La Martiniere
Model United Nations, 2023

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THE DECENNIAL EDITION

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL

BACKGROUND GUIDE

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Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

It is with great pleasure that we present the study guide for the simulation of the United Nations Secutiry Council. The study guide should be a great starting point for research. It will help to become familiar with the topics and attain a better understanding of the problems that will be discussed throughout the conference. Furthermore we encourage all delegates to develop a general understanding for the assigned country, for its foreign policy and its standpoint with regard to the agenda topic. In some cases exact and topic related statement may not be found which apply exactly to the committee topics, wherefore a general understanding of the county's culture and politics provides a framework for specific country position. With this, we wish you all the very best for the upcoming conference, with a hope to have a collectively enriching experience and debate.

Executive Board

Agendas

Agenda 1: Contemplating on the effectiveness of sanctions as tool for conflict prevention along with emphasis on implementation and monitoring.

Agenda 2: Deliberation on the feasibility and implementation of digital technologies in maintaining international peace and security in the current paradigm

Suggested Pattern for Researching

Researching and understanding the United Nations and the Committee/Commission being simulated –Its Mandate, including understanding historical work done on the agenda. Research on the allotted country. Understanding its polity, economy, military, culture, history, bilateral relations with other

 countries, ideological position on various other relevant issues related to the agenda etc. Comprehending the Foreign Policy of the allotted country. It includes understanding the ideology and principles adopted by the country on the agenda. It further includes studying past actions taken by the country on the agenda and other related issues –specifically analyzing their causes and consequences. Reading the background guide thoroughly. Researching further upon the agenda using the footnotes and links given in the guide and from other sources such as academic papers, institutional reports, national reports, news articles, blogs etc.

Understanding policies adopted by different blocs of countries (example: NATO, EU etc.) and major countries involved in the agenda. Including their position, ideology and adopted past actions. Characterizing the agenda into sub-topics and preparing speeches and statements on them. It is the same as preparing topics for the moderated caucuses and their content. Preparing a list of possible solutions and actions the UNPBC can adopt on the issue as per your country's policies. Assemble proof/evidence for any important piece of information/allegation you are going to use in committee and keeping your research updated using various news sources.

Lastly, we would expect all the delegates to put in serious efforts in research and preparation for the simulation and work hard to

make it a fruitful learning experience for all. Feel free to contact if you have any queries or doubts.

Committee Introduction

Background

The Security Council has primary responsibility, under the Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security. It is so organized as to be able to function continuously and a representative of each of its members must be present at all times at United Nations Headquarters.

When a complaint concerning a threat to peace is brought before it, the Council's first action is usually to recommend to the parties to try to reach to agreement by peaceful means. In some cases, the council itself undertakes investigation and mediation. It may appoint special representatives or request the Secretary-General to do so or to use his good offices. It may set forth principles for a peaceful settlement. When a dispute leads to fighting, the Council's first concern is to bring it to an end as soon as possible. On many occasions, the Council has issued cease-fire directives which have been instrumental in preventing wider hostilities. It also sends United Nations peace-keeping forces to help reduce tensions in troubled areas keep opposing forces apart and create conditions of calm in which peaceful settlements may be sought. The council may decide on enforcement measures, economic sanctions (such as trade or embargoes) or collective military actions (with reference to Chapter VII of the UN Charter)

The Presidency of the Council rotates monthly according to the English alphabetical listing of its Member states.

Functions and Powers

- Under the charter the functions and powers of the Security Council are:
- To maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and

Purposes of the United Nations;
- To investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction;
- To recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
- To formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments;
- To determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to
- Recommend what action should be taken

Voting

Procedure

Article 27 states:

1. Each member of the Security council shall have one vote
2. Decisions of the Security Council on procedural matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members
3. Decisions of the Security Council on all other matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members including the concurring votes of the permanent members;
provided that, in decisions under Chapter VI, and under paragraph 3 of Article 52, a party to dispute shall abstain from voting

Veto Power

A negative vote or veto, by a permanent member prevents adoption of a proposal, even if it has received the required number of affirmative votes (9).
Abstention is not regarded as a veto
Procedural matters are not subjected to a veto, so the veto cannot be used to avoid discussion of an issue.

Membership and Election

- **How are the non-permanent members elected?**

Each year the General Assembly elects five non-permanent members (out of 10 in total) for a two-year term. In accordance with the General Assembly resolution 1991 (XVIII) of 17 December 1963 , the 10 non-permanent seats are distributed on a regional basis as follows: five for African and Asian States; one for Eastern European States; two for the Latin American and Caribbean States; and two for Western European and other States.

Conduct of Business

- **How is the work of the Security Council organized?**

Article 28 of the United Nations Charter states that the Security Council shall be so organized as to be able to function continuously. Rule 1 of the Provisional Rules of Procedures states that the meetings of the
Security Council shall be held at the call of the President at any time he deems necessary, but that the interval between meetings shall not exceed fourteen days. For more information on these provisions and the practice of the Security Council, see the Provisional Rules of Procedure.

- **What are subsidiary organs?**

Subsidiary organs are bodies that are created by the Security Council under Article 29 of the United Nations Charter to assist the Council in its work.

They can range from sanctions committees and Working Groups consisting of representatives of all fifteen Security Council Members to tribunals or peacekeeping missions with thousands of troops. A complete list of all subsidiary organs created by the Security Council since 1946 is available on the Repertoire's website.

- **What is the difference between open and closed meetings and consultations?**

Both open and closed meetings are formal meetings of the Security Council. Closed meetings are not open to the public and no verbatim record of statements is kept, instead the Security Council issues a Communiqué in line with Rule 55 of its Provisional Rules of Procedure. Consultations are informal meetings of the Security Council members and are not covered in the Repertoire. The annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly provides dates of consultations on different agenda items from recent years.

Agenda 1: Effectiveness of Sanctions as a Tool for Conflict Prevention

Overview:

Sanctions are economic, trade, military, or other measures used to coerce, deter, punish, or otherwise influence states or entities to change their behavior. They have been extensively employed by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as a non-military mechanism to enforce international law and promote peace and security.

Implementation and Monitoring:

- Targeted vs. Comprehensive: Sanctions can be comprehensive (affecting nearly all economic relations) or targeted (specifically focusing on individuals, entities, sectors, or practices). Recent trends favor targeted sanctions to minimize humanitarian consequences.

- Monitoring and Compliance: Effective monitoring is vital. Sanctions committees, expert panels, and member states play roles in monitoring compliance. The UN Office of the Ombudsperson aids in reviewing cases of individuals and entities sanctioned under targeted measures.

Effectiveness:

- Success Stories: Sanctions have contributed to positive outcomes, e.g., ending apartheid in South Africa and curbing nuclear proliferation in Iran.

- Challenges: However, sanctions can also have unintended consequences, like exacerbating humanitarian crises or negatively affecting neighboring countries.

Types of Sanctions:

- **Economic Sanctions**: Restrictions on trade and finance, such as bans on exports or imports, freezes on financial assets, and restrictions on foreign aid.

- **Diplomatic Sanctions:** Reduction or withdrawal of diplomatic ties, including the expulsion of diplomats.

- **Military Sanctions:** Arms embargoes, bans on military assistance, or even use of military force.

- **Sports and Cultural Sanctions:** Restrictions on cultural exchanges and sports interactions.

Implementation Challenges:

- **Evasion**: Sanctioned entities might develop methods to circumvent the imposed restrictions, reducing their impact.

- **Black Markets:** Sanctions can unintentionally stimulate black market activities. Punishing the Innocent: Comprehensive sanctions can disproportionately harm ordinary citizens, causing suffering without necessarily influencing decision-makers.

Effectiveness Metrics:

- **Behavioral Change:** The primary objective is altering the behavior of the sanctioned entity in the desired direction.

- **Damage to Target Economy**: Assessing the economic impact on the targeted country. Symbolic Value: Sending a strong message about international norms, even if tangible results are limited.

Further Research:

- UNSC Sanctions Committees
- Targeted Sanctions Consortium

Questions to Consider:

- How can sanctions be tailored to maximize their impact while minimizing collateral damage?
- How have sanctions influenced geopolitical alliances and partnerships?
- Are there alternative non-punitive measures that could be as effective or more so than sanctions?
- How do sanctions fit within the broader framework of 'soft power' and diplomacy?
- What metrics should be used to determine the success or failure of a sanctions regime? How can non-state actors be effectively targeted by sanctions?

Agenda 2: Digital Technologies in Maintaining International Peace and Security

Overview:

Digital technologies have redefined warfare, intelligence, and diplomacy. From cyber-espionage to digital diplomacy, the digital realm is a new frontier in international relations.

Feasibility and Implementation:

- **Cybersecurity:** Nations can collaborate on creating frameworks and protocols to secure critical infrastructure, exchange intelligence, and deter cyber threats.

- **Digital Diplomacy:** Social media and online platforms enable direct communication between governments and global citizens, offering transparency and fostering diplomatic ties.

- **Surveillance and Monitoring:** Satellite imagery, AI analytics, and other digital tools can be employed to monitor conflict zones, verify treaty compliance, and detect threats.

Challenges:

- **Digital Divide:** There's an imbalance in technological capabilities among nations. Addressing this divide is crucial for ensuring that all nations can benefit from digital tools.

- **Cyber Conflicts:** As nations become more reliant on digital infrastructure, the risk of cyber conflicts, including state-sponsored cyberattacks, grows.

- **Privacy Concerns:** Striking a balance between surveillance for security and respecting privacy rights is challenging.

Potential Benefits:

- **Rapid Response:** Digital channels can offer real-time information, enabling faster responses to emerging threats.

- **Crowdsourcing and Collaboration:** Social media can be used to gather information directly from citizens or affected groups, providing ground-truth data.

- **Predictive Analysis:** Advanced algorithms and AI can analyze vast amounts of data to predict potential conflict zones or escalation points.

Digital Threats:

- **Disinformation Campaigns:** State and non-state actors can spread false information, causing panic, sowing discord, or influencing elections.

- **Digital Espionage:** Cyber espionage tools allow for stealing sensitive state secrets.

- **Infrastructure Attacks:** Critical infrastructure (like power grids, water supplies, or communication networks) can be disrupted or disabled.

UN's Role:

- **Norm Setting:** The UN can take the lead in establishing norms and rules for state behavior in cyberspace.

- **Capacity Building:** Assisting member states in developing their digital infrastructure and cybersecurity capabilities.

- **Conflict Mediation:** The UN can act as a mediator in digital disputes between states or within states, leveraging its neutral status.

Further Research:

- UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications

- UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) - Cybersecurity.

Questions to Consider:

- How can international norms and laws be updated to reflect the challenges and opportunities presented by digital technologies?
- What mechanisms can ensure accountability and deterrence in the realm of cyber warfare?
- How might quantum computing revolutionize or threaten cybersecurity in the coming years?
- What role do multinational corporations play in digital peace and security?
- How can international cooperation be fostered to deal with transnational cyber threats?
- How can the UN work with tech companies and other stakeholders to ensure that digital technologies are used for peacekeeping and conflict prevention?

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