

Crisis Simulation

The Sahel

Guidelines

- Represent your actor in crisis negotiations with the other actors present.
- Your goal is to negotiate a regional solution to the crisis.
- The simulation does not allow you to take actions, instead you can only make agreements with other actors.
- Your goal is to represent your interests and make sure that any agreement corresponds to your interests.
- This is an open-floor simulation, so move around, talk to other groups.
- Agreement forms are at the front of the classroom.

Starting crisis

- The rainy season in the Sahel saw the lowest amounts of rain in recorded history. They received half as much rain as normal in Mali and Burkina Faso.
- Food resources are stretched to the breaking point as a result and the World Food Programme has predicted a high likelihood of famine in the Sahel with hundreds of thousands of lives at risk of hunger.
- The countries/organizations here have been called to agree on a regional summit regarding food insecurity. Issues to be decided include:
 - Where will the summit be?
 - Who will be represented?
 - What will be the topics to be discussed?

Terrorist Attack

- ISIS-Sahel gunmen engaged in a wide-ranging attack on busses throughout Niger and Chad.
- Early estimates are 600 killed.
- The attacks appeared to target the bus infrastructure out of the capital cities of Niamey and N'Djamena.
- Early reports indicate the terrorists received support from ethnic Tuareg groups and Boko Haram.

Libyan Assassination

- The speaker of the House of Representatives in Libya, Aguila Saleh, was assassinated this morning.
- Experts claim that this is a serious threat to the formation of a national unity government in Libya.

Mauritania Coup

- While the President of Mauritania was out of the country, a young set of officers undertook a military coup. The Parliament has been suspended and an arrest warrant has been issued for the President.

Bus/Truck strike

- Bus drivers in Chad have gone on strike refusing to transport passengers on routes between cities until security is improved.
- They have stopped buses driven by other drivers and set them on fire.
- The Cameroon-Chad Truck Transporters Union, responsible for most of the international trade from Chad has joined the strike in solidarity.

Wagner Violence

- Russian troops linked to the former Wagner Group have been accused of a massacre in the Eastern part of the country.
- The massacre completely destroyed a town in the Zinder state leaving 243 people dead.
- It is believed this was targeting a town seen as supportive of ISIS-Sahel by the government of Niger.

Human Rights Watch Report

- Human Rights Watch has released a report on the human rights situation in Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, and Chad and has described them as the most dire human rights crisis in the world currently.
- They have called for international action to improve human rights and called for an ICC investigation into the situations in Mali and Niger.

Ferry Disaster

- A passenger and goods ferry on Lake Chad, connecting Nigeria to Chad, capsized and left dozens missing or dead and destroyed a large food shipment.
- While many in the region blamed ISIS-Sahel and some blamed the striking bus drivers, humanitarian groups said the most likely cause is the generally depleted transportation networks.

Football cancellation

- Multiple countries within the region have reported that the security situation may require the cancellation of the African Cup of Nations football tournament in 2025.
- The tournament already had to be moved once and the 2023 tournament had to be moved to 2024. Sponsors think further disruptions will decrease the growth of soccer on the continent.

Bus Strike Expands

- The Bus Strike has further expanded and included bus routes between cities in Northern Nigeria, Cameroon, and Niger.
- It has effectively prevented regular movement between hundreds of communities.

Libya Collapse

- Despite months of warning by UN officials of the inherent weakness of the Libyan unity government processes, the end finally came.
- Widespread fighting erupted overnight and has quickly spread throughout the country.
- Many fighters have fled south into the Sahara and Sahel countries looking to regroup for fighting in the future.

Security Crisis

- The UN envoy has called the crisis in the Sahel at a breaking point with the collapse of the Libyan state.
- Refugee networks are vulnerable to constant violence and attack.
- The democratic crisis in the region has deepened.
- And they have warned that the crisis threatens millions of lives.
- They have called for a final agreement on a regional summit:
 - Where will the summit be?
 - Who will be represented?
 - What will be the topics to be discussed?