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1. LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

Dear delegates,

First and foremost, thank you for reading this study guide and welcome to the Security Council (SC). We, your chairs, Mira and Charles are excited to guide you throughout this conference and expect to witness many fruitful debates. Furthermore, we hope that this study guide can be helpful for your research and preparation in prospect of our MUN. However, we ask you to keep in mind that it is mandatory for you to hand in your position paper before the 14th January 2023 at 11.59pm.

Moreover, we suggest that you turn in your opening statement as well.

Best regards,

Your chairs, Mira and Charles

2. INTRODUCTION

a. OF THE COMMITTEE

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) represents one of the six main organs of the United Nations. Simultaneously to the creation of the United Nations as a whole immediately after World War II, the council was established with its first session being held on 17 January 1946. Its main purpose in the beginning was to address the failings of the League of Nations, the predecessor of the UN and the first intergovernmental organization worldwide, which did not succeed in maintaining World Peace for very long. However, for the next few decades, the committee's influence had been largely limited due to the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union (and their allies). Even so, military interventions in several conflicts such as the Korean War, the Congo Crisis and Cyprus had been made possible. Only after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, did the authority of the Security Council tremendously grow, launching major military interventions and peacekeeping missions in several states around the world, such as: Kuwait, Namibia, Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.



Regarding its structure, the Security Council consists of 15 members, of which five are permanent: China, Russia, The United States of America, France and the United Kingdom. These states are the main victors of World War II, who have sustained the world's most powerful military forces ever since. The 10 non-permanent members are elected by the United Nations General Assembly and keep the position for two years. Those who are retiring members are not eligible for an immediate re-election.

b. OF THE TOPIC

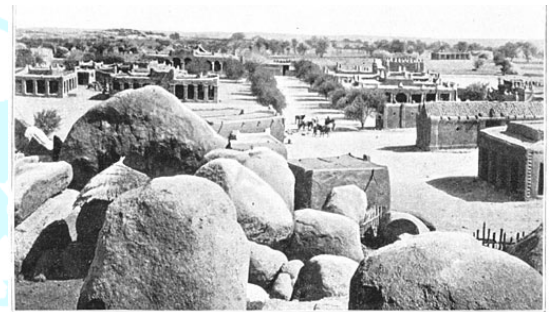
On 26 July 2023, the Nigerien military blockaded the Presidential Palace as well as several governmental facilities across the capital of Niger - Niamey. The Nigerien President Mohamed Bazoum and his family found themselves surrounded by junta (military forces), which is held under the control of General Abdourahmane Tchiani (alias: Omar Tchiani) who proclaimed himself as the new leader of Niger. But nevertheless, President Bazoum, a democratic elected president who's been so far a major ally to the western world, showed no intention of resigning even days after the coup.



3. HISTORY OF NIGER

Niger, situated in the North-Western part of Africa, is a country rich in history which can be traced back to 250.000 BC. Regarding the pre-colonial period, many, sedentary as well as nomadic ethnic groups, such as the Tuareg and the Fulani have lived in the area for thousands of years until this day, engaging in trade, agriculture and herding.

As for the colonial-era, Niger had been conquered by France in the 19th century for its rich agricultural lands and minerals, especially uranium, which places Niger, after Russia and Kazakhstan, as the biggest uranium exporters worldwide to this day. Under the French influence, administrative structures to facilitate political and economic control had been established, exploiting these resources which had therefore become their main economic orientation. The imposition of French colonial



rule had a severe impact on the indigenous societies of Niger. Traditional ways of life were often disrupted and replaced with European cultural, administrative and legal systems, as French authorities found it rather difficult in governing these different groups, due to the fact that they took the liberty themselves on deciding the country's borders without any regard to their cultural differences.

Concerning the post-colonial-period, Niger gained independence in 1960 with Hamani Diori becoming their first president. The early years were marked by efforts to establish political stability, economic development as well as social progress with their single-party civilian regime. However, the newly founded government did not succeed in doing so. In the following years, Niger experienced many hardships under a constant shift of leadership through various coups led by the military. In 1991, The National Sovereign Conference, a national conference which gathered all elements of society in order to discuss the future of the country, had been held for 3 months. This conference resulted in the establishment of the new multi-party democracy, a system that allowed its people more liberties. However, many ethnic societies, such as the Tuareg and the Tobou, expressed a sentiment of dissatisfaction as they felt being neglected by the government, causing their respective rebel groups to retaliate. In 1995, a peace treaty was signed, with the government agreeing on transferring some of the rebels into their own military as well as, with French assistance, on helping others return to a productive civilian life.

However, the country had still not reached economic stability. The never-ending drought put an even bigger strain on the people as the majority of the Nigeriens are engaged in agriculture and therefore dependent on it. In addition, repeated security concerns, a weak infrastructure and its reliance on a single commodity (uranium) are the major reasons for increasing poverty and why Niger has one of the lowest GDP per capita worldwide. However, many of Niger's ethnic groups began to retaliate, especially the Tuareg tribe, which broke the peace treaty but had been quickly defeated by the national defenses.



Nevertheless, due to the security breach in the Northern territory due to the Tuareg, followers of the notorious Al-Qaeda were able to gain a foothold in the country. Since then, the Islamic state launched several attempts in order to spread their influence across the state. And with the fallout in the Libyan Civil War as well as the Northern Mali conflict in 2011, the forces of Al-Qaeda and the Islamic state are getting even closer.



4. CURRENT SITUATION

As of currently, the political situation in Niger remains tumultuous following the coup d'état on July 26, 2023. The coup, led by General Abdourahamane Tchiani, resulted in the detention of President Mohamed Bazoum and his family. The military junta, known as the National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland, declared the dissolution of the constitution, the suspension of state institutions, and imposed a nationwide curfew.

The coup was met with widespread condemnation from the international community, including the United States, France, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and the African Union. The West African regional bloc ECOWAS threatened military intervention against the junta, leading to heightened tensions and a looming crisis in the region.



The aftermath of the coup has seen ongoing disruptions within Niger, including demonstrations, censorship of broadcasts, power interruptions, and evacuations of foreign nationals. The international community, led by ECOWAS, has exerted pressure on the junta to hand over power and return to civilian rule. However, the junta has sought support from like-minded regimes in the region and faces accusations of prosecuting President Bazoum for "high treason" and undermining the country's security.

The situation escalated into a serious international crisis, prompting the African Union to suspend Niger from the bloc. The junta, under General Abdourahamane Tchiani, pledged to return Niger to civilian rule within three years after meetings with ECOWAS mediators.

The coup also had geopolitical implications, with France withdrawing its troops and diplomatic staff from Niger by the end of 2023. The presence of Russian influence, particularly through the Wagner Group, and the expansion of Turkish influence in the region have added complexity to the situation.

International reactions to the coup have been unequivocal in their condemnation, with sanctions imposed by ECOWAS and the suspension of aid and cooperation agreements by the European Union and France. The United States labeled the events as an "attempted coup" and expressed support for ECOWAS while cautioning against harm to President Bazoum.

In conclusion, the coup in Niger has resulted in a complex and fluid political situation, marked by international condemnation, regional tensions, and the junta's efforts to consolidate power. The future trajectory remains uncertain, with ongoing diplomatic efforts to resolve the crisis and the junta's promises of a return to civilian rule within a specified timeframe.



5. POINTS TO CONSIDER

When writing your position paper, please keep in mind the following points:

- Which strengths does Niger present themselves? Which ones are similar to those of your country? How can they be globally made presentable?
- Which are its weaknesses and how can they be permanently resolved?
- Which past attempts have been made in order to resolve their situation? How much success did they have? Are similar initiatives possible?



6. APPENDIX

a. FINAL STATEMENT

We hope that we could, with the help of this study guide, spark some interest in the topic of the coup in Niger and that it has provided plenty of useful information while giving a first overview of the past and current situation in the country. Moreover, we not only expect you to inform yourself in detail about the delegation you are going to represent but also about others present at the SC, to foster lively and most importantly representative discussions. But fear not, we don't bite, and are of course both open to any and all questions about the topic, the conference or anything else relating to the event. Finally, we are excited to see you in January and are eager to hear your cases and a little reminder to hand in your position paper to one of us before the 14th January at 11.59pm.

Best regards,

Your chairs, Mira and Charles

b. SOURCES

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