

Background Guide

United Nations Security Council





AGENDA: Classified

Message from the Executive Board

Greetings Delegates!

The committee, as a whole, is expected to facilitate substantive, constructive, logical and analytical debate and discussions. We want you to enjoy and learn as much as you can. Key points to keep in mind, to become a good delegate is to research well, be informed regarding your agenda, invoke potential areas of the agenda and construct debate so as to come down to real-world problems, and not just attempting to persuade the executive board.

We will try to be quite genuine and friendly to every delegate in the committee. At the same time, we expect adherence to the rules of procedures and the code of conduct as you all will be ambassadors representing a country and all its policies. Our agenda includes technicalities within every aspect, especially when it comes to bridge the international law with the principles and morals of humanitarian intervention. The agenda aims to define the scenarios the said laws will be applicable as well as justified.

Perfection as an expectation is never justified, but we are expecting something very close. Delegates, who come to MUNs to learn, will barely take back anything, while those who come with an urge to win, will take back a lot.

Kind regards.

Nature of the Committee

- It is to be expected of the delegates to not rely only on either their research or their logic. Rather, we want you to rely on a fine blend of both. A basic requirement for delegates in this committee is that they would need to use their thinking as the primary source of information.
- This document will not provide you with the precise geopolitical data necessary for the committee. What it does provide, is a direction towards which you are expected to build your research.
- This being a non-conventional committee format, offers you the opportunity to go beyond the scope of your country's position in the global scenario and participate actively as an equal member of the committee.
- This being said, it is still expected of the delegates to maintain the decorum, level of knowledge and spontaneity that is expected in the United Nations Security Council.
- A close look at the prominent global issues
- The volatility of any conflict must be taken into account before taking any action. With special reference to areas of tension, any action may spark off aggressive progressions among nations.



Israel-Palestine

The ongoing struggle between Israel and Palestine, began in the mid-20th century. The conflict is wide-ranging, and this term is sometimes also used in reference to the earlier sectarian conflict in Mandatory Palestine, between the Jewish yishuv and the Arab population under British rule. It has been referred to as the world's "most intractable conflict", with the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip reaching 50 years.

Despite a long-term peace process and the general reconciliation of Israel with Egypt and Jordan, Israelis and Palestinians have failed to reach a final peace agreement. The key issues are: mutual recognition, borders, security, water rights, control of Jerusalem, Israeli settlements, Palestinian freedom of movement, and Palestinian right of return. In a region rich in sites of historic, cultural and religious interest worldwide, the violence of the conflict has been the subject of numerous international conferences dealing with historical rights, security issues and human rights. It has also been a factor hampering tourism in and general access to areas that are bones of contention between the two sides.

Many attempts have been made to broker a two-state solution, involving the creation of an independent Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel (after Israel's establishment in 1948). In 2007, according to a number of polls, majority of Israelis and Palestinians, preferred a two-state solution over any other means of resolving the conflict. Moreover, a majority of Jews see the Palestinians' demand for an independent state as just, and think Israel can agree to the establishment of such a state. Mutual distrust and significant disagreements are deeply entrenched over basic issues, as is the reciprocal skepticism about the other side's commitment to upholding obligations in an eventual agreement.



World War I

World War I (WWI or WW1), also known as the First World War, the Great War, or the War to End All Wars, originated in Europe and lasted from 28 July 1914 to 11 November 1918. More than 70 million military personnel, including 60 million Europeans, were mobilized in one of the largest wars in history. Over nine million combatants and seven million civilians died as a result of the war (including the victims of a number of genocides), the casualty rate exacerbated by the belligerents' technological and industrial sophistication, and the tactical stalemate caused by grueling trench warfare. It was one of the deadliest conflicts in history. It paved the way for major political changes, including revolutions in many of the nations involved and the Second World War twenty-one years later.

The war drew in all the world's great economic powers, assembled in two opposing alliances: the Allies (based on the Triple Entente of the Russian Empire, the French Third Republic, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland) versus the Central Powers of Germany and Austria-Hungary. These alliances were reorganized and expanded as more nations entered the war: Italy, Japan and the United States joined the Allies, while the Ottoman Empire and Bulgaria joined the Central Powers.

South Asian Subcontinent

Ever since the departure of the British, the Indian sub-continent has been very troubled. With wars taking place almost at regular intervals and heavy problems with drug trafficking, over population and unstable governments in a few countries. Hostilities have reached a new peak in recent times and while economic ties continue to improve, military tensions have been steadily increasing.

The nature of this committee is such that the background guide can only give you some ideas to think over.

Indo Pak War 1971

The brief confrontation that led to the formation of Bangladesh as a result of internal bifurcation of Pakistan was one of the most intense military conflicts in the region. During the war, Indian and Pakistani militaries simultaneously clashed on the eastern and western frontiers. The war ended after the Eastern Command of Pakistani military signed the Instrument of Surrender, on 16 December 1971 in Dhaka. This marked the formation of East Pakistan as the new nation of Bangladesh. Earlier, East Pakistan had officially called for its secession from the Union of Pakistan on 26 March 1971. Approximately 90,000 to 93,000 Pakistani servicemen were taken prisoners by the. This included 79,676 to 81,000 uniformed personnel of Pakistan Armed Forces, including some Bengali soldiers who had remained loyal to Pakistan. The remaining 10,324 to 15,000 prisoners were civilians, either family members of the military personnel or collaborators (razakars). It is estimated that between 300,000 and 3,000,000 civilians were killed in Bangladesh. As a result of the conflict, a further eight to ten million people fled the country at the time, to seek refuge in neighboring India.

Indo China War 1962

This conflict was the result of a bitter border dispute between the People's Republic of China and India. Areas of conflict included Aksai Chin in Jammu and Kashmir and a sizeable area of Arunachal Pradesh. The conflict resulted in vast land gains for the PRC, which meant a humiliating defeat for the Republic of India. There had been a series of violent border incidents after the 1959 Tibetan uprising, when India had granted asylum to the Dalai Lama. India initiated a Forward Policy in which it placed outposts along the border, including several north of the McMahon Line, the eastern portion of a Line of Actual Control proclaimed by Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai in 1959.

Since the two sides were unable to reach a political accommodation on disputed territory, along the 3,225-kilometre-long Himalayan border,^[8] the

Chinese launched simultaneous offensives in Ladakh and across the McMahon Line on 20 October 1962. Chinese troops advanced over Indian forces in both theatres, capturing Rezang la in Chushul in the western theatre, as well as Tawang in the eastern theatre. The war ended when China declared a unilateral ceasefire on 20 November 1962, and simultaneously announced its withdrawal from one of the two disputed areas. Indian posts and patrols were removed from Aksai Chin, which came under direct Chinese control after the end of the conflict.

Arab Spring

The spread of anti-monarchic and anti-dictatorial sentiments in the Middle East is known as the Arab spring. This ferocious political progression by the citizenry, although aimed at establishing democratic politics, has led to further instability in the region in the form of spread of Wahabist Terrorism. The Tunisian Revolution effect spread strongly to five other countries: Libya, Egypt, Yemen, Syria and Iraq, where either the regime was toppled or major uprisings or social violence occurred. This included civil wars or insurgencies. Sustained street demonstrations took place in Morocco, Bahrain, Algeria, Iran, Lebanon, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman and Sudan. Minor protests occurred in Djibouti, Mauritania, the Palestinian National Authority, Saudi Arabia, Somalia and the Moroccan-controlled Western Sahara. The wave of initial revolutions and protests faded by mid-2012, as many Arab Spring demonstrations were met with violent responses from authorities, as well as from pro-government militias and counter-demonstrators. These attacks were answered with violence from protesters in some cases. Large-scale conflicts resulted in the Iraqi War and the following civil war, the Egyptian Crisis and coup, the Libyan Crisis, and the Crisis in Yemen.

Closing Note from the Executive Board

Delegates are expected not to center their debate entirely on the international conflicts that have been given. You are expected to use the reactions and actions of the countries during these conflicts as guiding principles for governing your actions in the committee.

“To what extent do we sow the seeds of war, till every inch of ground is alight with fire? Are we really the farmers of this war? Or the powerless, watching it burn on its pyre.”

