
ASSEN MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2020
COMMITTEE GUIDE
UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME



Clearing the path to a sustainable and eco-friendly Africa; solving the corruption in Africa that is hindering that path

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CHAIRS

Carla Arnold

Distinguished delegates,

My name is Carla Arnold and I will be one of the chairs for ASMUN 2020. I am excited to attend this year's conference seeing as I was one of the six members who organized ASMUN 2019 and participated in the very first ASMUN in 2018. Apart from the ASMUN conferences, I have had the opportunity to attend United Netherlands in Nijmegen and OLMUN in Oldenburg.

I am looking forward to some heated debates, exemplary resolutions, and (especially) the gossip box!

So, I wish you good luck, but most of all, enjoy!

Hidde Wildeman

Hi delegates!

I am Hidde Wildeman and I am excited to be your chair during the upcoming ASMUN event. Throughout my years of education, I have experienced numerous MUN's and have had chairing experience. About me: currently I am in the first year of my International Relations and International Organization bachelor program at Rijksuniversiteit Groningen. This particular bachelor focusses on all the aspects that you as a delegate will come across during the Model United Nations events. Moreover, I live in Groningen and enjoy debating, partying and playing piano. I love meeting new people and hanging out. For the upcoming MUN, I hope to see a lot of enthusiasm during the debates. But most of all I hope you have fun and learn something. As a chair I will do everything in my power to let you have an enjoyable and educational experience. I will see you there!

WRITER

Good morning, good evening or good night. Wherever you are in the world right now, think about the fact that people are paying bribes to police officers. Think about people having to pay money to get access to basic education. Think about the people that are treated as garbage.

Corruption in African countries is forming a barrier on our path to an eco-friendly and sustainable world. Money does not go to the right places and people are treated wrong. The current situation in African countries is a big mess. Governments and police are corrupt. If we want to make steps regarding our environment, these issues have to be solved first. Therefore I, Nesta Sikkema, wrote this guide for you to come up with solid solutions. In my honest opinion, I find it outstandingly brave of you to be a delegate in this committee. From here, you are responsible of the wellbeing of the world. I hope you take your task very serious and I hope you do not take the current situation for granted. I wish you good luck with debating, speaking and negotiating. And however, your task is of high priority, I wish you much fun during the ASMUN conference.

Greetings,

Nesta Sikkema

COUNTRIES IN THE COMMITTEE

- China
- France
- Russian Federation
- United States of America
- United Kingdom
- Ethiopia
- Liberia
- Mauritius
- South Africa
- Nigeria
- Germany
- Brazil
- Egypt
- Denmark
- Senegal
- Japan



THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMME

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment. Our mission is to provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations.

Headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, we work through our divisions as well as our regional, liaison and out-posted offices and a growing network of collaborating centres of excellence. We also host several environmental conventions, secretariats and inter-agency coordinating bodies.

We categorize our work into seven broad thematic areas: climate change, disasters and conflicts, ecosystem management, environmental governance, chemicals and waste, resource efficiency, and environment under review. In all of our work, we maintain our overarching commitment to sustainability.

In 2015, the international community adopted a set of 17 goals as part of a new global agenda on sustainable development. The environment underlies each of those goals – from eliminating hunger to reducing inequalities to building sustainable communities around the world.

UN Environment is committed to working with all concerned parties to support the achievement of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We promote environmental sustainability as a crucial enabling factor in implementing the SDGs and ensuring the health of our planet. We build countries' capacities to track their progress toward the goals, and we aim to ensure that the environment is integrated into all aspects of sustainable development.

Four core principles underpin UN Environment's approach to the 2030 Agenda:

Universality: The 2030 Agenda is global in nature and universally applicable, taking into account different national realities, levels of development, and respecting national policies and priorities. It is a shared agenda that requires a collective response, with countries developing their own pathways to national targets. This will require strengthened governance practice and institutions.

Integration: The 2030 Agenda moves beyond acting as if sustainable development is about three disconnected pillars. Approaches must balance and integrate the social, environmental and economic dimensions, also looking at governance, and interconnect the areas.

Human rights and equity: Inequalities are not just determined by economics. To achieve basic levels of goods and services for all; better redistribution of wealth and

resources (both within and between countries); and equitable access to opportunities, information and rule of law, new approaches that build capacities at all level of society are needed.

Innovation: Formal science, traditional knowledge and citizen common sense, new and innovative pathways are needed to allow countries to leap forward. The acceleration and transfer of technological innovations is a common concern.

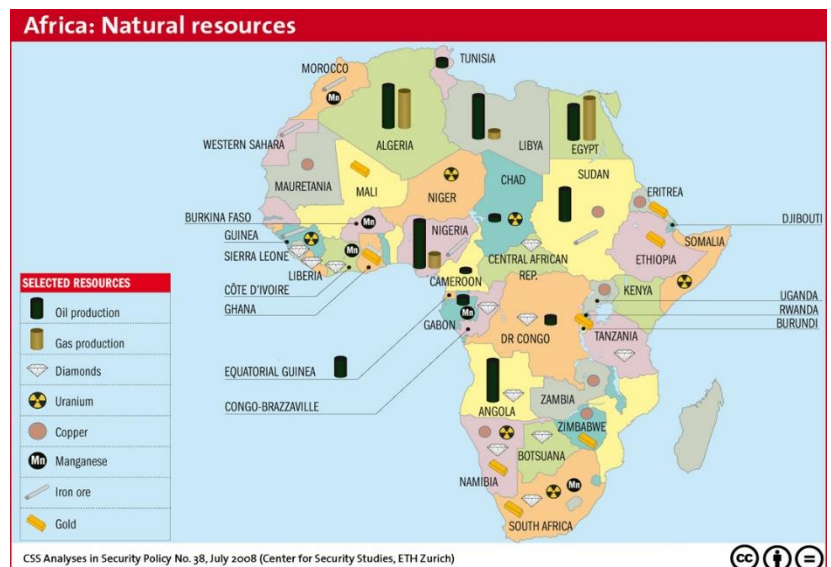
AFRICA

Africa is rich in natural resources ranging from arable land, water, oil, natural gas, minerals, forests and wildlife. The continent holds a huge proportion of the world's natural resources, both renewables and non-renewables.

Africa is home to some 30 percent of the world's mineral reserves, 8 per cent of the world's natural gas, 12 per cent of the world's oil reserves; the continent has 40 per cent of the world's gold and up to 90 per cent of its chromium and platinum. The largest reserves of cobalt, diamonds, platinum and uranium in the world are in Africa. Africa holds 65 per cent of the world's arable land, 10 per cent of internal renewable fresh water source.

In most African countries, natural capital accounts for between 30 per cent and 50 per cent of total wealth. Over 70 per cent of people living in sub-Saharan Africa depend on forests and woodlands for their livelihoods. Land is an economic development asset as well as a socio-cultural resource. A significant share of these resources is, however, used unsustainably while others are lost through illegal activities, meaning that the stream of benefits generated from these resources is being reduced over time. For instance, Africa loses an estimated \$195 billion annually of its natural capital through illicit financial flows, illegal mining, illegal logging, illegal trade in wildlife, unregulated fishing, environmental degradation and loss among others.

The African Ministerial Conference on the Environment (AMCEN) recognizes that natural capital underpins the continent's economy, affirming that using natural capital as a getaway to wealth creation and investments will allow for actions towards achievement of the United Nations 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the AU Agenda 2063 through financial, economic, social and environmental contribution.



The GEO-6 Regional Assessment for Africa points out that the environment is deteriorating faster than previously thought, emphasizing that governments must act faster to reverse the worst trends. The report recognizes Africa's natural capital and observes that the economic growth of Africa hinges on the sustainable management of its natural capital. However, unsustainable exploitation of Africa's natural resources by its burgeoning population, and the tardiness by authorities to effect sound policies and regulations to tame abuse and over exploitation of these resources is brewing trouble. Nature is issuing red alerts, as evidenced by the many catastrophes we are experiencing which if left unchecked, will keep aggravating food shortages, water scarcity, diseases, conflicts, migration and poverty, all of which could culminate in the destabilization of economies.

Collectively, the continent has a lot to gain in pulling together and harnessing its vast natural resources to finance the development agenda towards greater prosperity; and it must also ensure that future growth and exploitation of natural resources is results-oriented, climate resilient, and sustainable.

Corruption is the single biggest threat to Africa's growth. The solution lies in good, ethical leadership, strong and enforceable laws against corruption, severe sanctions for corruption crimes underpinned by a national culture of promoting ethics from family to national level" says Ali Mufuruki, CEO of Tanzania's Infotech Investment Group and member of the International Monetary Fund's Group on sub-Saharan Africa. Corruption is the biggest obstacle in the way of a sustainable and eco-friendly Africa.

Unfortunately, "ethical leadership" is an idealistic notion that may never be realized and most of our public office bearers struggle with this ideal. Many of the post-independence African elite – both in the political and economic empowerment class – took the colonial elite's conspicuous consumption standard as the standard of "success" thus leading to an enduring system of corruption that can afford the elite this standard. It is up to you, as a member of the United Nations Environmental Programme, to come up with a solution to corruption in Africa and clear the path to a sustainable and eco-friendly Africa.

WHAT IS HAPPENING?

Corruption was a key driver of the frustrations that have transformed Sudan this year: When President Omar al-Bashir was forced out of office in April by the military after months of civilian-led protests over his authoritarian grip and a tanking economy, he had around \$113 million in cash in his house.

But Sudan is far from alone. According to the latest Global Corruption Barometer for Africa, a massive public opinion survey led by Transparency International and Afrobarometer, Sudan came in second in terms of the percentage of people who thought that corruption increased in the last 12 months—behind the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where 85 percent of people thought it had been getting worse.

The GCB-A found more than one in four people who accessed public services, such as health care and education, paid a bribe in the preceding year – approximately 130-million citizens in the 35 countries surveyed. In South Africa the percentage of people who paid a bribe for access to essential services in the past year more than doubled from 7% in 2015 to 18% in 2019. Those who reported having paid a bribe to police stand at 19%, an alarming increase from the 3% reported in 2015. The GCB-A also reveals how corruption is hitting the most vulnerable people the hardest. For example, the poorest people are twice as likely to pay a bribe as the richest people in Africa. Paying bribes for essential public services means poorer families have less money for basic necessities like food, water and medicine.

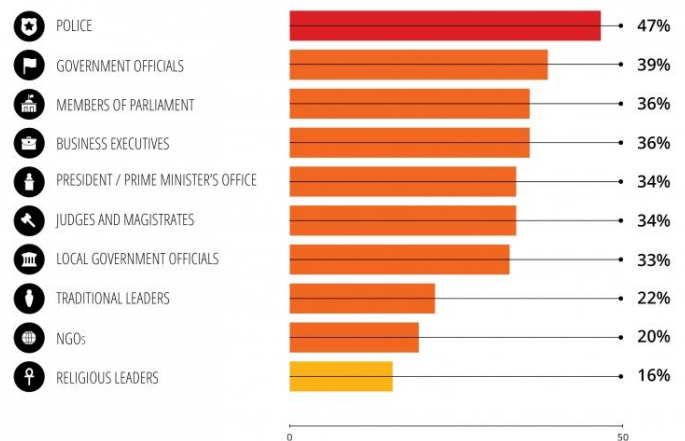
Corruption in African countries is hindering economic, political and social development. It is a major barrier to economic growth, good governance and basic freedoms, such as freedom of speech or citizens' right to hold governments to account.

While corruption is a global problem—as anyone focused on the issue in Russia, Mexico, or Indonesia can confirm—and levels of corruption and perceptions of government efforts to combat it vary widely across Africa, there are some standout trends. “The people who are paying bribes are twice as likely to be the poorest, people who are less advantaged and under extreme pressure,” said Sheila Masinde, Transparency International’s project manager for Kenya.

Non-African actors also play a significant role in fuelling corruption in Africa and aiding the diversion of critical resources away from essential public services. Foreign businesses continue to bribe public officials throughout the continent to get an unfair

CORRUPTION BY INSTITUTION*

** Percentage of people who think most or all people in the following institutions are corrupt.*



advantage during bidding processes and secure deals that are overpriced or do not yield real benefits. When money that should support critical services, such as health care and education, flows out of countries due to corruption, ordinary citizens suffer most.

There is little doubt that corruption is one of the greatest threats to African – and global – stability and development, and yet all around the world, many governments are slow to act against it.

With aid to Africa being a major discussion topic of the Gleneagles Summit and focus of the mid-term evaluation of the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MGDs) on Africa, international attention has been turned to the serious issues of poverty, communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS, and conflicts faced by Sub-Saharan African nations. From the standpoint of area studies, whose goal is the understanding of others, the increased attention on and increased newspaper and television coverage of Africa is seen as a positive development. However, given the focus of coverage on disasters, it is important to recognize that such narrow coverage can potentially lead to one-dimensional stereotyping of the region. There are 49 independent Sub-Saharan countries (including island nations), each with its own history and characteristics. In order to develop a deeper understanding of Africa as a region, it is important to pay attention to both unique characteristics of individual nations as well as to identify commonalities.

The same can be said for understanding politics in Africa. While donor countries and international development agencies tend, in general, to focus on the “problems” such as deficiencies in governance, dictatorships, corruption, conflicts, and insecurity of multi-ethnic societies, the political realities of individual African nations, each of which has its own unique characteristics, does not allow us to generalize them with such a stereotypical view. The elimination of such single-sided, generalized evaluation can be said to be the mandate for African political science research. For example, the most important development in African countries in recent years is the democratization in the 1990s, in which military rule or single-party rule has been replaced by multi-party regimes in almost all African nations. While some countries have experienced insecurity during the democratization process (for example, Cote d'Ivoire), there are other countries in which democracy seems to have taken root after experiencing one or more successful free and fair elections (Kenya, Zambia, for example). With regards to civil wars and unrest, again, while there are countries experiencing chronic war (in recent years, Liberia, Burundi, etc.), other countries have experienced a certain degree of success in national reconciliation after the cessation of conflicts (for example Rwanda). These differences only come to light through an area studies approach, whereby the political situations of individual countries are carefully analysed and compared with those of other countries within the region.

Like mentioned before, clearing the path to a sustainable and eco-friendly Africa, lies in your hands. Therefore, you have to solve several problems.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND INTERESTS

China

The African continent contains over 30% of the earth's remaining mineral resources. This makes Africa much sought after as a trading partner. China is Africa's top trade partner with Sino-African trade volumes now nearing \$200 billion per year. China's role in Africa defies conventional stereotypes and punchy news headlines. China is both a long-established diplomatic partner and a new investor in Africa. Chinese interests on the continent encompass not only natural resources but also issues of trade, security, diplomacy, and soft power.



China is a major aid donor, but the scope, scale, and mode of Chinese aid practices are poorly understood and often misquoted in the press.

Most analyses of Chinese engagement with African nations focus on what China gets out of these partnerships — primarily natural resources and export markets. Some studies have described the impacts, positive and negative, that China's aid and investment policies have had on African countries. However, few analyses have approached Sino-African relations as a vibrant, two-way dynamic in which both sides adjust to policy initiatives and popular perceptions emanating from the other.

China has four overarching strategic interests in Africa. First, it wants access to natural resources, particularly oil and gas. It is estimated that, by 2020, China will import more oil worldwide than the United States. To guarantee future supply, China is heavily investing in the oil sectors in countries such as Sudan, Angola, and Nigeria. Second, investments in Africa, a huge market for Chinese exported goods, might facilitate China's efforts to restructure its own economy away from labour-intensive industries, especially as labour costs in China increase.

Third, China wants political legitimacy. The Chinese government believes that strengthening Sino-African relations helps raise China's own international influence. Most African governments express support for Beijing's "One China" policy, a prerequisite for attracting Chinese aid and investment. Finally, China has sought a more constructive role as contributor to stability in the region, partly to mitigate security-related threats to China's economic interests.

African governments look to China to provide political recognition and legitimacy and to contribute to their economic development through aid, investment, infrastructure

development, and trade. To some degree, many African leaders hope that China will interact with them in ways that the United States and other Western governments do not — by engaging economically without condescendingly preaching about good governance, for example, or by investing in high-risk projects or in remote regions that are not appealing to Western governments or companies. Some Africans aspire to replicate China's rapid economic development and believe that their nations can benefit from China's recent experience in lifting itself out of poverty.

African officials overwhelmingly view China's role in Africa positively, welcoming China's heavy emphasis on government-to-government contracts with few, if any, strings attached. Many African leaders believe that as a fellow developing country, China has more altruistic motives than Western governments and corporations do. African leaders praise China's contributions to their nations' infrastructure, highlighting visible improvements that contribute to expanded economic activity, job creation for local workers, and tangible improvements to roads, rails, bridges, and other transportation networks — all things that benefit ordinary citizens, if indirectly.

Some in Africa, however, are critical of Chinese engagement. Labour unions, civil society groups, and other segments of African societies criticize Chinese enterprises for poor labour conditions, unsustainable environmental practices, and job displacement. Good-governance watchdogs warn that China negotiates unfair deals that take advantage of African governments' relative weaknesses and that foster corruption and wasteful decision-making. In their view, China perpetuates a neo-colonial relationship in which Africa exports raw materials to China in exchange for manufactured goods. In some countries, resentment at Chinese business practices has led to popular protests and violence against Chinese businessmen and migrants.

United States

Also the U.S. are involved in Africa. Relations between the U.S. and Africa have gone through at least three major phases: the Cold War; the transitional period from 1990 to 1998; and the post-1998 period. The consensual academic position, to the extent that a common academic position can exist, is that U.S.-Africa relations between 1950 and 1990 revolved around Cold War politics, and that the U.S. valued its African relations only because Africa provided a



locale for the United States and the Soviet Union to act out their global struggle. U.S. relations with Africa did not go beyond nurturing, promoting, and maintaining anti-communist ideas amongst African elites during the Cold War era. The U.S. became friends with any government or insurgency group that supported it in its fight against the Soviets.

The period between 1990 and 1998 could be described as transitional, as the U.S. strove to articulate clear African policy objectives and strategies. Without a clear enemy to target, U.S. policymakers found it difficult to connect African issues with U.S. interests. The position was made more precarious when George H.W. Bush introduced the vague theme of a new international order to anchor U.S. foreign policy in the post-Cold War era. In the absence of clear policy goals, U.S.-Africa relations fluctuated between utter neglect and half-hearted efforts to promote democracy and economic reforms via USAID and international financial institutions. The U.S. are already vastly underinvested in sub-Saharan Africa, a region of the world that is experiencing some of the fastest population growth, as well as economic growth anywhere, and is set to play an outsized global role in this century. Most of sub-Saharan Africa's problems are not security-related and are not amenable to improvement via military strategies.

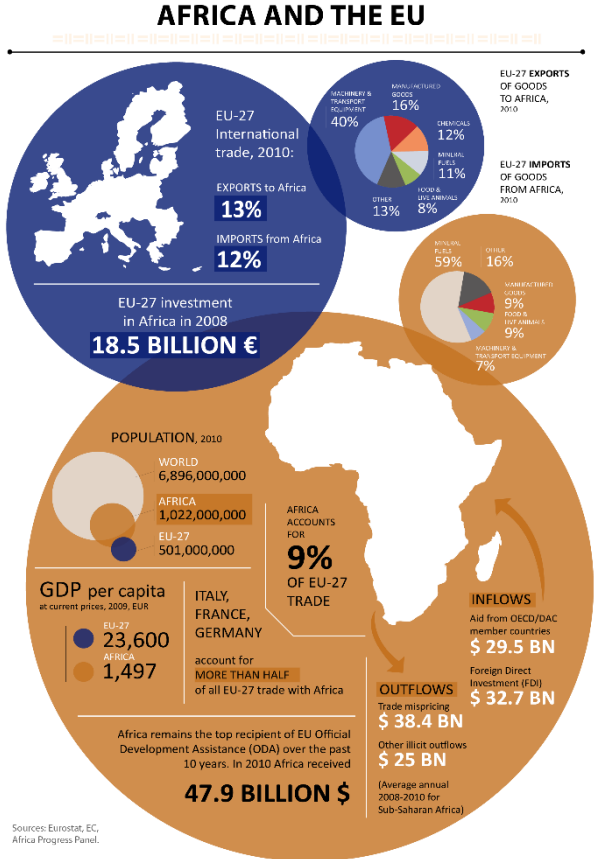
Europe

In an ever-changing world, one thing is sure: Africa and Europe will remain each other's closest neighbours. Africa's 54 countries and the European Union's 28 Member States have a shared neighbourhood, history and future.

It was in this spirit that African and European leaders as well as the presidents of the continental institutions came together at the Lisbon Summit in December 2007 to put their relations on a new footing and to create the Africa-EU Partnership, based on a strong political relationship and close cooperation in key areas.

Africa has been pursuing its political and economic integration at a continental level. Since the foundation of the Organisation of African Unity 50 years ago, and even more so since the creation of the African Union, Africa has built continental institutions and established ambitious policies and initiatives in many key areas that are both important for the development of the continent and of direct interest to the EU. In this context, developing the relationship between the two Unions has become a priority for both sides.

The Africa-EU Partnership strives to bring Africa and Europe closer together through strengthening economic cooperation and promoting sustainable development, with both continents co-existing in peace, security, democracy, prosperity, solidarity and human dignity. Against this backdrop, the two partners are determined to work



together on a strategic, long-term footing to develop a shared vision for EU-Africa relations in a globalised world. Their common interests include issues such as climate change, global security and the sustainable development goals.

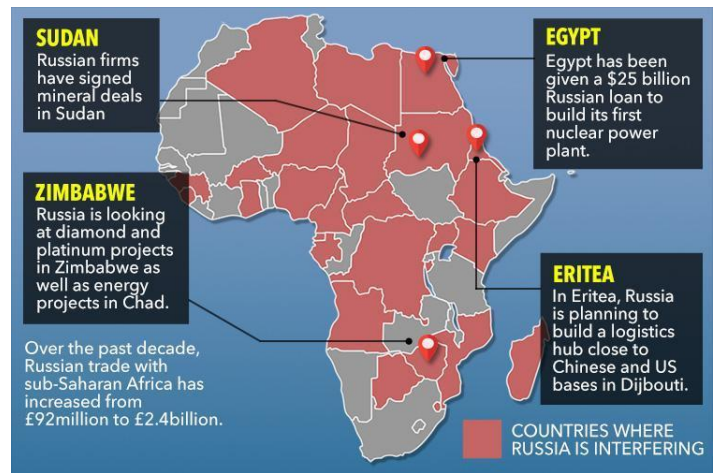
Russia

From Algeria to Mozambique, Moscow has sent arms shipments, helped embattled strongmen with election strategies, deployed military contractors, and pursued natural resource projects across Africa. While the continent is not Moscow's top foreign-policy priority, the Kremlin sees it as fertile ground to deepen ties with old and new partners—mixing politics and business to dodge Western sanctions and increase its geopolitical standing while scoring points at the expense of the United States.

The Soviet Union was a dominant force in Africa during the Cold War, as it exploited the Western colonial legacy to back independence movements and build up influence on the continent, winning the support of populations and elites alike. Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, many of those links broke down or faded as a depleted Russia curtailed its global ambitions, but Soviet support is still fondly remembered in many African capitals. Similar to Cold War-era links to Syria and the Assad regime, rekindling and preserving Moscow's Soviet-era links across Africa has been an urgent priority.

Some Russian efforts to back embattled leaders have led to cooler ties with Moscow as power has changed hands. In South Africa, Russia bet heavily on Jacob Zuma, the now disgraced former president, who received military training in the Soviet Union and met regularly with Putin. According to leaked documents, Russian figures linked to Prigozhin planned to interfere in the country's May election in order to support Zuma's African National Congress and to counteract and "discredit" the pro-Western Democratic Alliance party. Zuma was defeated at the polls, and President Cyril Ramaphosa has since put a massive nuclear energy deal with Russia on hold, in large part over ongoing corruption concerns.

Russia is already the largest arms exporter to Africa and has signed military cooperation agreements with at least 28 African governments. Russian state-owned companies, which have largely been cut out of Western markets, are also investing in oil, gas, and nuclear energy, and Moscow increased its trade volume with Africa to \$20 billion in 2018. But Russia still lacks the financial means to match other external players, such as the European Union, the United States, and China, which pledged more than \$60 billion in investment to Africa last year and is the continent's leading economic force.



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