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MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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DIRECTORS WELCOME LETTER:

Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2020. This conference has been the home of fruitful debate, practical resolutions, dedicated moderators, spectacular delegates, and diligent advisory and executive boards for the past twelve years and is continuing to do so for its thirteenth year. With 1000 delegates registered from more than 45 national and international educational institutions, this conference will be the biggest one yet!

This year's theme 'Embracing Diversity, Shaping the Future' has been designed to capture the essence of issues that surround our globalized society. Even though we have come this forward in time, there has been little to no improvement in accepting diversity as portrayed by the latest atrocities in several countries around the world. However, the future can be successfully be shaped for us, the youth, only by embracing diversity in every sector of life and we hope to draw attention to this.

This background guide has been formulated by our hard-working chairs and the research team to provide delegates with the starting point of their preparation for this three-day conference. The guide is initially divided into two sections based on the two topics and is further split into logical components. Firstly, the Summary and History section acts as an introduction to the issue by highlighting important events, terms, history, and global implications. Secondly, the Discourse on the Issue section establishes a link between the issue, its implications, significance, and the United Nations Charter. Lastly, the Past International Organization (IO) Actions and Latest Developments section elaborates on the previous action that has been taken and latest development in terms of the last actions taken with regards to the issue. At the end of each issue, delegates will find sections of Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address and Suggestions for Further Research that aim to streamline the process of delegate's research. However, in order to grab a better understanding of the topic and be able to position yourself better to participate during the conference, it is advised to go beyond the background guide since this guide does not encapsulate enough information to be sufficient for every country and is only a brief introduction to the issues at hand. It is highly encouraged for delegates to view the 'Delegate Handbook' on the AUSMUN website and the 'How to Research' video on YouTube created by AUSMUN.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all the contributors to this background guide. It is the collaborative work of the Moderators, AUSMUN Research Team, and the AUSMUN Media Team. On behalf of them all, I truly hope that this guide will be of great help to you.

All the very best for the conference and if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at research@ausmun.com.

Sincerely,
Manaswi Madichetty
Director of Research
AUSMUN 2020

MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:

Hamed Ali

Mohammad Khalail

Najwa Hubaishy

Dear Delegates,

It is our honor to officially welcome you to the American University of Sharjah's Model United Nations (AUSMUN) and to our committee, the United Nations Security Council (SC). We are looking forward to discussing, tackling and solving critical global issues. We also hope to see your outstanding interaction and communication skills during our committee debates.

The United Nations Security Council consists of fifteen members, five of which are referred to as the "Permanent Five (P5)". The Permanent Five include France, People's Republic of China, Russian Federation (Formally USSR), the United Kingdom and the United States. The P5 hold a power called the Veto Power that allows them to veto any substantive Security Council resolution. UNSC also includes ten non-permanent members which are elected every two years on a regional basis. The UNSC drafts resolutions that are legally binding and if not followed, sanctions can be imposed on Member states that do not conform with them.

Our aim is to make sure all delegates enjoy, and also leave the conference with valuable information that helps improve their skills of debate and general knowledge on global issues. We highly urge all delegates of the UNSC High School committee to engage and contribute on fruitful debates with their fellow delegates. If you have any issues or questions, do not hesitate to contact us at nhubaishyy@gmail.com.

Regards,
The UNSC Committee Chairs

UNSC

United Nations Security Council

Boko Haram; the escalating terrorist threats in central Africa

1. Summary & History

Boko Haram is an extremist Islamic sect in Nigeria that has caused havoc across the African Continent. This radical group is notorious for its vicious motives, terroristic efforts and religious fabrications. From kidnapping to burning down educational institutions, Boko Haram has proved its identity as a terrorist group rather than a religious and political one. The spread of Boko Haram in Africa has become a continuous and serious terrorist threat to governments as well as civilians. The groups violent attacks on government offices, the United Nations, and churches threatens to destabilize countries. A range of conflicting narratives have grown around Boko Haram as the group's origin, motivation, and future plans remain a matter of debate. Since August 2011 Boko Haram has planted bombs almost weekly in public spaces or in churches in Nigeria's northeastern region. The group has also broadened its targets to include schools. In March 2012, some twelve public schools in Maiduguri were burned down during the night, and as many as 10,000 pupils were forced out of education as a result (Walker, 2012).

2. Discourse on the Issue

The Boko Haram conflict in Nigeria has its origins in the northern region of the country, where the group runs its main operations. However, the activity from opposing forces has extended the War beyond the borders of Nigeria. The reasons for these extensions are obvious, the terrorist group believed that external involvement was crucial to achieve their overall strategic objective. For Nigeria, externalization of the conflict has ensured international support to check the insurgency. Essentially, Boko Haram is an Islamic sect that believes northern politics in Nigeria have been seized by a group of corrupt and false Muslims. These extremists wish to wage a war against "fake Muslims" and the Federal Republic of Nigeria in general, to create a 'pure' Islamic state ruled by sharia law.

In 2014, Boko Haram switched tactics by holding territory after attacks instead of retreating (Gberie, 2016). The groups tactics have become more sophisticated, both in response to increased security operations by the military, and in an effort to stir sectarian conflict. Their first attacks in 2010 were predominantly shootings, but they began utilizing IEDs in December of the same year especially in the run-up to the 2011 elections (Group, 2014). To bring any major armed conflict to an end it is important to understand the nature of the war. South African mercenaries were effective against Boko Haram, this was because they had a better understanding of the nature of the war in northern Nigeria. As a result, the mercenaries adopted tactic was dubbed 'relentless pursuit'. Nigeria has previously referred to the conflict with Boko Haram as a terrorist campaign, a religious war, and an insurgency.

3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments

Nigeria's military has now resumed its previous hostilities against not Boko Haram, but humanitarian and non-governmental organizations. In recent months, the army has managed to shut down two active prominent NGOs that were operational amid the brutal conditions brought down by Boko Haram (Kazeem, 2019). 'Action Against Hunger,' an NGO that delivered neutral,

impartial, and independent humanitarian aid to millions of people in the Borno state had also been shut down by the army amid accusations of providing resource supplies to Boko Haram. The NGO was previously responsible for supplying basic services to the most vulnerable people, included women and children. This closure was followed by the shutdown of 'Mercy Corps' whose work lead to major discoveries about Boko Haram. The organizations findings included information about the lack of a specific demographic profile for the terrorist group, and that social influence was a key form of recruitment for them (Akwagyiram, 2019). Ultimately, the strained relationship between the army and key humanitarian groups comes at the expense of local beneficiaries who now remain without aid.

In a global context, after 9/11, counter-terrorist efforts in Africa have become more pronounced. The United States deployed a large task force in an effort to combat terrorists that were operating in Africa. In late 2002, this establishment became known as the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA). To support this effort, President Bush granted 100 million dollars to initiate a series of training and military support operations in Sahel (Lyman).

4. Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address

- What are the factors that lead to the rise of Boko Haram as a terrorist organization and with what goal?
- How should Africans nations develop an infrastructure that would eradicate terrorism?
- What political/economic elements of Africa fuel Boko Haram?
- What International/National polices are to be adopted to aid in the termination of Boko Haram?

5. Suggestions for Further Research

- Difficulty in government – NGO operations
- Analysis of Local and International Parameters

The Situation in Sudan; the International Condemnations of Violence in Sudan

1. Summary & History

In December of 2018, Sudanese started peacefully protesting against the lack of basic human needs provided to its civilians. The protests began against the lack of fuel and rising food costs and then was extended against the President Omar Al-Bashir. The protests were initially peaceful and eye-opening for the citizens, but this didn't last. The reason for the unrest against President Omar Al-Bashir was due to the extreme human suffering caused during Bashir's time in office. Bashir has been known for committing inhumane and brutal actions against the Sudanese people, such as being responsible for issuing orders for the death of 15,000 villagers at the hands of the Janjaweed Military. The Military was also held accountable for using chemical weapons against civilians and raping women in Darfur. After examining the inhumane actions against innocent Sudanese civilians, Omar Al-Bashir was arrested based on a decision from the ICJ. Further, Bashir regained power and continued to act in a malicious way toward the civilians. Bashir was arrested in April after continual protests. He was removed from power and the military council took over during the three-year transition period for office. This was not a decision the Sudanese people wanted and they continued to protest after the fall of Bashir in order to remove the people that took power in the transition.

2. Discourse on the Issue

The situation in Sudan has been fiercely discussed and debated as there have been several in-cidents that captured the attention of the international community. From the start of the revolt against former President Bashir, the Sudanese revolution went through several violent scenes as protesters were attacked and their spirits broken down. The United Nations condemned the actions of the Sudanese authorities and other pro-government groups that were targeting and attacking the peaceful protests. According to the International Human Rights laws, attacking peaceful protesters that are fighting for their rights and demanding change is seen as a war crime, violating international law. Instability and security disturbances were also observed due to the clash between civilians and authorities. Sudanese authorities justified their aggressive behavior against protesters claiming that they were following certain protocols to ensure the national security and safety of Sudan. After months of protests, the Sudanese people success-fully achieved their goal of overthrowing the previous Sudanese government. Currently, Sudan is being run by a transitional government. This transitional power is aiming to fix the foreign and internal affairs of Sudan that ensured several drawbacks during the reign of Al Bashir. Su-dan, along with its allies from the Gulf Countries Council are working towards removing Sudan from the United States' terrorism list.

3. Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments

The Sudanese revolution was welcomed by several states due to the economic and political misery in the state caused by the policies and strategies of Al Bashir. Sudan faced and is still facing several economic and political sanctions that create several obstacles to open trade and free travel for its people. Violence in Sudan and the threats to its security have created several

international concerns. The concern is exacerbated as several groups are creating disorder and unrest that threatens the future of the country. Not to mention that the dissent at the domestic level could snowball into more regional conflict. Given the central location of Sudan on the African continent, any violence and unrest in the region can become a cause for concern for its neighboring states. Recently, the transitional government in Sudan has been reestablishing foreign relations and strengthening foreign affairs with the help of several regional allies in the GCC. The transitional government understands the need of having strong foreign relations. Sudan and its people can benefit from a stronger relationship with other African states to ensure a more sustainable future for the nation alongside a strong international community.

4.   Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address

- Within your state's scope, did the Sudanese revolution satisfy the demands of the Sudanese people?
- How can the international community help Sudan?
- What implications does the situation in Sudan have on international security?

5.   Suggestions For Further Research

- Understand the Sudanese situation thoroughly.
- Learn about the objectives of the revolution and try to analyze it they're feasible or not.
- Your states relations with Sudan.
- The history and current situation of Sudan.

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