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COMMITTEE:Special Politics and Decolonization Comitee

AGENDA ITEM: Neo Colonialism in the West African reigon

Neo-colonialism, more insidious than classical colonialism, continues to strangle

political freedom and economic development of post-colonial states with implicit

instruments such as foreign aid reliance, trade deficit, and cultural imperialism. This is most clearly seen in West Africa, where former colonial powers such as France continue to dominate their former colonies through channels such as the CFA Franc and military intervention under programs such as Barkhane. The emergence of economic titans in today's globalized world like China and India has created new levels of this complexity  as far as debt diplomacy and military sales are concerned in order to   achieve

geopolitical leverage. In our country, gaining independence from France in 1960, the reinforcement of unbalanced economic systems and foreign political interference

poses a huge threat to sovereignty. The principal challenge to the world community remains: how can we ensure that it brings Third World nations actual sovereignty and notservitude to new dependencies? As the delegate o Mali, we are persuaded that neo- colonial paradigms

need to be brokenthrough regarding equitable trade, monetary autonomy, and subregional solidarity.

The global community has taken various steps to be able to overcome the heritage of colonialism and the advent of neo-colonial dependences. The United Nations and its specialized agencies, like  the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), have facilitated infrastructural development, poverty eradication programs, and reforms in education in the continent. UN General Assembly decolonization resolutions (particularly Resolution 1514 and subsequent amending changes) codified the right of peoples to self-determination as the law for action against neo-colonialism. Also, African Union Agenda 2063 targets achieving economic independence and political integration of the African states, whereas ECOWAS promotes regional integration by means of schemes like the West African Common Industrial Policy. However, despite all these measures, major international financial institutions like the IMF and World Bank have continued to promotene oliberal economic policies which

dependency. Bilateral assistance and defense alliances with former colonial l powers continue to support neo-colonial relations rather than eliminating them.

One of the most affected nations in West Africa, is our country Mali, has been hit by economic and political neo-colonialism. The presence of outside troops on our soil—originally in the guise of combating terrorism—has increasingly been viewed as a violation of national sovereignty, evoking broad popular outrage and calls for reassertion of the independence of Mali. Our government has weathered resolute efforts,including calling for French troops to leave the nation and shifting toward regional partners and other international powers more proximally. It is economically still fixed to the CFA Franc, a French Treasury-controlledmonetary system that restricts macroeconomic sovereignty. Mali has shown unambiguous interest in adopting a new West African currency, the "Eco," in alignment with wider attempts at monetary independence in the region. The country also encourages pan-African political and economic reforms in the African Union and ECOWAS and has led theway in regional moves to free itself from former colonial

powers and boost intra-African commerce. We reaffirm its commitment to national independence, equitable development, and peaceful international cooperation respectful of the peoples' will.

In fighting succesfully against neo- colonialism,we espouse a multi sided strategy.First,the global world, and specifically the United Nations, should promote the complete monetary autonomy of West African nations by facilitating the usage of a sovereign regional currency. Second, foreign direct investment and aid packages must be regulated and made transparent so that they be aligned with the host country’s development agenda and not with the donor's strategic agenda. We demand re-examination of military aid and deployment to post-colonial countries through independent UN management sothat it does not become a mechanism of foreign domination.Educational reform that incorporates African identity, languages, and history must be lobbied on the continent to check a half century of cultural imperialism.We demand  also strengthening civil society institutions (CSOs) to keep foreign corporations and local governmentsaccountable. Finally, we call for the establishment of an international monitoring and detection system of neo-colonialism by the United Nations with periodic reporting and diplomatic sanctions for violators. We believe that sovereignty and dignity must be regained and preserved through fair, participatory, and regionally based solutions.

RESOURCES

1.ANKAMUN’25 SPECPOL STUDY GUIDE

# **2. UN Decolonization Homepage**[**https://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization**](https://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization)

**3. The Special Committee on Decolonization (C-24) Documents**[**https://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/documents**](https://www.un.org/dppa/decolonization/en/documents)

4: UNGA Resolutions on Economic Neo-Colonialism and Foreign Domination