

# African Union

*Novice  
Specialized*



**TOPIC:** Increasing Domestic Productivity in Africa

**CHAIRS:** Mia Komsky, Ryan James

LAIMUN XXIX

*December 2-3*

# ☛ LAIMUN XXIX ☛

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**LAIMUN XXIX**

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## Letter from the Secretaries-General

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of our entire staff, it is our pleasure to welcome you to Session XXIX of the Los Angeles Invitational Model United Nations (LAIMUN) conference. LAIMUN XXIX will take place on Saturday, December 2 and Sunday, December 3 of 2023 at the Mira Costa High School (MCHS) campus.

Our staff, composed of over 120 MCHS students, has been working tirelessly to make your debate experience the best it can be. You will find your dais members to be knowledgeable about the issues being debated and MUN procedure. We pride ourselves in hosting a conference that is educational and engaging, and we hope you take advantage of that as you prepare and debate.

At LAIMUN, we value thorough research and preparation. We ask that delegates write position papers following [these directions](#). The deadline to submit position papers to be considered for Committee and Research Awards is Friday, November 24 at 11:59 PM PT. The deadline to submit to be considered for Committee Awards is Thursday, November 30 at 11:59 PM PT.

We also encourage all delegates to read the [LAIMUN Rules of Procedure](#) for conference-specific information and as a reminder of points and motions that can be made during committee.

Feel free to reach out to our staff with any questions or concerns you may have. Delegates can find their chairs' contact information next to their committee profile and the Secretariat's email addresses on the staff page. Any member of the LAIMUN staff will be happy to assist you.

We look forward to seeing you in December!

Sincerely,

Akash Mishra and Lily Stern  
Secretaries-General, LAIMUN XXIX  
[secretarygeneral@mchsmun.org](mailto:secretarygeneral@mchsmun.org)



## Introduction to the USG

Hi Delegates!

My name is Aidan Tacinelli and I am honored to welcome you to LAIMUN XXIX! In my fourth and final year of Model UN at Mira Costa, I am the Under Secretary-General of the Specialized Branch, and I cannot wait to see what everyone has prepared for debate.

In the Specialized Branch, we have selected extremely current and pressing topics that will require research and preparedness. Be sure to bring your creative solutions, accurate country policy, and active enthusiasm to each of your respective committees. All of our chairs are excited to see the level of debate brought about by delegates, and are ready to accommodate you in any way that they can.

With that being said, we want to create a safe space for everyone to share their ideas and form solutions as a community. Please do your part in being respectful to other delegates and your chairs. Every staff member is held to a high level of professionalism, which you can return by dressing appropriately and following LAIMUN's guidelines.

We do not tolerate plagiarism or pre-written resolutions in any aspect. If any delegate is found to have plagiarized on their position paper, resolutions, or even speeches, they will be disqualified from receiving committee awards.

Don't forget to submit your position papers, prepare your speaking, and print out any papers you may need.

I can't wait to see each committee's resolutions and the passion that comes along with them. If you have any questions, you can reach me at [specialized@mchsmun.org](mailto:specialized@mchsmun.org)! You can also look on the LAIMUN XXIX website to email any of your chairs or other members of our secretariat.

Best of luck,

Lily Stern and Akash Mishra  
Secretaries-General

Aidan Tacinelli  
Under-Secretary General

## Introduction to the Dias

Hello Delegates!

My name is Mia Komsky and I will be your head chair for LAIMUN's African Union Novice Committee this year. I am currently a junior at Mira Costa and have been participating in the Model United Nations program here since my freshman year. Model UN at Mira Costa has been a really great experience so far and I am super excited to be chairing at this year's conference, getting to hear all of your unique ideas and solutions.

Outside of Model UN, I have been playing beach volleyball competitively for seven years and this summer I committed to continue my athletics and academics at the University of Oregon. I also do a lot of volunteer work within the community of Manhattan Beach, especially through the Friendship Foundation. This year I was on the Teen Executive Board for the Skechers Pier to Pier walk, raising money and awareness for children and young adults with special needs. It's such a great program that I have been a part of since freshman year and I am so grateful to be a more active member this year.

Good luck with all of your preparation for LAIMUN this year, we can't wait to see what you come up with.

Best of luck,

Mia Komsky

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Hello Delegates!

My name is Ryan James and I am one of your chairs for AU Novice, and I look forward to seeing all of you in debate! I'm a junior in the Mira Costa MUN program and have been doing this all three years of high school. Along with all the local conferences I have been to, I was able to attend NHSMUN my sophomore year which was a great experience overall. This will be my second year chairing at LAIMUN and I hope to make AU novice the best committee ever.

Outside of MUN I am a part of the cross country and track team and Mira Costa. I love to run because I feel that it is a great way to be present and it's a very calming activity that better your health. I like to play soccer, hang out with friends, and watch football when I have enough time. Additionally, I'm a member of the Amigos Unidos volunteer organization as I find it fun to see how I can try to make a positive impact in my community through volunteering my time.

In AU, I would like to see creative and original solutions which relate back to the overall topic and the subtopics as it is important to keep debate interesting and fun for the entirety of the conference. You only get one day to share all the information you worked so hard to prepare so make sure to make it count! Don't be afraid to be yourself, confidence goes a long way in a MUN committee. As you try and find your way in MUN use this committee as a tool to better your speaking skills and overall performance as a great delegate. I am happy to answer any questions or concerns you may have through the [aunovmiaandryan@gmail.com](mailto:aunovmiaandryan@gmail.com) email. I am thrilled to be chairing this committee and can't wait to see you all.

All the best - Ryan James

## Committee Description

The African Union (AU), a body that consists of fifty-five African member states, is an intergovernmental organization that works to promote international support and development. Prior to its creation, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) was established in the 1960s with the main goal being to support the libertarian movements in Africa. Aside from this, the OAU also worked directly with the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and ensured that the heads of each of the African state governments would meet annually to discuss certain pressing issues pertaining to the entire African continent. In the OAU charter, the ideals surrounding justice, equality, dignity, and freedom were written by the charter's creators in order to ensure that the unity of Africans was protected. The OAU also promoted cooperation internationally through their commitment to addressing the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In 2002, the OAU was replaced by the AU, an organization dedicated to promoting peace within Africa such as through their previous enactment of a Peace and Security Council just two whole years after its establishment. Peacekeepers have been deployed to different African countries, such as Burundi and South Sudan, to mitigate violence and various direct attacks within these areas. The AU also located different areas of conflict, through partnership with the UNHCR to address various refugee-related issues. In regards to the structure of the AU, it consists of a Chairman who is chosen annually, an Assembly which is the primary body of decision-making, an Executive Council that is made up of foreign ministers, and finally a

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Commission that contains ten commissioners. Each leadership position serves a crucial role in maintaining the security of Africa.



## Topic: Increasing Domestic Productivity in Africa

### **I. Background:**

Domestic productivity, or gross domestic product (GDP), is the combined total of all manufactured goods and services produced in a country or region over a certain period of time. It serves as an insight to the state and stability of the economy in any area, such as a region or country. It can also be used to track and predict the economic success or failure of a nation, various government structures, or the effects of certain policies. As of 2016, Africa had the lowest GDP per capita of any continental economy. With the world average estimated at 10,300 USD, the African GDP only reached 1,806 USD. More prosperous regions like North America, Oceania, and Europe's GDPs range from 25,000 USD to 37,000 USD, all well above the global average. Furthermore, the majority of the ten poorest countries in the world are located within the continent and have individual GDPs of less than \$1500 due to poor market conditions, geographically unideal circumstances, and various other setbacks when compared to more developed economies.

Across the continent, African nations continue to suffer economically as they continue to produce and export raw materials. These raw materials—maize, grain, and oil for example—are increasingly losing value in world markets and do not provide most African nations with the ability to develop stable economies and proper living conditions for their citizens. Some nations like Mauritius and South Africa have been able to find ways to increase their economic success through the implementation of new industries. However, difficulties still remain in the majority

of African nations where recently developed legislation and further processing of materials before exporting persists. The majority of African nations and their governments are not in the current position to follow these same strategies, leading to unequal levels of economic developments across the continent and less direct goals for the entire region to follow.

One of the major obstacles to the growth of individual economies within Africa and to the continent as a whole is the lack of industrialization. Industrialization has been a major concern for policymakers in Africa for a long time but actual action has remained minimal, and the region is said to be even less industrialized today than it has been in the past. In turn, the contribution of manufacturing industries toward the African gross domestic product decreased from 12% to 11% between 2013 and 2016 and has remained static in following years.<sup>1</sup> As these nations continue to lag behind the modernization of other regions, they continue to miss out on opportunities that would otherwise benefit their stability, as well as improve their position as a contributor to the international economy and market.

The majority of economic troubles faced by African colonies today can be traced back to the previous generation's struggle with colonization and the effects of imperialism. Most trade policies of raw material and agricultural based industries challenge the modernity of the African economy. The policies were typically established under colonial rule and were implemented with the intention of benefiting nations outside of Africa, which continue to prosper from these regulations. However, African nations that were misused and taken advantage of during the same

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<sup>1</sup> Tafirenyika, Masimba. "Why Has Africa Failed to Industrialize?" *Africa Renewal*, vol. 30, no. 2, 2016, pp. 28–29, <https://doi.org/10.18356/285fde1f-en>.

time period continue to have a lack of modern resources to accommodate an industrial manufacturing and production system for growth. Although many African leaders and policy makers have the initiative to want to implement more modern practices into their economies, they lack workers with the proper skill set, stable investments, up to date technology, and the technological knowledge needed to foster these initiatives.

Some of these issues seemed to diffuse and resolve, however, the COVID-19 pandemic had its consequences. One of the countless consequences has been its disastrous repercussions on global markets and trade networks. Even before the pandemic, economic growth and stability was only concentrated in very few countries within Africa, specifically Ethiopia and Rwanda. While these two nations saw a historic 7.5 percent growth rate over the past two decades, this success was contained and did not spread to the entirety of the continent. Conflict-stricken countries still saw little to no improvement in their national and state level economies over the same time periods, which was due to a lack of infrastructural development and overall stability within the government.<sup>2</sup> Following the pandemic, the gap between improving and lagging economies in Africa is likely to continue to increase, and is predicted to cause further disproportions and inconsistency among economic circumstances. Instability between nations and drastic levels of variation in terms of development on the continent make setting goals and cooperation at the regional level difficult. However, without the support from one another, many African nations won't have the proper systems and resources to bridge the gap.

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<sup>2</sup> Imf.org,  
<https://www.imf.org/en/Blogs/Articles/2022/09/20/africas-rapid-economic-growth-hasnt-fully-closed-income-gaps>.  
Accessed 16 June 2023.

Although currently facing difficulties– Africa, as a whole– has the factors and increasing population to improve its conditions and productivity in the future. It is estimated that by the year 2050, Africa’s population will reach nearly 2.5 billion people.<sup>3</sup> While increasing population could pose a threat to resource distribution, it also creates a new opportunity for human innovation and a rise in labor forces within the region. From 2010 to 2020, the GDP of Africa decreased in value by 35%. However, with proper utilization of the increased population and more productive usage of the naturally resource dense land, the region is in a strong position to rapidly improve their financial conditions and create long lasting economic prosperity and stability.

The main focus of current policy makers in Africa is moving the region away from its agrarian based economic systems and towards more sustainable and developed structures. There is also an increased emphasis on completing these goals in a more sustainable manner, leading policy makers to draft the Africa Quality Policy and the Made in Africa initiative. These two principles have been developed in order to promote common protocols in the manufacturing and development of products– ensuring sustainability, quality, and efforts to increase equitable job opportunities. By limiting the environmental footprint that new and developing industries could potentially leave behind, and through ensuring an aligned African Union policy behind the advancement of African domestic productivity, the region sets itself up to create a more secure economic system. But, it will not come without challenges and setbacks.

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<sup>3</sup> Kuyoro, Mayowa, et al. Reimagining Economic Growth in Africa: Turning Diversity into Opportunity. McKinsey & Company, 2023.

## II. UN Involvement:

In 2015, leaders within the African Union worked to develop the Agenda 2063 which established a clear plan of action and direction for the region's individual nations and governments. The fourth goal of this charter is to transform economies through inter alia, sustainable economic growth, diversification of industries, and industrialization. Since the adoption of this document, the United Nations has observed various trends within the African economy. In 2019, the UN reported a 3.4% growth in the economy, with an increasing level of middle class African citizens. However, in the following year, domestic productivity within the continent dropped by 3.4%-- showing the ineffectiveness of this charter.<sup>4</sup> Although the region is predicted to eventually recover from this backset, this will require increases in export and commodity prices, further highlighting the need for more stable and specific solutions to the African economic crisis.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa was developed by the Economic and Social Council in 1958 as a regional economic commission. The ECA functions as a collective of 54 member states working to meet the continent's various development goals, as listed in the 2030 Agenda and 2063 Agenda. The body is divided into numerous functioning sectors, most notably convening, think-tank, and operational functions. The convening function of the commission works to develop mutually agreed upon policies and multilateral action plans. Sustainable development, innovation, research, and analysis efforts are conducted within the think-tank functioning part of the body. The final portion of the core functions of the ECA is

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<sup>4</sup> United Nations. Africa | United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/africa>. Accessed 8 June 2023.

operational. The aim of the operational functioning body is to apply these previous revisions at the individual state level, and to aid nations and governments in the implementation of these new policies based on their individual characteristics and needs.

As the region develops, the United Nations is also working to ensure that other aspects of the UN Sustainable Development Goals are progressing simultaneously. There are still millions of people suffering from poverty within Africa as the population continues to grow, and the economy is unable to match the needs of individual citizens. An estimated 433 million people in the region are regarded as impoverished, living off of less than \$1.90 a day, and do not have proper access to healthcare services, education, and other resources that would be necessary to lift them out of their current circumstances and provide stability.<sup>5</sup> Other UN initiatives and bodies are working to aid African development of technology and infrastructure, increase occupational opportunities for women and minority groups, and promote multi stakeholder initiatives to improve the expansion of Africa's economy. These developments work to build a secure structure for future generations.

### **III. Topics to Consider:**

#### **A. Advancing Infrastructure**

As the rest of the world— and especially the western world— modernizes their infrastructure, Africa as a whole falls behind. This causes Africa immense troubles when it comes to maintaining its businesses and proper care of its people. This, in turn, leads to Africa

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<sup>5</sup> "Poverty, Inequality and Social Policy." Uneca.org, <https://www.uneca.org/poverty-inequality-and-social-policy>. Accessed 13 June 2023.

needing to rely on outside countries for supplies— further increasing its external dependence.

This can certainly be done effectively, seeing as six of the world’s fastest growing economies are located in Africa. Although their economies are growing quickly, they are becoming more and more unequal. This unequal distribution of income among individuals leads to inadequate housing for a lot of the African population. With adequate infrastructure, Africa would get much more output per capita than they do now, which is why resources must be poured into this issue. Additionally, 75% of Africa’s population is under the age of 25, which means that Africa has a grand window for increasing current internal production.<sup>6</sup> But, if social inequality and housing problems are not fixed, this young population could severely harm Africa as the population rises. People in Africa have been calling for a new approach to housing for quite some time, as 60-70% of urban households are in slums, with only the upper 5 to 10 percent of the population being able to afford the cheapest form of housing. Now that urban dwellers are projected to reach 1.2 billion by 2050, it’s clear that something has to change regarding housing and infrastructure in Africa.<sup>7</sup> In order to increase domestic productivity in the continent, the problems within this sub-topic need to be looked into, and effective solutions need to be discovered. Make sure to research this topic further in order to create effective and informative solutions for committee.

## B. Increasing Manufacturing Outputs

In order to increase domestic productivity and lessen external dependence, Africa must produce more products in order to be able to sustain their population internally. Manufacturing is

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<sup>6</sup> “Why Infrastructure Development in Africa Matters | Africa Renewal.” *United Nations*, [www.un.org/africarenewal/web-features/why-infrastructure-development-africa-matters](http://www.un.org/africarenewal/web-features/why-infrastructure-development-africa-matters). Accessed 15 June 2023.

<sup>7</sup> “Growing African Cities Face Housing Challenge and Opportunity.” *World Bank*, 4 Dec. 2015, [www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2015/12/01/growing-african-cities-face-housing-challenge-and-opportunity](http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2015/12/01/growing-african-cities-face-housing-challenge-and-opportunity).

a key component to economic growth, and in order for Africa to expand in this sector, there needs to be an increase in economic complexity, diversity, competitiveness, and productivity to be able to support its citizens' needs.<sup>8</sup> As of 2021, the manufacturing output for the whole of Sub-Saharan Africa was \$221.24B. This was a 16% increase from 2020, but with the manufacturing output of the United States alone being \$2,497.13B, it is proven why Africa is so externally dependent.<sup>9 10</sup> However, despite that Africa's manufacturing output has been on a steady incline in recent years, it is still nowhere close to competing with the major powers of the world. When analyzing some of the most successful manufacturing companies, it was determined that having an efficient process, pull production, equipment productivity, and environmental compatibility were the most important factors for their success.<sup>11</sup> By successfully implementing long term solutions to improve factors such as these, Africa can certainly increase its domestic productivity.

### C. Improving labor force conditions

Domestic productivity ultimately comes down to how much output each nation can have, which is determined by the people and the work that they do. Currently, 72.1 million African

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<sup>8</sup> Signé, Landry. "The Potential of Manufacturing and Industrialization in Africa." *Brookings*, 9 Mar. 2022, [www.brookings.edu/research/the-potential-of-manufacturing-and-industrialization-in-africa/](http://www.brookings.edu/research/the-potential-of-manufacturing-and-industrialization-in-africa/)

<sup>9</sup> "Sub-Saharan Africa Manufacturing Output 1981-2023." *MacroTrends*, [www.macrotrends.net/countries/SSF/sub-saharan-africa-/manufacturing-output#:~:text=Sub%2DSaharan%20Africa%20manufacturing%20output%20for%202021%20was%20%24221.24B,a%204.42%25%20increase%20from%202018](http://www.macrotrends.net/countries/SSF/sub-saharan-africa-/manufacturing-output#:~:text=Sub%2DSaharan%20Africa%20manufacturing%20output%20for%202021%20was%20%24221.24B,a%204.42%25%20increase%20from%202018). Accessed 15 June 2023.

<sup>10</sup> "U.S. Manufacturing Output 1997-2023." *MacroTrends*, [www.macrotrends.net/countries/USA/united-states/manufacturing-output#:~:text=U.S.%20manufacturing%20output%20for%202021,a%201.47%25%20increase%20from%202018](http://www.macrotrends.net/countries/USA/united-states/manufacturing-output#:~:text=U.S.%20manufacturing%20output%20for%202021,a%201.47%25%20increase%20from%202018). Accessed 15 June 2023.

<sup>11</sup> Laugen, Børge Timenes, et al. "Best Manufacturing Practices: What Do the Best-performing Companies Do?" *International Journal of Operations & Production Management*, 1 Feb. 2005, [www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/01443570510577001/full/html](http://www.emerald.com/insight/content/doi/10.1108/01443570510577001/full/html).



children are still involved in child labor, with 31.5 million of them being engaged in hazardous work.<sup>12</sup> This is severely damaging the education of the average African child overall, with lack of education leading directly to underage employment. It is of utmost importance to not only decrease the amount of child labor in Africa, but to also improve the working conditions for adults. Africa recognizes this problem, with all African member states having ratified the Forced Labour Convention. But, the ongoing issue is that there are not enough resources being allocated towards labor inspection, which leads to a continuous cycle of neglect for the rights of the workers.<sup>13</sup> This is causing production to slow down, and the amount of material produced by these manufacturing sites is not growing at the rate necessary for good internal stability. In order to effectively increase domestic productivity, this is an issue that needs to be looked into through creating solutions for different aspects of the problem at hand. Not only do the physical working conditions need to improve, but inspections and accountability also needs to progress in these regions.

#### D. Improving Healthcare

As seen in the matter of child employment, Africa has a very young population, which if taken care of correctly, can vastly increase its domestic productivity for years to come. But in order to do this, healthcare needs to be improved. It is estimated that less than half of Africa's total population has access to the health care they need, and each year almost 100 million Africans incur "catastrophic healthcare costs". These costs cause about 15 million people to be

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<sup>12</sup> "Protecting Africa's Children from Child Labour | Africa Renewal." *United Nations*, [www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/october-2020/ilo-protecting-africas-children-child-labour](http://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/october-2020/ilo-protecting-africas-children-child-labour). Accessed 15 June 2023.

<sup>13</sup> *Labour Standards in Africa (Africa)*, [www.ilo.org/africa/areas-of-work/labour-standards/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/africa/areas-of-work/labour-standards/lang--en/index.htm). Accessed 15 June 2023.

pushed into poverty annually and have consequential effects on economic and social development.<sup>14</sup> Healthcare facilities are thinly dispersed throughout Africa, and the continent has far fewer healthcare workers per capita than first world countries. Domestic productivity requires participation of citizens, so it is essential for Africa to have a healthy amount of individuals who can enter the working class. A step that is necessary for improving healthcare which you should look into further is raising the standard internationally. By implementing International Health Regulations in Africa, the continent will enhance their ability to prepare and respond to public health concerns.<sup>15</sup> International regulations like these would potentially improve African relations with outside nations, improving its access to necessary external resources. It is important to look at how external resources could boost the internal resources for healthcare over time. There are many different angles from which you can tackle this issue but remember to always stay related to the overall topic at hand.

#### **IV. Case Study: Nigeria**

When looking at domestic productivity, Nigeria is a very interesting country to observe due to its big population and overall labor trends. When looking into Nigeria's GDP, the nation appears to be in a very good position at 31st in the world. However, when looking deeper into Nigeria's nominal GDP per quarter, it is seen that there has been inconsistency for many years now— a sign of an unstable economy. Nigeria's nominal GDP hit just over 128 million in the October 2022 quarter, but by the January 2023 quarter, its nominal GDP was below that of the

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<sup>14</sup>Cullinan, Kerry. "Universal Health Coverage: Only Half of Africans Have Access to Health Care." *Health Policy Watch*, 9 Mar. 2021, [healthpolicy-watch.news/only-half-of-africans-have-access-to-health-care/](https://healthpolicy-watch.news/only-half-of-africans-have-access-to-health-care/).

<sup>15</sup> "We Can Improve Health Systems in Africa | Africa Renewal." *United Nations*, United Nations, [www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2016-march-2017/we-can-improve-health-systems-africa](https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2016-march-2017/we-can-improve-health-systems-africa). Accessed 10 Sept. 2023.

October 2020 quarter— standing at just over 111 million.<sup>16</sup> This can be attributed to many factors, but mostly stems from the efficiency of the labor force.

Child labor in Nigeria hit an all time low in 2010 at just over 20% of children employed, but it has been on the rise ever since.<sup>17</sup> For reference, Nigeria has over six times as much child labor as Brazil, and while some may believe that this would help Nigeria produce more, it actually hurts the country in the long term. From 2007 to 2010, child labor in Nigeria was cut in half, from just over 40% to just over 20%. During this time period, the GDP per capita rose about \$500, and is now seemingly stuck at the same rate as 2010. With GDP per capita numbers like these, places like Nigeria will not be able to significantly increase their domestic productivity and escape the clutches of wealthy nations.

A tool called “severe wasting” measures the percent of children under 5 with severe acute malnutrition, which is caused by a lack of nutritious foods, and will result in compromised child immunity if not fixed.<sup>18</sup> Severe wasting among children in Nigeria is over 2% with general wasting being over 5%. This correlates directly to another issue in the way of increasing domestic productivity in these countries, which is overpopulation. With the fertility rate needed to maintain a stable population being at 2.1 percent, Nigeria faces a major issue with its fertility rate being at 5.3 births per woman.<sup>19</sup> This has caused Nigeria’s population to quadruple in just

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<sup>16</sup> “Nigeria Nominal GDP.” *CEIC*, [www.ceicdata.com/en/indicator/nigeria/nominal-gdp#:~:text=Nigeria%20Nominal%20GDP%20reached%20111.3,number%20of%20112.3%20USD%20bn](http://www.ceicdata.com/en/indicator/nigeria/nominal-gdp#:~:text=Nigeria%20Nominal%20GDP%20reached%20111.3,number%20of%20112.3%20USD%20bn). Accessed 15 June 2023.

<sup>17</sup> “Nigeria.” *Nigeria - Place Explorer - Data Commons*, [datacommons.org/place/country/NGA/?utm\\_medium=explore&mprop=amount&popt=EconomicActivity&cpv=activitySource%2CGrossDomesticProduction&hl=en](https://datacommons.org/place/country/NGA/?utm_medium=explore&mprop=amount&popt=EconomicActivity&cpv=activitySource%2CGrossDomesticProduction&hl=en). Accessed 15 June 2023.

<sup>18</sup> Nigeria: Nutrition Profile - U.S. Agency for International Development, [www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/Copy\\_of\\_tagged\\_Nigeria-Nutrition-Profile.pdf](https://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/2022-05/Copy_of_tagged_Nigeria-Nutrition-Profile.pdf). Accessed 10 Sept. 2023.

<sup>19</sup> “Demography - Fertility Rates - OECD Data.” *theOECD*, [data.oecd.org/pop/fertility-rates.htm](https://data.oecd.org/pop/fertility-rates.htm). Accessed 15 June 2023.

60 years, leading to immense struggles in effectively sustaining its citizens. This puts a major strain on the Nigerian economy, and leads to malnutrition, poor education, and poor domestic productivity. When looking at Nigeria from a statistical standpoint, it is very clear that Nigeria is in a difficult place currently compared to first world countries. The only way to climb out of that hole is through long term solutions, which can steadily decrease factors such as child labor and population size while increasing education and efficiency. This cannot happen overnight, but through proper implementation of technology and other forms of solutions, it can be done. The current infrastructure of Nigeria does not adequately support large manufacturing outputs or a very large labor force, but the population is not going to magically go away. With that, it is essential to find ways to increase manufacturing outputs and the conditions of the labor force. This would allow more people to work in the manufacturing sector while maintaining enough of the population in sectors such as agriculture in order to support all citizens. With properly implemented solutions targeted towards children, such as education, the upcoming generations would be able to lead Nigeria in a direction towards increased independence and productivity. Nigeria is a perfect example of why output and input cannot be the primary focus for increasing domestic productivity. As seen with the nation itself, this idea would lead to flaws in other economic sectors, ultimately hurting society more than helping. This is a long term topic with immense importance and factors that must be looked into, with people's wellbeing and lives very much at stake.

## **V. Guiding Questions:**

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1. How can you increase domestic productivity without hurting the other sectors of the economy?
2. How can you create solutions with a backbone which will allow them to flourish long term?
3. How can you ensure that the next generations of Africans are adequately taken care of?
4. How can the informal sector be formalized to increase productivity and create more sustainable job opportunities?
5. What role can the government play in supporting and incentivizing domestic productivity in Africa?
6. What can you do to ensure that environmentally sustainable solutions are put in place?
7. How can you create solutions which will work internationally without causing tension between various nations in Africa?

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