



Security Council: Committee History and Structure¹

September 3, 2017

The United Nations Security Council was created by the United Nations Charter, which came into effect on 24 October 1945. According to the Charter, the UN has three purposes:

1. To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace;
2. To develop friendly relations among nations based on ... equal rights and self-determination of peoples;
3. To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights...²

Responsibility for each of these goals is shared between the General Assembly (GA), in which each member state has one vote, and the Security Council with limited membership and special voting rules.

The Security Council shares responsibility for the first goal (international peace and security) with the GA, especially the General Assembly First Committee (disarmament and security). Responsibility for the second goal (equal rights and self-determination) is shared by the GA and Trusteeship Council.³ The GA and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) originally shared responsibility for the third goal (international economic and social cooperation, and human rights). Since 2006, responsibility for the human rights portion of the third set of goals has rested with the GA and the new Human Rights Council (HRC).⁴

Although the Security Council, Trusteeship Council, Economic and Social Council, and Human Rights Council are each charged with supervising the achievement of one UN goal, these councils have very different capabilities. Specifically, the Security Council is much more powerful than the others. The UN Charter makes it clear that “the founders envisioned the Security Council as the UN’s premier body, charged with the most essential

¹ This background guide was written by Karen Ruth Adams, Montana Model UN faculty advisor, with contributions from David Shelton, Aimee Ryan, Samantha Stephens, Nicholas Potratz, and Dani Howlett. Copyright 2017 by Karen Ruth Adams.

² United Nations, “Charter of the United Nations,” 26 June 1945, Chapter I, Article 1, available at <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-i/index.html>.

³ The Trusteeship Council suspended operations in 1994, when the last remaining UN trust territory, Palau, became independent. United Nations Trusteeship Council Website, <http://www.un.org/documents/tc.htm>.

⁴ United Nations Human Rights Council, website, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/HRCIndex.aspx>. See also “Charter of the United Nations, Chapter XIII, Article 87.

security tasks.”⁵ In addition, the Charter gave the Security Council far more authority to act on security matters than the other councils have to act on economic, social, and humanitarian matters.

The authority of the Security Council is evident in four ways. First, the Security Council’s resolutions do not need to be passed by any other UN committee to go into effect. By contrast, the other councils simply make recommendations to the GA; their resolutions are not enacted until the GA passes them. Second, GA resolutions are simply recommendations, whereas Security Council resolutions are binding. When states join the UN, they agree to abide by Security Council decisions. Third, the GA can address issues related to international peace and security only if they are not currently under consideration by the Security Council. Finally, unlike other UN committees, the Security Council can take steps to enforce its decisions. The only exception to this is with regard to the UN budget, over which the GA exercises full control.⁶

The Security Council thus plays a unique role at the United Nations. It also has a unique structure, in that there are five permanent members (P-5) with veto power. Due to US-Soviet rivalry during the first 45 years of its existence, the Security Council was almost completely paralyzed, despite the high hopes of its founders. Although the Council has been more active since the fall of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War, the interests of the permanent five members continue to determine the actions and effectiveness of the Security Council.

Membership, Voting, and Leadership

The membership of the Security Council consists of 15 states, ten of which are elected biannually from the General Assembly. The other five members are permanent members to whom the Charter gave both permanent seats on the Council and permanent vetoes. These states are the United States, France, the United Kingdom, the Russian Federation, and the People’s Republic of China. In 1963, the General Assembly agreed that the 10 rotating members should be geographically distributed, as follows:

- Five from Africa and Asia (since divided into two for Asia and three for Africa);
- One from Eastern Europe;
- Two from Latin America, including the Caribbean;
- Two from Western Europe and Other (including Australia, Canada, and New Zealand).

Annual elections for five of the rotating seats can be contentious. For instance, in June 2016, the General Assembly elected Bolivia, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan and Sweden to serve as the non-permanent members for 2017-2018, with the Netherlands agreeing to split the two-year term with Italy after five rounds of inconclusive voting. Split terms have occurred in the Security Council since the 1950s.⁷

In voting procedure, according to Chapter V, Article 27 of the UN Charter, nine votes are required to pass all procedural matters. “Non-procedural” or substantive matters (resolutions and reports) require a vote of nine and an affirmation or abstention from all permanent members.⁸

⁵ Karen A. Mingst and Margaret P. Karns, *The United Nations in the 21st Century*, 3rd edition (Boulder: Westview, 2007), p. 27.

⁶ United Nations, “Charter of the United Nations,” Chapter IV, Article 12; Chapter V, Article 25; Chapter VII; and Chapter IV, Article 19.

⁷ “Security Council Elections: Italy and the Netherlands Agree to a Split Term,” *What’s In Blue*, 29 June 2016, <http://www.whatsinblue.org/2016/06/security-council-elections-italy-and-the-netherlands-agree-to-a-split-term.php#>.

⁸ United Nations, “Charter of the United Nations,” Chapter X, Article 27.

The presidency of the Security Council changes monthly and passes from one Member State to another according to the alphabetical ranking of state names (in English). Unlike the GA, which holds an annual conference that opens in September of each year, the Security Council meets and passes resolutions continuously.

History and Challenges

The World War II Allies (the US, UK, France, Russia, and China) formed the United Nations in 1945, after World War I (1914-1919) and World War II (1939-1945) had together killed approximately 70 million people.⁹

The Allies gave the official name of their alliance (the United Nations) to the organization they created to replace the League of Nations, which was created at the end of World War I and failed to prevent the outbreak of World War II. As scholars Karen Mingst and Margaret Karns explain, the World War II Allies:

agreed that the organization would be based on the principle of the sovereign equality of members and that all “peace-loving” states would be eligible for membership, thereby excluding the Axis powers – Germany, Italy, Japan, and Spain. It was also agreed that decisions on security issues would require unanimity of the permanent members of the Security Council – the great powers.¹⁰

In addition to giving the Security Council priority on issues related to international peace and security, the founders gave the Council important tasks related to the operation of the United Nations. For example, the UN secretary-general is appointed and new Member States are admitted to the UN “by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.”¹¹ Similarly, both Security Council and GA approval is required to appoint judges to the International Court of Justice.¹² The issue of UN reform is much the same. To revise the Charter, the GA and the Security Council must together call for a review conference. Amendments go into effect only with a two-thirds vote in the GA and ratification by “two thirds of the Members of the United Nations, including all the permanent members of the Security Council.”¹³

Together, these provisions mean that the Security Council, especially the permanent five (P-5) members, has both short-term and long-term control over what happens at the UN. This makes it very difficult to address a wide variety of reform issues, from making GA resolutions binding, to changing the criteria for admitting new members to the UN or changing the structure of the Security Council.

In principle, these provisions would seem to enable the Security Council to alter the UN in ways the P-5 desire. In fact, however, disagreements between P-5 members often stymie actions by the Security Council. From 1945-1990, the Council was largely paralyzed by the Cold War between the US and Soviet Union. Since the collapse of the U.S.S.R., there have been many more Security Council meetings and resolutions. This is largely because the unrivaled power of the United States has caused the US to encounter less opposition to resolutions it sponsors. Previously, the US had to worry not only about the Soviet veto but also the prospect of war with the Soviet Union. When the Soviet Union fell apart, yielding a much weaker Russia, which needs US assistance in some ways, it removed a major obstacle to the functioning of the Security Council.

Nevertheless, the veto is still a very powerful and often-used tool because it is one of the only ways other states can stand up to the US. For example, the threat of a veto by China, Russia, and France prior to the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 meant that the UK and US withdrew a resolution authorizing the use of force. This was not

⁹ Matthew White, “Source List and Detailed Death Tolls for the Twentieth Century Hemoclysm,” *Necrometrics*, February 2011, <http://necrometrics.com/20c5m.htm>.

¹⁰ Mingst and Karns, *The United Nations in the 21st Century*, p. 27.

¹¹ United Nations, “Charter of the United Nations,” Chapter XV, Article 97; and Chapter II, Article 4.

¹² International Court of Justice, “Statute of the International Court of Justice,” Chapter I, Article 4, http://legal.un.org/avl/pdf/ha/sicj/icj_statute_e.pdf.

¹³ United Nations, “Charter of the United Nations,” Chapter XVIII, Article 108.

the end of the story, however. The UK and US simply invaded Iraq without Security Council approval. Because Iraq had not attacked the US or UK, the invasion was a violation of the UN Charter, which requires all Member States to refer matters of peace and security to the Council except in the case of self-defense.¹⁴ But because the US and UK can veto any Security Council resolution punishing them for the war against Iraq, no effort has been made pass such a resolution. Thus, although the Security Council has been more active since the end of the Cold War, its actions have not always conformed to the Charter. In fact, in many ways, the post-Cold War period reaffirms the failure of the Security Council to hold all states accountable for breaches of the peace and acts of aggression.¹⁵

When the P-5 agrees that a non-P-5 member has violated the Charter, the Security Council can authorize military action, as it did in 2007 in Darfur, Sudan.¹⁶ Chapter VII of the UN Charter lays out the Council's options for the use of force in these situations. In general, the pertinent Security Council resolution authorizes Member States to carry out military missions using their own forces. The Military Staff Committee established in the Charter has never been activated due to reluctance of the P-5 states to share military information, coordinate logistics, and contribute troops to jointly commanded operations.¹⁷

In practice, most Security Council resolutions simply urge negotiation to settle disputes and offer the Council's "good offices" to investigate the situation, organize talks between the groups in question, etc. For example, in 2007:

[t]he U.N. Security Council ... unanimously passed a resolution that expanded the mandate of its mission in Iraq. Resolution 1770 was hailed as a new phase of the U.N. Assistance Mission for Iraq, or UNAMI. The resolution says the U.N. seeks to "foster regional dialogue" on matters such as "border security, energy and refugees." It also says the U.N. will work with Iraqis to "resolve disputed internal boundaries" and promote discussion on national reconciliation.¹⁸

Another tactic often used by the Security Council is to impose military, diplomatic, and economic sanctions, as it did against Iraq from 1990 to 2003.¹⁹ The goal of sanctions is to focus international, corporate, and public pressure on a state so it cannot sustain itself unless it changes the offending policies. In practice, most sanctions regimes develop leaks that enable states to export at least some of their products to raise cash and to import at least some of the military and economic goods they need. It is usually the poorest and weakest inhabitants of a state who suffer most from sanctions.²⁰

¹⁴ United Nations, "Charter of the United Nations," Chapter I, Article 2.

¹⁵ Michael J. Glennon, "Why the Security Council Failed," *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2003, <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/iraq/2003-05-01/why-security-council-failed>.

¹⁶ "Security Council Authorizes Deployment of United Nations-African Union 'Hybrid' Peace Operation in Bid to Resolve Darfur Conflict," *UN News Centre*, 31 July 2007, <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2007/sc9089.doc.htm>.

¹⁷ United Nations, "Charter of the United Nations," Chapter VII.

¹⁸ "United Nations Considers a Greater Role In Iraq," *CNN*, September 23, 2007, <http://edition.cnn.com/2007/WORLD/meast/09/22/un.iraq/index.html>. Like other Security Council resolutions, the full text of this resolution is available on the Security Council website, <http://www.un.org/en/sc/documents/resolutions/>.

¹⁹ "Sanctions against Iraq," *Global Policy Forum*, <http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/sanction/indexone.htm>.

²⁰ Joanna Weschler, "The evolution of Security Council innovations in sanctions," *International Journal*, Winter 2009-2010, <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/Evolution%20of%20Sanctions%20-%20Int.%20Journal.pdf>.

Recent and Current Events

In recent years, the UN Secretariat has tried to hold the Security Council accountable by publishing facts about its meetings and decisions. According to the Secretariat, in 2016, the Security Council held 256 meetings, of which 237 were public and 19 were private. Seventeen of the private meetings were with UN Member States that contribute police and troops to UN peacekeeping operations.²¹ According to the UN Secretariat,

In 2016, 70% (178) of the meetings of the Council dealt with country-specific or regional situations. Among those meetings, Africa accounted for 53.9% (96) of the meetings, followed by the Middle East with 33.1% (59), Europe with 5.1% (9), Asia with 4.5% (8) and the Americas with 3.4% (6).²²

At its 2016 meetings, the Council adopted 77 resolutions. Of those, 42 (55%) were adopted “acting under Chapter VII of the Charter,” and therefore pertained to violations of peace and security by particular states. Two vetoes occurred in 2016. Both vetoes pertained to the situation in Syria (under the agenda item entitled “the situation in the Middle East”). Russia vetoed one of the failed resolutions, while the US, UK, and France vetoed the other.²³

Many of the Council’s resolutions impose or increase sanctions against states and other actors found to be in violation of Chapter VII of the UN Charter. Still, in 2016, the Security Council decided to end sanctions imposed upon Côte d’Ivoire and Liberia. At the end of 2016, 640 individuals and 370 entities with targeted sanctions from the Security Council.²⁴

In 2016, the Council

adopted decisions concerning the mandate of 13 peacekeeping operations (PKOs) (out of 16 that were in operation in 2016) and 7 political missions and peacebuilding offices (out of 11 that existed in 2016), primarily extending their mandates. The Council also established 1 new political mission in Colombia (the United Nations Mission in Colombia), to monitor and verify the definitive bilateral ceasefire and cessation of hostilities, and the laying down of arms in Colombia.²⁵

Peacebuilding offices have, in recent years, become a particular focal point for discussion of peace and security at the UN. According to many in the UN, the organization should focus as much on creating sustained peace before and after conflicts break out as much as addressing conflicts when they occur. Many have, for example, emphasized that development and the establishment of political stability should occur in ways that are “mutually reinforcing” to peacekeeping operations.²⁶

In a March 2011 resolution on Libya, the Security Council authorized “all necessary means” to protect civilians in Libya. In doing so, it acted on the principle of “the Responsibility to Protect” (R2P) civilians from genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes, and other atrocities even if this means violating national sovereignty. The GA adopted this principle in September 2009.²⁷ From March to October 2011, several members of the North

²¹ UN Security Council Affairs Division, “2016 Highlights of Security Council Practice,” 2016, <http://www.un.org/en/sc/inc/pages/pdf/highlights/2016.pdf>, p. 1.

²² UN Security Council Affairs Division, “2016 Highlights of Security Council Practice,” p. 8.

²³ UN Security Council Affairs Division, “2016 Highlights of Security Council Practice,” pp. 10-11.

²⁴ UN Security Council Affairs Division, “2016 Highlights of Security Council Practice,” pp. 11, 15.

²⁵ UN Security Council Affairs Division, “2016 Highlights of Security Council Practice,” pp. 12.

²⁶ United Nations Peacekeeping. “Peace and Security.” <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/peace.shtml>.

²⁷ “General Assembly agrees to hold more talks on responsibility to protect,” *UN News Centre*, 14 September 2009, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32047>.

Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) assisted Libyan rebels in their fight to depose President Moammar Kadafi. In doing so, they exceeded the Security Council's mandate to protect civilians.

Since then, the international consensus behind R2P has weakened,²⁸ as is evident in the UN's limited responses to the civil war in Syria. Although the GA condemned the violence in December 2011,²⁹ several years passed before the Security Council agreed upon measures to provide basic protection for UN aid-workers and geographically limited safety to evacuating Syrian civilians.³⁰ In fact, former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon responded to the inaction in Syria by remarking that,

we face an urgent test here and now. Words must become deeds. Promise must become practice. You have all seen the horrible images and reports coming out of Syria: aerial bombardments of civilians; mothers weeping, clutching their dead children in their arms. Inaction cannot be an option for our community of nations. We cannot stand by while populations fall victim to these grave crimes and violations. We must uphold the core responsibilities of the United Nations.³¹

In addition to country-specific actions, the Security Council addresses a number of general issues on a regular basis. Chief among these are nuclear non-proliferation, "women and peace and security," and threats to international peace and security, particularly threats from "terrorist-related activities."³²

The development of nuclear energy programs in many countries raises questions about whether and how the development and use of nuclear weapons can be controlled. The Security Council has been heavily involved in this issue, especially with regard to non-P-5 states that have nuclear programs, such as North Korea and Iran. In September 2009, when the United States held the Security Council presidency, US President Barack Obama chaired a rare Security Council session attended by heads of state. At the meeting, the Council passed Resolution 1887, which urged states to recommit to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, strengthen nuclear inspections, and secure nuclear materials within the next four years.³³ According to reporter David E. Sanger,

Mr. Obama accomplished that goal in part by acknowledging that the United States was part of the nuclear problem and would have to accept limits on its own arsenal — steps Mr. Bush always rejected. Mr. Obama committed to winning Senate ratification of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which President Bill

²⁸ Philippe Boloipon, "After Libya, the question: To protect or depose?," *Los Angeles Times*, 25 August 2011, <http://articles.latimes.com/2011/aug/25/opinion/la-oe-boloipon-libya-responsibility-t20110825>. For a list of resolutions see Security Council, "Security Council Resolutions," available at <http://www.un.org/en/sc/documents/resolutions/>.

²⁹ UN General Assembly, "General Assembly Adopts More Than 60 Resolutions Recommended by Third Committee, Including Text Condemning Grave, Systematic Human Rights Violations in Syria," press release GA/11198, 19 December 2011, <http://www.un.org/press/en/2011/ga11198.doc.htm>.

³⁰ Security Council Report, "Syria," <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/syria/>.

³¹ UN Department of Public Information, "Responsibility to Protect Faces Urgent Test 'Here and Now', Secretary-General Tells General Assembly, Stressing Immense Human Cost of Failure in Syria," press release SG/SM/14490-GA/11271, 5 September 2012, <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2012/sgsm14490.doc.htm>.

³² UN Security Council Affairs Division, "2015 Highlights of Security Council Practice," <http://www.un.org/en/sc/documents/highlights.shtml>, pp. 7-8.

³³ United Nations, "Historic Summit of Security Council Pledges Support for Progress on Stalled Efforts to End Nuclear Weapons Proliferation," 24 September 2009, <http://www.un.org/press/en/2009/sc9746.doc.htm>.

Clinton could not get through the Senate, and acknowledged that the United States had an obligation under the treaty to move toward elimination of its own arsenal.³⁴

This was an important step by the US because both the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) have stipulations that pertain to states that already have nuclear weapons. According to the NPT, the only legal nuclear weapons states are those that had declared nuclear programs when the Treaty was written in 1968, namely the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, and China. All other state parties to the Treaty agreed to pursue nuclear programs only for energy, not for weapons. In exchange, the five existing nuclear states promised to “pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to . . . nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.”³⁵ Despite frequent discussions in the General Assembly, no progress has been made on general and complete nuclear disarmament.

Similarly, although the CTBT was negotiated many years ago, it cannot enter into force until it has been ratified by “all 44 of the States mentioned in Annex 2 of the Treaty – those which possessed nuclear weapons or nuclear weapons technology at the time it opened for signature in 1996.”³⁶ To date, despite 183 ratifications from all UN Member States, just 36 of the states with nuclear weapons or nuclear energy technology have ratified the treaty. Five of the required states (China, Egypt, Iran, Israel, and the United States) have signed but not ratified the treaty, while three others -- the Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea), India, and Pakistan -- have not even signed the treaty.³⁷

In 2000, the Security Council passed Resolution 1325 on “Women and Peace and Security.” This resolution called on states to consider all aspects of the relationship between women, peace, and security, from the participation of women in governments, military forces, diplomatic missions, and the UN, to their rape and abuse by soldiers and UN peacekeeping forces.”³⁸

Most recently, in October 2013, the Security Council passed Resolution 2122, again on “Women and Peace and Security.” The document reiterated many of the calls from the original resolution, but made a particular effort to call on states and other actors to increase women’s participation in a range of activities from peacekeeping to the electoral processes of Member States.³⁹ Despite the Security Council’s actions, experts still note a gap in the implementation of the resolutions, primarily resulting from factors such as a “lack of sustained leadership and resources committed to implementation.”⁴⁰

³⁴ David E. Sanger, “Security Council Adopts Nuclear Arms Measure,” *New York Times*, 24 September 2009; http://www.nytimes.com/2009/09/25/world/25prexy.html?_r=1&scp=1&sq=obama%20%22security%20council%22&st=cse.

³⁵ “Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT),” 1968, Articles II, IV, VI, <http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/npt/text>.

³⁶ “Ratification of UN-backed nuclear treaty nears milestone of 150 countries,” *UN News Centre*, 19 August 2009, <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=31809&Cr=Nuclear&Cr1=>.

³⁷ Arms Control Association, “The Status of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty: Signatories and Ratifiers,” July 2017, <http://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/ctbtsig>.

³⁸ UN Security Council Affairs Division, “2011 Highlights of Security Council Practice,” <http://www.un.org/en/sc/documents/highlights.shtml>, p. 15.

³⁹ UN Security Council Resolution 2122 (S/RES/2122), available at [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2122\(2013\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2122(2013)).

⁴⁰ Security Council Report, “Arria-Formula Meeting on Women, Peace and Security and the 2015 Peace and Security Reviews,” *What’s in Blue*, 19 May 2015, available at <http://www.whatsinblue.org/2015/05/arria-formula-meeting-on-women-peace-and-security-and-the-2015-peace-and-security-reviews.php>.

The issue of terrorism first appeared on the UN agenda in September 2011, following 9/11, in which 19 terrorists killed nearly 3,000 people in New York, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania. The event brought terrorism into the limelight as a significant threat to international and human security.⁴¹ In response, the Security Council passed Resolution 1373 (and later Resolution 1377). The resolution condemned the 9/11 attacks and required states to suppress and criminalize the financing of terrorist organizations, as well as to freeze any funds linked to terrorist organizations and cease any form of support, "active or passive," to entities tied to terrorist organizations.⁴² The resolution further established the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) to oversee the implementation of Resolution 1373 and subsequent actions by the Security Council on terrorism.⁴³

The Security Council most recently passed resolution 2368 on the subject. The resolution reaffirmed many prior actions, such as calling upon states to ensure that their "nationals and persons" do not contribute to terrorist organizations such as Al Qaeda and the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL or ISIS), as well as working to freeze assets help by people and organizations with connections to terrorist groups.⁴⁴

Since 2012, the Council has focused a significant amount of time on security concerns in the Middle East. Although it has often remained deadlocked on the situation in Syria, it was able to pass Resolution 2118, which committed a coordinated effort between the UN, Syria, and Russia to remove chemical weapons from Syria, following a chemical weapons attack against civilians in August 2013.⁴⁵ In December 2016, the Council also passed two resolutions demanding that "all parties" in Syria "comply with international law" by allowing aid workers and UN monitors to enter the country safely in order to assist Syrian Civilians. These resolutions extended actions taken by the Council previously in 2014.⁴⁶

Though the Syrian conflict remains the most salient issue affecting the Middle-East, other security issues in both the Middle-East and other regions remain prominent on its agenda. Ongoing insurgencies in Afghanistan, for example, continue to receive attention from the Council. In response to events in the country, the Security Council has continued to renew the mandate of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, and has held quarterly reviews of the events in the country.⁴⁷

Agenda Topics for the MMUN Conference

At the 2017 Montana Model United Nations Conference, the Security Council will address the following two topics:

1. The Situation in Afghanistan
2. Protecting Civilians in Armed Conflict

⁴¹ "September 11 Fast Facts," *CNN*, updated 8 September 2016, available at <http://www.cnn.com/2013/07/27/us/september-11-anniversary-fast-facts/>.

⁴² UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (S/RES/1373), available at <http://www.un.org/en/sc/documents/resolutions/2001.shtml>.

⁴³ UN Counter-Terrorism Committee, "About the Counter-Terrorism Committee," updated 11 November 2013, available at <http://www.un.org/en/sc/ctc/aboutus.html>.

⁴⁴ UN Security Council Resolution 2368 (S/RES/2368), available at https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2368%282017%29.

⁴⁵ UN Security Council Resolution 2118 (S/RES/2118), available at [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2118\(2013\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2118(2013)).

⁴⁶ Security Council Report, "UN Documents for Syria," <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/syria/>; UN Security Council Resolution 2332 (S/RES/2332), available at [http://undocs.org/S/RES/2332\(2016\)](http://undocs.org/S/RES/2332(2016)).

⁴⁷ "Afghanistan," Security Council Report, <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/afghanistan/>

Montana Model UN High School Conference

When writing your position papers and resolutions, think broadly about these issues, remembering the overarching goals of the United Nations and the Security Council, as well as the perspective of your country.

Recommended Reading

Annan, Kofi. “In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security, and Human Rights for All.” Report of the Secretary General. 21 March 2005. Available at http://www.un.org/en/events/pastevents/in_larger_freedom.shtml.

This report by the former secretary general summarizes some of the problems of the Security Council, as well as many of the contemporary issues related to disarmament, peace, and security.

“The Charter of the United Nations.” Available online at <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/>.

This charter founded the United Nations and serves as its basis for procedure and authority. It is vital for delegates to be familiar with Chapters V, VI, VII, and VIII, which pertain to the Security Council.

“Security Council Report.” Website. Available at <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/>.

This Columbia University web site monitors Security Council actions and resolutions. It is an excellent source for information on the Council’s recent activities and challenges, as well as monthly predictions. Click on the "Country and Regional Issues" and "Thematic and General Issues" pages for recent Security Council events on a variety of topics.

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). “Armed Conflicts and Conflict Management” and “Arms Control and Disarmament Documentary Survey.” Website. Available at <http://www.sipri.org/>.

SIPRI provides information on the number, types, and locations of contemporary wars; the military forces, expenditures, and agreements of various states; the status of various arms control treaties; and contemporary security challenges. It is an excellent resource for learning about peace and security issues.

United Nations Peacekeeping. “Peace and Security.” <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/peace.shtml>.

This page on the UN Peacekeeping website provides a brief overview and differentiation of some of the methods that the UN utilizes in an effort to establish and maintain peace and security.

“UN News Centre.” Available online at <http://www.un.org/News/>.

This site will help you keep up with ongoing and unfolding UN and Security Council activities in Syria, Iran, North Korea, Afghanistan, etc.

“UN Security Council.” Website. Available at <http://www.un.org/en/sc/>.

This is the official website for the Security Council. It offers a wealth of information on the Council’s current and past activities, including reports, resolutions, and verbatim meeting records in which you can learn your country’s positions and votes on particular issues. See the Resolutions page under the "Documents" tab, in particular for resolutions from this year and past years.

UN Security Council Affairs Division. “2016 Highlights of Security Council Practice.” 2016. Available at <http://www.un.org/en/sc/documents/highlights.shtml>.

This report analyzes the Security Council’s activities in 2016.