

AFRICAN UNION COMMITTEE

Official Website: <https://au.int/>

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1. WELCOME

Dear Delegates,

The Africa Union presidency gives you a very pleasant welcome to SIMONU Bogotá - Region 2020, now you are part of a community of young leaders that sees dialogue and assertive communication as the basis for the solution of any conflict. Remember that as young people the present belongs to us, it's in our hands to build a better future taking as a reference the lessons that the past leaves us, but before anything, we hope you will enjoy the experience called SIMONU, now you are part of the largest ONU simulation in the world.

2. TOPIC: Strategies for proper management of human resources into the analysis of the internal crisis.

3. APPROACHES: (*Study Cases*)

1. The central African Republic.
2. Burundi.

4. METHODOLOGICAL GUIDELINES

Simonu Bogotá Región 2020 will be held virtually in two days of work in commission, in which it is sought to develop the topic to deal with and generate viable and sustainable solutions to the problems tackled. For this reason, some points to be taken into consideration are presented below:

- A copy of the opening speech must be given to the committee's Directive Board, outlining the position of the represented delegation and the first reflections on the subject. This

document will facilitate the steering of the committee. Delegates will have one minute to present their keynote address.

The work by commission will revolve around three moments that must be taken into account in the elaboration of the working papers, as follows: (1) the identification and description of the problem or situation to be dealt with by the committee, (2) what has been done so far to solve this situation and how it has turned out; finally (3) the structuring of possible solutions or courses of action to respond to the problems addressed.

In the commission, each student represents a delegation. Despite this, it is important to work as a team for negotiation and conciliation in order to achieve durable and viable solutions that contribute to responding to the problems raised. The discussion will be conducted in accordance with the procedure stipulated in the Simonu Bogotá Manual of Procedure.

5. ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

The African Union (AU) is mainly a continental union in the African continent, consisting of 55 member states. The first time the union was announced was in the Sirte Declaration in Sirte, Libia, on September 9th, 1999. The bloc was officially founded on May 26th, 2001 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Nevertheless, official work management started officially on July 9th, 2002. The foremost purpose of the AU was to replace the Organization of African Unity (OAU) that was established by 32 signatory governments in 1963.

There are 14 principal objectives to accomplish that are guided by the 2063 Agenda which is “*The continent's strategic framework that aims to deliver on its goal for inclusive and sustainable development*” (AU, n.d.). Some of the most important objectives for the work in this committee session are:

- To encourage international cooperation, taking due account of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- To promote democratic principles and institutions, popular participation and good governance.
- To establish the necessary conditions which enable the continent to play its rightful role in the global economy and in international negotiations.
- To promote sustainable development at the economic, social, and cultural levels as well as the integration of African economies.
- To promote cooperation in all fields of human activity to raise the living standards of African peoples.
- To coordinate and harmonize the policies between the existing and future Regional Economic Communities for the gradual attainment of the objectives of the Union.

Taken from: Constitutive Act of The African Union, Article 3 (Objectives)

The African Union is made of political and administrative bodies, where the highest decision making organ is the Assembly of the African Union. Between this some to outline are, The Executive Council, The Permanent Representatives Committee, and the Economic, Social, and Cultural Council. The last being a civil society consultative body which is under the supervision of the ECOSOC.

This Committee has agreed during the past decades in several new important documents that establish norms on a continental level. Some of these include “ African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption (2003), the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (2007), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and its associated Declaration on Democracy, Political, Economic and Corporate Governance.” (AU, 2007)

Finally, the 2063 Agenda, which is the most recent agreement among the African countries, is a strategic plan that serves to ensure the completion of the AU objectives and the Attainment of the Pan African Vision. This Agenda is one of the greatest calls for collaboration and support allying the African people.

COMMITTEE TOPIC: (Strategies for proper management of human resources into the analysis of the internal crisis)

In order to re-evaluate the resources management in the African continent, there must be taken into consideration the past assistance and support that the International Community has been giving for the past few decades and the problematic status of the organization and strategic management of this aid.

In a general view, African countries have been receiving heavily foreign assistance from the International Community due to some of the worst crises humanity has been facing. There is no doubt that the aid provided to most of the nations have been of great help and righteous intentions, however, despite the successes, many experts during the time have been arguing that the assistance of the foreign aid has developed a complete dependency culture among Africa and fostered paternalism. (Kwemo, 2017)

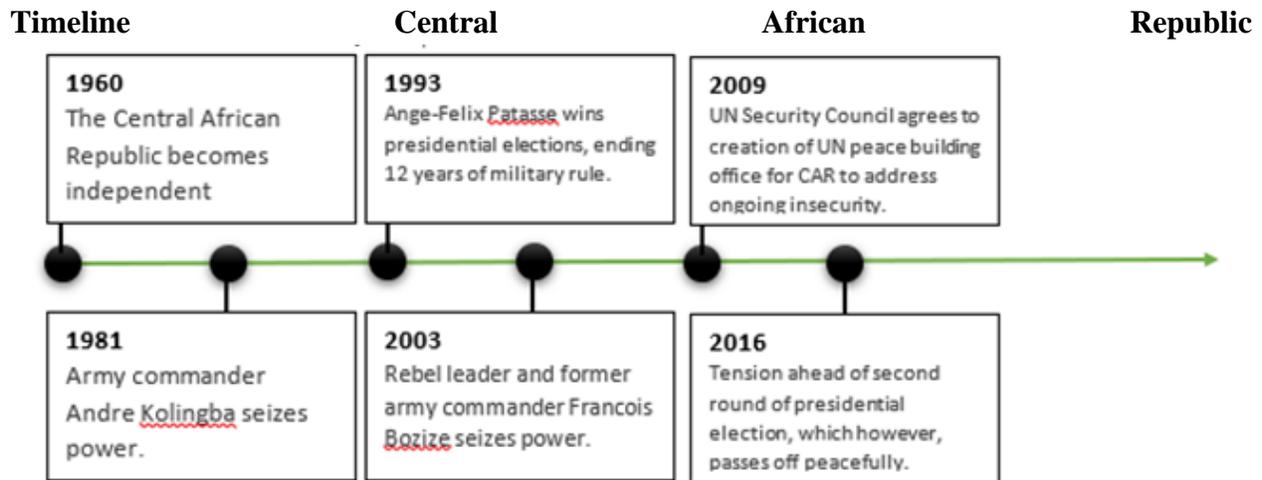
CONTEXT

Since colonies were established in Africa around the first half of the 20th Century, Africa has been suffering from many conflicts and problems that have not allowed its proper development. Among the worst issues this continent has passed through we can mention a huge patchwork of ethnicities,

the border, the government, corruption problems, including physical factors such as transportation difficulties and the rough weather. The “Top-Down” which is the main point, and the poorly-dawn colonial borders. The “Bottom-Up ” is the sociological factor as the ethnic rivalry. It is known that African Nations have received multiple aids in order to recover part of the culture and socio-economic stability, however, the main issue is what is known as the “Aid Curse”, which is identified by the unstable governments, corruption, bad funds handling and therefore, it makes many of these afore mentioned aids not successful at 100%.

APPROACHES

Study Case N° 1. Central African Republic.



(Complete timeline in BBC – Central African republic country profile)

(Timeline analysis)

Since its independence in 1960, The Central African Republic has gone through different periods that have marked and defined the reality they live today. Five years after their independence, Jean-Bedel Bokassa would take power in a coup and, for the next 23 years, The Central African Empire would experience a wave of violence by Dacko and Bokassa, two leaders who, in pursuit of power, all they achieved was to sink their people. This chapter would end in 1991 when the first political parties were established in the territory and Ange-Felix Patasse came to power.

But the arrival of Patasse would solve certain problems and bring others to the table. During the 90's there were several mutinies by the military who disagreed with the Patasse’s government. In the year 2000 Civil servants staged a general strike over back-pay; a rally was organized by opposition groups who accused President Patasse of mismanagement and corruption which turned out into riots. Patasse was removed from power in 2002.

This situation unleashed more violence and poverty. The first decade of the 21st century made nearly 20,000 inhabitants homeless, various events such as massacres and other episodes of violence triggered the UN to intervene on more than one occasion. In 2008, the peace processes would begin with the rebel groups that, after a complicated trade, would end up into signing the peace treaty in 2012, but this has not ended yet.

Although the peace treaty was signed, there are still rebel groups that keep on perpetuating the conflict within its territory. It has become a back and forth fight between two sides that have their interests skewed and the only thing they have achieved is to continue destabilizing a country that can no longer support itself and, despite having the resources to boost its economy, it prefers to maintain fragile power schemes that only benefit a few people.

Based on: BBC – Central African republic country profile

(Economic context)

The Central African Republic is rich in diamonds, gold, oil and uranium but, it has one of the world's poorest populations. It was plunged into turmoil in 2013 when Muslim rebels from the Seleka umbrella group seized power in the majority Christian country. A band of mostly Christian militias, called the anti-balaka, rose up to counter the Seleka. Seleka handed power to a transitional government in 2014 under international pressure but months of violence followed and the country was effectively partitioned, in spite of the presence of a UN peacekeeping force and a French mission. The country is undergoing an internationally supervised transition involving a constitutional referendum as well as presidential and parliamentary elections.

Took From: BBC – Central African Republic country profile

Why has it not succeeded?

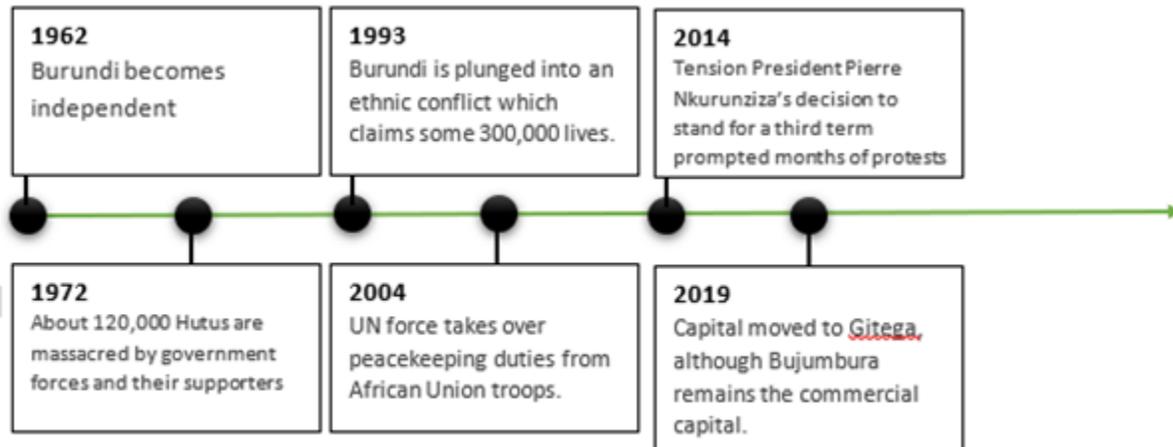
The ONU has intervened a total of six times in the Central African Republic, yet the results of these interventions have not been successful. On the one hand, the Security Council interventions have targeted the refugees' issue, giving a temporary solution to it, but without attacking the root problem. On the other hand, the Africa Union intervened in peace processes and post- conflict processes, also creating and leading with the Security Council the MINUSCA mission, which was created to establish peace and quiet in the territory. Despite the great effort by the ONU, the conflict's wounds continue to persist. In 2017, the ONU reported that nearly one million inhabitants had abandoned their homes due to the conflict.

In order to establish solutions, it is necessary an internal commitment, community work and the design of strategies that make the Central African Republic an independent nation, able to lead its social and economic processes with autonomy. The process to remove the Central African Republic from the extreme poverty zone is hard and complicated, but it's not impossible. This

process needs the support of all Africa. The Central African Republic doesn't need donations, it needs to get out of economic dependence.

Study Case N° 2. Burundi.

Timeline Burundi



(Complete timeline in BBC – Burundi country profile)

(Timeline analysis)

Burundi achieved its independence in 1962, establishing itself as an individual kingdom. In its first four years, it had already experienced episodes of ethnic violence that ended with the migration of several communities to Rwanda. Four years later, Michael Micombero abolished the monarchy and it is the point where Burundi's history would begin to take a nosedive.

During the next two decades, a wave of massacres and ethnic violence would cover the soil of Burundi. Approximately 120,000 Hutus were killed by Tutsis and thousands more had to flee to Rwanda. In 1976 and in 1987, two coups d'état were carried out and it would not be until 1993 when Ndadaye became president that the period of military governments would end. Ndadaye established a pro-Hutu government, the following year Ndadaye would be assassinated.

In the same year as Ndadaye's death, the ethnic conflict claimed nearly 300,000 lives,

(Economic context)

Burundi, one of the world's poorest nations, is struggling to emerge from a 12-year, ethnic-based civil war. Since independence in 1962, it has been plagued by tension between the usually-dominant Tutsi minority and the Hutu majority. A civil war sparked off in 1994 which made Burundi the scene of one of Africa's most intractable conflicts.

Taken from: BBC – Burundi country profile

Why has it not succeeded?

The management of human resources is a very complex topic, taking into account various factors like the economic and political crises that the nation has suffered historically and in the present. For example, conditions such as extreme poverty and hunger have made people use solutions like migration, which is a huge phenomenon, with thousands of people from this country going away, finding a different life. But international organizations don't pay the necessary attention to this problem, because donations are taken as a priority but in reality, only small percentages of the money required to guarantee acceptable life conditions to refugees are donated. Also, there is not a great political stability, so without proper internal management of the territory and the people of it, external help and organisms can't be as useful as they should or would like. A case that can help to understand this, are the donations of UNHCR in 2018 to the refugees' cause, which could only provide 33% of the necessary "help" which isn't a term that guarantees a solution to the human rights vulnerability.

It is necessary to find solutions to this, because it's a matter of human rights, and the International Community needs to act as quickly as possible. The solutions implemented should be helpful in an internal context, and without falling again into the same weak cycles of apparent solutions which don't actually change anything. Another reason that explains why in Burundi the humanitarian crisis is still present, is the way of thinking of political leaders who only take into account short term solutions to problems, without realizing that the future always depends on the current decisions.

6. KEY CONCEPTS

1. Human Rights:
2. Economic resources
3. Sovereignty
4. Colonialism
5. Humanitarian crisis

7. GUIDING QUESTIONS

- How do external donations affect the development of my country?
- Why is my country economically stable? why not?
- What actions should countries that aren't economically stable take?
- How the social crises affect the internal development of my country?
- How should my country handle internal resources?
- Is there a negative connotation in the fact that a country receives external aid?
- What is the relationship between economic instability and resource management?

8. REFERENCE LIST

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