

## AFRICAN UNION (AU)

### PRESIDENTS:

Full name	e-mail address
Andrés Felipe Maldonado Corredor	a.maldonadoc@uniandes.edu.co
Santiago David Meza Quiroga	mqsantiago02@gmail.com

### 1. WELCOME:

Dear delegates, our warmest welcome to the (African Union) committee. On behalf of the leadership roles, we deeply thank you for your interest on Simonu Bogotá Región 2022

We are convinced that it is the youth that moves Simonu forward, using diversity to build and impact the world through change; the simulation becomes a stage for peace building and democracy, as well as it develops skills like social and emotional sensitivity, empathy, leadership, teamwork, speech and assertive communication.

Equally, this is a safe space that gives integral formation of each and every one of us the place it deserves, not only impacting on the academic field but also in the way we relate to others, making us understand differences unite us and from them we join in the great family that characterizes Simonu.

Within the content of this guide, you will find material of great educational quality to further boost the construction of the simulation and development of the debate. We are very glad to have the opportunity to work alongside you to build this simulation hand by hand, becoming your support to generate a kind, safe space for everyone.

The topic in question for this committee will be your window for learning and consciousness about the world and our daily life-impacting environment. It is going to be a very demanding experience, but also comprehensive of each one of us, and educating in the necessary culture of consensus.

We are convinced that this will be a very enriching space for every delegate, enlarging ideas and your ability to communicate them in our XXI century society. We look forward to sharing this experience with you, remembering that Simonu changes your life, and you change the world. Welcome!

## **2. TOPIC: *Reduction of inequalities***

The commission will be oriented towards SDG #10, which tells us about the reduction of inequalities, which is aimed at all those social gaps generated on the African continent in the face of the individual beliefs of governments about the LGTB community.

These social gaps will be explained chronologically later in point number 6 of the guide, but in summary it could be said that over time these hate speeches, separatism and discrimination do not stop. What actions have been taken over the years on the rights and development of these communities, as well as the culture in the countries of the continent manages to impact the progress of this trend are going to be some relevant points in handling the main topic of the commission.

This topic will be treated in the commission as a discussion on the social development of the LGTB community on the continent and how the member countries take a decisive role in policies and trends to achieve a reduction in inequalities as a sustainable development goal proposed by The United Nations.

**3. FOCUS: *Strategic approach for the creation of social mechanisms to tackle social gaps produced by individual beliefs related to sexual education and the social development of the people in the LGBTQ+ community.***

The main approach that will be discussed in the commission is the increase of mechanism for the creation of social organizations that provide tools that facilitate the social development of LGTB communities in the countries of the African continent.

Likewise, it seeks to generate a debate on how governments will act from their commission work to generate a general agreement where LGTB communities have equal development in the member countries of the debate and can enjoy the guarantees that the commission decides upon end of the debate work, directed to the creation of these mechanisms to improve the development of the communities in their daily aspects.

**4. ABOUT THE COMMISSION:**

African Union was founded in May 1963, 32 Heads of independent African States met in Addis Ababa Ethiopia to sign the Charter creating Africa's first post-independence continental institution.

The main objectives of the OAU were to rid the continent of the remaining vestiges of colonization and apartheid; to promote unity and solidarity amongst African States; to coordinate and intensify cooperation for development; to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Member States and to promote international cooperation. The OAU Charter spelled out the purpose of the Organization namely:

- To promote the unity and solidarity of the African States.
- To coordinate and intensify their cooperation and efforts to achieve a better life for the peoples of Africa.
- To defend their sovereignty, their territorial integrity and independence.

- To eradicate all forms of colonialism from Africa; and
- To promote international cooperation, having due regard to the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

## Gender Equality and Development

Aspiration 6 of Agenda 2063 calls for “*An Africa, whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children.*” Agenda 2063 therefore requires that we live in a more inclusive society where all the citizens are actively involved in decision making in all aspects and where no child, woman or man is left behind or excluded, on the basis of gender, political affiliation, religion, ethnic affiliation, locality, age or other factors. Article 3 of the Protocol on Amendments of the Constitutive Act of the African Union recognizes the critical role of women in promoting inclusive development and calls for the AU “to ensure the effective participation of women in decision-making, particularly in the political, economic and socio-cultural areas.”

The AU recognizes that that gender equality is a fundamental human right and an integral part of regional integration, economic growth and social development and has developed the AU’s strategy for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE) to ensure the inclusion of women in Africa’s development agenda.

The GEWE strategy focuses on 6 key pillars namely:

1. Women’s Economic Empowerment and Sustainable Development - Women’s empowerment is key to growth, prosperity and sustainability
2. Social justice, protection & Women’s Rights - woman’s rights are human rights; they span all spheres- social, political, legal and economic.
3. Leadership & Governance - good governance demands equal and effective participation by women.

4. Gender Management Systems – providing access and investing resources (financial and other technical resources) to support women
5. Women, Peace and Security – Ensuring women’s perspectives are included on issues of Peace - Prevention, Protection, Promotion Programmes
6. Media & ICTs – Given women a voice in African media and access to technology for knowledge

(African Union, 2022)

## 5. KEY CONCEPTS:

**Sexual Orientation:** An inherent or immutable enduring emotional, romantic or sexual attraction to other people (Sexuality Education, 2022).

**Gender Identity (1):** One's innermost concept of self as male, female, a blend of both or neither – how individuals perceive themselves and what they call themselves. One's gender identity can be the same or different from their sex assigned at birth (Sexuality Education, 2022)..

**Gender Identity (2):** Gender identity is defined as a personal conception of oneself as male or female (or rarely, both or neither). This concept is intimately related to the concept of gender role, which is defined as the outward manifestations of personality that reflect the gender identity. Gender identity, in nearly all instances, is self-identified, as a result of a combination of inherent and extrinsic or environmental factors (Sexuality Education, 2022).

**Sexual Education:** Sexuality education aims to develop and strengthen the ability of children and young people to make conscious, satisfying, healthy and respectful choices regarding relationships, sexuality and emotional and physical health. Sexuality education does not encourage children and young people to have sex (Sexuality Education, 2022).

**Social Development:** Social development is about improving the well-being of every individual in society so they can reach their full potential. The success of society is linked to the well-being of each and every citizen. Social development means investing in people (Laws and Legislation, 2022).

**Discrimination:** The unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people, especially on the grounds of race, age, sex, or disability (Cambridge, 2022)

**Individual Beliefs:** A belief is an idea that a person holds as being true. A person can base a belief upon certainties (e.g., mathematical principles), probabilities or matters of faith. A belief can come from different sources, including: a person's own experiences or experiments or even culture factors. (Cambridge, 2022)

## 6. HISTORICAL CONTEXT:

LGBT+ rights in Africa have made considerable progress in the years since South Africa legalized same-sex marriage in 2006. However, currently, in 34 African countries, homosexual relations are punishable by law and criminalize people for their sexual orientation and gender identity. In all of them, the culture of discrimination and violations of fundamental human rights is constantly repeated against lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual, intersex, and queer people. (LGTBIQ+) (*LGBTQ+ youth - HRC*. (n.d.).

In addition, social intolerance, discrimination and, in some cases, violence against the collective is a continuum that causes their systematic exclusion from the public sphere. During 2019 a consortium of international institutions and NGOs led by African leaders managed to launch a project in five African cities to end the stigma and exclusion of the collective,

To address the challenges facing this community and promote inclusion, the consortium will engage social leaders; empower communities and train journalists and media outlets on positive representation; strengthen communities to be more resilient, while providing research-based evidence on people's experiences. In addition to the overall goal LGBT+ people should have the same opportunities to develop their full potential and achieve a prominent level of personal wellbeing (Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, 2016).

On the other hand, the African continent has 22 countries where homosexuality is legal, one of these is Ivory Coast which due to social pressure from the people made its Penal Code modified to make homosexuality legal and that punishments or convictions for homosexual public acts were eliminated, in the sixties and seventies, the economic growth experienced by Côte d'Ivoire created a more open context that allowed a flourishing of the community (Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific, 2016).

There was no police repression or public stigmatization. But it was not until the beginning of the twenty-first century when a political movement began to emerge that defended sexual minorities, always intricately linked to the group of HIV patients. In 2003 the first organization called “Arc-En-Ciel Plus” and in 2010 “Alternative Côte d'Ivoire”( Human Rights Campaign, 2022).

Although women are the essential structure of the associative fabric, they continue to struggle in an invisible way. They have had to find their own spaces, activities and places of political struggle to mark their presence, still under a context in which they live happier if they are discreet.

## 7. GUIDING QUESTIONS TO LEAD THE DEBATE

- What mechanisms are proposed by the commissions to give greater social development to the LGTB+ community on the continent?

- What necessary changes are suggested by the commissions to implement a policy in favor of the integration into society of the LGTB+ community?

## 8. METHODOLOGICAL GUIDELINES FOR THE DEBATE IN THE COMMISSION:

Recommendations for the preparation and participation in the debate, it is recommended that the delegations assume their role whether it be States, departments, municipalities, localities, youth, student representative.

For Simonu Bogotá-Región it is very important that you go to the simulation prepared with the following information: the construction of the portfolio (keep the necessary information for your debate time), the profile of your committee, the profile of your delegation, among others. All these inputs become relevant for the training and development of your work as a delegate or delegate. All this in the search for greater knowledge regarding the topic to be discussed. Remember to use reliable, reliable sources, and important elements, be careful! Not all data you identify is relevant. Be strategic!

Also, keep in mind how Simonu Bogotá-region helps you; You have access to the committee guide, where you can find essential information on the theme and approach of the committee, remember to build your supporting documents, such as the opening speech and the position statement, documents included in the portfolio. Keep in mind that you must consider historical, social, demographic, cultural and economic aspects of the delegation.

Remember, that in Simonu there are two types of commissions: (Specialized and Traditional), in the case of traditional commissions, you will represent countries, cities, departments or municipalities, that is, **you will not be representing yourself**, keep in mind that Simonu is a great role play. In the case of specialized commissions such as Bogotá, Network of Representatives, Comptrollers, Lobbyists and Restorative School Justice, the delegation is “Youth” or “Student Representative”, that is, you represent yourself.



## **During the simulation**

By this time, you must be super excited, and prepared thanks to the training acquired and the construction of work tools that will be put to the test in the simulation. Calm down, everything will be fine. Remember to make use of the information you have prepared in the contextualization, historical analysis, the development of proposals and solutions, of the theme and approach assigned to the commission. Be proactive, question your colleagues, analyze the scope, impact and needs of the delegation you are representing, interact and work as a team.

For your interventions, make proper use of your body language as it enhances your oratory, be careful with the use of fillers (“eeeeh!”, “mmmm!”, etc.), some spaces in silence are also useful. Remember the diplomatic language, because you are a representative of a State, department, municipality, locality, you must be respected for such dignity, as well as be respectful of others.

## **After the simulation**

By this time, you should have already given your best in building the options to respond to the commission's problem. The product of your work and that of your teammates will be visible in the draft resolutions that are the final result of the debate in the commission.

## **9. MAIN WEBSITES:**

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- *Hate crimes - HRC.* (n.d.). Human Rights Campaign. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://www.hrc.org/resources/hate-crimes>
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- Reduce inequality within and among countries. (2016). In *Statistical Yearbook for Asia and the Pacific* (pp. 101–111). United Nations.
- *Resources.* (n.d.). Human Rights Campaign. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://www.hrc.org/resources>

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## 10. ADDITIONAL WEBSITES, VIDEOS OR BIBLIGRAPHY:

- *Being LGBTQ in Africa still draws stigma, violence and criminal charges.* (n.d.). DW.COM; Deutsche Welle (www.dw.com). Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://www.dw.com/en/being-lgbtq-in-africa-still-draws-stigma-violence-and-criminalcharges/a-62024366>
- *Goal 10.* (n.d.). Sdgs.un.org. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal10>
- *GOAL 10: Reduced inequalities.* (n.d.). Europa.Eu. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://africa-knowledge-platform.ec.europa.eu/sdgs/reduced-inequalities>
- *Goal 10: Reduced inequalities.* (2021, September 17). The Global Goals. <https://www.globalgoals.org/goals/10-reduced-inequalities/>
- Institute of Medicine (US) Committee on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Health Issues, Research Gaps, & Opportunities. (2011). *Introduction*. National Academies Press.
- *SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.* (n.d.). UN Women – Headquarters. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/infocus/women-and-the-sdgs/sdg-10-reduced-inequalities>

- *Sustainable development goal 10: Reduced inequalities.* (n.d.). Sustainable Development Goal 10: Reduced Inequalities | The United Nations in South Africa. Retrieved July 21, 2022, from <https://southafrica.un.org/en/sdgs/10>
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