

YUNMUN XXX

African Summit

Topic 1: Continued Advancement

Throughout Africa, people are suffering on a wide scale due to severe poverty, hunger, lack of education, disease, and military oppression despite long-standing global efforts to provide aid to the African people. In 2016 alone there was almost \$50 billion in foreign aid given to African countries.<sup>1</sup> Yet, despite the constant aid, an abundance of natural resources and modern initiatives, the people of Africa suffer. Today, 27 out of the 28 most impoverished countries in the world reside in sub-Saharan Africa.<sup>2</sup> Africa is a continent rich in resources, which should lead to economic prosperity, yet last year was the first time since the induction of the UN Sustainable Development Goals that African poverty rates have fallen. Even though there has been improvement, today, over 70% of the world's poorest people reside in Africa, and the poverty rate is only falling at a pace of roughly 367 people per day.<sup>3</sup>

While there are innumerable factors that lead to such suffering, it is clear that foreign aid is not the only answer. Economic woes are often matched by instability in government or non-democratic rule. According to the Ibrahim Index of African Governance Report, 24 countries have improved their overall governance since 2008, yet 18 countries have regressed over the past nine years.<sup>4</sup> Importantly, this regression occurred despite abundant aid and guidance from external sources. The average score from this index was only about 2% higher in 2017 than in 2008, which is a major sign for concern.

An easy scapegoat for the economic and governmental difficulties in some African countries is the perceived lack of cohesion between Western and African cultures and ideals. Many have the image of Western countries and the UN coming in with a preconceived notion of how a country must be run and forcing their culture on African countries. While this may have been true during early colonization, nowadays there is much appreciation and respect for differences in culture. While there may be some mistrust of any outside entity seeking to reform an African country, it is important to look at the history which would make such countries rightfully apprehensive.

We will be focusing on the difficulties faced by African governments and their economic systems. Though we will be discussing all the countries in Africa and how they can be affected

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.oecd.org/dac/financing-sustainable-development/development-finance-data/Africa-Development-Aid-at-a-Glance-2018.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/REO/SSA/Issues/2018/09/20/sreo1018>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.brookings.edu/blog/future-development/2019/03/28/poverty-in-africa-is-now-falling-but-not-fast-enough/>

<sup>4</sup>[http://s.mo.ibrahim.foundation/u/2018/11/27173840/2018-Index-Report.pdf?\\_ga=2.67057774.1554856018.1569344804-840336931.1569344804](http://s.mo.ibrahim.foundation/u/2018/11/27173840/2018-Index-Report.pdf?_ga=2.67057774.1554856018.1569344804-840336931.1569344804)

by our resolutions, we will be primarily discussing sub-Saharan countries. Please consider your country's opinions and actions regarding the following questions:

If your country is located in Africa:

- Has your country made economic progress in recent years or continued progress since the establishment of your country? How has your country facilitated such progress?
- Has your country faced political instability or supported a non-democratic government?
- How has your country supported and/or encouraged free elections and other such democratic rights?

If your country is not located in Africa:

- Has your country worked to support the economic development of African nations? If so, how?
- How has your country supported diplomatically acted towards an African country struggling with democracy?
- Has your country ever helped any country regain political stability? How can these lessons be translated to our issue?

Do not limit your research only to the topics mentioned above, these issues will springboard our discussions in committee sessions. I urge you to research this topic and your countries in depth so you can be prepared for the complex discussions we will be having.

Best of luck,

Jack Lebenbom  
Chair, African Summit  
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