YUNMUN
Yeshiva University National Model UN

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African Summit (AS)

Topic 2: Addressing the Unequal Burden of Refugee Crises Across Africa

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The African continent has long grappled with political instability, repressive regimes, and both interstate and intrastate conflicts. Ethnic, cultural, and religious divisions, often exacerbated by political rivalries and competition over resources, have contributed to prolonged violence and instability in various regions of the continent.[1] Alongside environmental challenges such as drought and resource scarcity[2], armed conflicts and political persecution have displaced millions of Africans from their homes, forcing many to seek refuge in neighboring countries.

Nearly three percent of Africa's population, or approximately 45 million people, are forcibly displaced, having fled conflict, violence, and repression in their home countries.[3] The vast majority of these displaced persons originate from the war-torn regions of Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Somalia, Nigeria, Burkina Faso, South Sudan, and Ethiopia, with many seeking asylum in neighboring countries. Thus, a disproportionate share of responsibility for hosting refugees in Africa rests on countries such as Uganda, Chad, Ethiopia, Kenya, and South Sudan[4]. The absorption of hundreds of thousands to millions of refugees by countries already facing economic and political instability places an immense financial and logistical burden on these nations, inhibiting economic progress and development.

Beyond the economic burden on host nations, inadequate resources can jeopardize the provision of essential humanitarian services, including food, shelter, healthcare, and education, to already vulnerable refugee populations. Furthermore, migration pressures originating in Africa can extend beyond the continent, as demonstrated by the influx of approximately 60,000 migrants into Spain's North African enclave of Ceuta in July 2026[5]. Delegates must assess how

[1] https://politicstoday.org/african-politics-tribal-violence-and-socio-economic-rivalry-in-africa/
[2] https://www.unep.org/en/news-and-stories/story/displacement-and-environment-africa-what-relationship
[3] https://africacenter.org/spotlight/conflicts-pressure-population-displacements/
[4] https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/rbesa?utm_source=chatgpt.com
[5] https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cx2kp639yx4o

to best distribute these responsibilities more equitably among African nations while balancing humanitarian obligations with national sovereignty and domestic economic concerns.

Some guiding questions for research:

1. How have refugee crises across Africa affected your country, whether as a country of origin or a host nation? What role could it play in providing regional assistance?
    a. How should governments balance refugee protection with border security and national sovereignty?
2. How can African nations develop the infrastructure and organizational systems necessary to accommodate large refugee populations? Are there existing models of refugee accommodations that could serve as examples?
3. To what extent, and in what capacity, should African nations not directly affected by refugee influxes contribute to the financial and humanitarian responsibilities of hosting refugees?
4. What role should the African Union, international organizations, and foreign governments play in assisting refugee-hosting nations and developing sustainable solutions to Africa's refugee crises?
5. What lessons can African nations draw from refugee crises and response efforts in other regions of the world? Has your country experienced similar challenges, either as a country of origin or as a host nation? How might the successes and shortcomings of these experiences inform Africa's response to its own refugee crises?

Once again, please be sure to research and accurately represent your country's stance on these issues. No plagiarism and no use of generative AI. Improper usage will be flagged and will be ineligible for any awards. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at rhirt1@mail.yu.edu with questions or concerns! I cannot wait to meet you all!

Sincerely,

Rachel Hirt

Chair, African Summit

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