

UTMUN

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# Organisation of African Unity, 1963

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## Content Disclaimer

At its core, Model United Nations (MUN) is a simulatory exercise of diplomatically embodying, presenting, hearing, dissecting, and negotiating various perspectives in debate. Such an exercise offers opportunities for delegates to meaningfully explore possibilities for conflict resolution on various issues and their complex, even controversial dimensions – which, we recognize, may be emotionally and intellectually challenging to engage with.

As UTMUN seeks to provide an enriching educational experience that facilitates understanding of the real-world implications of issues, our committees' contents may necessarily involve sensitive or controversial subject matter strictly for academic purposes. We ask for delegates to be respectful, professional, tactful, and diplomatic when engaging with all committee content, representing their assigned country's or character's position, communicating with staff and other delegates, and responding to opposing viewpoints.

The below content warning is meant to warn you of potentially sensitive or triggering topics that are present in the formal content of this background guide, as well as content that may appear in other aspects of committee (e.g., debate, crisis updates, directives), so that you can either prepare yourself before reading this background guide or opt-out of reading it entirely:

The historical context of this committee is politically charged, with racial divisions and independence movements being some of the more prominent social issues at the time. Within Africa itself, these issues manifest through the existence of Apartheid policy and ongoing conflicts between various colony and colonist countries. Thus, the lasting effects of colonization beginning during this time (including the topics of colonial violence, discrimination based on class, race, and religion, political turmoil, and genocide) will be addressed in this committee.

If, because of this committee's content warning, you wish to request switching committees and you registered with UTMUN as:

- a) part of a group delegation, please contact your faculty advisor and/or head delegate with your concerns and request.
- b) an individual delegate, please email our Equity Officer at [equity@utmun.org](mailto:equity@utmun.org) with a brief explanation of your concerns based on this committee's content warning and your request to switch. You will be contacted shortly regarding your request

## UTMUN Policies

We ask for your cooperation in maintaining order, both inside and outside of committee session, so that we may provide a professional, safe, inclusive, and educational conference.

Throughout the conference, please note that delegates shall only:

1. Wear Western Business Attire (i.e., no costumes, no casual wear)
2. Embody their assigned country's/character's position, not their mannerisms (e.g., no accents, no props)
3. Use laptops or electronic devices during unmoderated caucuses to draft paperless resolutions/directives (subject to their committee director's permission)
4. Opt for diplomatic, respectful, and tactful speech and phrasing of ideas, including notes (e.g., no foul language, suggestive remarks, or obscene body language)
5. Make decisions that contribute to a professional, safe, inclusive, and educational space for debate

The rest of our conference policies can be found on our website at <https://www.utmun.org/conference-policies>. By attending all or part of a UTMUN conference, attendees agree to abide by all of our conference policies.

Furthermore, delegates' efforts to contribute to a culture of collaboration, inclusivity, and equity at our conference, both inside and outside of committee session, will be considered by the dais and Secretariat when determining conference scholarships and committee awards.

In cases of failing to adhere to any of UTMUN's policies, the Secretariat reserves the right to take any action it deems necessary, including rendering delegates ineligible for awards, taking disciplinary action, and prohibiting delegates from participating further in the conference.

## Equity Concerns and Accessibility Needs

UTMUN 2020's Secretariat and Staff are committed to ensuring every attendee has an enjoyable, comfortable, and safe experience and is able to participate fully and positively at our conference.

If you have any equity concerns (e.g., concerns about barriers to participation) or accessibility needs now or during the conference, please do not hesitate to contact your committees' dais and/or our Equity Officer at [equity@utmun.org](mailto:equity@utmun.org).

## A Letter from Your Director

Dear Delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Organization of African Unity, 1963 Committee at UTMUN 2020! As one of the world's first demonstrations of continent-wide unity against many of the often oppressive societal structures that accompanied colonialism, the Organization of African Unity serves as a prime example of how prosperity on national and continental levels can be achieved through thoughtful negotiation. I hope that your participation in this simulation will allow you to truly appreciate the immense progress the entire world has made on political, social, and economic spheres at the international level ever since the beginning of what many consider to be a contemporary era of human history. I also hope that by having the discussion within this committee focus primarily on the economic ramifications of decolonization, you will be able to explore a somewhat different perspective on international relations from the political and social ones.

My name is Karrie Chou and I am your director for this committee. I am an undergraduate student at the University of Toronto specializing in Finance and Economics and minoring in Statistics. I have been an active participant in Model United Nations for the past four years, especially within the robust and vibrant communities that exist both at the University of Toronto and in the Ontario high school circuit. Having been a delegate, a staff member, and a Secretariat member at various conferences; I encourage you to further explore the possibilities that participating in Model United Nations. Especially within the Organization of African Unity, which I hope will provide you not only additional academic enrichment but also in personal growth and development. Of course, I could not have executed this simulation alone. I would like to take this time to thank our Vice-Director, Wesley Yip, and our Moderator, Abidur Rahman, for all of the hard work and dedication they have put in to ensure the success of this committee.

I'm very excited to see all of the diverse perspectives that you will bring to the floor in the undoubtedly complex and multi-faceted discourse that you will engage in. At the same time, I expect you to engage respectfully with the content that is presented within this background guide and within the research that you will do for your position in this committee. The political and social climates surrounding the formation of the Organization of African Unity are relatively sensitive topics, especially when considered in conjunction with other events that occurred in the same time period such as the shift in global political powers and ideologies that followed World War II and the rise of Apartheid policy throughout Africa. It is up to you to be mindful of how the opinions of the position you play may affect others around you in real life. I am confident in the ability of each and every one of you to uphold the values that UTMUN emphasizes regarding responsible academic exploration, and I look forward to meeting each and every one of you!

Sincerely,  
Karrie Chou  
Director, The Organization of African Unity, 1963  
karrie.chou@mail.utoronto.ca

## A Note on Historical Accuracy and Equity

This particular gathering of the Organization of African Unity occurs in 1963, during the height of the international movement to promote decolonization and the development of former colonies into functioning independent states. The historical context in which this committee is placed is extremely politically charged, with racial divisions and independence movements being some of the more prominent social issues at the time. Within Africa itself, these issues manifest themselves through the existence of Apartheid policy and ongoing conflicts between various colony and colonist countries. As a warning to delegates regarding potentially triggering content: the lasting effects of colonization that were beginning to be observed during this time period, including colonial violence, political turmoil, and the beginnings of genocidal movements, will be addressed in this committee.

Delegates who participate in the Organization of African Unity: 1963 must exercise empathy, sensitivity, and cautious judgement throughout the discussions of each topic. The Dias will not tolerate any “historically accurate” slurs, costuming, or language. At the same time, delegates are encouraged to ask questions and express any discomfort they may have with the content of this committee or with debate to the Dias to ensure the creation and facilitation of an open and welcoming space for the discussion of these topics.

## Introduction

The Organization of African Unity (OAU) was formed in 1963 as an effort on the part of all newly independent African nations to establish a framework for governance moving forward from World War 2 and the preceding era of colonialism that had swept the continent. However, within the OAU there exists various tensions between member nations, with the most primary being that between two opposing viewpoints regarding political cooperation. The Casablanca group of nations, led by Ghana, campaigns for the creation of a supranational African High Command that would unite all African nations in a single political coalition. The Monrovia group of nations, led by Ethiopia, supports a more loose association between all OAU member nations where political cooperation would flourish. This committee is tasked with navigating the differences between both of these proposed approaches to post-colonial life within the continent. While doing so, it must address three of the core issues surrounding decolonization aid. First, the committee must define the criteria for decolonization efforts to be deemed successful. From there, it must create a framework for a sound economic system that will enable trade. Finally, it must determine how best to approach the gathering and allocation of resources to be used for physical and societal infrastructure development and restructuring.

The topics that have been chosen for discussion will require delegates to explore the financial and economic aspects of post-World War II decolonization in addition to the political ones. Although the latter is equally as important to acknowledge in the discourse that will ensue within the committee's duration, your goal as a committee should be to create resolutions that not only address each of the presented topics in a sufficient capacity but also contain comprehensive plans to obtain the resources necessary for the execution of each clause or stipulation. The committee will be expected to recognize the economic strain that their resolutions may impose upon participating members of the OAU and determine how best to resolve the often-ignored obstacle of financial inability to the execution of resolution clauses.



## Historical Background

After World War II, the world at large had shifted away from its general attitudes of imperialism and colonization other nations and geographical regions. Once hailed as the way forward for countries, colonialism became emblematic of governments that were unwilling to change and adapt to a modern global atmosphere where cooperation between countries was key to social, economic, and political prosperity.<sup>1</sup> Nations throughout much of Africa and Asia experienced independence for the first time in centuries during the wave of decolonization that took place from approximately 1945 to 1960 by campaigning for sovereignty. It is important to note that during this time, decolonization efforts took on many different forms, ranging from peaceful separation and the erection of a stable government almost immediately after, to outright revolution and civil conflict.<sup>2</sup>

In 1955, Indonesia hosted the Bandung Conference, which was attended by many newly independent Asian and African countries. The conference represented the first instance of countries coming together to explicitly reject colonialism and neo-colonialism in the post-war era.<sup>3</sup> For many African nations, it also represented the creation of the very first form of international relations; African attendees would eventually forge diplomatic ties with many of the Asian countries who were represented at the conference.<sup>4</sup>

However, inter-African cooperation did not formally begin to develop until 1961, when it was promoted by a conference hosted in Morocco and sponsored by other nations such as Ghana, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone. The attendees of this particular conference eventually became known as the Casablanca bloc of African nations, named after the city in which they gathered.<sup>5</sup> Members of the Casablanca bloc were tied to a corresponding "Casablanca Charter", which called primarily for the establishment of a supranational African High Command committee which would help eradicate colonialism from all of Africa. This committee would also allow the entire continent to have access to a pool of resources, most notably military support, in order to ensure that each country would be able to defend itself during redevelopment into a self-governing entity.<sup>6</sup> A pan-African supranational leadership such as the proposed African High Command would have sought to unify all African countries not only through the pooling of resources, but also through political, social, and economic cooperation. Thus, a loss of independence to a certain degree would have to be endured by all participants within the African High Command in order to fulfill its implementation.

The idea of the African High Command was brought up by Casablanca bloc nations to other African nations at the Monrovia conference, hosted in Monrovia, Liberia, in 1961.

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1 McGregor and Hearman, "Challenging the Lifeline of Imperialism."

2 "Milestones: 1945-1952 - Office of the Historian."

3 McGregor and Hearman, "Challenging the Lifeline of Imperialism."

4 Ibid.

5 "La Conférence de Casablanca."

6 Elias, "The Charter of the Organization of African Unity."



However, several African nations outside of the Casablanca bloc were not as receptive to this concept, believing that economic and technical development was to be prioritized over political union among all African countries in the quest for African independence. The countries that supported this alternative approach to African decolonization and development became known as the Monrovia Group.<sup>7</sup> Generally, this collective of African nations was regarded as more “moderate” than the Casablanca bloc in its ideals and proposed approach to socio-economic prosperity throughout Africa.<sup>8</sup>

In January of 1962, the Lagos conference, hosted in Lagos, Nigeria, was held. During this meeting, the Monrovia group further established their shared values through the drafting of resolutions such as those that affirmed rights to self-determination. Self-determination was defined by the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization as the ability for a given individual to freely determine political affiliation or status and to pursue economic, social, and cultural development of any nature. This further condemned colonialism by especially highlighting Apartheid rulings in countries such as South Africa and Namibia as well as colonial wars in Algeria and Angola.<sup>9</sup> These resolutions eventually became the basis of the Lagos Charter, which played a similar role in the union of Monrovia group nations as the Casablanca Charter to Casablanca bloc nations. The majority of Casablanca bloc nations did not send state representatives to the Lagos conference; this absence further exacerbated tensions between the two sides as the Casablanca bloc was framed as unwilling to collaborate with other nations. A third and final conference, dubbed the Addis Ababa Summit Conference, regarding African unity was hosted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and attended by both Casablanca bloc and Monrovia group nations. The goal of this meeting was to draft a new document that combined the values that both alliances shared regarding African decolonization and the navigation of newfound independence. This document eventually developed into what is now known as the Charter of the Organization of African Unity (the Charter of the OAU) and resembled a relatively successful negotiation between the Casablanca bloc and the Monrovia group.

### A Third Group: Brazzaville Nations

The Brazzaville group was comprised primarily of nations who identify as former French colonies.<sup>10</sup> Many of the group’s members seek to preserve African unity while not risking the alienation of their former colonizer.<sup>11</sup> As a subsidiary collective under the greater Monrovia group, the Brazzaville group also supported a “gradualist” approach to decolonization efforts. However, they prioritized economic and culture-based cooperation between African countries who were geographically close together over the formation of

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7 Ibid.

8 Englebert and Dunn, *Inside African Politics*, p. 320-321.

9 Elias, “The Charter of the Organization of African Unity.” p. 245.

10 Manalesi, Kornegay, and Stephen, “Formation of the African Union, African Economic Community.” p. 1.

11 Pick, “The Brazzaville Twelve.” p. 84.

loose political associations between different African nations.<sup>12</sup>

## The Purposes of the Organization of African Unity

Within the Charter of the OAU, every member nation is required to uphold the following:

- Promote the unity and solidarity of the African States;
- Coordinate and intensify their cooperation and efforts to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa;
- Defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity, and independence;
- Eradicate all forms of colonialism from Africa;
- Promote international cooperation, having due regard to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.<sup>13</sup>

## Issues

This committee starts shortly after the drafting of the Charter of the OAU, and neither the Casablanca bloc nor the Monrovia group have been formally dissolved due to the OAU's status at this time. Thus, the discourse surrounding each of these issues throughout all committee sessions should tie back to one central question: Is a given sector better handled by a supranational or pan-African body, or is it more productive to delegate its regulation to individual sovereign states?

It is important to consider the separate benefits that either approach offers to decolonization efforts. A supranational body such as the African High Command proposed by the Casablanca bloc may be better able to hold member states accountable if they do not adhere to specific standards regarding socioeconomic development goals or other measures of successful decolonization procedures, and it will provide all members with access to services such as impartial mediation for settling potential disputes amongst each other. On the other hand, individual sovereignty will allow individual governments to focus more on country-specific sectors of public life, such as cultural enrichment; these aspects are important to preserve and enhance during decolonization efforts, which represent a time of shifting national identity for many citizens of a given country. In addition, individual sovereignty means that nations will have a greater degree of control over the usage of their resources. The committee should seek to highlight additional advantages of either approach to decolonization through discourse surrounding the three principal issues.

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<sup>12</sup> Manalesi, Kornegay, and Stephen, "Formation of the African Union, African Economic Community." p. 1.

<sup>13</sup> Manalesi, Kornegay, and Stephen, "Formation of the African Union, African Economic Community." p. 6.

## Topic A: Defining the Objectives of Decolonization Aid

Despite the current division of African nations into Casablanca and Monrovia groupings, African leaders are united in their opposition to colonialism. One prominent remnant of colonial ruling is the continued existence of Apartheid policies in countries such as South Africa and Namibia during the Addis Ababa Summit Conference as the OAU was being instated.<sup>14</sup> Currently, the Charter of the OAU, and specifically the fourth clause of the subsection outlining the organization's purpose, does not explicitly define what colonialism is. One of the goals of this committee is therefore to define what colonialism and decolonization truly constitutes.

A dichotomy along which views regarding what constitutes decolonization is divided is that between a returning to past ruling structures and a call for innovation to modernize existing power systems.<sup>15</sup> In this division, decolonization may refer to either the complete returning to pre-colonial societal and governmental norms, or the creation of a new system that is inspired by the established institutions of other countries outside of OAU attendees.

In order to abide by the clauses outlined in the Charter of the OAU's purpose, any policy that the committee drafts regarding decolonization efforts should not only acknowledge the creation of new institutions but also the reformation and potential delegitimization of institutions that promote colonialist values. Systems such as racial and class divisions are considered by some governments as forms of colonialism, even when practiced by nations that are not legally classified as colonies.<sup>16</sup> The committee will therefore also be tasked with determining how to address the concerns of the greater international community regarding the existence of governing practices that operate against its definition of colonialism.

Within this topic, debate should revolve primarily around the reformation of societal systems that maintain order within a given nation, rather than the physical development of infrastructure, which will be discussed in a subsequent issue.

### Questions to Consider

1. How will the committee ensure that governments are meeting development goals and experiencing a smooth transition into independent governance?
2. What are reasonable development goals to set that will ensure the fulfillment of the purposes of the OAU (as outlined in its charter) by member states?
3. How will a formalized definition of decolonization impact the discussion of other topics to be addressed over the course of this committee's duration?

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<sup>14</sup> Dugard, "The Organisation of African Unity and Colonialism." p. 158.

<sup>15</sup> Dugard, "The Organisation of African Unity and Colonialism." p. 159.

<sup>16</sup> Dugard, "The Organisation of African Unity and Colonialism." p. 158.

## Topic B: Means of Trade and Economic Restructuring

In order to answer further questions regarding how resources that will aid decolonization efforts and societal restructuring will be obtained, a system of trade and a basic economic framework must be established within the African continent. In order to establish this “basic economic framework”, the committee will be primarily responsible for designating economic zones, or boundaries within which independent domestic economies will operate, and creating a currency exchange system. Economic zones are typically divided by country borders; however, the committee is free to explore other options such as regions comprised of multiple nations or a single continental economic zone.

### Subtopic 1: Defining Currency

In macroeconomics, currency is defined as the primary unit of account for economic and accounting transactions in a given economic zone. It is a physical form of money whose value is guaranteed and backed by the issuing government or organization.<sup>17</sup> After World War II, many of the world’s currencies were undergoing stress from issues that originated from hyperinflation and increased debt to other nations for the financing of war efforts.<sup>18</sup> The majority of debt in the global economy at the time was owed to the United States.<sup>19</sup> In addition, the strength of the U.S. Dollar during the post-World War II era meant that it was considered the standard against which the performances of other currencies were measured.<sup>20</sup>

Traditionally, Africa has always used a number of different currencies, with each currency being the main medium of exchange in a given economic zone.<sup>21</sup> However, colonialism introduced multiplicity, the use of different currencies within the same economic zone, in order to decrease transaction costs in foreign trade agreements.<sup>22</sup> The committee must decide between the following: if they want to continue using the multiplicity currency system that is currently in place, if they want each member state to have its own official currency, or if there should be one African currency used by all OAU member nations.

Under a multiplicity-based currency system, a given African nation will need to rely on a mix of foreign currencies to form its economy, tying their economic stability to foreign entities. The reduction of transaction costs between the adopting nation of a foreign currency and that currency’s issuing country has typically resulted in increased economic

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<sup>17</sup> Krugman, *Macroeconomics*.

<sup>18</sup> “Money Matters, an IMF Exhibit -- The Importance of Global Cooperation, Destruction and Reconstruction (1945-1958), Part 1 of 6.”

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> Ibid.

<sup>21</sup> Guyer and Pallaver, “Money and Currency in African History.”

<sup>22</sup> Ibid.

growth for the former, like in the case of Panama's adoption of the U.S. Dollar in 1904.<sup>23</sup> However, the currency's issuing country will in turn hold a large amount of influence in the foreign economy in which it is adopted. The adopting nation will thus be vulnerable to shifting exchange rates and fluctuations in the currency's value which are factors that can only be controlled by the issuing country.<sup>24</sup> Multiplicity and how it would potentially fit into the committee's view of decolonization is also something that needs to be discussed. The committee should determine whether the use of foreign currencies in post-colonial Africa conflicts with their established definition of colonialism.

## Subtopic 2: Planning Entrepreneurship Opportunities

Once a currency system and economic zones are established, trade and interaction with both intercontinental and foreign markets will become an area of concern. African countries as a whole have traditionally been known as "export-oriented economies", with the majority of foreign investment being used for the production of international exports.<sup>25</sup> As a result, African economic activity is not primarily driven by either small business development or the seeking of entrepreneurial opportunities within the continent or abroad.<sup>26</sup> The committee should come to a consensus regarding the primary source of economic activity: should the continent as a whole continue to operate as an "export-oriented economy", or should governments begin to look at introducing entrepreneurship and other career opportunities that are linked to modernization on a global scale?

The committee should also determine the methods that post-colonial nations will use to attract foreign investment into their economies, if any. During this time period, many developing nations forged strong political and economic relationships with larger powers allowing their economies to experience rapid growth. Notable examples of this phenomenon include the aforementioned U.S influence on Panama and the Japanese Economic Miracle that was brought forward by Japan's strong post-World War II relationship with the United States.<sup>27</sup> Following Japan's success, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore began to heavily invest in their education, especially in the STEM fields and manufacturing sectors. By the 1960s, Hong Kong had reached universal primary education while diversifying its industrial base to include clothing, electronics and plastics for export orientation.<sup>28</sup> Special industrial bases in Singapore with tax incentives were set up, attracting a large flow of foreign investment. Taiwan tailored its education policies to create more a more technically skilled labour force, with about 55% of its students studying either engineering or business administration.<sup>29</sup> Moreover, by restructuring its financial sectors, each of these states' governments successfully

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23 Ganti, "Currency Substitution."

24 Ibid.

25 Ibid.

26 Ibid.

27 Otsubo, "Post-War Development of the Japanese Economy," p. 8.

28 Appendix 5 - Section 9 - The Asian 'Tiger Economies'.

29 Ibid.



delivered on three macroeconomic indicators: a stable budget, low external debt, and favourable exchange rates. All of these policies served to propel Hong Kong, Singapore, and Taiwan towards enhanced aggregate development with growth rates around 7.5% every year, despite the lack of a large domestic market, such as that which is observed in China, and natural resources.

The committee should also decide which foreign nations to cooperate with, and determine the particular industries in their respective countries that are the most prominent and that will benefit the most from foreign investment. For example, in the case of post-war Japan, particular attention was paid to the revival of its steel, shipbuilding, and marine transportation industries. Regardless of which approach the committee decides to take, it must also determine the amount of influence, if any, that foreign nations should have on economic investment in post-colonial Africa. Nations that operate on a high degree of foreign investment in their economy may be more susceptible to the whims of their investor nations due to the latter's economic influence. These nations would be more inclined to align with their major investor nations politically and culturally due to the foreigner's control over their economy. In terms of the case of post-World War II Japan and the United States, the enormous economic influence that the United States exerted on the Japanese economy led to the development and strengthening of their political relationship throughout the 1950s and 1960s. The committee should also consider their definition of colonialism and the implications of foreign investment in post-colonial Africa when determining the extent to which foreign investment will drive the continental economy.

### Questions to Consider

1. What are the particular benefits of a single continental currency versus multiple national currencies?
2. Would the benefits of multiplicity justify its existence in a post-colonial Africa that seeks to eradicate colonialist systems?
3. What are the potential impacts on foreign relationships if foreign currencies are implemented in a given economic zone? How will these foreign relationships influence the future trajectory of the continental African economy, and of every OAU member nation's economy?
4. Is it in your particular nation's interest to remain an export-oriented economy by putting more resources into goods production, or should your nation invest in career opportunities that promote entrepreneurship and innovation?

## Topic C: Infrastructure Development

The creation of the OAU was propelled by the fact that many of its member nations as struggling to develop basic post-colonial infrastructure. The degree to which each member nation experiences this difficulty is highly dependent on the nature of the relationship that existed between them and their colonizers. Infrastructure at its core is defined as “the physical components of inter-related systems providing commodities and services essential to [enabling, sustaining, or enhancing] societal living conditions”.<sup>30</sup> The development of any infrastructure aims to address an apparent societal need with appropriate measures in order to increase quality of life for all affected citizens.<sup>31</sup> The four major infrastructure sectors that this committee should aim to tackle are: educational and cultural establishments, finance, energy and transportation, and health.

The existence of a sound economic system will allow the committee to design and develop methods to obtain resources that can be used to aid infrastructure development. Such approaches may include capital injection opportunities and incentivization of labour, but the committee should also explore different alternatives that can work alongside these mechanisms. The decision that is made regarding how to generate and obtain relevant resources is inherently tied to the question of what type of economy any African nation should strive to be: one that is funded primarily by export production, or one that is funded by the pursuit of entrepreneurship opportunities. It is important to note that capital injections will typically originate from foreign investment, but the supply of labour within a certain economic zone will come from a domestic source.

### Subtopic 1: The Differences Between Acquiring Foreign & Domestic Resources

Primarily, the differences between foreign and domestically sourced aid lie in its quantity, quality, and availability. The most accessible foreign, or non-domestic, resources that are available for use by the OAU via application will come from organizations such as the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), a subsidiary of the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Both of these organizations offer loans specifically for improving infrastructure or public services within OAU member nations.<sup>32</sup> The IBRD also specifically works with countries who are seeking loans to devise a financial management strategy in order to ensure that their funds are being used for purposes that both parties are in agreement on.<sup>33</sup> It is important to note here that these loan assistance programs are riddled with allegations of supporting imperial interests and local dictatorships. For example, the World Bank continued its financial support for Mobutu’s pro-US regime in Zaire despite reports of gross mismanagement and human rights violation.<sup>34</sup> Moreover,

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30 Fulmer, “What in the World Is Infrastructure?”, p. 32

31 Fulmer, “What in the World Is Infrastructure?”, p. 30

32 “IBRD Flexible Loan.”

33 “IMF Lending.”

34 Toussant, “Committee for the Abolition of Illegitimate Debt.”



many argue that institutions such as the IMF force Africa to be politically subservient to the West for even though African nations made up more than a third of the organization by the 1960s, it had less than 5% of the voting rights.<sup>35</sup>

Within a given country, the availability and quantity of resources that could be used to promote socio-economic development largely depend on the amount of post-war conflict within that country. However, conflicting evidence exists regarding whether war or other large-scale conflicts generate positive or negative consequences. Some historians and scholars have identified connections between war and improved economic development, whereas others have pointed to the intuition that the funding of war and conflict efforts “[wastes] needed resources rather than [contributes] to the process of economic development in [a] society”.<sup>36</sup> War and conflict may even have a negligible impact on socioeconomic development, as additional evidence exists to suggest that “while there may be short-term effects of wars, in the long run wars do not have a dramatic impact on the national capability and development”.<sup>37</sup>

However, this same research posits that African nations overall experience less positive results in terms of socioeconomic development after having engaged in war or conflict efforts.

### Questions to Consider

1. How easy is it to obtain foreign aid? What organizations exist that can easily provide macroeconomic aid (e.g. the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund)?
2. What are the political implications of receiving loan payments from former colonizers and other Western nations, and how will OAU members balance these implications with a need for financial aid?
3. How easy would it be for OAU members to obtain domestic aid through a supranational body compared to if every nation was responsible for obtaining aid for themselves?
4. What types of infrastructure should be prioritized in terms of reformation or improvement?
5. How should OAU members be held accountable for shortcomings in meeting infrastructure development goals that the committee outlines?

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<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> Ammons, “Consequences of War on African Countries’ Social and Economic Development.” p. 68.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

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