



Canadian High Schools Model United Nations Conference

# CAHSMUN

Vancouver, British Columbia | March 2nd to 4th, 2012

## African Union

Child Soldiers | HIV and AIDS | Conflict Resources

# A F R I C A N U N I O N

## Canadian High Schools Model United Nations 2012

Welcome from the AU Dais	1	Dear Members of the African Union,
Writing Position Papers	2	My name is Isabel Wade and I am your Director for this year's conference. Currently a senior at Crofton House School, I served as the Assistant Captain of the Model UN Club in 2011 and am currently a Co-Captain. I served as USG of Marketing for ConnectMUN and as Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime at VMUN. I also enjoy playing and coaching ice hockey, debating, and volunteering. I look forward to an engaging and enjoyable conference.
Committee Background	6	
Topic One: Child Soldiers	7	I would also like to that the time to introduce Emma, my Assistant Director, who also put a great deal of effort into this backgrounder. An enthusiastic student from Mulgrave School, Emma Rahemtulla is a Model UN participant and is one of the leaders of her school's MUN club. She has developed a passion for debate and public speaking since grade 7, and has gotten involved in a variety of competitions through the years. In school, she tries to get involved in as many clubs and activities as she can; she has been a part of the Service Action Council, jazz band, choir, participated in school plays, and is currently on the cross-country team.
Topic Two: HIV/AIDS	10	
Topic Three: Conflict Resources	13	
Works Cited	16	Finally, I would like to introduce our Chair, who will be arguably the most vital person in running the African Union during the conference. Yvonne was a part Enver Creek Secondary's MUN club and is a first year Business Administration student at Simon Fraser University. Her first conference was at CAHSMUN and she is excited to return and take on a new role and new perspective. Outside of MUN, Yvonne is involved with various organizations, such as the Young Readers' Choice Awards Society of BC and the Food Bank.
Conference Rules	18	

On behalf of the entire dais, I would like to welcome you to the African Union. We look forward to an amazing conference full of fantastic debate and an overall awesome time. If you have any questions or just want to chat about the upcoming conference, please feel free to contact any one of us.

Sincerely,  
Isabel Wade  
Director of African Union  
CAHSMUN 2012

# A F R I C A N U N I O N

Canadian High Schools Model United Nations 2012

## Writing Position Papers

### What are Position Papers?

Position papers are a reflection of the preparation that delegates put towards a Model UN conference. Each topic should be addressed briefly in a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned country, NGO, or expert role. You should also include recommendations for action to be taken by your committee.

CAHSMUN will reward awards to delegation with the best position paper in each committee. In order for your position paper to be eligible for awards, please follow these guidelines:

- You must submit your position paper to your committee's email no later than February 24, 2012;
- Length cannot exceed two pages;
- The font must be Times New Roman, between 10 and 12 points;
- The margins must be one inch on all sides;
- The file format must be PDF or Word (.doc and .docx);
- Each topic is clearly segregated; and
- No national symbols (e.g. flag, coat of arms) can be displayed on the position paper.

Double Delegates will only need to submit one version of their position paper.

### Committee Email Addresses

General Assembly First Committee [ga1@cahsmun.org](mailto:ga1@cahsmun.org)

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Historical Crisis Committee [historical@cahsmun.org](mailto:historical@cahsmun.org)

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The following is a sample of an acceptable position paper.

(Courtesy of the National Model United Nations Conference)

# A F R I C A N U N I O N

## Canadian High Schools Model United Nations 2012

Delegation from  
The United Mexican States

Represented by  
(Name of College)

### **Position Paper for the General Assembly Plenary**

The issues before the General Assembly Plenary are: the Use of Economic Sanctions for Political and Economic Compulsion; Democracy and Human Rights in Post-Conflict Regions; as well as the Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa. The Mexican Delegation first would like to convey its gratitude being elected and pride to serve as vice-president of the current General Assembly Plenary session.

#### **I. The Use of Economic Sanctions for Political and Economic Compulsion**

The principles of equal sovereignty of states and non-interference, as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations, have always been cornerstones of Mexican foreign policy. The legitimate right to interfere by the use of coercive measures, such as economic sanctions, is laid down in Article 41 of the UN-charter and reserves the right to the Security Council.

Concerning the violation of this principle by the application of unilateral measures outside the framework of the United Nations, H.E. Ambassador to the United Nations Enrique Berruga Filloy underlined in 2005 that the Mexico strongly rejects “the application of unilateral laws and measures of economic blockade against any State, as well as the implementation of coercive measures without the authorization enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.” That is the reason, why the United Mexican States supported – for the 14th consecutive time – Resolution (A/RES/60/12) of 2006 regarding the Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba.

In the 1990s, comprehensive economic sanctions found several applications with very mixed results, which made a critical reassessment indispensable. The United Mexican States fully supported and actively participated in the “Stockholm Process” that focused on increasing the effectiveness in the implementation of targeted sanctions. As sanctions and especially economic sanctions, pose a tool for action “between words and war” they must be regarded as a mean of last resort before war and fulfill highest requirements for their legitimate use. The United Mexican States and their partners of the “Group of Friends of the U.N. Reform” have already addressed and formulated recommendations for that take former criticism into account. Regarding the design of economic sanctions it is indispensable for the success to have the constant support by all member states and public opinion, which is to a large degree dependent the humanitarian effects of economic sanctions. Sanctions must be tailor-made, designed to effectively target the government, while sparing to the largest degree possible the civil population. Sanction regimes must be constantly monitored and evaluated to enable the world-community to adjust their actions to the needs of the unforeseeably changing situation. Additionally, the United Mexican States propose to increase communication between the existing sanction committees and thus their effectiveness by convening regular meetings of the chairs of the sanction committees on questions of common interest. An example is the case of negative spill-over effects of economic sanctions on neighboring countries, in which affected countries additionally need to be enabled to voice their problems more effectively, as addressed in the resolution Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions (A/RES/54/107). Non-state actors have in the last years tremendously grown in their political importance, especially with regard to the international fight against terrorism. Their position and the possibilities of the application of economic sanction on non-state actors is another topic that urgently needs to be considered.

# A F R I C A N U N I O N

Canadian High Schools Model United Nations 2012

## **II. Democracy and Human Rights in Post-Conflict Regions**

As a founding member of the United Nations, Mexico is highly engaged in the Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights all over the world, as laid down in the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) in 1948. Especially since the democratic transition of Mexico in 2000 it is one of the most urgent topics to stand for Democratization and Human Rights, and Mexico implements this vision on many different fronts.

In the Convoing Group of the intergovernmental Community of Democracies (GC), the United Mexican States uphold an approach that fosters international cooperation to promote democratic values and institution-building at the national and international level. To emphasize the strong interrelation between human rights and the building of democracy and to fortify democratic developments are further challenges Mexico deals with in this committee. A key-factor for the sustainable development of a post-conflict-region is to hold free and fair election and thus creating a democratic system. Being aware of the need of post-conflict countries for support in the preparation of democratic elections, the United Mexican States contribute since 2001 to the work of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), an intergovernmental organization operating at international, regional and national level in partnership with a range of institutions. Mexico's foreign policy regarding human rights is substantially based on cooperation with international organizations. The Inter American Commission of Human Rights is one of the bodies, Mexico is participating, working on the promotion of Human Rights in the Americas. Furthermore, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights is the regional judicial institution for the application and interpretation of the American Convention of Human Rights.

The objectives Mexico pursues are to improve human rights in the country through structural changes and to fortify the legal and institutional frame for the protection of human rights on the international level. Underlining the connection between democracy, development and Human Rights, stresses the importance of cooperation with and the role of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and the reform of the Human Rights Commission to a Human rights Council.

Having in mind the diversity of challenges in enforcing democracy and Human Rights, Mexico considers regional and national approaches vital for their endorsement, as Mexico exemplifies with its National Program for Human Rights or the Plan Puebla Panama. On the global level, Mexico is encouraged in working on a greater coordination and interoperability among the United Nations and regional organizations, as well as the development of common strategies and operational policies and the sharing of best practices in civilian crisis management should be encouraged, including clear frameworks for joint operations, when applicable.

## **III. The Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa**

The United Mexican States welcome the leadership role the African Union has taken regarding the security problems of the continent. Our delegation is furthermore convinced that The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) can become the foundation for Africa's economic, social and democratic development as the basis for sustainable peace. Therefore it deserves the full support of the international community.

# A F R I C A N U N I O N

## Canadian High Schools Model United Nations 2012

The development of the United Mexican States in the last two decades is characterized by the transition to a full democracy, the national and regional promotion of human rights and sustainable, economic growth. Mexico's development is characterized by free trade and its regional integration in the North American Free Trade Agreement. Having in mind that sustainable development is based not only on economic, but as well on social and environmental development, President Vicente Fox has made sustainable development a guiding principle in the Mexican Development Plan that includes sustainability targets for all major policy areas.

The United Nations Security Council has established not less than seven peace-keeping missions on the African continent, underlining the need for full support by the international community. In post-conflict situations, we regard national reconciliation as a precondition for a peaceful development, which is the reason why Mexico supported such committees, i.e. in the case of Sierra Leone. The United Mexican States are convinced that an institutional reform of the United Nations is crucial in enhancing durable peace in Africa. We therefore want to reaffirm our full support to both the establishment of the peace-building commission and the Human Rights Council. Both topics are highly interrelated and, having in mind that the breach of peace is most often linked with severest human rights' abuses, thus need to be seen as two sides of one problem and be approached in this understanding.

As most conflicts have their roots in conflicts about economic resources and development chances, human development and the eradication of poverty must be at the heart of a successful, preventive approach. Lifting people out of poverty must be seen as a precondition not only for peace, but for social development and environmental sustainability.

The United Mexican States want to express their esteem for the decision taken by the G-8 countries for a complete debt-relief for many African Highly-Indebted-Poor-Countries. Nevertheless, many commitments made by the international community that are crucial for Africa's sustainable development are unfulfilled. The developed countries agreed in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development (A/CONF.198/11) to increase their Official Development Aid (ODA) "towards the target of 0,7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) as ODA to developing countries and 0,15 to 0,20 per cent of GNP of developed countries to least developed countries". Furthermore, the United Mexican States are disappointed by the result of the Hong Kong Ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization, which once more failed to meet the needs of those, to whom the round was devoted: developing countries and especially African countries, who today, more than ever, are cut off from global trade and prosperity by protectionism.

With regard to the African Peer Review Mechanism, the United Mexican States want to underline that good governance is an integral part of sustainable development. Therefore, we support all efforts by African countries to make the mechanism obligatory to increase transparency and accountability in all African countries.

# A F R I C A N U N I O N

Canadian High Schools Model United Nations 2012

## Committee Background

In 1999, the African Union was created with the main purpose of ending colonization and apartheid across the African continent. Today, the AU works on numerous issues ranging from HIV/AIDS to corruption; however, the purpose of the organization is still the same: to create solidarity amongst the African countries against the challenges they face and to defend the interests of Africa. The creation of the AU and all that has followed has been a result of its one main goal, that of “an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena.”

While the vision of the AU has adapted over the years, the main idea has remained the same. Now, the AU is an organization leader in Africa’s development and integration rather than solely looking for liberalization and the end to apartheid. Its values have also primarily remained the same, focusing on respect, transparency, teamwork, and accountability. Another change is that the AU now boasts ten separate groups that work in/ with the AU. These groups include the Economic and Social Council in an advisory role, the Court of Justice, and numerous other council and executive leaders. Arguably, the most important group in the AU is the Commission. The Commission acts as the secretariat and oversees all the other levels of the AU.

Essentially, the African Union is a global leader, which focuses on prevalent international issues and their effects on the African Continent. The group is such that while it focuses primarily on Africa, its decisions affect the entire world, and it often calls on other international leadership, such as the Economic and Social Council, to aid its attempts to solve these global issues. The African Union is the key to globally combating issues in Africa, while ensuring that the African Nations remain sovereign.

# A F R I C A N U N I O N

Canadian High Schools Model United Nations 2012

## Topic One: Child Soldiers

### General Information

The use of child soldiers is an atrocious violation of the Rights of the Child, and yet they are still used across the globe, particularly in Africa. Child soldiers are used in nearly three quarters of armed conflicts in the world today. Currently, there are 300,000 child soldiers worldwide of which 30% are girls. Child soldiers are taken from vulnerable children to hardened soldiers in as small a time as a few weeks, and it is nearly impossible to reverse the process. The main problem is that child soldiers are, in the eyes of many armies, reliable, cheap, and moldable. It is the responsibility of the African Union to end the use of child soldiers in Africa through cooperation of all the member states.

Child soldiers have been used throughout history, first becoming prevalent during World War II in Germany when the National Socialist Party created the "Hitler Youth." In this situation, the children mostly acted as spies or machine operators; however, they were also sent to the frontlines on many occasions. When they were sent out, the casualty rate would often be over 90%. The actions of the Nazis have unfortunately acted as a model for the use of child soldiers across the world today.

These child soldiers leave lasting effects not only on their communities, but also on the larger society of their country. A generation of child soldiers will have trouble reintegrating into society, and so will have difficulty acquiring employment. This will in turn hurt the economy of that country. Furthermore, these children may also grow up without an education, leaving a generation that may not be productive members of society. This will cause larger socioeconomic gaps and other major issues that the AU is already attempting to combat. If the AU does not effectively combat this issue, many other problems in Africa will only exacerbate.

### Prevalence

Today, the problem remains the most prevalent in Africa. About a third of child soldiers in the world today are located in Africa, totaling an approximate 120,000. While most child soldiers are aged fourteen to eighteen, children as young as nine have been used as child soldiers by various African countries. These children are most often recruited because the armies have run out of adult soldiers and because the children are easily moldable. Often an army can become primarily made up of child soldiers.

Even though the recruitment of child soldiers varies according to the country, the common theme is that the children are forced into the situation. The children may feel that joining the army is their only option in their desperate war-torn environment, or they are kidnapped from their communities. Many girls have even reported enlisting voluntarily in order to escape domestic servitude and abuse and many children volunteer as a result of not finding employment or education. They are led to believe that they will be fed better and will have access to education if they join the army.

In the camps, children are forced to commit atrocities that most grown adults cannot recover from. It is common place to make the children torture members of opposition forces, put children under the influence of drugs, and to seriously injure or kill other children. Girls are also often held at the camps. Most often they are used mainly as servants and are often beaten and raped; however, they are also often put into combat when the armies become desperate.

# A F R I C A N U N I O N

## Canadian High Schools Model United Nations 2012

Currently, the largest recruitment of child soldiers is by non-state armed groups. Groups such as the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda are notorious for using large amounts of children in their armed combat. This is often a result of the adult soldiers getting killed off and not being able to be replaced fast enough, which results in the armies using children as soldiers. Also, for extreme military groups, it is often easier to enforce their ideas upon children than it is upon grown men.

As it stands today, children are used across the globe for various horrific tasks. They are used as warning systems through mine fields, suicide bombers, spies, and conventional soldiers. The atrocious activities that these children are forced to do leave them scared and almost unable to rejoin society, which, in turn, cause harmful effects on the communities themselves.

### Effects

Military recruitment of children is not only harmful for the children themselves, but also for the society in which the children live. The children most often become alienated adults who are prone to violence due to the lack of education and reintegration. It is also common for the children to be verbally, sexually, and physically abused in the army, which only cause further alienation from the community. If these atrocities continue, a path of self-destruction is inevitable for most African communities.

The stigma that surrounds these children when they return to their communities is also a major issue for these children. Girls are especially alienated if they have been raped. They are often looked at as ruined and are not able to marry. This leads the girls to not be able to take roles in their society, and so makes the rehabilitation that much harder. These children are also often feared by their communities and have difficulty adjusting into social circumstances. Transit camps, which attempt to rehabilitate child soldiers back into society, are often centres in which the children let out their anger and frustration at the camp and at each other. They will often fight among themselves, siding between who had been with the rebels and who had been with the military. They also take out their anger on the centre, breaking windows and destroying buildings. This anger only furthers the communities' stigmas. If these children are going to effectively rejoin their communities, the stigmas and fears shared by the communities must be broken down, and the children themselves must be properly rehabilitated.

### Solutions

The first step to rehabilitation is also the most obvious: remove children from the line of duty. At first, tradition demobilization programs were used in which an organization, such as UNICEF, would disarm and demobilize children when peace agreements and ceasefires had been made. Now, it is more common to attempt to remove children from duty while the war is still going on. In Uganda, programs in which the local forces and UNICEF put pressure on armies to stop the use of child soldiers were largely successful; however, in Sierra Leone, those same programs were met with major resistance and were not effective. This further proves that effective programs must rely on a case-by-case basis. Often the armies are finally willing to release some child soldiers, they will not release the girls. This is unacceptable due to the fact that the girls are often the most vulnerable.

# A F R I C A N U N I O N

## Canadian High Schools Model United Nations 2012

Other disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) programs have been largely unsuccessful. These programs are often lacking in the funds and resources to full integrate children into their communities. These programs are also often put in place by people who ignore the official guidelines and steps, leaving the programs inadequately set up. Furthermore, fear of stigmatization also prevents tens of thousands of children from leaving the armies. The programs must be set up more effectively if they are to work at all.

Transit centres are also established; however, as mentioned before, they often only prove to be an area of further conflict. The true solution would appear to be families taking in the children and emphasizing community rituals such as healing, reconciliation, and cleansing into their daily lives. Education is also a key tool. In order to prevent children from being re-recruited by the armies, the children must be given opportunities beyond that of the economy of war. In Sierra Leone, for example, it was common for armies to re-recruit children; however, when many of the children in various communities had been given education, the armies were often met with resistance.

Solutions can be made, but they are often expensive. In the past it has been difficult to receive needed aid from the international community. This is mainly due to the fact that while many people are willing to donate to medical and food based programs, they do not understand the benefits of helping to form an economy other than that of war. The past has shown that international aid is absolutely essential to effectively enforce these programs, and so it will be up to the AU to further educate and gain the support of the international community.

While the issue of child soldiers is difficult to combat, it is not impossible. It will be up to the AU to create a plan to attack this problem at all levels of society. This is not an issue that can be stopped by one country, or even one continent, alone. The AU needs to look to all its resources in order to effectively combat this problem before it becomes any worse.

### Questions to Consider

How will the AU deal with child soldiers used in non-governmental military forces?

How will the AU confront the lack of education in these children?

How will the AU aim to rehabilitate the vast numbers of rescued child soldiers?

How will the AU prevent children from “volunteering” for the armies?

# A F R I C A N U N I O N

Canadian High Schools Model United Nations 2012

## Topic Two: HIV/AIDS

### General Information

Of the 34 million people on the planet infected with HIV, 22 million, or 67%, live in Africa, in lieu of the fact that Africa holds only about 10% of the world's population. HIV, also known as the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, is a disease that attacks the body's immune system, weakening it over time. It leads to various health problems, from mild to severe, and eventually leads to AIDS or another serious illness such as cancer. AIDS is the largest cause of death in sub-Saharan Africa; each day approximately 3,600 people die from it. And yet, it only costs 40 cents for the two antiretroviral pills needed to be taken each day to fight off HIV.

In order to combat HIV both globally and within the African continent, there have been many international actions, commissions, declarations, etc., as well as efforts from individual countries to tackle HIV. Past UN actions include the Special Summit of the African Union on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria of 2006 and the World Health Organization's Global Health Sector Strategy on HIV/AIDS 2011-2015, both of which focused on strategies to fight HIV. Additionally, in 2003 UNAIDS and WHO launched the "3 by 5 Initiative," a target to provide 3 million people with HIV/AIDS antiretroviral treatment by 2005.

Currently, the ratio of people infected with HIV has been reduced, but it still continues to spread. Much action has been taken, however in order to reach the Millennium Development Goal of having halted and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015, much more progress needs to be made.

### Prevalence

HIV/AIDS is an epidemic that greatly affects the entire African continent. The highest HIV rates in Africa are in South Africa, though eastern and central African countries are also badly affected. HIV rates in western Africa are lower; however, due to the larger populations, the number of people impacted by HIV is one of the highest. Northern Africa has the lowest rates of HIV infection. While the proportion of people living with HIV in Africa has declined since 2000, the increase in population and easier access to treatment (meaning that those infected survive for longer), the number of people living with HIV has risen.

HIV/AIDS has become particularly a problem in Africa more than anywhere else in the world due to the conditions that allow it to foster. Due to gender inequality, poverty, sexual violence, and a lack of male circumcision, HIV is able to spread deftly through African nations. It is a multi-layered problem, and multi-layered solutions need to be taken.

### The Effects of HIV/AIDS

HIV has huge effects on all countries of the African continent. It can affect countries on both a minor and major level, in various sectors of the countries wellbeing. Life expectancy is one of the more obvious major effects that HIV can have. From 1960 to 1990, life expectancy in Africa increased dramatically. However, the HIV/AIDS epidemic is reversing this progress.

# A F R I C A N U N I O N

## Canadian High Schools Model United Nations 2012

As well as on a major scale, HIV can, of course, have major effects on individual households, and can impact whole countries and create problems on various levels, especially when households majorly rely on income from one individual. When the parents of a family die, they often leave behind their children that have to be cared for other members of the family or are left to fend for themselves. Over 14.8 million children have lost one or both their parents to HIV/AIDS since the beginning of the epidemic. Even if the parents with HIV/AIDS are alive, the inability to secure employment makes that particular household dependent on relatives for income and sustenance. Antiretroviral treatment pills can also be extremely costly for families, especially since many of these families have to live on less than \$2 a day.

The impacts of HIV/AIDS on a family level can lead to overall problems with productivity and economics of countries and governments. HIV/AIDS can have substantial impacts even on the country's GDP, and can create many economic problems for a country. According to a report from the World Bank, HIV/AIDS may subtract an extra 1% from the GDP economic growth of some sub-Saharan countries each year. This is due to a loss of both skilled and unskilled workers. HIV/AIDS may depress South Africa's GDP by nearly 17% over the next decade. Decreasing GDPs inhibit government's abilities to afford care for HIV, putting strain on the health care sector, and creating a vicious, never-ending cycle, which countries find near impossible to escape.

### Solutions

The main solution being used to combat HIV/AIDS is antiretroviral treatment. It is extremely effective in combating HIV/AIDS. "Life expectancy for HIV-positive adults starting antiretroviral treatment (ART) in Uganda is comparable to life expectancy for all Ugandan adults" (Carole Leach-Lemens, "Life expectancy for people with HIV in Africa may be comparable to general population if they are on treatment"). While it is not a cure, it can stop infected people from becoming ill for many years. The treatment involves drugs that have to be taken every day for the rest of the person's life.

However, there are several problems with the way antiretroviral treatment is administered currently. Firstly, too few people are receiving treatment. 3 million people are receiving antiretroviral therapy, and they account for only about 30% of those who need it, under very stringent criteria. Secondly, only those who show strong symptoms may receive treatment. In most African countries, treatment is thus delayed until very late stages, in which it may take only a year for their condition to decline rapidly. Though this may save money on pills, the price of clinical care and decreased income outweighs this.

Additionally, one consideration is that in that in order to maintain economic stability, it might be essential to target the drugs at the most productive socioeconomic groups, rather than on those with the largest health-care needs. This type of strategy would clearly be more economically wise; however, whether or not this is morally acceptable is highly questionable.

There are, of course, many other measures that need to be taken to combat HIV. There must also be emphasis on prevention, and multi-pronged solutions are the most effective. "The WHO and UNAIDS promote the condom—both male and female—as the most basic, preventative measure against HIV/AIDS" (Sakina Shakil, "HIV/AIDS: How sub-Saharan Africa can win the battle"). Most sub-Saharan countries have seen an increase in condom use; however, distribution still falls short of the amount needed. Of the 2.2 million condoms donated to the UNFPA, sub-Saharan Africa has received the largest share, but more are still needed to meet the demand.

# A F R I C A N U N I O N

## Canadian High Schools Model United Nations 2012

Education surrounding HIV, especially for girls who face gender inequality, is necessary and effective in the prevention of HIV. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 60% of those infected with HIV are women, and yet only 38% of all women in Africa have comprehensive knowledge of HIV/AIDS according to UNAIDS. By the empowerment of women and education about the spread of HIV, infection can be prevented.

In addition, HIV testing needs to be more widespread. If one is aware they are infected with HIV, they can be careful so as not to spread it and are able to get treatment in time. And finally, male circumcision is another apt solution to the spread of HIV. In Africa, about 62% are circumcised, but in South Africa, where HIV is most prevalent, only 20% are. Circumcision reduces the risk of contractive HIV by 50-60%, and it has been calculated that for every 5 to 15 men who are newly circumcised one HIV infection could be prevented. It is a solution that needs to be looked into.

### Questions to Consider

Should a more preventative approach be taken to combatting HIV? Or is antiretroviral treatment what the focus should be on?

How can access to HIV treatment become more widespread? How can it be made affordable, both for governments, and for the people?

Who should be the focus of treatments be on? Those with worse medical conditions, or those who have more of an economic impact?

Would increasing gender equality and norms assist in preventing HIV? How can this be accomplished?

# A F R I C A N U N I O N

Canadian High Schools Model United Nations 2012

## Topic Three: Conflict Resources

### General Overview

While the African continent has been blessed with rich natural resources, the use of such resources has been mismanaged in the past. If Africa is to grow as a nation, the management of these resources must improve. Currently there are major conflicts over natural resources occurring across the continent; in Nigeria the conflict is over oil and in Côte d'Ivoire there are major issues with conflict diamonds. Conflict generally falls around two different resources: oil and solid minerals.

### Oil

Currently, there are conflicts over oil occurring in many African countries, and the number of conflicts is only increasing. Many countries such as Myanmar and Chad have already experienced internal strife largely as a result of the oil industry. Furthermore, those countries that are beginning to produce the oil are generally underdeveloped, which means it is likely that there will be further internal conflict when the countries become involved in the oil industry.

In Nigeria, there is current strife over the oil industry. While oil should be bringing in economic benefits to the African country, it has remained poor. While oil prices have been increasing steadily, this resource will prove to hurt the economies of these countries more than benefit them. This is due to the fact that oil wealth often destroys countries internally by politicizing oil and making it easier for insurgents to fund rebellions. For years groups of youth have roamed the Niger Delta, kidnapping foreign workers for ransom and attacking oil lines. Attacks on Shell oil installations have dropped the oil production by 10%, and the company has stated that the conflict is as severe as those in Chechnya and Colombia.

Conflict over oil is ripping apart countries that are already founded in the industry, and the future does not look successful or stable for those developing countries looking to become involved in the resource. The AU must stabilize the industry if the continent is going to succeed as a whole.

### Solid Minerals

Valuable solid minerals, such as diamonds, gold, and copper, have also increasingly caused conflict in African countries over the past few decades. While these substances have caused similar problems as oil, they also greatly harm individuals on a much more personal level. This is due to the fact that it is common for many lives to be directly destroyed by working in these industries. These diamonds have also been roots of major civil wars in Angola and Sierra Leone and are possibly currently funding the conflict in Côte d'Ivoire. It is also probable that funds from these minerals are funding major terrorist organizations, which is further harming the individuals and governments of various companies.

This resource has shown in the past to cause major detriments to society. Due to the fact that most of the money from these minerals does not return to the government or the people themselves, this resource is essentially a waste and a burden to the African countries. In addition, these minerals have proven to truly only cause conflict in a region and have never made a region financially stronger. The AU Member States must institute reforms in the natural resources industries if countries expect to find any success in it.

# A F R I C A N U N I O N

## Canadian High Schools Model United Nations 2012

### Effects

These natural resources are known to cause civil war due to their effects on the stability, value, and government of states. First of all, these natural resources make the state more valuable, which in turn makes it more likely that a rebel group will attempt to take over said state. This is in turn encouraged by outside countries attempting to exploit the resources of said country. This has been shown through the civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo. In the DRC, the escalation of the civil war was largely in part of neighbouring states attempting to take resources from the country.

This also leads to the second problem, which is that of the state's dependence on these materials. Due to the fact that these minerals are essentially known to lead to conflict, it can be particularly dangerous if a country has no other economic drivers, such as tourism, on which to rely. This can be a consequence of countries focusing solely on one industry, which may lead to damages to other industries. For example, oil production generally leads to environmental degradation, which in turn leads to a loss in tourism. It will be important for the AU to help countries find the balance between developing an industry and overcompensating for that industry.

The state would also become increasingly unstable if a rebel group took control of the black market of a certain industry such as blood diamonds. This is because it would make successful rebellion all the more feasible due to the rebels' control of such an important resource. Furthermore, the state becomes weaker if it relies solely on one resource, as there is less need for bureaucracy so a structure is not properly set up. This puts the government at stake and risks any stability the state possesses.

Finally, from an economic standpoint, having only one resource to rely on results in a lack of internal trade. This is particularly dangerous as the weakness of a manufacturing section and trade within the country can undoubtedly lead to conflict. Through trade boundaries are crossed and differences are forgotten. If those differences, between tribes for example, are not forgotten in the economy, then it is very likely that there will be conflict over said differences. This obviously leads to an internally weakened state and a general lack of stability for those around it.

Conflict resources have caused major detriments to African society due to their effects on the individuals, the overall economy, the government, and the stability of each African nation. While these resources may seem beneficial, a reliance on them only leads to conflict and strife for Africa.

### Solutions

The AU will have to balance formulating specific plans for each country and keeping the AU in solidarity over the issues. This will be particularly difficult as each country has very unique situations that will need to be dealt with if the continent is to become stable and prosperous. In the past, the AU has simply imposed stricter regulation and attempted to enforce treaties in solidarity. While this may appear to be a good idea on paper, the countries do often not enforce the regulations and bureaucracy often complicates the principle.

The United Nations has dealt with blood diamonds simply through increasing regulations. While the idea is good in principle, it is not realistic in application. Many companies have simply routed the conflict diamonds through the tracks of the "approved" diamonds in order to get them into the market. With the corruptness in the various African countries, it can be particularly difficult to monitor the issue.

# A F R I C A N U N I O N

## Canadian High Schools Model United Nations 2012

As for oil, it is particularly difficult to find a solution, as it is such an incredibly valued and sought after resource. Even if a country sees the detriments in the politics over the source, it can be difficult to set up the proper politics in such unstable governments. This has already been seen in Libya where the wealth of the oil went only to the ruler and not to the people. As we have seen, this was a major cause for instability in the region and has resulted in complete rebellion. While the AU has imposed various economic treaties, this source has become very difficult to regulate.

If the AU is to come up with effective solutions, they must find a way to infiltrate the bureaucracy and demonstrate the benefits to properly regulating these sources. During these actions, the African continent must remain as one if it is to be successful.

### **Questions to Consider**

How can the AU make specific plans for each country while maintaining solidarity in the continent?

Is it possible for corrupt governments to remain involved and make improvements on this issue? How will it be managed?

How will the AU prevent instability in these regimes while rearranging the structure of these economic resources?

In what ways should the citizens of the countries be involved in these efforts?

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Canadian High Schools Model United Nations 2012

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# A F R I C A N U N I O N

Canadian High Schools Model United Nations 2012

## Conference Rules

### RULES OF PROCEDURE

#### **Rule 1 – Date of Meeting**

The bodies of the Canadian High Schools Model United Nations shall meet every year in regular session.

#### **Rule 2 – Delegations**

The delegation of each Member State shall consist of no more than two representatives in any committee.

#### **Rule 3 – Duties of the Secretary-General**

The Secretary-General of the Canadian High Schools Model United Nations shall act as the highest presiding officer and shall direct the staff of all bodies. The Secretary-General may designate an officer of the Secretariat to act on his or her behalf.

#### **Rule 4 – Duties of the Chairman**

The Chairman, as a presiding officer acting under the authority of the Secretary-General, shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the committee, enforce the rules of procedure, accord the right to speak, and announce decisions. The Chairman shall rule on points of order and may propose motions to the committee. Motions shall be addressed by the Chairman upon his or her discretion. The Chairman shall accept, approve, and introduce draft resolutions to the committee.

*Comment: Working papers will be submitted to the Director of each committee, who will provide stylistic and substantive edits. Working papers will be introduced to the floor at the discretion of the Director; delegates no longer move to introduce a draft resolution.*

#### **Rule 5 – Invitation to a Moment of Silence**

Immediately upon the opening of the meeting, a Member State may move to observe a moment of silence.

*Comment: The purpose of the moment of silence may not be directed towards a single event. For example, a delegate may dedicate a moment of silence to those affected by famine, but may not dedicate it to those affected by the 2011 famine in the Horn of Africa.*

#### **Rule 6 – Provisional Agenda**

Each committee shall order the provisional agenda provided by the Secretary-General. A proposed agenda shall include all topics provided in the provisional agenda. A simple majority is required to approve an agenda order. A speakers list shall be established for the purposes of discussing the order of the agenda. Motions to set the agenda will be voted upon in the order in which they were received.

# A F R I C A N U N I O N

## Canadian High Schools Model United Nations 2012

### **Rule 7 – Amendment to the Agenda**

A committee may change the order in which it considers topics. The Chairman may entertain one speaker for and one against a motion to amend the agenda. A simple majority is required to approve this motion.

*Comment: A motion to amend the agenda will only be entertained after a topic has been closed and all related substantive matters have been put to a vote. A Member State may not move to amend the agenda during substantive debate.*

### **Rule 8 – Quorum**

The Chairman may declare a meeting open and permit debate to proceed or a procedural vote to be taken when at least one-quarter of the Member States are present.

### **Rule 9 – Speeches**

No Member State may address a committee without the explicit consent of the Chairman. Member States shall address the committee in the order of the speakers list. The Chairman shall call a speaker to order if his or her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion. The Chairman shall establish a time limit on speeches upon the opening of the meeting and may entertain motions to amend the time limit. The Chairman may entertain one speaker for and one against a motion to amend the time limit. A simple majority is required to approve this motion.

*Comment: Delegates may speak as often as they wish, but each country may only appear once in the active speakers list. For Member States with two delegates, courtesy dictates that only one delegate shall address the floor during substantive and procedural speeches.*

### **Rule 10 – Questions to the Speaker**

When the committee is discussing a substantive matter, a time limit has been placed on speeches, and the speaker has not exhausted the allotted time, the speaker may inform the Chairman that he or she will accept questions from the floor. At such time, the Chairman will recognize two Member States to pose substantive questions to the speaker in regards to the preceding speech. The speaker shall have the remaining allotted time to answer both questions.

### **Rule 11 – Yields**

When the committee is discussing a substantive matter, a time limit has been placed on speeches, and the speaker has not exhausted the allotted time, the speaker may yield his or her remaining time to another Member State. The subsequent speaker may not yield any additional time. Representatives may not yield to another representative of the same Member State.

# A F R I C A N U N I O N

## Canadian High Schools Model United Nations 2012

### **Rule 12 – Closing of the Speakers List**

The speakers list may be closed at any time upon the majority vote of the Member States present and voting.

*Comment: When a speakers list is exhausted, debate automatically ends and the committee automatically enters into voting procedure.*

### **Rule 13 – Reopening of the Speakers List**

The speakers list may be reopened upon a motion from an Member State as long as there are active speakers on the speakers list at the time of the motion. The Chairman shall entertain one speaker in favour and one opposed to this motion. A simple majority is required to approve this motion.

### **Rule 14 – Right of Reply**

If a speaker has impugned the national integrity of another Member State or Observer, or the personal integrity of another representative, the Chairman may allow that Member State or representative appropriate speaking time to exercise the right of reply.

*Comment: The delegate must submit a written statement to the Director at the conclusion of the remarks in question, explaining why a right of reply is warranted. The Director will approve or reject the right of reply; if approved, the Director will ask the delegate to read the same written statement to the committee.*

### **Rule 15 – Point of Order**

A Member State may rise to a point of order to bring attention to the Chairman an error in the execution of the rules. The representative may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

*Comment: Delegates should allow the courtesy of letting the speaker finish before rising to a point of order; nonetheless, we recognize the need to interrupt the speaker. The point of order will be the only point recognized at CAHSMUN in order to reflect the actual United Nations procedures as much as possible and to reduce the frequency of filibustering. If a delegate wishes to rise to a point of parliamentary inquiry or a point of personal privilege, he or she should communicate privately with the Director.*

### **Rule 16 – Appeal of the Chair**

A Member State may appeal a discretionary ruling of the Chairman. The representative may explain the nature of the appeal and the Chairman may explain the basis of his or her ruling. A simple majority is required to overturn the discretionary ruling of the Chairman.

*Comment: A “Yes” vote means that the delegate wants to overrule the decision of the Chairman, whereas a “No” vote means the delegate agrees with the discretion of the Chairman.*

# A F R I C A N U N I O N

## Canadian High Schools Model United Nations 2012

### **Rule 17 – Suspension of the Meeting**

A Member State may move to suspend the meeting for a specific amount of time. A simple majority is required to suspend.

*Comment: Suspensions are used for caucusing and breaks between sessions. Based on his or her judgement of the committee's progress, the Director may suggest an alternative amount of time for the suspension. In order to reflect actual United Nations procedures and to reduce the frequency of filibustering, all suspensions will be "unmoderated." Provisions for moderated debate is set out in Rule 18.*

### **Rule 18 – Moderated Debate**

At any point after a draft resolution has been introduced, a Member State may move to enter moderated debate on a draft resolution. The motion to enter moderated debate must specify the draft resolution. A simple majority is required to pass this motion.

*Comment: During a moderated debate, the speakers list is temporarily suspended and the Director will identify each speaker from those wishing to speak. During a moderated debate, the discussion may only pertain to the draft resolution in question and should be used for clarification and discussions of amendments in a more structured setting.*

### **Rule 19 – Closure of Debate**

A Member State may move the closure of debate on the topic under consideration. The Chairman shall recognize only two Member States opposing the closure to speak. A two-thirds majority is required to pass this motion, and if passed, the Chairman shall declare the topic closed.

*Comment: When debate is closed on a topic, the committee immediately goes into voting procedure and consider all draft resolutions and amendments on the floor. Motions to close debate are generally ruled dilatory until there has been substantial discussion on the topic.*

### **Rule 20 – Adjournment of Debate and Reconsideration**

A Member State may move to adjourn debate on the topic under consideration. The Chairman shall recognize two Member States in favour of and two against to speak. A simple majority is required to pass this motion. If this motion passes, the body will begin discussion on the following topic on the agenda without deciding on the adjourned topic.

A Member State may move to reconsider a topic that has been adjourned. The Chairman shall recognize one Member State in favour of and one against to speak. A two-thirds majority is required to pass this motion.

*Comment: Adjournment of debate is used to end discussion on a topic without voting and move on to the next item of the agenda. If an adjourned topic is approved for reconsideration, it shall be placed as the following topic on the agenda after the discussion on the current topic expires.*

# A F R I C A N U N I O N

## Canadian High Schools Model United Nations 2012

### **Rule 21 – Adjournment of Meeting**

A Member State may move to adjourn the meeting and reconvene the body at the next scheduled date. A simple majority is required to adjourn the meeting.

*Comment: This motion can only be used during the last committee session and during the closing ceremonies.*

### **Rule 22 – Resolutions and Amendments**

Resolutions and amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Chairman, who shall circulate copies to Member States upon approval. No resolutions or amendments shall be voted upon unless copies have been distributed to the body.

*Comment: All working papers must be submitted to the Director, who may provide substantive and grammatical edits on the paper and return it to the authors before approving it to be a draft resolution. The number of sponsors and signatories must add up to 20% of the quorum of the committee or five Member States, whichever number is greater. Sponsorship indicates support for and agreement with the working paper or amendment. A signatory does not necessarily support or agree with the document; this Member State simply wishes the document to be discussed. Working papers, as they are unofficial documents of the committee, will not be distributed by the Director and cannot be referred to in speeches.*

### **Rule 23 – Voting Rights**

Each Member State of the United Nations shall have one vote.

*Comment: Observer delegations may note on procedural motions but not on substantive matters. Member States with two representatives still have one vote.*

### **Rule 24 – Presence**

A Member State who is “present and voting” shall only cast an affirmative or negative vote in substantive matters. A Member State who is “present” may choose to abstain in substantive matters. All Member States may only vote in the affirmative or the negative in procedural matters.

### **Rule 24 – Method of Voting**

All motions, draft resolutions and amendments, unless specified in the Rules of Procedure, require a simple majority to pass. If a vote is equally divided, that motion, draft resolution, or amendment fails. A two-thirds majority is required for certain motions. Abstentions do not count as votes for the purposes of determining a simple or two-thirds majority. All votes shall take place by a show of placards.

A Member State may request a roll-call vote on a draft resolution or amendment. The roll-call vote shall take place in the English alphabetical order of the names of the Member States, beginning with the Member State who requested the roll-call vote. Unless a Member State is “present and voting”, each Member State may choose to vote “yes”, vote “no”, or abstain. (continued on next page)

# A F R I C A N U N I O N

## Canadian High Schools Model United Nations 2012

All Member States may also choose to “pass” and when the Member State is called upon a second time to cast a vote, the representative may only vote in the affirmative or the negative. A roll-call vote is granted upon request and does not require a decision from the body or the Chairman. At the discretion of the Chairman, Member States may explain their vote (yes, no, or abstain) after a roll-call vote. Sponsors to the draft resolution or amendment may not explain their vote after a roll-call vote.

### **Rule 25 – Conduct during Voting Procedure**

Once the Chairman announces the beginning of voting procedure, the meeting room shall be closed and remain closed for the duration of voting procedure. Proper decorum shall be observed by Member States. Member States may only speak upon the Chairman’s request for points or motions.

### **Rule 26 – Amendments and Divisions of the Question**

Amendments shall be submitted in writing to the Chairman before the commencement of voting procedure and shall be entertained first for each draft resolution. If there are several amendments under consideration, those that are “friendly” shall be automatically incorporated into the draft resolution without a vote. The Chairman shall order the “unfriendly” amendments in the order of most destructive to least destructive. A simple majority is required to approve “unfriendly” amendments.

After the incorporation of amendments, A Member State may move to divide certain operative clauses of the draft resolution. The intent of such a division is to highlight the operative clause(s) in question.

1. The Chairman shall recognize two speakers in favour of and two speakers against such a division. A procedural vote will take place to determine if the body wishes to proceed with such a division.
2. If the procedural vote passes, the body shall then consider the placement of the clause(s) in question in a substantive vote. If this vote passes, the clause(s) will be placed in the Annex of the draft resolution. If this vote fails, the clause(s) will be discarded.
3. If the procedural vote fails, the clause(s) in question will remain in the main text of the draft resolution and no further vote will take place on the motion.

Only operative clauses can be subjected to amendments and divisions of the question. Member States may only divide entire operative clauses.

### **Rule 27 – Voting on Draft Resolutions**

Draft resolutions for a topic shall be considered in the order in which the Chairman had recognized them as official documents of the body.

# A F R I C A N U N I O N

Canadian High Schools Model United Nations 2012

## ORDER OF PRECEDENCE

<b>Motion</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	<b>Debate</b>	<b>Vote</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
<b>Point of Order</b>	Correct an error in procedure	None	None	
<b>Appeal the Decision of the Chair</b>	Challenge a decision of the Chair	None	Majority	Applicable to the Chair's discretionary decisions
<b>Suspension of the Meeting</b>	Recess for a defined period of time	None	Majority	Go into unmoderated caucus
<b>Moderated Debate</b>	To discuss the clauses of a draft resolution	None	Majority	Moderated debate is only applicable once DRs are on the floor
<b>Closure of Debate</b>	To conclude topic by entering into voting procedure	2 con	2/3 <sup>rd</sup>	End discussion on current topic
<b>Adjournment of Debate</b>	To conclude topic without voting	2 pro/2 con	Majority	Should only be used on the final day
<b>Reconsideration</b>	To reopen debate on an adjourned topic	1 pro/1 con	2/3 <sup>rd</sup>	The reopened topic will be placed next on the agenda
<b>Adjournment of Debate</b>	To conclude the conference for the year	None	Majority	Can only be used during the last committee session
<b>Division of the Question</b>	To consider clauses in question separately from the rest of draft resolution	Part 1: 2 pro/2 con Part 2: None	Part 1: Majority Part 2: Majority	Motions will be voted upon in the order of most destructive to least destructive
<b>Roll Call Vote</b>	Vote by roll call instead of a show of placards	None	None	Automatically granted
<b>Set Speakers Time</b>	To set the time allowed for speeches	2 pro/2 con	Majority	Default is 60 seconds - should only be moved upon the suggestion of the Director
<b>Close/Reopen the Speakers List</b>	To alter the status of the speakers list	None	Majority	When closed, no additional Member States will be added and if the list exhausts, committee enters voting procedure
<b>Adoption of the Agenda</b>	To approve the agenda for the committee	None	Majority	Motion should include the order for all topics under consideration

# AFRICAN UNION

Canadian High Schools Model United Nations 2012

## DIVISION OF THE QUESTION: A VISUAL EXPLANATION

