

African Union 2050



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Letter from the Chair

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the African Union at GW CIA 30! My name is Clara Milosevic and I am incredibly excited to be chairing this committee and meeting you all very soon!

I am a first year student at The George Washington University majoring in international affairs. I am a new member of the GW Model UN team and have thus far attended one collegiate conference. I also participated in Model UN throughout my years of high school and became Secretary-General for regional conferences in my hometown of Rochester, New York. Outside of Model UN, I am a Freshmen Representative for the International Affairs Society and a reporter for the school newspaper, The Hatchet.

The topics discussed in committee reflect common themes and root issues actively being discussed within Africa and on the global stage. I am interested in specifically hearing solutions that address economic development in Africa while ensuring countries aren't exploited or hurt in the long run. As you research these topics, I hope you take time to understand how further economic or political integration could affect the wellbeing and development of the country you will be representing. While I know each of you will come with different solutions I would like to see solution building going beyond ideological differences in order to truly embody the pan-African principles in which the African Union was founded upon.

If you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me and I would be happy to help!

I look forward to meeting you all soon,

Clara Milosevic

Chair of African Union

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Committee Description

The year is 2050, crises rack the African continent. In the face of economic hardship, political strife, and climate disasters, the African Union is at a crossroads. Over the past twenty-five years, the African continent has gotten closer in many ways. New organizations and structures promote unity, but in some ways, they are farther apart than ever. Some blame the increased integration for the recent economic

downturn. Others argue that the only way Africa can prosper is to grow even closer together. Your task is to navigate these complex issues and come up with a new framework for Africa. Whatever path you choose, staying the course is not an option.

The African Union is a continental union created in 2002 as a successor to the former Organization of African Unity, which existed from 1963 until 1999. The guiding vision of the AU, as stated by the AU itself, is “An Integrated, Prosperous and Peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena.” Its membership consists of 55 African countries and nine observers.

Procedurally, this committee will work the same as any GA. You will engage in moderated and unmoderated debate, form into blocs, write and present working papers, merge into draft resolutions, and finally vote on your completed resolutions.

Historical Background

The African Union (AU) is a continental union created in 2002 as a successor to the former Organization of African Unity, which existed from 1963 until 1999. The guiding vision of the African Union, as stated by the African Union itself, is “An Integrated, Prosperous and Peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena.” Its membership consists of 55 African countries and nine observers.

Prior to the establishment of the African Union, there was the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The Organization of African Unity was established in May of 1963, when 32 African leaders met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and signed the charter of the OAU. Many African nations had become newly independent, and the Organization of

African Union was founded to unite these new and divided countries under a pan-African vision. The idea of an Africa united despite its differing languages, religions, and ethnicities had been around for decades, but the OAU was the first real step in that direction. However, despite the goal of African unity, the OAU was not actually formed to work towards a political union. In fact, one of the core tenets of the OAU was national sovereignty.

In 1999, the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the OAU met in an extraordinary session to discuss the future of the organization. The result was a declaration calling for the establishment of an African Union. However, the AU was not actually founded for another 3 years, being finally established in 2002. The reason for the end of the OAU and the founding of the AU was because African leaders recognized the continent had moved past the issues of independence and decolonization, which were the primary concerns of the OAU. Now, the AU sought a rededication to the pan-African principles of political and economic development and integration. Core to this goal is the AU's Agenda 2063. Agenda 2063 is an outline for the development of the African continent. Among other things, Agenda 2063 calls for infrastructure development, a pan-African free trade area, and an African Union passport. Eventually, Agenda 2063 looks toward a confederated or even federal Africa.

Topic 1: Economic Integration

One of the main goals of the African Union is further economic integration. This is reflected in the African Union's stated goal to "Promote sustainable development at the economic, social and cultural levels as well as the integration of African economies;" as well as in Agenda 2063, which includes a proposal for an African Free Trade zone.

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There are different levels of economic integration that countries can implement. One is a free trade area, where tariffs, taxes, and other barriers to trade are eliminated. Another type is a customs union, which is an agreement between countries that once tariffs and taxes have been applied when goods go through customs in one country, no additional tariffs are applied if it is shipped to another country in the customs union. The most integrated level is a single market. This is where there are no limits on the movement of goods, services, money, or people between countries. An example of a single market is the European Single Market, which encompasses the countries of the European Union as well as Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, and Lichtenstein.

As of 2025, the African Continental Free Trade Area has been partially implemented, but there remain many trade barriers still in effect. The goal of the ACFTA is to eventually lead to a single market for all of Africa. Some progress has been made, such as the creation of a common African financial payment system, but there remains a long way to go to achieve true free trade.

Free trade has been controversial all across the world. Proponents boast of its many benefits. These benefits include increased imports and exports due to reduced trade barriers, increased trade more generally, and an increase in economic prosperity and cheaper goods and services. Critics argue that free trade eliminates jobs by allowing companies to use cheaper foreign labor and encourages consumers to buy cheaper, foreign-made products. Arguments for and against come from both sides of the political spectrum.

In 2050, when this committee is set, the ACFTA has evolved into a true free trade area. Goods flow without tariffs or taxes across the continent, but there is not yet a customs union or single market. Additionally, while the ACFTA has increased trade between African countries, there has been domestic opposition and protests from

common people on both the right and left against the ACFTA, as they allege it has led to a decline in employment and has only benefited the wealthy. Others argue that in order to fully reap the economic benefits, the ACFTA must further evolve into a single market as in the European Union.

Guiding Questions

1. How can the African Union ensure economic benefits are spread equally among member states?
2. How can the African Union ensure Africa, and not foreign powers, benefit economically?
3. Would greater economic integration (such as a free trade zone or common market) benefit Africa?
4. Would greater economic integration harm Africa?
5. How can Africa further develop a green and sustainable economy?

Topic 2: Political Integration

Another main goal of the African Union is further political integration. This is reflected in the African Union's stated goal to "Develop and promote common policies on trade, defence and foreign relations;" and to "Accelerate the political and socio-economic integration of the continent;" as well as in Agenda 2063, which includes an 'aspiration' for "An integrated continent, politically united and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance", both per the African Union website.

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There are two main paths for further political integration: a confederation or a federation. While these may sound very similar, and they do have some similarities, they are not the same thing. A confederation is an agreement between independent states that limits certain freedoms or powers of those states, usually for a limited period of time, while preserving those states independence and sovereignty. A federation is an agreement between states to become a single, independent and sovereign entity, while each state maintains a certain level of autonomy and domestic power that may be lesser or greater. However, each member of a federation is not independent in and of itself. The area between confederation and federations is gray. Take the EU for example, which has qualities of both but does not exactly fit the description of either. While EU law is supreme over national law, each EU member state is still an independent nation.

Political integration is often much more challenging to achieve than economic integration. The most important thing to any state is to maintain its sovereignty, and people themselves often feel very patriotic towards their country and do not wish for it to relinquish any power. While the African Union did establish the Pan-African parliament in 2004, this body only has advisory powers and cannot supersede national law.

As of 2050, the state of political integration is stalled. A significant movement has advocated for confederalism, and some even talk of a federal union, but opposition is stiff and reform has been slow, with the Pan-African parliament only barely receiving legal powers *on par* with national law, but not superseding it. However, the member states have agreed that the results of this extraordinary session will be binding, whatever they may be, so now is the time to further integrate Africa, if that is what the delegates decide.

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Guiding Questions

1. How can the African Union ensure political power is equal among members?
2. How can the African Union ensure the preservation of national cultures among a politically integrated Africa?
3. Would greater political integration benefit Africa?
4. What might be possible drawbacks to political integration, and how could the African Union mitigate these?
5. If Africa does not integrate further, what is the role of the AU? Should it be dissolved?

Character List:

[A brief explanation of each character with their main positions, perspective and role within the committee. For Crisis and Historical, aim for 20-30 characters. For Regional and International, aim for 40-50 characters.]

Algeria:

Algeria is a country in North Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Angola:

Angola is a country in Southern Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Economic Community of Central African States and the Southern African Development Community.

Benin:

Benin is a country in West Africa. It is a member of the African Union and is a signatory (but not officially a member) of the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Economic Community of West African States.

Botswana:

Botswana is a country in Southern Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Southern African Customs Union and the Southern African Development Community.

Burkina Faso:

Burkina Faso is a country in West Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Burundi:

Burundi is a country in East Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, as well as the Economic Community of Central African States and the East African Community.

Cameroon:

Cameroon is a country in Central Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Economic Community of Central African States.

Cape Verde:

Cape Verde is an Island Country in the Atlantic Ocean off the western African coast. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Economic Community of West African States.

Central African Republic:

The Central African Republic is a country in Central Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Economic Community of Central African States.

Chad:

Chad is a country in Central Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Economic Community of Central African States.

Comoros:

Chad is an archipelagic country in Southeastern Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the Southern African Development Community.

Côte d'Ivoire is a country in West Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Economic Community of West African States.

Democratic Republic of the Congo:

The Democratic Republic of the Congo is a country in Central Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa, as well as the Economic Community of Central African States, the East African Community, and the Southern African Development Community.

Republic of the Congo:

The Republic of the Congo is a country in Central Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Economic Community of Central African States.

Djibouti:

Djibouti is a country in East Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

Egypt:

Egypt is a country in North Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

Equatorial Guinea is a country in West Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Economic Community of Central African States.

Eritrea is a country on the Horn of Africa. It is a member of the African Union and is not a member of the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

Eswatini is a country in Southern Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. Additionally, it is a member of the Southern African Customs Union and the Southern African Development Community.

Ethiopia is a country on the Horn of Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

Gabon is a country in West-Central Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Economic Community of Central African States.

The Gambia is a country in West Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Economic Community of West African States.

Ghana is a country in West Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Economic Community of West African States.

Guinea is a country in West Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Economic Community of West African States.

Guinea-Bissau is a country in West Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Economic Community of West African States.

Kenya is a country in East Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the East African Community.

Lesotho is a country in Southern Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Southern African Customs Union and the Southern African Development Community.

Liberia is a country in West Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Economic Community of West African States.

Libya is a country in North Africa. It is a member of the African Union and is a signatory (but not officially a member) of the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

Madagascar is an island country off the coast of Southeast Africa. It is a member of the African Union and is a signatory (but not officially a member) of the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the Southern African Development Community.

Malawi is a country in Southeast Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the Southern African Development Community.

Mali is a country in West Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Mauritania is a country in Northwest Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Mauritius is an island country off the Eastern coast of Madagascar. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the Southern African Development Community.

Morocco is a country in North Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Mozambique is a country in Southeast Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Southern African Development Community.

Namibia is a country in Southern Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Southern African Customs Union and the Southern African Development Community.

Niger is a country in West Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area.

Nigeria is a country in West Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Economic Community of West African States.

Rwanda is a country in East Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the East African Community.

The Sahrawi Republic is a country in North Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area.

São Tomé and Príncipe is an island country off the coast of West Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Economic Community of Central African States.

Senegal is a country in West Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Economic Community of West African States.

Seychelles is an island country off the coast of East Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the Southern African Development Community.

Sierra Leone is a country in West Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Economic Community of West African States.

Somalia is a country in East Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the East African Community.

South Africa is a country in Southern Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Southern African Customs Union and the Southern African Development Community.

South Sudan is a country in Northeast Africa. It is a member of the African Union and is a signatory (but not officially a member) of the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is a member of the East African Community.

Sudan is a country in Northeast Africa. It is a member of the African Union and is a signatory (but not officially a member) of the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

Tanzania is a country in East Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the East African Community and the Southern African Development Community.

Togo is a country in West Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Economic Community of West African States.

Tunisia is a country in North Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa.

Uganda is a country in East Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the East African Community.

Zambia is a country in East Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the Southern African Development Community.

Zimbabwe is a country in Southern Africa. It is a member of the African Union and the African Continental Free Trade Area. It is also a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa and the Southern African Development Community.

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