African Union
(AU)

Chairs:
Shiri Aharon and Maya Hamovic

ATIDMUN 2019

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Chair Letters:

Dear delegates,

A bit about myself: I am almost 17, live in Lapid and go to Atid Lod HS for Sciences. I love good music (rock and alternative, usually music much older then myself..), I was a dancer for 10 years, played the piano for 8 years, sometimes playing random stuff on a guitar close by, loved That 70s Show, How I Met Your Mother, Game of Thrones and many other Netflix shows. I also go to the Scouts, hang out with friends, and enjoy going on trips outdoors and to the beach. Now I start my 4th year doing MUN, and have some kind of a nice circle closure of chairing in ATIDMUN, the first conference I have participated in. I had the great opportunity of flying abroad to participate in MUN conferences in Canada, Oxford and Prague, and have participated in 10 overall.

I want you to know that I have felt the stress before a conference, the excitement and thrill when you pass a resolution, when you win and when you lose; I am very familiar with these feelings for better or worse, but they have shaped me and that is the reason I do MUN. A committee is one of the safest places you can be in, acting as someone else but still expressing your individual perception of everything.

I am here for you so that you could have the most amazing and positive experience of our conference and feel free to email me if you think it will be good for you. Please read this study guide and prepare for the conference, so that we could have the greatest and most fruitful time possible.

Expecting to see you soon,

Shiri Aharon
Chair of the African Union
shiriaharon12@gmail.com

Dear Delegates,

It is with great pleasure and excitement that I welcome you to the African Union. I can't wait to see you, the delegates, debate, cooperate, and most importantly- have fun!

As for myself, I'm 16 years old and from Israel. I've been doing MUN for two years now, and I absolutely love it, especially the aspects of public speaking and leadership- it also greatly developed my confidence, my people skills, and my spoken English. AtidMUN is my sixth conference.

Outside MUN, I'm very passionate about languages (I'm fluent in four, and learning another few) and science, particularly neuroscience. I've also participated in the Israel Brain Bee competition finals, which is a neuroscience competition.

Sincerely,
Maya

<u>Chairs Introduction to the Committee*:*</u>

We are very glad to have the opportunity to chair in the African Union (the best committee by far). In the conference, we will have a great opportunity to discuss two interesting affairs in Africa nowadays - the issue of Neo-colonialism and terror in the Sahel region. These topics stand out thanks to their fascinating complexity, and thereby were carefully picked in order for our debate to be the spiciest, most fruitful and most flowing. We really hope you will enjoy discussing these topics, raise your voice confidently and proudly, and most importantly - have fun.

MUN conference is a great place to meet new friends, learn a few new things about yourself and about others. We would be more than happy to help all of you blend in the committee, show and be yourself, be creative and unique, while (hopefully) leading the room towards the ultimate solutions required.

Proceeded by the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the African Union (AU) is a continental organization consisting of all 55 African states. Established on the 26th of May, 2001, the AU is a specialized agency of the United Nations (UN) dedicated towards strengthening the relationship between nations within the continent, as well as with other countries worldwide. The AU serves as a link between the UN's major assemblies and individual African nations, as it provides a structural framework for these nations to abide by, ultimately instituting a relatively consistent perspective on the international stage.

Topic A - Is Overdependence on International Aid Creating a New Neocolonialism?

Background to the Issue:

Colonialism:

Colonialism is defined as "control by one power over a dependent area or people." In practice, colonialism is when one country violently invades and takes control of another country, claims the land as its own, and sends people — "settlers" — to live on that land.

There were two great waves of colonialism in recorded history. The first wave began in the 15th century, during Europe's Age of Discovery. During this time, European countries such as Britain, Spain, France, and Portugal colonized lands across North and South America. The second wave of colonial expansion began during the 19th century, centering around the African continent. In what is known as the Scramble for Africa, European nations such as Britain, France, Portugal, and Spain sliced up the continent like a pie, creating arbitrary borders and boundaries, and claiming large swaths of land for themselves. Thus, between the 1870s and early 1900s, Africa faced European imperialist aggression, diplomatic pressure, military invasions, and eventual conquest and colonization. At the same time, African societies put up various forms of resistance against the attempt to colonize their countries and impose foreign domination. By the early twentieth century, however, much of Africa, except Ethiopia and Liberia, had been colonized by European powers.

These artificial borders split cultural groups, resulting in fierce ethnic tensions that have had devastating ramifications throughout the continent. Indigenous political, economic, and social institutions were decimated, as were traditional ways of life, which were deemed inferior.

Wherever colonialism has manifested in the world, from across the Americas to every corner of the African continent, it has been met with a fierce struggle of resistance. Throughout history, indigenous people have risen up and successfully overthrown colonial powers, demonstrating that while colonizers could steal land and resources, they could not take the dignity of a people determined to be free.

The New "Hybrid" - Intro to Neo-Colonialism:

Though colonies do not exist anymore in the traditional sense, Western powers still have a considerable amount of influence over these former colonies; this is called Neocolonialism. Ghanaian President Kwame Nkrumah, who popularised this term, defined it as follows: "The essence of neo-colonialism is that the state which is subject to it is, in theory, independent and has all the outward trappings of international sovereignty. In reality, its economic system and its political policy is directed from the outside".

Mostly, Neocolonialism refers to politically and economically powerful countries controlling less-developed and poorer countries. The theory of neo-colonialism was regularly mentioned by African political leaders and became a catalyst for the accusative discourse. The former colonial powers such as France, United Kingdom, and the Netherlands, were followed by new emerging powers such as the United States, the former Soviet Union and China.

Forms of Neo-Colonialism in Africa:

There are **three forms** of neo-colonialism in Africa: real neocolonialism, ultra neocolonialism and auto-colonization.

The **"real neocolonialism"** is exerted by former European colonial powers which continue to maintain a relationship of dependency with their ancient colonies. In spite of the countries' sovereignty, the neo-colonial powers have an important monopoly in decision-making. France is a supreme example of a real neocolonial country. Through the medium of French scholars, diplomats and military forces, France maintains a steady political and military control over its former African colonies. The colonies are obliged to consult international issues with France, especially when it concerns French interest. France has rights for intervention which are used for suppression of opposition and maintenance of a favored government.

Prominent examples of the "ultra neocolonialism" include the US, the former Soviet Union, and China, who did not colonize any African states but replaced the former colonial powers. While the US propagated the economic form of imperialism, the Soviet Union and China effused the ideological imperialism (Kabunda Badi 1996, 66). These neocolonial powers used economic and military aid as a means of getting support. Direct military interventions secure their economic and political interests.

The third form, "auto colonization" is voluntary and is undertaken by the African elite students who study in the European and American universities and accept their values. Upon their arrival

back at the homeland, they become officials, military or administrative officers and act according to the custom of their former country. They contribute to the adoption of development models which result in exploitation.

Foreign/International aid in Africa - Neocolonialist Phenomenon?

Foreign aid defined:

Foreign aid is defined as the voluntary transfer of resources from one country to another. Aid activities include projects and programs, cash transfers, deliveries of goods, training courses, research projects, and other similar activities.

The Contribution of Foreign Aid - the Good, the Bad and the Ugly:

There is an unmistakable moral imperative for humanitarian organisations to get involved in crisis situations. For example, after **Cyclone Idai** hit Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi on March 2019, and affected more than 2.6 million people, the European Union announced an additional €12 million in humanitarian support to Mozambique, Zimbabwe, and Malawi.

There is no doubt in the crucial need for this type of aid, which is efficient in lessening immediate suffering. However, this does not mean that it should be the solution in the long-run. Does it help to provide a stable platform for these countries to sustainably develop? While the expected answer to this question is yes, further examination might suggest the contrary.

Recent foreign aid efforts have been found to hinder development, as well as involve much more money than it used to. As aid to African countries grow, African growth diminishes.

Moreover, the statistics of foreign aid budgets to Sub-Saharan Africa (Chad, Angola, and Nigeria) show that the economic growth rate appears to be very low in comparison to the huge sums received. The continent as a whole receives roughly $50 billion of international assistance annually. Yet, instead of drastically improving the living conditions of the 600 million people who live below the poverty line, this aid makes the rich richer, the poor poorer and hinders economic

As African aid rose, growth slowed.
World Development Indicators Online

growth in the region, not to mention catalysing the vicious cycle of corruption.
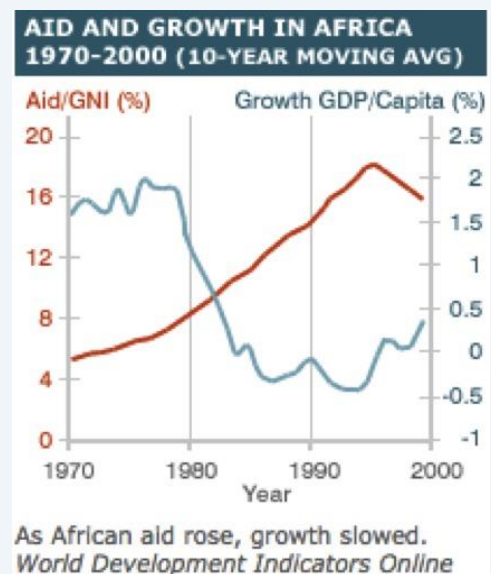
So how, exactly, is neocolonialism related to international aid? Are those two completely separate terms, or is it possible that one is disguised as the other? To help you answer those questions, we will take a look at some past examples.

Case Studies and Instances for Examination of the Current Situation:

I. **New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition**

An Example we can observe is the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition in Africa (NAFSN). The NAFSN was launched in 2012 with the intention of creating conditions that'll allow African countries to improve their agricultural productivity (and thus remove their dependence on food imports and food aid) by attracting more investment in agriculture.

Ten countries (Burkina Faso, Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Senegal, and Tanzania) made policy commitments and pledges that would ultimately make it easier for companies to do business in Africa. They agreed that it will be done through easing export controls and tax laws, and through isolating huge chunks of land for investment.

The NASFN pledged to accelerate agricultural production and lift 50 million people out of poverty by 2022, but small farmers, who are supposed to be the main beneficiaries of the program, have been shut out of the negotiations. This could lead to those farmers having to depend solely on imports, making them more vulnerable to international pricing, which will benefit big companies alone. Critics say that could be considered a form of colonialism, or, more precisely, a form of neo-colonialism.

II. **The Belt and Road Initiative as a Neocolonialist Phenomenon**

The Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is considered the largest foreign spending endeavor by any one country since the United States' Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe after the Second World War. China plans to revive the Silk Road by creating a transportation network that would link China to the rest of Asia, the Middle East, and even Europe.

Some claim that China's BRI is the end of the world, whilst others are sure that it would lead to the beginning of a much better one. The initiative is a massive rollout of infrastructure aimed at connecting China to other economic centers in Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. It has become the centrepiece of China's foreign policy.

The Chinese government sees it as a major step towards global leadership, and many African

governments are eager to grasp the many opportunities it gives them. However, the BRI also offers pitfalls, not least the issue of who is going to pay for it all.

Recent Chinese involvement in Africa calls for a greater scrutiny due to the level of intensity and volume in the economic, diplomatic and cultural spheres. As a result of its increasing influence in Africa, China has been accused of neocolonialism. The criticism is not limited to the Western countries, and African scholars also express concern about the Chinese engagement. Although China argues that the relations are based on friendship and economic win-win situation, there are presumptions that the Chinese growing need of raw materials and oil motivate China to enter Africa.

Governments are leasing the lands where people live and do their farming in order to build industrial zones instead; this is justified through economic explanations ("more money to the state is more money to the people"). However, a deeper look suggests that it is embezzled by corrupt officials.

When weak governments give away such a vast area of land, can they stop it from becoming a Chinese colony? Or to the contrary, might they want it to become one?

III.   **The Chinese-Constructed Grand Inga Dam in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)**

The Grand Inga Dam is a proposed hydroelectric dam, which would become the largest single energy producing body in the world. It would be the fourth dam at Inga Falls, which are located in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. With an expected capacity of 39,000 MW, it is expected to cost at least $80 billion, with some estimates surpassing $100 billion. While the dam's aim is to spur the economy of the DRC and improve the life of its people, only a minor part of its energy output will be made directly available to them. In fact, most of the output will be sent to far-away urban centers and businesses. Local communities mostly do not have connections to larger power grids, which makes it currently impossible to use the Grand Inga Dam electricity in them. Furthermore, the majority of Congolese households do not have reliable access to electricity at all.

When taking into account all the pros and cons - is it really worth it?

Questions to Consider:

- Is your country part of the Belt and Road Initiative?
- What are your country's past experiences with Neocolonialism, or Colonialism?
- Is your country using foreign aid sources? If so, for what purpose, and from which countries?
- Does your country rely on international aid in its development or survival?
- Are there any actions that countries can take that can replace dependence on international aid? If so, which ones?

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<u>Topic B: Combating Terrorism in the Sahel:</u>

Background to the Issue:

When a Tuareg rebellion began in northern Mali in early 2012, the fate of the entire Sahel region hung in the balance. In March of the same year, army mutineers, unhappy with the Malian government's response to the uprising, ousted President Amadou Toumani Touré in a coup. As a result, Islamist groups slowly co-opted the tribal rebellion, imposing Sharia laws in rebel-held cities in the northern half of the country. By the end of the year, Islamist territorial gains were approaching Mali's capital, prompting interim President Dioncounda Traoré to call for French military intervention. However, the security situation across the Sahel continued to deteriorate, with local terrorist groups such as Ansar Dine and the Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa (MUJAO) – both more or less loosely connected with the Saharan branch of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) – seeking refuge in the large desert swaths and planning future attacks.

The roots of instability in the Sahel
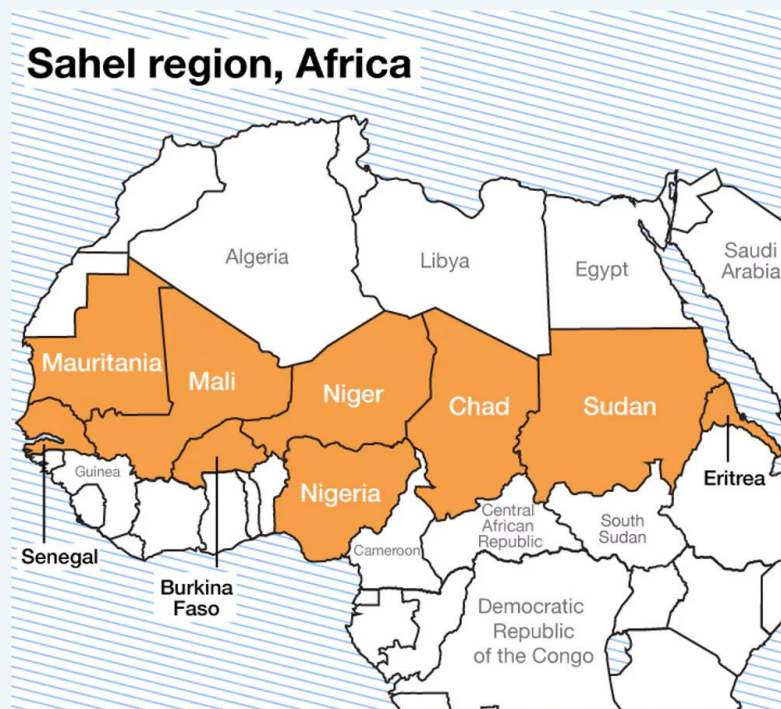
The Sahel is a region which stretches across Western North-Central Africa, extending from Senegal eastward to Sudan, which forms a transitional zone between the Sahara Desert to the north and the belt of humid savannas to the south. It is characterized by many areas that are left with no authority's supervision or control; leaving many people abandoned in a swamp of geopolitical conflicts and terror activities.

The Sahel is a geostrategic territory with many structural problems, being one of the world's poorest areas, pounded by climate change, population growth, food insecurity, corruption, crime, and violent extremism. The region is struck by old, unresolved affairs. Consequently, the region's countries are politically weak and marginalized technologically and politically. Thus, the Sahel region has become a spot of attraction to proselytizing and the terrorist activities of some insurgent groups or Jihadist-Salafist organizations close to al-Qaeda or the Islamic State (IS).

Moreover, the Sahelian militaries command painfully few resources. The combined military expenditure of the G5 Sahel member states amounts to only about $1.2 billion (0.07% of global spending). However, there is great variance in their overall military capacities.

The Uprising of Terrorism - History of Terror Groups in the Sahel :

Since late 2018, communal conflicts, many over access to food, water or productive land have produced thousands of deadly attacks across the Sahel region. Nearly 4,800 people died in conflicts from November to March, according to the violence-monitoring group ACLED.

As the global focus on terrorism shifts away from the battlefields in the Middle East, jihadists and other militants, including those affiliated with al Qaeda and the Islamic State, have begun seeking out the unstable regions in sub-Saharan Africa. The Sahel has been particularly vulnerable to this shift due to its perennial tumult and poverty. But now, there are signs that the region's militant spell has begun seeping into the West African countries and to the south of the continent as well. This could have drastic consequences for some of the continent's most prosperous economies, such as Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, as well as their chief military partner, France.

Terrorist Groups and Their Dynamics:

The development of a Jihadist scene in the Sahel has been strongly shaped by a volatile local and regional context. These groups presented themselves as defenders of the local population against alleged abuses by the state. In order to reinforce the local communities' confidence in them, some Jihadist-Salafist leaders have entered marriages and kinship affiliations, gaining trust and influence in local dynamics.

Much of Eastern Africa has been carved up under several local leaders, allied with Ansarul Islam, the Islamic State in the Greater Sahel (ISGS), and Mali's al-Qaida affiliated Nusrat al-Islam (JNIM). There appears to be no conflict between the factions; according to Savadogo, they use the same techniques, meaning they probably have common trainers.

The terror groups' method of operation is quite similar and nourished by the slowly fading governments and authorities in the Sahel. The region's allegedly occupying governments are weak and poor. They don't try to, or cannot offer any solution or aid to help the oppressed citizens that are remote from them in the desert. People are screaming for help, and get it from the terrorist groups flooding the area that are trying to be some kind of version of a "Robin Hood" - saving the unfortunate. Masses of people in the Sahel's rural areas prefer to be bent under the strong arm of the terrorists, in order to survive and be respected as humans, which they lacked from getting from the origin's issued governments.

How is a Terror Group Formed? - The Mechanism Explained

Most Sahelian terrorist groups have established formal links with ISIL or Al-Qaida. Terrorists are taking advantage of territorial control and ethnic conflicts to radicalize population and recruit. The financing of local Sahelian terrorist groups is growing, and there is a concern that radicalization is increasing the threat level. The funding sources include kidnaping for ransom and theft and extortion by the hijacking of vehicles with their cargo. The predominance in the region of the cash economy, without controls, is conducive to terrorist groups funded by extortion, charitable donations, smuggling, remittances, and kidnapping for ransom. ISIL and Al-Qaida-affiliated groups in the Sahel benefit from "taxing" the flow of drugs, goods and individuals through the territory in which they are active.

Local Dialogues Counter-Terrorism:

In 2015, USIP began working with governments and civil society groups in the Sahel to fill that gap through "Justice and Security Dialogues," a process that the institute had used in more than a dozen countries, from Nepal to Libya, and to Tanzania. Dialogues were conducted at locales in or near the capital cities of Senegal, Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger, and in the central Nigerian city of Jos. In each of those communities, the dialogues reduced security problems, and they now have triggered wider initiatives by national governments.

Military leaders, counterterrorism specialists, and scholars agree that no amount of armed security forces can prevent a new generation of violence unless the Sahel can achieve the accountable, inclusive governance urged by the task force and other experts. Yet as the Sahel nations struggle toward more democratic, accountable political systems, they face a problem shared by many former colonies. Their security and justice systems were shaped by authoritarian governments, both before and after independence. These systems were trained not to protect and support local communities, but rather to defend centralized governments. As a result, an utterly basic

requirement for security-dialogue and cooperation among local populations, police, and governments, is missing.

Conclusion:

From a European perspective, the persistent weakness of North Africa's governance system opened a highway for security threats from the Sahel region to easily reach European borders. In order to defeat Jihadist-Salafist terrorism and to stabilize North Africa and the Sahel, it is necessary to further develop and implement a comprehensive strategy, involving different actors, with the objective of addressing the critical issues that have been affecting the Sahara-Sahel region.

Case Studies and Instances for Examination of the Current Situation:

- **Burkina Faso Under Attack**

  A perfect storm of violence is breaking upon Africa's Sahel. Since late 2018, communal conflicts, many over access to food, water or productive land, have produced thousands of deadly attacks. Across the region, nearly 4,800 people died in conflicts from November to March, according to the violence-monitoring group ACLED. The greatest surge in bloodshed is in Burkina Faso, which was considered one of Western Africa's most peaceful countries, became a spot where communal militias or religious extremists have managed to brutally kill 500 people over five months. Between December 2018 to April 2019, the civilian death toll has risen by 7,000% compared with the same period last year.

  The increased pace and breadth of the attacks has displaced more than 130,000 people, prompted the government to declare a state of emergency and stoked fears that the violence could spread beyond Burkina Faso's border.

  In the Bartiébougou district, the communal military forces are promising the citizens they're fighting the state for them, while still treating the citizens with harsh brutality and strict ruling. Disobedience, more often than not, leads to death. Even school is banned in these areas.

  For what reasons did Burkina Faso become a sanctuary for violent extremists? To begin with, the disassembly of the Presidential Security Regiment, which resulted in the weakening of Burkina Faso's security forces after president Blaise Compaore resigned in 2014. Added to that, the Mali/Burkina Faso/Niger border triangle is porous, Mali's ongoing security crisis has taken a major toll on Burkina Faso, which has not been able

to defend itself. Additionally, with the IS having lost its strongholds in Iraq, Syria, and Libya, it has been seeking refuge in other regions beyond the Levant and Maghreb, including West and Central Africa.

- **The Formation of Boko Haram, Niger**

  In Maiduguri in 2002, a religious educational complex, which includes a mosque and an Islamic school, was assembled. Poor Muslim families enrolled their children at the school. The school had a wider political goal, which was to create an Islamic state. Thus, the school's primary function was being a recruiting ground for future jihadists. This complex, where kids were supposed to be educated, became the headquarters of the Islamist extremist group Boko Haram.

  The state of Niger is the location of the organization's action. The crude oil (petroleum), which its extraction industry harboured "protection services", corruption, and increased the socioeconomic gaps. Poverty and extremism go hand in hand. Nigeria consists of one of the poorest populations - about 100 million people live of less than $1.90 a day. The poverty prevails primarily in the Muslim-majority northern regions.

  The reason behind Boko Haram's abrupt and destructive rise to power is that it was allowed to grow. The authority failed to deal with the evolving offences and put an end to the ever-spreading organisation. No government noticed the alarming dangers of the emerging sect until the notorious bombings of the UN headquarters in Niger (2011) and the abduction of over 200 school girls (2014).

  Nigeria decided to combine forces against the deadly organisations with neighbouring states (Chad, Cameroon, etc.), and privately operated military contractors. The said coalition pushed Boko Haram to back down and hide in the Sambisa forest, and be further forced to move away from terrorizing Nigerian villages to the region of Chad river basin.

  Nigerian government has proclaimed that Boko Haram has been conquered. Nevertheless, numerous analyses of the jihadist group show just little change. Boko Haram is responsible for killing over 900 people in 2017, that is significantly more than it did in 2016.

  Their covert strategy is what kept the insurgency alive during the government offensives. It's the jihadists ability to blend into local communities that allows for their devastating campaign of violence. Decentralisation does not equal defeat, various factions of the group carry on threatening the stability of Nigeria's north-east and the wider Lake Chad

Basin area. With this area being a "greenhouse" for terror harbouring callisters - the region's chronic poverty, poor education system, corruption, there is no reason for Boko Haram or any other terrorist group to leave it anytime soon.

Questions to Consider:

- Is your country occupied with terror organizations?
- Has your country eliminated terror activities in the past?
- What can be done in order to eliminate the causes of the growing percentage of terror attacks in the area?
- Is your country relying on international assistance in order to stake control?
- Was your country a part of any counter terorism dialog, or is in the past or at the present?
- What is your country's rank in the Corruption Perception Index? What influence may it have on terrorism in your country or in the Sahel region?

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