Chapter I, Article I of the United Nations (UN) Charter says the purpose of the UN is:

- To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace;

- To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;

- To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion.\(^2\)

As the General Assembly (GA) subcommittee charged with security issues, the General Assembly First Committee (GA-1) considers ways to strengthen international security and cooperation. A frequent topic is how these three goals above fit together in particular regions.

The African continent has relatively low levels of human and national security. On average adult mortality rates and life expectancies, as rough indicators, are lower than any other region.\(^3\) African states are also, as a rough measure of national security, less stable (i.e.

\(^1\) This background guide was written by Nicholas Potratz, Karen Ruth Adams, and Kendra Hildebrand, with contributions from Kyle Ballard and Samantha Stephens. Copyright 2015 by Nicholas Potratz, Karen Ruth Adams, and Kendra Hildebrand.


more "fragile" and likely to become failed states) on average than every other region (countries in the Middle-East and Asia have only slightly better stability ratings).⁴

Today, Africa encompasses 57 countries, covers one-fifth of the Earth’s total land area, and accounts for 14 percent of the world’s human population.⁵ Since gaining independence from colonial powers, a number of African states, especially those that relied on violent struggles to gain independence, have experienced a number of armed conflicts. According to African security scholars, while about 10 African countries exist in “zones of peace” that have been relatively free of violent conflict,⁶ “Africa is the world’s most conflict-affected region with one third of all inter- and intra-state conflicts since 1946 taking place on the continent.” Since the Cold War ended, 75% of non-state conflicts (conflicts between groups that do not involve states) and approximately 90% of civilian deaths as a result of conflict have occurred in Africa.⁷ According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute,

> [from 1990 [i.e. the end of the Cold War] through 2005] 19 conflicts were fought in 17 locations in this region, only one of which was an interstate conflict—that between Eritrea and Ethiopia. After 2000 there was a constant decline in the number of conflicts in Africa; in 2005 only three were recorded—the lowest figure for the region in the post-cold war period. The peak years were 1998 and 1999: 11 conflicts were active in Africa in both these years. The vast majority (15) of the 18 intra-state conflicts in Africa in the period 1990–2005 concerned governmental power.⁸

Since the 2005 low, new conflicts have emerged. Two additional conflicts, in particular, have emerged in Nigeria and Central African Republic (CAR) based largely on religious and ethnic divides. Since 2009 Nigeria has fought a group known as Boko Haram, an anti-Western organization that seeks to establish an Islamic State in Nigeria. Since 2012 CAR has experienced a conflict between a Muslim rebel group known as Seleka and a Christian group known as the anti-balaka, which led to a breakdown of law and order that remains in much of the country. Emerging wars such as these have been problematic for UN and African Union

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(AU) states to solve, because, unlike conflicts before 2009, which states resolved in many cases through peace agreements, "since 2009, there have been no wars [in Africa] concluded with peace settlements." 9

Armed conflict imperils the national security of the states in question, as well that of their neighboring states and trading partners. In addition, it reduces human security by subjecting people to violence and reducing social and economic spending in favor of military budgets. According to SIPRI, African states in general increased military spending by more than 8% in 2013, and by almost 6% in 2014. 10 According to the UN Development Programme (UNDP), in 2013, both Nigeria and CAR had relatively low levels of human development (standards of living). Nigeria ranked 153rd worldwide, while CAR ranked 185th, out of a total of 187 ranked countries in the world. 11 People in both countries, similar to most African states, have life expectancies of only about 50-60 years. 12

To improve human and national security in Africa, international cooperation is needed. Groups and states involved in military conflicts must be encouraged to resolve their differences. How can UN member states in the GA-1 cooperate to resolve the conflicts in Africa before they further imperil national and human security?

**History and Current Events**

To address these conflicts in Africa, it is necessary to understand the effects of colonialism and the Cold War in creating and fueling international and civil conflict on the continent. It is also necessary to understand the specific situations in Nigeria and CAR.

**Colonialism and the Cold War**

European and sub-Saharan African states did not have regular contact until the 15th century, when Portugal began to import slaves from Mauritania, landed in Ghana (the Gold Coast), and sent missionaries to Congo. Other European countries soon followed, with Spain participating

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in the slave trade beginning in 1510, the Dutch settling in South Africa in 1652, and the London Missionary Society beginning operations in South Africa in 1799.\(^{13}\)

In 1807, the British declared an end to the slave trade and began to patrol the coasts of Africa to intercept slave ships. But it was not until Europeans learned to use quinine to prevent malaria that they were able to move into the interior of Africa. The European “scramble for Africa” soon followed. At the Berlin Conference of 1884, European states set the rules for their conquest of Africa. By 1898, Britain had conquered Egypt and moved into the Sudan, where it encountered French troops. In the Fashoda incident, the two empires narrowly avoided war and agreed that the Nile and Congo Rivers would mark the boundary between their North African holdings. Similar incidents played out across the continent. By World War I, European states (Britain, France, Germany, Italy, and Belgium) controlled, directly or indirectly, all African states except Ethiopia and Liberia.\(^{14}\)

World Wars I and II thus affected African states directly and indirectly. Parts of both wars were fought with African soldiers and on African soil.\(^{15}\) After World War II, the ability of the colonial powers to maintain their empires was substantially reduced. In 1957, Ghana obtained its independence from the British. By the late 1960s, most African states had gained independence, either as the result of negotiations or war. But several independence movements took much longer and involved more bloodshed because the colonizing powers refused to negotiate. This was especially true of the Portuguese colonies of Angola, Mozambique, Guinea Bissau, and Sao Tome, all of which became independent after a military coup in Portugal in 1975. The South African colony of Namibia was the last to gain independence, in 1990.\(^{16}\)

Many of these conflicts were civil wars that continued or erupted after independence, as most of these new states lacked institutional infrastructures and, due to the colonial powers' practice of placing different ethnic groups within the same borders, suffered from factionalism and internal instability to the extent that some argue they did not even meet the requirements of statehood.\(^{17}\) During the Cold War, the US and Soviet Union often became involved in these


conflicts, with one side supporting the government and the other side supporting opposition in a proxy war. Following the end of the Cold War in 1990, the number of ongoing African conflicts diminished. According to SIPRI, in 2007, the war in Somalia was the only major armed conflict in Africa. Today, however, Africa continues to be the site of many armed conflicts, such as the conflicts in South Sudan, Nigeria, and CAR.

**Nigeria and Boko Haram**

Modern Nigeria gained independence from Britain in 1960 through peaceful means. The British generally responded to protests in Nigeria via political reform, and resisted violent responses in the colony. Hence, Britain continued to gradually implement political reforms until eventually it granted the Nigeria full independence. Throughout the 20th Century, Nigeria, which had adopted a federal system, struggled to define the borders of its provincial regions as well as the extent of federal versus regional power, mostly due to internal conflicts — including a civil war from 1967-1970 — that resulted from "long-standing regional stresses, caused by ethnic competitiveness, educational inequality, and economic imbalance." Hence, the country remained divided into three main regions, each controlled predominately by different ethnic groups, until the 1970s, when an oil boom provided the resources for the Nigerian federal government to consolidate its power.

At the federal level, a series of military regimes controlled Nigeria throughout the 20th Century, with only a brief stint of civilian rule from 1979-1983 under Nigeria's Second Republic. Nigeria did not come under civilian rule again until General Abdulsalam Abubakar, the appointed successor to General Sani Abacha after his death, took steps to return power to civilians. Abubakar freed political prisoners, eradicated efforts to harass political opponents, and established a timeframe for the return to civilian rule. This latter action came to fruition in the spring of 1999, when the country held elections for local, state, and federal political positions.

While military regimes had managed to control ethnic tensions and forestall ethnic conflict, the return to civilian rule resulted in increased intra-state violence. In addition to external security concerns, such as a border conflict with Cameroon, Nigeria has dealt with

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22 Udo, “Nigeria.”
increased ethnic tensions and subsequent conflicts inside its borders. In particular, religious
tensions emerged between Christian and Muslim groups within the country (both of which
comprise roughly equal percentages of Nigeria’s religious makeup), especially after 12 states in
northern and central Nigeria adopted Islamic law.\textsuperscript{23} For instance, in 2008, more than 700
people died when Christian and Muslim groups in the city of Jos began fighting over the
results of a disputed election.\textsuperscript{24}

In 2009, a group known as Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'awati wal-Jihad, Arabic for
"People Committed to the Propagation of the Prophet’s Teachings and Jihad," and known
more commonly as Boko Haram, began an insurgent movement against the Nigerian
government. Boko Haram originally formed in 2002 to oppose Western education, but began
military operations in 2009 to establish an Islamic State in Nigeria. While Nigeria has had
Muslim leaders, Boko Haram insists that "non-believers" maintain control over the country.\textsuperscript{25} As
noted by BBC,

> Nigeria’s militant Islamist group Boko Haram - which has caused havoc in Africa’s most
> populous country through a wave of bombings, assassinations and abductions - is
> fighting to overthrow the government and create an Islamic state. Boko Haram
> promotes a version of Islam which makes it "haram", or forbidden, for Muslims to take
> part in any political or social activity associated with Western society.\textsuperscript{26}

In its efforts to "impose[] sharia law on all Nigerians," the group killed 150 people within the
initial two days of its 2009 offensive.\textsuperscript{27} Since then, the dozens of attacks committed by the
group have included both military and civilian targets. Thus, observers such as the US have
categorized the group as not only an insurgent group, but also as a terrorist group.\textsuperscript{28} Its most
deadly attack so far occurred in January 2015, when the group entered the town of Baga and
killed approximately 2000 civilians using rocket-propelled grenades and assault rifles. Most of
the people killed were "children, women and elderly people who could not run fast enough."\textsuperscript{29}

\textsuperscript{23} Udo, "Nigeria;" David Smith, "Nigerian ‘Taliban’ Offensive Leaves 150 Dead," \textit{The Guardian}, 27 July

\textsuperscript{24} Smith, "Nigerian ‘Taliban’ Offensive Leaves 150 Dead."

\textsuperscript{25} Farouk Chothia, "Who are Nigeria’s Boko Haram Islamists," BBC News, 4 May 2015, available at

\textsuperscript{26} Chothia, "Who are Nigeria’s Boko Haram Islamists."

\textsuperscript{27} Smith, "Nigerian ‘Taliban’ Offensive Leaves 150 Dead."

\textsuperscript{28} Chothia, "Who are Nigeria’s Boko Haram Islamists;" Udo, "Nigeria."

\textsuperscript{29} Monica Mark, "Boko Haram’s ‘Deadliest Massacre’: 2,000 feared dead in Nigeria," \textit{The Guardian}, 10
By 2013, Boko Haram was killing, on average, more than 100 people per month. In 2014, experts estimate that Boko Haram killed 6,347 civilians. Moreover, as of September 2015, the International Organization on Migration estimates that violence perpetrated by Boko Haram has displaced over 2.1 million people from their homes.

In April 2014, Boko Haram kidnapped more than 250 (some estimate more than 275) schoolgirls from a boarding school in the town of Chibok. This was not the first or only time Boko Haram abducted girls or women. By November 2014, the group had abducted more than 500 women and girls since it began its insurgency movement, but the April 2014 abductions brought international attention to the issue. In April the Nigerian government reportedly rescued 450 women and girls from the group, including 300 in an initial mission, and an additional 150 in a mission a couple of days later. Despite these rescues, a significant majority of the girls from Chibok remained missing. Later reports indicated that some of the captured schoolgirls had been brainwashed to fight for the group. Even in the earlier rescue missions by the Nigerian government, captive women and girls were reported to have fired upon the troops sent to rescue them, though official sources were unsure of whether some of these women joined the group voluntarily. As the group has continued its assault in Nigeria, it has "increasingly used young girls and women as human bombs in their six-year insurgency."

Boko Haram's activities have also spread throughout the region. States in the region have attributed a number of attacks in Chad, Niger, and northern Cameroon on the rebel


34 Associated Press, “Boko Haram's Former Captives.”


group. For instance, in September 2015, the group carried out two consecutive bombings at a market in the town of Maroua, Cameroon. Early reports indicate that 19 people died (though some reports indicated up to 30 deaths) and 130 people were injured.\textsuperscript{37}

The Nigerian military response to Boko Haram has succeeded overall. According to the Nigerian government, it has reclaimed all of the major towns once held by Boko Haram. To bolster its claims, the Nigerian army has even released footage showing members of Boko Haram fleeing on trucks and motorcycles. Several problems, however, overshadow these developments. First, the group’s leadership remains intact. According to Ryan Cummings, Chief Africa Analyst for the risk management firm Red24, this means that the group could "replenish, regroup, and rearm both within and outside of Nigeria's borders." Thus, as noted, Boko Haram’s attacks have continued not only in Nigeria, but in neighboring states as well.\textsuperscript{38}

Second, human rights groups have critiqued the Nigerian military and police forces for committing human rights abuses of their own.\textsuperscript{39} According to the human rights group Amnesty International, "Since 2011 the Nigerian military has arrested at least 20,000 people in north-east Nigeria on suspicion of being Boko Haram members. More than 7,000 suspects died in military detention from torture, starvation, disease or were simply shot."\textsuperscript{40}

Member States not only need to deal with ongoing violence by Boko Haram, but also address the human rights abuses organizations such as Amnesty International allege have occurred.

The Central African Republic

From the time of its independence from France in 1960 until the 1990s, CAR remained an authoritarian state, though led by several leaders who gained and lost power generally as the result of coups. In 1990, CAR began to permit political parties to form, and held its first completed election in 1993, in which voters elected Ange-Félix Patassé to be the first democratically-elected president of CAR since independence. For the remainder of the 1990s, Patassé faced turmoil from unpaid military units, as well as groups of bandits that operated throughout CAR. In 1997, Patassé signed the Bangui Accords with opposition parties and religious groups to reconcile political divisions and strengthen CAR’s economy and military. The accords did not, however, restore peace to CAR. In response, the UN established the UN


\textsuperscript{39} Udo, "Nigeria."

Mission to the Central African Republic to replace French troops previously stationed in CAR. Although the Patassé government continued to face unrest, MINURCA ended in 2000.41

In 2003, former army chief general François Bozizé ousted Patassé in a coup, established a new constitution, and held democratic elections in 2005, which Bozizé won. The government faced several insurgent groups in the north and south in the mid-2000s. In the late 2000s the government signed ceasefire agreements with several of these groups. Bozizé won another election against Patassé in 2011, though Patassé and other opponents contended that Bozizé rigged the elections.

In November 2012, a new coalition, known as Seleka, comprised of former CAR rebel movements, began to violently take control of the northern and central parts of CAR, though it stopped before it reached the capital of CAR, Bangui. The group claimed that Bozizé had violated a previous peace agreement signed with members of the group, because he had failed to implement some of its terms. It demanded that Bozizé resign and be tried at the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity.

In January 2013, Seleka formed a cease-fire and power-sharing agreement with Bozizé. Bozizé agreed to release political prisoners and form a unity government that would include some members of Seleka until new elections would be held in 2016. By March, however, the group claimed that Bozizé had not implemented the deal satisfactorily (despite further concessions from Bozizé), and re-launched hostilities. Shortly after, the group gained control of the capital, Bangui, suspended the constitution, and dissolved parliament – steps that received international condemnation. Leading these actions was Michel Djotodia, a member of Seleka who designated himself as CAR's head of state following Seleka's capture of Bangui, which caused Bozizé to flee the country.

Djotodia attempted to form a transitional government, but was rebuffed by opposition groups and the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS – a regional body in which CAR is a member). The ECCAS suggested that Djotodia create a national transitional council to administer the country until CAR held elections. Djotodia created the committee, which began operating in April, and was elected president of the interim body. The council inaugurated Djotodia officially in August 2013.

The interim body proved incapable of restoring order to the state. Many rebels from the Seleka group continued to attack towns in the country. In the attacks Seleka members would often rape, kidnap, and perform other acts of violence on CAR civilians. Exacerbating this, an opposition group called anti-balaka, comprised mostly of Christians who resent the violence carried out by Seleka (which is predominately Muslim), initiated its own acts of violence against

not only Seleka, but Muslims in general. The anti-balaka group’s attacks have thus targeted Muslims who have no association with Seleka or its acts of violence. In August 2013, in observation of the acts of violence committed by both groups, as well as growing religious tensions in CAR, the UN Security Council stated that the situation in CAR posed a risk to regional stability. At the time, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon noted that CAR was experiencing a "total breakdown of law and order." In response, Djotodia disbanded Seleka, though many observers still criticized him for failing to prevent Seleka fighters from engaging in violent acts.42

Since then, the human and national security situation in remains tumultuous. Incidents of violence have occurred throughout the country as a result of tensions between communities. For instance, on August 24 2015, several groups began carrying out open violence against each other in the town of Bria. The conflict resulted in numerous injuries, four deaths, and the closure of the local market.43 In 2014, an estimated 2,116 civilians died as a result of the violence in CAR.44

The violence in the country has created a humanitarian crisis in the country. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA),

Since 2013, CAR has been suffering a devastating humanitarian crisis. More than half of the population – 2.7 million people – are in need of aid. 20% are displaced within or outside the country, About 368,000 people are still internally displaced (IDPs) including over 33,000 in Bangui still living in 31 makeshift camps and other sites. The crisis has forced around 220,000 people to flee to Cameroon, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo and the Republic of Congo since December 2013, bringing the number of Central African refugees in neighbouring countries to about 461,000 people.45

The OCHA further notes that as of August 2015, 1.5 million people in CAR are experiencing food insecurity, as the conflict has decreased food production in the country by half. Part of the problem also results from the "volatile and unpredictable" situation in the country which hinders relief organizations from providing aid. Moreover only 37% of the $613 million requested by the OCHA to address humanitarian issues in CAR.

As noted above, many security scholars posit that conflicts in Africa, including the one in CAR, derive from colonial legacies. Some scholars, such as Mouhamadou Kane, however,

42 BBC News, "Central African Republic Profile."


44 Anderson, "Nigeria Suffers Highest Number of Civilian Deaths in African War Zones."

45 UN OCHA, "Central African Republic."
content that the relatively peaceful coexistence between religious groups in CAR historically demonstrates that religious conflict has emerged only recently. According to Kane, the actual roots of the conflict derive from the failure of the national and regional security systems, which permitted irredentist organizations to thrive and allowed neighboring conflicts to spill into CAR. Kane states that religious tensions surged only after anti-balaka began attacking Muslims, whether they were Seleka members or not, to "liberate the Christian population from the yoke of the Muslims." He thus suggests that "a commission of dialogue, justice and reconciliation could be a great asset to the conflict resolution process."46

Others have expressed similar views to Kane’s notion that CAR and other states have provided security to their citizens. According to the Council on Foreign Relations, the situation results mostly from a loss of legitimacy in the CAR government. The conflict, then, erupted largely as the CAR population lost faith in the government, a situation that was exacerbated by reports of events such as president Samba-Panza’s misuse of aid from Angola. Making matters worse, the recent Ebola crisis in Western Africa diverted attention away from the conflict.47

**Previous Committee Work on This Topic**

The UN, via the Security Council, has addressed Boko Haram primarily through sanctions, though it has issued condemnations of the groups actions as well. In May 2014, following Boko Haram’s abduction of the girls from Chibok, the Security Council sanctions committee added Boko Haram and individuals associated with the group to its list of Al Qaeda in Islamic Maghreb affiliates. This means that Boko Haram is now subject to sanctions and arms embargoes by UN Member States.48 Still, some have questioned whether the sanctions have hindered the group’s activities as intended, noting that the group has continued to carry out attacks in Nigeria unabated.49

In CAR, the UN, again via the Security Council, has been more actively involved. In October 2013, the Security Council approved a UN peacekeeping mission, the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Central African Republic (MINUSCA), to aid in restoring order to CAR alongside peacekeeping forces from the African Union and 2,000

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46 Kane, “Interreligious Violence,” p. 312-316.
French troops stationed in the country. The mission replaced the International Support Mission to the Central African Republic (MISCA), a former AU peacekeeping mission in the country.\textsuperscript{50}

"Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations," MINUSCA is tasked with promoting greater security in CAR by (1) protecting civilians, (2) supporting the implantation of the ECCAS transition process, (3) delivering humanitarian assistance, (4) protect the UN, (5) promote and protect human rights, (6) support national and international justice and the rule of law, and (7) to support the transitional governments efforts at "Disarmament, Demobilization, Reintegration (DDR) and Repatriation (DDRR)."\textsuperscript{51}

The Security Council most recently renewed MINUSCA's mandate in April 2015. It authorized the peacekeeping force to maintain its current operations at current troop levels,\textsuperscript{52} which consists of 9,000 troops, 1,580 police officers, and "a sizeable civilian component" of nearly 900 individuals.\textsuperscript{53} In a statement on September 4, 2015, UN Human Rights Chief Zeid Ra'ad al-Hussein stated that UN Peacekeepers needed to take "tougher action" to restore order to CAR, arguing that improvements had been, so far, too gradual and tentative. He specifically called for an increase in the number of troops and attack helicopters in the country to fulfill their mission.\textsuperscript{54}

Peacekeeping forces, from the UN and other sources such as France and the AU, have, however, created new problems. The UN has recently had to address reports of rape and sexual abuse by UN Peacekeepers in countries such as the Central African Republic. In August 2015, several people alleged that UN Peacekeepers had engaged in rape and sexual abuse towards the citizens of the countries in which they operated. Out of 13 cases of rape reported against peacekeepers in CAR, nine have involved children – some as young as 11 years old.\textsuperscript{55}

\begin{itemize}
\item \textsuperscript{50} BBC News, "Central African Republic Profile;" Zuber, "Central African Republic: Forgotten Crisis."
\item \textsuperscript{54} Bruce, "U.N. Official Urges Stronger Action by Peacekeepers."
\end{itemize}
While the Security Council has the prerogative in addressing these conflicts, the General Assembly (GA) has taken steps to address African conflicts, with particular attention to the Central African region. In 1999, the GA created the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, which came into operation in 2001. The Centre covers CAR and its neighbors in the Central African region. Its purpose is to promote respect for human rights and democracy in the region. In 1992, working with ECCAS, the UN established the UN Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa. Over the years, the committee has helped develop several documents related to security in the region, such as a Code of Conduct for Defence and Security Forces. In addition to passing MINUSCA’s budget, recent resolutions from the GA have expressed continued support for the operations of these organizations and their programs.

The GA also regularly passes resolutions related to security and development in the region. For instance, in 2015 the GA passed Resolution 69/291, which reaffirmed and expanded upon similar resolutions passed previously by the GA and Security Council since 1998 to implement the recommendations of the Secretary-General report on "the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa." The resolution primarily aims to affirm the idea, as discussed in the SG report, that security is tied to levels of social and economic development. It thus emphasizes that African states take steps to ensure inclusive development, and create environments " conducive to national reconciliation and social and economic recovery" when emerging from conflict. The resolution recognizes the importance of AU programs for promoting peace and development, such as Agenda 2063, which seeks to "learn from the lessons of the past" to promote "a sense of unity, self-reliance, integration and solidarity" and "optimize use of Africa’s resources for the benefits of all Africans."

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58 MINUSCA, "Facts and Figures."


The GA also passes annual resolutions on providing "assistance to refugees, returnees, and displaced persons in Africa." In its most recent (2015) passage of a resolution on this topic, the GA called upon states to provide assistance and asylum to refugees and IDPs, particularly vulnerable groups such as children, as well as for African states to sign or ratify the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa. By acceding to the agreement, also known as the Kampala Convention, African states agree to protect the rights and well-being of people, including citizens of other states, who are forced to flee their homes as a result of conflict, violence, disasters, and human rights abuses.

Conclusion

Ongoing conflict in the African region threaten international, national, and human security. While the GA-1 cannot create binding resolutions or send additional peacekeeping forces, what can the GA-1 do to encourage peaceful resolution of these conflicts, promote development, and assist people in humanitarian need?

In researching your country’s position on this issue, consider the following questions:

- Is your country in the Africa? If so, what are its security concerns and what is its view on these conflicts? What is its level of development, and how does this affect national and human security? How are other countries helping or hindering its progress?

- If your country is not a member of the region, what are its security concerns and what is its view on these conflicts? Has it historically contributed to or detracted from security, development, and human rights in the region? What allies, trading partners, and other interests does your country have in the region, and what has it done to protect them?

- Does your country contribute peacekeeping forces to the missions in these countries? Have troops from your country been implicated in sexual abuse by peacekeepers?

- Which aspects of the conflicts are most pressing, and how should they be addressed?

- How can your country and the UN contribute to the resolution of these conflicts?

Recommended Reading


This site lists treaties adopted by the African Union. Several treaties relate to the issues of conflict (including acts of terror), development, human rights, and refugees in Africa.

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It will be helpful to have a basic understanding of these treaties in addressing the topic. If your country is in Africa, it may be helpful to click on the links on the right to see if your country has signed or ratified the agreement as well.


This page provides access to documents related to discussions and decisions in the Security Council and Human Rights Council pertinent to the situation in Nigeria and others affected by Boko Haram.


This page provides access to documents related to the Security Council and Human Rights Council pertinent to the situation in Central African Republic.


This series of web pages from the Guardian arranges past and current news stories related to Boko Haram's activities in a timeline dating back to when the group first began using violence in 2009.


This page provides a chronological summary of articles on the situation. Be sure to look at the articles between July-September 2015, which focus heavily on the allegations of sexual abuse by UN peacekeepers.


This document provides recent information on the conflict in CAR with particular attention to the humanitarian crisis in the country.


This is the webpage for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic.