

# **Tufts Seminar 2022: Problems Without Passports**

Climate Change: “Code Red” for Humanity

## **Briefing Paper for the African Union**

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## **Introduction**

*Representative: Chelsea Davis*

We are in the African century. Our growth and resource potential will make us the vanguard of the future. Consisting of 55 member states, the African Union is a continental body that strives for the development of African states through our support of collaboration and integration. Our unity is proudly symbolized in the rings on our symbol: red for the blood shed of independence and liberation, and interlocked for our unwavering solidarity. The undivided silhouette of our beautiful continent represents a harmonious belief in Pan-Africanism that cannot be shattered by national borders or imperialist powers. We are accelerating continental integration such that Africa can leave the periphery and claim its rightful role in the global community. As we address the converging social, economic, and political problems compounded by globalization, our relentless struggle is realized through our forward looking vision of “an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena.”

The African Union is imperative for Africa to free itself of the Western exploitation of our continent’s human and natural resources. As the African Union, we are helping to harness our continent’s potential and bolster our role in global affairs, the global economy, and the global imagination. Our goals are to promote democratic principles and popular participation; endorse and defend the common positions of African states; protect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States; promote the cooperation of all fields of human activity to boost economic development; work with relevant international partners to defend against global threats; encourage the participation of the African Diaspora; guarantee the participation of women in decision-making; and coordinate and harmonize with Regional Economic Communities. Though Africa is one of the lowest contributors to climate change, our nations are suffering some of the worst effects from other countries’ mistakes. Climate change has heightened our vulnerabilities, contributing to food insecurity, displacement of peoples, and putting stress on water resources. We want to hold countries accountable for the disproportionate

effects of climate change in the form of reparations and aid for our transition to more climate conscious energy production.

**Key Points:**

- The framework around agriculture and food security is crucial for understanding the impact of climate change on the member states of the African Union. Agriculture is our largest economic sector as it accounts for 30-60% of all economic production and employs 60-70% of our labor force. Recurrent famines, droughts, and variable rainfall have exacerbated the preexisting food crisis, disrupted planting seasons, and devastated household incomes.
- Climate change is increasing forced migration and worsening conditions for internally displaced peoples (IDPs). Internal migration is projected to increase due to the depletion of fishery and agriculture ecosystems as rising sea levels increase salinity and erosion, temperatures increase, and droughts damage growth. Migrants and IDPs are facing heavier burdens from the damaging of temporary camps by floods and extreme weather. We must direct our attention on taking preventative measures to protect the safety of migrants and ensure their safe and welcoming arrival to new countries.
- Natural disasters and climate change worsen the existing tensions among communities. It is important to adopt a climate-sensitive component to peacekeeping, post-conflict reconstruction, and development efforts to prevent further armed conflicts in fragile states. We urge Member States to use our “Silencing the Guns” campaign to increase their efforts in preventing, managing, and resolving conflicts.
- Energy is vital to the future of the African continent. Today, only a minority of Africans have access to electricity, a component necessary for rapid growth and modernization. Furthermore, our major energy sources are fossil fuels and biomass—both polluters—with renewable energy only comprising 3% of total production. The African Union strongly believes that climate conscious energy projects are needed to both expand electricity production and limit climate change, a problem that Africa feels acutely.

- Climate change greatly affects the citizens of Africa and their personal rights. Over 100 million people are in extreme poverty, as a result, many people will become climate refugees and fall into further poverty. We in the African Union expect developed countries to assist and help fund the control of this climate crisis and our transition into a sustainable energy future.
- The effects of climate change are visible within Africa now. More severe droughts, wildfires, flooding, and extreme weather events destroy vital infrastructure and cripple economies. We hope that developed nations will provide the African Union with financial support to strengthen our infrastructure, allowing us to resist some of the consequences of a problem largely caused by emissions from these developed nations.

**Background Information:**

- In the 1800s, Europeans scrambled to take our land, our resources, and our people. They made arbitrary borders, dividing our continent and setting the stage for later conflicts. Depleting us of resources, populations, and freedom, the Europeans left many African nations without stable governments and with heightened religious and ethnic tensions boiling. The effects of colonialism are still seen today, and we aim to reverse them.
- The predecessor of the AU is the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the first post-independence continental institution. The OAU symbolized and fought for a united Africa that was in control of its own destiny and “free” of foreign manipulation. The OAU’s founders believed that freedom, equality, and justice were essential goals in working towards the aspirations of solidarity that transcends ethnic and national differences. Breaking away from all forms of colonialism and apartheid and promoting sovereignty drove the foundation of the OAU, which enabled African states to come together and forge an international consensus on freeing the continent of apartheid and supporting liberation. The OAU was the first body in Africa that allowed all member states to coordinate positions regarding Africa and more effectively defend the interests of the continent.

- In September of 1999, the OAU declared the establishment of a new continental organization to further its work and conquer problems relating to the increase in globalization. The new body would accelerate the integration of Africa, promote their role in the global economy, and address the multifaceted problems of globalization.
- In July 2002 in Durban, South Africa, the African Union (AU) was officially launched. While the OAU was established and mainly fought for decolonisation and an end to apartheid, the new wave of African leaders believed the AU should focus on increasing the integration and collaboration between African states to fuel the continent's growth and economic development.
- We have since led and witnessed great change in Africa, such as:
  - The establishment of AIDS Watch Africa to coordinate and mobilize the continent against the ravishing AIDs epidemic.
  - Our efforts to mediate the 2011 Libyan Civil War through an ad hoc committee of five African presidents which was halted by the NATO-led military intervention. Though contested at first, the AU recognizes the National Transitional Council as the legitimate representative of Libya. We continue our effort to ensure the peace and stability of Libya by moderating peace talks in the country and staying present in the region.
  - Continuing our involvement in Mali through a military presence and organizational aid to enable stability and counter terrorist measures from groups like Al-Qaeda. Our forces are focused on counterinsurgency pursuits and administering presidential elections to guarantee smooth transitions of power.
  - Opposing the mounting of coup d'etats in recent years, as they defy the constitutional and democratic aims of the AU.
- In the past couple of years, the strength, resilience, and harmony of Africa has been tested, but through our intercontinental unity, we have managed to weather the storm with unwavering strength. Some of our latest achievements include:
  - Our response to COVID-19:

- The securing of over 1 billion doses of the COVID-19 vaccines through the efforts of the African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team (AVATT), a group of 10 individuals from across the continent established by the AU chair President Cyril Ramaphos of South Africa.
- We established the African Medical Supplies Platform and the COVID-19 response fund to ensure that all African states can immediately respond to the pandemic without the aid of the international community.
- Launching the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCTFA) in 2020. This will create the world's largest free trade area, according to the World Bank, by connecting 1.3 billion people and reaffirming the possibility of lifting 30 million people out of poverty.
- We responded to the rise in civil conflicts by staying active in negotiations around the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam to achieve a ceasefire in Libya and promote peace in South Sudan.
- The Decade of Women's Financial and Economic Inclusion initiative, established in 2020, promotes the commitment of African leaders to take action towards gender inclusion and sustainable development on all levels.
- We work closely with the European Union (EU) to face problems of today's world. We recently renewed our partnership with a joint vision to promote solidarity, peace, security, and sustained economic development for our citizens and to strive for unity in future generations.

## **Global Governance**

*Representatives: Henry Cramer & Sofia Maidman*

## **African Union Governance**

- The African Union has a democratic organization system, like the United Nations, and encourages democracy among its member states. We are made up of both political and administrative bodies.
- Our Peace and Security Council (PSC) is organized similarly to the UN's Security Council, but it notably lacks vetos or permanent members. Five members are elected for three-year terms and ten members are elected for two-year terms. Seats are allocated with respect to geographic population.
- Our highest decision making group is the Assembly of the African Union, consisting of all the heads of state and governments of member states of the AU.

### **Global Governance**

- A world in which the rules of the game are decided upon by the superpowers alone, either globally or within their own spheres of influence, is not in the interest of the AU. As such, we implement many key ideological principles across our member states, such as democracy, freedom of trade, protection of institutions, the smooth transition of power, and others.
- The provision of global public goods (GPGs)—including mitigating climate change, fighting tax avoidance, and preserving fair rules-based international trade—is very important.
- We have a large stake in the climate change GPG because of our high exposure to the disasters of a warming world.
- Given our challenges with mobilizing domestic resources, we focus on preventing large corporations from shifting their accounting profits to the countries with the lowest tax rates. Within the AU, corporate taxes amount to a substantial fraction of our total government revenue.
- Many African countries are small, trade dependent economies that rely on exports for success. It would not be of interest to us to sideline the World Trade Organization because we favor rules-based multilateralism rather than an international order based on

deal-making, effectively limiting the ability of large players to exert their weight on our economy.

### **Views on Sovereignty and Intervention**

- Per article 4 of our founding document, the African Union holds the right to intervene in a member state, after a decision by the assembly of heads and state, to prevent serious violations of human rights. There are eight interventions that have occurred as a result of AU motions, with five currently active right now.
  - An intervention is possible only when there are "grave circumstances, namely: war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity."
- Foreign groups and countries play a heavy part in wars within African Union member states. Both France and Russia (through the Wagner group) have had soldiers fighting on African soil.

### **Political and Social Rights of Citizens**

- According to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, every citizen is equal before the law and entitled to equal protection of the law. Citizens are also entitled to rights and freedoms without distinction of any kind such as race, ethnic group, color, sex, language, religion, political opinion, national and social origin, fortune, birth, or status.
- All forms of exploitation and degradation of man, particularly slavery, slave trade, torture, cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment and treatment is prohibited. Citizens have the right to liberty and the security of their person.
- Freedom of religion is found within many member states and is encouraged by the African Union. States can differ based on whether they guarantee equal treatment under the law for different religions, and whether they establish a state religion, the extent to which religious organizations operating within the country are policed, and the extent to which religious law is used as a basis for the country's legal code.
- Despite our outlined rights, circumstances do vary from country to country; some states have harsh laws restricting freedom of religion, women's rights, freedom of speech, and

more. Furthermore, some states like Mauritania, where slavery is officially outlawed, still have huge slave populations.

### **Role Within the United Nations**

- The African Union at the United Nations is made up of 54 member states. African nations have their most important role in the General Assembly, the branch of the United Nations consisting of all member states. The General Assembly discusses and makes recommendations on issues under consideration by the organization. We coordinate our efforts on various topics, ranging from health, migration, development, and issues of peace and security.
- The United Nations is also involved in economic development activities in Africa—the least developed region in the world. Economic development involves increasing the efficiency and productivity of a country’s economy and improving the living conditions of its people. Nearly all UN development agencies play an active role on our continent.
- The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) was created in 1958 to assist our member states in their efforts to improve and expand their economies. The ECA works to promote economic cooperation among African nations, raise the level of economic activity in each country, and increase the standard of living of African peoples.

### **Engagement with Climate Change Issues and Initiatives**

- African countries have ratified the Paris Agreement and are committed to working with our global partners to combat climate change.
- We have shown leadership in the global climate change arena under the guidance of the Committee of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC). At the CAHOSCC meeting in February 2022, AU leaders discussed the outcomes of COP26 and its implications for our continent. We continue to advocate for urgent and practical global, regional, and national actions to address climate change, despite contributing the least to causing the crisis.
- In partnership with the European Commission, the Global Monitoring for Environment and Security and Africa (GMES and Africa) is a program that helps our governments in

designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating our regional and continental policies towards sustainable development.

- The Comprehensive Africa Climate Change Initiative (CACCI) is a joint climate initiative with the African Union Commission and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to promote resilience, food security, and inclusive growth. It is utilized to reach our Paris Agreement goals of reducing carbon emissions and building long-term adaptation plans. Our partnership with USAID will develop an Africa-wide accountability program that informs global discussion on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

### **Efforts to Combat Climate Change**

- The Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) are legally negotiated pacts established between 3 or more states with the goal of protecting the environment from threats to humans, animals, plants, water, land, and soil. They are governed by international law and deal with environmental challenges by finding a solution to mitigate or prevent the problems through established legally binding obligations and commitments. Through MEAs, everyone is held accountable.
- The Climate for Development in Africa (ClimDEV Africa) addresses the need to improve climate observations and services in Africa in support of development planning. A large investment was made to modernize our climate and weather observation networks, which will provide access to satellite data and reliable climate forecasts. The program improves food security and opportunities for agricultural growth, and enables better protection from climate sensitive diseases, better management of water resources and disaster risks, improvised environmental sustainability, and more sensible use of energy resources.
- We have implemented the Great Green Wall for the Sahara and Sahel Initiative (GGWSSI), with the goal of creating a 8,000 kilometer wall of trees across the whole Sahel. The initiative aims to restore our degraded landscapes and transform many lives in one of the world's poorest regions, the Sahel. It has already been implemented in over 20 countries in the AU, bridging together both African member states and international

partners to address climate change. By 2030, we have the goal to restore over 245 million acres of currently degraded land, sequester 250 million tons of carbon, and create ten million green jobs. GGWSSI provides a sense of hope in the challenge of desertification.

## **Migration**

*Representative: Chelsea Davis*

### **Historical View of Migration and Its Impact**

- The AU's policy on migration is laid out in the AU's Migration Policy Framework for Africa and Plan of Action for 2018-2030. The framework provides guidelines for member states, though the policies are pursued by each state's volition and only encouraged to be followed.
- Migration in Africa has existed for centuries within the context of three periods: Pre-Colonial, during colonial, and post-colonial. It is no surprise then that the vitality of migration management is heavily interwoven in much of the African Union's policies. The AU stresses that African nations have long shown hospitality towards refugees and asylum seekers. We are also committed to the protection of the rights of migrants and internally displaced persons (IDPs).
- The AU views migration, specifically internal, as one of the keys towards their aim of greater continental integration. Migrants help foster greater intercontinental development and bring Africa closer to reaching its ultimate growth potential. Consequently, we are working towards our protocol of the Free Movement of Peoples across the continent that will help boost the development and economic potential of our continent by encouraging the transfer of useful labor to states with certain needs, boost travel, and increase Africa's role in international trade.
- Migration has become a popular coping option of the deteriorating living conditions faced in many countries caused by war, poverty, and climate change. Some migrants are fleeing the rise of jihadist extremist, like in Nigeria, Niger, Burkina Faso, and Mali.

- The AU also recognizes the consequences of poor migration management, in that it can jeopardize inner-state relations and increase tensions between host and migrant communities. Migration mismanagement has frequently coincided with the deterioration of social services in Africa. For example, shelters for refugees or IDPs have become overpopulated because of poor planning, threatening the rights of migrants' and potentially damaging the surrounding region.

### **Obstacles and Implications of Integrating Immigrants**

- The integration of immigrants into African states often generates concern from host communities, specifically those living in urban areas, over the new population's potential disruptive presence. They fear the loss of jobs and lower wages to immigrants, as well as strains on social systems and institutions due to the increased demographic, and worry about changes to national identities and cultural values. This creates multiple obstacles, such as:
  - The success of immigrants assimilating into a community and being accepted by its dwellers.
  - The AU and the local bodies executing the integration process may receive backlash from the host communities which could result in a larger movement of dissent and mistrust.
  - Substantial resources are necessary for successful integration, but the little support from many host communities makes it difficult to garner enough backing to manage and aid these efforts.
- In order to improve the success of integration, the AU urges a strengthening of local efforts to help foster welcoming communities and protect migrants' rights. Such efforts include garnering support by emphasizing the contribution that migrants can bring to the development of cities. The implementations of the AU's suggestions are often insufficient or even impossible, though, due to the weak governing institutions in many of the African countries who face poverty and suffer under corrupt authority.

### **Necessary Changes in Global Policies Regarding Migrants, Refugees, and Asylum Seekers**

- In order to ensure the safety and prosperity of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, we demand that the protection of the rights of migrants and IDPs be a guiding principle in global policy. Failure to do so is present in the abuse at borders, the apathy towards taking in immigrants in the receiving countries, and an overall ignorance of the peoples' God-given rights.
- The AU supports an increase in the effort to raise awareness on the rights and obligations of migrants since they are often overlooked. This may include first informing the local or regional authorities of the pressing issue and providing them with the resources and guidance to inform their communities.
- “Migrant-friendly” reporting and systems of accountability that address the experiences of migrants with abuse and exploitation by law-enforcement officials and security must also be reformed. Migrants need to be made to feel safe in the nations they enter, so better reporting and accountability can give them a voice and lessen the power imbalance between migrants and law-enforcement officials. Without proper reporting, people will be unaware of the dangerous conditions of routes or shelters, and migrants will be faced with unnecessary suffering.
- Calling the movement of peoples a growing “crisis” portrays migrants in a poor light and makes countries more reluctant to welcome and support them, and leads to policies that aim to deter migration. The dangerous connotation forced upon migration has led to a greater securitization of borders, making it more difficult for migrants to enter a nation, thus forcing many to turn to illegal pathways, like human trafficking or smuggling. The international community should change the way in which it talks about migration, from portraying it as detrimental to security and a countries' prosperity, to emphasizing the benefits to a nation's interests that it provides.
- There should be an increase in safety measures and observation on popular routes for migrants, like the Mediterranean Sea, the Red Sea, and the Sahara Desert. In 2016, for instance, more than 5,000 people lost their lives in the Mediterranean because of the lack

of legal pathways for migration. Migrants should be welcomed and encouraged to use legal pathways for migration firstly, but there should also be greater concern on international migration routes in the meantime.

- Nations in Europe, North America, and beyond need not discriminate against the acceptance of African migrants into their borders. Xenophobia and resistance make integration difficult for African migrants, while tight border security results in irregular migration.

### **Trends of Migration**

- The largest trend of migration centers on internal migration, which makes up 80% of Africa's migration, and includes both intra-regional and inter-regional travel. The internal movements of migration consist of internal displacement and rural to urban migration because of the rapid urbanization of cities.
  - Our continent has the fastest rate of urbanization, particularly in East Africa, according to Brookings, which motivates the large movements of populations from rural areas to urban centers. The main destinations of urban migration are in Nigeria, South Africa, and Egypt.
  - Internal displacement is often the result of terrorism, conflict, and natural disasters. The population of displaced peoples in Africa is approximately 18.5 million, with refugees making up for over 27% and IDPs for 67%. The bulk of migration occurs in West Africa. Most migrants are coming from the Sahel, where there is a dependence on land that is dry and deteriorating, to countries with more plantations, mining, or coastal activities, like Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal.
    - Member States have adopted the Kampala Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa. The primary responsibilities related to internal displacement fall on national authorities, and 33 of the 55 member states have ratified the treaty.

- Another migration flow in Africa is towards Europe. The majority of African immigrants to Europe are from North Africa, with the top three countries of origin of Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia. This demonstrates the pull factors towards migration to Europe of proximity, established diasporas, and economic opportunity. Most of these migrants depart when they are still in school or are employed, with many fleeing economic pressures.
  - An aspect of emigration to Europe from Africa is based on the growing youth population in our continent. There are a multitude of benefits that this direction of migration brings to both Africa and Europe. The aging population of Europe creates a void of jobs that Africans can fill, while Africans send remittances back and can return to their countries with new knowledge and experience, specifically of democracy. The intent of many African migrants in Europe is to make money to support their families back home, while others choose to stay there permanently.
  - Resistant attitudes towards newcomers in Europe discourages migration, and will only limit the benefits that Europe can experience.
- Around 3 million Africans migrate to North America overall, according to the UN DESA, while 5 million head to the Middle East.
- South to south migration has increased with the arrival of Chinese and Asian migrants to Africa.

### **Securitization of Borders**

- We are against the securitization of borders, as it prevents intercontinental unity and diminishes the rights of migrants. We have pursued multiple measures to foster integration across borders, including our pursuit towards intercontinental free movement. Our actions towards integration include:
  - Speeding up the implementation of continent-wide visa free entry, including the provision of visas at ports of entry for all Africans on the basis of reciprocity.

- Expediting the fulfillment and use of the African Passport that will be issued by Member States
- Our policy of Cooperative Border Management, a cohesive government response to the challenges of border management that ensures the collaboration of public authorities across international and interregional boundaries to foster legal and easy movement and prevent illegal activities.
- The securitization of borders contributes to the rise of irregular migration and international crime, including human trafficking and migrant smuggling. Tight security generates fear from migrants and encourages them to take drastic measures since legal pathways are uninviting.
- The situation is cyclical. Some states often view trends in irregular migration as an issue of national security, leading to the potential generalization that all migrants and refugees are dangerous or potential threats to security. Consequently, nations will increase their border security, which in turn will decrease the accessibility of legal and safe routes of migration, therefore contributing to the rise in irregular migration.
- The securitization of borders often coincides with corruption and harassment at these points. Increased security overlooks the rights of migrants, and allows law-enforcement officials and security to take advantage of migrants in the name of safety when their actions are taking such safety away from the migrants.

### **Environmental Migration and Refugees**

- According to the World Bank, by 2050, climate change will force approximately 86 million people in Africa from their homes if preventative action is not taken quickly. Within Africa, the West is set to face some of the most devastating impacts of climate change, with approximately 38.5 million people potentially compelled to move from the Basin countries. Tanzania will have the highest number of forced migrants, while Niger and Nigeria will see the largest numbers of internal climate migrants.
- Droughts and rising sea levels are threatening the livelihoods of those reliant on agriculture and fishing. Fishery ecosystems are being hit by rising sea levels, leading to

erosion, floods, increased salinity, and the disappearance of species. Also endangering Africans are spikes in temperature, extreme weather events, land loss, lower ecosystem productivity, and reduced agriculture. Though subtle, these factors will make regions unlivable, pushing millions to escape.

- The environment is also compounding existing issues, like poverty, conflict, and violence. The loss of land and the depletion of resources are exacerbating clashes and heightening tensions between refugees and host communities.
- Already displaced populations are facing secondary displacement as temporary camps are ravaged by storms or droughts. Some regions are facing “double vulnerability,” where those displaced by armed conflicts or terrorist regimes are burdened even more by the effects of extreme weather.
- In order to counter the environmentally deteriorating effects of large populations of IDPs and refugees, we must implement environmental protection programs. These will include periodic reviews of the ecosystems of refugee camps or shelters to measure the effects in order to mitigate them. In the situation of protracted refugees, in which people are forcefully displaced without a promise of what they will do or where they will go, we call upon the UNHCR and countries of first asylum. These countries and the UNHCR must identify the areas of priority resettlement by determining the degree of potential environmental degradation and the necessary protection for a particular ecosystem in danger.

## **Security**

*Representative: Sofia Maidman*

### **Military and Security Alliances and Organizations**

- The African Union is a military alliance composed of 55 member states. Within the AU, the Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS) department is a security and early-warning arrangement that facilitates responses to conflict and crisis situations in Africa.

- The Peace and Security Council (PSC) is the most vital system for promoting peace and security in the AU. The PSC has 15 members elected on a regional basis, and is responsible for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflicts, post-conflict peace building, and developing common defense policies.
- The African Standby Force (ASF) is deployed in emergencies. In cases of genocide or other serious human-rights violations, as long as it is approved by the AU General Assembly, an ASF mission can be launched even against the wishes of the government of the country concerned.
- The AU is a member of the United Nations, and NATO has been cooperating with the African Union since 2005. In both organizations, we coordinate our efforts on various topics, including health, migration, development, training and operational support, and issues of peace and security.

### **Major Security Concerns**

- Terrorism, violent extremism, and radicalization are threats to African security in all five regions of the continent. The AU has increased support for peace operations and coalitions addressing these challenges.
- There has been an increase in unconstitutional changes of government (UCGs), with military takeovers in Guinea, Mali, Sudan, and Burkina Faso. UCGs are linked to various factors, including insecurity arising from terrorism and violent extremism, and often result in attempted coups in neighboring regions.
  - In all cases, the affected countries have been suspended from the activities of the African Union by the Peace and Security Council. We must condemn unconstitutional changes of government and the resurgence of military takeovers to ensure peace on the continent.
- Agenda 2063, adopted in January 2015, is a set of initiatives proposed and currently under implementation by the African Union. We aim to ensure Africa achieves Aspiration 4 of Agenda 2063, which aims for “A peaceful and secure Africa,” by promoting conflict prevention and the resolution of conflicts.

- The Agenda 2063 flagship initiative of “Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020” is an important goal being put in place to ensure Africa is a more conflict-free and stable continent. We continue to strive towards this goal in 2022, but the COVID-19 pandemic has pushed our timeline back about ten years.
  - The campaign targets member states, as the primary responsibility of providing peace and security to citizens lies within each government. Guns are primarily found in areas of conflict, but countries at peace must also help. Prevention is key.

### **Climate Change Impact on Security**

- We recognize many climate-specific security risks, including forced migration and displacement, livelihood insecurity, food and water insecurity, rising levels of intercommunal conflict between pastoralists and farmers, protracted cross-border resource conflicts, and unsustainable resource exploitation.
  - Food insecurity is an especially important issue to the AU as one-third of our population lives below the global poverty line. Climate change could destabilize local markets, and our agriculture is dependent on consistent weather patterns that have been upended by extreme temperatures.
- Natural disasters and climate change worsen the existing tensions among communities. It is important to adopt a climate-sensitive component to peacekeeping, as well as post-conflict reconstruction and development efforts to prevent further armed conflicts in fragile communities. We urge Member States to increase their efforts in preventing, managing, and resolving conflicts through the “Silencing the Guns” campaign.
- Early warning and communication about natural disasters is key. We recommend the establishment of 24 hour command centers that closely monitor and issue warning alerts on impending natural disasters. We also emphasize the need for coordinated efforts at planning and responding to natural disasters in Africa. The goal is to further enhance national disaster risk preparedness and response capacities.
- We recognize the relationship between climate change and socioeconomic status. Elites take advantage of climate disasters by exploiting marginalized groups, as do armed

groups who seek to recruit youth. Education gaps and gender also play a role, as many women with no formal education depend on small-scale agriculture and livestock, making them vulnerable to the effects of climate change and conflict on natural resources and local economies. The AU stresses the importance of working with these marginalized groups as they bear the force of climate change.

### **Securitization of Borders**

- As most of our security concerns stem from within the AU, we see no reason to directly support the securitization of borders. Additionally, the securitization of borders leads to a rise in international crime, human trafficking, corruption, and harassment, in turn negatively impacting African peace and security.

### **COVID-19 Pandemic Impact on Security**

- The COVID-19 pandemic has been distracting from key AU peace and security measures. The need to contain the pandemic slowed our work on the “Silencing the Guns” campaign, effectively extending the project’s deadline by ten years.
- Many governments in Africa have seen instances of police using unnecessary force to enforce pandemic lockdown rules. This overstep in power is dangerous as it could cause more revolt and turmoil within Member States.
- The pandemic did not pressure our warring parties to stop fighting as talks of global ceasefires lost momentum.

### **Energy and Cooperation**

- Energy has been a source of cooperation for the AU as it has led to new alliances and global economic partnerships.
- The Africa-EU Energy Partnership (AEEP) was launched by African and European Heads of State in 2007 at the AU-EU Summit in Lisbon, Portugal. We value our energy partnership with the European Union as we work together to facilitate the achievement of universal access to affordable sustainable and modern energy services in Africa, including in rural areas.

- The Third Africa-India Framework for Cooperation covers cooperation in the areas of economic matters and energy. Similarly, the Africa-Turkey Partnership framework focuses on infrastructure, energy, and transport.

### **Geographic Vulnerability Due to Climate Change**

- We are only responsible for about 4% of global carbon dioxide emissions, yet over one half of the states in sub-Saharan Africa are among those affected by the double burden of climate exposure and political fragility.
- Given our geographic position, high dependence on ecosystem goods and services, and weak adaptation capacity, no continent is more vulnerable to the effects of climate change that come with worsening drought conditions and sea levels rising.
- Warming temperatures are expected to melt our remaining glaciers in the next few decades, and the reduction in water, which is essential to agricultural production, will increase food insecurity, poverty, and population displacement. Our agricultural production is dependent on steady rainfall, and climate change has led to serious droughts and floods that kill crops and reduce yield. Additionally, increasing temperatures have caused longer dry spells that limit food production.
- Our rural areas are heavily impacted by the harmful effects of climate change to a disproportionate degree, and we believe that heavy carbon emitters, such as the United States and China, have a moral obligation to help our African nations.

### **Energy**

*Representative: Henry Cramer*

#### **Energy Production**

- As the African Union, we are a large exporter of energy-creating resources, namely fossil fuels. Exports of gas, oil, and fine metals (for foreign technological production) comprise a quarter of the GDP of sub-Saharan Africa and Ghana and Nigeria are some of the top oil exporting countries in the world.

- Multinational corporations have become a major part of this export, forming special relationships with governments in order to gain access to natural resources.
- The main source of energy within the AU is biomass (trees, charcoal) comprising 45% of production, followed by oil (23%), natural gasses (16%), coal (13%), and finally renewable energy (2%).
- The African Union wholeheartedly believes in the switch to renewable energy as we acutely feel the environmental consequences of climate change. Fossil fuels heavily contribute to climate change and thus the African Union hopes to limit their prevalence among our member states.
- We also hope to utilize more climate conscious energy sources, with solar, hydroelectric, and wind power becoming prevalent across all regions in the past decade. Furthermore, continent-wide plans, such as the Africa Clean Energy Corridor and the West Africa Clean Energy Corridor, aim to build renewable energy sources and strike down energy barriers between countries.
- A growing facet of energy production is nuclear power. As of now, South Africa is the only country to have a reactor but many countries are considering implementation. This could be a possible major source of energy in the future not just in Africa but around the world.

### **Energy Dependency and Conflict**

- China's Belt and Road Initiative, which has funded massive energy projects within the AU (such as the Nigerian natural gas pipeline) increases our geopolitical (and economic) reliance on China. Furthermore, Europe and America are starting to generate their own international initiatives designed to counter China's influence in Africa by replacing it with their own.
- Gulf States export 3% of their fossil fuel exports to Africa due to their proximity to our continent and thus have some minimal influence.
- Energy and resources that can be turned into energy have led to considerable conflict among African Union member states. From the blocking and damming of the Nile to the

solar farms that reignited the Western Sahara conflict, energy is a major geopolitical factor within our nation.

- With climate change effects becoming increasingly detrimental in Africa, climate-friendly energy production is necessary for the longevity of the continent.

### **Collaborative Projects**

- The AU has been united through common, regional energy sharing pacts and is pushing to expand them through the African Union's African Energy Commission (AFREC) by at first collecting data and then working to create a common continental energy system. The AU also looks towards foreign investment (from cleared NGOs) for energy projects vital to the continental community.
- The Grand Inga Hydropower project is one of the major projects within the AU Agenda 2063. It will cost around US\$80 billion to expand upon the existing 351-MW Inga 1 and 1,424-MW Inga 2 plants. The goal will be to power all of Sub-Saharan Africa from these power plants/stations.
- The Africa-EU Energy Partnership, which was created in 2007, brings together business leaders from Africa and Europe to discuss partnerships and collaboration. The AU-EU working group created and supervises the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) that oversees and implements climate conscious energy sources throughout Africa. The AREI argues for major transformation of antiquated and highly polluting forms of energy production (specifically coal and oil).
- The Africa Bioenergy Policy Framework and Guidelines was created by the Conference of Energy Ministers of Africa in November 2012 and ratified by the Heads of State and Government (within the African Union) in January the year after. It includes research towards finding alternative and climate-friendly solutions to biomass production.

### **Agriculture and Food Security**

*Representative: Maya Khadem*

### **Ecosystems and the Food Chain**

- The countries of the African Union maintain five main ecosystems: coastal environments, deserts, and semi-deserts, mountain environments, savanna grasslands, and forests.
- Africa's three coastlines are along the Mediterranean Sea in the north, the Atlantic Ocean in the west, and the Indian Ocean in the east.
- Our two largest deserts are the Sahara Desert across the northern part of the continent, and the Kalahari Desert in the southwest, both of which have little rainfall and scant vegetation.
- Savannas occupy more than half of Africa's land surface and are the main habitat for many of Africa's animals. Some consist of broad grasslands with a few dotted trees, while others are mostly covered in trees. The two main types of savannas are fine-leaved, dry areas with fertile soil, and broad-leaved, moist areas with relatively poor soil.
- About 7% of Africa's total land area is occupied by tropical and humid forests. The major forests run along the eastern and southern coasts, the central mountains, and in the Guinea-Congolian region that stretches across central Africa.

### **Role of Agriculture in the Economy**

- Agriculture is our largest economic sector and plays a vital role in the economies of the nations of the African Union. It accounts for 30-60% of all economic production, 20% of the continent's GDP, and employs 60-70% of our labor force.
- Among our varied agricultural practices due to Africa's environmental and climate diversity, peasant and subsistence farming is the most basic form of agriculture in most parts of the continent. Due to its desert regions, Northern Africa focuses on crops and farming methods suitable for the drylands, while Central Africa uses those appropriate for tropical forests.
- The countries of the African Union consist of both major exporters and importers. Staple exports include tropical commodities such as cocoa, coffee, tea, and cotton, while staple imports include wheat, rice, soybeans, various oilseeds, and frozen meat products.

- Most of Sub-Saharan Africa's net agricultural imports come from Nigeria, Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Somalia, with Nigeria alone as a net agricultural importer of over \$5 billion per year. Over the past four years, we have imported roughly \$40 billion per year while exporting roughly \$35 billion. Lower to middle-income countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, and Kenya have become the largest agricultural exporters, with a net trade surplus of about \$5 billion per year.
- Our food imports originating from member states are currently very low, averaging about 20% over the past few decades. South Africa accounts for over one-third of the intra-African food trade.

### **Distribution and Access**

- As of 2020, more than one-third of Africa's population was undernourished. Throughout the continent, 282 million people were experiencing hunger, an increase of 89.1 million from 2014, which is more than double the proportion of any other region in the world.
  - There is significant variation in the levels and trends of hunger across the subregions of Africa. About 44% of undernourished people on the continent live in Eastern Africa, 27% in Western Africa, 20% in Central Africa, 6.2% in Northern Africa, and 2.4% in Southern Africa.
- Conditions are only continuing to deteriorate across East Africa, where 7.2 million people are at risk of starvation in addition to the 26.5 million who face acute food insecurity. At least 12.8 million children in the region are acutely malnourished.
  - In East Africa, millions of children's lives are at risk due to the devastating combination of conflict, the aftershock of the COVID-19 pandemic, and unpredictable weather patterns.
- Our agricultural sector is plagued by low productivity, under-investment, urban-biased policies, and bottlenecks preventing women's access to productive capital, including secure land tenure. African agriculture also has low-value addition, poor rural infrastructure, and a persistent reoccurrence of famine.

- Despite being responsible for over 60% of food production on the continent, women have poor food security and a lack of capital for investment.
- The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have dramatically affected the affordability of food across our member states and continue to deprive Africans of income opportunities, and access to basic food and services.

### **The Effect of Extreme Weather Events**

- The devastating effects of climate change continue to exacerbate the food crisis within our region. Repeated drought cycles, for example, have plunged communities into further devastation, before they have time to recover from the previous one.
  - In recent years, droughts have increased in intensity and frequency in West, East, and southern Africa. These droughts affect food-production systems, and lack of food and water leads to the death of livestock in the affected areas. This devastates many families in more rural, disadvantaged communities whose herds are their main source of income and nutrition.
- Lowered rain cycles have disrupted planting and cropping patterns, causing lower yields and a major decline in household income. Recurring failed rainy seasons, cyclones, and swarms of desert locusts have made it impossible for many farmers to maintain their livelihoods.
- Our densely populated western coastal areas, which provide a range of essential services, have been hit by rising sea levels, floods, erosion, increased salinity, the disappearance of certain species, and the disruption of species' natural migration patterns.
  - Sea levels in West Africa are projected to rise around 30 to 50 cm between 1990 and 2100, which would cause major destruction of coastal infrastructure, and expose human settlements to the risk of inundation.

### **Economic Development**

*Representative: Jeremy Benjamin*

## Current State of African Economy

- Africa has a GDP per capita of \$1,970, the lowest of all continents.
- The African population is experiencing rapid growth and has the lowest median age of any continent, at 19.2 years. The increase in workers could either fuel an economic boom as labor-intensive sectors shift to Africa or further unrest as a larger share of the population becomes unemployed.
- Africa suffers from extreme wealth inequality; the top 10% of earners make thirty times more than the bottom 50%. This ratio is well above other regions. This inequality fuels corruption as the wealthy often have greater opportunities to engage in bribery while the poor find themselves with no means to resist extortion.
- During the age of Colonialism, many African nations were created to export key materials to European powers, leaving them extremely dependent on these commodities. This dependency leaves nations vulnerable to the cyclical nature of commodity prices. When prices are low, entire economies crumble and governments are forced to drastically cut spending
  - Examples of important commodities include: gold, diamonds, platinum, cacao, coffee, sugar, oil, cobalt, copper,
- Large scale wars, rampant coups, and general political instability threaten growth in Africa. These events not only discourage foreign investment, but also create streams of refugees that struggle relocating.
- African growth is also reduced by poor infrastructure, which makes transporting goods and people difficult.
- Studies have shown that lackluster infrastructure adds 30-40% to the price of goods traded across Africa, damaging the private sector. Only 38% of Africans have access to electricity and only 10% to the internet.
- Excessive corruption has stifled African growth by making government run programs inefficient. This corruption has been institutionalized and has proven to be difficult to remove.

- The African Union has an ambitious project of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) which aims at accelerating intercontinental trade and boost Africa's position in global markets. The project, which represents the largest free trade area in the world, will facilitate measures that simplify custom procedures and encourage a more free movement of peoples and goods. It has the potential to lift 30 million people out of poverty, and will help African nations diversify their exports and attract foreign direct investment.

### **How the African Economy Will Be Impacted by Climate Change**

- Rising tides have and will continue to displace those living along the coast, threatening key-urban centers in Africa. Many nations do not possess the capital needed to build the sea-walls and levees necessary to prevent flooding, which forces many to immigrate.
- Droughts are beginning to last longer and become more severe, threatening agriculture and water access.
  - 43.8% of employed Africans work in the agricultural sector, putting millions of jobs at risk.
  - This decrease in agricultural productivity could prompt food shortages, such as the current famine in Somalia.
  - 1/3 Africans struggle with water scarcity, which will unfortunately become more severe as ground water dries up at a faster rate.
  - Water scarcity will discourage investment and damage industry in already vulnerable regions, further harming the economy.
- An increase in the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, such as forest fires, hurricanes, tropical cyclones, and heatwaves, will damage already crumbling infrastructure, threatening critical supply chains.

### **Effect of Climate Change on the Global Economy**

- The Swiss Re institute estimates that the global economy will shed 10% of its total value by 2050 due to the negative effects of climate change .

- A geopolitical shift will occur as the world becomes less dependent on fossil fuels as an energy source, weakening the influence of large exporters like Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Russia.
- Demand will increase significantly for minerals essential to the green revolution, such as lithium, cobalt, silicon, and rare earth metals, bringing opportunity to the nations which possess them. Many African nations possess large reserves of these key resources, and will hopefully utilize them to create long-lasting growth.
- Climate change will reduce the amount of arable land, particularly for key cash crops like coffee and cacao, hurting nations which heavily rely on agriculture and potentially increasing food prices,
- Through its diverse array of effects, climate change will challenge almost every sector of the global economy, prompting a need for innovative solutions.

### **Policy Proposals**

- Africa has contributed remarkably little to historic fossil fuel emissions, but bears the brunt of the impact of climate change. Nations which have benefited the most from rapid industrialization and have released significant amounts of greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere have an obligation to support countries suffering from this pollution. These industrialized nations, particularly those in the West as well as China, must provide economic support to African countries to help them manage the climate crisis.
- People have a right to not live in extreme poverty, and every nation has an obligation to help their citizens. Western and Asian nations, who have used industrialization to build wealth, now seek to shut this door behind them, leaving hundreds of millions of Africans destitute. Further economic support should be provided to African nations to help them industrialize in a clean, economically efficient manner, avoiding harmful pollution and building wealth for its citizens. This support could come in many forms like the reduction of existing tariffs, investments in renewable energy production, or the creation weather-resistant infrastructure

- Fiscal austerity measures, in the form of Structural Adjustment Programs enforced on African nations by the IMF and World Bank, have been detrimental to economic growth. These programs forced nations to cut government spending drastically, crippling health and education systems as well hurting the private sector. International organizations encouraged the devaluation of local currencies to increase exports, which made essential imports unaffordable to most people. The effects of austerity in Africa are clear: lower economic growth, increased child mortality, and lackluster educational-systems.

## **Justice and Human Rights**

*Representative: Brendan Quiñones*

### **Effects of the Global North and Debt owed**

- Climate change threatens the lives and livelihoods of over 100 million in extreme poverty. Global warming is expected to melt Africa's remaining glaciers and reduce water essential to agricultural production in the coming century which will create food insecurity, poverty, and population displacement.
- We have undertaken an institutional obligation to ensure the effective guarantee of human rights in Africa.
- We require help from the Global North for the effects of a problem they created. Africa has over 100 million people in extreme poverty and many of the African countries are attempting to modernize. With the threat of climate change the African Union expects help from the Global North in navigating a development in a sustainable energy future whilst helping with the humanitarian aid caused by the Global North's actions.

### **Mitigation of Climate Change**

- We are attempting to reach the Paris Agreement goals of reducing carbon emissions and are building long-term adaptation plans.
- We have created the Comprehensive Africa Climate Change Initiative in order to tackle climate issues in our continent.

- Many African countries disproportionately bear the brunt of climate change. Adapting and strengthening resilience to climate change is extremely important in helping African nations thrive.
- Fifty-four countries in Africa have ratified the Paris Agreement. Part of the CACC is that many African countries have sworn to build local and regional capacity and institutional infrastructure and develop an Africa-wide accountability platform which informs debate at the continental level. On top of this it also informs global discussion on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

### **Assistance of Burdened Countries**

- In a sense those countries which have forced developing countries to bear the burden of climate change need to bear the burden of helping relieve said burden. Whether that's contributing to unions which can assist their states or extending humanitarian aid, there must be something which is done to help lighten the burden of climate change even though some of that burden may be re-centered on the climate change causers.

### **Policies of Aid**

- The African union is focused on its constituents. These countries are part of the global south and some are small islands.
- There are policies in place such as the comprehensive Africa Climate Change initiative which is aiding in the advancement of renewable energy sources and relief towards these countries.

### **Recognition of Climate Refugees**

- We agree that there will be climate refugees in the future. Over 100 million African peoples may go into extreme poverty and will have to seek refuge in the northern areas of the world.
- These people must be recognized as climate refugees as they are seeking refuge from climate and not from any other external factor. The fact of the matter is that there may come a point in the near future where the climate becomes unbearable not only for those in poverty but for all people in certain regions of Africa. When this occurs these people

will seek refuge and if they are seen as climate refuge we can show the world that the effects of climate change are already affecting a large range of people.