



# **ALAMAU 2021**

## **Assembly of Heads of State and Government**

**An Africa United: Fostering Resilience Post-  
COVID-19**



**ALAMAU**  
African Leadership Academy Model African Union



Written by Michelle Siyabonga Khethiwe Hadebe  
Edited by Maya Schkolne  
Formatted by Kaylin Odonnell  
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## **Acronyms and Abbreviations**

African Leadership Academy's Model African Union (ALAMAU)

Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO)

The Assembly of Heads of State and Government (AHSG)

The African Union (AU)

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

The South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO)

Women informal cross-border traders (WICBTs)

The World Health Organisation (WHO)

## Letter from the Chairperson

Dear Delegates and Advisors,

Welcome to the African Leadership Academy's Model African Union (ALAMAU)! We believe that what makes this upcoming conference unique is not just that it is virtual, but also that it brings together a much larger and diverse group of delegates and advisors! We are all going to be there to deliberate on pressing issues on the African continent. Our research team has spent a significant amount of time collating content to help you be better informed to engage and arrive at the most appropriate solutions. This is particularly important given the impact that COVID-19 has had on Africa and the world.



My name is Michelle Siyabonga Khethiwe Hadebe and I am the Deputy Chairperson for ALAMAU 2021. This year's conference theme is 'An Africa United: Fostering Resilience Post-Covid-19,' which focuses on securing a more robust future for Africa to withstand future crises. The global pandemic has exposed important areas of growth, especially in health and economics, but has also exacerbated some challenges in human rights and the educational sector. As such, Africa has to cultivate resilience to recover from COVID-19 but even most importantly, to build a more robust future.

This Study Guide aims to link the topics covered at the conference to each other, as well as the overall theme. It also aims to provide an overview of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government. I hope that through this, you will gain a better understanding of our theme and accordingly make meaningful connections across committees. Moreover, I hope that this Assembly will encourage you to be more intentional about building a nuanced perspective on COVID-19 and how it has affected Africa and the world. You may then use that understanding to effect change on the continent! I anticipate you will leave ALAMAU 2021 in a better position to contribute to the strengthening of Africa through your passions, talents and ideas.

Kind Regards,

**Michelle Siyabonga Khethiwe Hadebe**

Deputy Chairperson

African Leadership Academy Model African Union, 2021

## About the Assembly of Heads of State and Government (AHSG)

This Assembly is the supreme organ of the African Union (AU) and comprises the Heads of State and Government from all fifty-five Member States. It functions to determine the AU's policies, establish priorities and monitor the implementation of its decisions. It is mandated to accelerate the political and socio-economic integration Africa.

At ALAMAU 2021, the ten committees represented in this Guide as well as the Press Corps will deliberate on their topics in different committee sessions. This will result in them drafting resolutions, which will be voted on. The passed resolutions will then be presented to the AHSG and voted on. The country delegations whose resolutions are passed in this session will then have to develop Action Plans to theoretically implement the ratified resolutions.

At the AHSG, delegates are organised by the countries they represent, rather than by committees. In other words, each delegate representing a particular country in a committee joins other delegates representing the same country in other committees, to form the country's delegation to the Assembly. These country delegations collaboratively evaluate the resolutions presented by the various committee representatives and vote on the proposals, the outcome of which is represented by selected presidents.



*The AHSG, Johannesburg, South Africa. 2015.*

<https://www.acbf-pact.org/media/events/assembly-heads-state-and-government>

## Statement of the Theme

### Terminology

**Resilience:** as defined by the Oxford dictionary, resilience is the capacity to recover rapidly from difficulty.

<sup>1</sup> For ALAMAU 2021, resilience is understood as the ability to recover from crisis and become much stronger in the face of future crises. This applies to institutions, economies and societies.

### Connecting Problems and Opportunities Highlighted by COVID-19

In 2020, the pandemic threatened up to twenty million jobs in Africa, <sup>2</sup> which does not even reflect a portion of the other problems it has wrought. For a continent already facing severe socio-economic challenges, the coronavirus is not just a threat; it *has* to be an opportunity for Africa to modify and improve its economic, social and political trajectory. This year's theme not only focuses on the areas most affected by COVID-19 but instead, it highlights the openings that exist to foster restoration. In doing so, this theme encourages technological advancements in health, business, and education; the bolstering of our economic systems and energy sources; and the strengthening of our governance and security structures. Rather than sink, the strength of this continent relies on unity and the ability to rise above this crisis.

Since the onset of this pandemic, it has become clear that health systems in Africa are in danger, especially those that were already compromised by socio-political tensions. In 2015, the World Health Organisation (WHO) reported on Somalia that “the health care system remains weak, poorly resourced and inequitably distributed. Health expenditure remains very low and there is a critical shortage of health workers.” <sup>3</sup> This, of course, was prior to this situation in which such countries have to battle their own conflicts and COVID-19. Furthermore, this pandemic has highlighted the vast gaps that exist in medical research on the continent. Currently, Africa is lacking the necessary research to significantly help with the search for a vaccine. To construct secure health systems following COVID-19, countries need to accelerate the progress they have made and expand their reach. With Egypt, Mauritius and



Africa Health Research Institute. <https://bit.ly/2Uz57tG>

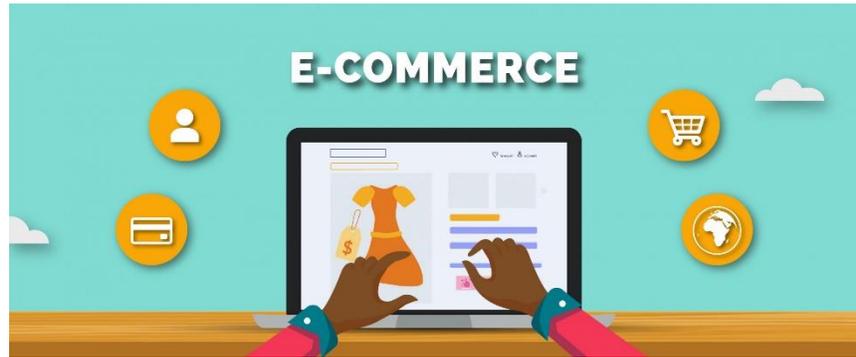
<sup>1</sup> Oxford University Press (OUP). “Resilience.” *Lexico.Com*, [www.lexico.com/definition/resilience](http://www.lexico.com/definition/resilience). Accessed 10 Sept. 2020.

<sup>2</sup> AfricaNews. “AU Report Projects 20 Million Job Loses in Africa Due to Coronavirus.” *Africanews*, Africanews, 9 April. 2020, [www.africanews.com/2020/04/09/au-report-projects-20-million-job-loses-in-africa-due-to-coronavirus/](http://www.africanews.com/2020/04/09/au-report-projects-20-million-job-loses-in-africa-due-to-coronavirus/).

<sup>3</sup> World Health Organization. (2015). *World Health Organization Humanitarian Response Plans in 2015*. <https://www.who.int/hac/donorinfo/somalia.pdf>

South Africa taking the lead, there is hope that the health and wellness of Africans will be strengthened.

Among the many issues that COVID-19 has shed light on, the need for rapid digitalisation has become more apparent, especially in the e-commerce and higher education sector. It is estimated that only twenty percent of the continent's adult population have access to a mobile money account,



Source: <https://weetracker.com/2020/05/01/african-e-commerce-startup-investments/> compared to the world average of 4.4%.<sup>4</sup> In education, the pandemic has resulted in certain higher education institutions opting to suspend learning because of digital gaps that make virtual learning impossible for many students. A sustainable recovery will require a rethink of traditional methods of both banking and teaching to mitigate digital barriers and propel growth.

COVID-19 has shaken African economies in a manner that little else has. However, we should use this chance to practically, and not just theoretically, include and support women and youth in the informal sector. For example, at the Busia border crossing between Uganda and Kenya, close to seventy percent of informal traders are women. While they are also the breadwinners in their families, as stated by the South African Institute of International Affairs, "The plight of women informal cross-border traders (WICBTs) has long been on the margins of debates on improving regional trade and integration in Africa... it is clear how even small changes to border infrastructure – such as night lighting and overnight lodging facilities – can improve the everyday trading experiences of WICBTs and ensure their personal safety."<sup>5</sup> This shows us the need to empower women at the grassroots level to strengthen their economic status. On the issue of economics, we have seen this pandemic push Africa towards a looming debt crisis.<sup>6</sup> African countries are still committed to external debts, leaving them with very little resources to deal with the effects of the pandemic and the devastating economic situation. To build a stronger economy, this continent ought to reorient its continental policies to improve its public debt situation.

<sup>4</sup> "Financial Inclusion on the Rise, But Gaps Remain, Global Findex Database Shows." *World Bank*, 19 Apr. 2018, [www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2018/04/19/financial-inclusion-on-the-rise-but-gaps-remain-global-findex-database-shows](https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2018/04/19/financial-inclusion-on-the-rise-but-gaps-remain-global-findex-database-shows).

<sup>5</sup> "Women traders in East Africa: The case study of the Busia One-Stop Border Post." *SAIIA*, 3 Apr. 2020, <https://saiia.org.za/research/women-traders-in-east-africa-the-case-study-of-the-busia-one-stop-border-post/>

<sup>6</sup> *Africa's gathering debt storm*. (2020, September 3). SAIIA. <https://saiia.org.za/research/africas-gathering-debt-storm/>

As we strengthen our economies, we need to maintain our focus on Africa's agriculture and energy sources, which are the most vital economic activities on the continent. As it stands, farmer's revenue and production streams have seen a huge blow and the coronavirus has placed immense pressure on our already scarce energy sources. Through enforcing strong agri-practices and green efforts, we may see a steady yet strong recovery in these sectors. Currently, countries such as Malawi are taking steps toward this by partnering with smallholder farmers to help them with demonstration plots. Through these spaces, they can grow a varieties of staple foods that are more resistant to natural disasters.<sup>7</sup> African states need to collectively protect these two vulnerable industries to foster an Africa that is food-secure and energy-efficient.



*'African Development Bank unveils strategy roadmap to safeguard food security against impacts of COVID-19.'* <https://bit.ly/32QTTp1>

The effects of the coronavirus are not just on the health systems and the economy; they are also on the social wellbeing of our people. It appears that this pandemic has directly and indirectly made space for human rights violations and extremism. Zimbabwe, Mozambique, and Chad are a few examples of African countries that have been battling both COVID-19 as well as extremism and humanitarian issues. Moving past this pandemic, we need to sharpen our terrorism prevention strategies for lasting peace and a secure future. Moreover, we need a more stringent approach to issues related to state policing powers. Our continent needs to reevaluate our political and security structure to cultivate harmony by promoting the dignity of citizens and protecting them against extremism.

## Conclusion

It is imperative that we do not merely stop at a recovery, but that we build resilience rooted in unity. As such, ALAMAU 2021 will work towards building an Africa that will stand strong; socially, economically, and politically, in the face of adversity. An Africa united will emerge, even more powerful than before.

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<sup>7</sup> 2021 Committees. (2020, June 23). ALAMAU. <http://www.alamau.org/alamau-2021-committees/>

## Current Trends

There have been continental trends across sectors that have exposed threats towards, and opportunities for a robust recovery from COVID-19. This section specifically examines opportunities to lead Africa towards a holistic recovery through digitalisation, effective use of the media, Pan-Africanist collaboration, as well as shifts from traditional to alternative models within distinct sectors. Connecting these trends show us that much ground needs to be covered to build continental resilience. Nevertheless, the foundation has been laid and we are gradually moving towards a secure and more prosperous post-COVID-19 future.

### The Digital Wave in Health and Finance

The world is going digital and so should Africa. Over the years, many African countries have digitised their health and financial sectors. Given the impact of COVID-19, many more states have been forced to digitalise. Although digitisation of services has exposed discrepancies such as internet connectivity challenges and digital illiteracy, it also presents untapped potential in service delivery on the continent. A good example of this is in digital data collection for healthcare facilities. This systematic means of capturing, evaluating and interpreting medical information has gained momentum on the continent, especially in South Africa. Since 2010, the South African Department of Health has been working to migrate from manual filing systems, or paper, to digital filing systems. This step has resulted in significant improvements in healthcare service delivery, monitoring, and research. <sup>8</sup> Similarly, certain startups leveraged the progress of digitalising African medical data through using Pan-African applications to advance health care services. For instance, InstaHealth has partnered with medical institutions in Kenya and Nigeria to allow Africans to access and transfer their medical information using their smartphones anywhere on the continent. <sup>9</sup>

In the same way, banks such as Tyme Bank in South Africa and Attijariwafa Bank in Morocco are contributing to Africa's digital revolution in finance. As some of the first fully virtual banks on the continent, these two present innovative solutions to foster financial inclusion and opportunities to improve financial resilience. They offer lower account creation fees and higher interest rates than traditional banks, and since they do not have physical branches or headquarters, they can allocate money spent on fixed costs, such as rent and electricity, to raise interest rates up to ten percent <sup>10</sup> compared with a maximum



*'The New World of Virtual Banks: Profitable Growth will Define Success.'*  
<https://bit.ly/2KgaJqX>

<sup>8</sup>Sheikh, Mohamud. "Digital Health Information System In Africa's Resource Poor Countries: Current Challenges And Opportunities". *Journal Of Health Informatics In Developing Countries*, vol 8, no. 1, 2014, (Accessed 23 Sept 2020)

<sup>9</sup> Ibid

<sup>10</sup> TymeBank. *Money | How To Make More Money With TymeBank Goalsave | Online Banking | Tyme Bank | South Africa*. 2020, <https://bit.ly/36enbAD>. (Accessed 23 Sept 2020)



of six percent for physical banks. <sup>11</sup> These advantages not only make virtual banking appealing, but also a viable opportunity for Africa's financial recovery.

### **Pan-Africanist Collaboration in Education and Agriculture**

Over the past couple of years, the African Agenda 2063 has set up initiatives that advance its Pan- African Agenda, particularly in the areas of education and agriculture. In the education sector, African states have advanced the aim towards providing quality and innovative education through partnerships with neighboring countries and community-based initiatives. A good example is the Tunisian-based Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (ALECSO), which facilitates educational and cultural activities to advance regional integration. <sup>12</sup> During the pandemic, it launched a virtual learning option to avoid the disruption of learning and teaching, which was built on partnerships with experts in the tech field and with ten North African countries. <sup>13</sup> The President of the Tunisian Association for e-Learning, Allouch, emphasized that the work of ALECSO is to “share its expertise in technology to enhance education for students and facilitators and guide university teachers [ Across and beyond the continent]”.

<sup>14</sup>

Resilience in agriculture is also closely related with government and in this case, farmer-to-farmer collaboration. In the past, small-scale farmers would find themselves competing among each other in local, rural markets. To overcome this, there have been waves of partnerships among small scale farmers and the government. In 2008, the Rwandan government rolled out a policy for participation in such partnerships, which were fully optional but incentivised. <sup>15</sup> Research conducted in 2014 to track the progress of this approach indicated a positive correlation between agriculture consolidation and smallholder production. For the small scale farmers involved, this meant increased profit margins and sustainable production. This collaboration advances Africa towards Agenda 2063 and paves the way towards a more agri-resilient future.

### **Social Media in Human Rights and Security Matters**

Now more than ever, social media is raising awareness about the happenings in African and the world. It is clear that social media has evolved, not just as a communication platform but as an advocacy and diplomacy tool to spread information about human rights and to advance peace and security. From #Blue4Sudan and #ICANTBREATHE, the role of social media has grown exponentially. Most recently, these have highlighted issues such as police brutality, which have always existed in poor communities but have been exacerbated by the social impacts of COVID-19 lockdowns regulations. This was exemplified by case

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<sup>11</sup> "Hong Kong Digital Bank Offers Market Beating 6% Interest Rate". *Finextra Research*, 2020, <https://bit.ly/3kGRvrl>. (Accessed 23 Sept 2020)

<sup>12</sup> “Arab League’s Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization.” *UNESCO*, 22 Feb. 2018, [uil.unesco.org/partner/library/arab-leagues-educational-cultural-and-scientific-organization-alecso-tunisia](http://uil.unesco.org/partner/library/arab-leagues-educational-cultural-and-scientific-organization-alecso-tunisia).( accessed 30 September 2020)

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid*

<sup>15</sup> Nilsson, Pia. “The Role Of Land Use Consolidation In Improving Farm Yields among Farm Households in Rwanda”, the journal of development studies, <https://bit.ly/2EstzZt>, (accessed September 23, 2020)

in South Africa <sup>16</sup> of an unlawful encounter with the police that resulted in the death of fourty-year-old Collins Khosa, the officers of which went unpunished. This case triggered shockwaves on social media, with hashtags such as #justiceforkhosa leading to nationwide protests in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Cape Town. Arguably, without social media it is likely that his story would have gone unnoticed. Similarly, earlier in 2020 Zimbabwe made waves on social media after several videos circulated of security forces beating and torturing citizens in broad



*Members of the Not In My Name SA Movement protest in solidarity with Zimbabweans in August 2020. <https://bit.ly/3pBsvoz>*

daylight. <sup>17</sup> Although social media does not have a considerably strong influence in policy-making, it does however have the capacity to bring communities together to debate issues on human rights and safety, acting virtually as a non-physical town hall for the continent, and the world. But it is crucial to note that social media does also have the capacity, on the flip side, to create polarisation and spread fake news.

Towards its most positive ends, social media has the capacity to act as an educational tool against extremism and violence, leading us towards the mandate of the 'Silencing the Guns' initiative. As it stands, Africa's most prominent terrorist groups, Boko Haram and Al-Shabaab, rely on social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter to reach young people. <sup>18</sup> It is therefore paramount that African's counter-terrorism strategy itself uses this medium to focus on young people who are more susceptible to extremist groups. As such, the United Nations Development Program's Regional and Multi-Country Project, established in 2016, uses social media and technology as a disrupter to extremist narratives and to engage with youth on the intentions of extremist groups. Focusing on Mali, Nigeria and Somalia, as well as their neighboring countries, this social media strategy has been effective in fostering dialogue and conflict-prevention to counter extremism.

### **Alternative Opportunities in Energy Consumption and National Financing**

Recent trends highlight a migration from brown energy; non-renewable and harmful energy, to green energy, as well as debt crisis to sustainable national financing. These trends seem to point toward untapped, alternative opportunities. Given the past failures in Africa's energy sector as well as national

<sup>16</sup> "Report Clearing Soldiers in South African Man's Death Sparks Anger." Voice of America, [www.voanews.com/africa/report-clearing-soldiers-south-african-mans-death-sparks-anger](http://www.voanews.com/africa/report-clearing-soldiers-south-african-mans-death-sparks-anger) (Accessed 30 September 2020)

<sup>17</sup> Ibid

<sup>18</sup> Kambela, Lweendo. 'Terrorism in Africa: a manifestation of new wars'. ACCORD. 2019. <https://www.accord.org.za/conflict-trends/terrorism-in-africa/>. (Accessed on 24 September 2020)

financing, alternative methods in these sectors are not only sustainable but offer good prospects for a more robust recovery.

For the continent to meet its high-power supply with massive growth and keep up with environmental protection, the use of renewable energy is necessary. Over the years, there has been a gradual move toward renewable power microgrids, which are decentralised electrification systems comprising renewable energy sources such as hydropower, solar power, and biomass, as well as local distribution lines. These microgrids have lower energy costs and produce large amounts of steady energy. On the continent, the use of off-grid solar power is the most common example of mini-grids. In the Annobon Island in Equatorial Guinea, residents only have reliable electricity for five hours per day, but the installation of microgrid projects can provide them with electricity for twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.<sup>19</sup> In the long run, the global off-grid solar sector is estimated to provide seventy-three million African households with sustainable electricity.<sup>20</sup> Gradually moving toward microgrids could possibly light Africa, leading towards a more viable and green future.

African governments have long sought alternative means of financing rather than developmental and infrastructural loans from China and the West. Recently, African states have turned to domestic debt markets as a source of funding rather than the traditional loans. With this alternative method, governments issue substantial treasury bonds that are bought by investors within the country, while the investors earn interest from the government. The benefit of such debt structures is that the bonds are issued in the local currency, hence the governments can effectively control their debt status. In countries such as Nigeria, this model of domestic debt has grown rapidly in recent years to over ten trillion Nigerian Naira as of 2016.<sup>21</sup> While domestic debt markets remain a viable alternative to external debt, it is important for countries to issue longer maturity bonds and prevent crowding out of private sector investments. Regardless, this national financing model places Africa at an advantage in terms of debt sustainability, thus building towards greater economic resilience and less economic reliance on China and the West.

## Conclusion

Much of the groundwork for a more resilient Africa has been laid. Trends in the digital revolution in health and business, pan-African collaboration in education and agriculture, social media in human rights and peace and security, as well as alternative models in energy and national finance need to be advanced. Continental efforts towards a stronger Africa need each state to commit to a vision of a sustainable recovery.

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<sup>19</sup> Goman, Cara. "Annobon Island Microgrid." *Microgrid Knowledge*, 10 Sept. 2015, [microgridknowledge.com/annobon-island-microgrid](http://microgridknowledge.com/annobon-island-microgrid). (Accessed 30 September 2020)

<sup>20</sup> International Finance Corporation 2017, "2018 Off Grid Solar Market Trends Report Full" [https://www.lightingafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2018\\_Off\\_Grid\\_Solar\\_Market\\_Trends\\_Report\\_Full.pdf](https://www.lightingafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/2018_Off_Grid_Solar_Market_Trends_Report_Full.pdf) (Accessed 20 September 2020)

<sup>21</sup> Titus, Okwu et al. "Domestic Debt And Economic Growth In Nigeria: Data-Based Evidence". Research Gate, 2016, <http://doi.org/10.15580/GJEA.2016.1.101516164>. (Accessed 23 Sept 2020)

## Ice Breaker Questions

1. Coronavirus has shaken the world in a way that little else has. How has it affected you, your family, your school, your city or district, or your country? Could you pinpoint three problems in your communities that have been created or highlighted by this pandemic? And what are the key ways that you think COVID-19 has affected Africa?
2. What has COVID-19 taught you about socio-political or socio-economic issues in your country or the continent? What can we learn from this?

## Questions an Action Plan Should Consider

1. Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs) are the backbone of many developing economies. More specifically, SMEs are responsible for fifty-two percent<sup>22</sup> of jobs held by women and youth in emerging countries. Based on this, what do you think African governments could do at this stage and in the future to strengthen the position of women and youth in the economy to foster greater business and job opportunities?
2. In April 2020, a team of scientists, students and professionals from Honoris United Universities; the largest Pan-African association of Higher Education institutions, developed a prototype for new, non-invasive respirators, as well as medical protection equipment that is cost-effective and accessible.<sup>23</sup> With this in mind, how do you think Pan-Africanist collaboration in health and scientific research could help strengthen public health systems?
3. During the pandemic, the continent has experienced a rise in E-Wallet in East Africa, better known as Impesa,<sup>24</sup> and the migration to online learning by many institutions.<sup>25</sup> Nonetheless, it is clear that access has not been shared equally across the continent. Accordingly, how can digital inclusion in the areas of education and banking lead the continent into a digital transformation?
4. Africa has seen a rise in extremism as well as human rights violations in countries such as Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Niger, committed by non-state and state actors. Key rights to

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<sup>22</sup> Muriithi, Samuel. "AFRICAN SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SMES) CONTRIBUTIONS, CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS." *Researchgate*, 2017, [www.researchgate.net/publication/315516536\\_AFRICAN\\_SMALL\\_AND\\_MEDIUM\\_ENTERPRISES\\_SMES\\_CONTRIBUTIONS\\_CHALLENGES\\_AND\\_SOLUTIONS](http://www.researchgate.net/publication/315516536_AFRICAN_SMALL_AND_MEDIUM_ENTERPRISES_SMES_CONTRIBUTIONS_CHALLENGES_AND_SOLUTIONS).

<sup>23</sup> "COVID-19 Innovations from Pan-African University Network." *Medical Brief*, 15 Apr. 2020, [www.medicalbrief.co.za/archives/covid-19-innovations-from-pan-african-university-network/](http://www.medicalbrief.co.za/archives/covid-19-innovations-from-pan-african-university-network/).

<sup>24</sup> Opinion. (2020, August 17). Now's the perfect time for SA to tap into power of digital wallets and E-payments. Retrieved September 02, 2020, from <https://www.iol.co.za/news/opinion/nows-the-perfect-time-for-sa-to-tap-into-power-of-digital-wallets-and-e-payments-c2d518dc-2959-4e9b-8e6c-6ac9f32073b5>

<sup>25</sup> The Star . "covid -19 universities say online has improved class attendance", Accessed September, 02, 2020 for Covid-19: Universities say online learning has improved class attendance



assembly, expression and movement have been suppressed by the police and extremist groups, among others. Given this, what impact do you think community based structures can have in protecting civilians from state police as well as extremism?

5. Due to the ongoing conflict and unstable political structures in Libya, only four hospitals are currently functional, and at seventy-five to eighty percent of their capacities.<sup>26</sup> Similarly, in South Sudan; another country experiencing conflict, only about 120 medical doctors and a hundred nurses are registered for an estimated population of nearly nine million.<sup>27</sup> Given these figures, what support is needed in the health systems of countries such as Libya and Sudan to ensure that civilians in conflict zones receive quality healthcare?
6. Agriculture and energy are undoubtedly crucial to African economies. As such, the mitigation of issues connected to renewable energy supplies, responsible energy consumption and sustainable agricultural practices are fundamental to Africa's economies and livelihoods. How should African states empower these sectors to be viable while sustainable?
7. By 2018, nineteen African countries had exceeded the sixty percent<sup>28</sup> debt to Gross Domestic Product threshold set by the African Monetary Cooperation Program for developing economies. Given this alarming statistic, when do you think it is necessary for African countries to borrow money and when is it not? How can African states use this knowledge to re-evaluate its debt sustainability policies to support an economic recovery post-COVID-19?

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<sup>26</sup> World Health Organization. 2020. *Libya Health Situation Reports*. [online] Available at: <<https://www.who.int/hac/crises/lby/sitreps/en/>> [Accessed 2 September 2020].

<sup>27</sup> "South Sudan: Desperate Struggle for Health Care in World's Newest Nation." International Committee on The Red Cross, [www.icrc.org/en/doc/resources/documents/news-release/2012/south-sudan-news-2012-07-06.htm](http://www.icrc.org/en/doc/resources/documents/news-release/2012/south-sudan-news-2012-07-06.htm). Accessed 2 Sept. 2020.

<sup>28</sup> Onyekwena, Chukwuka. "Is a Debt Crisis Looming in Africa?" *Brookings*, 11 Apr. 2019, [www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2019/04/10/is-a-debt-crisis-looming-in-africa](http://www.brookings.edu/blog/africa-in-focus/2019/04/10/is-a-debt-crisis-looming-in-africa).



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"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,  
committed citizens can change the world;  
indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

- Margaret Mead



International Relations Council  
African Leadership Academy  
1050 Printech Avenue,  
Honeydew  
Johannesburg, South Africa  
+27 11 699 3038  
mail@alamau.org  
www.alamau.org