

DUMUNC XXXVI



United Nations Security Council

The United Nations Security Council is one of the UN's six primary governing bodies and is charged with maintaining international peace and security. The committee consists of five permanent members - the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China - which have veto power over substantive Security Council resolutions. Ten other members serve on a rotating, two-year basis and represent different distinct regions of the world. These ten members include Bolivia, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Peru, and Sweden.

Each representative in the committee will have the ability to influence, although not determine, each respective domestic response to crises. These responses are independent of Security Council resolutions unless the resolution explicitly states that a country must adhere to such action. Furthermore, the resource list described for each country is not exhaustive but should give a good indication to your country's relative military and economic power. While many crises may affect all or most of the committee, certain crises may only directly impact single nations and will therefore affect the actions such nations may be able to take. The ultimate goal of this crisis committee is to further the goals of your represented nation, through cooperation with or at the expense of other nations. Normal aspects of crisis - personal directives, press releases, committee-written directives, etc. - still apply in this crisis committee.

This year we will be discussing three topics of high contention--the dispute in the South China Sea, the strife in South Sudan, and the ongoing conflict between Israel and Palestine.

Topic A: South China Sea

Asian nations have disputed the island and maritime territories in the South China Sea since the end of World War II. Over the past two and a half decades, the value of these territories has skyrocketed due to an abundance of untapped crude oil, natural gas, hydrocarbon, and fish stocks. China's Ministry of Geological Resources and Mining approximated 213 billion barrels and 17.7 billion tons of available natural gas and oil respectively. Corporations and nations alike are attempting to claim sections of the sea in order to make a profit and alleviate their foreign oil dependence. Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam, and China as well as some Western countries are all involved in the territory quarrel. Almost every nation is a claimant to some section of the Spratly Islands, but the Scarborough Shoal and Paracel Islands are also highly contested.

In 2002 however, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the People's Republic of China settled the conflict with a Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC). The agreement, proposed by China, took a non-confrontational approach to the situation. Every claimant would have de facto jurisdiction on their territories and avoid any unilateral actions. Although there were a few clashes, no military was action taken.

In July of 2010, the Philippines and Vietnam contacted the US to protect the maritime rights of their territories. The United States since then has increased its naval involvement in Southeast Asia and the South China Sea in particular. Other Western nations called for a stricter agreement amongst the participating delegations, and in 2011 the Agreement on a Code of Conduct was adopted by China, Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Vietnam. China's assistant foreign minister acknowledged how it was an "important milestone document for cooperation among China and ASEAN countries" because it exemplified a unification (Liu Zhenmin). The agreement addressed transnational crime, safe navigation, scientific research, search and rescue, and marine biological protections. However, the agreement did not focus on any guidelines for extracting natural gas and crude oil, leaving the delegations in the same situation as before.

As of 2017, China was claiming over 80% of the South China Sea territories. Through a strong military presence and initiating construction on disputed deserted islands, China began to turn its verbal claims into much of a reality. While Cambodia was supporting Xi Jinping's plans at the time, Vietnam was pushing for ASEAN to limit China's power over the region. China and Japan are also disputing the islands known to the Japanese as "Senkaku" and to the Chinese as "Diaoyu". The U.S. has intervened in this area as a 'police' figure, ensuring that the estimated \$5.3 trillion of annual trade continues flowing.

In recent news, the U.S. announced full support for the ASEAN nations. Tina Kaidanow announced that the US encourages the ASEAN nations to maintain a strong stand in the region through their 'collective ability'. She also added that she will be meeting with several ASEAN representatives to promote the sales of US weapons to encourage security and regional balance.

It is the duty of the Security Council to focus on the root issues of this dispute and the different perspectives of each nation involved in order to solve the problem. I would refrain from proposing superficial solutions to the problems as that will not allow for a long-term solution. Try to be as detailed as possible, especially when referring to boundaries and resource extraction.

Sources:

- <https://www.cfr.org/report/armed-clash-south-china-sea>
- https://www.cfr.org/interactives/global-conflict-tracker?utm_source=1-2-2#!/conflict/territorial-disputes-in-the-south-china-sea
- <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-13748349>
- <https://eurasianimes.com/south-china-sea-dispute-2018/>

Topic B: South Sudan

Before the independence of South Sudan in 2011, Sudan was a country of two halves. The south is more suited to farming with its vegetative climate, while the north is desert. Moreover, the northern tribes have always had more Arabic and Muslim influence, which clash with the Christian and animistic tribes of the south. The divide has caused conflict since the 1950s, when power was given predominantly to the north after British and Egyptian independence. The government created an economy focused on mining natural resources, causing a neglect in the health and wellbeing of its people. The Sudanese Civil War lasted for decades, only ending in 2005 after United Nations intervention. The agreement allowed for South Sudan to vote for independence, which passed in 2011 with overwhelming majority.

South Sudan is bordered by six countries, and is extremely rich in oil. However, following the civil war, it became one of the least developed regions on earth, with few, inadequate roads and only 15% of the population owning mobile phones. The Nile River, which flows through the main areas of the country, plays a key role in trade and transportation both domestically and internationally. A person's wealth is measured by the size of their herd, and cattle are abundant and essential in the country.

South Sudan is composed of over 60 different ethnic groups, all who put aside their differences during the civil war. After the international community left the new country, rivalries and tensions between the factions reemerged almost immediately. The two largest ethnic groups, Dinka and Nuer, were both represented with President Salva Kiir and Vice President Riek Machar, respectively, to demonstrate unity. However, conflict between the two began to create a divide within the country when President Kiir accused Vice President Machar of plotting a coup. Troops began expressing loyalty to different leaders, and the President and Vice President further exploited this divide by creating their own militias in 2013. This political fight quickly transformed into ethnic conflict. This is all exacerbated by a lack of resources and an increase in arms trade to the region.

In 2014, a ceasefire was signed, but was then broken several times in the following weeks. By 2015, tens of thousands of people had been killed and over 1.6 million people had been displaced. In August 2015, a questionable peace agreement was made between the two warring ethnic groups. This agreement was facilitated by the IGAD, or the organization of African countries that includes South Sudan and many of its neighboring countries.

United Nations sent experts to South Sudan in November of 2016 documented the mass slaughter, indicating ethnic cleansing on scale with the Rwandan genocide. The body has called upon international intervention in order to prevent the violence from continuing

further. In its visit in 2016, the UN also announced that there was a widespread famine in the country. Nearly 5 million people were recorded at the risk of starvation, which accounts for about 40% of the South Sudanese population. Many aid agencies have initiated campaigns to minimize the impact of the famine. In recent news, the U.S. has announced that they are to impose an arms embargo on the country to end the conflict, on the grounds of Trump having 'lost his patience' with South Sudan's repeated violations of the ceasefires. The Security Council must propose a solution that will both decrease the current violence in the region as well as restructure the state to promote peace and stability.

Sources:

- <https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/africa/2018-02-05-south-sudan-told-to-end-nightmare-of-war-as-new-peace-talks-open/>
- <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-southsudan-arms-exclusive/exclusive-u-s-to-impose-arms-embargo-on-south-sudan-to-end-conflict-sources-idUSKBN1FM0ZE>
- <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=58445>
- <https://www.africa.com/peace-south-sudan/>
- <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14019202>
- <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-25427965>
- <https://www.vox.com/world/2016/12/8/13817072/south-sudan-crisis-explained-ethnic-cleansing-genocide>
- <https://enoughproject.org/conflicts/south-sudan>

Topic C: Israel-Palestine Conflict Resolution

The Israel-Palestine conflict is an ongoing conflict that dates back to the mid-20th century. The origins of the conflict can be traced back to Jewish immigration and conflict between the Jewish and Arab groups cohabiting the region. There has been an ongoing Israeli occupation of the region of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from the past 51 years.

Two main solutions have been proposed in order to resolve the conflict--the two state solution, backed by the UN, and the one-state solution, backed by Israel. The two-state solution dates back to the 1947 UN Partition Plan. Many members of the international community believe it to be the only way out of the conflict. The two-state solution would recognize a line known as the Green Line that would divide the Israeli and Palestinian land, dependant on land swaps resulting from subsequent negotiations. Jerusalem would then be divided into two states, therefore resolving the dispute over the city.

On the other hand, Israel pushes for a one-state solution, which would mean the country would annex the areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip partially or completely.



Map of the proposed two-state solution

Map of the proposed one-state solution

After the Arab-Israeli War of 1948, Palestinians had been dispersed among a variety of different countries. Because there was no central leadership due to the dispersion of the population, many Palestinians began to form small resistance organizations, the largest of which was the PLO.

The PLO was created at an Arab summit meeting in 1964, with the purpose of uniting various Palestinian groups under one umbrella organization. Initially, the organization did

little to enhance Palestinian self-determination. PLO's legislature was composed of various members of the Palestinian's communities civilian populations. The established charter aimed for the complete elimination of Israeli sovereignty in Palestine and the destruction of the Israeli state. PLO is funded both both by taxes from the salaries of Palestinian workers and the contribution of sympathetic countries

Furthermore, the Six-Day War, or the Third Arab-Israeli War occurred from June 5-10, 1967 was a victory for Israel that allowed them to gain control over the Sinai Peninsula, Gaza Strip, West Bank, Old City of Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights. These seizure of these territories resulted in a major point of conflict in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

During WWI, Britain issued the Balfour Declaration, which announced the support for the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine. The declaration was within a letter dated back to 1917 from the UK's Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour to Lord Rothschild, who at the time was a leader of the British Jewish Community.