

2016 CSS MUN V Conference Background Guide



Beginner/Intermediate Security Council

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Background of the UN Security Council

The original *Charter of the United Nations* states the main 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,” and the Security Council is tasked with the fulfillment of this responsibility. The Security Council’s main function is to maintain international peace and security, as well as to promote human rights around the world. The SC has the capacity to enforce trade embargoes and economic sanctions, as well as apply collective military force in certain scenarios. This force usually consists of UN Peacekeeping Officers (PKOs). The SC consists of 15 countries: 10 non-permanent that are selected every 2 years for 4-year terms, and 5 permanent members (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States).

Topic 1: United Nations Peacekeeping Actions and International Humanitarian Aid Conditions in the Chaotic Central African Republic

Post-Independence History

The Central African Republic (CAR) has suffered a long history of violence, starting from the first days of European influence. During the scramble for Africa by the European colonizing nations, the region was taken by France. On August 13, 1960, the CAR gained its independence from their rulers in a slew of independences in the same month by colonies from

France. A stable government has never truly formed, and corruption, coups, and notoriously poor leaders have ravaged the country ever since its independence.

The CAR’s first leader, Prime Minister Barthélemy Boganda, was a Catholic priest who played an important role in African independence in the region. Unfortunately, in 1959, Boganda died in a plane crash and was succeeded by the CAR’s first president of their independent era, David Dacko. On

December 31, 1965, Dacko was overthrown by Jean-Bedel Bokassa in a military coup that put Bokassa into the presidency. Bokassa described himself as an “absolute monarch,” and suppressed all forms of democracy or election; he even forbade the speaking of these words.



Bokassa's extravagant spending with government funds also put the CAR's budget into complete disarray. On December 4, 1977, after 12 years of rule as president-for-life, Bokassa declared himself Emperor of the Central African Empire. The lavish coronation cost over \$22 million, and was funded mostly by the French. In 1979, France, finally disgusted by Bokassa's inhumane rule, plotted another coup and overthrew Bokassa. Almost in the next three decade, CAR experienced several other leaders, such as Kolingba, Patasse, and Bozize, but none of them successfully brought peace and stability to the country.

Recent Conflicts

The current conflict began in 2006 in the northern regions of the country when fighting between government officers and rebel groups displaced a large number of civilians. In January 2007, the Libyan government helped create a peace treaty between FPDC (one of the biggest rebel groups in CAR) and the CAR government, the first of many rebel treaties to come. Many treaties between the CAR government and different rebel groups followed in order to promote stability in the CAR. The rebels proposed to establish a unified national government and implement an independent electoral commission for the planned 2010 December elections. Unfortunately, these goals were never fully met. The first round of elections were held in January 2011 after being delayed several times by President Bozize due to issues involving the electoral commission and the various political parties in the country. The elections proceeded peacefully, though flawed, and Bozize was declared President once again.

In late 2012, conflict arose yet again when Séléka rebels – angered by the President's



failure to address the agreements spelled out in the different treaties – began to move from the northern regions further south, towards Bangui. The rebels demanded the President to step down and voiced concerns over his promised concessions. President Bozize called out to other African nations and to France for aid against the advancing rebels, but he received little support. French President Francois Hollande stated that “If we have a presence, it’s not to protect a regime, it’s to protect our nationals and our interests and in no way to intervene in the internal business of a country, in this case

the Central African Republic... Those days are over.”

Séléka gradually moved southwards. On March 24, 2013, Séléka moved into the capital of Bangui and captured it by force. Around 5,000 rebel fighters entered the capital, forcing Bozize to leave the country. Power was turned over to Michel Djotodia, the leader of Séléka, who then declared himself the president. He announced that CAR would once again go through a period of political transition until “credible and transparent” national elections would eventually be held.

After Bozize fled the country, The Central African Republic was basically in a state of anarchy. Séléka declared itself to be the legal government of Central African Republic, but it showed little ability to bring peace to the country. Interim President and the leader of Séléka Michel Djotodia was forced to resign in January 2014. Several days later, the Mayor of Bangui, Catherine Samba-Panza, was elected to be the Interim President of CAR until the elections in 2015. In July 2014, Djotodia was restored to be the leader of Séléka, and the group changed its name to “The Popular Front for the Rebirth of Central African Republic” (We will still call it Séléka in the later passages for the easiness of reading).

Since Séléka mainly represented Muslims and started to attack Christian communities, Christians in CAR created a movement or militia called anti-Balaka to fight against Séléka (see “Social and Religious Conflicts” for more details). After fighting against each other for almost two years, a ceasefire agreement called the Bangui National Forum between Séléka and anti-Balaka was reached in May 2015 with the help of the transitional government, the United Nations, and the international society, and the country enjoyed a relative calm for several months. However, the fighting started again on September 26, 2015 in Bangui



when the body of a Muslim man was found. Because of this, the transitional government was forced to postpone the constitutional referendum scheduled on October 4 to December 13 and the presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled on October 18 to December 27. The renewed violence has caused an 18-percent increase in number of internal displaced persons (IDPs) to 447,500, with at least 40,000 IDPs in Bangui alone. This made the planned elections in late December 2015 very risky.

What is Séléka?

Séléka is an alliance of rebel militias in the CAR. It is mainly made up of rebel factions within CAR. However, some believe that forces from outside CAR also influence Séléka, such as nationalists from Chad, Nigeria, and Sudan. It is also noted that some of the funding towards Séléka’s soldiers may come from the same groups who funded the revolts in Mali, Libya, and Tunisia; namely, al-Qaeda, among others. Séléka originated in September 2012, and their common cause was the supposed failure by President Bozize to hold true the promises in the Libreville Agreement, a major factor in Séléka’s creation.

Much of Séléka’s funding comes from looting and pillaging villages, larger towns and then urban cities like Bangui where Séléka troops have no restrictions to their violent conduct.

There was little real challenge from the national army against Séléka as they moved to and eventually captured Bangui. Some reasons for this are that the army was outnumbered by the rebels and that because of the history of military coups in the country, Presidents have been wary of too large a national army.

Social and Religious Conflicts

Chaos reigns in Central African Republic. Fighting between Séléka and government forces, as well as many other factors, have caused massive numbers of displaced persons. 600,000 civilians have been internally displaced or have fled to neighboring countries, such as Chad, Cameroon, and Democratic Republic of Congo. There are about 65,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in CAR. Many of these IDPs have fled into the large tracts of forest in the CAR to avoid further confrontation with Séléka. These civilians live off the land, and many die of disease, starvation, and other hardships. Other IDPs gather in refugee camps around



Catholic churches, Séléka has forced a regime of terror, raping and pillaging the entire lawless country.

One social aspect of this conflict that has evolved since Séléka first formed is that of religion. Séléka is 90% Muslim and 10% Christian. Because of this, sectarian violence has evolved from the original conflict. It is also worth noting that this is a relatively new problem that has just been created by the foundation of Séléka. To fight against Séléka, the Christian communities created a militia called anti-Balaka to

try to fight against Séléka and sectarian violence, but soon after anti-Balaka became a violent militia just like Séléka. John Ging, director of the U.N. Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, said that, “We are very worried that the conflict is inciting more division between Muslim and Christian communities... We are very, very concerned that the seeds of a genocide are being sown.” To try to help control the situation, Pope Francis visited Bangui, the capital of Central African Republic on November 29 to November 30, 2015 “as a pilgrim of peace and an apostle of hope” despite of France opposing. France announced that they would not provide any troops for the Pope’s security.

Due to the lack of any governmental control or influence, serious health problems are now even more prevalent in the CAR. Malnutrition and preventable diseases are rife in the CAR and malaria cases have reached frightening numbers. “We are facing one of the worst years in terms of the impact of disease,” said Ellen van der Velden, the head of Medecins sans Frontieres (MSF) in the CAR. Hospitals and health centers were looted for their valuable equipment and medical staff fled into hiding, leaving no resources for any ill or injured civilians.

United Nations Actions

The UN Security Council has been involved in the CAR since the first UN mission in CAR in the late 1990's. The main effort on the ground in recent years has been led by the UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA). Most recently, on October 10, 2013, the Security Council passed a unanimous resolution increasing BINUCA's influence in five important ways: further support for the implementation of the transition process; support for conflict prevention and humanitarian aid; support to help stabilize the security situations; protection and advancement of human rights; and the coordination of international actors. The resolution also looked favorably upon the establishment of an "African-led International Support Mission in the CAR," by the African Union, to be referred to as "MISCA." This is a major contribution to the resistance against the humanitarian and other crimes in the CAR.

Because of the increasing tension and violence between Séléka and anti-Balaka, the United Nations created a force named the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in CAR (MINUSCA) in April 2014 to help bring peace to CAR. MINUSCA currently maintains around 11,000 uniformed personnel in the country.

Since the violence restored in September 2015, the United Nations has been in deep concern of the situations. On October 20, 2015, the UN Security Council reiterated that they had decided to "apply an asset freeze and travel ban to those engaging in or providing support for acts that undermine the peace, stability, or security of the country". Also, the Security Council emphasized that they would always support the Transitional Authorities led by Catherine Samba-Panza as the Transitional Head of State, and called on all stakeholders in the CAR to commit to peace and reconciliation through the implementation of the agreements adopted at the Bangui Forum in May 2015. The council also underlined the importance and its support of holding "free, fair, and transparent" elections in CAR by the end of 2015, and it called upon more countries to contribute troops and police to MINUSCA.

Current Conditions and Problems Regarding UN Peacekeepers

There have been many problems in the UN-funded MINUSCA organization. A Cameroonian peacekeeper was shot dead in CAR this October. In November, another UN peacekeeper was found dead in Batangafo, a city north of Bangui. He was believed to be involved in violence between anti-Balaka and ex-Séléka armed soldiers. Earlier in August 2015, a soldier who belonged to Rwanda Defense Force (RDF) and served in MINUSCA attacked other RDF soldiers. He killed four and injured eight before he himself was engaged and killed. There are controversies on the UN mission in CAR. Some believe that the peacekeepers should take tougher actions against armed groups to restore stability for the country, but some others emphasize that UN should reduce the number of peacekeepers in CAR.

Also, for the past months, there have been several charges against MINUSCA on sexual violence. Babacar Gaye, the former head of MINUSCA, was forced by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon to resign in August after a 12-year-old girl was raped and a 16-year-old boy and his father was killed indiscriminately by peacekeepers in Bangui during an

UN operation, but the situation is not getting better. Fresh accusations were released again in November. There has been at least 17 cases in CAR involving peacekeepers being accused of sexual exploitation and abuse. There are also sexual abuse allegations made against French peacekeepers in the French-operating mission in CAR separated from MINUSCA. Many victims are minor children, and pregnancies are often the result. The United Nations is actively investigating the incidents and strongly condemns the action.

Conditions Regarding International Humanitarian Aid Organizations

Many international humanitarian organization have been involved in Central African Republic, but the humanitarian aid is still massively under-funded. In late October 2015, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) granted another 12 million dollars to support life-saving assistance for refugees in CAR. Also, since the fighting restarted in September 2015, more and more humanitarian organization sites became targets of attack, with their offices and warehouses looted and staff robbed.

Key Viewpoints

United States: The United States of America has recently proposed \$40 million towards peacekeepers in CAR “in order to restore security to the country,” as Secretary of State John Kerry said in a statement on November 20, 2013. “The United States sees no evidence that the CAR transitional government has the capacity or political will to end the violence, especially the abuses committed by elements of the Séléka rebel alliance that are affiliated with the government,” he further explained. After violence broke out again in September 2015, U.S. condemned the situation and called for perpetrators to be held accountable. U.S. also stated that it fully supports the current transitional government led by President Catherine Samba-Panza and would continue to help when needed.

France: During the civil war between the government and Séléka, France refused President Bozize’s request for military assistance. French President Francois Hollande urged the international community to move quickly to address the situation in the CAR. Currently, France is not participating in the UN-led MINUSCA, but it has its own peacekeeping forces in CAR. Recently there has been several sexual violence allegations against French peacekeepers, which made the French mission very controversial. France is also pushing for applying sanctions on certain political figures in CAR.

Chad: To combat the issues facing the CAR, the Chadian government have explicitly asked the UN to rally with them. However this has not come without it’s own set of problems. According to the New York Times, “United Nations human rights investigators in Bangui have reported occasions of Chadian troops’ siding with Muslims.”

African Union: The African Union has already taken steps towards an armed force in the CAR with MISCA, but concerns remain about their ability to be ready to act in the near future. In addition, the Economic Community of Central African States has currently deployed a 2,500

man regional peacekeeping force in the CAR, which the African Union will take charge of in December of 2013, if they are ready. In April 2014, the United Nations created MINUSCA to take the place of MISCA and took over responsibilities of peacekeeping in CAR from the African Union.

Russia: Russia asks for limited UN action in CAR, and it is generally against any forms of sanctions or embargos on CAR.

China: China supports the UN peacekeeping missions in CAR, condemns the human right violations and possible war crimes, and urges all sides to help bring peace to the country. China also supports the involvement of African Union and neighboring countries of CAR in the country, but it emphasizes the importance of the sovereignty of CAR. However, China is not in support for sanctions or embargos on CAR, but its attitude is more moderate compared to Russia. China has also evacuated Chinese citizens in CAR since the conflict started in 2012.

Questions to Consider

- What is your country's standpoint on the issue?
- Does your country support UN intervention in CAR?
- Does your country support more intervention from France, African Union, or the neighboring countries of CAR?
- Does your country provide any material support (resources, money, or troops) for MINUSCA?
- Does your country find social issues in such conflicts like religion, disease, or malnutrition a priority?
- What resolutions might your country propose?

Further Background Reading

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Topic 2: Terrorist Activities Led by Al Shabaab and Political Conflicts After Anarchy in Federal Republic of Somalia

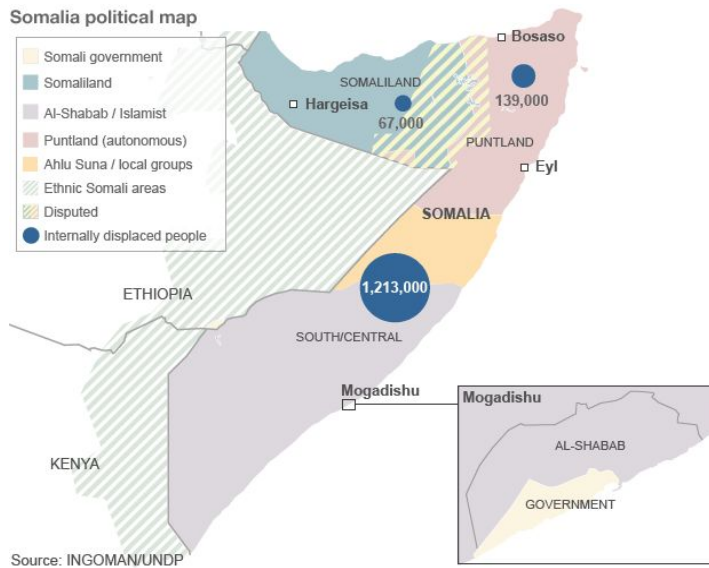
Anarchy in Somalia

Somalia experienced a terrible state of anarchy from 1991 to 2006. On January 26, 1991, military dictator Siad Barre was overthrown by civil war, however this did not result in peace as many had hoped. Throughout the 1990's, Somalia was filled with rival warlords and militias, and this led to mass hunger. Throughout these years both the US and UN tried to intervene and provide peace, but both had to pull out. Fighting continued at a lower intensity throughout the 2000's until in 2006 the Union of Islamic Courts conquered Mogadishu (The capital of Somalia) as well as most of Southern Somalia with its military wing, Harakat al-Shabaab al-Mujahidin (commonly known as Al-Shabaab). In response to this, the US funded Ethiopia to invade Mogadishu and eject Islamic extremists, but they could not fully conquer the capital. As a result, Mogadishu has frequent conflict between Somali Government and Al-Shabaab. Because of this, a total of 2 million Somalis have fled their homes, with 1.4 million of these people being within the country and more than 600,000 Somalis being refugees internationally.

As can be seen in this image, many Somalis fled their country during the 1991 civil war, but after this many of these Somalis returned to their homes until 2006 when Migration began to increase again. Despite unfavorable conditions, the GDP and life expectancy in Somalia has

actually been increasing over the past two decades of conflict. This is, in part, a result of UN food aid.

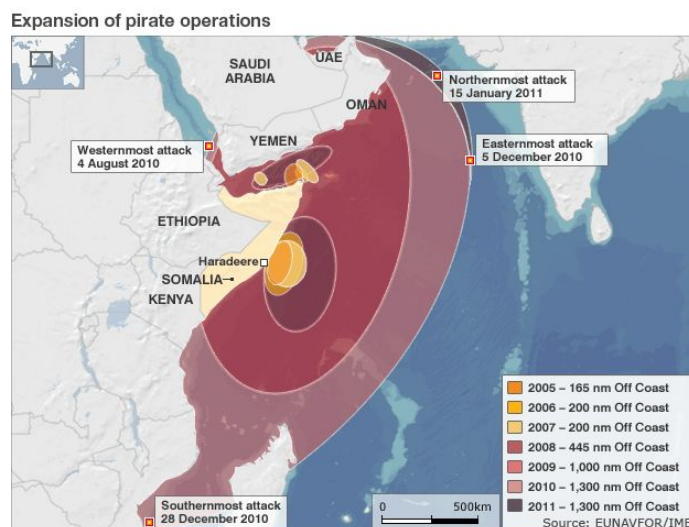
There have been several independent governments in Somalia. Among these governments is Somaliland, a former British territory that has its own elections and wishes to be



separate from Somalia, though its independence is not internationally recognized. Another self-governing territory is Puntland, however unlike Somaliland, Puntland wishes to stay a part of Somalia. None of these governments are internationally recognized. A transitional government was established in 2004, but it only controlled Baidoa, the sixth biggest city in Somalia. The transitional government struggled much in gaining effective control of the country at the beginning, but with the help of Ethiopian troops, the African Union, and the international society, the conditions are gradually

getting better. The transitional government is now controlling most of the territories of Somalia, holding parliamentary elections regularly with international recognition. However, there is still a long way to go for the transitional government to fully bring peace and control the country effectively. There are many herculean tasks for them to solve, such as defeating Al-Shabaab, piracy, and regional governments.

Piracy in Somalia



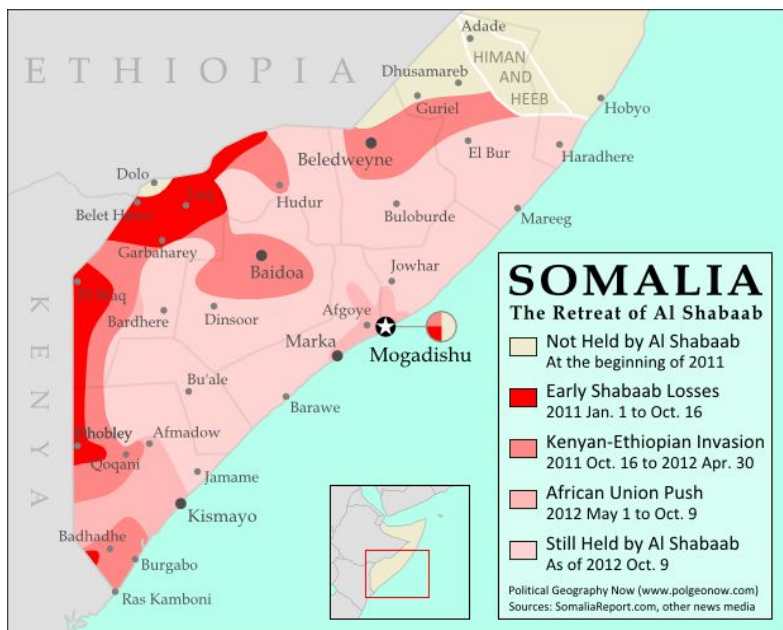
Due to the lack of law enforcement and other job opportunities that result from anarchy, many young men in Somalia become pirates. Many of these pirates are based in Puntland port towns. Pirates capture ships and hold them for ransom at ports, and for doing this they can make millions of dollars per ship captured. Recently, warships from across the globe have begun to patrol the Somali coast, and in response to this, Somali pirates have begun voyaging farther to capture ships, with some ships being captured closer to India than Somalia. Experts

agree that the only way to stop piracy in Somalia is a unified Somali government, but peace conferences have failed to convince Somali leaders to work together.

Al-Shabaab

Al-Shabaab uses guerrilla and terrorist tactics against the Somali Federal Government (SFG), African Union peacekeepers and non-governmental aid programs. Al-Shabaab has been known to forcibly recruit soldiers, and it is linked to funds from piracy. Al-Shabaab was declared a foreign terrorist organization by the US in 2008, and officially and publically declared its ties with Al-Qaeda in 2012. Al-Shabaab is not centralized, so it is prone to internal clan politics and divisions. Perhaps the most extreme case of this would be in 2013 when the group purged all of its members who were not supporters of deceased leader Ahmed Abdi Aw-Mohamed.

Al-Shabaab claims responsibility for many bombings, including suicide bombings, in Northern and Central Somalia. In 2013 the group began bombings outside of which, including the bombing of the West Gate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya on September 2013 and the bombing in May 2014 of a restaurant popular with westerners in Djibouti.



The African Union launched a peacekeeping mission named African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) under UN approval in 2007 in order to help the transitional government establish legitimate control throughout the country and defeat Al-Shabaab. The mission is still active today with about 22,000 troops from different countries in Africa. The mission has successfully forced Al-Shabaab to retreat, but the situation is still very complex. The complete defeat of Al-Shabaab is not imminent. More than 3000 soldiers have already been killed because of the mission, including more than 2700 Ugandans.

Key Viewpoints

United States: The United States established diplomatic relations with Somalia in 1960, but closed the US embassy in Somalia in 1991, despite never formally severing relations with Somalia. The US aims to increase economic and political stability in Somalia and to prevent terrorism in Somalia. The US has provided humanitarian aid to address drought, famine, and refugees. The US aims to create a stable and unified Somali government and is focusing on

more stable regions of Somalia. The United States is deeply worried about the spread of global terrorism into the U.S., so it has been waging a campaign against Al-Shabaab for years. According to the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, the US has led between 8 and 12 covert raids against Al-Shabaab, leaving 23-105 Al-Shabaab militants dead. The US has also been launching drone strikes in order to take out Al-Shabaab's leaders, and in March 2015 the US successfully killed Adan Garar who is believed to have planned Al-Shabaab's violence at the Westgate Mall. Since 2007 the US has conducted between 9 and 13 drone strikes, killing between 40 and 141 Al-Shabaab members. The US Treasury is trying to financially starve Al-Shabaab through sanctions against Somalia, and the Merchants Bank of California, responsible for 60-80% of money sent to Somalia, has announced that in January 2016 it will stop sending money from Somali immigrants to Somalia in an attempt to prevent this money from going to Al-Shabaab.

France: France is heavily against Al-Shabaab, and French intelligence services gave the US the information it needed to drone strike and kill Ahmed Godane, a member of Al-Shabaab and one of the most wanted men in Africa. Al-Shabaab also captured French intelligence agents, and Denis Alex, one of these agents, was killed on January 2013 in France's failed raid to get him back.

Russia: According to Russia's UN representative, Peter Ilchev, Russia "think[s] that tense military and political situation in Somalia requires stepping up efforts in fighting against Al-Shabaab through strengthening the potential of the AU mission in Somalia [AMISOM] and Somalia's security forces. This in turn confirms the necessity to further broaden support from UN, including material and technical assistance." Russia has noted its concern about the increase in activity of Al-Shabaab and Al-Shabaab's coordination with other Islamic terrorist groups. Russia is also concerned about Al-Shabaab's activities in countries outside Somalia, especially Kenya, and is concerned about the growing threat of terrorism in Ethiopia and Djibouti. Russia's Navy also patrols the Gulf of Aden in order to minimize Somali piracy.

China: In a dramatic departure from its normal policy of emphasizing state sovereignty and nonintervention, People's Republic of China has been taking initiative on the issue of piracy in Somalia. It has joined forces with the US, NATO, and the EU to patrol the waters and protect a crucial shipping corridor in the area. It feels very strongly about ending piracy. China feels very strongly about terrorism in Africa and has been ramping up its efforts to fight terrorism in the area. Over a million Chinese live in Africa, which gives them further cause to fight aggressively against terrorist groups in the area. It has pledged \$2.4 million to the fighting of al-Shabaab. China has been increasingly more willing to work with Western governments in light of this growing issue.

Kenya: Kenya feels very strongly on the issue of al-Shabaab, and has bombed several of their bases. It believes that aggressive military action is key to solving the issue, and has no

tolerance for al-Shabaab actions. Kenya is supplying African Union peacekeepers, which is why it has been attacked by al-Shabaab.

Questions to Consider

- What is your country's standpoint on the issue?
- Does your country support UN and African Union intervention in Somalia?
- How active is your country on fighting against global terrorism?
- Is a military force the most effective way to counter a terror threat like Al-Shabaab?
What other options does the international community have?
- What resolutions might your country propose?

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