

# **Committee Guide**

***African Union 2026***



***Promoting Continental  
Response to Coups and  
Democratic Backsliding***



*During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.*

**Nelson Mandela**

Extract of his statement from the dock at the opening of his trial on charges of sabotage, Supreme court of South Africa, Pretoria, April 20 1964 [1] [2]

## Contents

1. A Personal Introduction to the Chairs	4
1.1. Ilyas Bouzrari	4
1.2. Mika Jelko Niederheide	5
2. About the Usage of this Guide	6
3. About the African Union	8
3.1. Brief History	8
3.2. Today's Structure	9
3.3. Agenda 2063 - The Africa we Want	11
4. Topic Overview	12
4.1. A Shifting Democratic Landscape	12
4.2. The Normative Framework and Its Limits	13
4.3. The African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)	13
4.4. The Political Economy of Coups	14
4.5. Sanctions, Mediation, and Enforcement	14
4.6. Sovereignty and Non-Indifference	15
4.7. The Role of Regional Economic Communities	15
4.8. The Strategic Direction of Reform	16
5. Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools and Citations	17
6. What's Next?	18
7. Tips for Research	20
7.1. General Advice	20
7.2. Guiding Questions	20
7.3. Further Readings	21
8. Checklist	22
8.1. [Required] Complete First	22
8.2. [Required] Background Research	22
8.3. [Required] Country Research	22
8.4. [Required] Research Organization	22
8.5. [Required] Written submissions	23
8.6. [Required] Final preparation for debate	23
8.7. [Recommended]	23
9. Glossary	24
10. Use of AI Tools	25
11. References	26

## 1. A Personal Introduction to the Chairs

### 1.1. Ilyas Bouzrari

Dear AU Delegates

My name is Ilyas Bouzrari, and I am truly excited to welcome you to OLMUN 2026 in Oldenburg. It is an honor to chair this year's African Union committee alongside Mika, and I very much look forward to meeting each and every one of you.

I am 17 years old and from Casablanca, Morocco, where I currently live and attend high school. I'm currently a senior and completing the IB Diploma programme.

Outside of school, I enjoy spending time with family and friends, traveling, and going to the beach whenever I can. I also enjoy watching football (although it often ends up breaking my heart).

As for my OLMUN experience, I had the opportunity to participate as a delegate in last year's World Health Assembly. While I may not have chaired at OLMUN before, I am deeply committed to ensuring that this committee is well-prepared, engaging, and intellectually challenging for all of you.

If you have any questions for me, feel free to contact me at any time or give me a call.

See you guys soon in Oldenburg!



## 1.2. Mika Jelko Niederheide

Esteemed delegates of the African Union,

My name is Mika (Jelko) Niederheide, and I am delighted to welcome you to OLMUN 2026 in Oldenburg - my hometown. I'm really looking forward to meeting you all and to chairing the African Union together with Ilyas.

I am 22 years old and am currently studying Electrical Engineering and Information Technology with focus on Automation in a cooperative study program with Mercedes-Benz. This means I spend 50 % of my time at the Cooperative State University and the other 50 % at Mercedes-Benz, where I work on projects such as improving production lines.



Outside of university and work, I am the head of the student council of my university, and I enjoy spending time with friends at parties and other social events. I also love playing badminton.

I've been involved with OLMUN since 2022 and have had the opportunity to take on several different roles including chairing SOCHUM in 2022.

Feel free to reach out to me anytime with any questions, whether personal or OLMUN related. You're also welcome to call me if anything comes up, even before OLMUN. Often, a quick phone call is easier than a long message thread.

See you soon :D

## 2. About the Usage of this Guide

This committee guide provides a substantive introduction to both the African Union (AU) as an institution and to our committee topic, “**Promoting Continental Response to Coups and Democratic Backsliding**”. It is designed to help you understand the historical background, institutional context, and key political issues that will shape our discussion.

At OLMUN we will be simulating the Assembly of the African Union.

This guide serves as an **orientation and research foundation**, not an exhaustive account of all relevant legal instruments, political developments, or national positions. While it provides a structured overview of the committee and the topic, it cannot replace broader independent research or cover every aspect of a complex and evolving issue.

By the end, you should understand the African Union’s institutional framework, the topic’s central political and legal dimensions, and the main policy questions likely to arise during debate.

At the same time, this guide is **not** a substitute for your own research. For this reason, you are expected to conduct thorough **independent research** on your assigned country’s policies, interests, alliances, legal commitments, and previous statements or actions relevant to the issue.

When preparing for the committee sessions, determine your country’s current position and consider which measures your delegation could realistically support, oppose, or propose during debate. Strong preparation means understanding the broader continental context and the particular political priorities of the state you represent.

Although the African Union is not part of the United Nations, this committee will adhere to the standard OLMUN procedures outlined in the [OLMUN Handbook \(Handbook\)](#) and the [Rules of Procedure \(RoP\)](#). These rules provide a formal framework for debate, motions, points, draft resolutions, and voting during the conference. A solid understanding of procedure is just as important as strong substantive preparation.

Later in this guide, you will find practical advice for preparation advice and a **checklist of tasks** to complete before the conference. Please read these sections carefully and make sure to observe all relevant **requirements and deadlines**.



# About the Usage of this Guide

If you have any questions during your preparation or during conference week, please do not hesitate to contact us at [au@olmun.org](mailto:au@olmun.org). We are happy to help. When writing to us, please include the **name of your delegation** so that we can assist you more efficiently.



## 3. About the African Union

The African Union (AU) is the primary continental organization in Africa and the most significant institutional framework for cooperation among African states. Consisting of 55 member states, the AU regards itself as representing all countries on the African continent. As a continental body, the AU provides a forum for African governments to coordinate on issues of peace and security, democratic governance, economic integration, development, and institutional reform. [3]

Institutionally, the AU is similar to the European Union and the United Nations, though not identical to either. Like the European Union, the AU provides a continent-wide framework for political and economic cooperation. However, the AU is far less supranational, and the sovereignty of its member states remains central. Like the United Nations, the AU provides a forum in which states can coordinate diplomatically, address political crises, and develop collective responses to shared challenges. However, the AU is not part of the UN system, and this committee is not a UN body. The AU is an independent continental organization with its own member states, legal framework, institutions, and decision-making structures. The AU works closely with the UN as a regional partner, particularly in the areas of peace and security, mediation, development, and governance. [4] [5]

This makes the AU especially relevant to this topic. It is not merely a forum for discussion, it is also a body that has developed norms, institutions, and political mechanisms intended to respond to coups, unconstitutional changes of government, and broader threats to constitutional order. Understanding the AU requires understanding its political ambitions and practical limits in balancing sovereignty, stability, democracy, and continental cooperation. [6]

### 3.1. Brief History

The creation of *The Organisation of African Unity* (OAU) with 32 member states in 1963 resembles Africa's first post-independence continental institution. [3]

In the 1999 *Sirte Declaration* the Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, based on the proposals of Muammar Ghaddafi, decided to establish an African Union in conformity with the objectives of the OAU and the *Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community*. [7] [8]

“The African Union (AU) was officially launched in July 2002 [...] to create a new continental organisation to build on [the OAU's] work. The decision to re-launch Africa's pan-African

organisation was the outcome of a consensus by African leaders that in order to realise Africa's potential, there was a need to refocus attention from the fight for decolonisation and ridding the continent of apartheid, which had been the focus of the OAU, towards increased cooperation and integration of African states to drive Africa's growth and economic development." [3]

## 3.2. Today's Structure

The African Union currently consists of 55 member states and serves as the central framework for political coordination and cooperation on the continent. The AU's institutional structure is designed to enable collective decision-making on matters such as peace and security, governance, economic integration, development, and legal cooperation. The Assembly of the Union, composed of the Heads of State and Government, is the AU's highest decision-making body. The Assembly sets the Union's general direction and makes decisions on matters of common continental concern. Other key organs support it, especially the *Executive Council*, the *Permanent Representatives Committee*, and the *AU Commission*, which functions as the Union's secretariat and carries out its executive and administrative work. [9] [10]

### Impact of Decisions

AU decisions should not be overestimated or underestimated in terms of their influence. The AU cannot govern member states directly as a national government can. Many of its decisions depend on implementation by the states themselves. Nevertheless, AU decisions carry substantial political, diplomatic, and normative weight. AU decisions shape continental standards, affect legitimacy, influence relations with regional organizations and international partners, and can create pressure on governments through suspension, diplomatic isolation, and coordinated regional action. For this reason, the AU plays a significant role in matters concerning coups, democratic backsliding, and constitutional order, despite uneven enforcement.

### Peace and Security Council

The most relevant organ for this committee is the *Peace and Security Council* (PSC). The PSC is the AU's standing decision-making body for preventing, managing, and resolving conflicts, and it is a central pillar of the *African Peace and Security Architecture* (APSA). The AU has a variety of political and institutional tools at its disposal, including suspending member states, imposing sanctions, mediating, implementing early warning mechanisms, conducting peace support operations, and cooperating with Regional Economic Communities. The Assembly has delegated significant authority to the PSC regarding peace and

security matters. This is why the AU is not merely a symbolic forum, but rather an institution with substantial political influence, although its ability to implement policies heavily depends on the cooperation and political will of its member states. [11]

One particularly important instrument is suspending governments that come to power through unconstitutional means. According to Article 30 of the Constitutive Act of the African Union, such governments are not permitted to participate in the activities of the Union. [12] As of the February 2026 AU Assembly session, Gabon and Guinea had been welcomed back after their suspensions were lifted [13]. Burkina Faso [14], Guinea-Bissau [15], Madagascar [16], Mali [17], Niger [18], and Sudan [19] remain suspended. Suspended delegations attend OLMUN as observers. Please check out the RoP for further information on observers. This illustrates the AU's normative commitment to constitutional order and the practical importance of its suspension regime in responding to coups and democratic breakdowns. [20]

## **Regional Economic Communities (RECs)**

“The Regional Economic Communities (RECs) are regional groupings of African states, each led by a Head of State or Government on a rotational basis. They have developed individually and have differing but complementary roles and structures. Generally, the purpose of the RECs is to facilitate regional economic integration between members of the individual regions and through the wider African Economic Community (AEC), which was established under the Abuja Treaty (1991). The 1980 Lagos Plan of Action for the Development of Africa and the Abuja Treaty proposed the creation of RECs as the basis for wider African integration, with a view to facilitating regional and eventual continental integration. The RECs are increasingly involved in coordinating African Union (AU) Member States' interests in wider areas such as peace and security, development and governance. [...]

The AU recognises eight RECs, the:

- Arab Maghreb Union (UMA)
- Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)
- Community of Sahel–Saharan States (CEN–SAD)
- East African Community (EAC)
- Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
- Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
- Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- Southern African Development Community (SADC).” [21]

The Regional Economic Communities play a vital role in the implementation of AU policies.

The fact that the AU Assembly replaced one of its two annual meetings with a coordination meeting between the RECs and the Bureau of the Assembly underscores this vital role. [21]

### 3.3. Agenda 2063 - The Africa we Want

Agenda 2063 is the African Union's long-term strategic framework for the political, economic, and social transformation of the continent. Adopted in 2015, Agenda 2063 sets forth a fifty-year vision for creating "the Africa we want": a prosperous, integrated, peaceful, democratic, culturally confident, people-driven continent that influences global affairs. The agenda is rooted in Pan-Africanism and African self-determination, embracing the notion that Africa's development should primarily be shaped by Africans. [22]

At its core, Agenda 2063 is based on seven aspirations [22]:

1. A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development
2. An integrated continent, politically united based on the ideals of Pan Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance
3. An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law
4. A peaceful and secure Africa
5. An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, values and ethics
6. An Africa, whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children
7. Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner

These aspirations are not merely symbolic. They are linked to specific goals, such as eradicating poverty, developing infrastructure, industrializing, modernizing agriculture, enabling free movement across the continent, achieving gender equality, empowering youth, preventing conflict, and strengthening continental institutions. [22]

For the African Union, Agenda 2063 provides broader political direction for many AU policies and bodies. In the context of this committee, the emphasis that Agenda 2063 places on democratic governance, peace, security, accountable institutions, and continental integration is particularly relevant. However, the vision of Agenda 2063 cannot be achieved if coups, unconstitutional changes of government, weak institutions, or democratic backsliding continue to destabilize member states. Therefore, the AU's response to these issues is essential to implementing Agenda 2063. [22]

## 4. Topic Overview

### 4.1. A Shifting Democratic Landscape

Over the past decade, the African continent has witnessed a troubling resurgence of military coups, particularly in West and Central Africa [23]. After a relative decline in overt military takeovers during the early 2000s, recent years have marked a reversal of that trend. Several governments have been overthrown by armed forces citing insecurity, corruption, or governance failure as justification. In some instances, coup leaders have received initial popular support, reflecting widespread public frustration with civilian administrations.

A series of recent cases, including Mali (2020 and 2021), Guinea (2021), Sudan (2021), Burkina Faso (2022), Niger (2023), and Gabon (2023) [23], illustrates the scale and recurrence of unconstitutional seizures of power across the continent. In several of these cases, transitional military authorities have delayed promised elections or renegotiated timelines despite regional and continental pressure, raising concerns about the normalization of prolonged military rule.

At the same time, not all democratic decline has occurred through sudden military seizures of power. In multiple states, constitutional term limits have been removed or reinterpreted, electoral processes have been weakened, and civil society space has narrowed [24]. These developments represent a more gradual form of democratic erosion, which challenges constitutional governance without triggering the immediate international reaction that a traditional coup might provoke.

Examples of such democratic backsliding include constitutional revisions that weaken institutional constraints on executive power, restrictions on opposition participation, and declining electoral competitiveness in countries such as Djibouti, Comoros, Benin, and the Central African Republic. These cases demonstrate that constitutional breakdown often occurs along a spectrum, rather than as a single moment of rupture.

These patterns directly test the foundational commitments of the African Union. The AU's Constitutive Act rejects unconstitutional changes of government [12], and subsequent instruments - including the Lomé Declaration and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance - seek to institutionalize democratic norms across the continent. Yet the gap between commitment and enforcement remains.

This committee must therefore move beyond rhetorical condemnation and examine whether

the AU's existing architecture is structurally capable of preventing and reversing unconstitutional changes of government in a politically fragmented environment.

## 4.2. The Normative Framework and Its Limits

The AU defines unconstitutional changes of government to include military coups, mercenary interventions, armed rebellion replacing elected authorities, and refusal to relinquish power after electoral defeat [25].

The primary challenge lies in ambiguity. While a military takeover is easily identifiable, constitutional amendments removing presidential term limits may technically comply with domestic legal processes while undermining democratic principles. Similarly, elections conducted under unequal conditions may satisfy procedural requirements while failing to reflect genuine political competition.

The AU therefore faces a fundamental dilemma: expanding its interpretation of unconstitutional governance risks accusations of overreach and interference in domestic sovereignty, while limiting its interpretation to overt military seizures risks normalizing gradual authoritarian consolidation. Delegates must confront this definitional challenge directly. Should the AU's mandate extend to broader democratic erosion, or remain confined to explicit unconstitutional power seizures?

## 4.3. The African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA)

Institutionally, the AU responds to instability through the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), which includes the Peace and Security Council, the Continental Early Warning System, the Panel of the Wise, the African Standby Force, and coordination with Regional Economic Communities [11].

In theory, APSA allows the AU to suspend governments, impose sanctions, facilitate mediation, and deploy peace support operations. In practice, however, several structural weaknesses limit its effectiveness. As a result, APSA faces a fundamental challenge: it possesses a wide range of tools in theory, but lacks consistent enforcement capacity in practice.

First, enforcement mechanisms depend heavily on political consensus among member states. Governments facing domestic vulnerabilities may hesitate to support robust intervention frameworks that could later be used against them, creating a persistent collective action problem.

Second, the AU's financial dependence on external partners constrains operational autonomy. Peace support operations often require significant external funding, limiting both rapid response capacity and long-term sustainability [26].

Third, sanctions imposed by the AU - such as suspension from participation - are often symbolic unless reinforced by coordinated economic or diplomatic measures through regional bodies or international partners [27].

Fourth, the African Standby Force, while conceptually significant, has faced readiness and logistical constraints that complicate rapid deployment [28].

Delegates must therefore assess whether APSA requires incremental reform or more fundamental restructuring.

## **4.4. The Political Economy of Coups**

Understanding why coups happen requires examining structural drivers. Military interventions rarely emerge in stable institutional environments. Contributing factors frequently include economic stagnation, youth unemployment, weakened civil-military oversight, corruption, insurgency threats, and declining trust in electoral legitimacy.

In several recent cases, coup leaders justified their actions as necessary to restore security or combat terrorism. Whether such claims are valid or opportunistic is secondary to a broader observation: in such contexts, coups may reflect not only military ambition, but also a wider collapse of civilian legitimacy, where electoral systems no longer provide credible mechanisms for accountability.

This raises a critical strategic question for the committee. If the AU focuses exclusively on punitive sanctions after coups occur, it risks addressing symptoms rather than underlying causes. Delegates must therefore consider whether greater emphasis should be placed on preventive mechanisms, including strengthening electoral oversight, reforming civil-military relations, and addressing governance deficits before crises erupt.

## **4.5. Sanctions, Mediation, and Enforcement**

The AU and Regional Economic Communities have deployed a range of tools in response to coups, including suspension, targeted sanctions, border closures, and diplomatic mediation. Outcomes have varied widely [29].

In some instances, sanctions have accelerated transitional timelines. In others, they have hardened junta positions or disproportionately affected civilian populations. Mediation efforts have similarly faced obstacles when military leaders lacked sufficient incentives to relinquish power quickly.

This creates a dilemma: enforcement measures must be strong enough to deter unconstitutional rule, yet not so broad that they undermine civilian welfare or fuel domestic backlash against the AU itself.

Delegates must therefore consider the design of enforcement mechanisms carefully. Automatic sanctions may enhance credibility but reduce flexibility. Graduated sanctions may preserve diplomatic engagement but weaken deterrence. Military intervention remains highly controversial, particularly in fragile contexts where escalation risks further destabilization.

The challenge lies in designing mechanisms that are both credible and politically feasible.

## **4.6. Sovereignty and Non-Indifference**

A defining feature of the AU is its evolution from strict non-interference to the principle of non-indifference. However, sovereignty remains central in African diplomacy. Intervention without host state consent risks political backlash and accusations of overreach, particularly given the continent's historical sensitivity to external interference.

The tension between sovereignty and collective constitutional protection is therefore at the heart of this debate. If the AU lacks enforcement power, unconstitutional seizures may proliferate. If enforcement becomes too aggressive, institutional legitimacy may erode.

Delegates must determine how to reconcile these competing imperatives in a way that preserves both effectiveness and legitimacy.

## **4.7. The Role of Regional Economic Communities**

Regional Economic Communities often respond more rapidly than the AU itself. However, coordination challenges arise when regional responses diverge from continental positions. Uneven enforcement across regions can undermine both effectiveness and perceptions of fairness.

This raises key institutional questions: should regional decisions automatically trigger AU

endorsement? Should enforcement authority be centralized at the continental level?

The relationship between the AU and regional bodies will play a critical role in shaping any proposed reforms.

## **4.8. The Strategic Direction of Reform**

Ultimately, this committee must decide whether the African Union's current mechanisms represent a sufficient foundation that requires stronger political will, or whether deeper structural reforms are necessary.

Potential reform debates may include automatic suspension clauses, stronger enforcement triggers, clearer transitional benchmarks, expanded election certification mechanisms, dedicated funding streams for peace enforcement, and enhanced civil-military reform frameworks.

The decisions taken in this committee will determine whether the African Union remains primarily a normative body condemning unconstitutional governance, or evolves into a more effective enforcement actor capable of shaping political outcomes across the continent. Delegates are therefore encouraged to think in terms of institutional design and move beyond rhetorical condemnation.

## 5. Use of Artificial Intelligence Tools and Citations

We strongly emphasize independent and accountable preparation. The purpose of the following rules is not to prohibit technology, but rather to ensure that your research and written submissions are transparent and verifiable. You will not receive academic benefit from simply pasting this guide into an artificial intelligence (AI) tool and entering your country.

However, you may use AI tools to support your work. For example, you may receive language assistance, such as grammar correction, stylistic improvements or translation summarize sources you have read or generate draft phrasing for individual clauses or passages. You must be able to explain the meaning, source, and intended policy position of all substantive claims in your submissions. Declaring the use of AI is not viewed negatively. In fact, being honest about the sources and tools used is viewed positively.

**Any use of AI tools during your preparation must be disclosed** in the submitted document. The disclosure must include:

1. the name of the tool used, and
2. the general purpose for which it was used.
3. Example disclosure:

Tool	Used for	Where
Grammarly	grammar correction	complete draft resolution
ChatGPT	drafting	preambulatory clauses 1, 2, 5 - 6

**Any output produced with AI assistance must be carefully verified and must be based on genuine sources that have been consulted and documented.**

**All sources used in preparation must be documented**, regardless of whether AI tools have been used. At a minimum, provide links and at best full bibliographic details, such as IEEE-style references. Proper source logging is essential to transparency and ensures that all claims and arguments can be traced back to verifiable information.

Failure to follow these rules may result in “punishments” determined by the chairs.

## 6. What's Next?

First and foremost: **start early**. The earlier you begin your preparation, the more time you will have to understand the topic in depth, refine your country's position, and develop realistic and well-structured ideas for committee debate. As mentioned at the beginning, this guide is intended to give you a strong foundation, but it is only a starting point. Independent research remains essential.

During this year's session of the African Union, you will represent your assigned country's point of view on the matter and work with other delegations to pass a resolution pursuing shared goals. You should therefore now move beyond the general background provided here and focus in particular on your assigned country's perspective. To support you in this next step, we have collected a few questions and a checklist to help you begin and structure your research.

In your research, you sometimes won't find clear answers on the questions above or even your own. In that case, it is helpful to interpret the given facts and sources. **Ask yourself, what your country would do, and which response/action would be appropriate for your country's policy.** You are a delegate of your assigned country. Try to think and act in the way your country's policy requires you to. This is why it is so important that you understand your country in general and not only in the given circumstance. Try to inform yourself about your country's history, alliances, partners and constitution. It may be helpful to consider getting in touch with your country's embassy and asking them if they are able to answer your questions.

As mentioned before, deepened preparation is very important and the key to having a great time during OLMUN. While getting ready for this year's conference, you must prepare both a draft resolution and a policy statement, where you can incorporate your research on the topic and the position of the delegation you have been assigned to represent at the conference.

The **policy statement** consists of a brief, informal overview on your assigned country's position and policy. It is your first expression of your ideas in front of the committee and possesses the chance of gaining sympathizers even before the lobbying process begins. In hearing other policy statements, you can receive important information about the other countries and find possible partners easily. Noting that this would be your first appearance in front of the committee, we would urge you to prepare a precise and meaningful statement. In general, we recommend reading out your policy statement, as it is a great introduction to the debate and getting comfortable with the debating process. Policy statements should be

# What's Next?

200 - 300 words long.

The **draft resolution** is the document that sets out the current challenges and proposes solutions. All the work the AU is doing, is based and expressed by these resolutions and they form the basis for our committee sessions. Therefore, a great deal of your effort in preparing for OLMUN should be invested in writing a constructive resolution. More information and a detailed look into how to write such documents are available in the **OLMUN Handbook**. For orientation and inspiration please also have a look at resolutions from the UN/AU and passed resolutions from past OLMUN conferences, keeping in mind that your resolution will probably be expanded/amended during our conference.

For all ambitious Delegates we recommend giving an **Opening Speech** in the General Assembly where all Delegates participating at OLMUN will be present. This is optional, however, the challenge can be quite a fun one to take on! For further information please consult the OLMUN Handbook. Please send your request including your speech to **president@olmun.org** until **May 31st**.

**Because we want to ensure that all of you attend the conference sufficiently prepared, we expect to receive both your policy statement and draft resolution by June 7th as PDF!** If you would like us to give you feedback on your submissions, please hand in your request by **May 31st**. Afterwards we cannot guarantee to give you detailed feedback due to time constraints, but please let us know anyways if you want some. You can simply send them to **au@olmun.org**. If you want conformation or improvement on your Opening Speeches, you can send them in too.

Please always **sign your emails using your delegation and your name** so that we can identify you more easily. Thanks!



## 7. Tips for Research

### 7.1. General Advice

First, make sure you understand the basic framework of the African Union. Look into what the AU can do in response to coups and what its main tools are, such as sanctions, mediation, and suspension of member states.

Second, research a few recent examples of military coups and cases of democratic backsliding. Try to understand what happened, how the AU and regional organizations responded, and whether those responses were effective.

Third, learn about your country. Ask yourself:

- Has your country experienced a coup or political instability?
- Does it usually support strong intervention or prefer sovereignty?
- Is it active in regional organizations or peacekeeping efforts?

This will help you represent your country realistically in debate.

Finally, think about possible solutions. Consider what measures your country would support to prevent coups or strengthen democracy, and be ready to explain why those solutions would work.

### 7.2. Guiding Questions

- What is considered an “unconstitutional change of government” under AU rules?
- How has the AU responded to recent coups, and how effective were those responses?
- What are the main causes of coups and democratic erosion in Africa?
- What is my country’s position on sovereignty versus intervention?
- What role do regional organizations (such as ECOWAS or SADC) play in responding to coups?
- What realistic measures could the AU take to better prevent or respond to unconstitutional changes of government?
- Is your country in any way responsible for instability?
- Is your assigned country criticizing the situation publicly? Has your country ever made a clear statement on the situation? If so, where was the focus?

## 7.3. Further Readings

### About the African Union

We recommend scrolling through multiple subpages and documents of the African Union itself.

- [Website of the African Union](#)
- [All websites of the AU](#)
- [History of the African Union](#)
- [African Union Handbook](#)
- [The Constitutive Act of the African Union \(not long\)](#)
- [Protocol on Amendments to the Constitutive Act of the African Union \(not long\)](#)
- [Treaty Establishing the African Economic Community](#)
- To find out more about the specific Regional Economic groups check out the [AU Handbook](#) (p. 144 following) as well as their [websites](#)

### About the Topic

- [Arms Control Database of the AU](#)
- [Decisions & Declarations of the Assembly](#)
- As an example the [latest document](#) in which the Republic of Gabon and the Republic of Guinea are welcomed back to the AU. Recommended search words:
  - *Decision on the Holding of an Extraordinary Summit on the Strengthening of Mechanisms for Conflict Prevention and Resolution in Africa*
  - *Decision on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on Its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa*
  - *Decision on the Report of the Peace and Security Council on Its Activities and the State of Peace and Security in Africa*
  - *Democracy, coup, security, Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar's return to constitutional order, Mali, Niger, Sudan*

### OLMUN

- [Handbook](#)
- [Rules of Procedure](#)

## 8. Checklist

### 8.1. [Required] Complete First

- I have read this committee guide carefully.
- I have read the OLMUN Handbook.
- I have read the OLMUN Rules of Procedure (RoP).
- I understand the topic of the committee and the main issues that will be debated.
- I understand the role of the African Union and the relevance of this committee to the topic.

### 8.2. [Required] Background Research

- I have researched the historical background of the topic.
- I have researched recent developments related to coups and democratic backsliding in Africa.
- I have identified the main political, legal, and institutional challenges connected to this issue.
- I have researched relevant AU institutions, mechanisms, and legal frameworks.
- I have identified the most important terms and concepts and understand their meaning.

### 8.3. [Required] Country Research

- I have researched my assigned country's general foreign policy priorities.
- I have researched my assigned country's position on coups, unconstitutional changes of government, and democratic governance.
- I have identified my country's past actions, statements, voting behaviour, or alliances relevant to this topic.
- I understand which solutions my country would likely support, oppose, or seek to amend.
- I can explain my country's position clearly and consistently.

### 8.4. [Required] Research Organization

- I have collected and organized my research notes in a way I can use during committee sessions.
- I have used reliable and relevant sources for my research.
- I have kept track of my sources so that I can cite or revisit them if needed.
- I have clarified any remaining questions with my chairs by contacting [au@olmun.org](mailto:au@olmun.org).**

## 8.5. [Required] Written submissions

- I have written a policy statement and sent it to [au@olmun.org](mailto:au@olmun.org) as PDF by the required deadline.**
  - The policy statement is 200 – 300 words long.
  - The policy statement reflects my country's actual position.
  - The policy statement is written clearly, formally, and in an appropriate diplomatic tone.
- I have written a draft resolution in the required format as PDF and sent it to [au@olmun.org](mailto:au@olmun.org) by the required deadline.**
  - I used the draft resolution template.
  - My clauses are relevant to the topic and realistic within the committee's scope.
  - My proposals are consistent with my country's position.
  - My draft resolution contains at least four preambulatory clauses and at least five operative clauses.
- I included and documented my sources where required.

## 8.6. [Required] Final preparation for debate

- I can explain the main problems behind the topic without reading from notes.
- I can explain my country's position in a short and structured way.
- I have thought of realistic solutions my delegation could propose in committee.
- I have considered possible allies and likely points of disagreement with other delegations.
- I am prepared to negotiate, amend proposals, and respond to criticism during debate.

## 8.7. [Recommended]

- I have completed the research sheet.
- I have prepared a short opening speech for committee debate. Tip: Your policy statement represents a good basis for this speech.
- I have prepared a few key speaking points in case I need to improvise.
- I have reviewed sample resolutions or previous OLMUN resolutions for structure and style.
- I have prepared a short list of possible operative clauses I may want to introduce.
- I have thought about possible co-submitters for my draft resolution.
- I have reviewed my notes once more shortly before the conference.
- (optional) I have submitted my opening ceremony speech and my application to [president@olmun.org](mailto:president@olmun.org).
- (optional) I have designed and printed personalized note paper.

## 9. Glossary

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Description</b>
AEC	African Economic Community
AI	Artificial Intelligence
APSA	African Peace and Security Architecture
Assembly	African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government, unless otherwise specified
AU	African Union
AUC	African Union Commission
CEN-SAD	Community of Sahel–Saharan States
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
Commission	African Union Commission, unless otherwise specified
Continent	Continent and islands of Africa
EAC	East African Community
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
IB	International Baccalaureate
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
OAU	Organization of African Unity
OLMUN	Oldenburg Model United Nations
PRC	African Union Permanent Representatives Committee
PSC	African Union Peace and Security Council
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
RMs	Regional Mechanisms
RoP	Rules of Procedure
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SOCHUM	Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee
UMA	Arab Maghreb Union
UN	United Nations

## 10. Use of AI Tools

<b>Tool</b>	<b>Used for</b>	<b>Where</b>
DeepL Write	Grammar correction, spelling correction, language improvement, and formulation suggestions. No substantive content or factual claims were generated with DeepL Write.	Whole guide
ChatGPT	Language improvement, wording suggestions, structural suggestions, brainstorming of possible section organization, and rephrasing and drafting of content. ChatGPT was also used to review clarity, coherence, and completeness.	Whole guide

All AI-assisted text was reviewed by the chairs. All substantive claims are based on the sources listed in the references.

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