

**Forum:** The Group of Twenty

**Issue:** Strengthening economic, social, and cultural cooperation with African countries

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**Position:** Deputy President

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## PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

My name is Chris Kaloeidas and it is an honor to serve as the Deputy President of the Group of Twenty. I have participated several times in MUN Conferences since 2014; however, it is my first time chairing and I am really glad I got the opportunity to serve as a chair in this MUN. The topics of G20 really interest me and the fact that it is a relatively new committee picked my interest. In past MUN experiences, I participated mostly in the Disarmament and ECOSOC committees due to my interests in worldwide peace efforts, economics and sociology but G20 offers the possibility to explore topics that include all of them. I aim to encourage everyone into researching and thus create resolutions that will lead to a fruitful debate. This guide is provided to you as a helping tool that will offer a better understanding of the topic. Yet, you should not only depend on this paper since you should be able to make adjustments to your country's policy.

I look forward to working with you,

Sincerely,

Chris Kaloeidas

## INTRODUCING TOPIC

Africa is the world's second largest continent located below Europe and South-West from Asia, while being abut with Mediterranean Sea at its North, the Atlantic Ocean at its West and South and finally the Indian Ocean at its East. It consists of 54 independent countries/states and the island of Madagascar across the South-East coasts of Africa. Across all of 54 nations there is a total number of 1.2 billion people in Africa with different religions and financial capabilities.

There are a few different religious beliefs that are dominant in Africa and they are:

- **Islam:** Monotheistic religion teaching that there is only one God and that Muhammad is His messenger. The northern parts and east coasts of Africa are mostly comprised by Islamists.
- **Christianity:** Monotheistic religion based on the life, teachings, and miracles of Jesus Christ. Furthermore, believers consist mostly the bottom half of Africa and along with Islam consist the two religions with the most followers in Africa.
- **African Traditional Religion:** Belief in a supreme creator, spirits, veneration of the dead, use of magic and traditional medicine. Believers of this religion mostly populate Cameroon, The Central African Republic, Liberia, Cote d'Ivoire and South Sudan.
- **Hinduism:** Ancient religion with Indian origins whose characteristics include the worship of many gods and goddesses and the belief that when a person or creature dies, their spirit returns to life in another body. The African nation where one can say that Hinduism is dominant is Mauritius.



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<http://www.interarts.net/descargas/interarts108.pdf>

Sadly, Africa, despite its vast extent both in ground and population, is the poorest continent and in desperate need for developing. Sub-Saharan Africa is the least successful region of the world in reducing poverty where 50% of the population living in poverty (380 million people). The average poor person in sub-Saharan Africa is estimated to live on only 70 cents per day, increasing poverty in some areas. Some of it is attributed to unsuccessful economic liberalization programmes spearheaded by foreign companies and governments, but other studies have shown that bad domestic government policies are to blame, rather than external factors.

From 1995 to 2005, Africa's rate of economic growth increased, averaging 5% in 2005. Some countries experienced still higher growth rates, notably Angola, Sudan and Equatorial Guinea, all of which had recently begun extracting their petroleum reserves or had expanded their oil extraction capacity. The continent is believed to hold 90% of the world's cobalt, 90% of its platinum, 50% of its gold, 98% of its chromium, 70% of its tantalite, 64% of its manganese and one-third of its uranium; essentially Africa has many natural resources but cannot take full advantage of them. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has 70% of the world's coltan, a mineral used in the production of tantalum capacitors for electronic devices such as cell phones. The DRC also has more than 30% of the world's diamond reserves. Guinea is the world's largest exporter of bauxite. As the growth in Africa has been driven mainly by services and not manufacturing or agriculture, it has been growth without jobs and without reduction in poverty levels. In fact, the food security crisis of 2008 which took place on the heels of the global financial crisis has pushed back 100 million people into food insecurity.

## KEY TERMS

### *Colonization:*

The action or process of settling among and establishing control over the indigenous people of an area.

### *Culture:*

A culture is defined by the way of life, especially the general customs and beliefs of a particular group of people at a particular time. Cultures tend to change along with time but they do not change completely and some fragments of past cultures tend to stick for longer periods of time than others.

### *Religion:*

Religion is the belief in and worship of a god or gods, or any such system of belief and worship, religions tend to differ throughout the world but the main “structure” of them is quite similar.

*Economic growth:*

Economic growth is described as the increase in the value of Gross Domestic Products (GDP) during a specific period of time, usually of one year and is expressed as a percentage to show the change.

*Regional or trade bloc:*

A trade bloc is a type of intergovernmental agreement, often part of a regional intergovernmental organization, where barriers to trade, tariffs and others, are reduced or eliminated among the participating states.

## HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Since the 1870 to 1900 nations across the entirety of Africa was colonized by powerful European countries, namely the ones that today are known as Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Portugal and Spain. These nations claimed entire sections of land, some even being approximately one third of the entirety of Africa. That led to great prosperity for the European countries involved by acquiring many raw goods, such as hoarded oil, ivory, rubber, palm oil, wood, cotton, and gum (for paper). The competition was particularly strong between Britain, France, and Germany; the strongest European nation-states in the late 19th century were able to make certain areas of Africa into their colonies in two main ways. Some African leaders were willing to sign treaties with Europeans for various reasons. In some cases, they saw it to their benefit to gain European allies. Secondly, military force was used in some cases when there was a large amount of resistance to colonial rule especially in the late 19th century. A few decades later, the events of World War I & II begin to unfold.

Northern African countries instigated by the German and Ottoman empires fought against the German colonies of Kamerun, Togoland, German South West Africa and German East Africa which were fought by German colonial troops, local resistance movements and forces of the British Empire, France, Belgium and Portugal. Following short after only 24 years World War II begins, after its end the decolonization of Africa slowly begins. During WWII African soldiers that defended their countries had started to grow a sense of pride for defending their homeland and started getting more and more agitated by the fact that they were being ruled by the Europeans. Taking note of such a thing and being in the worst shape possible, after the war, the European countries started withdrawing from their colonies so as to avoid causing further problems for themselves.

## COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN THE ISSUE

The countries that are involved in the issue are African, European and some African organizations.

### Belgium

The former Belgian Empire had colonized both nations that are known today as the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 1885 to 1960, and the nations of Ruanda and Urundi from 1916 to 1962.

### France

France was antagonizing the United Kingdom (U.K.) since the Dark Ages and when U.K. started expanding their territory towards Africa they did the very same thing, only to a slightly bigger extent. The colony expands from the North-West Africa towards the center of it, plus all of West Africa and Madagascar.

### Germany

Germany took less interest in Africa than France or U.K. and colonized fewer countries, namely Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Nigeria and Namibia.

### Italy

Italy had colonized even less, although it was “forced” if there was any hope to keep up with the other leading countries of the 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century when most of the European countries strived to become better than the rest. The areas that Italy colonized were Libya, Somalia and Eritrea.

### Portugal

The colonies that Portugal has created are located in the regions of Angola and Mozambique.

### Spain

Spain had colonized West Sahara the South and North points of Morocco.

### United Kingdom (U.K.)

The United Kingdom had colonized the entirety of South Africa, not only the South Africa known today, except from the nations that are known today as Angola and Mozambique. Adding, parts from the Northern side were also colonized, in fact the entire North-Center East side of Africa was colonized except from Ethiopia and Somalia.

### African Union (A.U.)

The African Union is a 55-member federation consisting of all of Africa's states. The union was formed with Ethiopia as its headquarters, on 26 June 2001 and the union was officially established on 9 July 2002. Its main objectives are:

- 1) To achieve greater unity and solidarity between the African countries and Africans.
- 2) To defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of its Member States.
- 3) To accelerate the political and social-economic integration of the continent.
- 4) To promote and defend African common positions on issues of interest to the continent and its peoples.
- 5) To encourage international cooperation, taking due account of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- 6) To promote peace, security, and stability on the continent.
- 7) To promote democratic principles and institutions, popular participation and good governance.
- 8) To promote and protect human and peoples' rights in accordance with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and other relevant human rights instruments.
- 9) To establish the necessary conditions which enable the continent to play its rightful role in the global economy and in international negotiations.
- 10) To promote sustainable development at the economic, social and cultural levels as well as the integration of African economies.
- 11) To promote co-operation in all fields of human activity to raise the living standards of African peoples.
- 12) To coordinate and harmonize the policies between the existing and future Regional Economic Communities for the gradual attainment of the objectives of the Union.
- 13) To advance the development of the continent by promoting research in all fields, in particular in science and technology.
- 14) To work with relevant international partners in the eradication of preventable diseases and the promotion of good health on the continent.

#### African Economic Community (AEC)

The African Economic Community is an organization of African Union states establishing grounds for mutual economic development among the majority of African states. The stated goals of the organization are:

1. Establishing of a free trade area and customs union in each regional bloc.
2. Establishing of a continent-wide customs union and thus also a free trade area. (to be completed in 2019)
3. Establishing of a continent-wide African Common Market (ACM) (to be completed in 2023)
4. Establishing of a continent-wide economic and monetary union and thus also a currency union and Parliament. (to be completed in 2028)

AEC also consists of regional blocs:

- Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)
- Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)
- East African Community (EAC)
- Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS/CEEAC)
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- Southern African Development Community (SADC)
- Arab Maghreb Union (UMA)

#### People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Algeria

Algeria is labeled by the World Bank as middle to higher class income country, though the Algerian government has halted the privatization of state-owned industries and imposed restrictions on imports and foreign involvement in its economy. These restrictions are just started to be lifted off recently although questions about Algeria's slow diversifying economy remains.

#### Republic of Angola, Angola

Angola has many resources and raw goods such as diamonds, gold, oil reserves, fossil fuels, copper and all of them in high reserves.

#### Arab Republic of Egypt, Egypt

Egypt is the second from the top African countries GPD with roughly 946,591 million of GPD per year. Egypt relies mostly on agriculture, media, petroleum imports, natural gas, and tourism.

#### Republic of South Africa, South Africa

South Africa is third from the top African countries GPD with roughly 707,097 millions of GPD per year. South Africa has a mixed economy and unlike most of the world's poor countries, South Africa does not have a thriving informal economy. Only 15% of South African jobs are in the informal sector, compared with around half in Brazil and India and nearly three-quarters in Indonesia

#### Sudan

The economy of Sudan has been steadily growing over the 2000s, so much so as it was labeled the 17<sup>th</sup> country in economic growth during 2010. Most of that was achieved due to Sudan's large oil excavations which is Sudan's main export, with production increasing dramatically and currently hovering at approximately 250,000 barrels per day.

#### Peoples Republic of China

In recent years, the People's Republic of China has built increasingly stronger ties with African nations and is Africa's largest trading partner. In 2007, Chinese companies invested a total of US\$1 billion in Africa.

## TIMELINE OF EVENTS

1884	The Berlin conference took place in order to establish international guidelines for the acquisition of African territory.
1888	Local groups in German East Africa resisted German enforced labor and taxation and as a result the Germans were almost driven out of the area.
1898	The Germans reclaim their territory.
March 1956	Morocco and Tunisia are granted independence and soon after the decolonization of Africa slowly takes place.
1954–62	Algeria's people struggle for independence.
1960	The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is independent.
1961	Tanganyika becomes independent.
1962	Ruanda and Urundi become independent.
25 May 1963	The Organization of African Unity (O.A.U.) is founded by 32 African nations.
1963	Kenya becomes independent.
1940-1980	African countries are independent.
1975	ECOWAS is established.
1980	SADC is established.
1985	ECCAS is established.
1986	IGAD is established.
1989	UMA is established.
1994	COMESA is established.
1998	CEN-SAD is established.
2001	EAC is established.
26 May 2001	The African Union (A.U.) is established.
9 July 2002	O.A.U. is disbanded and the A.U. is officially launched.

## PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS TO SOLVE THE ISSUE

Many African countries are in a dangerous economic state but through cooperation with one another they have started to help each other by focusing on what can they gain by doing as such. A number of African countries have turned to Morocco, not only for the example of its decade-old National Human Development Initiative (INDH), which since its inception has invested over \$6 billion on more than 700 locally administered educational and other anti-poverty projects, but also as a



development partner. Moroccan philanthropies and business have not been slow to increase their own involvement across Africa. The Mohammed VI Foundation for Sustainable Development has entered into a cooperation agreement with the Senegalese government to provide over \$2 million in funding to a project in Dakar's Soumbédioune Bay that will give artisanal fishermen access to cold storage, a market and other facilities to increase their economic potential. The Moroccan-owned OCP Group recently announced a three-year, \$5 million commitment that will ensure 100,000 small-holder farmers in six East and West African countries affordable access to appropriate fertilizers specific to their crops and soils as well as a range of services and support to turn these inputs into larger crop yields and, consequently, higher incomes. Since 2012 there has been a rapid growth to Africa related donations and charities from European countries in order to support the people who live in some of the worst possible conditions due to poverty and illnesses. U.S. policymakers see Morocco's role both as a gateway to business in Africa given its free-trade agreement with the United States and as a critical player in regional counterterrorism and security efforts.

## POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

Africa's issues become greater by the day but not enough people are aware of those problems to a full extent. As such it is proposed that educational programmes by governments around the world constantly take place in order for more and more people to be notified about the difficulties the African people are facing every day with hopes of raising public awareness, leading to greater help for the Africans, and strengthen cultural and social bonds with the African countries. It should be stated that the problems cannot be solved by charity, they need; long term measures that will ensure economic and social growth such as more opportunities to African people to operate as entrepreneurs either alone or in partnership with a third party. One should not look internationally to solve a problem but rather start looking for solutions, domestically. Meaning that African countries should not rely solely on other governments and NGOs, although their help is by any means acceptable. They can learn from one another, especially in terms of getting on the path leading to sustainable development. Despite what is mentioned above, African countries do need the economic assistance of other MEDCs, due to the lack of efficient economic structures that lead to an unavoidable recess spiral that can have catastrophic effects; poor healthcare, education and appropriate shelter. Governments of MEDCs should ally with African governments in order to achieve much more direct support from one another which will hopefully result into prosperity for both sides. The African Economic Community (AEC) could adopt the role of a consultant to the World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund so as to indicate to the latter the specific needs of different African countries. The African Union (AU) should cooperate with commercial entities from more economically developed countries in

order to ensure a more profitable trading thus allowing a standard flow of money in African countries. Attention should also be paid to the raw material exploitation of third parties to the African countries involved, so as to secure the resources are no longer taken advantage of without the appropriate profits received by the corresponding economies cultivating/collecting the materials.

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