

# African Union

Committee Background Guide

GC: London 2012



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## About this Committee

The African Union was created to be a successor to the Organization of African Unity (OAU). The African Union, or AU, is a pan-African organisation whose goal is to propel a united continent towards peace and prosperity. The AU supports political and economic integration among its 54 member nations. It aims to boost development, eradicate poverty and bring Africa into the global economy.

## Background

Though direct conflict, both between the two Sudanese states and within South Sudan, has largely ceased, the instability and uncertain future of these states has ramifications for regional and global security. The creation of UNMISS brought the end of the previous peacekeeping mission in Sudan, the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), which was established in 2005. The key mandate of UNMIS was to monitor and support the adherence to the CPA and uphold respect for basic human rights, as well as for the newly signed ceasefire agreement.

Since independence, South Sudan has experienced internal conflict between different ethnic and regional groups. In August, a conflict in Jonglei between different ethnic groups, resulted in more than 600 deaths and over 1,000 wounded. Violence broke out after large-scale cattle raids, amounting to the theft of approximately 30,000 cattle. The violence has also led to the kidnapping of children and the displacement of over 26,000 people. UNMISS peacekeepers have been sent to contain the violence, but the resettlement process must be deferred until basic protection can be assured for displaced persons.

In late-May, the town of Abyei was attacked by forces aligned with the North. First reports state that 20,000 civilians had fled Abyei, which is the majority of the population, and that Southern soldiers and civilians had been killed. The North defended their actions by stating that 22 of their men were killed in an ambush orchestrated by people of the South. The conflict has since spread around the region to include the South Kordofan region.

## Oil

Oil has been both the cause of conflict and a motivator for peace negotiations in its history. Sudan's economy is reliant on natural resource extraction. In recent years, Sudan's most important export has been oil. While agriculture is the single most important industry in the Sudanese economy, as it employs about two thirds of the working population, oil is now the main driving force behind the economy—accounting for around 95 percent of export revenue in 2008. It is responsible for sharply increasing the GDP growth since the opening of the first export pipeline in 1999. The Government of South Sudan has developed as an institution that is completely dependent on oil, providing 98% of its revenue. This is partially due to the very high state involvement in the oil industry.

## **Current Situation October 2012**

A UN Security Council resolution ordered a ceasefire and the settlement of crucial unresolved issues, under African Union mediation. The leaders of Sudan and newly independent South Sudan reached agreement in late September that will resume oil exports, but failed to address other key disputes. The late-September deals, signed by Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir and his South Sudanese counterpart Salva Kiir, came after the neighbours fought along their undemarcated frontier in March and April, sparking fears of wider war.

The South's government had halted oil production in January after accusing Khartoum of theft in a long-running dispute over how much the impoverished government in Juba should pay for sending its oil through northern infrastructure for export. The deals signed last month included agreements to ensure the resumption of oil exports, as well as progress on a financial package of about \$3 billion that South Sudan offered Khartoum.

The Security Council had set a deadline for both sides to agree a deal or face sanctions - but a solution was not found to the disputed flashpoint region of Abyei, or on a series of border zones claimed by both countries. Both Sudan and the South are reliant on their oil revenues, which account for 98% of South Sudan's budget. The two countries have tentatively agreed how to divide the oil wealth of the former united state. Some 75% of the oil lies in the South but all the pipelines run north. It is feared that renewed disputes over oil could lead the two neighbours to return to war. Resumed oil exports — from which Sudan will take transport fees — will help ease tensions but the new demilitarized buffer zone will provoke more conflict if the borders are not clearly defined.

They also reached agreement on a demilitarised border buffer zone, where troops must withdraw 10 kilometres (six miles) from the de facto line of control along the undemarcated frontier. The zone aims to cut support for rebels which Sudan says are backed by South Sudan in the northern states of South Kordofan and Blue Nile. Despite statements by the African Union and UN Security Council stressing that the lines of the buffer zone will have no bearing on any future resolution of the various border disputes, officials and citizens from Northern Bahr el Ghazal have been angered that South Sudan's army will move out of the 14 Mile area to create the buffer zone.

## **Threats**

### **Citizenship and statelessness**

The government of Sudan has restricted dual nationality; Sudanese nationals may now be stripped of their citizenship after adopting South Sudanese citizenship. Many Southern Sudanese have been living and working in the North for years, but without the recognition as Sudanese nationals, they do not have basic rights and cannot acquire jobs or attend school.

Prolonged statelessness for these groups will lead to increased poverty and displacement, which could exacerbate ethnic tensions and cross-border violence.

## **Humanitarian crisis**

South Sudan faces challenges in providing basic services to its population in terms of health care, education and living standards. Over half of the population of South Sudan lives in poverty and without significant humanitarian aid. This lack of basic necessities could lead to future conflicts over resources.

Despite the progress that has been made in bringing involved parties to negotiate, violence within the province continues to displace civilians and threatens future peace building efforts in the area:

Violence is also rampant in Abyei, a still-contested area that falls along the Sudan-South Sudan border and there are large numbers of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)

## **Justice**

The International Criminal Court has an active warrant for the arrest of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir for crimes against humanity and genocide from the Darfur conflict. The AU has rejected the warrant and the ICC because it “undermin(es) African solidarity and African Peace and Security.” To date, no African Member States have initiated campaigns to arrest Bashir for visiting their nation despite the fact that 33 African countries are signatories of the I.C.C. Only President Joyce Banda of Malawi has agreed to honour the arrest warrant. Earlier this month, to avoid creating diplomatic tensions among its members, the A.U. decided to move a crucial summit from Malawi to Ethiopia, from one country where Bashir risked being arrested to another where he was guaranteed not to be. Critics argue that this diplomatic ambiguity undermines the organization’s own case that it is capable — and deserving — of taking charge of its own political destiny.

## **Resolutions:**

South Sudan and Sudan face significant challenges in becoming peaceful and stable states. Humanitarian projects, including poverty reduction, clean sanitation projects, increased access to healthcare and expanding education, must be integrated into peace building attempts to strengthen and protect the both the Sudanese and South Sudanese populations. Border disputes must be successfully resolved.

South Sudan should be supported to build an amicable relationship with Sudan, especially as energy sector reform and development is pursued; building a strong diplomatic relationship will be critical in resolving border disputes and dissipating future cross-border conflict.

With the failure to honour the arrest warrant of Bashir what steps can the AU take to demonstrate to the international community that they have the capacity and the political will to guarantee human rights across the region?

When researching this topic, delegates should consider how the AU might work with the Sudanese and South Sudanese governments to reach a solution to the problems of migration and citizenship. Given the domestic nature of immigration and citizenship policy, how might the African Union assist South Sudan in the creation of fair and equitable policies?

#### How can the AU promote its aims of:

- unity, peace among African nations
- democracy, good governance
- sustainable growth

#### How can the African Union support Sudan and South Sudan and ensure:

- Reciprocal economic and security arrangements;
- The correct demarcation of the common border and the resolution of border disputes;
- The political boundary between the two states does not hinder all-round human interaction across this border, making this a "soft border";
- The guarantee of the rights of the nationals of each state temporarily or permanently resident on each other's territory;
- A joint engagement of the international community by both states to request them to extend material support to both states, consistent with their objective to work together to ensure each other's viability;
- The establishment of dispute-resolution mechanisms to peacefully settle all differences that may arise in the context of the implementation of these agreements.

As funding problems perennially undermine the work of UN agencies, delegates should also consider what strategies might be used to secure more funding for AU projects in South Sudan.

#### **Questions for Research:**

- At the time of your writing, what is the status of government in South Sudan?
- What are the essential features of an effective government and how can they be cultivated in South Sudan?
- What can the international community do to help the progress of a peaceful resolution and end to ethnic conflict between Sudan and South Sudan?
- How significant is the role of oil and foreign investment from Asian countries in influencing how resources are split between Sudan and South Sudan?
- What can be done to stop inter communal conflict, especially in the Jonglei State?

#### **Research Links**

[www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14094995](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14094995)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43068&Cr=Sudan&Cr1=>

[http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics\\_49194.htm](http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_49194.htm)

[http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/04/world/africa/nigerian-peacekeepers-killed-in-darfur-ambush.html?ref=africanunion&\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/04/world/africa/nigerian-peacekeepers-killed-in-darfur-ambush.html?ref=africanunion&_r=0)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-16910745>

<http://www.google.com/search?q=african+unuin+sudan+evaluation&sourceid=ie7&rls=com.microsoft:en-US&ie=utf8&oe=utf8>

<http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/southsudan>.

The Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre tracks displacement throughout the world, and its web site provides key documents related to displacement in South Sudan, pertinent news items, and recent reports on displacement.

<http://www.npr.org/2012/05/03/151958812/diplomats-up-efforts-to-avert-war-between-sudans>.

The SC has recently discussed the situation in South Sudan and particularly the border violence that is occurring between Sudan and South Sudan.

<http://unmis.unmissions.org/>.

UNMISS is the peacekeeping mission, operating under the SC, that aims to address peace, security, and development in South Sudan. Its predecessor was the United Nations Mission in Sudan. The Mission's Website is a valuable resource for information on South Sudan, as well as on UN efforts related to South Sudan.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocusRel.asp?infocusID=88>.

This web site by the United Nations News Centre is a helpful database for UN efforts related to the topics of Sudan and South Sudan. Due to the Web site's structure, it is an important source to consult in order to understand what different entities within the UN have done and are doing to address these topics.

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/docs.asp?Topic=Sudan&Type=Resolution>.

Given the length of the conflict between Sudan and South Sudan, the SC has frequently addressed and crafted documents on issues related to the region. This Web site lists SC resolutions on the topic of Sudan

<http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=S/RES/2046%20%282012%29>.

SC Resolution 2046 is one of the most recent SC resolutions on border violence between South Sudan and Sudan. This resolution calls for the immediate cessation of fighting and the restarting of negotiations within the region. SC 2046 is an important document for understanding past and present actions of the SC related to the situation in South Sudan.

### **United Nations Documents on UNISFA**

Resolutions of the Security Council

Statements by the President of the Security Council

Reports of the Secretary-General

Letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The Security Council, by its resolution 1990  of 27 June 2011, responded to the urgent situation in Sudan's Abyei region by establishing the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). The Security Council was deeply concerned by the violence, escalating tensions and population displacement