



AFRICAN UNION



Shishukunj Model United Nations Conference 2015 Committee: African Union

Shishukunj Model United Nations 2015
Conference

AFRICAN UNION

Study Guide

Agenda: Exploitation of African States and Resources

Executive Board

Fatema Rani Presswala | Omisha Purohit | Anantvijay Malpani



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Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the conference of African Union, The Shishukunj International School Model United Nations Conference, 2015. The following pages intend to guide you in the research of the topic that will be debated at AU, ShishukunjMUN 2015.

Please note this guide only provides the basis for your research. It is your responsibility to find as much information necessary on the topics and how they relate to the country you represent. The more information and understanding you acquire on the agenda, the more you will be able to influence the Resolution writing process through debates [formal and informal caucuses], and the MUN experience as a whole. Please feel free to contact us if and when you face challenges in your research or formatting your Position Papers. Enjoy researching and writing your Position Papers.

In the coming two days we are expecting to see some very heated debate on this topic which is both a political and social concern. We are looking forward to having substantive debate on the issue and finally reaching upon a consensus which is both ethically and morally correct.

Being a delegate of this union, we expect you to handle all situations with maturity and sincerity. As we all say with power comes great responsibility, and therefore we expect you to show a sense of true internationality and adhere to the code of conduct.

If you have any queries please feel free to contact us at au.sismun@gmail.com.

With your co-operation, we assure you the committee will be a great success with lots of *motion for entertainment*. Look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

African Union

Chairperson- Fatema Rani Presswala

Vice-Chairperson- Omisha Purohit

Rapporteur- Anantvijay Malpani



The Committee

About

The African Union (AU) is a union consisting of 54 African states. It was established on 26 May 2001 in Addis Ababa and launched on 9 July 2002 in South Africa to replace the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The most important decisions of the AU are made by the Assembly of the African Union, a semi-annual meeting of the heads of state and government of its member states. The AU's secretariat, the African Union Commission, is based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The vision of the African Union is that of: "An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in global arena." This vision of a new, dynamic and integrated Africa are fully realized through relentless struggle on several fronts and as a long-term endeavor of the AU, that's spear-heading Africa's development and integration. The organization is made up of various bodies that include The Assembly, The Executive Council, The Commission, The Permanent Representatives' Committee, Peace and Security Council (PSC), Pan-African Parliament, Economic Social and Cultural Council, The Court of Justice, The Specialized Technical Committees and The AU Commission.

Vision of the African Union

The vision of the African Union is that of: "***An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in global arena.***"

This vision of a new, forward-looking, dynamic and integrated Africa will be fully realized through relentless struggle on several fronts and as a long-term endeavour. The African Union has shifted focus from supporting liberation movements in the erstwhile African territories under colonialism and apartheid as envisaged by the OAU since 1963 and the Constitutive Act, to an organization spear-heading Africa's development and integration.



Mission of the African Union

The mission of the Commission is to become *“an efficient and value-adding institution driving the African integration and development process in close collaboration with African Union Member States, the Regional Economic Communities and African citizens”*.

The Objectives of the AU are as follows-

- To achieve greater unity and solidarity between the African countries and the peoples’ of Africa;
- To defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of its Member States;
- To encourage international cooperation, taking due account of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- To promote peace, security, and stability on the continent;
- To establish the necessary conditions which enable the continent to play its rightful role in the global economy and in international negotiations;



Introduction

Exploitation of African states – A Matter of Sovereignty

In terms of mineral resources, Africa can be considered as one of the richest continents. African countries supply more than half of the world's diamonds and chromium demand. These resources should be a blessing for the African people, but for decades they have not been. The whole continent suffers from the exploitation of its mineral resources by states and multinational corporations. Considering that each state exercises sovereignty over its mineral resources, the exploitation can be seen as a threat to Africa's peace and stability. The usually unclear end-ownership of multinational corporations and the non-transparent trading in mineral resource deals aggravates this situation. The influence of states like China or Canada must not be underestimated.

Furthermore it antagonizes the socio-economic development of African States. As Kofi Annan, the former United Nations Secretary-General, stated, "Africa loses twice as much in illicit financial outflows as it receives in international aid".

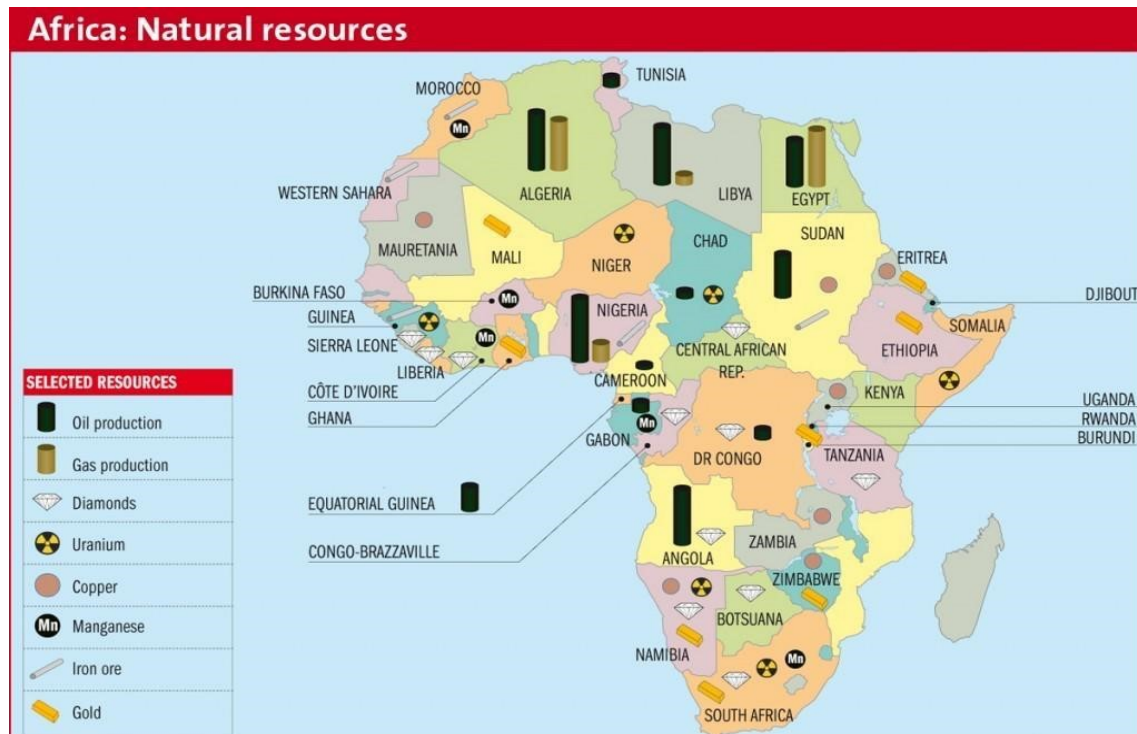
The crucial points the African Union has to discuss about are the setting of common standards for more reasonable trading with African mineral resources, to strengthen the socio-economic development of its Member States, and land tenures of the member states' mineral resources.

Mineral Resources in Africa

Africa is the second largest (30.2 million km²) and second most populated (just above one billion people) continent. Moreover it is home for many natural and mineral resources. For example, 46 % of the world diamond reserves and 21 % of the world gold reserves are situated within African countries.

Besides this , significant natural gas and oil reserves have been found in Africa. According to the 2012 BP Statistical Energy Survey the world gas reserves is 6.97 %. Referring to the same statistics 8% of the world oil reserves are located in Africa.

On the map below you can see where the most important African natural and mineral resources are situated. As you can see, especially the oil production is a major field of economy in several African states, as well as diamond and gold mining.



Since a lot of the world mineral resources are located in Africa, mineral exploration is an important economic value for African countries. However some Countries like Nigeria, Algeria and Libya are highly dependent on the export of mineral resources, with their share on export earnings being higher than 90%, creating certain risks for those countries' economic stability.

Key Issues

1. Land Grabbing

The global need of land and its resources like water, plants, timber or minerals is continually increasing. This leads governments and private investors to look for cheap resource-rich land close to infrastructure. The land is often taken from farmers who are the traditional users. This phenomenon is called 'land grabbing' and contributes to poverty and social conflicts.

Land grabbing happens on all continents, but 60% of it takes place in Africa. Host governments tend to welcome investors hoping to benefit from the sale of land. They offer fertile land with easy access to water and infrastructures. The contracts rarely include conditions protecting the interests of local communities.



Extractive industries are part of this phenomenon. Concessions are smaller but extraction activities cause ecological catastrophes in the surrounding area and accelerate climate change. As a result, the land seized from local users becomes unusable. This is a trend most likely to rise as the world population is expected to grow from seven billion in 2011 to nine billion by 2050. This will result in higher energy needs and greater consumption of metals for construction and manufacturing. Altogether, it will cause a tripling of mining activities by that date. For example, fossil fuels like oil, coal and gas meet around 80% of our primary energy needs, and this number is very unlikely to decrease by 2030. Consumption of coal will rise by 50% and of natural gas by 43%. The number of nuclear power plants - under construction, planned or proposed - will double the world's current nuclear capacity. The need for metals will grow 80% by 2015 in India alone.

Even a higher dependency on renewable energies will involve mining. Solar panels, wind turbines and electric cars rely upon a lot of different metals in their design and construction. For example, over 11kg of rare earth minerals are necessary to produce hybrid cars, double the amount for a traditional car.
for example : niger

An example of this can be found in Niger, a country with one of the lowest human development indices on the planet but rich in mineral resources. This is a place where AREVA, the French public nuclear energy giant has been exploiting uranium for 40 years now, scarcely providing any opportunity for development. On the contrary, AREVA's operations have proved to be largely destructive. AREVA's negligent mismanagement of the extraction process has caused radioactive substances to be released into the air, seep into the groundwater and contaminate the soil around the mining towns damaging the local ecosystem and creating a multitude of health problems for the local population.

a) Who Is Doing the Grabbing?

While much attention has been given to 'foreign companies' acquiring farmland, in fact a range of actors has proliferated, including multinational companies, sovereign wealth funds (notably from Europe and the Gulf States), private equity funds and other financial institutions.

This recent wave of 'land grabbing' has witnessed not only European and North American actors seeking out farmland deals, but also the rise of 'south-south' deals, with the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South



Africa) becoming more significant. At the recent Conference on Global Land Grabbing hosted by the Land Deal Politics Initiative (LDPI) at the University of Sussex, UK, several detailed case studies showed how regional economic powers are emerging as more significant actors: Brazil in Latin America, South Africa in Africa, China (as well as India and South Korea) in Asia, and so on. Further, while the world's attention has been drawn to the entry of 'foreign' actors, emerging evidence shows that many of the land deals have been secured by domestic capital. This operates in the form of private companies, sometimes in partnership with government investment corporations and other parastatals, and some- times also in partnership with foreign compa- nies and financiers. And even if the land is allocated to private companies, it is the states themselves (usually national governments) that are doing the 'grabbing' of land from citizens with weak or unregistered rights. Most important, though, is not the identity of the investors, but rather the nature of the deals, the types of land use changes they bring about, and how these contribute to funda- mental shifts in the structure of these largely agrarian economies.

b) Case Studies

(i) Uganda

Since the end of active hostilities in Northern Uganda, the war has turned to the land. With residents migrating to camps for protection and refuge, most of their land remained bare alongside communally-owned land. With 'commercial' farmers like the Madhivani group and the discovery of oil deposits beneath much of this land, the post-conflict period has seen new forms of land conflicts emerge between the commercial farmer and government on one hand and residents who do not want to part with ownership of their land. The government claims it wants the land on behalf of the commercial farmer to grow sugarcane, and consequently the economy, but some critics think this is a disguised attempt at disenfranchising the people, especially that oil deposits have been reported to be in plenty beneath the same land.

The resistance against this recolonisation has taken on conventional and non-conventional methods. Women in the Amuru district – where the land grab machinery has invested both sly and direct intimidatory means – undressed in protest against political leaders, an act considered the most severe expression of



displeasure and discontent. The wrangle continues. It is a big political issue, accusations of bribery of politicians by the corporate monsters are rife, but there is still hope that the people may prevail.

In Southern Uganda, in somewhat dissimilar circumstances, the people objected to the award of the Mabira forest-land to another sugar plantation-farmer in 2007. A huge demonstration in Kampala, that saw some Indians and Asians victimised by the demonstrators and some of the demonstrators gunned down by the army and police expressed the mass disapproval of the government plans. Kabaka Ronald Muwenda Mutebi, the reigning king of Buganda, where the forest is located, offered his own land to the sugar-cane grower in return for the forest, but his offer was rejected. On paper, it was reported that the land grab was stopped, but some press subsequently reported that some parts of the forest had been grabbed and were being used for sugar-cane growing anyway.

(ii) Kenya

Kenya's Tana River delta, a biodiversity hotspot, is home to small-scale cultivators (Pokomo) and pastoralists (Oromo and Wardei). The delta is under unprecedented threat as corporations and foreign agencies scramble to exploit its riches for export crops, biofuels and minerals. So far, 40,000 hectares have been allocated for a monoculture sugar cane plantation, and further proposed deals include 90,000 hectares for a Canadian-based biofuels company to grow *jatropha curcas*; 120,000 hectares to Qatar to grow food crops; and 20,000 hectares to a Canadian mining company to mine titanium, among others. While the delta provides immense environmental services to the country, and livelihoods to its inhabitants, these developments may lead to the collapse of most of its services, and displace settled farmers and fence off the grazing land of pastoralists. More than 25,000 people living in 30 villages will be evicted from their ancestral land due to the first of these deals alone.

(iii) Tanzania

In Tanzania, 640,000 hectares have been allocated for biofuels production – for *jatropha curcas*, sugar cane and palm oil – and potential investors have applied for a total of 4 million hectares.



The areas targeted are forested areas on which villagers depend for food and livestock grazing – a crucial source of livelihood. Although the Village Land Act of 2009 requires that people be compensated for any land loss, the processes for consulting on this, and determining the level and manner of payment of compensation, has been fraught with conflict, not least because much of the compensation is paid to state authorities rather than local people. Investments based on outgrower models have reportedly been less conflictual and secured more local support. Following widespread opposition to land allocation to biofuels investors, and evidence of people being dispossessed, the government imposed a moratorium on new projects, and developed in consultation with civil society a set of National Biofuels Guidelines to address concerns about the displacement of local people and the shift from food to fuel production.

Source: Sulle, Emmanuel and Fred Nelson. 2009. Biofuels, land access and rural livelihoods in Tanzania. London: International Institute for Environment and Development.

All of the above conjures a worrying spectre, fuelling outrage over the actions of investors, as well as of national governments and local elites. What we are witnessing may well turn out to be a non-reversible corporatisation of African agriculture that will displace some of the poorest and most vulnerable citizens, undermining local food production and food security in favour of capital-intensive and labour-displacing production systems of food and other goods, mostly for foreign markets. To the extent this is happening, it is the antithesis of land reform, in that it concentrates control in fewer hands; and of agrarian reform, in that it tilts the scales in favour of those who control input and output markets, and undermines self-sufficiency. It is ironic indeed that these changes are underway at precisely the time that the African Union, among others, has embraced a vision of smallholder-led agricultural commercialisation and a 'green revolution in Africa'. Yet this period—characterised by the conjuncture of global market failures in food, fuel and financial markets and weak governance over African land rights—could well see the patterns of accumulation becoming narrower and food security being undermined in Africa.



c) Opinions of the international communities

The language of development and economic production is rife in the land grab justification. Like the 19th century colonisation, the new wave of land grabbing is allegedly well-intentioned. It is also well-planned, in the same way the 19th century colonisation was well hatched by European powers of the time. Ironically, the African Union is portrayed complicit in this new plan. The core plan comprises the G8's "New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa" and the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA). According to the African Centre for Bio-Safety, "opening markets and creating space for multinationals to secure profits lie at the heart of the G8 and AGRA interventions". The Centre has labelled the plans as a new wave of colonialism. The plans include the harmonisation of laws across Africa to favour foreign direct investment in agriculture, ease land ownership laws to favour foreign multinational companies and allow the use of genetically modified seeds. All this compromises the ability of the majority small-scale farmers, the so-called subsistence farmers who grow food for their own consumption and a surplus for the market in order to continue producing for their own consumption, not to mention the market. Dis-empowering such people means controlling their lives and turning them into consumers of products they can't produce. The use of genetically modified seeds enables multinational companies to collect royalties from farmers who use the seeds, thus destroying the seed varieties cycles that have proved sustainable on the continent for time immemorial.

2. Blood Diamonds

Blood diamonds (also called conflict diamonds, converted diamonds, hot diamonds, or war diamonds) is a term used for a diamond mined in a war zone and sold to finance an insurgency, an invading army's war efforts, or a warlord's activity. The term is used to highlight the negative consequences of the diamond trade in certain areas, or to label an individual diamond as having come from such an area.

In just the past two decades, seven African countries have endured brutal civil conflicts fueled by diamonds: Sierra Leone, Liberia, Angola, the Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, the Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Diamonds intensify civil wars by financing militaries and rebel militias.



Rival groups also fight with each other to control diamond-rich territory. The tragic result is bloodshed, loss of life, and shocking human rights abuses – from rape to the use of child soldiers.

Although many diamond-fueled wars have now ended, conflict diamonds remain a serious problem. In 2013, a civil war erupted in the Central African Republic, with both sides fighting over the country's diamond resources. Thousands of people have died and more than a million have been displaced. In addition, past wars fueled by diamonds have taken about 3.7 million lives. Millions of people are still dealing with the consequences of these wars: friends and family members lost, lives shattered, and physical and emotional scars that will last generations.

Case Study: Central African Republic

In March 2013, a coalition of Muslim rebels, calling themselves the Seleka coalition, overthrew the government of dictator Francois Bozizé. The victory plunged the country into a period of lawlessness, with the victorious rebels committing atrocities against the majority Christian population. Christian militias formed, the country fell deeper into chaos, and the Seleka-appointed president, Michael Djotodia, resigned in December. Although a new president, Catherine Samba-Panza, is trying to restore order, Christian militias are now taking the offensive against Muslims. Altogether, violence during the past year has caused thousands of deaths and forced a million people to flee their homes. This account may sound mostly like a religious conflict. And yet, putting together the different press and NGO reports, an account emerges of how natural resources, especially diamonds, played a role at each stage of the conflict and are driving it still.

At the earliest stages, before the Seleka took over, diamonds helped support the rebels and build their strength. The International Crisis Group warned in a 2010 report of how rebel groups in the country's north and east, including the Union of Democratic Forces for Unity (UFDR), received much of their financing from the mining and selling of diamonds. Diamonds were so important in sustaining the rebel groups that they even clashed with each other. Those clashes ended in December 2012, when the UFDR and various rebel groups joined together to form the Seleka.

In the next stage of the conflict, the Seleka offensive and takeover, the thirst for diamonds and other resources such as timber, oil, and gold served as a motivating factor. As a Voice of America (VOA) story explains, the Seleka "launched their uprising to gain access for northern peoples to resource



wealth.” An Associated Press (AP) story in May 2013 told of how the Seleka used grenades and Kalashnikov rifles to gain control of diamond-rich territory in the north. “The diamond business is now forbidden to anyone who is not with Seleka,” a local official told the AP then.

In this latest stage of the conflict, diamonds may be playing a more central role than ever. Christian militias are targeting the Muslim minority as payback for Seleka atrocities. (Although most Muslims aren’t Seleka rebels, Christians believe that Muslims have been complicit in Seleka crimes.) But the vengeance, it seems, is also about diamonds and gold. An NPR story last month explained how historically, Christians have done the physical work of diamond and gold mining while Muslim traders bought those resources and sold them to foreigners. As traders, Muslim traders kept a greater share of the profits, causing resentments among less wealthy Christians.

Those resentments, as well as a wish by some Christians to become traders themselves, are now fueling the violence. A VOA story on Tuesday told of how Christian militias are poised to attack Muslims in the western town of Boda. The town is a major diamond trading hub and is home to 12,000 to 14,000 Muslims, making it one of the largest Muslim enclaves outside the capital. The above is only a rough sketch of the link between diamonds and the civil conflict in CAR. The Kimberly Process has banned diamonds from Central African Republic, but it’s too weak to enforce that ban.

The Kimberly Process

In July 2000, the global diamond industry made clear to the international community its zero tolerance policy towards conflict diamonds. Dedicated to eradicating the trade in conflict diamonds, it worked closely with the United Nations, governments and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) such as Global Witness and Partnership Africa Canada to create the Kimberley Process Certification System. This system was formally adopted in 2003 and guards against conflict diamonds entering the legitimate diamond supply chain. The diamond industry also adopted a voluntary System of Warranties to assure consumers that their diamonds are from sources free of conflict.

Today 74 governments have enshrined into their national law the Kimberley Process Certification System, and now more than 99% of the world's diamonds are from conflict free sources. However, even one conflict diamond is one too many. The diamond industry continues to work with governments, NGOs and



the UN to strengthen the Kimberley Process and the System of Warranties.

While diamonds have been used to fund conflict, the problem is not the diamonds themselves but the rebels who exploit diamonds (along with other natural resources) to achieve their illicit goals.

Global Witness first exposed the problem of blood diamonds in 1998 and played a key role in establishing the Kimberley Process (KP), a government-led certification scheme, initiated in a bid to clean up the diamond trade. The scheme was launched in 2003 and requires member states to set up an import and export control system for rough diamonds. Over 75 of the world's diamond producing, trading and manufacturing countries participate in the scheme.

Its limitations:

- It has a narrow definition of conflict diamonds: Conflict diamonds are defined by the Kimberley Process as 'rough diamonds used by rebel movements to finance wars against legitimate governments'. As a result of this narrow definition, the Kimberley Process is not empowered to address the broader range of risks to human rights posed by the trade in diamonds, such as those which have been documented in Zimbabwe. So when, in 2008, the Zimbabwean army seized a major diamond deposit in eastern Zimbabwe and massacred more than 200 miners, it was not considered a breach of the Kimberley Process protocols. Thousands had been killed, raped, injured and enslaved in Zimbabwe, and the Kimberley Process had no way to call those conflict diamonds because there were no rebels.
- It has persistently refused to broaden this definition, despite pressure from a range of civil society organisations. It has faced persistent enforcement issues throughout its short history: the situation in Central African Republic (CAR) is the latest example - despite placing an embargo on diamonds sourced from CAR in 2013, conflict diamonds sourced from areas under the control of armed groups in the country still reached international markets.
- It applies only to rough diamonds: As the Kimberley Process applies only to rough diamonds, once stones are cut and polished, they are no longer covered by the scheme.

The diamond trade undertook to deliver a meaningful and independently verifiable system of warranties but has yet to deliver on that commitment.



Ultimately, loopholes in the Kimberley Process and the failure to effectively adapt to address a broader range of human rights concerns means that diamonds associated with abuses are still contaminating global markets.

Persistent and unresolved concerns over these issues led Global Witness to resign as an official Observer of the Kimberley Process in 2011. The past decade has proven that the Kimberley Process cannot clean up the diamond sector on its own.

3. Other Relevant Case Studies

a) Zambian Gunning

The question about how transparent and trustworthy is the trade between Africa and China arises when we talk about what happened in Zambia on October 16, 2010. As the Zambian police arrested two Chinese nationals for gunning down 11 Zambian civilians and one Chinese onlooker at a local Chinese coal mine in Sinazongwe, the entire African continent rose to despair. Madinda Siamubotu, one of the victims, said from his hospital bed that workers from two of the shafts decided to gather in order to reach a consensus with management over their grievance to improve the conditions of service. On being told that their salaries will be cut for the days they went underground in the mine when they didn't require to, the workers decided to assemble and call their Union President to sort out the matter. After seeing the workers gathered around, the Chinese officials got infuriated and shot them. This is one of the major incidents which stresses us to discuss the agenda at hand and come up with a solution for the same.

b) Nigeria

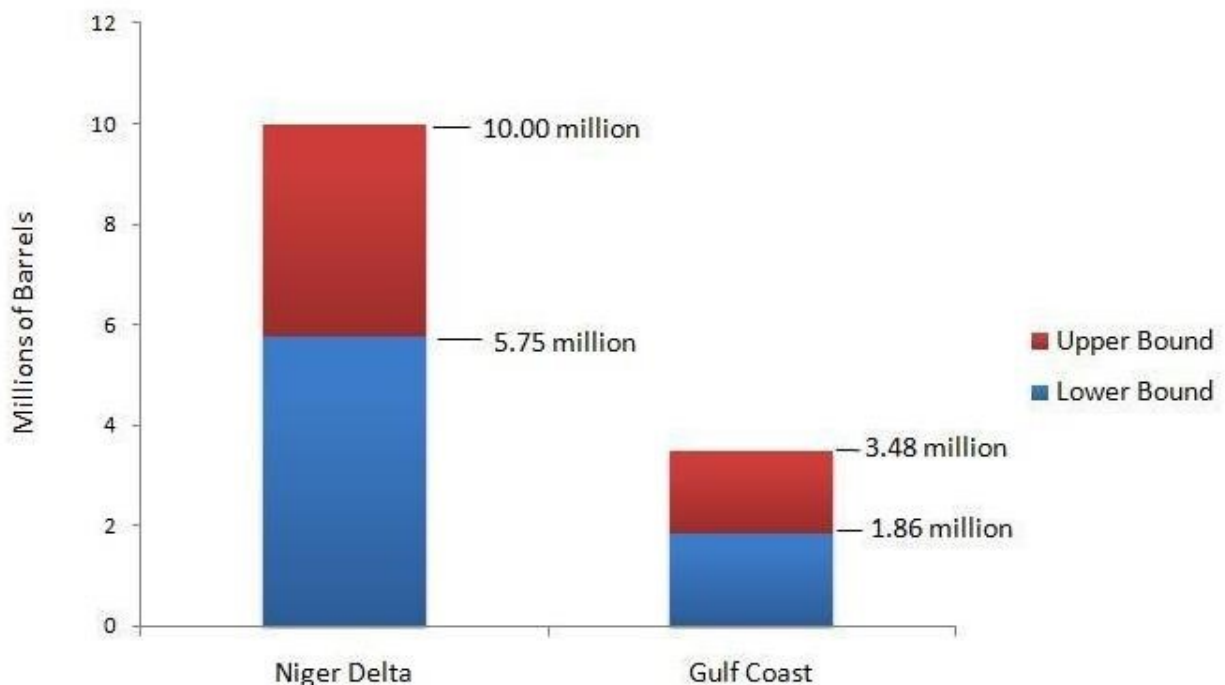
Nigeria is a typical example within the African continent in terms of exploitation of mineral resources. It is the biggest oil exporting country in Africa and the 12th worldwide, covering 2.9% of the world's oil production. Unfortunately, Nigeria is still one of the less developed countries of the world, implicated by its relatively low HDI (Human Development Index)-score of 0.471. Despite its vast resources, Nigeria finds itself in a difficult situation, since crude oil "accounts for over 95% of export earnings and about 40 percent of government revenues". The country is therefore largely dependent on oil rents and taxes of multinational corporations, like Royal Dutch Shell which holds 42.2% of regional oil fields.



Also, multinational oil companies seem to have little care about local people and the environment in the region of the Niger Delta, where the most oil extraction takes place. They even burn natural gases instead of storing them, although flaring gases is illegal in Nigeria since 1984. This massively affects the health of the locals and proper food production in a region that used to be very bio-diverse. Flaring gases is not the only threat to the environment in the Niger Delta. The amount of spilled oil in that region in comparison, for example, to the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, even after the Deep Water Horizon accident, is enormous as the figure on the left shows. Even the longer period of time taken into account for the Niger Delta does not falsify this statistics, since there has not been any major accident recorded in that particular region. That shows that even during normal production of oil much is spilled.

The Niger Delta can be described as one of the five most polluted areas of crude oil production. That leads to a high potential of social conflicts. Between 2005 and 2009, about 25-40% of Nigerian’s oil production and exports were shut down by safety reasons. A local militant group, called Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), sabotaged the crude oil production, i.e. by kidnapping oil company employees or blowing pipelines.

**Total Volume of Oil Spilled: Niger Delta (1960-present)
vs. Gulf Coast (April 20-present)**





Conclusion

Since the African continent is rich in terms of mineral resources and dependent on their exploitation several international actors are interested in African raw materials. One of these international actors is China. Beijing's interest in Africa is not new at all. They started to invest in social regimes on the African continent in the late 1960s. However, with the Chinese economy expanding their interest in Africa increased as well. China needs access to mineral resources to keep their own economy running. Therefore, they invest in large-scale projects, mainly in the infrastructure sector. Most of those investments are provided with soft loans to the African governments. Many of Africa's leading natural resource economies have experienced decades of conflict, neglect and mismanagement. Regimes within these countries tend to base their power in extensive patronage networks and control major economic assets through personal shareholdings, often held by close relatives. As a result, some of these 'neo-patrimonial regimes' have consistently appeared at the bottom of Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index, namely, Angola, Congo-Brazzaville, and Equatorial Guinea and the DRC. Against this backdrop, Western donors have expressed concern over China's expanding engagement in the continent, as they fear that China's 'no strings attached' approach to investment might undermine their longstanding efforts to improve governance and transparency through the application of strict conditionalities.

The western powers have also tried to control who runs African countries. The best documented case of western involvement in the murder of elected heads of state is that of Patrice Lumumba of the Congo, allegedly murdered with the complicity of Belgium and the USA in 1961. Lumumba was a pan-Africanist and believed in the necessity of freeing Africa from European economic domination. Congo became impoverished despite its vast mineral wealth, partly because of corruption and partly because of the huge profits permitted to the non tax paying foreign investors.

Bearing in mind that China has shown signs of sensitivity to external pressure — explained by the need to please some constituencies in the West (the urge



to play the ‘responsible stakeholder’ role) — there is a strategic role to be played by civil society and international institutions in this process. This should focus not only on Chinese conduct, but most especially on the natural resources-related policy choices and implementation strategies of local African governments. Effective surveillance and related mechanisms need to be put in place to ensure compliance by all players, traditional Western partners included, with policy regimes aimed at improving African development, be they improved environmental regulations, labour standards or taxation collection systems. In this way, those resources that have too often been seen to be a form of ‘curse’ can truly act as the source for African development.

Key Questions

While discussing this issue, you will need to bear in mind these questions.

1. Is there a possibility to bring all involved actors to adhere to the peace agreements already made?
2. How can democratic elections take place securely?
3. Is the international community able to use the peace agreements and develop them further in order to create a safe environment for the civil society?
4. Is the current knowledge about the states’ mineral resources sufficient?
5. Who has specific rights over the African mineral resources?
6. How can the African Union improve the relationship between international actors and African states?
7. How can the African Union facilitate renegotiation of existing trade agreements to ensure a win-win situation for African States and various other countries?



8. What steps can be suggested in order to ensure optimum utilization of resources for the benefit of African countries rather than nations exploiting them?

9. Is it possible for the African Union to set up an advisory or supervisory committee under a possible new convention or a Mineral Resource Trade Agreement to ensure that resources of African countries are not exploited? This can replace Question 8 altogether.

Further Research Links

Delegates, in addition, to what has been specified must also widen their research to include the following aspects –

1. Debate over the Human Rights Violation in African countries
2. The Shortcomings of Kimberly Process and the International Opinion
3. The history of blood diamond trade in the countries named
4. The exploitation of oil resources in Sudan
5. The impact of politics and governance for example, the elections being rigged, military coups etc.
6. Along with diamonds, timber as a resource and other minerals that are being traded to fund wars

Expectations

Delegates, we expect you to be thorough with the agenda and be well researched. The background guide is meant to merely act as a starting point for your further research. The EB suggests you to research beyond the study guide and not rely solely on the study guide for your performance in the conference.

We expect you to cite sources accepted by UNA-USA protocol.

The Executive Board expects your behavior to be on point during the committee sessions.

The EB also expects the MUN procedure (found on the website) to be adhered to the best of your abilities.



Any other specifications pertaining to the flow of the committee will be given pre- first session.

Lastly, we welcome you to one of the best MUN experiences you will ever have.

Welcome to the African Union, Shishukunj MUN 2015

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