UTMUN 2024

African Union

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Contents

Equity Disclaimers

Throughout this committee, delegates will be engaging in complex debates and discussions covering a wide array of topics. As UTMUN seeks to provide an enriching educational experience that facilitates understanding of the implications of real-world issues, the content of our committees may involve sensitive or controversial subject matter for the purposes of academia and accuracy. We ask that delegates be respectful, professional, tactful, and diplomatic when engaging with all committee content, representing their assigned country's or character's position in an equitable manner, communicating with staff and other delegates, and responding to opposing viewpoints.

This Background Guide and African Union presents topics that may be distressing to some Delegates, including but not limited to the following: stereotypes (largely in relation to African Peoples), starvation/malnutrition, poverty, colonization, African apartheid, death, hardship, violence, health pandemics/endemics (including Ebola & COVID-19), conflict, and censorship (related to African countries collaborating with the People's Republic of China).

Please ensure that you are not directly referencing ongoing violent conflicts (Ukraine-Russia, Israel-Palestine, etc.). UTMUN recognizes the sensitivity associated with many of our topics, and we encourage you to be aware of and set healthy boundaries that work for you. This may include: refraining from reading certain parts of the background guide, preparing yourself before reading this background guide, doing some self-care or seeking support after reading the background guide, or anything that can help make you feel more comfortable. We ask that all Delegates remain considerate of the boundaries that other Delegates set.

UTMUN expects that all discussions amongst delegates will remain productive and respectful of one another. If you have any equity concerns or need assistance in setting boundaries or navigating sensitive subject matter or have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or our Chief Equity Officer, Harvi Karatha, at equity@utmun.org. We want you to feel safe and comfortable at UTMUN!

If you wish to switch committees after having read the content warnings for this committee, please do the following:

1. Fill out the UTMUN 2024 Committee Switch Request Form.

If you have any equity concerns, equity-based questions, or delegate conflicts, please do any of the following:

1. Email equity@utmun.org to reach Harvi Karatha or email deputy.equity@utmun.org to reach Iva Zivaljevic or reach out to me at AU@utmun.org
2. Fill out the Anonymous (if preferred) UTMUN Equity Contact Form.
3. Notify/Ask any staff member to connect you to Harvi Karatha or Iva Zivaljevic

Model United Nations at U of T Code of Conduct

The below code of conduct applies to all attendees of UTMUN 2024 for the entire duration of the conference, and any conference-related activities (including but not limited to committee sessions, conference socials, committee breaks, and the opening and closing ceremonies).

1. Harassment and bullying in any form will not be tolerated, the nature of which includes, but is not limited to, discrimination on the basis of race, national origin, ethnicity, colour, religion, sex, age, mental and physical disabilities, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression,

    a. Harassment and bullying include, but are not limited to, insulting and/or degrading language or remarks; threats and intimidation; and intentional (direct or indirect). discrimination and/or marginalization of a group and/or individual;

        i. The above prohibition on harassment, bullying, and inappropriate behaviour extends to any and all behaviour as well as written and verbal communication during the conference, including notes, conversation both during and outside committees, and general demeanour at all conference events;

        ii. UTMUN reserves the right to determine what constitutes bullying and/or inappropriate behaviour toward any individual and/or group;

    b. Attendees must not engage in any behaviour that constitutes physical violence or the threat of violence against any groups and/or individuals, including sexual violence and harassment, such as, but not limited to,

        i. Unwelcome suggestive or indecent comments about one's appearance;

        ii. Nonconsensual sexual contact and/or behaviour between any individuals and/or groups of individuals;

        iii. Sexual contact or behaviour between delegates and staff members is strictly forbidden;

2. UTMUN expects all attendees to conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner at all times during the conference. Specific expectations, include, but are not limited to,

    a. Attendees must, if able, contribute to the general provision of an inclusive conference and refrain from acting in a manner that restricts other attendees' capacity to learn and thrive in an intellectually stimulating environment;

    b. Attendees must adhere to the dress code, which is Western business attire;

        i. Exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis depending on the attendees' ability to adhere to the previous sub-clause;

        ii. Attendees are encouraged to contact Chief Equity Officer, Harvi Karatha, at equity@utmun.org with questions or concerns about the dress code or conference accessibility;

c. Attendees must refrain from the use of cultural appropriation to represent their character and/or country, including the use of cultural dress, false accent, and any behaviour that perpetuates a national or personal stereotype;

d. Delegates must not use music, audio recordings, graphics, or any other media at any time unless approved and requested to be shared by the Dais and/or the Chief Equity Officer, Harvi Karatha at equity@utmun.org;

e. Attendees must abide by instructions and/or orders given by conference staff, members;

  i. Attendees are exempt from this above sub-clause only if the instructions and/or orders given are unreasonable or inappropriate;

3. Delegates, staff, and all other conference participants are expected to abide by Ontario and Canadian laws and Toronto by-laws, as well as rules and regulations specific to the University of Toronto. This includes, but is not limited to,

a. Attendees, regardless of their age, are strictly prohibited from being under the influence and/or engaging in the consumption of illicit substances, such as alcohol or illicit substances for the duration of the conference;

b. Attendees are prohibited from smoking (cigarettes or e-cigarettes, including vapes) on University of Toronto property;

c. Attendees must refrain from engaging in vandalism and the intentional and/or reckless destruction of any public or private property, including conference spaces, venues, furniture, resources, equipment, and university buildings;

  i. Neither UTMUN nor any representatives of UTMUN is responsible for damage inflicted by attendees to property on or off University of Toronto campus;

  ii. Individuals will be held responsible for any damages.

4. The Secretariat reserves the right to impose restrictions on delegates and/or attendees for not adhering to/violating any of the above stipulations. Disciplinary measures include, but are not limited to,

a. Suspension from committee, in its entirety or for a specific period of time;

b. Removal from the conference and/or conference venue(s);

c. Disqualification from awards;

d. Disqualification from participation in future conference-related events.

5. UTMUN reserves the right to the final interpretation of this document.

For further clarification on UTMUN's policies regarding equity or conduct, please see this form. For any questions/concerns, or any equity violations that any attendee(s) would like to raise, please contact UTMUN's Chief Equity Officer, Harvi Karatha, at equity@utmun.org or fill out this anonymous Equity Contact Form: https://forms.gle/Psc5Luxp22T3c9Zz8.

Letter From the Director

Welcome to the African Union Committee of UTMUN 2024! We are looking forward to your participation in the African Union Committee this year. The African continent is an exciting place to be in the 21st century as the countries within have a lot of potential in sustainable development. Step into the shoes of an African country's head of state and imagine a continent that buzzes with economic possibilities and collaborative states. The African Union Committee will be discussing how to implement technology to boost African growth, and how to promote the growth and development of tourism in Africa. Unique solutions to the challenges of technology and tourism can be found throughout the continent, both within the private and public sectors.

For technology, delegates will be tasked with discussing solutions specific to health crises (such as pandemics), combating climate change, enabling education, and improving the agricultural sector's infrastructure. For tourism, delegates will be tasked with discussing solutions specific to sustainable development and the movement of people. Countries within the African Union must come together on the frontier of innovation, implementing solutions that may not have been done in the continent before! Please keep equity in mind when engaging with these topics. Discussions will centre around the challenges faced by African countries and the solutions that meet the needs of African peoples.

Meet the team for UTMUN 2024's African Union Committee:

Director, Emma Wildeman: Hi everyone! I am a second-year student majoring in Political Science and Sociology at UofT. My favourite part about preparing this committee has been learning about how forward thinking the African Union has been, it feels like they have a plan for everything.

Vice-Director, Aseef Ali Hasan: Hi, my name is Aseef! I am a first-year student at the University of Toronto in the Math and Physical Science stream, hoping to major in Statistics and Computer Science for my program of study. I've been a MUN executive through high school and have attended numerous conferences at UofT throughout that time, including UTMUN! That's why I'm so excited to be a part of the African Union committee and create a fun experience to see how delegates tackle them together.

Moderator, Peter Ma: Hi everyone! My name is Peter Ma. I'm the moderator for the African Union committee. I'm a second-year Political Science and International Relations student. I'm really excited to work with everyone!

We can't wait to see everyone in February in the role of an African delegate leading the continent's countries into the future that African people deserve. Good luck in the UTMUN 2024 Conference and have fun!

Warm Regards,
Emma Wildeman
Committee Director
AU@utmun.org

Position Papers:

At UTMUN 2024, position papers are required to qualify for awards. Each committee will also give out one Best Position Paper award. Only delegates in Ad Hoc are exempt from submitting a position paper. To learn more about position paper writing, formatting and submission, please check out the position paper guidelines. Please read through the guidelines carefully as this page will describe content recommendations, formatting requirements and details on citations. If you have any questions about position paper writing, feel free to contact your Dais via your committee email or reach out to academics@utmun.org.

Introduction:

The African Union was founded in 2002 as the successor to the Organization of African Unity (OAU, 1963-2002), and its headquarters are in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.[1] The African Union's primary goal is to expand participation and integration of African states to drive Africa's development and financial advancement.[2] Its predecessor organization, the OAU, was focused on decolonization, ensuring territorial sovereignty, and ending apartheid.[3] As times changed and states became more stable and autonomous, the leaders of African states agreed to pivot the OAU into a new organization, the African Union (AU), that would focus on economically strengthening the continent, acting akin to the European Union.[4]

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[1] The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. 2019. "African Union | Intergovernmental Organization, Africa." In Encyclopædia Britannica. https://www.britannica.com/topic/African-Union.
[2] African Union. 2019b. "About the African Union | African Union." Au.int. African Union. 2019. https://au.int/en/overview.
[3] Ibid.
[4] Ibid.

The African Union has many components as an organization; at present, the ultimate authority of the organization is the Assembly; each head of the state sits within the Assembly, and as a group, it is responsible for all actions.[5] Assisting the Assembly is the Executive Council, which consists of each state's foreign minister and briefs the Assembly on the purpose of the various committees.[6] Beneath the Executive Council lies various appointed Executive sub-committees, such as the Ministerial Committee on Agenda 2063.[7] The Assembly can delegate any of its powers and functions to other parts of the African Union organization.[8]

The Assembly has control over Specialized Technical Committees that manage a designated sector and consist of the Minister of each representative sector, such as: Health, Population and Drug Control; Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment; Education, Science and Technology; and Transport Infrastructure, Intercontinental and Energy and Tourism.[9]

The African Union's Peace and Security Council holds states accountable during the internal conflict,[10] while the African Union Commission oversees day to day activities of the African Union.[11] Also, the pan-African Parliament, which is currently appointed, plans to be an entity elected via universal suffrage and passes legislation.[12]

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[5] Ibid.
[6] Ibid.
[7] African Union. 2019e. "The Executive Council | African Union." Au.int. 2019. https://au.int/en/executivecouncil.
[8] The Constitutive Act, African Union, 2000. https://au.int/sites/default/files/pages/34873-file-constitutiveact_en.pdf.
[9] African Union. 2019h. "Specialised Technical Committees | African Union." Au.int. 2019. https://au.int/en/stc.
[10] African Union. 2023f. "The Peace & Security Council | African Union" Au.int. African Union. 2023. https://au.int/en/psc.
[11] African Union. 2023b. "The AU Commission | African Union" Au.int. African Union. 2023. https://au.int/en/commission.
[12] African Union. 2023e. "The Pan-African Parliament | African Union" Au.int. African Union. 2023. https://au.int/en/pap.

The Constitutive Act of the African Union is the governing piece of legislation that lays out many goals, including economic reform like accelerating the political and socio-economic integration of the continent; enabling the continent's participation in the global economy and international negotiations; sustainable economic, social, and cultural development; sustainable integration of African economies; and develop standard policies on trade, defence, and foreign relations.[13] In addition, there is also planned social reform regarding protecting human rights and raising the living standards of African peoples as well as technological reform by advancing science and technology research and eradicating preventable diseases.[14] Click here to access the Constitutive Act of the African Union and the Protocol on the Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union.

Definitions:

Climate Change Adaptation:
Strategies for society and its infrastructure that allow humans to adapt to the effects of climate change. For example, building a seawall so that sea level rise doesn't impact a city.

Climate Change Mitigation:
Strategies for society and its infrastructure that reduce climate change effects and mitigate the climate from changing due to human impact. For example, reducing a country's total greenhouse gas emissions by transitioning the energy source away from fossil fuels and towards renewables like wind farms and solar panels.

Decarbonization:
Reducing society's needs for emitting carbon into the atmosphere, with the ultimate goal of emitting no carbon outside of natural processing.

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[13] The Constitutive Act, African Union, 2000. https://au.int/sites/default/files/pages/34873-file-constitutiveact_en.pdf.
[14] Ibid.

Diaspora:

The movement of a group of people away from the origin of their culture and ethnicity. For example, a Black person of African descent living in the United States is part of the African diaspora.

Intercontinental:

Within a continent, typically in reference to travel within a continent. For example, travel between Ethiopia and Egypt within Africa.

Intracontinental:

Betwen continents, typically in reference to travel between continents. For example, travel between Africa and Europe.

Abbreviations

- **AfCFTA:** African Continental Free Trade Area

- **AU:** African Union

- **ODeL:** Open, Distance, and eLearning

- **OAU:** Organisation of African Unity

- **PSC:** Peace & Security Council

- **SAATM:** Single African Air-Transport Market

- **STC:** Specialized Technical Committees

- **UNFCCC:** United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

- **WHO:** World Health Organization

Historical Background:

The African Union's progress is exciting as the organization works to evolve the continent's economy in a new and innovative way. Inspired by the European Union, the African Union aims to have a visa-free continent that allows citizens to travel freely through state borders.[15] With this inspiration also comes the goal of a continental free trade agreement where states can trade goods and services without restrictions or tariffs.[16] Finally, the AU also hopes to establish a central bank that manages a singular currency for the entire continent.[17]

In addition, the African Union has a unique stance on the diaspora of its continent as it's moving to encourage the participation of diaspora peoples in the shaping of the continent.[18] While there are no current members that are groups of diaspora peoples or states with diaspora peoples in the AU, it plans to increase engagement within its diaspora populations throughout the world.[19] In accordance with the Constitutive Act of the African Union, the AU is seeking those who willingly are looking to contribute to growing the continent and bettering the African Union.[20]

Notably, the OAU had somewhat of a 'hands-off' approach to dealing with conflicts the continent dealt with.[21] As a response to this, the African Union has a specific council that is ready to step in to prevent, manage and resolve conflict within a state to encourage state political stability of its members.14 The Peace & Security Council (PSC), as it was coined, aims to serve as a primary decision-making body that facilitates the continent's countries in their times of crisis.[22]

The unifying policy that the African Union has been working on is Agenda 2063. It is the all-encompassing policy plan that is setting the vision for the African continent.[23] Agenda 2063 "aims to deliver on its goal for inclusive and sustainable development and is a concrete manifestation of the pan-African drive for unity, self-determination, freedom, progress and collective prosperity".[24]

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[15] African Union. 2019j. "Visa Free Africa | African Union." Au.int. 2019. https://au.int/en/visa-free-africa.
[16] African Union. 2019i. "Trade and Industrial Development | African Union." Au.int. 2019. https://au.int/en/trade-and-industrial-development.
[17] African Union. 2019f. "Financial Institutions | African Union." Au.int. 2019. https://au.int/en/financial-institutions.
[18] African Union. 2019d. "Diaspora & Civil Society Engagement | African Union." Au.int. 2019. https://au.int/en/diaspora-civil-society-engagement.
[19] Ibid.
[20] African Union. 2019c. "Conflict Resolution, Peace & Security | African Union." Au.int. 2019. https://au.int/en/conflict-resolution-peace-security.
[21] Ibid.
[22] African Union. 2013. "Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. | African Union." African Union. 2013. https://au.int/en/agenda2063/overview.
[23] Ibid.
[24] African Union. 2020a. "Our Aspirations for the Africa We Want | African Union." Au.int. 2020. https://au.int/en/agenda2063/aspirations.

Agenda 2063 sets out seven aspirations to be reached in 50 years from when the plan was established (in 2023); each aspiration has its own sets of goals to fulfill it. Aspirations of note are:Aspiration 1–A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development, Aspiration 6–An Africa whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially women and youth, as well as caring for children, and Aspiration 7–Africa as strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner.[25]

Under Agenda 2053, the first phase is a 10-year plan that proposes the following "flagship" projects to be achieved by 2033.[26]

- *Integrated Highspeed Train Network*

This project aims to connect the capital cities of the countries in Africa and commercial centres to facilitate the movement of goods, services and people that are essential to the advancing African population.[27] This increased rail service also focuses on reducing transportation costs and relieving congestion of the strained transportation systems across the continent.[28]

- *Formulation of an African Commodities Strategy*

This aims to develop a strategy to manage Africa's commodities as it's seen as a critical way to enable countries to add value and integrate into global supply chains.[29] Ultimately, the goal of this strategy is to move Africa away from just supplying raw materials to becoming a continent that actively uses its own resources and ensures the development of all countries within Africa.[30]

- *Establishment of The African Continental Free Trade Area*

AfCFTA aims to increase trade within the continent and boost Africa's position on the global stage as a dominant player in the marketplace.[31] With the increased trade in Africa, the hope is to use that as a primary source of sustainable developed growth that can also act as a support for Africa, creating a common voice and policies for trade negotiations.[32]

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[25] Ibid.

[26] African Union. 2019g. "Flagship Projects of Agenda 2063 | African Union." Au.int. 2019. https://au.int/en/agenda2063/flagship-projects.

[27] Ibid.

[28] Ibid.

[29] Ibid.

[30] Ibid.

[31] Ibid.

[32] Ibid.

- *The African Passport And Free Movement of People*

This will be used to remove restrictions on travel within the continent so that Africans will be able to travel, work and live wherever they please.[33] The goal here is to bring down borders between member states and issue more visas to all African citizens.[34]

- *Implementation of The Grand Inga Dam Project*

The Inga Dam project is a dam issued to be built in rural Africa, expected to generate 43,200 megawatts of electricity to move the continent from traditional to modern energy sources.[35] This will ensure clean and affordable electricity access across the continent.[36]

- *Establishment of A Single African Air-Transport Market*

SAATM intends to ensure connectivity between the different regions and capital cities in Africa to create a unified air transport system.[37] This also provides more unfettered access in terms of markets and air traffic regulations for flight schedules to improve overall air travel. By removing restrictions and ownership in air travel, the frequency and capacities of flights can increase.[38]

- *Establishment of An Annual African Economic Forum*

An annual African Economic Forum would allow meetings with multiple stakeholders to unify leadership in African politics and harness the continent's vast resources to enhance development.[39] This also will be a critical ground for discussion regarding the goals of Agenda 2063.[40]

- *Establishment of The African Financial Institutions*

Creating African Continental Financial institutions will accelerate the growth and integration of the continent and develop it socio-economically.[41] Alongside establishing organizations that will mobilize resources and manage the African financial sector, this will be a crucial step in promoting economic integration of the African Monetary Fund and the African Central Bank.[42]

- *The Pan-African E-Network*

This intends to implement policies and tactics that will result in revolutionary e-services and applications in Africa.[43]

- *An African Virtual And E-University*

This initiative intends to enhance access to postsecondary and continuing education in Africa by concurrently reaching several students and professionals in several locations using ICT-based programs.[44] It strives to create pertinent and excellent Open, Distance, and eLearning (ODeL) resources to provide students with guaranteed access to the University at any time and from any place in the world.[45]

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[33]~[45] Ibid.

Topic 1: Implementing Technology as a Booster for African Growth

Many of the state heads in Africa are faced with the 'double' challenge of achieving sustainable development goals along with keeping up with the digital revolution.[46] This dual challenge requires economic transformation and innovation in all sectors, such as health care, education, and agriculture.[47] Africa's influence on the internet and digital innovations has been starkly absent as the continent deals with more significant issues, like the 2019 34.7% illiteracy rate among adults in sub-Saharan Africa.[48] However, Africa has found its path forward through the digital age in unique ways, evidenced by its skyrocketing cellphone subscription rate of 615 new users in the sub-Sahara by 2025.[49] In all, given Africa's unique position, technological solutions must be balanced with socio-economic welfare by including the most vulnerable members of society within Africa.[50]

Case Study 1: Technology as a Potential Booster of Africa's Economic Growth

With 22 million Africans joining the workforce each year, Africa's portion of the global workforce is projected to be the largest in the world by the year 2100.[51] As such, it is critical for African countries to increase their technology uptake to increase employment further and reach the continent's economic goals as outlined in Agenda 2063.[52] It has been reported that Sub-Saharan Africa shows the most significant gap between digital infrastructure availability and its usage by its population. Many see this as a concern as evidence suggests that internet availability has the potential to create.[53] But, a considerable hurdle against the push for digital infrastructure growth is the cost of cell phone plans in Africa.[54] This is because it is often cost-prohibitive as 40% of Africans live below the poverty line, and the resulting lack of technological accessibility has created further systemic and structural barriers in addressing the underlying issues.[55] Finally, governments have been recommended to create policies that promote competition as this has been shown to reduce costs and develop awareness and education to boost cell phone and technology usage.[56]

[46] Armstrong, Martin. 2022. "Education: Girls Are Catching up with Boys in Sub-Saharan Africa." World Economic Forum. July 11, 2022. https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/07/education-africa-girls-boys-gender-school.
[47]~[52] Ibid.
[53] Leggelo-Padilla, Daniella van, and Svetlana Markova. 2023. "Accelerating the Use of Digital Technologies Is Key to Creating Productive Jobs and Boosting Economic Growth in Africa." World Bank. March 13, 2023. https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2023/03/13/accelerating-the-use-of-digital-technologies-is-key-to-creating-productive-jobs-and-boosting-economic-growth-in-africa.
[54]~[56] Ibid.

Case Study 2: Three Ways Tech and Innovation Can Push Africa to the Next Level of Economic Growth

The first way this can be done is by digitizing languages to improve literacy.[57] With over 2000 languages spoken across Africa, the governmental and systemic promotion of indigenous languages to improve literacy rates and digital literacy can significantly enhance the ability to communicate across the continent and create new channels to do so.[58] In addition to this, more efforts can be made in digitizing the continent and its inclusion in important digital use cases, such as the introduction of real-time search trends in African countries to improve search engine algorithms.[59]

The second way is through funding research and development in educational institutions.[60] Despite countries pledging money to their national R&D, only a few have been able to successfully meet their targets, which left a multitude of other countries in Africa struggling to bridge the gap in the R&D required for higher education.[61] This is why the future prioritization of R&D investments that focus on producing and commercializing scientific knowledge is essential.[62]

The third method of innovation is embedding it into the culture.[63] African cultures have a large capacity to innovate.[64] However, much of that is passed on through informal mechanisms of generation-to-generation indigenous knowledge, while formal mechanisms fail.[65] As such, democratizing and diffusing a culture of innovation is required to spread technological solutions across communities, regions, countries, and throughout the continent.[66]

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[57] Kofi Adotey, Sampson, and Serdia Holcombe. 2022. "3 Ways Technology Can Boost Economic Growth in Africa." World Economic Forum. February 15, 2022. https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2022/02/3-ways-tech-and-innovation-can-push-africa-to-the-next-level-of-economic-growth/.
[58] Ibid.
[59] Ibid.
[60] Ibid.
[61] Ibid.
[62] Ibid.
[63] Ibid.
[64] Ibid.
[65] Ibid.
[66] Ibid.

Subtopic 1: Health Crisis

As a whole, Africa has the highest burden of infectious diseases, of the estimated global infectious disease death toll of 10 million people, most occur in Africa.[67] Despite these tragic statistics, advances in technology can boost African countries' capacities to combat infectious diseases, such as the success of using AI in combating the COVID-19 pandemic.[68]

Previous African Union Action —

Currently, the African Union has the STC of Health, Population and Drug Control, on which sits the respective Ministers of Health from each country.[69] As per Agenda 2063 and its 10-year plan, some potential solutions to the health crisis in Africa include implementing a School Feeding Programme to improve public education facilities and struggles surrounding poverty. Also, the African Union's "Africa Centers for Disease Control in Prevention Regional Investment Financing Project" is another continual effort in the fight against the continental health crisis. [70] In 2019, the African Union, in collaboration with Ethiopia and Zambia, applied to the World Bank to fund the African CDC. African CDC is a new organization but plans to deliver Universal Healthcare Coverage,[71] a "Regional Integrated Surveillance and Laboratory Network,"[72] and a unit that addresses endemic diseases like HIV and malaria.[73]

Furthermore, PPP (public-private partnerships) are another way to build health-related infrastructure: hospitals and sanitation. The World Bank has PPP facilitation agencies in most countries in Africa.[74] For example, there are two hospitals in Mexico with PP, which saved one-third of operations costs and attracted private investments of $120 million – a "pay for performance" funding mechanism that transferred delivery of health services to private entities by way of delivering 3,000 surgeries which allowed for greater transparency and confidence in its healthcare system.[75] Similarly, Egypt has a PPP-style private company that constructed and operated wastewater services.[76]

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[67] Otaigbe, Idemudia. 2022. "Scaling up Artificial Intelligence to Curb Infectious Diseases in Africa." Frontiers in Digital Health 4. https://doi.org/10.3389/fdgth.2022.1030427.

[68] Ibid.

[69] African Union. 2019h. "Specialised Technical Committees | African Union." Au.int. 2019. https://au.int/en/stc.

[70] The World Bank. 2019. "Africa CDC Regional Investment Financing Project (P167916)." The World Bank. November 11, 2019. https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/550521576292519493/pdf/Africa-Union-Ethiopia-and-Zambia-Africa-Centres-for-Disease-Control-and-Prevention-Regional-Investment-Financing-Project.pdf.

[71] African Union. 2021b. "Unit of Universal Healthcare Coverage." Africa CDC. 2021. https://africacdc.org/programme/division-of-disease-control-and-prevention/unit-of-universal-healthcare-coverage.

[72] African Union. 2020b. "Regional Integrated Surveillance and Laboratory Network (RISLNET)." Africa CDC. 2020. https://africacdc.org/rislnet/.

[73] African Union. 2021a. "Unit of Endemic Diseases and Neglected Tropical Diseases." Africa CDC. 2021. https://africacdc.org/programme/division-of-disease-control-and-prevention/unit-of-endemic-diseases-and-neglected-tropical-diseases/.

[74] The World Bank. 2022. "PPP Units around the World | Public Private Partnership." Worldbank.org. August 10, 2022. https://ppp.worldbank.org/public-private-partnership/overview/international-ppp-units.

[75] International Finance Corporation. 2011. "Public-Private Partnership Stories Mexico: Toluca and Tlalnepantla Hospitals." Worldbank.org. 2021. https://ppp.worldbank.org/public-private-partnership/sites/ppp.worldbank.org/files/2022-06/SuccessStories_MexicoHospitals.pdf.

[76] The World Bank. 2012. "PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS -FEBRUARY 2010." https://ppp.worldbank.org/public-private-partnership/overview/international-ppp-units.

Additional data is evidently crucial when it comes to facilitating the Ministry of Health in African countries alongside tracking health policy outcomes, as when implementing new systems to combat the health crisis, keeping track of progress is vital in the measurement of efficacy and uptake of these systems.[77] Likewise, the use of digital technology in health responses has been seen to be useful in South Africa, where cellphones can be used to get maternal health support; in Ghana, where they're used for fake drug detection; and in Kenya, for their digital health-financing program.[78]

Case Study 1: 2022 Ebola Outbreak in Uganda

In the 2022 Ebola outbreak in Uganda, a key concept the government found helpful in the fight against the outbreak was pre-planning.[79] The Uganda Ministry of Health collaborated with CEPI (Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, Gavi (Vaccome Alliance) and the WHO (World Health Organization to develop an "Incident Management System" – a plan that accelerated research during an outbreak. Alongside the pre-planned outbreak research was vaccine delivery.[80] This allowed 1200 doses of Ebola vaccines to be delivered to Uganda 79 days after the outbreak was declared, which created a global record in response time.[81] Uganda's Makerere University also led a vaccine development trial in collaboration with Uganda's Ministry of Health and the WHO, which further aided their response.[82]

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[77] Kadengye, Damazo T. 2019. "Why Fixing Africa's Data Gaps Will Lead to Better Health Policies." The Conversation. February 26, 2019. https://theconversation.com/why-fixing-africas-data-gaps-will-lead-to-better-health-policies-111869.
[78] Holst, Christine, Felix Sukums, Danica Radovanovic, Bernard Ngowi, Josef Noll, and Andrea Sylvia Winkler. 2020. "Sub-Saharan Africa—the New Breeding Ground for Global Digital Health." The Lancet Digital Health 2 (4): e160–62. https://doi.org/10.1016/s2589-7500(20)30027-3.
[79] CEPI-Gavi-WHO. 2022. "Global Health Agencies Outline Plan to Support Ugandan Government-Led Response to Outbreak of Ebola Virus Disease." Who.int. November 3, 2022. https://www.who.int/news/item/03-11-2022-global-health-agencies-outline-plan-to-support-ugandan-government-led-response-to-outbreak-of-ebola-virus-disease.
[80] Brazzaville, Kampala. 2022. "Ebola Trial Candidate Vaccines Arrive in Uganda in Record 79 Days after Outbreak Declared." Who.int. December 9, 2022. https://www.who.int/news/item/09-12-2022-ebola-trial-candidate-vaccines-arrive-in-uganda-in-record-79-days-after-outbreak-declared.
[81] Ibid.
[82] Ibid.

Case Study 2: Climate-Related Disease Outbreaks Suge in Greater Horn of Africa

According to the United Nations, 47 million people in the Greater Horn of Africa face acute hunger, while many are currently dealing with the worst drought in 40 years.[83] As per the analysis of the WHO, including seven African countries, it was found that disease outbreaks and climate-related emergencies had reached their highest level this century.[84] On that note, 39 health emergencies were seen this year in the countries of Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda.[85] While adjusting to these numerous health and climate emergencies, it was found that malnourished people are more susceptible to illness, while sick people are more vulnerable to malnutrition.[86] Malnutrition and illness together have substantially worse results.[87] This lack of food also has led to displacement as people have struggled to search for stable food supplies.[88] Additionally, flooding is further exacerbating these challenges as for instance, South Sudan is currently facing flooding for the fourth year in a row, with an estimated 40% of the nation under water.[89]

Case Study 3: Post-COVID-19 Health Crises

Nearly all countries in the continent lacked facilities and trained health workers to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic adequately – but efforts in investing in health care have since ramped up.[90] WHO is working with countries in Africa to produce vaccines and related tools.[91]

Questions to Consider:
- How can African countries coordinate health responses to diseases, pandemics, and epidemics?
- What kinds of mechanisms can be put in place to develop healthcare infrastructure?
- How can digital technologies be utilized within African countries to prevent or manage diseases?

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[83] Schlein, Lisa. 2022. "Climate-Related Disease Outbreaks Surge in Greater Horn of Africa." VOA. November 3, 2022. https://www.voanews.com/a/climate-related-disease-outbreaks-surge-in-greater-horn-of-africa/6818817.html.
[84] Ibid.
[85] Ibid.
[86] Ibid.
[87] Ibid.
[88] Ibid.
[89] Ibid.
[90] Asadu, Chinedu. 2022. "As COVID-19 Becomes Routine, Africa Readies for next Crisis." AP News. December 8, 2022. https://apnews.com/article/health-africa-pandemics-covid-world-organization-2cee0756b7d6cb7e3bbf95c39c4ca580.
[91] Ibid.

Subtopic 2: Combatting the Effects of Climate Change in Africa

Combatting the effects of Climate Change in Africa is an 'all hands on deck' activity. No matter how we divide our society into specific industrial and economic sectors, every part of society is impacted by the effects of Climate Change (heatwaves, floods, drought) and the mitigation of Climate Change (implementing green technologies). Africa only emits 2-3% of global GHGs but suffers climate change effects disproportionately.[92] 250 million people in Africa are affected by high water stress with 700 million expected to be displaced by 2030 as only 20% of African countries will have a sustainable water resource by 2030.[93] The African coastlines are experiencing a quicker rate of sea level rise than the world average, and only 40% of the African population have access to early warnings of extreme weather events.[94] Despite these effects of climate change, African innovation and ingenuity can lead the way in both mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Previous African Union Action —

Currently, no committees are focused directly on combatting the effects of climate change in Africa, but there is broad coverage on the topic under Agenda 2063.[95] So, as per the 10-year-long Agenda 2063 plan, there are some projects to help address this, like the Grand Inga Dam Project, which focuses on procuring renewable energy through hydroelectric energy and the African Passport and Free Movement of People, which allows migration of Africans throughout the continent, for climate-related reasons.[96]

Moreover, the "African Union's Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan" is also helpful in this regard as it's a 10-year plan spanning from 2022-2032 that focuses on the development, review and update of climate change policies and implementing them with plans like for example, ensuring that the African Union is aligned with the Paris Agreement.[97] This encompasses a "whole-of-economy" approach to climate change and monitoring, reviewing and reporting greenhouse gas emissions.[98] In the future, the hope is that this will strengthen institutional structures for policy improvement and the coordination & collaboration between countries to ensure all countries have appropriate ministries.[99] This action plan also called for legislation for climate change mitigation/adaptation initiatives while enhancing climate and weather measuring tools and climate change literacy by including it in the revised educational curricula.[100]

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[92] United Nations. 2022. "WMO: Climate Change in Africa Can Destabilize 'Countries and Entire Regions.'" UN News. September 8, 2022. https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1126221.

[93] Ibid.

[94] Ibid.

[95] African Union. 2023d. "Key Transformational Outcomes of Agenda 2063 | African Union." Accessed September 21, 2023. https://au.int/en/agenda2063/outcomes.

[96] African Union. 2019g. "Flagship Projects of Agenda 2063 | African Union." Au.int. 2019. https://au.int/en/agenda2063/flagship-projects.

[97] African Union. 2023a. "AFRICAN UNION CLIMATE CHANGE and RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY and ACTION PLAN." https://au.int/sites/default/files/documents/41959-doc-CC_Strategy_and_Action_Plan_2022-2032_08_02_23_Single_Print_Ready.pdf.

[98] Ibid.

[99] Ibid.

[100] Ibid.

The United Nations Development Programme has also profiled 50 African climate change mitigation technology innovators in sectors of food security, agriculture, energy generation, e-mobility, and improved livelihood.[101] One such policy in climate change mitigation implemented by Uganda mandates government purchasing to be "green" for goods, services and infrastructure.[102] Also, Ghana[103] and Uganda[104] had a "National Policy Dialogue" about a green economy in 2020, where they gathered all the ministers in their government and other relevant stakeholders to discuss a carbon-emission-free economy.[105]

Case Study 1: Severe Increases in Africa's Temperatures

Heatwaves in Africa are frequently underreported due to the misconception of African countries and their people being able to withstand them.[106] Burkina Faso and Mali are part of global regions that will be uninhabitable by 2080 if GHGs continue on their current trajectory.[107] 43,000 people died in 2022 in Somalia due to record-breaking drought.[108] Unfortunately, the UN has fallen short on a commitment of $100 billion to help developing countries reduce emissions and adapt to climate change.[109]

Case Study 2: Global Repercussions of Climate Change in Africa

In order to increase their ambition and commitment to climate adaptation and mitigation, 40 African States have amended their national climate plans.[110] Despite producing only two to three percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, Africa bears the brunt of it disproportionately.[111] As such, there's an underscored need for investments and adaptations for integrated water resource management, among other things.[112]

[101] African Union, ed. 2019a. "AFRICA INNOVATES CLIMATE CHAMPIONS AFRICAN INFLUENCERS for DEVELOPMENT." Undp.org. 2023. https://www.undp.org/sites/g/files/zskgke326/files/2022-11/Africa%20Innovates%20magazine%20-%20lower%20res.pdf.

[102] Switch Africa Green. 2019. "Sustainable Public Procurement in Uganda | SWITCH Africa Green." Unep.org. July 2019. https://www.unep.org/switchafricagreen/events/policy-activity/sustainable-public-procurement-uganda.

[103] Switch Africa Green. 2020. "National Policy Dialogue on Enhancing Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns for Green Economy Recovery and Job Creation | SWITCH Africa Green." Unep.org. November 19, 2020. https://www.unep.org/switchafricagreen/events/policy-activity/national-policy-dialogue-enhancing-sustainable-consumption-and-production.

[104] Ibid.

[105] Ibid.

[106] Ibukun, Yinka. 2023. "'Hot Continent' Perception Downplays Africa's Heat Wave Dangers." Bloomberg.com, July 10, 2023. https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-07-10/-hot-continent-perception-downplays-africa-s-heat-wave-dangers.

[107] Ibid.

[108] Ibid.

[109] Ibid.

[110] United Nations. 2022. "WMO: Climate Change in Africa Can Destabilize 'Countries and Entire Regions.'" UN News. September 8, 2022. https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1126221.

[111] Ibid.

[112] Ibid.

Case Study 3: African Entrepreneurs Lead the Way in Climate Change Adaptation

A response to climate change adaptation is the Bio-latrine technology from Uganda.[113] Common challenges in rural African communities are soil degradation, inadequate sanitation and lack of "green" energy.[114] It's a biogas digester that turns human waste into high-quality fertilizer and is connected to an environmentally efficient toilet that has been situated in communal areas for whole villages to access.[115] Another adaption is the smart water management solution from Niger.[116] This technology enables farmers to irrigate crops with a solar or wind-powered pump controlled by their cell phones.[117]

Case Study 4: African Tech Start-Ups Rise Up to Combat Climate Change

African tech start-ups are helping to address the energy needs of rural populations where electricity is often unreliable or unavailable.[118] Although these are helpful, there is still a need for consistent investment in sustainable technologies in Africa.[119] African governments, businesses, and communities need to work together in implementing technologies that mitigate carbon emissions.[120] These technologies include:

- **M-Kopa Solar:** A Kenyan start-up that provides affordable and clean energy to people living off-grid.[121]
- **Solar Freeze:** A Kenyan company that provides off-grid solar-powered refrigeration to smallholder farmers in Africa.[122]
- **SunCulture:** A Kenyan company that produces solar-powered irrigation systems for smallholder farmers and developed a financing model that allows farmers to pay for the systems over time.[123]
- **Ecoligo:** A company that provides solar energy solutions to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in emerging markets.[124]

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[113] Astruc, Maëli. 2016. "African Entrepreneurs Lead the Way in Climate Change Adaptation." Wipo.int. December 2016. https://www.wipo.int/wipo_magazine/en/2016/06/article_0003.html.

[114] Ibid.

[115] Ibid.

[116] Ibid.

[117] Ibid.

[118] fsdafrica. 2023. "African Tech Start-Ups Rise up to Combat Climate Change." FSD Africa. February 20, 2023. https://fsdafrica.org/news/african-tech-start-ups-rise-up-to-combat-climate-change/.

[119] Ibid.

[120] Ibid.

[121] Ibid.

[122] Ibid.

[123] Ibid.

[124] Ibid.

Questions to Consider:

- How should countries mandate or encourage the reduction of greenhouse gases and a green/clean economy?
- How can the African Union track its contribution to climate change and measure whether efforts make a difference in reducing the continent's carbon emissions?
- How do citizens learn about climate change, and how they can help mitigate its effects?
- How should countries prepare for increased amounts of extreme weather events like drought, wildfires, and floods?
- What measures can countries implement to address ensuing food shortages?
- How should the continent provide clean and GHG-emission-free energy sources?

Subtopic 3: Access to Education

A growing population in Africa (i.e. lots of young people) makes for the perfect opportunity to educate and invest in human capital.[125] Poor learning outcomes continue to be challenging as in Sub-Saharan Africa almost 87% of children at the age of 10 are unable to read or understand simple text.[126] For most African nations, less than 20% of the national budgets are dedicated to education.[127] The digital age creates an opportunity for African countries to expand on literacy within their populations.

Past African Union Action —

There is currently a committee in the African Union, the STC of Education, Science and Technology, including Ministers of Education, focusing their efforts on Access to Education.[128] As per Agenda 2063, there are plans to create an African Virtual And E-University & Pan-African E-Network, Continental Education Strategy, International Centre for Girls and Women Education in Africa, Nyerere Scholarship and Academic Mobility Programme, Harmonization of Higher Education Programmes.[129]

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[125] Jenkins, Robert. 2019. "A Report by UNICEF and the African Union Commission a Report by UNICEF and the African Union Commission TRANSFORMING EDUCATION in AFRICA an Evidence-Based Overview and Recommendations for Long-Term Improvements EXECUTIVE SUMMARY." https://www.unicef.org/media/106691/file/Transforming%20Education%20in%20Africa.pdf.
[126] Ibid.
[127] Ibid.
[128] African Union. 2019h. "Specialised Technical Committees | African Union." Au.int. 2019. https://au.int/en/stc.
[129] Ibid.

Case Study 1: Lack of Access to Education in Sub-Saharan Africa

In Sub-Saharan Africa, 98 million children 6-18 are not in school, the highest global rate.[130] 90% of the nations have established national standards to gauge progress toward excellent education by 2030 with UNESCO's aid.[131]

Case Study 2: Potential of Online Education

Sub-Saharan Africa has the lowest global participation rate in higher education: 9.4% enrolled compared to the global average of 38%.[132] "Massive Open Online Course" could be an avenue for Africans to enroll in education without as many barriers.[133] This is a program offered in other universities around the world which have just recently been introduced to Africa.[134]

Case Study 3: Unaffordability of Education

School fees are a barrier to education for low-income families in African countries.[135] It has been reported that in Sub-Saharan Africa, 54% of adults are highly concerned about paying for school expenses.[136] In response, digital finance services are a way to help families pay school fees.[137] They digitalize school fee payments to facilitate incremental playmates and promote formal savings and credit.[138]

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[130] African Union. 2019h. "Specialised Technical Committees | African Union." Au.int. 2019. https://au.int/en/stc.

[131] Ibid.

[132] Paul, Madhumita. 2022. "Lack of Access to Education Keeps 98 Million Children in Sub-Saharan Africa out of Schools." Downtoearth.org.in. September 5, 2022. https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/africa/lack-of-access-to-education-keeps-98-million-children-in-sub-saharan-africa-out-of-schools-84716.

[133] Ibid.

[134] Modise, Mpho-Entle Puleng. 2023. "Free Online Courses Could Be a Path to Higher Education in African Countries but Awareness Is Low." The Conversation. January 25, 2023. https://theconversation.com/free-online-courses-could-be-a-path-to-higher-education-in-african-countries-but-awareness-is-low-195826.

[135] Ibid.

[136] Ibid.

[137] Klapper, Leora, and Mansi Vipin Panchamia. 2023. "The High Price of Education in Sub-Saharan Africa." Blogs.worldbank.org. March 13, 2023. https://blogs.worldbank.org/developmenttalk/high-price-education-sub-saharan-africa.

[138] Ibid.

Questions to Consider:

- How can digital technologies and the internet be used to provide barrier-free access to people in Africa?
- How can countries in Africa coordinate to provide educational opportunities?
- What barriers can be removed to entry into higher education in African countries?

Subtopic 4: Agribusiness

Agriculture is the largest part of the economy in the African continent, it makes up 35% of the collective GDP and employs more than 50% of the population.[139] Despite the presence of agriculture in Africa's GDP some consider agriculture an untapped market as the sector is comparatively un-industrialized.[140] Agriculture in Africa is predominantly small farms that produce for their own consumption, with low levels of labour and land productivity.[141] There are many technologies that can assist African farmers expand their farms and tap into more industrialized agriculture while still preserving sustainable development goals.

Previous African Union Action —

The African Union has a committee, the STC of Agriculture, Rural Development, Water and Environment, which includes Ministers of Agriculture focusing on agriculture-related business.[142] Delegates may use the contact STC mechanic for more information on this committee's initiatives.

As per the Agenda 2062, to foster more agricultural growth, there is a planned free trade agreement and economic forum, as well as a plan to create continental financial institutions and a Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP).[143] This program requires states to allocate 10% of their budget to agricultural development. The African Development Bank Group has also developed strategies for transforming agriculture with many guiding principles, which include:[144]

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[139] Nachum, Lilac . 2023. "Africa's Agribusiness Sector Should Drive the Continent's Economic Development: Five Reasons Why." The Conversation, February 17, 2023. https://theconversation.com/africas-agribusiness-sector-should-drive-the-continents-economic-development-five-reasons-why-198796.

[140] Ibid.

[141] Ibid.

[142] African Union. 2019h. "Specialised Technical Committees | African Union." Au.int. 2019. https://au.int/en/stc.

[143] African Union. 2023c. "The Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme | African Union." Au.int. 2023. https://au.int/en/articles/comprehensive-african-agricultural-development-programme.

[144] African Development Bank Group. 2016. "Feed Africa Strategy for Agricultural Transformation in Africa 2016-2025." Afdb.org. 2016. https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Policy-Documents/Feed_Africa-Strategy-En.pdf.

- Country ownership: Ensure all nations/regions are onboard, and it aligns with their own plan.[145]
- Leveraging the private sector: Setting up the proper institutional and legal environment for private sector development.[146]
- Results & value add focus: Make sure solutions are measurable & work appropriately for the specific area.[147]
- Inclusivity and sustainability: solutions that are gender inclusive & ecologically considerate.[148]
- Partnerships among a variety of stakeholders, e.g. communities, private businesses.[149]
- Scalability of projects: e.g. taking a pilot and rolling it out in mass.[150]
- Shift away from agriculture as a "way of life" and towards a business orientation.[151]

Similarly, the Alliance for a Green Revolution on Africa (AGRA) has performed political economy analysis on 13 countries to date to advise agricultural policy needs.[152] They have gathered political economy context through maps, prioritizing issues, stakeholders' messaging, and influencing strategies.[153] From this, they have identified the following food trade policy issues for various African countries:[154]

- State intervention in markets, such as price controls.[155]
- Ad Hoc export and import bans.[156]
- Limited market information.[157]
- Opaque strategic grain reserve operations.[158]
- Arbitrary taxation on imports and exports.[159]
- High prevalence of informal trade.[160]
- Limited enforcement of SPS and quality standards (e.g. aflatoxin).[161]
- Lack of transparency in the issuance of export permits.[162]
- Limited structured markets - no functional commodity exchange.[163]
- High levels of corruption and/or insecurity.[164]
- Uneven implementation of regional integration regime.[165]
- High cost of formalization of business or trade.[166]
- Coordination gaps in multiple levels.[167]
- Physical gaps in infrastructure.[168]
- Limited access to financing.[169]

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[145]~[151] Ibid.
[152] AGRA. 2015. "AGRA'S POLICY WORK in ADVANCING REGIONAL FOOD TRADE 1."
[153]~[169] Ibid.

Case Study 1: How Regenerative Agriculture can Increase Africa's Food Production

At the UNFCCC Africa Climate Week, there were numerous prototypes for agriculture and food system technologies to help the growing agricultural sector in Africa.[170] The first is soil systems that don't require tilling and some with low tilling requirements for water harvesting and irrigation.[171] The second are cropping systems that allow crop rotation, intercropping, drought and heat-resistant crops. Integrated systems and mechanisms can allow pest control and "Agroforestry".[172] For example, in Kenya, pheromone traps have been used to combat fruit flies on mango crops.[173] In addition to these technologies, there have been plans for tax incentives and subsidies for the agricultural sector by way of increasing adoption & public spending of high-yielding, resilient, and adaptive practices (HYRAP) and facilitating cross-border and intercontinental trade of agricultural inputs and raw materials.[174] This will unlock access to capital, priority sector lending, and blended finance and drive a shift in consumer demand, ultimately growing the African economy.[175]

Case Study 2: Role of Agriculture in the Economic Success of Africa

There are five main reasons why agribusiness can lead to Africa's economic development:[176]

1. Africa has a large landmass that is 50% arable.[177]
2. Currently, Africa exports raw materials and has the highest rate per GDP of imported goods for consumption – developing the agriculture sector could develop agriculture-dependent manufacturing activities.[178]
   a. For example: Ghana exports cocoa but imports chocolates, and Kenya exports raw tea but imports packaged tea, therefore Ghana has the opportunity to develop its chocolate making industry and Kenya could develop tea packaging.[179]
3. Africa has many local markets for food consumption while simultaneously being dependent on imported foods.[180]

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[170] Owen-Burge, Charlotte. 2022. "How Regenerative Agriculture Can Increase Africa's Food Production." Climate Champions. August 29, 2022. https://climatechampions.unfccc.int/call-to-action-for-climate-resilient-sustainable-food-systems-in-africa/.
[171]~[180] Ibid.

4. Agriculture can develop the economy in a way that bypasses traditional manufacturing industrialization.[181] Due to poor infrastructure, African countries have been unable to industrialize to develop economically; agriculture is a path for economic growth that doesn't require industrialization.[182]

5. Africa is particularly impacted by climate change, developing a robust agriculture sector will ease food shortages and other climate change-caused events to provide a more robust food market.[183]

Case Study 3: Overcoming The Barriers to Technology on African Farms

The fourth industrial revolution, technology, known as the internet, is a critical tool that can help African farmers.[184] It aids in accessibility to information and knowledge for farmers regarding weather, access to markets and equipment rentals/repairs.[185] There's also increased access to information regarding soil composition, crop growth progress, weather effects and the presence of disease by way of the Internet of Things technology.[186] Unfortunately, there are challenges to tech adoption as the need for more access and high costs can make them out of reach for farmers.[187] The overall limited infrastructure in farming areas, such as lack of irrigation, poor roads and telecommunications and low public investment in agriculture R&D.[188] In response to this, governments can fund R&D, invest in transport and energy and utilize innovation and entrepreneurship combined with NGO, private sector-led tailored programs to help farmers access valuable markets and supply chains.[189]

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[181] Ibid.
[182] Ibid.
[183] Ibid.
[184] Nachum, Lilac. 2023. "Africa's Agribusiness Sector Should Drive the Continent's Economic Development: Five Reasons Why." The Conversation, February 17, 2023. https://theconversation.com/africas-agribusiness-sector-should-drive-the-continents-economic-development-five-reasons-why-198796.
[185] Ibid.
[186] Ibid.
[187] Ibid.
[188] Ibid.
[189] Ibid.

Case Study 4: Farming Communities Embrace Climate-smart Agriculture Solutions to Maximize Yields in Kenya

One of the winners of the 2021 African Youth Adaptation (YouthADAPT) Solutions Challenge: Irri-Hub Ke Ltd offers a "range of smart agricultural solutions to farmers" (e.g. irrigation technology and solar pumps).[190] This solution engages locals during installation so they understand how it works.[191] Ongoing communication between companies and farmers helps ensure proper knowledge and understanding. This has assisted over 20,000 farming households and impacted 200,000 people.[193]

Questions to Consider:

- How can agriculture shift from small producers to large-scale or business-oriented production?
- How can the agricultural sector implement technologies that work with the local ecology & don't degrade it?
- How can countries develop intercontinental trade for food and related goods?
- How can Africa rely less on imported foods?

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[190] Fox, Louise, and Landry Signé. 2022. "Overcoming the Barriers to Technology Adoption on African Farms." Brookings. July 28, 2022. https://www.brookings.edu/articles/overcoming-the-barriers-to-technology-adoption-on-african-farms/.
[191] Ibid.
[192] Ibid.

Topic 2: Promoting Growth and Development of Tourism in Africa

Alongside technology, tourism has also emerged as a vital component of Africa's economy. With tourism returning to pre-pandemic levels, the African Union stands to benefit greatly from development geared at incentivizing tourism;[194] thus, tasking the AU's member states with turning tourism into a game-changing booster for the African economy. On balance, in this iteration of the African Union, your goal as member states is to collaborate in wielding technology and tourism to promote socio-economic prosperity across Africa.

Previous African Union Action —
Presently the African Union Assembly delegates the task of tourism to the STC of Transport, Infrastructure, Intercontinental and Interregional Infrastructure, Energy and Tourism.[195] Sitting on the STC would be the ministers of Transport, Infrastructure, Energy and/or Tourism from respective countries.[196]

In the African Union's Agenda 2063 10 year plan relevant projects include the Intracontinental Rail line, visa-free movement between African countries, enhanced air travel through "Single African Air-Transport Market", and the development of a Great African Museum that will promote African culture from the source.[197]

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[194] Lille, Patricia de. 2023. "Patricia de Lille | Despite Challenges, the Future of Africa's Tourism Industry Looks Promising." News24. May 10, 2023. Accessed September 1, 2023. https://www.news24.com/news24/opinions/columnists/guestcolumn/patricia-de-lille-despite-challenges-the-future-of-africas-tourism-industry-looks-promising-20230510.

[195] African Union. 2019h. "Specialised Technical Committees | African Union." Au.int. 2019. https://au.int/en/stc.

[196] Ibid.

[197] African Union. 2019g. "Flagship Projects of Agenda 2063 | African Union." Au.int. 2019. https://au.int/en/agenda2063/flagship-projects.

The World Tourism Organization's Regional Commission for Africa (CAF) has identified 5 key areas for African countries to prioritize within tourism:[198]

1. Unlocking growth thorough investment and through effective public-private partnerships;
2. Promoting innovation and technology;
3. Visa facilitation and enhanced connectivity;
4. Advocating for Brand Africa;
5. And fostering greater resilience, including through enhanced safety and security for tourists.

The UN World Tourism Organization recommendations for policymakers to achieve UN Sustainable Development Goals in relation to tourism are as follows:[199]

- Partnering w/ civil society to provide skills (eg tour guides, craft making, cuisine development)[200]
- Creating programs for students to access tourism employment (eg internships, work-study programs, training programs)[201]
- Prohibiting chemicals & materials that damage water quality (eg ban single use plastics, harmful sunscreens)[202]
  - For example: Thailand banning coral-damaging sunscreen[203]
- Creating public-private dialogues for conflict prevention and peacekeeping[204]
  - For example: Mexico's 'safe beach' gov't operation[205]
- Encouraging post-consumer material manufacturing, recycling, and upcycling[206]

The Kenya Tourism Policy can also be seen as a model of tourism policy in Africa.[207] The policy identifies tourism as a key economic driver of Kenya worth approximately 9% of Kenya's GDP and focuses on developing regional and domestic tourism.[208] Kenya waives visa entry fees for international tourists; focuses on developing eco and community based tourism; and has goals to develop infrastructure such as roads, airports, railways, ports, cell-service, water, and electricity.[209]

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[198] UNWTO. 2023a. "African Destinations Meet to Plan Growth and Sustainable Future for Tourism | UNWTO." Unwto.org. 2023. https://www.unwto.org/news/african-destinations-meet-to-plan-growth-and-sustainable-future-for-tourism.

[199] UNWTO. 2023b. "Public Bodies – Tourism for SDGs." Tourism4sdgs.org. 2023. https://tourism4sdgs.org/act/public-bodies/.

[200] Ibid.

[201] Ibid.

[202] Ibid.

[203] BBC News. 2021. "Thailand Bans Coral-Damaging Sunscreens in Marine Parks - BBC News." Bbc.com. August 4, 2021. https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-58092472.

[204] UNWTO. 2023b. "Public Bodies – Tourism for SDGs." Tourism4sdgs.org. 2023. https://tourism4sdgs.org/act/public-bodies/.

[205] Langel, Mika. 2022. "Government Launches 'Safe Beach' Operation To Protect Tourists Over Summer." Cancun Sun (blog). July 23, 2022. https://thecancunsun.com/government-launches-safe-beach-operation-to-protect-tourists-over-summer/.

[206] UNWTO. 2023b. "Public Bodies – Tourism for SDGs." Tourism4sdgs.org. 2023. https://tourism4sdgs.org/act/public-bodies/.

[207] Republic of Kenya. Revised National Tourism Policy, 2020. State Department for Tourism. Kenya: Republic of Kenya, 2020. PDF, https://www.tourism.go.ke/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/28th-August-National-Tourism-Policy-Review.pdf (accessed September 1, 2023)

[208] Ibid.

[209] Ibid.

Subtopic 1: Infrastructure and Sustainability

To promote tourism, there needs to be the infrastructure to facilitate travel and accommodations. It is of utmost importance to ensure this infrastructure is developed in a sustainable way that protects local ecology and treads lightly on natural resources. Sustainability should work in tandem with the protection of local cultures and the local way of life. As the head of an African state, your goal is to think of developing tourism within the context of the infrastructure needs and sustainability.

Case Study 1: The Conference on Rethinking Africa and The Mauritius Declaration

During the Conference on Rethinking Africa, Mauritius and the UNWTO presented on the Mauritius Declaration which is a program proposed to promote sustainable tourism.[210] This program expects to be achieved through multi-sector partnerships, nature-based solutions, decarbonization, and policy coordination.[211] The program measures will include a Pan-African fund, integrating internal and regional tourism, and partnerships between public, private and community actors.[212]

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[210] UNWTO. 2023c. "Tourism Leaders Place African Focus on Global Challenges." Unwto.org. 2023. https://www.unwto.org/news/tourism-leaders-place-african-focus-on-global-challenges.
[211] Ibid.
[212] Ibid.

Case Study 2: Morocco and Spain Discuss a Circular Economy and Tourism

In 2023, Tangier College in Morocco is partnering with the International University of Andalusia in Spain to organize a scientific meeting on the circular economy and tourism.[213] The goal of the meeting is to gather tourism stakeholders together to learn about how the circular economy can be enabled within the context of tourism.[214] The meeting will highlight "renewable tourism" that preserves the environment while sustainably developing tourism as a pillar of both country's economies, for example innovative tourism products, positioning sustainable tourism in international markets, and awareness-raising within tourism industries.[215]

Questions to Consider:

- With tourism comes the responsibility of infrastructure, how do people get to the places they want to visit? Do they drive, fly, take a bus or train? Do they stay in a hotel or camp in the wilderness?
- How should countries deal with the waste that comes with visitors in places that haven't had to deal with human waste before? Does there need to be a sewage plant built? Where should the garbage, recycling, and food waste go?
- Is there a way to achieve tourist activities in a sustainable manner that protects Africa's ecology?

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[213] North African Post. 2023. "Morocco, Spain Discuss Circular Economy, Tourism – The North Africa Post." Northafricapost.com. July 3, 2023. https://northafricapost.com/69156-morocco-spain-discuss-circular-economy-tourism.html.
[214] Ibid.
[215] Ibid.

Subtopic 2: Movement of People

With tourism comes visa requirements and passports, African leaders have an opportunity to create an efficient system of moving people that come from both abroad and domestically.

Case Study 1: Thriving Demand for African Tourism: Indaba Travel Conference in South Africa

Tourism has bounced back from COVID-19 pandemic to near/same level as pre-pandemic.[216] The African travel conference, Indaba, had high attendance with over 6,000 delegates including 1,000 international buyers and 1,000 exhibitors spanning over 21 African countries including 10 tourism boards.[217] For South Africa alone in 2022 there were 5.8 million visitors with 4 million of those arriving from African countries – 158% increase from 2021.[218] South Africa waves visas from several African countries and has rolled out an e-visa system for select African countries of origin.[219]

[216] AriseNews. 2023. "Indaba 2023: African Tourism Bounces Back After Covid-19." Arise News. May 11, 2023.
https://www.arise.tv/indaba-2023-african-tourism-bounces-back-after-covid-19.
[217] Ibid.
[218] Ibid.
[219] Ibid.

Case Study 2: Despite Challenges, the Future of Africa's Tourism Industry Looks Promising

Pre-pandemic tourism consisted of approximately 9% of South Africa's GDP, and was crucial in generating foreign currency by contributing R120 billion of revenue.[220] Within the wider continent, tourism supports over 24 million jobs and accounts for 8.5% of the continent's GDP.[221] Africa's GDP allocated to travel and tourism is expected to grow an average of 6.8% from 2022 to 2032, twice the growth rate of the overall economy.[222] This growth demonstrates the capacity for tourism to be a job creator and catalyst for economic growth.[223]

Generally African countries have the challenge of improving the perception of safety and security within tourism.[224] Additionally, countries that will benefit from tourism are not distributed equally across Africa and collaboration within the continent is needed.[225] South Africa specifically calls for African collaboration to promote and realize the full potential of tourism in the continent.[226]

Case Study 3: World Travel Market Africa in Cape Town, South Africa

During the World Travel Market Africa in 2023 there was a 35% increase in event exhibitors compared to 2022, with a majority of event exhibitors from African countries.[227] Of note, Seychelles promotes tourism within the country that promotes cultural activities and Zimbabwe's goal is to have a $5 billion USD tourism sector by 2025.[228]

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[220] Lille, Patricia de. 2023. "Patricia de Lille | Despite Challenges, the Future of Africa's Tourism Industry Looks Promising." News24. May 10, 2023. Accessed September 1, 2023. https://www.news24.com/news24/opinions/columnists/guestcolumn/patricia-de-lille-despite-challenges-the-future-of-africas-tourism-industry-looks-promising-20230510.
[221] Ibid.
[222] Ibid.
[223] Ibid.
[224] Ibid.
[225] Ibid.
[226] Ibid.
[227] TVP World. 2023. "Africa Tourism Sector enthusiastic for emerging growth opportunities." Tvpworld.com. April 4, 2023. https://tvpworld.com/68968432/africa-tourism-sector-enthusiastic-for-emerging-growth-opportunities.
[228] Ibid.

Questions to Consider:

- Are tourists coming from abroad or is there more intercontinental tourism? How should tourism be promoted, domestically, within the continent, and abroad?
- How should tourists move from country to country (whether they are a citizen of an African country or a citizen from abroad)? What should the visa process look like?

State of Affairs:

Each delegate represents the Head of State for an African country. The Heads of States will gather as the Assembly of the African Union to discuss policies and initiatives/programmes. Reminder, the two topics at hand are implementing technology throughout the continent and promoting the growth and development of African tourism. The African Union is a cooperative group that aims to have consensus throughout its Heads of States. The African Union is forward focusing and aims to be innovative by sustainably developing African countries throughout the 21st century.

The African Union is a communal place. Heads of States must cooperate with each other and raise each other up in true African spirit. Sharing what a delegate's state government is doing is crucial for countries who might not have policy already developed. Good ideas can help ignite continental initiatives. Each solution will require a different implementation strategy. Solutions can span from macro projects that require state governments to coordinate, such as the existing visa free Agenda 2063 plan, to micro projects that require community partnership, such as distributing green technology to local farmers. No initiative is too big or too small for African Heads of States to consider.

Mechanics:

<u>**Voting Protocol:**</u>

The Assembly of the African Union requires two-thirds majority for decision making. Please refer to the UTMUN Rules of Procedure found on our website for more information on voting protocols: https://www.utmun.org/important-documents

<u>**Contacting STCs:**</u>

African Union STCs and sub-committees are responsible for preparing and submitting projects and programs to the African Union Assembly. The Assembly can restructure any STCs or sub-committees as it sees fit. Delegates can request contact to STCs in two scenarios:

1. After a resolution is passed that requires delegates to enact a project.
2. For further information on activities and projects STCs are doing.

<u>**Contacting Outside Organizations:**</u>

Organizing continental initiatives may require assistance or partnership from the international community. Support from the international community includes (but is not limited to), financial assistance via loans, trade agreements, consultation/advice and training, infrastructure and transportation partnerships, and facilitating implementation. Delegates can request contact to the following outside organizations:

1. **Financial Institutions**
   a. **Bank of China**
   b. **World Bank**
   c. **International Monetary Fund**

2. **Other States**
   a. **People's Republic of China**
   b. **Southern Common Market/MERCOSUR or CELAC (Latin/South America)**
   c. **European Union**
   d. **United States of America**
   e. **India**

3. **Global Organizations**
   a. **World Health Organization**
   b. **World Trade Organization**

4. **Private Institutions**
   a. **Internet/computer tech companies**
   b. **Renewable energy companies**

5. **Community Institutions/Grassroots Organizations**

Tips for Research, Writing Position Papers, and the Conferences:

1. **Read the background guide!**
   a. While we unanimously agree it can be an intimidating document, it is ultimately a resource that helps you and gets you started. The more you relate your work to the background guide, the more on track you will be to making productive working papers and speeches!

2. **Use credible sources when researching and cite your sources!**
   a. We will be checking! Credible sources include scholarly articles, peer-reviewed papers, anecdotal work, UN/AU documents and resolutions, legal frameworks and legislations, etc. Do not feel limited by what you can and cannot research, but ensure that they are trustworthy and accurate! If you're not sure, email us and ask!

3. **Position papers should be no more than two pages.**
   a. Be concise when outlining your country's position.

4. **Adhere to your country's foreign policy in your position paper and in debate.**
   a. You are representing a unique nation with your own sets of values, beliefs, and political ideologies. The more you stay true to your character, the more productive and healthy debate will follow. As such, be careful who you form blocs with - they might disagree and that is okay!

5. **Always keep equity in mind!**
   a. We are dealing with some sensitive topics, so please be mindful of how you approach your country's political stance, even if it is relatively controversial. UTMUN strives to ensure the comfort of all Delegates, and you play a large part in that!

6. **Engagement is key!!**
   a. Model UN is only exciting when you talk, pass notes, form blocs, participate in writing bills, debate, etc. As intriguing as the topics may be, we still rely on you to make the conference lively, don't let us down!

7. **Trust your dais.**
   a. We are experienced and heavily trained Model UN staff. If there is anything we can do, during the conference or otherwise, please let us know! If you are new to Model UN, please reach out to us and let us know how we can improve your UTMUN experience.

8. **Do not hesitate to seek clarification! Please feel free to reach out to <u>au@utmun.org</u> with any questions about these tips, the background guide content, or anything else relating to the conference :)**

Key Resources:

<u>Learn more about the African Union:</u>

- African Union website: https://au.int/
- Past Decisions of the African Union Assembly: https://au.int/en/decisions/assembly
- Ticket to Know, "The African Union Explained": https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6q0gIxg3Mc
- Jesse Karanja TEDx Talk, "Agenda 2063: The Africa we want": https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Q7SFeL5mzw

<u>Learn more about your country:</u>

- CIA, The World Factbook - Africa: https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/

<u>Learn more about key issues:</u>

- Health Crises, World Health Organization: https://www.who.int/
- Climate Change, The World Bank "Climate Stories": https://www.worldbank.org/en/what-we-do/climate-stories-project
- African Union website: https://au.int/
- Past Decisions of the African Union Assembly: https://au.int/en/decisions/assembly
- Ticket to Know, "The African Union Explained": https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i6q0gIxg3Mc
- Jesse Karanja TEDx Talk, "Agenda 2063: The Africa we want": https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Q7SFeL5mzw

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Appendix 1: 55 Member States

Central Africa

Member State	Abbreviation	Date of joining the OAU or AU
Republic of Burundi	Burundi	25 May 1963
Republic of Cameroon	Cameroon	25 May 1963
Central African Republic	Central African Republic	25 May 1963
Republic of Chad	Chad	25 May 1963
Republic of the Congo	Congo Republic	25 May 1963
Democratic Republic of Congo	DR Congo	25 May 1963
Republic of Equatorial Guinea	Equatorial Guinea	12 October 1968
Gabonese Republic	Gabon	25 May 1963
Democratic Republic of São Tomé and Príncipe	São Tomé and Príncipe	18 July 1975

- **Eastern Africa**

Member State	Abbreviation	Date of joining the OAU or AU
Union of the Comoros	Comoros	18 July 1975
Republic of Djibouti	Djibouti	27 June 1977
State of Eritrea	Eritrea	24 May 1993
Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	Ethiopia	25 May 1963
Republic of Kenya	Kenya	25 May 1963
Republic of Madagascar	Madagascar	25 May 1963
Republic of Mauritius	Mauritius	August 1968
Republic of Rwanda	Rwanda	25 May 1963
Republic of Seychelles	Seychelles	29 June 1976
Federal Republic of Somalia	Somalia	25 May 1963
Republic of South Sudan	South Sudan	27 July 2011
Republic of the Sudan	Sudan	25 May 1963
United Republic of Tanzania	Tanzania	25 May 1963
Republic of Uganda	Uganda	25 May 1963

- **Northern Africa**

Member State	Abbreviation	Date of joining the OAU or AU

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People's Democratic Republic of Algeria	Algeria	25 May 1963
Arab Republic of Egypt	Egypt	25 May 1963
Libya	Libya	25 May 1963
Islamic Republic of Mauritania	Mauritania	25 May 1963
Kingdom of Morocco	Morocco	1963/31 January 2017
Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic	Sahrawi Republic	22 February 1982
Republic of Tunisia	Tunisia	25 May 1963

- **Southern Africa**

Member State	Abbreviation	Date of joining the OAU or AU
Republic of Angola	Angola	11 February 1975
Republic of Botswana	Botswana	31 October 1966
Kingdom of Eswatini	Eswatini	24 September 1968
Kingdom of Lesotho	Lesotho	31 October 1966
Republic of Malawi	Malawi	13 July 1964
Republic of Mozambique	Mozambique	18 July 1975
Republic of Namibia	Namibia	June 1990
Republic of South Africa	South Africa	6 June 1994
Republic of Zambia	Zambia	16 December 1964
Republic of Zimbabwe	Zimbabwe	18 June 1980

- **Western Africa**

Member State	Abbreviation	Date of joining the OAU or AU
Republic of Benin	Benin	25 May 1963
Burkina Faso	Burkina Faso	25 May 1963
Republic of Cabo Verde	Cabo Verde	18 July 1975
Republic of Côte d'Ivoire	Côte d'Ivoire	25 May 1963
Republic of the Gambia	Gambia	9 March 1965
Republic of Ghana	Ghana	25 May 1963
Republic of Guinea	Guinea	25 May 1963

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Republic of Guinea-Bissau	Guinea-Bissau	19 November 1973
Republic of Liberia	Liberia	25 May 1963
Republic of Mali	Mali	25 May 1963
Republic of Niger	Niger	25 May 1963
Federal Republic of Nigeria	Nigeria	25 May 1963
Republic of Senegal	Senegal	25 May 1963
Republic of Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone	25 May 1963
Togolese Republic	Togo	25 May 1963