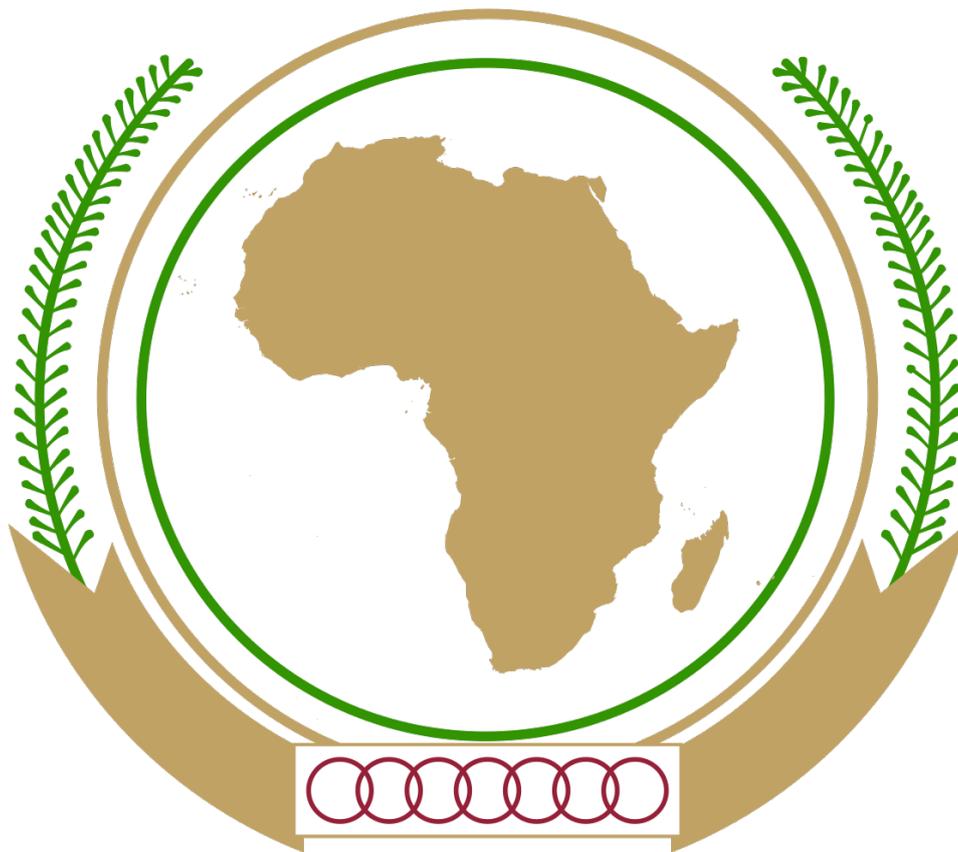


Study Guide for the African Union committee (AU)



Reducing violence in Central Africa between military and paramilitary groups and the recruitment of child soldiers

Safeguarding exhaustible natural resources against foreign exploitation

Word of Welcome

A warm welcome to the delegates of the African Union at EuroMUN 2017!

I am delighted to chair this committee at this leading Dutch conference, and have been working hard alongside the content team to provide you delegates with two of the most interesting topics an African Union simulation has ever seen!

First of all, it is a real chance to be a part of this committee that is rarely featured. Delegating within a regional association is a different experience as you will focus on that specific region instead of a global issue. You will get the chance to explore two major issues that are not dealt with often at MUN conferences: Reducing violence in Central Africa between Military and Paramilitary groups, and the Recruitment of child soldiers and Safeguarding exhaustible natural resources against foreign exploitation.

The first one is a geopolitical problem where an African country is divided in a civil conflict between several sides, and is therefore more specific than the second topic, as you delegates will focus on a definite area. It is a crucial topic to deal with as numerous casualties occurred, violence has become the normal stance and the sectarian gap widened. The second topic features a larger amount of countries and people, as the exploitation of exhaustible natural resources can affect numerous populations across the continent. In both cases, millions of lives are at stake, facing a gruesome plight. It is of the highest importance, more than ever, to tackle those issues, that are a direct threat to the basic human rights and constitute a hurdle to the prosperity of Africa.

I am providing you with a detailed study guide, and I expect all of you to use the information well. It is meant to help you find subtopics, especially for the Moderated Caucuses, as well as provide as a direction for the committee to follow. The resolutions can only be complete and efficient if you study all fields that can be examined. I advise you to not only stick to the sources coming from the actual African Union, but also to study those from UN committees (UNICEF, UNEP, SPECPOL, UNHRC, UNHCR), NGOs, and to follow the daily news dealing with the featured topics. Never hesitate in checking varied media to discover the different approaches to deal with the topics. If you are representing a specific country, we

suggest you to actually focus on the media of that country and therefore, you will embrace its point of view like a real-life diplomat!

If the organisation we are simulating has been criticized throughout the previous years, it is clearly engaging in an ambitious way to making the continent more prosperous. It is up to you to find the most creative solutions to the featured problems. I am very excited to see what you will make of our African Union!

Should you have any questions regarding the committee and its topics, the position papers or any of our expectations concerning the preparation and the debates, don't hesitate to contact me, either via our email addresses or through the social media!

Looking forward to heated debates and a great time in Maastricht!

Best regards,

Maha Nayyer, Chair

A presentation of the Committee: what is the African Union?

The African Union is a regional body, composed of 54 African countries. It was established on the 26th of May in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and officially launched on the 9th of July 2002 in Durban, South Africa, after the 1999 Sirte Declaration has passed. It has replaced the Organisation of African States. Almost all African states joined this continental Organisation.

The crucial decisions of the institution are made by a semi-annual meeting of the Heads of states and governments of its member state : the Assembly of the AU. The only African state that is a member state of the United Nations Organisation but is not a part of the AU was the Kingdom of Morocco, which joined the regional body in January 2017. It has opted to leave the predecessor of the AU, the Organisation of African Unity because of the issue of the Western Sahara, which was recognized by the Organisation as a member state and even joined it. Nevertheless, Morocco submitted a bid for membership during the summer 2016. This proves that the regional cooperation and integration are relevant and states cannot choose to be isolated. The African Union deals with issues such as but not limited to Political Affairs, Trade and Industry, Economic Affairs, Legal Affairs, Social Affairs, Women, Gender and Equality, Peace & Security, Agenda 63, etc. The African Union seeks to find efficient solutions regarding security. The African continent is more than ever threatened, especially by the so-called religious terrorism.

For the purpose of this committee session, the Delegates guided by the Chair will be focusing on the Political Affairs. Seeing that the Political Affairs are a general item, the Delegates are free to choose the orientation of the debate and to deal with any notions that can help resolving this baffling issue.

Reducing violence in Central Africa between military and paramilitary groups and the recruitment of child soldiers

Introduction

The Central African Republic has been witnessing what is called the Second Central African civil war for several years. It broke out in December 2012 and opposes since then the Central African Government and its opponents gathered under the Seleka, an alliance of rebel militia factions (anti-balaka).

During the Central African Republic Bush War, the government of President François Bozizé fought against the rebels until the 2007 peace agreement. The government was later accused by rebel group called Seleka of violating the peace agreements, and this rebel group captured several cities by the end of 2012. Rebel leading figure Michel Djotodia claimed himself president after capital Bangui was seized by the faction in march 2013 and President Bozizé fled the country. The fight resumed between Seleka and supporters of Bozizé.

In January 2014, Catherine Samba-Panza replaced Djotodia, after the latter one resigned. Even though the country was ruled by a new President, tensions didn't cease and numerous casualties occurred. Nevertheless, diplomacy has proven its efficiency when Seleka and Anti-Balaka representatives gathered in Brazzaville and discussed in the aim of finding peaceful solutions. It is crucial to point out the Congolese initiative to bringing both sides together and finding a compromise.

Despite reaching a temporary middle ground, the situation escalated dangerously over the year, causing harm to the Seleka, and by the end of it, the Central African Republic was split between Muslims and ex-Seleka in the North and the East, and anti-Balaka in the South and West. The fact that the Seleka side got divided created new groups fighting against each other and causing even more chaos.

On the 14th of December 2015, Muslim rebel leader Nouredine Adam declared the autonomy of the Republic of Logon, splitting the country even more and contributing in settling chaos. This drives more inter-religious conflicts within the country, followed by countless casualties and human rights abuse. Thousands of citizens have been internally displaced and lacked the basic needs.

History of the Problem

Between 2004 and 2012, numerous clashes were held between varied rebel movements and the Central African Armed Forces. Those events never escalated to the extent of being called a civil war nonetheless. The insurgents accused Central African President François Bozizé of failing at respecting the 2007 agreement that put an end to the previous civil war. As a result, the members of the Séléka launched a military offensive on the 10th of December 2012, seizing several major cities in the center and east of the country. The Central African Armed Forces were not able to face that. Neighbouring Chad responded to the call of President Bozizé and agreed to send troops to the Central African Republic. On the other hand, France refused to engage, because Bozizé came to power in 2003 through a coup that caused a civil war in the Central African Republic. On the 24th of March 2013, Bozizé fled to Cameroon, the Séléka hijacked the presidential palace, and their leader Michel Djotodia proclaimed himself President of the Republic. The situation escalated dangerously, leading to inter-religious conflicts.

On the 13th of April 2007, a peace agreement was signed between the Government and the rebels (UDFU party) in Birao. This agreement grants an amnesty to the UDFU, their recognition as an official political party and the integration of its fighters into the national army.

In 2008, further negotiations between the varied parts of the conflict drove a national reconciliation, a national unity government and planned the organisation of local elections in 2009, in addition to parliamentary and presidential elections in 2014. The new government was formed in January 2009.

On the 15th of November 2010, the city Birao found itself under the control of the Central African Army once again, but was shortly taken over by the rebels of the Convention of Patriots for Justice and Peace (CPJP). On the 1st of December 2010, the Chadian army entered the Central African territory once again to help retaking the city from the rebels, on behalf of the Central African Government.

The Rebel coalition of Séléka, composed of members of the Patriotic Convention for the Salvation of the Kodro (CPSK), the Patriotic Convention for Justice and Peace (CPJP) the UFDR and the Democratic Front of the Central African People, led by Michel Am Nondokro Djotodia brandished the weapons on the 10th of December 2012 and conquered an important number of towns located in the North, center and east of the country, including but not limited to Bria, Bambari, Ouadda, Ndélé, Batangafo and Kaga.

Bloc Positions

Three main blocs take part of this conflict :

1) The Central African Republic

Backed by UN peacekeeping mission called UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, which is affiliated to the UN Security Council. What is called the MINUSCA started supporting the Central African Republic in September 2014, turning a former peacekeeping force led by the African Union to a UN one. Under the African Union, this force had an army of 6000 men, and from September 2014 onwards, the number increased to 10000. It aims at providing humanitarian aid, advocating for human rights, supporting law, contributing in the disarmament, making the transition process possible, assisting the internally displaced citizens and making sure that they can go back home once the conflict is over.

On the other hand, the Central African Republic is also supported by the French Republic and South Africa, both assisting logistically.

Besides, the United Nations-mandated European Union force called EUFOR RCA is active in the Central African Republic through troops of more than 1500 soldiers. The Democratic Republic of Congo, Georgia, Pakistan and the African Union also contributed in deploying troops.

2) Seleka

According to this mostly-Muslim rebel group, 3000 members fight against the Central African Republic. Yet, this number has been refuted by the other parts of the conflict, which claimed that less than 2000 fighters are part of this bloc.

This alliance is constituted of several factions that all used to be Seleka : FPRC, UPC and MPC. No foreign country has allegedly supported this bloc and the Seleka suffered from the highest number of casualties in this conflict.

3) Anti-Balaka

The Anti-Balaka is a Christian militia operating in Central African Republic. Christian President Bozizé, as previously mentioned, was overthrown in March 2013 by Muslim-majority coalition Seleka, making Djotodia the first-ever Muslim President of the Central African Republic. The ranks of the Seleka grew up as Djotodia dismantled the army.

Anti-Balaka are suspected to have committed atrocities against Muslims, with genocidal aims.

Questions a Resolution Should Address

- Which basic human rights are being violated in this crisis, and how to counter those violations?
- How to counter the child exploitation in this armed conflict ?
- How to find a political and peaceful middle ground between the different sides of the conflict?
- How to prevent an economic and environmental disaster due to this problem?
- Which organisations could cooperate with the African Union to halt this issue?

Further Readings and Sources

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Topic B: Safeguarding exhaustible natural resources against foreign exploitation

Introduction

Over the previous two or so decades, there has been an increasing acknowledgment that natural resources – be it land or renewable resources like timber or water, or non-renewable resources like hydrocarbons, minerals and gemstones – play a crucial as well as complex role in foreign peace and security. Such deliberations have led to the arrival of concepts such as ‘blood diamonds’, and also ‘conflict minerals’ as well as the ‘resource curse’ in our lexicon. Natural resources – especially when they are monitored by criminal gangs, tapped off by corrupt officials and subjugated by certain social or ethnic groups – have aided to preserve civil wars and trigger cross-border conflicts. Africa is blessed with immense natural resources as well as rich environments. Furthermore, it is generously gifted with productive land as well as with valuable natural resources, that comprise of renewable resources (like water, forestry, fisheries) as well as non-renewable resources (minerals, coal, gas, oil). Natural resources control many nationwide economies and are vital to the livings of the poor rural majority. Such resources are the foundation of income as well as subsistence for major segments of Africa’s inhabitants and establish a principal basis of public revenue as well as national wealth. Underneath the right conditions, a natural resource boom could be a crucial catalyst for development, and the evolution from cottage industry to factory construction. Indeed, with the correct approach, natural resources can be used to make the change from a low-value economy that depend on on exports of main commodities to one with a considerable labor-intensive manufacturing foundation.

History of the problem

African countries are gifted with massive natural resources overall as well as mineral wealth in specific. Regrettably, majority of the resource-rich nations in Africa go through chronic deficiencies of financial capital, suitable and advanced technologies as well as the skills insight to extract and beneficiate their capitals. This policy brief deliberates the advantages of African countries’ acceptance of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the examination for and removal of natural resources, as well as their following dispensation and purifying along manufacture and supply chains to enhance value before they are marketed

elsewhere. This short-term uses, as a case study, diamond mining in Chiadzwa, an extensive field of alluvial diamonds in the Marange district in the Manicaland province of Zimbabwe.

In contradiction of the backdrop of volume and resource constraints practiced by most African countries, the policy brief contends that African governments need to comprehend the benefits of associating with the private sector in the misuse and processing of the natural resources. Subsequently, they should express, facilitate as well as implement suitable policies which encourage joint undertakings with the private sector. The private sector is strictly equipped as well as financially resourced; it can kindle innovation and advance productivity, wealth creation as well as distribution – important achievements on the way to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of poverty mitigation and eradication of starving in deprived communities, that are the major developmental problems in Africa."

Equitability as well as sustainability should be implemented when natural resources are subjugated. Diamond mining at Anjin has, to a big extent, revealed worst mining practices have been revealed, to a large extent, at the mining of diamonds at Anjin. These practices revealed to be exclusionary and unsustainable. Transparency and accountability challenges have dominated their mining activities resulting in insignificant revenue contribution to government. The mining venture has been suspected of human rights abuses notably against workers and the community. More than 474 families were dislocated by Anjin to Arda Transau without exercising due diligence to their social and economic rights. According to the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) — Africa and its separate nations must organize high quality resources to accomplish success in the Africa – BRICS relationship, in a discussion of equals-build negotiation capacity to be effective in bilateral forums, as well as to handle large and complex commodity deals. The state of affairs at Anjin was defined by the Presidential spokesperson as a national disaster.

Natural Resources in Africa

The continent of Africa is immensely rich in scarce resources. It is abundant in reserves of in oil, uranium, copper, gold, platinum, tin, diamonds, timber, export-based agriculture, biofuels, biodiversity, land as well as people. As an illustration, a lone old-growth tree from the rain -forests of Africa can be valued at more than \$20,000 on the world market. Africa is also abundant in tactical minerals like coltan, which is crucial for modern electronics like cell phones as well as computers. Child as well as slave labor are commonly used in places like the (un)Democratic Republic of the Congo to mine the metal. Modern technology as well as

the demand for coltan have caused in armed conflict, exploitation, pollution and frustration for many citizens in Africa.

Africa is one of the very rare places around the world which is a source for vanadium. Vanadium gives steel more strength and flexibility. Vanadium is used in automobiles, airplanes, electronics, medical equipment, pipelines, military weapons and high-speed tools. Its importance cannot be overemphasized. Vanadium is also highly toxic and its mining causes deadly pollution. Yet with all the abundance of the African continent, majority of its people live in miserable poverty. Their governments do not deliver them with even the most crucial of services like uncontaminated drinking water, medical care, as well as the availability of electricity, education and basic infrastructure. How does one explain all the poverty among all the wealth? The simple explanation is local corruption and foreign exploitation.

The Stakeholders in Natural Resources

There are many people who have interests in and actions regarding a region's natural resources can go towards a conflict. These stakeholders may comprise local societies, governments, rebel groups, as well as outside actors. Natural resources are intensely secured to local communities through revenue, culture, as well as identity, and thus frequently hold more than solely economic value for persons and communities. Governments provide oversight for resource management, regulate trade and development, establish licensing protocols, levy taxes on resource industries, and engage in natural resource extraction directly or by selling extraction rights. Governments that receive substantial income from natural resources may have less incentive to enter into power-sharing arrangements or promote democracy-building efforts because they have the means to buy off or intimidate their opponents.

In the cases in which there is little government accountability or financial transparency, government officials are more likely to take bribes, funnel public funds to private accounts, and disregard environmental degradation, resource-related violence, and human rights violations. Often in developing nations with weak state institutions, influential groups are able to use encouragement or force to advance improper access to natural resources and their profits. Rebel groups have used natural resources as a commodity to fund weapon purchases and mobilize fighters. Using violent means to capture resource-rich territories and forced labor to extract natural resources, rebel groups have set up lucrative

businesses that profit from participation in the global market, one notable example being the drug trade.

19 Among the most important actors in post-conflict stages are those outside parties who can affect natural resource management: influential governments of whichever resource-rich or economically rich countries; international financial institutions as well as other international establishments; business, industry, and other users of resources; and NGOs. Often in post-conflict situations, parties are reluctant to stop fighting, let alone work together to rebuild the country. Every side has its own benefits—be it cultural identity, wealth, exemption, or power—and often will endure to exploit natural resources in order to uphold economic or political benefits. In developing countries where foreign standards have been absent prior to conflict, it is frequently difficult to control natural resources with transparency, equity, as well as sustainability. Outside organizations can help to create such standards that can control corruption, shape trust, and stop competing groups from conflicting over natural resource wealth.

Managing the Situation

There are popular cures to each of these issues: a low exchange rate, a stabilization fund, cautious investment of resource proceeds (including in the country's citizens), a restriction on borrowing, as well as transparency (so that residents can at least see the money transactions in and out). But there is a rising consensus that these procedures, while necessary, are inadequate. Newly augmented countries need to take numerous more steps to upsurge the likelihood of a "resource blessing."

First of all, these nations must do more in order to guarantee that their people get the full worth of the resources. There is an inevitable conflict of interest amongst (usually international) natural-resource businesses and host nations: the former want to lessen what they pay, whilst the latter aims to maximize it. Well-designed, competitive, transparent auctions can produce much more income than sweetheart deals. Contracts, too, should be transparent, and should ensure that if prices soar—as they have repeatedly—the windfall gain does not go only to the business.

Sadly, many nations have already signed unfair contracts that gives them an uneven share of the resources' worth to private foreign businesses. But there is a clear answer: renegotiate; if that is not possible, impose a windfall-profit tax. All over the world, countries have been doing this. Unquestionably, natural-resource businesses will push back, highlight

the sanctity of contracts, as well as threaten to leave. However, the outcome is classically otherwise. A fair renegotiation can be the foundation of an even better long-term relationship.

What really matters is dynamic comparative advantage, or comparative advantage in the long run, which can be shaped. Forty years ago, South Korea had a comparative advantage in growing rice. Had it caught on to that strength, it would not be the industrial giant that it is today. It might be the world's most efficient rice grower, but it would still be poor. Companies will tell Ghana, Uganda, Tanzania, and Mozambique to act quickly, but there is good reason for them to move more deliberately. The resources will not disappear, and commodity prices have been rising. Meanwhile, these nations can put in place the institutions, policies, as well as the laws needed to guarantee that the resources advantage all of their citizens.

A different story?

Ghana began producing oil in December 2010 in addition to further exploration all alongside the Western African coastline. Only five of Africa's 54 countries are not either producing or watching out for oil. From Algeria to Angola - and from petroleum to platinum, iron ore to diamonds - the scramble for Africa's resources has often caused issues rather than created affluence. In the meantime, majority of the profits from resource exploitation escape the continent wholly and solely in the hands of foreign-owned businesses which pay very low rates of taxation. Very few African countries process their own raw materials - rather, the value is added elsewhere, to the advantage of others. Internationally-owned resource extraction businesses are often disparaged for providing little in the way of native employment as well as contribution to local economies.

But could there be a different story?

Diamond-rich Botswana has been acknowledged as a nation doing things the right way, going through a relatively stable as well as transparent economic growth for decades. It has also succeeded to retain parts of the profits from processing its raw materials - something which most African countries have not been able to do so. A once poor European country, Norway, also demonstrates it can be done - allocating its oil wealth so equally that it now leads the United Nations Human Development Index (Nigeria comes in 156th place). So why have so many African nations failed to turn natural riches into benefits for their masses? Who is to blame for the foreign exploitation, and whose responsibility is it to put things right? What about probable solutions - renegotiation of contracts, improved transparency mechanisms, higher taxation, resource nationalism?

Should the likes of Mozambique and Ghana be celebrating their resource detections - and what do they essentially require to do to make the most of them? Will Africa ever gain advantage from its natural riches?