



Regional Committee: African Union

Introduction

Greetings African Union Delegates! Welcome to the 2018 Toronto International Affairs Conference. As your two chairs, Joyce Truong and Caroline Cui, we look forward to aiding and interacting with you at this year's conference to further your TMUN 2018 experience! Both of us are here to support you throughout your day of learning and engagement, and we hope that you have a great conference experience this year. Good luck and have fun!

My name is Joyce Truong and I will be one of your co-chairs for this committee! I am currently completing my 11th year at Richmond Hill High School. To me, MUN is an amazing experience to further your skills in a variety of aspects, as well as knowledge on global affairs. Moreover, I have been able to meet incredible and interesting MUN delegates from different school, allowing me to grasp different perspectives and relate to others on an intellectual level. I look forward to chairing for TMUN and meeting all of you in February!

My name is Caroline Cui and I will be your other co-chair for the African Union. I am in my 12th year at Havergal College and this is my 4th year participating in MUN. From beginning to end, MUN, for me, is an opportunity to expand one's breadth of knowledge and viewpoints on numerous pressing topics. It's a place where I can test my skills against other amazing delegates, and where I can learn so much about these skills as well. I look forward to meeting all of you in February as your chair at TMUN!



For this committee, delegates should focus primarily on the two topics at hand:

- I. The Crisis in the Central African Republic
- II. The Need for African Union Involvement in Technological Infrastructure
Development and Improvement

These matters reflect pressing matters that are currently facing the African Union, and delegates are encouraged to do further research on these topics to excel with their solutions for these issues. If you have any questions, please contact joyce.truong@torontoia.org or caroline.cui@torontoia.org.



Topic 1: The Crisis in the Central African Republic

Background Information

The Central African Republic (CAR) is a country in the middle of the African continent, and its capital is Bangui. It is landlocked and one of the world's least developed countries.¹ Since the country's independence from France, it has had a tumultuous history of coups that descended into turmoil and violence in 2013. Only recently, is the country going through transitional measures. The current president is Faustin-Archange Touadera.²



Source: ("Central African Republic")

History

In 1960, the country declared its independence with David Dacko as president. However, a few years later, Dacko was ousted by Jean-Bedel Bokassa. Bokassa himself was ousted by French-backed troops in 1979, and in 1981 Andre Kolingba, an army commander, seized power.

¹ "Central African Republic"

² "Central African Republic country profile"



With pressure from the international community, elections were held and Ange-Felix Patasse won.³ However, starting with the failed coup of Kolingba against Patasse in 2011, the country descended into violence which culminated in rebel leader Francois Bozize seizing power. Two more elections were held that were declared generally fair. Violence erupted again in November 2012 when a new predominantly Muslim Seleka rebel group overran the capital, headed by Michel Djotodia. He dissolved parliament and was sworn in as president. Religious tensions heightened in response to the first Muslim president between the country's majority Christian population and the minority Muslim population. A predominantly Christian militia who called themselves the Anti-balaka was formed to combat the Seleka, forcing the country onto the brink of war with violent actions perpetrated by both sides. The UN called for democratic elections in order to choose a leader, and in 2016, Faustin-Archange Touadera was declared the winner. By this time, the conflict had claimed thousands of lives and internally displaced over 500,000.⁴

Current Situation

Although Touadera has been officially elected, his government's power and influence extends very little beyond CAR's capital, Bangui. Frequent clashes between active rebel groups has caused many civilian deaths, and even more civilians to flee. In the West, around the Kouli neighbourhood, almost 15,000 people had to flee their homes in the beginning of 2017.⁵ The UN deputy special representative Diane Corner states since May 8th, more than 150 people have been killed in the city of Bangassou and towns of Alindao and Bria. This number includes six

³ Ibid.

⁴ "Central African Republic"

⁵ Scholz and Kriesch.



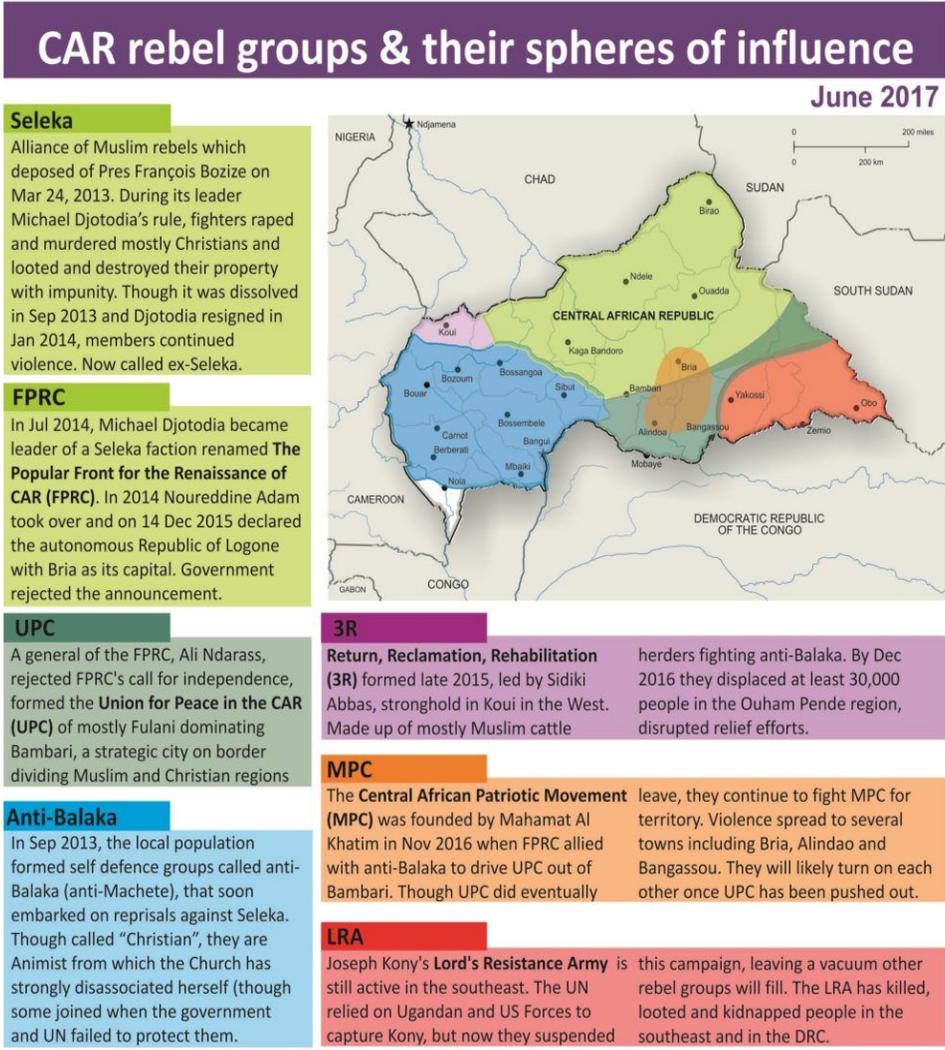
UN peacekeepers. "There are many on both sides within the Christian and Muslim community who are continuing very strongly to work for peace and are doing all they can to prevent the situation from worsening," says Corner.

But regions outside the capital are concerned that the government has forgotten about them⁶ where UN peacekeeping forces are less prevalent. Fighting between militias are mostly for land and resource control. The Anti-balaka militias dominate the south and west while the Seleka continue to dominate the east and north. However, newer militias have also formed. Some militias formed in response to other militias in order to protect their land and resources.⁷ The resources include cattle, coffee, gold, and diamonds. Additionally, provocation can occur due to the seasonal movement of cattle herders when they come into contact with agriculturists.⁸

⁶ "Firepower escalates in Central African Republic conflict, UN says."

⁷ "Central African Republic - the world's most neglected conflict."

⁸ "Firepower escalates in Central African Republic conflict, UN says."



Source: Open Doors

A majority of the wealth that comes from natural resource exports remains outside CAR instead of going back to its people. To illustrate, some diamond miners are forced to sell to middlemen that make much more profit. The government has little regulation capability.⁹ However, it is essential that the citizens of the CAR can profit from their products to combat the

⁹ "Central African Republic"



increasing need to fight for resources. The government of CAR must work to extend its influence outside of the capital in order to help its citizens.

Rape is an instrument of war that has been widely used in the conflict in the CAR and continues to be used. The Human Rights Watch research has found that both the Seleka and the Anti-balaka has committed rape and sexual slavery. “Fighters using sexual violence to punish women and girls, frequently along sectarian lines, as recently as May 2017.” Commanders not only tolerate these acts, but also have ordered them. “Though the Central African Penal Code punishes rape and sexual assault as criminal offenses, no member of an armed group has been tried for rape during the conflict.” Women and girls are attacked by those of the other religious affiliation, with Christian fighters targeting Muslims and Muslim fighters targeting Christians. Multiple perpetrators would commit the crime in a single incident. “The rapes of these women and girls, which resulted in injuries ranging from broken bones and smashed teeth to internal injuries and head trauma, constitute torture.” Sexual slaves are repeatedly raped and forced to serve. Survivors are blamed by their family members and left by their husbands. Very little women have received medical or mental health treatment, due to stigma and a lack of public health infrastructure. The Human Rights Watch state they have also heard of credible reports of rape and sexual violence against men and boys as well.¹⁰

¹⁰ ““They Said We Are Their Slaves””



The CAR's lack of any type of substantial infrastructure¹¹ is one of the first obstacles in rebuilding the country. Judicial, education, and public health systems all need to be put into place for the country to move forward. This requires a strong commitment by the government, as well as assistance and support from the AU and the international community.

Past Resolutions

The African Union (AU) has been contributing peacekeeping forces since 2002. In late 2013, the AU authorized a stronger peacekeeping mission called the International Support Mission to the Central African Republic, or MISCA. France also sent additional soldiers to its force situated in Bangui to assist the AU, a mission that ended in 2016. A force of 300 French troops remain in the CAR.¹²

In April 2014, the UNSC “authorized a new peacekeeping mission called the Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic, known by its French acronym, MINUSCA.” The mandate was multi-pronged; “protecting civilians; facilitating humanitarian access; monitoring, investigating, and reporting on human rights abuses; and supporting the political transition. MINUSCA took over from MISCA on September 15, 2014, with 11,820 military personnel.”¹³

The Special Criminal Court has been established in the CAR as well.

¹¹ “Central African Republic”

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Security Council, Resolution 2149



“The SCC, established by law in June 2015, will be entirely within the national legal system, but it will have both national and international judges and staff and it is being heavily supported by the peacekeeping mission in CAR (MINUSCA) and UNDP. With an initial mandate of 5 years, the SCC will be developed in phases. The immediate focus is on developing the infrastructure and capacity to begin investigations.”¹⁴

"In the crisis, there is hunger. In the crisis, there is malnutrition. There is illness. Often there is also death," said Parfait Onanga-Anyanga, the UN's special representative for CAR at an event that revealed a response plan. The three-year humanitarian plan by the CAR and the UN highlights three objectives: “saving more lives, strengthening the protection of affected populations and preserving human dignity through basic social services.” However, challenges in funding remain. In 2016, only 36% of the CAR’s humanitarian plan was funded.¹⁵

Conclusion

While the CAR has its own elected government, the country is still far from achieving long-lasting stability and peace. Violence still ravages much of the country between multiple militia over resources, religious divide, and land.¹⁶ A key pillar in the country’s future is setting up basic social services and guaranteeing the quality of life and security of its citizens. Poverty and plundering of natural resources is one of the large problems that the CAR has to face, with

¹⁴ Bussey

¹⁵ Baddorf

¹⁶ “Firepower escalates in Central African Republic conflict, UN says.”



its weak economy. The UN and CAR may have created a plan, but the AU must figure out how it can contribute to the onslaught of problems in the CAR in a place so close to home.

This is a multi-faceted situation that requires multiple approaches (i.e. military, social, economic) to target different problems in the CAR. Delegates will have to utilize creativity and critical and resourceful thinking to tackle issues from the violent militia, lack of infrastructure, lack of justice for war crime punishments, lack of funding and more. In this dire situation, member states of the AU are strongly encouraged to work together with experience from past conflicts to bring CAR towards a better future.

Guiding Questions

1. Should the varying militia be combated with force?
2. How can the CAR establish social services and infrastructure in regions of violence?
3. How can civilian safety and their economic stability be ensured?
4. How should the economy of the CAR be stimulated again?

Topic 2: The Need for African Union Involvement in Technological Infrastructure

Development and Improvement

Background of the African Union



African Union



Established on the 25th of May in 1963, the Organisation of African Unity ran as a central body for the continent, until its disbandment in 2002 and replacement by the African Union. The main objectives of the OAU focused on many of the prevalent issues during that time, including:

- I. The abolition of remaining remnants, with regards to colonization and apartheid;
- II. The promotion of solidarity amongst African States and overall unity;
- III. The coordination of development cooperation and involvement;
- IV. The safeguarding of sovereignty and territorial rights of Member States;
- V. The promotion of international collaborative efforts as delineated by United Nations frameworks.¹⁷

Through the OAU, common concerns within the continent were addressed effectively, with the interests of Africa being accounted for in international respects. Many positive influences were direct by-products of the collaborative effort committed by OAU committees, including the fight against the apartheid and on the side of the liberation struggle.

Created on the 9th of September in 1999 as the successor of the Organisation of African Unity, the African Union was founded by the Heads of State and Government of the Organisation of African Unity on the basis of the issuance of the Sirte Declaration. Muammar Gadhafi, the Libyan leader at the time, proposed such a creation, using the European Union as a prime example of the intracontinental consolidation that needed to be implemented. The African Union was designed to solidify processes involving integration, as well as social, economic, and political problems within the continent of Africa, and the role that Africa has retained in the

¹⁷ <https://au.int/en/history/oau-and-au>



global economy. Unlike its predecessor, the AU focused on the creation and successful of “An integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in global arena.”

The main objectives of the AU include but are not limited to:

- I. To achieve greater unity and solidarity between the African countries and the peoples of Africa;
- II. To defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of its Member States;
- III. To accelerate the political and socio-economic integration of the continent;
- IV. To promote and defend African common positions on issues of interest to the continent and its peoples;
- V. To encourage international cooperation, taking due account of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- VI. To promote peace, security, and stability on the continent.¹⁸

Through its vital committees, such as the Assembly, the Executive Council, the Commission, the Permanent Representatives' Committee, the Peace and Security Council (PSC), the Pan-African Parliament, the Economic, Social and Cultural Council (ECOSOCC), and the

¹⁸ <https://au.int/en/history/oau-and-au>

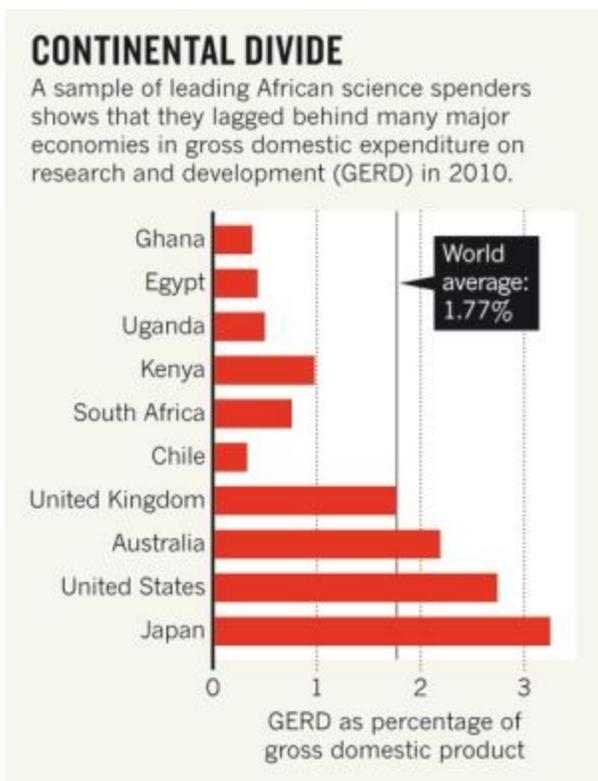


Court of Justice, the AU works to collaboratively and systematically enforce the ideals presented by the Human Rights Commission and global framework created by the United Nations.¹⁹

Timeline and Important Events

Since its founding, the AU has actively worked towards providing prosperity for its Member States as one of the union's key targets. Due to the ongoing crisis presented by a lack of proper services regarding basic health necessities and the contribution towards AU Member State barrier intercontinentally.

The African Union Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action (ASTCPA)



As a result of the first African Ministerial Conference on Science and Technology (AMCOST) in 2003, the ASTCPA was created, aiming to consolidate AU programmes and NEPAD.²⁰ With the input of numerous countries, committed to increasing public funds directed towards research for development, with a minimum of 1% GDP in a five year timeline.²¹ Thus, socio-economic transformation and AU integration into the world economy would take

¹⁹ <https://au.int/en/history/oau-and-au>

²⁰ <http://www.nepad.org/>

²¹ <https://steps-centre.org/anewmanifesto/timeline/african-union-st-consolidated-plan-of-action/>



place, with emphasis on capacity building developments, knowledge facilitation, and technological innovation.

This plan allowed for self-sustaining growth and a shift from the historical reliance that AU Member States had on importing technologies, inviting internal development and technological capability expansion, inviting scientists and other technological professionals to become more involved through the African Union Research Grant Programme. Though financial aid from EC and ACP Groups of State with two proposals between 2010 and 2012, the grant called upon professionals to participate and share their knowledge for the growth of various technologies.²² To date, 20 institutions are awarded with contracts, receiving a large grant of half a million to three quarters of a million euros. These institutions must research various locations in Africa and network with multiple institutions established on the basis of an AU and EU partnership.

Pan African e-Network (PAeN) for Tele-medicine and Tele-education

An address was given by A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, the former President of India, during the Pan-African Parliament's in first session in Johannesburg on the 16th of September in 2004.²³ proposed a connection of all 53 African States part of the AU, using a satellite and fiber optic network.²⁴ Ideally, this was to work to provide streamlined communication for Tele-education, Tele-medicine, Internet, and Videoconferencing. It would also allow for VVIP and VoIP services

²² <https://au.int/en/st-division>

²³ <https://au.int/en/ie>

²⁴ <https://au.int/en/ie>



to communicate for shared support of e-Governance, e-Commerce, information supplying, resource mapping, and meteorology.

Open Access

This issue is part of the AU Reference Framework for Harmonization of Telecom/ICT Policies & Regulations in Africa adopted in Cairo, 2008, later being solidified in definition, comprehension, and criterion for relevant stakeholders during the CITMC session that took occurred on the 5th of November in 2009 in Johannesburg.²⁵ The AUC was able to collectively build these facts on the basis of information outlined from the Oliver Tambo Declaration of 2000.²⁶ Most importantly, the issue of Open Access has a large role in broadband infrastructure and market development, according to planned and ongoing project implementations.



African Scientific Research and Innovation Council (ASRIC)

The creation of this council led to the pan-African institution that enabled AU Member States' research communities to communicate globally through a central voice. The goal of the

²⁵ <https://au.int/en/ie>

²⁶ <https://au.int/en/ie>



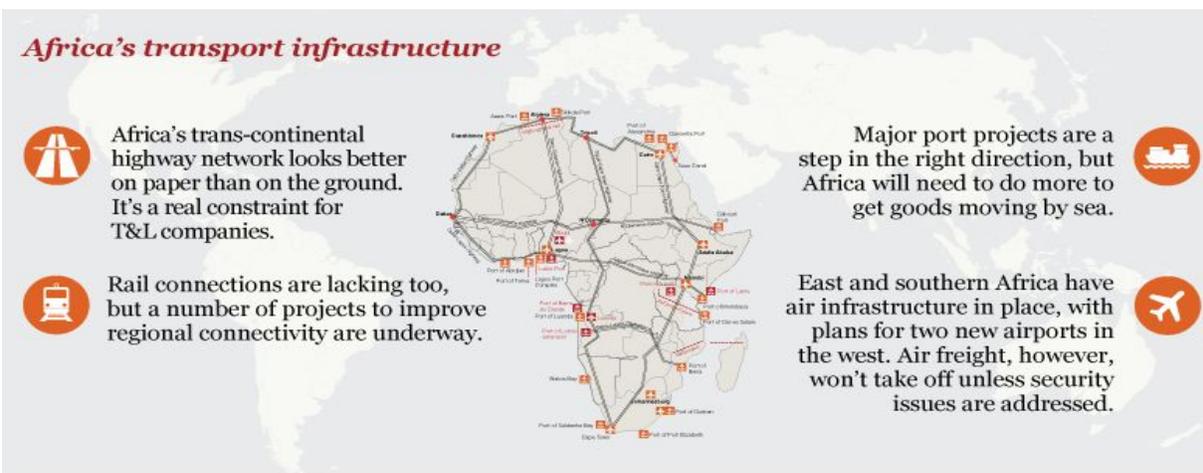
ASRIC is to support knowledge development within fields of sciences and technology through the funding and collaborative networking of research project teams and programs. The ASRIC has been able to fund agencies, the private sector, Civil Society, and a multitude of stakeholders through the commonalities exemplified by the scientific community.²⁷

In June 2014, after AU Heads of State and Government adopted the Science, Technology and Innovation Strategy for Africa (STISA-2024), ASRIC also took on a large role in continental strategy implementation through a ten year incremental strategy for socio-economic sector demand response. Ideally, the long-term AU Agenda for 2063 aims to shift development towards a people-oriented stance on innovation, capital development, value addition, industrialisation, and entrepreneurship.²⁸

Current Situation

²⁷ <https://au.int/en/st-division>

²⁸ <https://au.int/en/ie>



pwc.com/africagearingup

Currently, the AU has multiple subcommittees focused on technological infrastructure development, which are the Department of Infrastructure and Energy, Program Infrastructure Development for Africa (PIDA), Department of Infrastructure and Energy, and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD).²⁹ Within these committees, various projects are currently being enforced and developed to promote the ideals of the AU regarding technological advancements using infrastructure models. Though these projects are well revised and aim to bridge technological gaps between Africa and other countries globally, there is still a need for extreme remodelling of current government models of technological applications, as well as critical energy developments.

Internet Exchange Point (IXP)

²⁹ <http://www.nepad.org/>



This is physical infrastructure created and facilitated by the AU's specialized committees, allowing for the interconnection of Internet-related Service Providers and Content Providers. The main role of the IXP is to localise online web traffic, with the benefits of low cost, improved latency capabilities and bandwidth capacity, and more efficient data routing through upstream Internet Providers.

Cyber Security

The AU has been actively involved in delineating specific cyberspace systems liability laws with respect to education, training, and operations. Its goal is to enable Member States to easily access a safe and trustworthy environment to increase efficiency and instigate positive outcomes.

The DotAfrica Top Level Domain (. Africa) Project

In the near future, the Internet Cooperation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) plans to launch and apply an entire group of new generic top-level domain (gTLD) for operational purposes, specific to the Internet namespace for Africa. DotAfrica will create an appeal for regional collaboration within the Pan-African Internet community, being the first sponsored registry in African Internet operations. It will also be able to specifically address the demands of AU communities, being build using the





framework of other successful community TLDs in neighbouring regions (e.g. DotEuropa, DotAsia), while retaining a regional presence for businesses and users.³⁰

E-Post

Under the recommendations of the AU Commission, the Pan African Postal Union (PAPU), African Telecommunications Union (ATU) and Regional African Satellite Communications Organization (RASCOM) has been actively working to develop and implement an e-Post project to streamline African Posts' reaches and communications.

Transition to Analogue to Digital Terrestrial Television

By phasing out analogous broadcasting television signals for digital broadcasting (i.e. analogue terrestrial television transition), many advantages are offered for AU States. This includes many aspects to better entertainment experience, including an improved picture, sound quality, spectrum utilisation, range of program channels, local content production, and service application convergence. Therefore, socioeconomic development can become more evident, especially if the initiative is executed in a timely and coordinated manner from a political and technical standpoint.³¹

African leadership in ICT Program (ALICT)

³⁰ <https://au.int/en/ie>

³¹

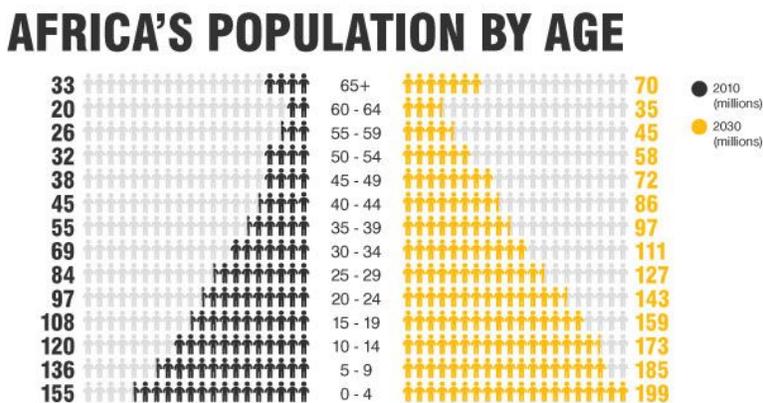
http://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/REGION__EXT_Content/Regions/Sub-Saharan+Africa/Investments/Infrastructure/



Through the strengthening of visioning, strategising, planning, policy creation, and management abilities of emerging African youth and political prospects, there will be a presented benefit of inclusivity and sustainability improvements for Knowledge Societies in Africa, as well as overall infrastructure framework comprehension.³²

Synopsis of the Situation

Due to the widespread adoption of democratic governance in Africa, a platform for stability and growth is being laid down, allowing African States to grow their economies as exponential rates. Still, African is the most unequal continent in the world, in terms of economies, with an extreme



SOURCE: African Development Bank Group

deviation between consumption expenditures and income distributions of various individuals and families from different AU Member States. This figure proves to be increasingly volatile because to the fact that 75% of the African population is below the age of 25 years old as well.³³ Thus, adaptation must be considered on behalf of the AU to ensure that the generational gap and social inequality is accounted for, allowing for productive lifestyle changes amongst three quarters of the population.

³² <http://www.un.org/africarenewal/web-features/why-infrastructure-development-africa-matters>

³³ <http://www.un.org/africarenewal/web-features/why-infrastructure-development-africa-matters>



Moreover, it is increasingly necessary to expand energy, telecommunications, and technological fields, as currently, only 38% of Africans have access to electricity, with less than 10% being able to utilise the internet, and only a quarter of the African roads being fully paved.³⁴ This lack of infrastructural account will may provide the risk of expanded gaps between first-world countries and African Member States, which is why new solutions must be provided as to how technological infrastructure development can be facilitated and regulated by the African Union.

Guiding Questions

1. Has the African Union sufficiently provided the necessary access to funding and materials to develop the infrastructure framework for technology in Africa?
2. In what way can the African Union effectively handle the problem of inefficient technology and infrastructural necessities with its current economic conditions and position in the global economy?

³⁴

http://www.ifc.org/wps/wcm/connect/REGION__EXT_Content/Regions/Sub-Saharan+Africa/Investments/Infrastructure/



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