

*Background Guide*

**SPECIALIZED**  
**Africa Climate Summit**

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**JACKRABBIT MUN VI**

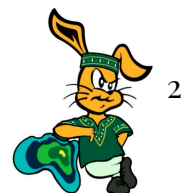
**L.B. POLY - MAY 25th, 2024**

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# CO-HEAD CHAIR LETTERS

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Hello Delegates!

My name is Noah Coles and I will be one of your Co-Chairs for Jackrabbit MUN VI! I am a Junior at Long Beach Poly and this is my first year participating in Model UN. Throughout this year I have grown a lot from my first conference and through collaborative discussions my overall confidence as a public speaker has grown. I play on the Varsity Boys Volleyball team, am a member of CSF, and am the president of the Poly Pickleball Club. In my free time I enjoy studying Chinese, partaking in dual enrollment classes – Ethnic studies and Macroeconomics – and rock climbing indoors and outdoors with my friends.

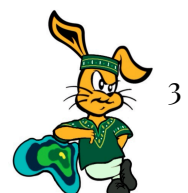
Within this committee, African Climate Summit, I am excited to facilitate debate and am sure that you are going to create many wonderful solutions. If you or a fellow delegate have any questions regarding procedure, research, or position papers, please feel free to contact me or any of the other chairs. I'm excited to meet you all and I will see you at the conference!

Sincerely,

Noah Coles

African Climate Summit | Co-Head Chair

[noahcoles843@gmail.com](mailto:noahcoles843@gmail.com)



# CO-HEAD CHAIR LETTERS

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Hello delegates!

My name is Gabby Gales and I will be one of your Co-Chairs for Jackrabbit MUN VI! I'm a Freshman at Long Beach Poly and this is my first year participating in Model UN. I've gotten involved in MUN this year and my skills in public speaking and collaboration have definitely grown these past few months. I play for the Varsity Girls Golf team and the National Junior Development Tour. In my free time I do volunteer work which includes donations and coaching for volunteer hours.

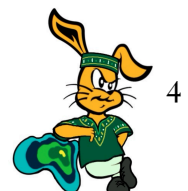
With MUN I've been able to meet lots of new and interesting people and I'm looking forward to not only seeing how this committee unfolds, but I'm excited to see familiar faces from the previous conferences I've attended. I'm so honored to be working with everyone, and if you or a fellow delegate have any questions regarding procedure, research, or position papers, please feel free to contact me or any of the other chairs.

Sincerely,

Gabby Gales

African Climate Summit | Co-Head Chair

[gabrielle.gales@gmail.com](mailto:gabrielle.gales@gmail.com)



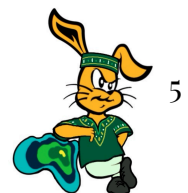


# POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

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- Position Papers are due at 11:59 PM on **Sunday, May 19th**.
- Delegates **must** submit position papers to be eligible for **research AND committee awards**.
- Position Papers can be submitted through the google form:
  - <https://forms.gle/9Y2CJygwoAwKXPmw7>
- At the top of each paper, include your character/country name, first and last name, school name, and appropriate committee.
  - Country Name
  - First Last
  - School Name
  - Africa Climate Summit
- Papers should be submitted as a PDF file
  - Please name the file [Committee\_Character]
    - Ex. **ACS\_Character**
- Papers should be 1-2 pages in length with an additional Works Cited page in MLA format
- Papers should be single-spaced in Times New Roman 12 pt. font and include no pictures or graphics
- Please include the following sections for each committee topic:
  - Background & UN Involvement
  - Position of your Country
  - Possible Solutions

If you have any questions or concerns, please email one of your chairs.

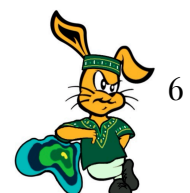


# COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

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The African Climate Week & Summit is organized by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), and the World Bank. The Africa Climate Summit (ACS) is a specialized committee created to quickly address the challenges the African continent is facing regarding climate change. Africa is extremely vulnerable to the implications that come with climate change, as the continent faces extreme weather events, desertification, water scarcity, and food insecurity. The Africa Climate Summit acknowledges the critical need for the evaluation of the specific impacts of climate change on different regions of Africa. They focus on drafting comprehensive and innovative policies tailored to African nations to combat climate change, emphasizing mitigation, adaptation, and resilience.

The idea for the Africa Climate Summit was imagined from discussions among African leaders, environmental experts, and international stakeholders. These discussions addressed the urgent need for a new strategy to combat climate change and its effects on the continent. The summit was conceptualized as a platform to shock political will, mobilize resources, and foster partnerships between governments and local communities. It aims to promote a unified African voice in the global climate discourse, ensuring that the continent's concerns and needs are adequately represented and addressed.



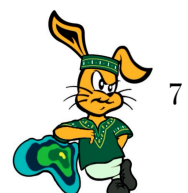
The founding of the summit was officially announced by the African Union in collaboration with various environmental organizations and supported by the United Nations and other international bodies. The summit was designed to be as inclusive as possible, bringing together heads of state, policymakers, business leaders, scientists, and grassroots activists from Africa and beyond.

The first Africa Climate Summit held in Nairobi, Kenya, September 4, 2023 marked a historic moment for the continent. It was the first space provided for African nations to showcase their renewable energy projects, sustainable agriculture practices, and innovative adaptation strategies. Additionally, the summit focused on the need for significant investment in climate action, technology transfer, and capacity building to empower African nations and allow them to leapfrog into cleaner, more sustainable economic pathways.

Looking forward, the Africa Climate Summit aims to be an annual event, creating a dynamic and ongoing forum for addressing climate



change issues pertinent to Africa. Although this year the ACS was canceled due to “severe financial issues,” the main ideas and goals of the summit are still necessary to achieve future change. The summit seeks not only to influence policies and attract investments, but also to inspire a generation of Africans to champion environmental sustainability. Through its resolutions and initiatives, the ACS is poised to play a critical role in shaping a sustainable future for Africa, aligning with global efforts under the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.



# TOPIC SYNOPSIS

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Driving green growth and climate finance solutions. The future of Africa and much of the world's climate fate lies in the hands of the countries that wish to protect it. According to the United Nations, Africa only accounts for 2-3% of global carbon emissions, but the continent is the most affected by global warming. Because many state governments are hindered by debt and other economic issues, climate conscious infrastructure is an afterthought rather than a priority. The Africa Climate Summit (ACS) is a specialized body focused solely on mitigating and solving the climate crisis in Africa and is uniquely composed of government representatives, youth advocates, the private sector, and civil society. Delegates have the opportunity to represent a variety of stakeholders, debate economic and technological solutions, and form an agenda that protects the interests of Africa in the face of a changing climate.



# BACKGROUND

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## Origins Of The Summit

The Inaugural African Climate Summit took place from the fourth to the sixth of September, 2023. Leaders of African nations, along with other high profile investors, joined together initially to “ increase the exposure to climate change and its associated costs” within Africa. By the end of the summit, the “Nairobi Declaration” was signed. It promised to accelerate all efforts to reduce emissions to align with goals of the Paris Agreement. There are several specific goals, but the declaration includes the following and more. They will honor the commitment to provide \$100 billion in annual climate finance, as promised in 2009 at the UNFCCC COP15 in Copenhagen, Denmark. Additionally, signatories will uphold commitments to a fair and accelerated process of phasing down unabated coal power and phase out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies while providing targeted support to the most vulnerable groups. Additionally, the declaration called upon the global community and other global leaders to increase Africa’s renewable generation capacity from 56 gigawatts (GW) in 2022 to at least 300 GW by 2030, shift exports of energy-intensive primary processing of Africa’s raw material back to the continent, and increase access to, and transfer of, environmentally sound technologies.



The declaration also includes designing global and regional trade mechanisms in a manner that enables products from Africa to compete on fair and equitable terms and requesting that trade-related environmental tariffs and non-tariff barriers be subject to multilateral agreements.



Signatories agree to accelerate efforts to decarbonize the transport, industrial and electricity sectors through the use of smart, digital and highly efficient technologies such as green hydrogen, synthetic fuels and battery storage. They will also design industry policies that incentivize global investment to locations that offer the most and substantial climate benefits, while ensuring benefits for local communities. Most importantly, this declaration ensures the implementation of multiple measures to elevate Africa's economy and enhance their ability to respond to and limit climate-related issues. The Africa Climate Summit has only taken place once, in 2023, and as such, there is limited information available on the committee's past actions.

### **Infrastructure**

As stated by the UN Africa Renewal, Africa is an uneven continent and has both some of the fastest economically growing nations and some of the lowest developed countries in the world. Its growth to Stage 3 and 4 development is headed by The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which works to better the infrastructure of the continent. Many nations have developed at rapid rates in multiple sectors, including in transport systems, penetration of information and communication technology (ICT), ports, airports, agricultural production yields, and literacy rates for girls. There is still much improvement necessary, however, seeing as only 38% of the African population has access to electricity, the penetration rate for the Internet is less than 10% while only a quarter of Africa's road network is paved, and poor road, rail, and port facilities add 30% to 40% to the costs of goods traded among African countries.





## Food and Water Insecurity

Most prominent in the Horn of Africa and Central and Western Africa, the growing hunger crisis leaves 20% of the total population malnourished. The most affected countries in those regions are Sudan, Somalia, and Niger. Hunger in Africa is backed by multiple causes including political conflict, extreme natural disasters, poverty, and general instability. The food crisis has escalated to a level of famine categorized as “extreme scarcity of food” with rising starvation mortality rates. The COVID-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, have halted efforts from other nations to help African countries with food insecurity. As of today, organizations such as World Vision rally donations and support for the cause.

Africa is also the only region of the world in which the number of people without access to water is growing. About 387 million people lived without access to basic drinking water services in Sub-Saharan Africa in 2020, up from 350 million people in 2000, according to a WHO/UNICEF progress report. In October 2022, almost 226 million people in East and Southern Africa did not have access to basic water services and 381 million people did not have access to basic water supply. The situation in rural areas is worse than in cities and nine countries (Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda) are home to 80 percent of the underserved region.



As African countries continue to urbanize rapidly and climate change destroys rainfall and water supplies, the need for innovative and efficient water production, storage, and delivery is greater than ever. The challenge is ensuring that governments,

the private sector, and households continue to invest in water and sanitation solutions until all Africans have access to these life-saving, time-saving, and business-creating basic services.

## **Disease**

The United Nations has developed five composite indices to measure the average achievements in basic human development (human development index (HDI)), and gender-related development index (GDI), which guide its work in Africa. Nearly 80% of the 3 million global deaths from HIV/AIDS that occurred by the end of 2002



were in sub-Saharan Africa, dramatically cutting life expectancy and leaving a legacy of millions of orphans. Despite the success of vaccination programs for polio and many childhood diseases, malaria, tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS and others are still out of control in the majority of African

countries. It is also important to note that HIV/AIDS and its far-reaching consequences make the disease a prominent challenge to more than just the health sector.



# UNITED NATIONS INVOLVEMENT

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## **EU-UNEP Africa LEDS Project**

Africa is a negligible emitter of greenhouse gasses, yet the continent is particularly vulnerable to climate change, the primary driver of vulnerability being the prevailing low levels of socioeconomic development. The rains used to be predictable and it was easy for local communities and farmers to plan according to the seasons.

Now, however, this is no longer true and livelihoods are increasingly being affected by the reality of climate change. There have been some successes, including in Côte d'Ivoire, where a practical demonstration of the conversion of agricultural waste in rice fields into biofertilizers and fuel briquettes proved that communities can shift from high-emitting, conventional approaches to more sustainable approaches and unlock socio-economic co-benefits.



The Declaration requests that governments, regional institutions, and non-state actors use low emissions development strategies by tapping into the strategic implementation of NDCs, as demonstrated in the Africa LEDS project.

## **United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA)**

The United Nations Environment Assembly is the world's highest-level decision-making body for matters related to the environment. It sets priorities for global environmental policies and international environmental law, and prioritizes an international and truly global effort towards mitigating climate change.



## General United Nations Involvement

The UN wishes to increase investments in renewable energy by 9% by 2028, specifically in sources like solar power. The Africa Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative, Great Green Wall, and Great Blue Wall represent some of the initiatives and



nature-based solutions that put Africa as a frontrunner of climate-related policies. Africa needs 2.8 trillion dollars by 2030 for the NDC ACS promises, requiring 6 trillion per year to transform into the desired low-carbon

economy. Generally, nations must reduce carbon emissions by 45% by 2030 to meet the Paris Climate Agreement.

# BLOC POSITIONS

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**Northern Africa:** The greatest environmental effect on this region has been water scarcity, most water sources are already overdrawn. The region also faces severe drying, with critically low precipitation and droughts abundant. Extreme heat and temperatures rising are another effect of climate change on this region.

**Central/Middle Africa:** Effects of climate change upon this region include extreme temperature rise, as well as rise in precipitation. These factors are extremely damaging to the agriculture and water stability in the region. Decrease in the amount of cold days and increase in hot days has affected farming, and lead to an increase in heat waves.

**Southern Africa:** Environmental impacts on this region include increased ENSO events (cyclones, storm power, etc.) as well as rising temperatures and drying. This has resulted in water and precipitation scarcity, resulting in food shortages and unreliability in agriculture.

**East Africa:** Environmental effects faced by this region include increasingly intense and frequent floods, storms, droughts, and other challenges caused by climate change. Poor rainy seasons and long droughts have caused a food shortage. The increase in temperature has also caused many extreme climate shocks.



**Western Africa:** Environmental effects on this region are extreme heat waves and humidity, temperatures exceeding 40C. Causing water and food scarcity, through low crop productivity and damage to land.

**General International Bloc:** The countries of Africa have contributed the least overall to greenhouse gas emissions, but the country still sees drastic effects of climate change. The risk of droughts, floods, and extreme temperatures has become a large threat. These have led to water shortages and reduced food production for the continent.



# QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

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1. How has climate change affected your region? Is it a central concern or policy driver for your country?
2. What were the conclusions of the previous Africa Climate Summit?
3. What are your country's guiding beliefs and will they affect your position or solutions in this summit? Pay special attention to any religious beliefs, customs, and previous monetary action.
4. How can international cooperation be enhanced to support climate adaptation and mitigation efforts in Africa? What mechanisms can be put in place to facilitate technology transfer, capacity-building, and financial assistance to African countries?
5. How can African climate solutions be integrated into broader sustainable development agendas and initiatives? What strategies can be employed to mainstream climate considerations into national development planning and implementation processes for individual countries?
6. What role should the private sector, civil society, and local communities play in addressing the African climate crisis? How can partnerships and multi-stakeholder engagement be leveraged to mobilize resources, foster innovation, and scale up climate action?



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