

African Union Peace and Security Council

Welcome

Chair 1:

My name is Dominic Mhiripiri, and I am Brown sophomore from Harare, Zimbabwe. Harare is where I was born, raised, and high school-educated – eighteen years of my life. At Brown, I study Applied Math and Economics, with a considerably “minor” focus on International Relations/Political Science. I have participated in the Yale University Simulation of the Security Council conference in fall 2008, and I was director of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) committee at BUSUN 2008. I came from Zimbabwe in 2008, after attending both public and private high school there – with little MUN experience, but I have enjoyed my experience since joining BUSUN last fall. This summer I did research for Brown on the economic and social development of South Africa in Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town – and also visited home to hand over a “Zimbabwe Model Government” project to the government authorities in my country [see www.usapglobal.org/modelgov]. I will be happy to share with you my experience in Southern Africa, and at Brown University, should you have any questions.

Chair 2:

My name is Evan Sumortin, and I am currently a Brown sophomore from Long Beach, California. I am planning on majoring in both American History and Political Science. Last year was my first experience with Model UN and I participated in the 2008 Yale University Simulation of the Security Council conference and the 2009 McGill Model United Nations conference. This will be my first time co-chairing a committee, though last year at BUSUN I was a director. In addition to Model UN, I am involved with the Brown Daily Herald, Ivy Council, and Relay for Life. I am looking forward to seeing you guys in November.

We anticipate a weekend of high-quality, mind-blowing debate during BUSUN, as much as we look forward to welcome all of you to our great campus in the historic town of Providence, Rhode Island. We anticipate much energy and enthusiasm from you – in addition to your knowledge on the issues we will probe into during the conference. In that regard, therefore, enough preparation on both your part and ours is essential for the success of the conference.

African socio-political experiences in the past two decades or so, the “post-independence / self-determination short-run” [Obasanjo], has shown a continent with diverse

experiences that have often captured the imagination of the entire world. For example, the Sudanese crisis, which is one of our exciting topics of discussion and a global subject of debate, is an example of the continent’s most preeminent issues on which we can simulate very interesting and intense dialogue. We will also cover *Governance in the Congo* and *Illegal Diamond Trafficking* in Africa, spanning the vast Central and Western geographical / cultural / political realms of the continent. Some other fascinating themes in contemporary African political discourse, many of which are closely related to our three topics, include *Piracy in Somalia and the Horn of Africa*, *Crime and HIV/AIDS in South Africa*, *Oil and energy conflicts in West Africa*, *Governance and Electoral issues in Zimbabwe and Kenya*, among many. Exploring some of issues, as well as some sort of integrated history of the entire continent from various sources will deepen your understanding and help you in you debate during the BUSUN conference.

It is important, while being empathetic to the views and aspirations of the African countries we will represent, to maintain open-mindedness about the views and experiences of delegates / countries they represent.

Sincerely,

Dominic Mhiripiri
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Committee History

In December 2003, the required majority of Member States of the African Union ratified the Protocol Relating to the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the African Union, leading to the election of a 15-member council at an Addis Ababa meeting of the 4th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council in April 2004. The AUPSC is chiefly meant to cater for the security needs of the AU and enforce its decisions. The first 15-member were South Africa, Lesotho, Mozambique, Kenya, Sudan, Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Nigeria, Togo, Senegal, Algeria and Libya. The members, selected from the distinct regions of the continent, reflected the balance amongst countries, and their strategic economic / military importance to the Union’s welfare. Members are elected to two, three or four-year terms which can be renewed upon expiry [*mostly sourced from the AU website*].

According to one of the fifteen member-states of the council, “The multinational Peace and Security Council is legally empowered to intervene in any African Union (AU) member country that experiences genocide, crimes against

humanity, an undemocratic change of government or an uprising by rebel forces”¹.

You can access the Protocol on the Peace and Security of the African Union at:

http://www.africa-union.org/rule_prot/PROTOCOL-PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION.pdf

Topic 1: Governance in the Congo

Background

The Democratic Republic of Congo, located in the central-western region of Africa, has a history steeped in war and misery. Little was known of this area of Africa until the 15th century when Portuguese explorers happened upon the Congolese people. It wasn't until around 1878, however, that the Congo truly sparked the interest of outside influences. In particular, at this time, King Leopold II of Belgium called upon Henry Morton Stanley (a Welshman who had experience with the African interior and especially the Congo River) to return to the Congo under the guise of working for the International African Society (a “supposed philanthropic organization”). For the next five years Stanley succeeded in convincing various Congo chiefs to sign more than 400 treaties with King Leopold that forced them to hand over their land rights to the King in return for insignificant gifts.

King Leopold continued in his plan to take over the Congo at the Berlin conference called by Bismarck in 1884. The purpose of this conference was to “carve up Africa.” Leopold, realizing that the Germans would like to counteract French and British power in this area, convinced the Germans to declare the Congo a free trade area and cede it to him. Once he had obtained ownership, Leopold went about taking all of the ivory, copper, and rubber he could out of the Congo. Leopold's traders committed heinous crimes against the Congolese people including “...raiding villages and taking women and children captive as an incentive for the men to bring back ever-greater supplies of rubber from the forest.” Furthermore, if someone returned without the pre-determined amount of material (especially rubber), they would be decapitated. At the same time, however, Leopold presented his actions to the world as examples of how good governance could help civilize communities and provide protection from outside forces.

The public soon began to realize what Leopold was

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http://www.southafrica.info/ess_info/sa_glance/constitution/au-peacesecurity.htm

doing and finally the Belgian parliament stepped in, offering Leopold US \$4 million in an effort to annex the land mass for themselves. Leopold ceded the land and the life of the Congolese people slowly began to improve. The new Belgian government not only built clinics, schools, and roads, but also saw to it that by the 1940s the Congo was Africa's richest country. Nonetheless, there were still issues. Most pressing was the fact that the Congolese people still had relatively few rights and the Belgian government did not seem very willing to hand over the leadership of the country.

In 1960, however, Patrice Lumumba led the independence movement in a successful effort to win control over the country. During the time in which the Congolese were attempting to create a successful government, however, the Belgians realized that they had left the country undermanned. Soon, with covert US support, they returned to the Congo to stop the chaos, supporting army chief Joseph Desire Mobutu's plan to oust (and assassinate) Lumumba.

Once Mobutu ousted Lumumba, not only did he rename himself Mobutu Sese Seko and rename the country Zaire, but he also went on a campaign of “Africanization” getting people to, for example, drop their Christian names and embrace their African ancestry.

Nonetheless, like Leopold, Mobutu soon fell to corruption. Mobutu received more than US \$2 billion in US loans over a 30-year period and began printing money at an extremely rapid pace. He saved much of the money for himself and had a supposed US \$5 billion in Swiss bank accounts and made frequent “...shopping trips to the Champs Elysees.” Michela Wrong described his style of leadership as a “kleptocracy.”

After Mobutu died of cancer, a new leader, Laurent Kabila, came to power and renamed the country the Democratic Republic of Congo. Unfortunately he too soon turned to corruption and then found himself starting a civil war. He turned the government against the Tutsis (the people he had once claimed to represent). The conflict became worse when Rwanda and Uganda joined the Tutsi rebels. Fortunately for Kabila, Angola and Zimbabwe decided to provide military support for the Congolese government.

In 1998, the Democratic Republic of the Congo saw the beginnings of its second war, which ended in Kabila's assassination in January 2001 by one of his own bodyguards. Joseph Kabila (Laurent Kabila's son) then took the reins of the government. Kabila II, however, took a very different approach than his father. He quickly set about “...presiding over a peace treaty between the warring African factions that in 2002 paved the way for an all-party transitional government.”

In 2006, the DRC saw its second-ever multiparty

elections. Although it seemed like the tides were turning, there was a stalemate between incumbent Joseph Kabila and opposition leader Jean-Pierre Bemba and violence was breaking out in various places around the Congo. Although the election ended with a win for Kabila after a second round, an insecure and precarious security situation in the DRC continues to exist (a problem that is attested to by the fact that 17,000 UN soldiers are stationed in the area). The volatile situation in the Congo is not just the result of an unstable political environment, however, it is also attributable to "...conflicts over basic resources such as water, access and control over rich minerals and other resources." The volatility of the situation is exacerbated by the fact that various national and international corporations and other regimes have a stake in the outcome of the conflict.

Overall, at this point in time, the major issue in regard to governance in the Congo is that there really is no government of which to speak. Of course a capital exists and the like, but the government isn't even performing its minimal functions. This is a result of the years of misrule through which the DRC has had to go. The DRC is going through reconstruction of its government and this will take some time. As a result of its relative vulnerability and large amount of resources (for example, mineral, tin, diamond, water, copper, and timber resources), however, the Congo has been attracting the violence of its neighboring (mostly unstable) countries. Therefore, the major issue now is to prevent the Congo's neighbors from attacking it to allow for reconstruction of the government, thus, finally allowing the Congolese to be free from oppression.

In regard to other countries' positions on the current situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the EU clearly supports the formation of a government in the DRC as is exemplified by their attempts to participate in peacekeeping operations in the area. On September 22 2009, Germany in particular expressed its concern about the problems with human rights in this area. The US also supports the formation of a government and peace during this transitional period. In particular, on October 31st, 2007 the Office of the Spokesman released the following statement: "We support the Congolese people in their efforts to promote peace and democratic values..."

Finally, China, which has an economic partnership with the Congo, also supports the development of the Congo and its government.

This information should serve as a stepping-stone for your own research. You should look further into the current situation and find what possible solutions are being suggested for the problem. In addition, be sure to research your particular country's position on the issue. The following is a list of a few links that might be useful in finding more information about governance in the Congo.

Good luck!

Helpful Resources

United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

<http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/missions/monuc/index.html>

International Crisis Group- DR Congo

<http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=1174>

African Union Peace and Security Council

http://www.africa-union.org/organs/The_Peace_%20and_Security_Council.htm

BBC News Country Profiles

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1076399.stm

Topic 2: Illegal Diamond Trafficking

Background

In the western world, diamonds are associated with love, wealth, and power. However, in Africa they are often associated with brutality and terror. The first recorded finding of a diamond in Africa occurred on the banks of the Orange River in South Africa by a young boy named Stephanus Erasmus. The young boy gave this diamond to his neighbor, Schalk van Niekerk, a collector of unusual stones. Niekerk then passed this diamond on to a traveling salesman who subsequently showed the stone to the magistrate, Lourenzo Boyes. Eventually, the stone made its way to the 1867 World Fair in Paris where it was officially declared to be a diamond and named "Eureka."

After the World Fair and even during it, people began to realize its worth and the fighting began. Mining operations began popping up in various areas of Africa. The Dutch and English fought over these mines and tried to maintain control. At the same time, local tribes became fully aware of the existence of these precious stones and warring among themselves. During the years following the discovery of diamonds many people died as a result of forced labor and the punishments for not participating in the labor. As a result of this, "the diamonds from these regions of Western Africa (Angola, Sierra Leone, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Liberia), which were mined by forceful labor and traded illegally by terrorist outfits to fund terror activities, are called 'Blood Diamonds' or 'Conflict Diamonds'".

In Sierra Leone, Lebanese traders found that they

could make a profit out of the large amount of diamonds in the country, which led to large-scale illegal diamond mining and smuggling operations. Therefore, instead of leading to prosperity in the Sierra Leone, these diamonds have led to significant human rights violations. By 1950, these problems had become so widespread that Sierra Leone gave up monitoring the diamond industry, but, instead, tightened the security over the Kono and Freetown diamond districts. Unfortunately, this did not have the positive effects the government was hoping; the traders began sending the diamonds through Liberia. Soon a new trade route between Sierra Leone and Liberia was formed. More problems resulted, however, when, in 1956, the government passed the Alluvial Mining Scheme allowing indigenous miners to receive mining and trading licenses.

By 1961, Sierra Leone had gained independence from Great Britain but the country found that it was left with a great deal of political and economic problems. Most of these problems were associated with the diamond mines. In 1968, Siaka Stevens became the prime minister, but his reign was rife with corruption. Specifically, he encouraged illegal diamond mining and trading. In fact, during his time in power, “more diamonds were traded illegally than by legal procedure.”

In 1991, the Revolutionary United Front (headed by Foday Sankoh), rebelled against Stevens and his government. Despite Sankoh’s claims that he worked for the people and that he promised to share the mineral wealth among the people of Sierra Leone, Sankoh used terror and brutality to demonstrate to the people that he was a power to be reckoned with and that the government could protect the people. In addition, after some time, it became clear that Sankoh was not interested in helping the poor. Instead, he wanted to exploit the people and the mines further. The RUF began taking prisoners and forcing people to work in the mines. A ten-year-long civil war followed.

Finally, in 1999, the United Nations intervened and the Lomé Peace Accord was signed and some of the violence came to an end. Per the accord, Sankoh was given a high position in Sierra Leone’s transitional government and “Kimberley process certification was introduced which monitor the diamonds from the mining until they reach the hands of distributors.”

Despite the signing of the peace accord, international diamond trade bodies have not done enough to stop the illegal trading of the diamonds and the unnecessary wars and bloodshed in Africa. The major problems still associated with the illegal trading of these diamonds include the failure of the diamond industry to create an “auditable tracking system to ensure that diamonds are conflict free;” the failure of the diamond industry to “implement a code of conduct adequately to stop the trade in blood diamonds”;

and the failure of the diamond industry to clean up its membership and to operate in a more transparent manner. One of the suggested plans to rectify this issue is to prevent governments from letting the diamond industries “off the hook.” In fact, governments must require that the diamond industry put certain meaningful systems into place. For example, it has been suggested that the “diamond trade bodies must develop a comprehensive, auditable system to track diamonds from mine to point of sale, based on clear standards that has to be implemented by every company or individual trading in diamonds.” In addition, when buying diamonds, companies must choose their suppliers such that they only purchase conflict free diamonds. Other methods to stop the violence in Africa include, forcing diamond companies to publish their policy to combat blood diamonds; to actively support the strengthening of the Kimberley Process; and, simply, aid law enforcement agencies in finding those people that are breaking the law specifically with regard to the trading of diamonds.

With regard to the positions that some regions and countries are taking on this issue, the EU wants to take an active role in the fight against illegal diamond trafficking because it is a factor in preventing conflicts in the region. The EU suggests various sanctions to prevent illegal diamond trade and also suggests stationing experts in the region to collect information on illegal activities. The United States also wants to end illegal diamond trafficking in Africa and, toward such an end, passed the Clean Diamond Trade Act on April 25, 2003, “which legally reinforces the principles of the Kimberley Process (which in essence works to prevent conflict diamonds from being sold).

Remember that this is simply a departure point and your research should take on its own dimensions. In continuing your research, points to consider may include the following: how your country views the current situation; your country’s history of intervening in the conflict (or not intervening); how leaders in your country have suggested the problem can be fixed; what types of interventions would be acceptable to your country and which would not be; and what country has similar views to yours and thus would be a possible ally. Below there are a few links that should help. Good luck!

Helpful Resources

African Union Peace and Security Council
http://www.africa-union.org/organs/The_Peace_%20and_Security_Council.htm

UN on Conflict Diamonds
<http://www.un.org/peace/africa/Diamond.html>

EU Views on Conflict

http://www.europa-eu-un.org/articles/en/article_403_en.htm

Journal Article Pertaining to Conflict Diamonds

<http://mq.dukejournals.org/cgi/reprint/16/2/52.pdf?ck=nck>

Topic 3: Crisis in Sudan

Background

For the majority of this decade, a grave political and humanitarian crisis has ravaged the northeastern African state of Sudan. Particularly, the war in Darfur and its humanitarian consequences have sparked debate globally and captured the imagination of people beyond the borders of Sudan and Africa.

The largest country in Africa, Sudan's history includes a series of short and prolonged conflicts, as well as strong ties and alternating periods of political ties with northern neighbor Egypt. Sudan was a British colony until January 1965, when the first Sudanese government led by Ismail Al-Azhar came to power.

Historically, a lot of acrimony has characterized relations between the country's Islamic Northern parts and the Southern areas that are pre-dominantly Christian and animist. On the verge of Sudanese independence in 1955, the country's first Civil War erupted between these parts. The conflict, which lasted until 1972, was fought over who had the right to control the country's new sovereign independence. Sudan had another Civil war between 1983 and 2005. The then President Gaafar Nimeiry's 1983 decision to move towards a united, federated Sudan not only threatened the autonomy enjoyed Southern Sudan, but it also violated the Addis Abba Agreement in which such sovereignty was enshrined. This prolonged conflict defined one of the costliest eras in Sudan's history - with the estimated number of casualties between two and three million people – largely due to the war and famines. In between this period, in 1989, a bloodless coup saw the rise to power of Omar al-Bashir. This man's storied legacy so far has since then has made him one of the most important parts of the recent history of Sudan, and an important subject in contemporary global debate on human rights and sovereignty / bounds of international law.

Current Situation

However more recent developments - the Darfur War, complex humanitarian challenges in Sudan, and the fate of its leaders [especially al-Bashir] - are of greater

interest to our debate than the history of the country.

Sudan has one of the most deplorable human right records in the world. In 2003, the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA), representing the highly marginalized southern farmers and non-Arab/Muslim populations, and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM) in Darfur took up arms against the government, accusing it of practicing discrimination by favoring Arabs while oppressing black, non-Muslim Africans.

In the midst of this conflict were suspicions of genocide by the Sudanese government that was carried out by Khartoum's Janjaweed militia. The government, however, adamantly refutes such accusations and any connections to Janjaweed. The militia often practiced "scorched-earth" tactics, in addition to a myriad of killings, rapes, and village burnings. The displacement of people has also led to tensions with neighboring Chad, where refugees are scrambling for shelter in droves. It is estimated that some 300,000 have been killed, with millions more displaced.

The UN has taken various actions to ameliorate this conflict. In August 2006, the UN, in alliance with the African Union, enacted Resolution 1706, which called for the deployment of UNAMID, a 26,000-troop peacekeeping force to Sudan. The Sudanese government considered this as a transgression and launched a major offense in the region. UNAMID continues to work on a peace agreement between the rebel groups and the Sudanese government.

In May of 2006, the Sudan Liberation Movement signed a peace agreement with the Sudanese government, but SLM's other faction, led by Abdul Wahid al Nur, did not. Thereafter, the fighting continued.

On 14 July 2008, the prosecutor in the International Criminal Court (ICC) filed ten charges of war crimes against Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir, which included three counts of genocide, five counts of crimes against humanity, and two counts of murder.

The UN concluded that war crimes were committed, but genocide did not occur.

Bloc Positions

SLM, JEM: These rebel groups have claimed to fight for those suffering from oppression under the current government led by Bashir.

Sudanese government: Bashir has been accused of discrimination against black Africans that incited this conflict. The government is also accused of supporting the ruthless Janjaweed militia and committing genocide.

Chad: Sudan's neighbor has been receiving an influx of refugees, and unfortunately, some of the violence and

conflict plaguing Sudan.

Questions To Consider

1. Is the conflict winding down or is it just a precursor to something much more devastating?
2. How can such ethnic conflicts be avoided in the future?
3. How does this crisis affect Sudan's neighboring countries?
4. How should the UN deal with those who were displaced?
5. How will the global recession affect Sudan (i.e. aid to the area)?

Helpful Resources

Q&A: Sudan's Darfur conflict

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/3496731.stm>

The Darfur Crisis

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/indepth_coverage/africa/darfur/

The crisis in Darfur, a timeline

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/background/sudan/darfur.html>

Crisis in Darfur

<http://www.amnestyusa.org/darfur/page.do?id=1351050>

Darfur's violence and sorrow spreads to Chad

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/15655588/>