

African Union



TORONTO MODEL UNITED NATIONS
General Assembly Background Guide

Table of Contents - The African Union

Director Introduction	2
Equity Disclaimer	3
• Overview of Sensitive Topics	
Delegate Code of Conduct	4
• Legal Compliance / Behavioral Expectations	
• Reporting and Resolution Procedures	
Topic A: Combating Military Violence Across the Sahel Region	5
• Topic Overview	
• Background and Timeline of Events	
• Case Studies	
• Past UN Actions and Resolutions	
• Current Situation in the Sahel	
• Questions to Consider	
Topic B: Improving Agenda 2063	13
• Introduction to Agenda 2063	
• Case Studies	
• Current Situation and Challenges	
• Past UN Actions and Resolutions	
• Past Solutions	
• Questions to Consider	
References	24

Director's Introduction

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to TMUN 2025 and the African Union! My name is Ethan, and I'll be your Director for this committee. I'm currently a junior at St. Andrews College, and I've been involved in Model UN for three years now. Along the way, I've had some amazing experiences, including winning awards at Harvard International Model UN and South Ontario Model UN.

Outside of MUN, I have a lot of different hobbies—I'm into marksmanship, anything speaking-related like debate and entrepreneurial competitions, and chess. I love playing chess, both casually and competitively (if you're into chess, I'm rated 2400 blitz on chess.com, so feel free to ask any questions on chess).

For this weekend, I hope we can create a collaborative and engaging environment to work through important issues in African politics. We must maintain a spirit of diplomacy and cooperation as we discuss these topics. We might sometimes disagree, but that's all part of the process - what's important is that we respect each other's perspectives and work towards common ground :).

I also emphasize the importance of cultural sensitivity throughout the committee.. Let's all be respectful of different cultures, religions, and nationalities. Disrespectful comments or behavior won't be tolerated, and we're here to maintain an environment of professionalism, kindness, and mutual respect.

Overall, I'm looking forward to seeing some creative, well-thought-out solutions, and I hope the committee will run smoothly with everyone's participation. If you have any questions, concerns, or just want to talk, feel free to reach out. I'm excited to see what we accomplish together!

Best of luck,

Ethan Liu (liuethan0419@gmail.com)

Equity Disclaimer

Throughout this committee, delegates will engage in nuanced debates and discussions on various topics. As TMUN strives to provide an educational platform that promotes critical thinking and real-world understanding, some committee content may include sensitive or challenging subject matter. We encourage delegates to approach these discussions with professionalism, respect, tact, and diplomacy, ensuring their positions reflect their assigned country's or character's perspectives equitably and thoughtfully.

This Background Guide and African Union committee address topics that may be distressing to some delegates, including but not limited to: stereotypes (particularly concerning African peoples), starvation and malnutrition, poverty, colonization, apartheid, death, hardship, violence, pandemics and endemics (e.g., Ebola, COVID-19), conflict, and censorship (including partnerships between African nations and the People's Republic of China).

We kindly request delegates refrain from directly referencing ongoing violent conflicts (e.g., Ukraine-Russia, Israel-Palestine) in committee discussions. TMUN acknowledges the sensitivity of these topics and encourages delegates to prioritize their well-being by setting personal boundaries. This might include skipping specific sections of the background guide, preparing emotionally before engaging with the material, practicing self-care, or seeking support as needed.

We also ask all participants to remain considerate of the boundaries and comfort levels of their peers. TMUN is committed to fostering a respectful and inclusive environment where discussions are productive and empathetic. If you have equity-related concerns, need support with sensitive topics, or have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to the TMUN staff for assistance.

Delegate Code of Conduct

To ensure a safe, respectful, and inclusive environment, all TMUN delegates are expected to adhere to the following standards of behavior.

Legal Compliance

Delegates must comply with all applicable laws. Prohibited activities include, but are not limited to:

1. Alcohol or substance use by minors
2. Sexual harassment or assault
3. Hate speech or discriminatory behavior
4. Physical assault or threats of violence
5. Possession of firearms or prohibited weapons
6. Theft, vandalism, or destruction of property

Violations will result in immediate expulsion from the conference and notification of authorities. If you witness or experience any such activity, contact conference staff immediately. During conference hours, staff are available at the Information Desk on the Mezzanine floor.

Behavioral Expectations

Delegates must also:

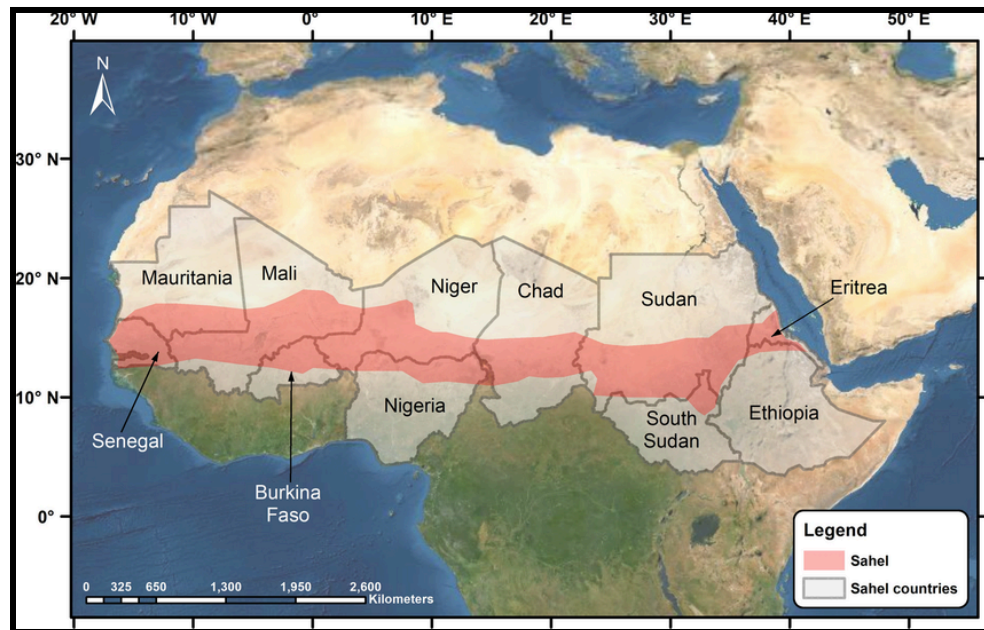
1. Respect Others: Treat all participants, staff, and hotel personnel respectfully and kindly.
2. Maintain Professionalism: Dress in formal business attire, behave diplomatically, and participate respectfully in all discussions.
3. Collaborate: Include others in discussions, blocs, and working papers.
4. Respect Property: Avoid excessive noise, disruptive behavior, and misuse of shared spaces or hotel property.
5. Follow Policies: Abide by all TMUN policies, including equity and conference procedures.

Reporting and Resolution

For concerns, conflicts, or violations, contact conference staff or the Equity Officer. TMUN is committed to addressing issues promptly and ensuring a positive experience for all.

Topic A: Combating Military Violence Across the Sahel Region

Topic Overview



The Sahel region is a narrow stretch of land in Africa that separates the Sahara Desert (to the north) and the savanna (to the south). The Sahel includes ten countries: Cameroon, Chad, Niger, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, and Senegal. The Sahel region has remained vulnerable to military violence for several reasons, including climate change and food insecurity, which has worsened displacement within the region. Pastoralism is the primary source of income for civilians in the Sahel. However, according to the United Nations, nearly 80% of the farmland in the region is unsuitable for livestock and agriculture. Additionally, the Sahel experiences a shorter wet season and more frequent droughts and floods, severely affecting food supply. Compounded with population growth, there is not enough arable land in the region, increasing violence between farmers and herders. Furthermore, as a result of political instability in certain areas, multiple jihadi groups have gained power in the Sahel (i.e. Boko Haram in Nigeria), further perpetuating violence. Due to a lack of border security in the Sahel, violence quickly spreads between countries. Escalating violence in the Sahel has caused greater displacement amongst communities. In 2018, at least 5 million people were displaced due to violence in the Sahel, while 24 million faced food insecurity.³ Violence in the region has

continued to grow, with attacks in the Sahel as recent as June 2020. This has displaced thousands of families, who are forced to live in overpopulated communities that lack access to adequate healthcare, water, and food. Though the UNHCR is committed to providing assistance to these families, the public health threat posed by COVID-19 has created difficulties in doing so.⁴

Background and Timeline of Events

Violence in the Sahel region has been present since 2006 in some countries. While the exact timeline varies for each country in the Sahel, the timeline provided below is a general outline of key events in the region.

- **2006:** Violence began in Mali on May 23 when Tuareg rebels occupied two military bases in the town of Kidal. The Malian government initiated peace negotiations with the rebels a month later, leading to a peace agreement signed in July. However, the peace process faltered when Algerian Islamic insurgents attacked the Tuareg rebels on October 6, forcing the rebels to abandon the peace deal by November 2006.
- **2007:** In May, the Tuareg rebels launched an attack in northern Mali, marking the first significant violence since 2006. This period also saw major political instability due to the election of President Amadou Toumani Touré. Unrest continued through the summer, with rebels firing on a U.S. supply plane in September. By that time, the Tuareg rebels had taken hostages, who were not released until January 23, 2008.
- **2008:** The opposition group Front Pour la Démocratie et la République (FDR) initiated peace talks with the Tuareg rebels who had taken hostages in 2007. However, during a military raid in March, the rebels captured 33 additional hostages. Multiple attacks occurred across Mali throughout the year, resulting in numerous casualties. Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon declared the situation in the Sahel region "urgent." By July, Algeria began peace talks with the Tuareg rebels, which temporarily reduced violence, but fighting resumed in September and continued until the end of the year.
- **2009:** Tensions escalated between the Malian government and Tuareg rebels in January when rebels attacked the homes of government officials. In response, the government raided and destroyed rebel bases. Meanwhile, violence from Al-Qaeda groups intensified, leading to multiple kidnappings and hostage situations throughout the year. In April, Mali

and Algeria initiated collaborative efforts to counter Al-Qaeda. Despite these measures, the violence continued into 2010.

- **2010:** Al-Qaeda-related violence persisted throughout the year, with multiple hostage incidents and kidnappings. Mali and Algeria continued their cooperation to address the threat posed by extremist groups in the region.
- **2011:** In January, Al-Qaeda militants attacked the French embassy in Mali, injuring two Malian citizens. Mali intensified its cooperation with Mauritania after Mauritanian forces successfully raided an Al-Qaeda camp near the Mauritanian border. In response to the escalating threat, the European Union pledged 62 million euros in aid to strengthen Mali's security infrastructure.
- **2012:** In February, the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA) launched a major attack in Hombori, which displaced over 130,000 people. Mali faced further destabilization as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) briefly suspended the country, assuming responsibility for addressing the violence. By October, the UN set a 45-day deadline for ECOWAS to formulate an intervention strategy. In November, ECOWAS decided to deploy 3,300 troops to northern Mali, despite concerns that this could exacerbate the conflict. The UN Security Council later proposed the creation of the International Support Mission in Mali (MISMA), focusing on political reconciliation, elections, and military training.
- **2013:** France launched “Operation Serval” alongside the African-led International Support Mission in Mali (AFISMA) to combat the growing threat of Islamic militants in northern Mali. This operation led to numerous casualties among both extremists and civilians. By June, the Malian government and Tuareg rebels agreed to a ceasefire and disarmament of armed groups, resulting in a temporary reduction of violence. However, tensions remained high, and Amnesty International reported significant human rights violations linked to the operation.
- **2014:** Violence escalated throughout the year, despite slow progress in peace talks. Algeria attempted to mediate between the Malian government and Tuareg rebels in July, but these negotiations failed as violence continued unabated.
- **2015:** In March, the Malian government and rebel groups signed an initial peace agreement after several rounds of negotiations. However, the Coordination of Movements

of Azawad (CMA), a Tuareg armed coalition, initially refused to sign the deal, postponing its final agreement until June. Despite this, violence continued to escalate throughout the region, forcing the government to postpone regional and municipal elections in northern Mali.

- **2016:** In January, Algeria held an emergency meeting to discuss the challenges of implementing the peace agreement between the government and rebel groups. The situation continued to deteriorate, with jihadist groups carrying out multiple attacks, including on a UN peacekeeping camp in Mali. The violence between ethnic armed groups and jihadist factions continued to escalate, particularly in northern Mali.
- **2017:** Jihadist groups continued their attacks across the Sahel region, and the EU further increased its involvement in Mali by offering 29.7 million euros in aid. In October, the UN Security Council visited Mali, Mauritania, and Burkina Faso to discuss increased support for countering militant violence and trafficking in the region.
- **2018:** Jihadist groups continued to launch attacks in northern and central Mali. In response, the G5 Sahel Joint Force increased its funding for the region to 414 million euros. New peace negotiations began in March, but they ultimately failed to produce results. Attacks continued, including an assault on the UN peacekeeping camp in Kidal, and intercommunal violence escalated, exacerbated by the presidential election in Mali in July. Armed groups restricted voting in certain areas, forcing some polling stations to close

Case Study 1: The 2017 Niger Attack and Its Implications on Regional Security

The 2017 ambush on a joint US-Nigerien patrol near the village of Tongo Tongo in Niger highlights the persistent insecurity in the Sahel and the challenges facing regional and international efforts to combat militant violence. The attack, carried out by Islamic State-affiliated insurgents, resulted in the deaths of four US soldiers and five Nigerien soldiers.

Background

The Sahel's porous borders, weak state institutions, and historical marginalization of rural communities create fertile ground for extremist groups like Boko Haram, Al-Qaeda in the

Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), and the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS). The region's instability is exacerbated by climate change, economic underdevelopment, and food insecurity.

Impacts of the Incident

The 2017 attack exposed critical gaps in regional security and coordination:

- **Weak Intelligence Sharing:** Poor communication among local, regional, and international forces limited the effectiveness of counterterrorism efforts.
- **Lack of Equipment and Training:** Nigerien forces struggled to match the insurgents' mobility and tactics due to insufficient training and outdated equipment.
- **Community Tensions:** The heavy-handed approach of some security forces alienated local populations, creating distrust and inadvertently aiding militant recruitment.

Response and Initiatives

In the wake of the attack, the G5 Sahel Joint Force—comprising Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, and Mauritania—intensified its operations with financial and logistical support from the African Union, European Union, and the United Nations. However, limited funding and operational capacity hindered sustained progress.

Lessons Learned

The Tongo Tongo ambush showed the need for:

1. **Enhanced Local Engagement:** Building trust with communities to counter extremist narratives.
2. **Stronger Multinational Collaboration:** Increasing resource-sharing and harmonizing military strategies among G5 Sahel members.
3. **Sustainable Development:** Addressing root causes of conflict, including poverty, unemployment, and environmental degradation.

Case Study 2: The 2020-2022 Malian Coups

The recent political instability in Mali is a prime example of the Sahel region's challenges. In August 2020, a military coup led by Colonel Assimi Goita overthrew President

Ibrahim Boubacar Keïta, citing widespread corruption and the government's inability to address the ongoing jihadist insurgency. This event began a series of political upheavals in the country.

Initially, the coup leaders promised a swift transition to civilian rule. However, in May 2021, Colonel Goita led a second coup, removing the interim president and prime minister. This action further destabilized the country and raised international concerns about the military's grip on power.

Past UN Actions and Resolutions



- United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (S/2013/254 — June 2013):** In June 2013, the Security Council adopted the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, which provides a comprehensive approach to addressing both immediate and long-term challenges in the region. The strategy emphasizes the importance of providing humanitarian aid while simultaneously focusing on issues such as security, governance, and resilience. It advocates for building capacity to ensure the region's stability and addressing the root causes of conflict. The UN's role in the Sahel continues to center on these priorities to help mitigate the ongoing crises.
- Security Council Resolution 2931 (December 8, 2017):** This resolution, adopted unanimously by the Security Council, focuses on enhancing the effectiveness of the Group of Five Sahel States (G5 Sahel) Joint Force. It encourages G5 Sahel members to develop frameworks that prevent, investigate, and address human rights violations and

abuses, and to publicly report on these efforts. The resolution underscores the need for accountability in the face of rising violence, reinforcing the importance of safeguarding human rights as part of regional counterterrorism and security efforts.

- **Support to the Sahel Region (E/RES/2020/2 — December 10, 2019):** Adopted by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), this resolution calls for increased collaboration between the United Nations and the African Union to address the growing security and humanitarian challenges in the Sahel. It highlights the urgency of responding to the region's worsening conditions, particularly in terms of the escalating violence, displacement, and recruitment of youth by militia groups. The resolution also aligns with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizing the need to address youth employment and prevent the exploitation of young people by armed groups.

Current Situation in the Sahel

The Sahel region remains in a state of crisis, with conditions described as “extremely volatile” and the potential for further escalation. According to Mohamed Ibn Chambas, the Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), violent extremist groups continue to target civilians and security personnel. These groups are increasingly resorting to the recruitment of children into armed conflict, further exacerbating the humanitarian crisis.

The security situation in the Sahel has significantly worsened, with millions of people displaced by ongoing violence. As of June 2020, nearly 921,000 people were forced to flee from Burkina Faso, while approximately 240,000 were displaced in Mali. These displacements contribute to a growing refugee crisis that has put immense pressure on neighboring countries and humanitarian resources.

Human rights violations remain widespread, with reports of both militia and defense groups committing abuses. The recruitment of children into militias is particularly concerning, as it deprives young people of their futures and further destabilizes the region. The UN and international actors continue to call for greater efforts to address this issue and hold perpetrators accountable.

The threat of climate change is also increasingly urgent in the Sahel. Agriculture, which serves as the primary source of livelihood for many people in the region, is highly vulnerable to climate shifts. The resulting environmental stress has compounded the challenges faced by communities already grappling with conflict and displacement. Climate-induced disruptions, such as droughts and desertification, are threatening food security and livelihoods, leading to further social instability and migration within and beyond the region.

In light of these challenges, the international community, led by the United Nations, is focused on providing humanitarian assistance, facilitating peace processes, and supporting long-term development initiatives to stabilize the Sahel. However, the complex intersection of violence, human rights abuses, and environmental degradation demands urgent and coordinated action to ensure lasting peace and prosperity in the region. Climate change has exacerbated conflicts between farmers and herders, contributed to food insecurity, increased migration, and caused tensions to escalate. The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the issue, especially in terms of increased human rights violations that disproportionately affect women. Despite such issues, recent elections in both Togo and Benin went smoothly, avoiding uproar and violence. However, elections are still to occur in a few other countries, including Ghana, Niger, and Burkina Faso, in which potential political upheaval is anticipated.

Questions to Consider

- In what ways has climate change contributed to violence in the Sahel, and how can this aspect of the issue be resolved?
- What are the roots of the violence in the Sahel region and how can they be countered?
- How can the consequences of militant violence in the Sahel region — including displacement of individuals, political instability, food insecurity, and human rights abuses — be adequately addressed?
- What role do nations outside of the Sahel region play in countering violence?
- How has the COVID-19 pandemic further perpetuated violence in the Sahel region?

Topic 2: Improving Agenda 2063

Introduction



Agenda 2063 stands as a testament to Africa's aspirations for a united, prosperous, and peaceful continent. Adopted by the African Union (AU) in 2015, this strategic framework outlines a 50-year vision for Africa's socio-economic transformation. It represents a collective dream of 1.3 billion Africans, envisioning a future where the continent takes its rightful place on the global stage. However, the journey towards realizing this ambitious vision has been fraught with challenges, necessitating a critical examination of its progress and potential improvements. The implementation of Agenda 2063 has faced numerous obstacles, including limited inter-African trade, continued reliance on natural resources, persistent corruption, and the impacts of climate change. Despite these hurdles, there have been notable successes, such as the launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). As we approach the end of the First Ten-Year Implementation Plan (2014-2023), it is crucial to assess the progress made, identify the shortcomings, and propose innovative solutions to accelerate the realization of Agenda 2063's goals.

Background

The roots of Agenda 2063 can be traced back to the pan-African vision that emerged during the struggle for independence in the 1960s. The Organization of African Unity (OAU),

established in 1963, laid the groundwork for continental unity and cooperation. For four decades, the OAU played a crucial role in the decolonization of Africa and the promotion of unity among African states. However, by the turn of the millennium, it became clear that a new approach was needed to address the continent's development challenges.

In 2002, the OAU transitioned into the African Union (AU), with a renewed focus on accelerating Africa's development and integration. The AU's Constitutive Act emphasized the importance of promoting sustainable development, democracy, and good governance. Against this backdrop, Agenda 2063 was conceived as a long-term development strategy to build on these historical efforts.

The process of developing Agenda 2063 was highly participatory, involving consultations with various stakeholders, including governments, civil society organizations, the private sector, and the African diaspora. This inclusive approach ensured that the agenda reflected the aspirations of all Africans.

Agenda 2063 was officially adopted during the 24th Ordinary Assembly of the Heads of State and Government of the AU in January 2015. The agenda is structured around seven aspirations:

1. A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development
2. An integrated continent, politically united, based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism
3. An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice, and the rule of law
4. A peaceful and secure Africa
5. An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values, and ethics
6. An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people
7. Africa as a strong, united, resilient, and influential global player and partner

These aspirations are further broken down into 20 goals and 39 priority areas, providing a comprehensive framework for Africa's development.

Case Study 1: Rwanda's Green Growth Strategy and Its Alignment with Agenda 2063

Rwanda's ambitious pursuit of a green economy offers valuable insights into the implementation of Agenda 2063. Recognized for its innovative policies, Rwanda demonstrates how targeted national strategies can drive socio-economic transformation in alignment with continental aspirations.

Background

Rwanda has prioritized sustainability as a cornerstone of its Vision 2050 development framework, which complements the African Union's Agenda 2063. The country's commitment is evident in policies such as the National Green Growth and Climate Resilience Strategy (GGCRS), adopted in 2011.

Achievements

- **Renewable Energy Access:** Rwanda has expanded rural electrification through off-grid solar systems, increasing energy access to 60% of the population by 2023.
- **Reforestation Efforts:** Through its Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative, Rwanda has restored over two million hectares of degraded land.
- **Sustainable Urban Development:** The capital, Kigali, has implemented eco-friendly infrastructure projects, including green buildings and efficient public transportation systems.

Challenges

Despite its successes, Rwanda faces hurdles in funding large-scale projects, addressing rural poverty, and mitigating the socio-economic impacts of climate change. Additionally, reliance on external funding poses long-term sustainability concerns.

Implications for Agenda 2063

Rwanda's approach aligns with several aspirations of Agenda 2063, particularly in fostering inclusive growth and sustainable development. Its success highlights the importance of:

1. Innovative Financing: Leveraging public-private partnerships and international aid to fund green initiatives.
2. Regional Collaboration: Sharing best practices across African nations to amplify impact.
3. Capacity Building: Strengthening institutions to manage and scale sustainable development projects.

Case Study 2: The AfCFTA Implementation in Niger

The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), a key initiative of Agenda 2063, aims to boost intra-African trade and economic integration. Niger, one of the world's poorest nations, ratified the AfCFTA in 2019, presenting both challenges and opportunities due to its reliance on agriculture and uranium exports, alongside vulnerabilities to climate change and market fluctuations.

Niger faced obstacles in implementing the AfCFTA, including inadequate infrastructure, security threats from extremist groups, limited economic diversification, and insufficient institutional capacity to handle complex trade regulations. To overcome these, Niger prioritized road infrastructure improvements with African Development Bank support, invested in digital systems for customs efficiency, initiated training programs for businesses and enhanced regional security cooperation.

Current Situation

While Agenda 2063 has made some progress, its implementation has faced significant challenges. A detailed examination of the current situation reveals both achievements and areas of concern:

1. Limited inter-African trade: Despite the launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in 2019, intra-African trade remains low. According to the African Export-Import Bank, intra-African trade accounts for only about 16% of total African exports, compared to 59% in Europe and 69% in Asia. This low level of intra-continental trade hampers economic integration and limits the potential for shared prosperity.

2. **Reliance on natural resources:** Many African economies continue to depend heavily on raw material exports, making them vulnerable to global price fluctuations. For instance, in Nigeria, Africa's largest economy, oil and gas exports account for about 90% of export earnings and 60% of government revenue. This overreliance on commodities has hindered economic diversification and industrialization efforts.
3. **Corruption and governance issues:** Weak institutions and corruption in some countries hinder effective implementation of Agenda 2063 initiatives. According to Transparency International's 2020 Corruption Perceptions Index, Sub-Saharan Africa is the lowest-performing region globally, with an average score of just 32 out of 100. This pervasive corruption undermines development efforts and erodes public trust in institutions.
4. **Infrastructure gaps:** Inadequate transportation, energy, and digital infrastructure impede economic integration and development. The African Development Bank estimates that Africa's infrastructure needs amount to \$130-170 billion a year, with a financing gap of \$68-108 billion. This deficit in critical infrastructure hampers trade, productivity, and overall economic growth.
5. **Financing challenges:** Mobilizing sufficient resources for large-scale projects remains a significant hurdle. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) estimates that implementing Agenda 2063 will require approximately \$1.2 trillion in investment over the next decade. Domestic resource mobilization remains low in many African countries, with the average tax-to-GDP ratio in Africa standing at 17.2% in 2018, compared to 34.3% in OECD countries.
6. **Security concerns:** Ongoing conflicts and terrorism in some regions divert resources and attention from development goals. The Institute for Economics and Peace reports that in 2020, the economic impact of violence in Africa amounted to \$578 billion, or 15% of the continent's GDP. This instability not only hinders development but also leads to forced displacement and humanitarian crises.
7. **Climate change impacts:** Environmental challenges threaten agricultural productivity and food security across the continent. The World Bank projects that climate change could push up to 132 million people into extreme poverty by 2030, with Sub-Saharan Africa being particularly vulnerable. Changing weather patterns, rising temperatures, and

increased frequency of extreme weather events pose significant risks to Africa's development aspirations.

Despite these challenges, there have been some notable achievements in the implementation of Agenda 2063:

1. The launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in 2019 marks a significant milestone towards economic integration. When fully implemented, the AfCFTA is expected to cover a market of 1.2 billion people and a combined GDP of \$2.5 trillion.
2. Progress has been made in infrastructure development, with projects like the Trans-African Highway network and various regional power pools advancing continental connectivity.
3. Improvements in governance and democracy have been observed in some countries, with peaceful transitions of power and strengthened institutions.
4. Initiatives to promote peace and security, such as the African Standby Force and the Continental Early Warning System, have been established to address conflicts and prevent their escalation.
5. Efforts to boost science, technology, and innovation have gained momentum, with increased investments in research and development in several African countries.

Past UN Actions and Resolutions

The United Nations has consistently supported Agenda 2063 through various initiatives and resolutions, recognizing the alignment between the African Union's vision and the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Key actions include:

1. UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/1 (2015): This resolution adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which aligns closely with Agenda 2063. The resolution acknowledges the importance of supporting Africa's development agenda and calls for enhanced international cooperation to achieve the SDGs and Agenda 2063.
2. UN-AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security (2017): This framework strengthened cooperation between the UN and AU in addressing peace and

security challenges. It emphasizes joint analysis, coordinated responses, and shared conflict prevention and resolution responsibilities.

3. UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) support: UNECA has provided technical assistance and capacity building for implementing Agenda 2063. It has developed tools for monitoring and evaluation, conducted research on key development issues, and facilitated knowledge sharing among African countries.
4. UN Security Council Resolution 2457 (2019): This resolution emphasized the importance of silencing the guns in Africa and supporting the AU's efforts towards peace and security. It recognizes the link between peace, security, and sustainable development, underscoring the need for a comprehensive approach to addressing Africa's challenges.
5. UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA): Established in 2003, OSAA plays a crucial role in promoting international support for Africa's development and security. It advocates for the implementation of Agenda 2063 and facilitates coordination between the UN system and African regional and sub-regional organizations.
6. UN Development Programme (UNDP) support: UNDP has aligned its programming in Africa with Agenda 2063, focusing on areas such as inclusive growth, democratic governance, and climate resilience. It has also supported the development of national plans that integrate both the SDGs and Agenda 2063 priorities.

These UN actions demonstrate the international community's commitment to supporting Africa's development agenda. However, challenges remain in ensuring effective coordination and avoiding duplication of efforts between various international partners and African institutions.

Parties Involved

The implementation of Agenda 2063 involves a complex network of stakeholders, each playing a crucial role in realizing Africa's development vision:

1. African Union Member States: All 55 African countries are responsible for implementing Agenda 2063 nationally. This involves aligning national development plans with the agenda's goals, mobilizing domestic resources, and reporting on progress. Countries like Rwanda, Ethiopia, and Ghana have been noted for their efforts in integrating Agenda 2063 into their national planning processes.

2. Regional Economic Communities (RECs): Eight recognized RECs play a crucial role in coordinating regional integration efforts. These include the East African Community (EAC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), among others. RECs are responsible for implementing regional projects and harmonizing policies across member states.
3. African Development Bank (AfDB): The AfDB provides financial and technical support for Agenda 2063 projects. Its High 5s strategy, which focuses on power, food, industrialization, integration, and improving quality of life, aligns closely with Agenda 2063 priorities. The bank has committed to mobilizing \$25 billion in climate finance between 2020 and 2025 to support climate-resilient and low-carbon development in Africa.
4. United Nations agencies: Various UN bodies support different aspects of Agenda 2063 implementation. For example, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) provides technical support and policy advice, while the UN Development Programme (UNDP) focuses on capacity building and sustainable development initiatives.
5. International partners: Countries and organizations outside Africa provide financial and technical assistance. The European Union, China, and the United States are significant partners, offering support through initiatives like the EU-Africa Partnership, the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), and the U.S. Prosper Africa initiative.
6. Private sector: Both African and international businesses are essential for driving economic growth and investment. The African Business Council, established in 2020, aims to promote private sector participation in Agenda 2063 implementation. Multinational corporations and African conglomerates like Dangote Group and MTN play significant roles in sectors such as infrastructure, telecommunications, and manufacturing.
7. Civil society organizations: These play a crucial role in advocacy, monitoring, and grassroots implementation of Agenda 2063 initiatives. Organizations like the African Civil Society Circle and the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance work to ensure that development efforts are inclusive and sustainable.
8. Academic and research institutions: African universities and think tanks contribute to policy development, innovation, and capacity building. The African Academy of

Sciences, for instance, promotes scientific excellence and innovation to drive sustainable development.

9. Youth and women's organizations: Given Africa's young population and the emphasis on gender equality in Agenda 2063, organizations focusing on youth and women's empowerment are crucial stakeholders. The African Youth Commission and the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET) are examples of such organizations working to ensure inclusive development.
10. Diaspora communities: The African diaspora is recognized as an important resource for skills, knowledge, and investment. The African Union considers the diaspora as the "sixth region" of Africa and has initiatives to engage them in the continent's development.

Effective coordination and collaboration among these diverse stakeholders is important for the successful implementation of Agenda 2063. However, ensuring coherence and avoiding duplication of efforts remain significant challenges.

Past Solutions

Several initiatives have been launched to support Agenda 2063 implementation, each addressing specific aspects of the continental vision:

1. First Ten-Year Implementation Plan (2014-2023): This plan provides a detailed roadmap for the first decade of Agenda 2063. It identifies priority areas, sets specific targets, and outlines strategies for achieving them. The plan has helped to translate the long-term vision of Agenda 2063 into concrete, actionable steps.
2. African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA): Launched in 2019, the AfCFTA aims to boost intra-African trade and economic integration. It is expected to create a single market of 1.2 billion people with a combined GDP of \$2.5 trillion. The agreement addresses tariff reductions, non-tariff barriers, and harmonization of trade policies across the continent.
3. Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA): This program focuses on developing cross-border infrastructure projects in energy, transport, information and communication technologies, and transboundary water resources. PIDA aims to address

Africa's infrastructure deficit, which is a significant barrier to economic growth and integration.

4. Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP): Launched in 2003 and integrated into Agenda 2063, CAADP aims to improve food security and agricultural productivity. It sets a target for African countries to allocate 10% of their national budgets to agriculture and achieve 6% annual growth in the sector.
5. African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM): This voluntary self-assessment mechanism promotes good governance through peer learning and sharing of best practices. As of 2021, 40 African countries have joined the APRM, demonstrating a commitment to improving governance and accountability.
6. Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024): This strategy aims to accelerate Africa's transition to an innovation-led, knowledge-based economy. It focuses on six priority areas: eradicating hunger and achieving food security, preventing and controlling diseases, and promoting inclusive economic growth.
7. Continental Education Strategy for Africa (CESA 16-25): This strategy aims to reorient Africa's education and training systems to meet the knowledge, competencies, skills, innovation, and creativity required to nurture African core values and promote sustainable development.
8. Silencing the Guns by 2020 initiative: Although the 2020 target was not met, this initiative continues to work towards ending all wars, civil conflicts, gender-based violence, and violent conflicts in Africa. It addresses the root causes of conflicts and promotes peace-building efforts across the continent.

While these initiatives have progressed in various areas, challenges remain in their full implementation and ensuring their impact reaches all segments of African society. Inadequate funding, limited institutional capacity, and coordination issues between national, regional, and continental levels have hampered the effectiveness of some of these solutions.

Questions to Consider

- How can intra-African trade be significantly boosted through the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and other mechanisms?

- What governance reforms are necessary to reduce corruption and enhance institutional efficiency in implementing Agenda 2063?
- How can climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies be integrated into Agenda 2063 to ensure sustainable development?
- How can peace-building and conflict resolution efforts be better integrated into the socio-economic development agenda?
- What role should external partners (e.g., UN, EU, and China) play in supporting Agenda 2063 while ensuring African ownership of its development?
- How can progress toward Agenda 2063's goals be tracked and evaluated more effectively to ensure accountability and impact?



References

African Union. "Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want." Accessed November 15, 2024.

<https://au.int/en/agenda2063/overview>.

African Development Bank. "African Economic Outlook 2021." Accessed November 15, 2024.

<https://www.afdb.org/en/documents/african-economic-outlook-2021>.

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). "Economic Report on Africa 2020: Innovations for Sustainable Development in Africa." Accessed November 15, 2024.

<https://www.uneca.org/publications/economic-report-africa-2020>.

United Nations. "The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." Accessed November 15, 2024. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/development-agenda/>.

UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). "Africa Human Development Report 2016: Accelerating Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Africa." Accessed November 15, 2024. <https://www.undp.org/publications/africa-human-development-report-2016>.

African Union Development Agency (AUDA). "The African Union Development Agency: A New Era for Development in Africa." Accessed November 15, 2024.

<https://www.nepad.org/auda>.

United Nations Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA). "Supporting Africa's Development Agenda." Accessed November 15, 2024. <https://www.un.org/africa/osaa/en>.

World Bank. "Africa's Pulse: An Analysis of Issues Shaping Africa's Economic Future." Accessed November 15, 2024. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/africas-pulse>.

African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). "The AfCFTA Agreement: A New Dawn for African Trade." Accessed November 15, 2024. <https://au.int/en/ti/afcfta/about>.

United Nations Security Council. "Resolution 2457 (2019) on Peace and Security in Africa." Accessed November 15, 2024. [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2457\(2019\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2457(2019)).

"The Sahel: Land of Opportunities | Africa Renewal," accessed November 11, 2024, <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/sahel>

"Sahel, a Region of Opportunities," UNDP, accessed November 11, 2024, <https://feature.undp.org/sahel/index.html>

Founder Written by Robert Muggah, "The Sahel Is Engulfed by Violence. Climate Change, Food Insecurity and Extremists Are Largely to Blame," World Economic Forum, January 23, 2019, <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2019/01/all-the-warning-signs-are-showing-in-the-sahel-we-must-act-now/>

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, "Time Running out for Civilians in Africa's Sahel Region as Attacks Multiply," UNHCR, accessed November 11, 2024, <https://www.unhcr.org/news/press/2020/6/5ee1e9704/timerunning-civilians-africas-sahel-region-attacks-multiply.html>

International Crisis Group, Tracking Conflict Worldwide, www.crisisgroup.org/crisiswatch/print. "The Sahel | Department of Political Affairs." United Nations, United Nations, www.un.org/undpa/en/africa/sahel

"Security Council Outlines Modes of Support, Reimbursement for Joint Anti-Terrorism Force in Sahel, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2391 (2017) | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases." United Nations, United Nations, 8 Dec. 2017, www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc13112.doc.htm.

"Support to the Sahel Region | UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC and SOCIAL COUNCIL." United Nations, United Nations, www.un.org/ecosoc/en/node/36374508