

King's Christian Collegiate Model United Nations

African Union



Letter from the Co-Secretary Generals

Dear King'sMUN 2024 delegates,

We are truly honoured, as this year's Co-Secretary Generals of King'sMUN, to welcome you to our 10th annual conference. The Secretariat has been working hard throughout this school year to deliver you an incredible, in-person conference with a variety of creative committees, experienced chairs, and an overall successful day of debate.

Model United Nations, a reenactment of the function of the United Nations, is designed for students to come together to debate, discuss, and develop creative resolutions to some of the world's most pressing issues that plague our world today. In most committees, students take on the positions of various countries, characters, or political figures to create solutions for both real and fictional issues and crises. We also offer unique committees that explore historical, future, and fictional issues.

In our personal experience with MUN we have developed many valuable skills that we will take with us throughout our lives, such as confidence in public speaking, leadership, and creative problem-solving. Furthermore, MUN promotes lifelong connections, as we are constantly meeting delegates who share similar passions to us in committee sessions. We truly believe that your participation in MUN will guide you throughout your high school journey and beyond.

At King'sMUN, we provide a variety of committees to ensure that we have something of interest for everyone. From very current pressing issues (ie. UNSC and the African Union) and issues in sports (ie. International Cricket Council and WSF) to fictional, yet real, controversies (ie. Barbieland) and issues set in the past (ie. The Manhattan Project). We strive to ensure that there is appeal for a variety of delegates. Whether you have no experience or have been to a multitude of conferences, there is a place at King'sMUN for you!

Once again, we are thrilled to welcome all delegates, new or returning, back to King'sMUN. We hope that you engage in fruitful debate and have an amazing time at King'sMUN 2024.

Sincerely,

Serena Kalsi and Georgia Apostolopoulos

Co-Secretary Generals

King'sMUN 2024

History & Purpose of the African Union

Established in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on May 25, 1963, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) sought to unite and support African states in their resistance to apartheid and colonialism. This organization is the ancestor of the African Union (AU). In order to achieve pan-African objectives and decolonize Africa, the OAU was essential. However, the leaders of African nations chose to rename the OAU the African Union in recognition of the need for a more inclusive organization to handle modern issues. In July 2002, the AU was formally launched in Durban, South Africa. The Constitutive Act, also referred to as the AU Charter, went into effect in 2001. The goal of the African Union is to advance the accomplishments of the OAU while attending to the changing requirements of the continent, such as advancing economic integration, political collaboration, peace and security, and human rights protection. Since its founding, the AU has grown to be a significant player in determining how Africa would develop into a united and affluent continent. The African Union aims to tackle the diverse issues that the continent is confronting in the twenty-first century. Promoting peace and security by attempting to avert confrontations, settle disagreements, and step in during emergencies to maintain peace. To improve cooperation among African nations for sustainable development, poverty alleviation, and the reduction of economic inequities, the AU is also dedicated to advancing economic integration. The group also advocates for democratic rule and good governance practices, with a focus on political integration. The African Union (AU) provides a forum for the coordination of policies across several domains, the advancement of continental development, and the enhancement of the general welfare of African countries. The African Union wants to build a strong, resilient, and united continent through these projects.

Issue 1: Coups in French Speaking African Nations

There have been six coup d'états in West Africa since the year 2020, all of which being former French colonies. Since 2020 there have been coups in Niger, Gabon, Mali, Guinea, Burkina Faso, and Chad. All these countries are dealing with a variety of factors that influence political instability. The civilian leadership in these countries have often been accused of corruption as well as being far too lenient in their relationship with their former colonial power, opening the door for neo-colonialism. These countries are rich in natural resources but remain some of the poorest in the world, with the revenue from the gold, oil, uranium and other resources not reaching their citizens. This is coupled with the growing terrorist insurgencies in the Sahel region, which account for 43% of all terrorism deaths, more than the rest of the world combined. In response France has intervened militarily in Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad and Niger. France has been unsuccessful in fighting these jihadist groups all the while using their leverage to profit from these nations' resources such as Niger's uranium. This growing frustration with corrupt leadership and anti-French sentiment has opened the door for political takeovers and growing Russian influence in the region. Many of the new leaders from these coups have stated the mismanagement of the fight against insurgent groups as a main influence in their seizing of power. Leading these leaders to demand the removal of French troops in exchange for Wagner Group militants. There is also a growing call for severing the ties with France and opting for Russia instead as a primary ally. This comes as no surprise as Russia has been courting African nations since the Cold War, with many of these interventions being couched with anti-colonial rhetoric.

On September 5th, 2021, the Guinean Special Forces led by lieutenant-colonel Mamady Doumbouya stormed the presidential palace and seized power from former president Alpha Conde, this was followed by the announcement of the dissolution of the Guinean Constitution. His motivations were made clear when he stated, "the socio-political and economic situation of the country, the dysfunction of republican institutions, the instrumentalization of justice, the trampling of citizens' rights, the financial mismanagement [...] have led the republican army to live up to its responsibilities towards the people of Guinea."

On the 23rd of January 2022 the Burkina Faso armed forces led by Paul-Henri Sandaogo Damiba seized the presidential residence in Ouagadougou detaining president Roch Marc Christian Kaboré and taking power the next day dissolving parliament and the constitution. Damiba took over stating his primary motivation was the Burkinabe government's lack of success in fighting in jihadist insurgency. However, within only a couple months of his presidency gave up 40% of Burkina Faso to non-government groups. This dissatisfaction led Captain Ibrahim Traoré to lead another coup in January seizing power from Damiba even though he was a part of Damiba's original junta. Stating Damiba's lack of efforts to protect the country and his inability to replace France with Russia as their primary ally as his reasons, he is now the youngest president in the world.

On August 18th, 2020, the Malian armed forces undertook a coup d'état entering the capital with trucks and weapons and arresting the president at the time Ibrahim Keïta as well as other government officials. There have been ongoing protests since June against Keïta because of his handling of the jihadist insurgency as well as alleged corruption. The decision was made after the coup to have an 18-month transitional government with Bah Ndaw as president. In May of 2021 Assimi Goïta vice president of Ndaw and his junta leader captured him and stripped him of his power announcing elections will be held in 2022 these elections have now been delayed to 2024.

On July 26th, 2023, the Nigerian presidential guard expelled and replaced president Mohamed Bazoum of Niger. General Abdourahamane Tchiani, the captain of the presidential guard declared himself junta leader and de facto leader of the nation. General Tchiani then requested all French troops along with the French Ambassador to leave the country, opting instead to join an alliance with the now military ruled Burkina Faso and Mali.

From April 11th, 2021, to May 9th, 2021, an attempted military overthrow took place in Chad by the hands of the Front for Change and Concord in Chad (FACT). This took place after the 2021 Chadian elections where Idriss Déby had once again extended his 30 years of power after taking his position in a 1990 coup. FACT saw this as illegitimate and began a military offensive from the north border with Libya, where FACT is based. During this fighting Idriss is

killed and is succeeded by a transitional government led by his son Mahamat. The Chadian government eventually successfully stops FACT.

Since its independence in 1960, Gabon has been primarily ruled by members of the Bongo family, with Omar Bongo ruling from 1967 to 2009 and his son Ali Bongo from 2009 to 2023. On August 26th 2023 Ali was announced as the winner of the 2023 presidential election. Due to claims of election tampering and the economic mismanagement of Gabon, a group of various high ranking Gabonese officials took control of government buildings in the capital Libreville. Eventually a news broadcast displays various officers announcing the end of the existing regime and the implementation of Brice Oligui as the interim president. Also, it is valuable to note that under Ali Bongo, Gabon was one of Africa's largest oil producers and had a high per capita GDP but still a third of Gabonese people lived under the poverty line. Gabon was also ranked 136th out 180 in the perceived corruption index.

This topic greatly correlates to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 16.4 and 16.5. SDG 16.4 is that by 2030, we must significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime. This is a goal of interest because of the high flow of organized militias which are getting enough arms for the political overthrowing of their country's government. The question arises of how these coup leaders and their junta members are getting their weapons and resources. A specific case would be FACT of Chad, as their weapons were claimed to be provided by the UAE and their base of operations was an air base in Libya. As for SDG 16.5, the goal is to substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms. Corruption is a major influence in the toppling of the leadership in countries and is one of the primary reasons for the hardships faced by the citizens of these states. This corruption leads to the mismanagement of these countries' resources, making deals with France which end up only benefiting the corrupt leadership and France. It is the delegates' responsibility to discuss these topics. Holding conversations on how the international community can help assist the nations of West Africa to become economically self-reliant, to create the opportunity for the democratic transition of power. Discussing how relations with these countries' new leadership should follow as well as the steps to help strengthen these nations to fight the ongoing jihadist insurgency in the Sahel.

Issue 2: Allowing Free Movement in the African Union

Free Movement is the legal permission for goods, capital, services, or people (i.e. workers) to leave one country and enter another country without extra taxes, legal documents or official limits. With free movement comes the unrestricted movement of goods between African states which can be a key factor in boosting African economies. This could help break down the barriers that have hindered Africa's socio-economic integration and help the implementation of Pan-Africanism ideals. This idea was first brought up in 1991 in the Abuja Treaty made to establish the African Economic Community. The Abuja Treaty promoted the concept that the freedom of movement of goods and people would promote social development, cultural development, and an increase of economic self-reliance in Africa. Also encouraging the mobilization and utilization of African people and resources to further African self-dependency as well as economic stability. For these goals to be met each African citizen must be granted three rights: right to entry and free movement within any AU state, right of residence in said countries, and the right to establish businesses of their own in these nations. Although there is an overwhelmingly positive reaction to this protocol by certain leaders and experts there are still some concerns. The main hesitancy that countries have, particularly richer nations, is the risk of political instability caused by a possible influx of low-skilled economic migrants from poorer nations. Although there are safeguards in place in the protocol such as a country's ability to suspend it if they choose, many rich African countries have still opted to not sign off.

Within the African Union, advancing freedom of movement is strongly related to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9.1, which is to create resilient infrastructure to support human well-being and economic development. Encouraging individuals to move freely across African countries helps to build effective transit systems and infrastructure for crossing borders. With this connectedness, commerce and regional integration are strengthened, which promotes sustainable development and economic progress. In addition, the promotion of free mobility is consistent with SDG 8.3, which is centered on advancing economic growth and decent work. The removal of obstacles to mobility allows people to have easier access to international job prospects, which boosts economic activity and encourages the development of jobs. Ultimately, the alignment of SDGs 9.1 and 8.3 with the African Union's freedom of movement highlights the significance of inclusive and integrated policies that promote the continent's infrastructure development and

economic growth. Delegates must use this information to create a dialogue that will create a mutual assurance in this concept from the very richest African nation to the poorest. This would include mitigating the concerns of migrant influxes that rich nations have, while also addressing the safeguards that would have to be in place for these countries' security. As well as further building on the idea of what the freedom of movement would have to look like to maximize its potential in creating a self-reliant Africa.

Questions to Consider

1. How will the new leadership in the Sahel Region tackle the insurgency of jihadist organizations?'
2. How is Russia's relationship going to develop in this vacuum now that French relations are dissipating?
3. With reports of nations exchanging resources with Russia for Wagner Group militants are their concerns of a possible neo-colonial relationship developing with francophone Africa and Russia?
4. Will there be a return to democracy in these countries, or will the perpetual cycle of coups continue, what can be done to facilitate a space for democracy to flourish in these nations?

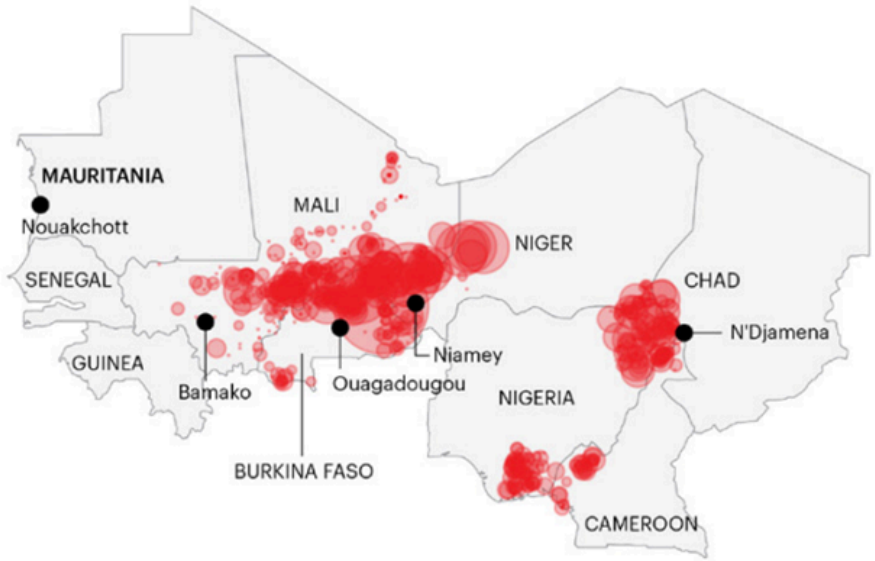
Graphs & Data



Countries that have had a successful coup from 2020-2023. Dubbed the “Coup Belt”.

Terrorist attacks in the Sahel, 2007-2021

Most terrorist attacks occur away from major urban centers.

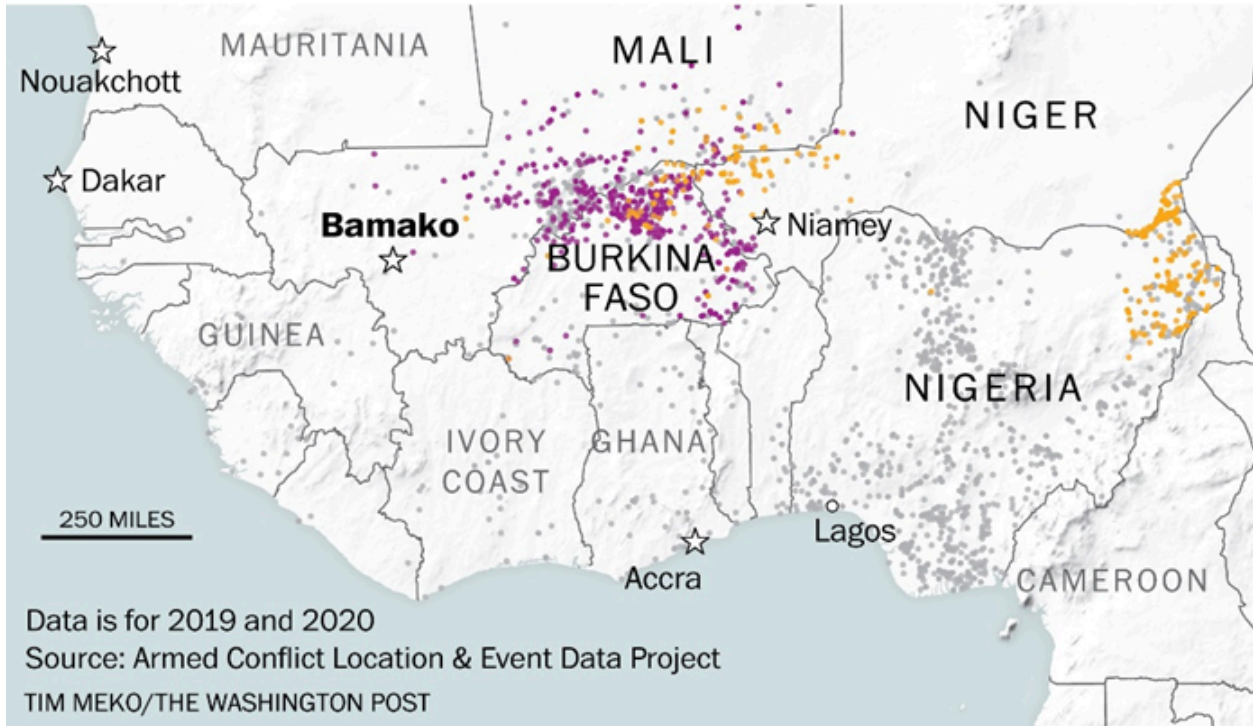


Source: Dragonfly TerrorismTracker, IEP calculations

Attacks in the Sahel

Fighters affiliated with al-Qaeda and the Islamic State have launched scores of attacks across West Africa in attempt to take control of territory.

Attacks in 2019 and 2020 by groups allied with ● Islamic State ● al-Qaeda ● Other



Useful Resources to Start with

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