

Greetings Delegates!

On behalf of the University of Georgia, welcome to UGAMUNC XXVII and to the United Nations African Union! My name is Cameron Kasper, and I am beyond excited to be chairing this body for the upcoming conference. I am a first year Political Science and International Affairs double major and a native of the Brunswick and St. Simons Island area of Southeast Georgia. In my spare time, I enjoy being with friends, watching Parks and Recreation, cheering on my favorite football teams (Go Dawgs), and travelling.

This last year has been full of challenges, upheavals, trials, tribulations, and seemingly never-ending chaos. However, I am glad we are able to make a return to some normalcy through your participation in this conference. Model UN has been a part of my life for over seven years. In that time frame, I have forged some of my strongest bonds with people across the world while competing at competitions across the country. There are many people I have met that I still keep up with today. That's exactly the kind of environment I would like to foster, and I hope that if you gain nothing else from this experience that you have fun and make friends along the way.

With that, I will note that the topics I have selected for this year's simulation are intentionally broad and general. This background guide should serve as a strong foundation on which to base your research, but it is in no way a final say on the sub-topics you can explore within these broad topics. I would prefer not to stifle your pursuance of intellectual creativity with clear-cut topics on very specific issues plaguing the African continent. It should also not serve as your only source of information. I encourage you to use every resource at your disposal to prepare, but I would also highly encourage you visit any links or citations you see throughout the paper when beginning your research. While I understand the provided topics are very broad, I expect the exact opposite from your position papers and resolutions. A high amount of research and preparation should go into your paper, and you should come fully prepared to discuss with your peers the direction you as a delegate would like to take, and I would also suggest that you come prepared to talk about other issues your peers may want to discuss. I'm looking for you to use your own intellectual creativity here, but that should serve towards achieving a specific goal during committee rather than providing a broad resolution that never actually achieves anything. The real UN passes plenty of those empty resolutions on their own. To summarize, be specific, build consensus, respectfully disagree if necessary, but above all, do a quality job and be proud of your work.

As a delegate in this committee, it is expected that you also maintain a high level of maturity and professionalism throughout the debate. I am looking for cooperation that extends beyond just one or two people leading every small group. Every voice is equally as important, and your attitudes towards others should reflect that. At the beginning of the conference, we will review parliamentary procedure and what is expected of each delegate before we begin, but I urge every one of you to get a solid foundation of UGAMUNC rules by reviewing them on our website.

I am looking forward to an exciting conference, and I cannot wait to read your position papers. Please submit those to me at cameron.kasper@uga.edu by **Monday, February 1, 2021 at 11:59 P.M.** If you have any questions, I am always here to help. Never hesitate to contact me via email with any questions you have about MUN or the University of Georgia, issues you are finding in your research, or just to update me on your general preparation. See you all very soon!

Best,
Cameron Kasper, Chair of the African Union

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1 Committee Background

The African Union was formally launched in July of 2002 in Durban, South Africa. However, this was not the first time African countries had agreed to cooperate in a governing body such as this. Many African countries had already been cooperating through their participation in the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), an organization founded in 1963 following growing calls for a united pan-African dream in the aftermath of independence of most African colonial holdings. While the original founding members of this cooperative body had been freed from colonial rule, many areas of the African continent were much slower to achieve independence, and some that were freed still struggled with apartheid systems created by their former colonial rulers.¹

We will first look at the establishment of the OAU to provide an outlook for the necessity of the African Union when such a pan-African cooperation organization already existed. The primary importance of the OAU, as spelled out in their charter, was “to eradicate all forms of colonialism from Africa.”² We can assume that this verbiage referred both to the traditional meaning of colonialism as well as the cessation of the apartheid system. In 1980, Zimbabwe had become the last African nation to become independent from a European power and therefore the last to overthrow the shackles of the more traditional use of the word colonialism.³ However, the problem of apartheid remained until the liberation of South Africa in 1994.⁴ It was then that the OAU had successfully achieved its goal to eradicate both forms of colonialism from Africa.

While the OAU was viewed as a success in achieving its goal to eradicate colonialism, it was largely silent in addressing other important issues in post-colonial Africa. The OAU had a very strong commitment to preserving the national sovereignty of its member states, leaving it completely powerless to intervene in the many civil wars that raged in multiple countries or to provide relief when a government was overthrown and a military coup replaced it. The combination of the failure to resolve issues such as these alongside the successful achievement of its primary goal led ultimately to the breakup of the OAU, but it also provided for the establishment of the more unifying African Union.⁵

In its eighteen year history, the African Union has been extremely active in the fight against corruption and seeking peace. While it has been heavily criticized for its failure to issue strong condemnation of human rights abuses, it has had a large impact on the African continent as a whole through initiatives and commissions created to combat a wide variety of issues plaguing member nations such as fighting the West Nile Virus, aiding in the fight against AIDS, and controlling government turmoil in the Sudan.⁶

¹“About the African Union.” About the African Union | African Union. October 13, 2020. <https://au.int/en/overview>.

²Organization of African Unity. *OAU Charter*. PDF. https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/7759-file-oau_charter_1963.pdf

³Rfi. “Timeline: African Independence.” RFI. February 19, 2010. <https://www.rfi.fr/en/africa/20100216-timeline-african-independence>.

⁴U.S. Department of State. <https://2001-2009.state.gov/r/pa/ho/time/pcw/98678.htm>.

⁵“The Birth of the African Union.” Exploring Africa. <http://exploringafrica.matrix.msu.edu/the-birth-of-the-african-union/#:~:text=In May, 1963 the leaders,relationships between independent African States>.

⁶“Main Successes of the AU in Peace and Security, Challenges and Mitigation Measures in Place.” Main Successes of the AU in Peace and Security, Challenges and Mitigation Measures in Place | African Union. October 08, 2020. <https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20170127/main-successes-au-peace-and-security-challenges-and-mitigation-measures-place>.

2 Topic A: Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals on the African Continent

2.1 Introduction

In 2015, all United Nations Member States adopted the seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), also referred to as the Global Goals, to act as a global call to advance human society by the year 2030. While most of the developed world has managed to overcome a lot of these problems, the members of the African Union still struggle to achieve in areas such as quality education, zero hunger, and gender equality. The seventeen SDGs can be found here: <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

Despite the progress made in recent years, Africa remains plagued by poverty and violence that is causing economic, political, and social advancements to stagnate. The African Union Commission Chairman issued a statement on May 25th of this year that noted that “such progress cannot conceal the sometimes-flagrant shortcomings and delays.”⁷ In other words, while Africa has maintained consistent growth towards achieving these goals, it is oftentimes interrupted by issues that require more immediate attention such as famines or wars.

The entire premise of the Sustainable Development Goals is to insure that we are handing off a world to succeeding generations that is equipped to tackle the challenges of that era, rather than consistently being bogged down in the challenges we face today. With that, it is important to note that Africa currently contains over 1.3 billion people, accounting for 17% of the total world population. Further, it is also considered to be the fastest growing population center in the world. More than half of global population growth between now and 2050 is expected to occur in Africa, and by 2050, the Sub-Saharan portion of the African continent alone is expected to double in population size. Other areas of the world appear to be stagnating or even declining due to more older individuals than younger ones. In Africa, this is exactly the opposite. This means that Africa has a large role to play in the size and scope of the future population, even if family planning assistance measures are implemented by governments. This leaves Africa as one of the most important regions of the world to consider if the SDGs are to be a success, and advances in digital technology, gender equality, and climate action are major steps towards achieving those goals.⁸

2.2 Bridging Africa’s Digital Divide

The World Bank has previously estimated that achieving the African Union’s goal for universal internet coverage, as is seen in most Western societies, would increase GDP growth in Africa by 2 percentage points annually. Additionally, the probability of becoming employed for citizens of the country increases by 6.9 points when fast internet becomes available.⁹ So, solving the African digital divide would go a long way also in achieving a multitude of the SDGs as well as advancing society towards the listed goals.

In 2019, there were 525 million internet users across Africa. While this averages about 40% of the entirety of the African continent, this usage varies from country to country. Some countries see over 80% of citizens having access to the internet, but there are also a significant amount that have internet access only for only the wealthy class of citizens or government officials.¹⁰

⁷“Violence, Poverty Impede Africa’s Progress: AU Leader,” Anadolu Ajansı, accessed November 2, 2020, <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/violence-poverty-impede-africa-s-progress-au-leader/1852997>.

⁸“Population,” United Nations (United Nations), accessed November 2, 2020, <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/population/index.html>.

⁹Hafez Ghanem, “Shooting for the Moon: An Agenda to Bridge Africa’s Digital Divide,” Brookings (Brookings, February 7, 2020), <https://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2020/02/07/shooting-for-the-moon-an-agenda-to-bridge-africas-digital-divide/>.

¹⁰“Last Month, Over Half-a-Billion Africans Accessed the Internet,” Council on Foreign Relations (Council on Foreign Relations), accessed November 2, 2020, <https://www.cfr.org/blog/last-month-over-half-billion-africans-accessed-internet>.

2.3 Reducing Gender Inequality

The Global Partnership for Education calls gender inequality “one of the greatest threats to Africa’s future.” It also notes that without significant action taken to mitigate the ongoing situation, the global community will have “failed a generation and a generation to come” given that the SDGs would not be fully attained. This is especially true given that there is a wide gap that still remains between genders on the African continent, even as the rest of the world is as close to equality as we have ever been. 70% of women in Africa are completely excluded financially, and there is currently a US\$42 billion gap between men and women financially. Achieving a higher level of equality between women and men could grow the continent’s economy by approximately 10%, adding billions alone by the year 2025.¹¹

Further, the job and employment sectors are not the only areas in which women are being excluded. Young girls living on the African continent also face an uphill battle with millions who are not in school right now, and it is entirely possible that millions will never have the opportunity to set foot into a classroom.¹² If the SDGs are to be achieved throughout the African continent and globally, it is imperative that special attention is given to women’s education and employment opportunities.

2.4 Climate Action: Promoting Responsible Growth

UN Deputy Secretary-General Anima Mohammed describes climate change as a “web factor that can lead to conflict.” Climate change is one of the great security challenges of the 21st century and can become a source of future conflict as states struggle with access to water, food, and energy.¹³ The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recently reported that an average global rise of 1.5 degree Celsius would put 20-30% of species at risk of extinction, while a 2 degree increase would cause most ecosystems to significantly struggle.¹⁴ The Sahara is the world’s largest desert, and it has the deepest layer of intense heating compared to anywhere else on the globe. A 1.5 degree increase in temperature would have disastrous effects for the nearly 2.5 million people living in the area.

In a continent where hundreds of millions of people depend on rainfall for their food, it is apparent that a changing global climate will have significant impacts on the millions of lives. The African continent is home to many beautiful natural wonders, and they are at risk of being damaged or destroyed forever if significant action is not taken to reduce climate change.¹⁵

On a global scale, the United Nations Security Council has taken previous actions to address climate change occurring within the Lake Chad basin region of the African continent. The UNSC adopted Resolution 2349 in March of 2017, and its main goal was to recognize that climate change played a root cause in the conflict occurring in the region.¹⁶

Not only should we focus on taking efforts to preserve and protect the African continent’s beauty, we should simultaneously discuss what efforts can be taken to grow the economy and bring people out of poverty. Can both be achieved reasonably?

¹¹Victoria Egbetayo et al., “One of the Greatest Threats to Africa’s Future: Gender Inequality,” Global Partnership for Education, December 16, 2019, <https://www.globalpartnership.org/blog/one-greatest-threats-africas-future-gender-inequality>.

¹²ibid

¹³Ash Murphy PhD Researcher. “Climate Change Is a Security Threat – so Where Is the UN Security Council?” The Conversation. September 29, 2018. Accessed January 25, 2019.

¹⁴Iisd. “UN Security Council Addresses Climate Change as a Security Risk | News | SDG Knowledge Hub | IISD.” SDG Knowledge Hub. Accessed January 25, 2019. <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/un-security-council-addresses-climate-change-as-a-security-risk/>.

¹⁵“How Africa Will Be Affected by Climate Change,” BBC News (BBC, December 15, 2019), <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-50726701>.

¹⁶Resolution 2349, accessed October 21, 2020, <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/2349>.

2.5 Questions to Consider

- How can Member Nations better preserve Africa's natural beauty while simultaneously developing economically and industrializing? What stage is your country in this growth process, and how has your nation attempted to bridge that divide?
- Given Africa's rising population, how can we insure that all people today as well as those yet to be born have access to even the most basic of human necessities, and how can we insure that they are secured sustainably?
- What actions and initiatives can be taken to successfully implement the SDGs in your country and is it possible to attain them on time? How does yours compare to other Member States?
- What role will the African Union play in a world where the highest population growth is occurring on the African continent, and how can sustainable development leave a better world for posterity?
- What would successfully implementing the sustainable development goals and the African Union's Agenda 2063 look like for your nation, and what should the African Union members have to look forward to for the future?
- What has your member state done to combat climate change and are those practices transferable to Africa as a whole?

2.6 Vocabulary

- **Climate change mitigation** - efforts to reduce the effects of man-made climate change on the environment
- **Climate change adaptation** - ways by which nations are adapting and evolving to face the challenges posed by climate change
- **Sustainable** - A measure of the ability for something or some plan to be maintained at a particular level, indefinitely
- **Sustainable Development Goals** - 17 interlinked goals working as a blueprint for advancing the socioeconomic status of UN Member States that are LDCs
- **LDCs** - Less Developed Countries.
- **MDCs** - More Developed Countries.
- **Millennium Development Goals** - Eight goals of development and improvement decided upon by the United Nations with a target date of 2015. Three and a half of these targets were achieved.
- **National Development Plan** - Refers to domestic planning for implementation of the SDGs
- **Developing Country** - A state undergoing active, relatively rapid economic development, may be lagging behind others.
- **Poverty** - A dearth of material possessions to provide for basic needs.
- **Sanitation** - Measure of cleanliness of public consumption resources
- **Sustainability** - A measure of the ability for something or some plan to be maintained at a particular level, indefinitely

2.7 Key Organizations and Treaties

- Conference of Parties Meeting (COP)
- The United Nations Development Programme
- Women's Empowerment in Agriculture Index (WEAI)
- SDG Yearly Reports and Agendas
- Addis Ababa Action Agenda
- United Nations Population Fund
- United Nations Population Division
- The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women

3 Topic B: Combatting Lasting Conflicts & Securing Lasting Peace for Africa

3.1 Introduction

The African continent in recent years has been the scene of various conflicts of almost every type and scale. It is no surprise, therefore, that the African Union adopted the initiative called “Silencing the Guns by 2020” in 2013 to help combat the negative effects conflict has played across the African continent. The ultimate goal of the initiative is to end all wars, conflicts, and genocides by the year 2020.¹⁷

In February of 2019, the United Nations Security Council welcomed the idea of the “Silencing the Guns” campaign. It acknowledged through unanimous adoption of a resolution that only Africans can solve African problems, and it highlighted the importance of other countries helping to advance and accelerate progress. However, the Security Council also recognized that efforts to create a continent free from conflict was a daunting task, especially given the “challenging security situation in parts of Africa.”¹⁸ While this may be true, hope is not lost for this body to achieve this goal in the near future.

3.2 Combatting Terrorism

For most of the world, particularly the Western world, the fight against terrorism began on September 11, 2001 when the World Trade Centers in New York City were attacked by Al-Qaeda militants. Terrorism in Africa, however, did not start with those attacks. It began in Sudan in the 1990s, where Osama bin Laden organized an attack against Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak.¹⁹

One of the primary instigators of terrorism on the African continent has been the Boko Haram group, whose name translates to “Western Education is Forbidden.” Boko Haram extremists currently reside in the northern states of Nigeria, but they have been active across the continent in encouraging violence.²⁰ More information on Boko Haram, as well as a timeline of attacks can be found [here](#).

Mohamed Ibn Chambas is the Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel, and he recently said that despite intensive efforts to prevent it, violent extremists have continued to attack civilians and military operations in the region. He noted that “terrorists continue to exploit latent ethnic animosities and the absence of the State in peripheral areas to advance their agenda.” He also made mention that the ongoing COVID-19 crisis is strengthening the root causes of conflict and aggravating already existing tensions between groups, causing disproportionate impacts on the lives of women and girls in conflict.²¹

3.3 Combatting Current Conflicts

While the “Silencing the Guns” initiative has taken broad steps to help create a conflict-free Africa, it has also had several shortcomings which need to be addressed in order to create a lasting peace. For example, as the AU continues to create programs to tackle a wide variety of issues, sourcing funds and manpower has become one of the most critical challenges to overcome. Among other things, the initiative has largely failed to stem the flow of arms and reduce the number of arms on the continent. While it was a significant step towards creating a more peaceful African continent, the success of the action depends solely on people

¹⁷ “Silencing the Guns by 2020,” Silencing the Guns by 2020 | African Union, October 8, 2020, <https://au.int/en/flagships/silencing-guns-2020>.

¹⁸ “Silencing the Guns Campaign Kicks off in 2020 | Africa Renewal,” United Nations (United Nations), accessed October 21, 2020, <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2019-march-2020/silencing-guns-campaign-kicks-2020>.

¹⁹ John Harbeson, “The War on Terrorism in Africa,” n.d.

²⁰ “Boko Haram Fast Facts,” CNN (Cable News Network, September 7, 2020), <https://www.cnn.com/2014/06/09/world/boko-haram-fast-facts/index.html>.

²¹ “Situation in West Africa, Sahel ‘Extremely Volatile’ as Terrorists Exploit Ethnic Animosities, Special Representative Warns Security Council | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases,” United Nations (United Nations), accessed October 21, 2020, <https://www.un.org/press/en/2020/sc14245.doc.htm>.

identifying the shortcomings and working to address them.²²

Also, the body may choose to address more specific, ongoing points of contention on the African continent. The body may focus on how to address conflicts as a whole and include measures to implement in specific regions such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, South Sudan, Nigeria, and the Central African Republic. These are all areas where tens of thousands of people have been killed and displaced by ongoing violence. ²³Therefore, it would be in the best interest for delegates to focus on two parts of this sub-topic: mitigating conflict as a whole in these regions as well as assuaging the effects of the violence on the lives of the people there. More information on these conflicts can be found [here](#)

3.4 Measures to Prevent Conflicts and Secure Lasting Peace

Not only should this body focus on methods to insure that current conflicts are ended once and for all, it should also focus on how conflict can be prevented for generations to come. One of the primary purposes of the United Nations and its bodies is to maintain international peace and security. For the African Union, this means ensuring that African states are taking action to secure lasting peace and cooperation with fellow African states for the benefit of posterity.

Building lasting peace on a continent that has recently been subject to one violent conflict after another is a difficult challenge. Below you will find resources on preventing conflicts and securing lasting peace in order to draw up some ideas for how the body might address peacebuilding as a whole.

3.5 General Resources for Peacebuilding

- Building peace from the ground up
- After Africa's wars, a 'new day' for building peace
- African Approaches to Building Peace and Social Solidarity

3.6 Questions to Consider

- What have been the successes and failures of the African Union's "Silencing the Guns" Initiative? How can we allow for its successes to continue to succeed and in what way can we address and overcome its shortcomings to achieve an African continent free from conflict?
- What are the key contributors to conflict and how has your nation attempted to address them? Is there a particular program your country has taken which has been successful, and could it be implemented across the African Union?
- What steps can be taken to help mitigate current and ongoing conflicts in Africa, and what is the African Union's role in these conflicts? What are your nation's views on African Union intervention in regional conflicts and disputes?
- How can the African Union ensure that when conflict is inevitable and countries and regions devolve into violence that groups maintain the rules of war and that citizens, particularly women and children, continue to have access to basic necessities for life? How has your nation attempted to safeguard citizens' rights in times of political and economic turmoil?

²² "Silencing the Guns in Africa: Achievements and Stumbling Blocks," Africa Portal, accessed October 21, 2020, <https://www.africaportal.org/features/silencing-guns-africa-achievements-and-stumbling-blocks/>.

²³ "Work in Progress for Africa's Remaining Conflict Hotspots | Africa Renewal," United Nations (United Nations), accessed October 31, 2020, <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2019-march-2020/work-progress-africa%E2%80%99s-remaining-conflict-hotspots>.

3.7 Vocabulary

- **Blood Diamonds** - diamonds mined in an area of conflict and used to finance violence and conflict, and is also referred to as conflict diamond
- **Colonialism** - practice of obtaining control over a region, occupying it with settlers, and exploiting it economically for the benefit of the colonizer
- **Water Rights** - the right to use water in a particular area for a particular purpose
- **Ceasefire** - temporary cessation of fighting, usually for purposes of negotiating peace talks or a more permanent end to conflict
- **Armistice** - an agreement between two or more actors in a conflict to stop fighting for a certain amount of time
- **War Crimes** - an action performed during the conduct of war that violates the internationally accepted rules of war, generally accepted to be defined according to the Geneva Convention on War
- **Crimes Against Humanity** - crimes specifically committed through a large scale attack, usually targeting civilians
- **International Court of Justice** - the primary judicial organ of the United Nations which settles disputes between states based on international law
- **International Criminal Court** - an international judicial organ that persecutes specific individuals charged with those considered to be the most heinous crimes against the international community

3.8 Key Organizations and Treaties

- African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation, and Trafficking of Small Arms & Light Weapons
- Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition, and Other Related Materials
- Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons

4 Topic C: Taking Measures to Reduce Corruption

4.1 Introduction

It is a fairly well established fact that corruption across Africa significantly hinders the economic, political, and social development of the continent. Corruption is not just a government issue that causes problems for government institutions. It affects real, everyday people across nations, and it causes a significant detriment on their lives. For some, the most basic services such as healthcare, police, and even schools oftentimes require a bribe of a government official for a citizen to get those most basic necessities. Overall, corruption is placing a significant hindrance on the ability of the African Union to bring more people out of poverty and to solve the wide ranging issues affecting the continent.²⁴

4.2 Previous Action

The African Union has adopted its own version of the United Nations' Convention Against Corruption. The African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption was adopted in 2003, and aims to create "mechanisms required to prevent, detect, punish, and eradicate corruption and related offences in the public and private sectors."²⁵ The AUCPCC acts effectively as a roadmap for other nations to adopt on the national level, but the treaty has been ratified by only 42 of the 54 Member States.²⁶ The convention attempts to solve a number of corrupt offences including bribery, diversion of property by public individuals, trade influence, and money laundering.²⁷

Furthermore, the African Union chose 2018 as the year of winning in the fight against corruption, making it their central theme and main idea throughout. The entire purpose of setting that theme was to rally African leaders behind this idea and encourage them to make more progress in the fight against corruption. While many were skeptical of the impact such a theme would have, there were a few actions done throughout the year that could be classified as real progress. For example, after the official launch of the theme in January of 2018, African leaders met and acknowledged the severe negative impact that corruption has on development across the continent, and they committed to bringing about real action. Later that year, 37 African countries signed an open letter to the African Union urging them to make strong commitments and turn rhetoric into action. This was known as the Nouakchott Declaration, and it served as an important policy stance on the areas in need of the most attention, including establishing country-by-country financial reporting, strengthening the African Tax Administration Forum, and implementing transparent budget practices. Finally, 2018 saw three more ratifications of the AUCPCC, and two others expressed interest in formally ratifying it (Morocco and Tunisia).²⁸

However, despite these actions, the African Union itself has previously been accused of the same corruption that they seek to prevent. A leaked internal memo from 2020 and written by AU staff described the organization as run like a "mafia-style cartel" and controlled by corruption and cronyism. The memo also lists several examples of allegedly illegal staff appointments, and it demands the "restoration of sound administrative management and leadership."²⁹ This was certainly not the first time the African Union was accused of corruption, however. In 2018, a member of the African Union's Anti-Corruption Advisory Board, established by the AUCPCC, resigned in fury after three years of witnessing "multiple irregularities" within

²⁴"Citizens Speak out about Corruption in Africa - News," Transparency.org, accessed October 21, 2020, <https://www.transparency.org/en/news/citizens-speak-out-about-corruption-in-africa>.

²⁵"International Anti-Corruption Resources: Home," GW Law Library: Library Guides, accessed November 2, 2020, <https://law.gwu.libguides.com/c.php?g=187780>.

²⁶"AUABC in Brief," African Union Advisory Board on Corruption | Mission and Vision of the Board, accessed November 2, 2020, <http://www.auanticorruption.org/auac/en>.

²⁷"Egypt Joins African Union Anti-Corruption Treaty as per Presidential Decree," EgyptToday, August 23, 2020, <https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/91148/Egypt-joins-African-Union-anti-corruption-treaty-as-per-presidential>.

²⁸"The AU Needs to Walk the Talk on Corruption," The Mail & Guardian, February 9, 2019, <https://mg.co.za/article/2019-02-09-00-the-au-needs-to-walk-the-talk-on-corruption/>.

²⁹"African Union Strongly Denies Allegations of Cronyism, Corruption," Voice of America, accessed November 2, 2020, <https://www.voanews.com/africa/african-union-strongly-denies-allegations-cronyism-corruption>.

the organization that are significantly hindering the ability to fight corruption. He said in his resignation letter that abuse of power and lack of transparency and accountability have significantly harmed his work.³⁰

These accusations of high level corruption within organizations charged with managing and controlling such practices have led the media to ask a rather important question: is the African Union doing enough to tackle corruption?³¹

4.3 Current Situation

A poll conducted by Transparency International found that more than half of all citizens in African countries think corruption is getting worse within their government and that the government is doing a poor job in managing corruption. The group found that one in every four people who accessed public services in the last year had paid a bribe. If this data is representative of the true percentage of African citizens who paid a bribe for basic government services, that equates to approximately 130 million citizens in 35 countries.³²

Moreover, corruption does not affect all people equally across different demographics and backgrounds. Corruption impacts the poor more than the wealthy in Africa. According to Transparency International's report, the poor are more than twice as likely to pay a bribe for a basic service. The fact that the poor are adversely affected by corruption leaves significantly less money for families to pay for other basic necessities such as food, water, and medication. Further, the young African population aged 18-34 years old are much more likely to pay bribes than those aged over 55 years of age based on that report. This means that those who are looking to start a family and raise children are much more likely to be denied access to education and healthcare, which can have life altering effects.³³

National governments are not the only worry in terms of corrupt deeds taking place across the continent. There has been increasing corruption occurring with international businesses and corporations. Non-African actors play a large part in corruption through foreign bribery and money laundering. International companies participate in bribery to receive better deals with officials and governments or to gain the best government contracts.³⁴

However, this situation does not lack hope for the future. 53% of those polled by Transparency International agreed that they were hopeful for the future and that ordinary, everyday people can lead the fight against corruption even in areas where the government refuses to take action.³⁵

4.4 Questions to Consider

- How can the African Union better provide an outlet by which concerned citizens can express and report their concerns and experiences with bribery and other corrupt acts, without fear of repercussion? What should the African Union's response to reported corruption be?
- What role does the media and civil society hold in putting pressure on governments to be more transparent and draw attention to corruption? How has your nation protected the freedom of the press, and what are some examples of times the press uncovered corrupt acts by government officials?

³⁰ "African Union Strongly Denies Allegations of Cronyism, Corruption," Voice of America, accessed November 2, 2020, <https://www.voanews.com/africa/african-union-strongly-denies-allegations-cronyism-corruption>.

³¹ TRTWorld, Is the African Union doing enough to tackle corruption and violence? (TRT World, November 16, 2018), <https://www.trtworld.com/africa/is-the-african-union-doing-enough-to-tackle-corruption-and-violence-21693>.

³² "Citizens Speak out about Corruption in Africa - News," Transparency.org, accessed October 21, 2020, <https://www.transparency.org/en/news/citizens-speak-out-about-corruption-in-africa>.

³³ *ibid.*

³⁴ "Where Are Africa's Billions? - News," Transparency.org, accessed October 21, 2020, <https://www.transparency.org/en/news/where-are-africas-billions>.

³⁵ "Citizens Speak out about Corruption in Africa - News," Transparency.org, accessed October 21, 2020, <https://www.transparency.org/en/news/citizens-speak-out-about-corruption-in-africa>.

- How can the African Union assure the independence and freedom of the media and press and what role do they play in highlighting corruption and wrongdoing in government?
- How can the African Union better prevent foreign non-African actors from intervening in the affairs of African states and encouraging corrupt acts?
- Does your nation presently have anti-corruption systems in place? What has been their success and failures, and could similar measures be implemented across the African Union?
- How should the African Union weigh the benefit of nongovernmental organizations as well as foreign investment alongside the detriment they have in encouraging institutions of bribery and political misconduct? How has your country been influenced by this?
- Has your country adopted or signed the African Union Convention on Combating and Preventing Corruption? If not, why? If so, how far along have you come in fully implementing the guidelines built by the agreement?

4.5 Vocabulary

- **Non-governmental organization (NGO)** - a non-profit group who functions outside the scope of any entity or body related to governments, usually advocating for a humanitarian or environmental cause
- **Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)** - an index created by Transparency International which ranks 180 countries on their perceived level of corruption, and scores them between 0 and 100, with 0 being highly corrupt and 100 being highly clean
- **Political Corruption** - Use of powers granted to government officials in an illegal manner or for illegitimate personal gain.
- **Bribery** - Giving or receiving a material or monetary gift, illegally, in exchange for exercise of vested authority
- **Extortion** - Acquiring material goods or power through force or threat of force
- **Cronyism** - Appointing friends or acquaintances to positions of power, or providing power, regardless of qualifications
- **Nepotism** - Favoring relatives or close friends in the exercise of authority and power, including through material gifts, political appointments, jobs, etc.
- **Parochialism** - Narrow outlook and limited focus; not seeing the big picture
- **Patronage** - Control of political appointments or given rights to political privileges
- **Influence Peddling** - Employing a position of political authority or power in exchange for money, material goods, or favors
- **Graft** - Use of political authority for personal gain, typically through misdirection of public funds in order to enrich or otherwise benefit the individual or private interests
- **Embezzlement** - Usage of funds for purposes other than intended, dishonestly
- **Dictatorship** - Autocratic government under a single authority figure
- **Oligarchy** - A small collection of individuals having control over a government
- **Junta** - Military or political entity that controls a country's government after seizing power through force
- **Coup or Coup d'état** - Illegal seizure of power from a government

4.6 Treaties and Organizations

- The United Nations Convention Against Corruption
- OECD Convention Against Foreign Bribery
- Group of States Against Corruption
- The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes