

“Sub-Saharan Africa: Cultures, Connections, and Conflicts” Unity Conference 2020

Introduction:

The purpose of this conference is twofold: (1) to find solutions to both long-standing disagreements and situations as well as shorter-term crises and (2) to make decisions regarding these major issues affecting the countries of sub-Saharan Africa. The conference is authorized to carry out adopted proposals passed by a majority of conference members. All is done in the interest of creating better relations between the countries of sub-Saharan Africa and their neighbors.

By participating in a simulated conference of these selected African countries, you will become more aware of global interdependence and the complexities involved in resolving problems that affect more than one country. This year, each country will have one or two delegates. Specific agenda issues representing the problems of this region will be presented to delegates and will become the basis of discussion and debate during the Unity Conference on February 27, 2020.

Research:

1. Before the February session,
 - a. Research background information about your assigned nation according to the guidelines on the back of this paper;
 - b. Investigate solutions for the political, economic, social, and/or environmental problems that warrant the most attention in your country today;
 - c. Develop well-substantiated arguments for solutions to recommend during the Unity Conference; and
 - d. Prepare an Opening Speech to present during the Unity Conference.

The purpose of the research is to prepare you to discuss and vote upon the agenda issues from the point of view of your country.

2. On February 27th,
 - a. Actively participate in the Unity Conference; and
 - b. Hand in your research assignment and accompanying documentation, which you have organized neatly.

ASSIGNMENT AND RESEARCH GUIDE

You will need to research and document information about your country. Everyone should become familiar with potential issues for discussion as well as specific background information about your assigned nations. Apply your country's cultural geography and policies when formulating solutions and arguments. As you complete your research, **be able to form positions from the points of view of the various people from your country**. Become as familiar as

possible with your country and the issues that will be covered during the conference. You are evaluated on your preparation—you are expected **to complete your research and to participate appropriately** during the conference.

BACKGROUND RESEARCH AND PREPARATION

1. Complete background research about your country (see below for suggested topics).

During your research, keep track of all resources used and compile them in an **Annotated Bibliography**, an alphabetized list in MLA format of all the sources you consult. For each entry in the list, include a short paragraph in which you **briefly summarize the source**, state **the relevancy** of the source (i.e., what information you found useful from the source), and evaluate **the credibility and reliability** of the source. (Visit https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/general_writing/common_writing_assignments/annotated_bibliographies/index.html for more directions and samples.)

2. While you're waiting for the U.N. Representatives to prepare their Agenda Issues, investigate probable topics and formulate arguments specific to your country or region's needs.

Suggested background topics for research:

- A. General physical geography
- B. Historical background (allies, enemies, etc.)
- C. Resources (domestic use, exports, value, etc.)
- D. Major trading partners and products
- E. Military status (size, nuclear weaponry, access to water, etc.)
- F. Type of government (current head of state, etc.)
- G. Political situation (alliances, treaties, major backers, etc.)
- H. Agricultural products
- I. Population statistics (distribution, ethnic diversity, immigration, etc.)
- J. Major cities and locations
- K. Transportation systems (rail, air, water, canal, river, ports, etc.)
- L. Energy use and resources
- M. Health/sanitation issues
- N. Education and technology resources
- O. Any additional relevant political, economic, social, and cultural issues that you encounter as you learn about your country.

Note: Other than the summaries you provide as part of the Annotated Bibliography, you **do not** need to include summary paragraphs as part of your research notebook. However, **do** bring either printed or electronic copies of sources you've found to be relevant to the Unity Conference, so that you have them at hand for discussion purposes.

(For more assistance on how to research, visit <https://bestdelegate.com/research/>.)

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS

1. Each delegate should determine a probable agenda topic for discussion and prepare an **Opening Speech**, to be presented at the Unity Conference. In writing your speech, take on the persona of the delegate. As a person representing your country, what have you determined is one of the most crucial problems or situations facing your country today? What solution(s) or change(s) is needed to address this concern? What supporting evidence can you provide? (Visit <http://bestdelegate.com/how-to-make-an-opening-speech/> for more information on writing and delivering a good Opening Speech). Each speech should focus on a different topic, either one of the agenda issue topics (if available in time) or **any** relevant topic as determined from your research.
2. The **final copy** of your speech should be printed, in 16-point font, with justified margins and 1.5 spacing. If you include specific supporting details and/or evidence, they need to be documented correctly (parenthetical citation and Works Cited list).
3. Include your **Annotated Bibliography**. It should include **all the resources you used**, even if you didn't cite/refer to them in your opening speech or other documentation. **All sources** for the country should be **combined together** in one bibliography.
4. Include any **maps, charts, graphs**, etc., of the country you represent that will be useful during the conference discussions (remember source citations for them).
5. **Organize your notebook neatly** (title page, table of contents, etc.). **All** materials from each delegate for the country should be organized together in one notebook!

Your project should be ready for submission on February 27th. Authenticity, relevance, thoroughness, organization, and neatness are the qualities of a well-prepared project!