

## Student Preparation Guide: Sahel Crisis Simulation

For our simulation, you will do your best to *act* as the actor you have been assigned. In order to do this, you need to have a basic understanding of the country/actor and their priorities in the region. This sheet provides a series of questions that will introduce you to the topic. You should use the internet and other background resources to research all answers to the questions. You will turn in your answers to these questions and use the answers to prepare for the simulation.

Four questions should guide your research:

- Basics:
  1. What role have you been assigned?
  2. Who is the current leader?
  3. How long has that person had that position?
  4. How did they get that position?
  5. For countries: What is your per capita GDP?
  6. For countries: What is your HDI rank?
  7. What is your capital city? Or where is your headquarters?
- Regional politics:
  8. What are the foreign policy goals of your current government (or leadership)?
  9. What goal would you never negotiate any aspect?
  10. Which goals do you see as negotiable?
  11. What tools do you have to further your goals?
  12. What is your position currently on ECOWAS?
  13. What political values would you prioritize in your policy towards West African countries?
- Alliances:
  14. What country is historically your strongest ally?
  15. What country is currently your strongest ally?
  16. What countries are currently the most antagonistic to your country or group?
  17. If there was a natural disaster in your area: Which other group in the simulation would be your first choice to ask for help?
  18. What non-regional country would you find the most supportive of your political agenda within the region? (France, United States, China, Russia, etc.)
- Specific Issues:
  19. What is your position on terrorist organizations linked to Al Qaeda or the Islamic State in West Africa?
  20. What is your position on the Russian-linked Wagner group in West Africa?