the attack perpetrated by Al-Shabaab against the Ugandan contingent of AMISOM in Lower Shabelle in Somalia (SECURITY COUNCIL, 2018).

However, Peru is not only interested on the impact of terrorism in the country, but also with humanitarian issues and the country's political autonomy. In a meeting of the Security Council in May 2018, in which the members approved a transition plan to guarantee a gradual independence of Somalia from international organizations, towards assuming full responsibility for its own stability, the representative of Peru said that Somalia's priority should be given to the constitutional reform process. Beyond that, the Peruvian delegation highlighted the need to involve women in such work and empower young people, and for Gulf countries to support Somalia's Federal Government (SECURITY COUNCIL, 2018).

In regard to the situation in West Africa and Sahel, in a meeting of the Security Council in 2018, the representative of Peru said that the country was worried about the persistent violence and insecurity, the presence of terrorist groups, as well as the humanitarian situation in the Lake Chad Basin. He also expressed the belief that the United Nations Office for West Africa and Sahel (UNOWAS) should work with the countries involved in the security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programs, the empowerment of women and the impacts of climate change, as well as other objectives (UNITED NATIONS FOR WEST AFRICA AND SAHEL, 2018). As it can be seen, the diplomatic approach of Peru in this region resembles that adopted in Somalia. In both

situations, Peru positioned itself for structural reforms to develop the country and offer a better quality of life for its citizens, not forgetting, obviously, that the fight against terrorism is necessary.

## **2.8 Republic of Poland**

The main aspect of the relations between Poland and Africa comes from the immigration experienced in the last few years (PEŹDZIWIATR, 2018) and the country finds its current links with the African Continent mainly in their measures against terrorism (PANJWANI, 2019).

However, in the 20th century, African countries and Poland strengthened their ties through the Polish People's Republic and the help the country offered to the communist regimes in Africa at the time. Their relations were very close and until this day there are many polish immigrants in the African continent (GREENHILL, 2018). In recent statements, Poland has recognized its history of links with Africa, making it clear that the nation wants to understand and establish good relations with Africa (POLSKA, 2017)

In 2018, Poland became a non-permanent member of the UNSC and has expressed its gratitude by stating that it perceives their election as an expression of the trust in their compromise to peace. The country has shown a great concern towards the food insecurity matter, cooperating and donating resources to better the situation in countries like Tanzania (THE EAST AFRICAN, 2018). They have also created a program that improved schools throughout Africa, making sure that education is not as jeopardized (MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REPUBLIC OF POLAND, 2018).

Recently, Poland has commented on the great potential of the African continent, growing network of polish embassies and deeply encouraging African leaders to increase their diplomatic actions (RADIO POLAND, 2018).

## **2.9 Republic of South Africa**

South Africa is one of the most developed countries in the continent, and is considered an emerging economy (BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION, 2018a). Using a soft power approach based on cooperation, the country supports peace, unity and regional

integration in the entire continent — which is its foreign policy’s cornerstone — advocating for the African Agenda<sup>21</sup>, as well as promoting closer ties between the UNSC and the AU Peace and Security Council, which was embodied in the adoption of Resolution S/2033/2012 (PARLIAMENTARY MONITORING GROUP, 2014; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 2018; REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, 2015; REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, 2019). South Africa holds that regional organizations are better equipped to resolve local conflicts, and it emphasizes the AU’s role in that process, whilst claiming for better funding for its peacekeeping missions. It is also a part of BRICS, to which it devotes significant efforts in its foreign policies (PARLIAMENTARY MONITORING GROUP, 2014).

The geographical location and cultural differences might be seen as propellers of a chasm between South Africa and the Northern part of the continent — only 1,9% of the country’s population are Muslim, as opposed to the majority of that region (CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, 2018b). Additionally, the trade between them only amounts to less than 20% of South Africa’s trades in the continent (REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, 2018a). Nonetheless, the country pledges its support to the area, whilst recognizing the socioeconomic and security difficulties which there prevail (REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, 2018b).

Diplomatic relations between South Africa and Somalia, specifically, were established only in 2012, with the former supporting the latter’s attempts at establishing governance (REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, 2012; REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, 2018b). There are over 30,000 Somali refugees living in South Africa, whom are provided support by the government in cooperation with the UN Refugee Agency, though they face issues such as xenophobia and a protracted asylum process (UNITED NATIONS REFUGEE AGENCY, 2018b). They are also both part of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA), which has as one of its priorities maritime peace and security (INDIAN OCEAN RIM ASSOCIATION, 2017).

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<sup>21</sup> According to the Department of International Relations and Cooperation, this agenda “rests on five key pillars: contribute to regional and continental peace, security, stability and sustainable development through the African Union; advance Africa’s socio-economic development through the New Partnership for Africa’s Development; strengthen effective governance through mechanisms such as the African Peer Review Mechanism; seek cooperation through international partnerships in support of Africa’s development; and develop regional economic communities as the building blocs for continental economic development and integration.” (REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, 2015).

The existence of Islamist terrorism in South African territory has been relatively limited hitherto, but shows signs of increasing its presence (FRANK; REVA, 2016). As an international transit hub, it may serve as a key location for terrorists to escape the continent, possibility which is aggravated as its borders are somewhat insecure, especially on land (UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, 2017). In the Security Council, South Africa condemns all forms of terrorism, and prioritizes the goal of achieving peace in the continent and all regions.

The number of national personnel deployed on UN peacekeeping missions has reduced in recent years, and is estimated at 1,183 peacekeepers, most of whom are stationed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (UNITED NATIONS PEACEKEEPING, 2019). As a non-permanent member of the UNSC, the country finds itself in the position to defend the idea of African solutions to African problems, as well as its intent of increasing cooperation between the UN and the AU on this matter — as it sought to do during both of its previous terms in the Council —, particularly because such discussions have remained stagnant in the past few years as a result of disagreements, such as the funding of AU-led peace operations (CARVALHO, 2018a; CARVALHO, 2018b).

## **2.10 State of Kuwait**

Despite being a small country severely affected by the Invasion of Iraq's Army in the 1990's, Kuwait is considered a high income country and an active participant in international communities and organizations (WORLD BANK, 2018). Kuwait is considered one of the greatest allies of the United States in the Middle East. It is also a member of the African Development Group, a multinational bank designed to foster economic and humanitarian development in the continent (AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT GROUP).

The relations between Kuwait and Somalia are of mutual cooperation. Kuwait is supporting Somalia in many fields, including education, transport and social affairs. In 2016, Kuwait's Energy Company (KEC) submitted a proposal to help Somalia in exploring and developing the country's oil and gas sector. In a meeting of both Foreign Ministers in 2018, the government of Kuwait said the ministers reviewed on cooperation and relations between the countries (HALBEEG, 2017).



Beyond that, in a speech made in 2017, the Assistant Foreign Minister of Kuwait for International Organizations Affairs, Nasser Al-Heen, called the international community to provide aid and support to Somalia, stating that: “Kuwait will spare no effort to coordinate and intensify efforts with its brothers and friends to safeguard security and safety of Somalia in various fields” (KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY, 2018). In a meeting of the Security Council, the representative of Kuwait said that the League of Arab States welcomes the positive developments in Somalia, including efforts for national reconciliation, the political situation under the elected President and improved economic conditions. However, he said that the country was concerned about the security situation in Somalia, with the insurgence of recent terrorist attacks (RELIEF WEB, 2018).

Kuwait is a country severely affected by terrorist acts, which leads them to strongly condemn terrorism, forming part of numerous intergovernmental organizations related to counterterrorism, including the Global Counterterrorism Forum, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, and the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. Kuwait is also a member of the US-led Global Coalition to Counter ISIL, as well as Saudi Arabia’s “Islamic military alliance” (COUNTER EXTREMISM, [201-]).

By adopting this position, Kuwait condemns as well terrorism in West Africa and Sahel. The positioning of Kuwait related to that subject can be seen by two speeches given by the representative of Kuwait in the Security Council, Mansour Al-Otaibi. In 2017, the Ambassador underlined Kuwait’s support of governments affected by terrorism in Sahel to tackle this situation, and also its intention to provide economic aid. He condemned the violent acts perpetrated mainly by Boko Haram and ISIL in the region (KUWAIT NEWS AGENCY, 2018).<sup>22</sup>

In another speech, in 2018, the Security Council received the head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), who claimed for the consolidation of democracy in the countries of the region. Al-Otaibi encouraged countries of the region to hold open, fair elections, which would have a positive effect on development. However, he said that terrorist attacks and drug trafficking were grave concerns, proposing an effort of subregional and regional actors to tackle this challenge (UNOWAS, 2019).<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>22</sup> <https://www.kuna.net.kw/ArticleDetails.aspx?id=2736767&language=en>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13660.doc.htm>



### 3 INVITED MEMBERS

#### 3.1 African Union

The African Union<sup>24</sup> was created as a result of the Sirte Declaration of 9<sup>th</sup> of September, 1999, having succeeded the Organization for the African Unity, founded in 1963 (AFRICAN UNION, [201-]). Its precursor came to existence in the same decade as more than thirty-two declarations of independence in the African continent, bearing as objectives and principles the riddance of vestiges of colonization, the unity and solidarity amongst African States, the protection of sovereignty and territorial integrity of its Member States and to promote international cooperation within the United Nations' framework (AFRICAN UNION, [201-]). Such principles are upheld in the African Union to this day. Although harshly criticized due to its alleged inoperativeness, the OAU made substantial progress in areas which would later be further developed in the AU.

Peace and Security is one of those areas, with the establishment of the Peace and Security Council within the scope of the AU (AFRICAN UNION, 2015b). The AUPSC follows the 2002 Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, and, much alike the UNSC, is composed of 15 members (AFRICAN UNION, 2015b). However, unlike its UN counterpart, there are no permanent members entitled to special voting rights<sup>25</sup> (AFRICAN UNION, 2002). The AUPSC is presided by the AUPSC Chairperson, who represents its decisions and the AU's principles in all matters pertaining AU Member States (AFRICAN UNION, 2002).

Also within the scope of the AU, the Constitutive Act of the African Union determines the existence of regional observatory centers focused on gathering information on site regarding issues such as peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts led by the African Union (AFRICAN UNION, [201-]a). According to Article 13 of the Protocol Relating to the Establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union, the African Standby Force is made up of multidisciplinary military, civil and police contingencies from the

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<sup>24</sup> The AU's 1st Assembly of the Heads of States of the African Union was held only in 2002, in the Durban Summit.

<sup>25</sup> The AUPSC is made up of three seats for Central Africa, three seats for Eastern Africa, two seats for Northern Africa, three seats for Southern Africa and four seats for Western Africa. In 2019, the members of the AUPSC are the Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Egypt, Zambia, Nigeria, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Djibouti, Rwanda, Morocco, Angola, Zimbabwe, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Togo (AFRICAN UNION, 2018).

Member States, on active duty to act upon call in situations regarding war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity (AFRICAN UNION, 2002).

Along with the African Standby Force, the African Union may also bring to life peacekeeping missions, which should be organized by the PSC (AFRICAN UNION, 2002). The AU Mission most pertinent to the topics is AMISOM (African Union Mission in Somalia), established in 2007 and still ongoing. In recent years, AMISOM has participated in the peace mediating process in Somalia, as well as employed counter-terrorism tactics against groups such as Al-Shabaab (AFRICAN UNION, [2017?]).

When it comes to international terrorism, the then-OAU approved the 1992 Resolution on the Strengthening of Cooperation and Coordination among African States, which set the basis for African cooperation on the field of fighting extremism and terrorism, although embryonic (AFRICAN UNION, 2015a). Such statements were further developed in the 1944 Declaration on the Code of Conduct for Inter-African Relations, in which the OAU condemned, categorically as criminal, all terrorist acts, methods and practices, under whatever pretext (AFRICAN UNION, 2015a).

### **3.2 Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia**

Called by the official name of Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia (FDRE), Ethiopia is a founding member of the UN, the African Union (AU), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), channeling its main political interests through these (TADDELE MARU, 2014). The country has shown its development as a diplomatic potency, making business with states such as Norway and strengthening ties with Egypt<sup>26</sup> (ABABA, 2014; GASHAW, 2015). The impressive economic records and incredible ability when it comes to peacekeeping are just some of the new aspects of Ethiopia's diplomatic strategies, leading the region in the African integration process (MULISA, 2017).

A lot of its reputation comes from the fact that the Ethiopian army is the second strongest in the continent, which ensures their role in counter-terrorism. In the cases when their strategy is peacekeeping, their involvement is perceived by many as a form of soft

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<sup>26</sup> The approximation with Egypt comes as a way to solve their differences regarding the construction of The Renaissance Dam, since their opinions were usually a source of disagreement (ABABA, 2014).

power, specially in places like Somalia and South Sudan (YOHANNES, 2017). Although growing exponentially, Ethiopia still has issues of its own. In the recent Human Development reports (HDR), Ethiopia has shown, despite the increased life expectancy, low levels of human development (MULISA, 2017).

Regarding the current situation faced by Somalia, Ethiopia possesses a stance of support to the fight against terrorism, despite the history of conflict with the troubled nation and the fact that they are not directly engaged. Their territorial dispute dates back to the 20th century, when border conflicts started. The Ogaden region, located in the eastern part of Ethiopia and dominated mainly by Somalis, was the target of claims from Somalia after the country gained its independence, since the area was handed to the Ethiopian during the division of the continent<sup>27</sup>. The main reason for this is that Ethiopia acted as a partner of Europe during the divide (SANEI, 2015). The feud concerning boundaries led to war between the countries from 1977 to 1978, but since the collapse of the state of Somalia, it has not had the strength and the resources to continue such rivalry.

Subsequently to this episode, Ethiopia has engaged in the fight against the terrorist activity in Africa, contributing to AMISOM with military forces, for example. However, due to the lack of capital and support and as a result of the fear propagated by the Al-Shabaab, in 2016 Ethiopian troops left the Somali nation. According to the Ethiopian Communications Minister Getachew Redar, the troops which fled were not part of AMISOM, but there have been indicators of an absence of aid that could potentially harm the presence of Ethiopians in Somalia (BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION, 2016).

Despite the adversities, after deadly attacks and clear need of additional military help, more Ethiopian troops entered Somalia in 2017. As Redar stated before (2016), it is a responsibility of the international community to aid the Somali army, since the terrorist threat has implications worldwide. In 2018, the troops arrived at Jigjiga, city located in Ethiopia, but of Somali dominance. Once again, current problems are directly influenced by the disputes over territory, since there have been reports of violence against non-Somalis and combats between local authorities and the national government. The oil wealth is fought over and places like Oromia, another Somali region in Ethiopia, have been the stage of bloody massacres (BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION, 2018).<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> During the Berlin Conference, which took place in the 19th Century, the new imperialism divided the African Continent for their own economic purposes (ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA, 2019).

<sup>28</sup> For more information on Ethiopian-Somali relations, see topic 3.4.

Aside from the difficult relations between Ethiopia and Somalia, another struggle of the nation which is striving to become a continental power is its contact with the Sahel region, since the type of climate makes it difficult for the development of economic activities. For this reason, Ethiopia has been working with small pastoralists to avoid food insecurity. However, the countries that form West Africa still don't receive the amount of assistance needed. During a survey that happened in mid-2016, two thirds of the youth interviewed by UNICEF stated that the African leaders did not do enough for their safety (UNICEF ETHIOPIA, 2016).

Between 2017 and 2018, Ethiopia acted as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council and has since shown its great diplomacy features and strong relations with countries. Its history is marked by the promotion of independence of once colonized African countries and working towards peacekeeping by being a member of Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). Such strong presence has been, and will continue to be, essential to guarantee a political commitment strong enough to attend the demands of people who rely on this kind of representation to survive (BEYENE, 2018).

### **3.3 Federal Republic of Nigeria**

The Federal Republic of Nigeria, located in West Africa, is a member of the United Nations since 1960, when the country became independent from the United Kingdom. In 2013, Nigeria was the fifth largest contributor of officers to United Nations peacekeeping operations, reinforcing its role as a solid supporter of UN peacekeeping missions, mainly through the provision of officers and agents (LORD-MALLAM, 2016). Nigeria has recently served a two-year term, from 2014-2015, as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. In addition, Nigeria has been a UNSC member in 4 other mandates, specifically in 1966 to 1967, 1978 to 1979, 1994 to 1995 and 2010 to 2011 (UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL, 2019).

Since the collapse of the central government of Somalia, Nigeria has been taking part in efforts to bring back stability to the Horn of Africa nations. In 2012, the country contributed with 140 police officers and other resources to AMISOM, expressing its concern with the Somali situation — besides that, it is important to bounce Nigerian participation in the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) between 1993 and 1995

(LORD-MALLAM, 2016). In the last years, Nigeria and Somalia have been strengthening the bilateral relations they reaffirmed in the last decade, focusing in the similarities both countries share and the common problems existing between them, such as the extreme violent groups of Boko Haram and al-Shabaab (HORSEED MEDIA, 2015).

Regarding terrorism, the Nigerian government took several steps to fight one of its main problems, in an attempt to increase its counter-Boko Haram efforts. The country works with other Boko Haram-affected neighbors in the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF), facilitating the collaboration and coordination on counter-Boko Haram exertions. The Nigerian government's criminal justice institutions operates with the support of several donor countries, including the United Kingdom, working closely with the Ministry of Justice to assist in prioritizing how to investigate and prosecute suspected terrorism cases (COUNTRY REPORTS ON TERRORISM, 2017).

The Nigerian government actively cooperates with the United States and other international partners to prevent further acts of terrorism in Nigeria against U.S., Nigerian and other citizens. Nigerian law enforcement agencies currently collaborate with the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to assist with counterterrorism investigations. The Government of Nigeria has the power to freeze and confiscate terrorist assets, as required by the UNSC, from ISIL and Al-Qaida sanctions regime. Also, the Nigerian government routinely distributes the UNSC lists of designated terrorist entities to financial institutions (COUNTRY REPORTS ON TERRORISM, 2017).

Nigeria is also a member of the Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership (TSCTP)<sup>29</sup> and is a part of the Security Governance Initiative between the United States and six African partners. First announced in 2014, the partnership offers a comprehensive approach to improving security sector governance and capacity to address threats (COUNTRY REPORTS ON TERRORISM, 2017).

Furthermore, Nigeria is one of the founding members of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF). Primarily through the presidency, Nigeria took a leading role in continuing a multilateral dialogue between countries in the region – including through GCTF and TSCTP

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<sup>29</sup> The Trans-Sahara Counterterrorism Partnership (TSCTP) is a multi-faceted, multi-year U.S. strategy aimed at developing resilient institutions that are capable of preventing and responding to terrorism in a holistic, long term manner. Partner countries include Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Tunisia (U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, 2019).

activities – on how better to coordinate regional efforts to confront networks of terrorist groups that cross national borders (COUNTRY REPORTS ON TERRORISM, 2017).

As an UNSC delegation, Nigerian policy has been characterized by an attention on Africa as a regional power and by attachment to manifold fundamental principles: African unity and independence, peaceful settlement of disputes, respect for the sovereignty of other nations and regional and international economic cooperation and development, through its participation in UN peacekeeping missions — such as AMISOM — and regional and international programs and initiatives for counterterrorism — as the already mentioned TSCTP, MNJTF, the Security Government Initiative and the GCTF (LORD-MALLAM, 2016). By mutual cooperation between the nations, Nigerian delegation is trying to achieve its objective as a UNSC delegation and UN member.

### **3.4 Federal Republic of Somalia**

The crisis that has plagued Somalia since the collapse of its central government in 1991 presents many pressing issues, such as poverty, famine, internal conflicts and terrorism, which bring forth substantial aid and interventions from foreign States and organizations.

Somalia holds particular attachments with neighboring countries, which have sometimes helped, sometimes derailed its efforts at state-building. In more recent years, Ethiopia has followed the pattern of interfering with Somalia's national politics, even having its forces invade it to combat Islamist insurgents in bloody battles which left many civilians dead (VENUGOPALAN, 2017). Currently, Ethiopia has its troops serving in AMISOM along with independent military missions in Somali territory to combat terrorist activity (ASSOCIATED PRESS, 2019). It also provides asylum for more than 257,000 Somali refugees, divided into two camps: Dollo Ado and Jijiga (UNITED NATIONS REFUGEE AGENCY, 2019a). A more recent source of tension between the two States has been the acquisition by Ethiopia in 2018 of shares of the Port of Barbera in Somaliland, a deal which Somalia declared null and void, saying it violated the Constitution and the federal pact, since the central government had no involvement in this transaction (MUMBERE, 2018).<sup>30</sup>

It is also important to mention the tripartite agreement between Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea in September 2018, which normalized the relations that have long been marked by

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<sup>30</sup> For more informations on Ethiopian-Somali relations, see topic 3.2.

reciprocal animosity (UNITED NATIONS, 2019; WORLD POLITICS REVIEW, 2018)<sup>31</sup>. The first two countries supported the lifting of sanctions against Eritrea, which was formalized in November 2018 by the UNSC (SHABAN, 2018)<sup>32</sup>. The result has not been entirely satisfactory for Somalia, however, since the UNSC did not entirely lift the sanctions imposed against it in 1992 and 2012, which include an arms embargo and charcoal ban<sup>33</sup>, despite the State's protests (UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL, 2018b).

Another of Somalia's neighbors, Kenya, was also involved in Somalia's national politics, especially when it held (unsuccessful) peace talks between rival political factions in 2002 (VENUGOPALAN, 2017). Kenya has also suffered considerably from Al-Shabaab's terrorist attacks, and though the country had been largely peaceful and demilitarized until then, it sent 2,000 troops into Somali territory in 2011, justified by the need to protect the border from by Al-Shabaab fighters penetrating Kenyan soil (BRANCH, 2011). Still, the entrance of Somalis in the adjoining country is not a new phenomenon, as Kenya currently shelters 259,000 refugees (UNITED NATIONS REFUGEE AGENCY, 2019b). As it is, both countries have recently fallen into a bout of animosity, as they are currently disputing the ownership of maritime territory which is said to hold significant deposits of oil and gas (MARUF, 2019). New events have caused the countries to sever diplomatic ties, elevating tensions in the Horn of Africa, though they were later restored (WATIMA, 2019)<sup>34</sup>.

Beyond its regional associations, Somalia has also maintained diplomatic ties with non-African countries, most of which have provided aid and troops to help alleviate the dire security situation. Missions mandated by the UN (UNISOM I & II, Unified Task Force — UNITAF, United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia — UNSOM) and the AU (AMISOM), both past and present, have sought to reestablish peace and security in the region. Furthermore, many resources, material, logistical and financial alike, have been donated by States and organizations to try to combat the effects and causes of the acute political and

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<sup>31</sup> This includes the Ethiopia-Eritrea border disputes; Eritrea's alleged support of Al-Shabaab in Somali soil; and Ethiopia's political and military interferences in Somalia — amongst other issues (WORLD POLITICS REVIEW, 2018).

<sup>32</sup> Such sanctions were imposed by the UNSC in 2009 and 2011 and consisted of an arms embargo, assets freeze and travel ban, caused by claims that Eritrea abetted armed groups in Somalia, including Al-Shabaab, which Eritrea denies to this day, and as consequence of its lack of cooperation in the resolution of a border dispute with Djibouti (BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION, 2018b; ASSOCIATED PRESS, 2018).

<sup>33</sup> This is justified by the environmental cost of its production, as well as the revenue it provides when illegally traded by armed militias and terrorist groups such as Al-Shabaab (SHABELLE, 2018).

<sup>34</sup> For more informations on Kenyan-Somali relations, see the following topic.



humanitarian crisis (UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR THE COORDINATION OF HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS, 2018).

Furthermore, it is crucial to note Russia and China's burgeoning leverage on the region. To Russia, Africa might be an important source of energy, which is demonstrated by the growth of investments on oil, gas and nuclear power. It also seeks to explore mineral resources, as well as to expand its military influence (NEETHLING, 2019). The latter can be seen in Somalia, as Russia intends to set up a military base in a cardinal port in Somaliland's Zeila City, near the border with Djibouti<sup>35</sup> (HAROLDSON, 2019). It is also close to China's military base in Djibouti, which is only one of the many Chinese ventures in the region, which have a significant impact on the economy, infrastructure, security and other areas.<sup>36</sup>

The focal point of international concern is the fight against terrorism, which has given leeway for many countries to try to assert themselves in the area, as Foreign Policy reports that:

Turkey has its own military academy. Qatar has one as well. The United Arab Emirates' training facility shut down in April, a proxy in the Persian Gulf dispute. The Egyptians and the Sudanese are training officers. The British are conducting training in their own center, south of Mogadishu, in Baidoa. And the United States, as well as private U.S.-based security firms, are working with the Danab special operations forces on Baledogle air base (SPERBER, 2018).

It is finally important to note the impact of the military operations executed by the U.S. in Somalia. There are between 500 and 600 troops there stationed, which have carried out strikes with increasing frequency since March 2017, when President Donald Trump, through an Executive Order, declared the country an “area of active hostilities” (BALDOR, 2019; AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, 2019). The decision simplified requisites for targeting supposed Al-Shabaab fighters and reduced limitations on drone strikes (GOLDBAUM, 2018). Whilst 338 militants were killed in 2018, 230 were killed only in the first three months of 2019 (BALDOR, 2019).

Problems arose when a report by Amnesty International disclosed that 14 people had been killed and 8 injured in five of these strikes, incidents which violate international humanitarian law, and contradict the veracity of the U.S.' claim that the number of civilian casualties had been zero (AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, 2019). The U.S. military later

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<sup>35</sup> For more information on Russian-Somali relations, see topic 1.3.

<sup>36</sup> For more information on Chinese-Somali relations, see topic 1.1.



admitted its responsibility in the killing of two other civilians in an airstrike in April 2018 (WARD, 2019).

### 3.5 Republic of Kenya

Kenya is a country that faces many issues, such as high unemployment, crime and poverty. The World Bank classified Kenya as a lower middle income country (WORLD BANK, 2018). Droughts frequently put millions of people at risk. Beyond that, the country also struggles to fight against terrorist groups, specially Al-Shabaab, who is based in Somalia, but has also launched attacks in Kenya. The country is highly supportive of United States foreign policy (U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE, 2018), having the last country great popularity among Kenya's population, even though it maintains close ties with China (EMBASSY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, 2019) and has also relations with Russia (OGULTURK, 2017).

Kenya's relation with Somalia can be classified as tense since the independence of both countries in the past century. In fact, during the time Kenya reached its independence, there was a conflict between these countries, known as the Shifta War<sup>37</sup>. The motivation was the territory of the Northern Frontier District (NFD), which was incorporated by Kenya, with the intervention of the United Kingdom. However, the region was mostly composed of ethnic Somalis (GLOBAL SECURITY, [201-]).

Nowadays, besides some issues, the relation between the countries is in a better position. In fact, Somalia and Kenya have been cooperating in the fight against Al-Shabaab since 2011 (MOHAMED, 2019). Even more, Kenya joined AMISOM in 2012.

However, in February 2019, a row over a maritime territorial area in the Indian Ocean between Kenya and Somalia escalated after Nairobi decided to cut diplomatic relations with Mogadishu over a claim that the latter had auctioned oil blocks located in a disputed border area (ACHUKA, 2019). The recent tension, on the other hand, according to Ethiopia Prime Minister, is now pacified (WAKAYA, 2019).<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> The Shifta War was a separatist conflict that occurred from 1963 to 1968, motivated by a dispute between ethnic Somalis who sought for the independence of the Northern Frontier District (a territory of Kenya with the majority of the population being Somalis) and posterior unification with Somalia. (GLOBAL SECURITY, [201-?]).

<sup>38</sup> For more information on Kenyan-Somali relations, see the previous topic.

As it can be observed, although Kenya and Somalia have historical divergences, the diplomatic prognosis for the future tend to be of mutual cooperation against terrorism and humanitarian issues. However, being Kenya one of the most important countries in the Eastern Africa, surely Kenyan diplomatic efforts in Somalia have also the objective to consolidate its position as a leader of this region.

Although not directioned to the situation in West Africa and Sahel, Kenya's efforts to combat terrorism against Al-Shabaab can be extended to the rest of Africa, since the country is part of the African Union and maintain close ties with other nations in the continent.

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