
T W E L F T H S E S S I O N



UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL

B A C K G R O U N D G U I D E



LA MARTINIÈRE MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2025





LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Greetings Delegates,

It is with immense pleasure and anticipation that we, your Executive Board, welcome you to the simulation of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) (“Council”) at La Martiniere Model United Nations 2025. The UNSC remains the UN’s principal organ entrusted with maintaining international peace and security, arguably the most powerful and complex committee you will simulate.

Our agenda for this year, *“Addressing Political Instability and Cross-Border Tension in the South Asian Region, with Special Emphasis on Territorial Integrity, Sustaining Stable and Legitimate Governance, and Concerns of External Interference,”* lies at the intersection of geopolitics, diplomacy, and development. It compels delegates to engage with one of the world’s most strategically significant yet volatile regions.

From the fragile transition of power in Afghanistan and the enduring tensions between India, Pakistan, and China, to governance of crisis in Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bangladesh, the region embodies both opportunity and fragility. The involvement of major powers through economic corridors, defence partnerships, and political influence further complicates the security landscape. The task before this Council is not merely to debate the symptoms of instability, but to dissect its structural roots and envision mechanisms that preserve territorial integrity, sustain legitimate governance, and balance external engagement with sovereign resilience.

This agenda will require a nuanced understanding of international law, regional alliances, peacekeeping mandates, and realpolitik. Delegates are encouraged to move beyond conventional positions, engage with empirical evidence, and think critically about how the UNSC can act constructively despite geopolitical divisions and veto dynamics.

We have designed this background guide to serve as a conceptual foundation, not a citation source. It blends facts with interpretive analysis to help you form coherent, research-driven foreign policy stances. Please take time to read it thoroughly, trace the references, and reflect on how your assigned country’s priorities align or conflict with others in the region.

For queries or clarifications, feel free to reach out to us via email. Remember, Google summaries alone won’t suffice. Dive deep into think-tank reports, policy journals, and UN archives. The more you engage with the substance, the more meaningful your interventions will be in committee.

We are excited to witness your diplomacy, negotiation, and innovation in action. Prepare rigorously, question critically, and debate passionately after all, this is what the UNSC was created for.

Happy Researching and see you in committee!

Official email address for the committee : unsc.lmun2025@gmail.com

Regards,

Vedansh Tandon
President

Anusha Bhattacharya
Vice - President



SOURCES OF EVIDENCE

With due respect to the debate course, we acknowledge the clash of ideas in forms of records or substantive quotes and in this occurrence we, as the Executive Board, generally ask for evidence. Below given are few sources which are generally accepted yet the dominion of delegate over the source lies:

1.**United Nations:** Documents and findings by the United Nations or any related UN body is held as a credible proof to support a claim or argument.

2.**Multilateral Organisations:** Documents from international organisations like NATO, NAFTA, SAARC, BRICS, EU, ASEAN, OPEC, the International Criminal Court, etc. may also be presented as credible sources of information.

3.**Government Reports:** These reports can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country. However, it is pertinent that even in instances where a report is being denied by a certain country, the same may be accepted by the Executive Board as a reliable piece of information, subject to their discretion.

4.**News Sources:**

- 1.**Reuters:** Any Reuters article that clearly makes mention of the fact or is in contradiction of the fact being stated by a delegate in the Council;
- 2.**State-operated News Agencies:** These reports can be used in the support of or against the State that owns the News Agency. Some examples are – RIA Novosti (Russian Federation), Xinhua News Agency (People's Republic of China), etc.

Note:- Under no circumstances will sources like Wikipedia, or newspapers like the Guardian etc. shall be accepted. However, notwithstanding the aforementioned criteria for acceptance of sources and evidence, delegates are still free to quote / cite from any source as they deem fit as a part of their statements.



ABOUT THE COUNCIL

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is the principal organ of the United Nations charged with the responsibility of maintenance of international peace and security, as established under Chapter V of the UN Charter (1945). It holds unique authority among all UN bodies: the power to pass legally binding resolutions, authorize the use of force, impose sanctions, and establish peacekeeping operations.

The Council is composed of 15 (fifteen) member states:

1. **Five permanent members (P5)**: China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. These members independently hold the right / power of veto, viz. the right to block the adoption of a substantive resolution.

2. **Ten non-permanent members**: Such members are elected by the UN General Assembly, for two-year terms on a regional rotation basis. These members do not have any right / power of veto, however, play a crucial role in shaping debates, building consensus, and representing diverse perspectives.

The Presidency of the Council rotates monthly in alphabetical order among its members. The Council convenes both regular sessions and emergency meetings, depending on the gravity of the global situation. Under the United Nations Charter, the functions and powers of the Security Council are:

- 1.to maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations;
- 2.to investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction;
- 3.to recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
- 4.to formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments;
- 5.to determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken;
- 6.to call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression;
- 7.to take military action against an aggressor;
- 8.to recommend the admission of new Members;
- 9.to exercise the trusteeship functions of the United Nations in “*strategic areas*”;
- 10.to recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and, together with the Assembly, to elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice.



MODEL UN SIMULATION OF THE COUNCIL

It is recommended that all delegates in the Council at the present Model United Nations simulation, have a conceptual understanding of the structuring of the United Nations and the United Nations Charter, as the United Nations Charter shall serve as the bible document for all procedural and analytical discussions in the Council. In the context of the present Model United Nations simulation, the UNSC is a mix of theoretical topics deeply intertwined with crisis-driven and high-intensity situations, where realism, diplomacy, and swift decision-making are key. Unlike other committees, delegates in the Security Council often:

1. Deal with emerging or ongoing crises rather than purely theoretical topics;
2. Must align debates with real-world alliances, power structures, and UN procedures; and
3. Face the challenge of building consensus amidst conflicting national interests and the veto mechanism.

The UNSC has historically been deeply engaged in South Asia, through resolutions on the India-Pakistan conflict (*UNSC Res. 47*), the ongoing and deployed peacekeeping missions, and deliberations on Afghanistan's political transition. As geopolitical rivalries and external interventions intensify in the region, the Council's role in ensuring territorial integrity, conflict prevention, and legitimate governance becomes even more vital. The Council remains a stage where theoretical diplomacy meets practical geopolitics, making it one of the most intellectually challenging and strategically rewarding committees to simulate at Model UN conferences.



BRIEF OUTLOOK ON THE AGENDA

The South Asian region constitutes one of the most geopolitically strained geographies in the contemporary international order. Encompassing Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, the subcontinent is marked by extraordinary demographic weight, cultural pluralism, and strategic value. Yet, it continues to be characterized by persistent political volatility, cross-border friction, and structural governance challenges that cumulatively threaten regional security as well as global stability. Out of the ever-evolving and far encompassing tussles, we shed light on a select few which have caught our attention-

1. The unresolved dispute over Jammu and Kashmir between India and Pakistan, the recurrent standoffs between India and China along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), and the continuing disagreement regarding the Durand Line between Afghanistan and Pakistan reflect a pattern wherein historical demarcations, colonial inheritances, and competing nationalisms have crystallized into enduring flashpoints. These border disputes not only constrain diplomatic engagement but also impede regional cooperation on trade, migration, and security, involving these nations which have had long standing strategic ties with the P5s and other nations of growing global dominance;

2. Parallel to afore said territorial contention is the problem of political instability and regime legitimacy within certain South Asian states. Afghanistan's political trajectory following the Taliban's takeover in 2021 has created a governance vacuum with transnational repercussions ranging from refugee flows to renewed terrorist networks. Pakistan's chronic civil-military imbalance, Sri Lanka's economic and political crises, and Nepal's re-current governmental fragmentation (including the civil political turmoil led by the young adults and youth of the country) illustrate the fragility of domestic institutions across the region. Similarly, concerns over democratic backsliding and shrinking civic space in Bangladesh and the Maldives highlight the difficulty of consolidating legitimate governance within diverse political contexts. The persistence of weak institutional capacity and fragile rule of law continues to undermine both internal stability and regional trust.

3. Adding to these endogenous vulnerabilities is the intensifying role of external actors. The strategic competition among major powers most notably the United States, China, and Russia has rendered South Asia a theatre of global geopolitics. China's expanding influence through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), including the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and port developments in Sri Lanka, has reconfigured regional alignments. India, on the other hand, has simultaneously sought to strengthen its partnerships through the Indo-Pacific framework and the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) as well as the BRICs, reflecting the securitization of maritime, sharing of technological domains and strengthening of economic alliances, respectively. These competing engagements underscore the tension between national sovereignty and external dependency, raising questions about the limits of permissible external interference in domestic and regional affairs.



BRIEF OUTLOOK ON THE AGENDA

4. In addition to the aforesaid political instabilities, an ongoing question of national and supranational importance is the question of intake of refugees and immigrants. This region is home to some of the world's largest and long-standing refugee struggles: the Afghan refugees in Pakistan and Iran, the Rohingya refugees fleeing Myanmar and settling in Bangladesh and eastern sections of India and internally displaced persons in Afghanistan and Sri Lanka due to multi-varied conflicts and disasters. Humanitarian concerns include restricted access to education and health, trafficking, poor integration policies, and periodic tensions between host countries and displaced populations, causing long-lasting tussles which have a deep impact on the region's stability and international co-operation.

5. As a result of the aforesaid tussles, is the persistent threat of radicalization of masses and occurrence of transnational organized terror and crime syndicates. Exploitation of porous borders and governance vacuums is an ever-evolving concern especially relevant to nations such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and parts of India. In recent times, it is suggested that several parts of Bangladesh and Maldives, too, have witnessed the radicalization of youth, leading to mass political distrust and divergent strategic interests in the region. Additionally, this region forms part of the "Golden Crescent", one of the world's principal opiate-producing zones and has massively contributed towards age-old trafficking and illicit transit of opium and other narcotic substances. It is indicated that Afghanistan's role as a major source of nurturing and growing illicit opium, the transit of drugs via Pakistan and Iran, and the rise of synthetic narcotics in India and Bangladesh contribute to public health crisis and funding of crime and terror syndicates. However, it is pertinent to note that such transit and trafficking of opium and related products and such other activities have been seen to be lucrative for back-door channelling and negotiations amongst various state parties.

The United Nations Security Council has historically engaged in South Asian issues from the early resolutions on the India–Pakistan conflict to contemporary deliberations on Afghanistan's political transition. Nevertheless, the persistence of instability reveals both the limitations and the necessity of multilateral engagement. Within the framework of this agenda, the Council is expected to examine mechanisms that can safeguard territorial integrity, reinforce legitimate and accountable governance, and delineate normative boundaries for external involvement.

This discussion requires delegates to adopt a multidimensional perspective: integrating legal, political, and socio-economic analyses. Sustainable stability in South Asia demands not only conflict resolution but also institutional resilience, equitable development, and regional cooperation grounded in mutual sovereignty and respect for international law. In addressing this agenda, the Security Council is thus called upon to re-affirm its foundational mandate: to maintain international peace and security through diplomacy, consensus-building, and principled multilateralism in one of the most complex geopolitical landscapes of the twenty-first century.



THE TWELFTH SESSION