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SECURITY COUNCIL BACKGROUND GUIDE 2018

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NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS



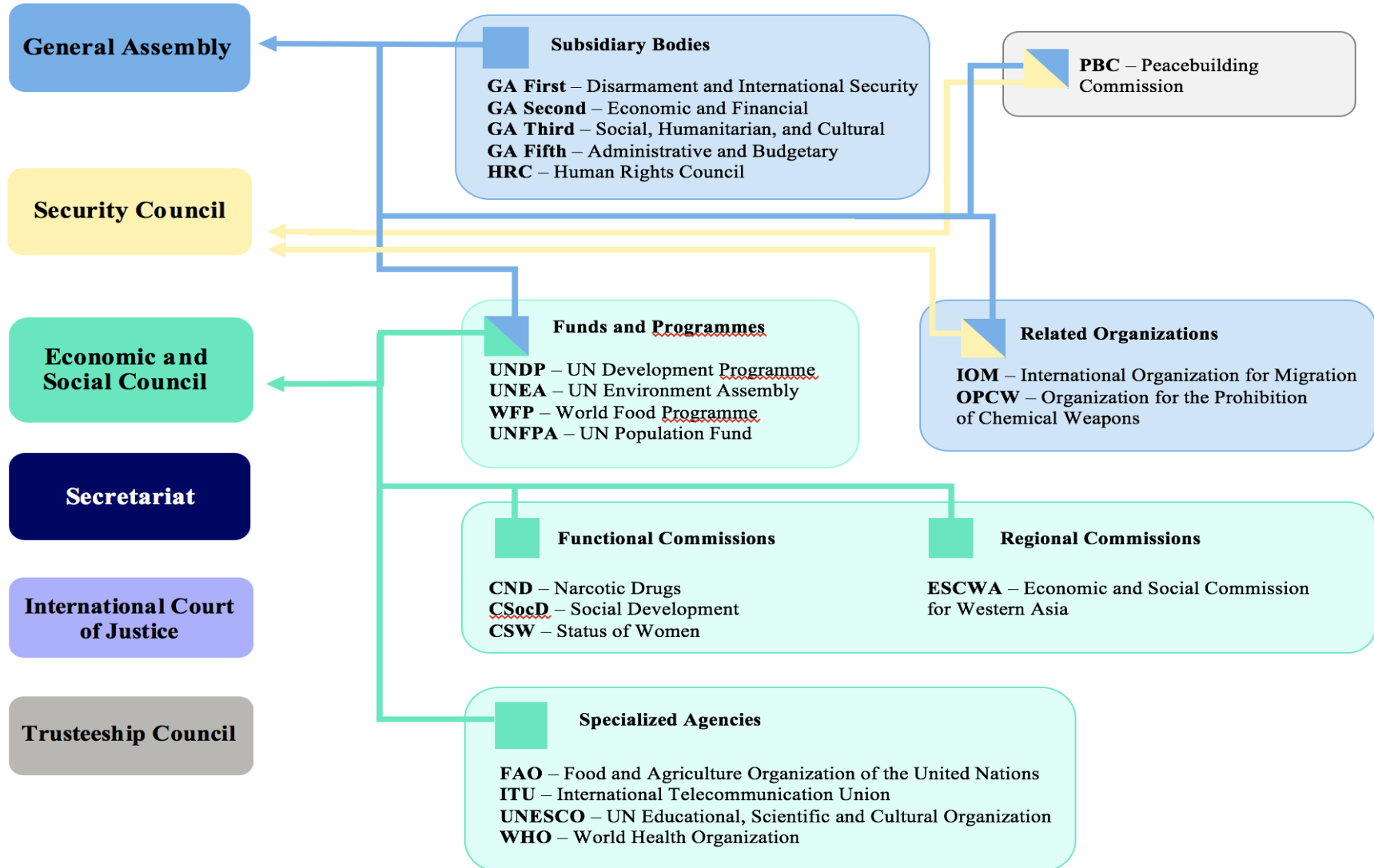
Table of Contents

United Nations System at NMUN•NY.....	2
Abbreviations	3
Committee Overview	4
Introduction	4
Governance, Structure, and Membership.....	4
Mandate, Functions, and Powers	6
Recent Sessions and Current Priorities	7
Conclusion.....	8
Annotated Bibliography.....	8
Bibliography	10
I. Humanitarian Exemptions in Sanctions Regimes	13
Introduction	13
International and Regional Framework	14
Role of the International System.....	15
Humanitarian Exemptions: A Current Overview.....	17
Challenges to Requesting and Following Exemptions.....	19
Conclusion.....	19
Further Research.....	20
Annotated Bibliography.....	20
Bibliography	22
II. Preventing Terrorism and Extremism in the Horn of Africa.....	27
Introduction	27
International and Regional Framework	28
Role of the International System.....	29
Factors Leading to a Rise of Terrorism and Violent Extremism	30
Case Study: Somalia	31
Conclusion.....	32
Further Research.....	33
Annotated Bibliography.....	33
Bibliography	35
III. Women, Peace and Security	40
Introduction	40
International and Regional Framework	41
Role of the International System.....	42
Gender-Based Violence in Crisis and Conflict Situations	44
Women's Participation in Peace Processes.....	45
Further Research.....	46
Annotated Bibliography.....	47
Bibliography	49



United Nations System at NMUN•NY

This diagram illustrates the UN system simulated at NMUN•NY and demonstrates the reportage and relationships between entities. Examine the diagram alongside the Committee Overview to gain a clear picture of the committee's position, purpose, and powers within the UN system.



Abbreviations

AMISOM	African Union Mission in Somalia
AU	African Union
BPfA	<i>Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action</i>
CEDAW	Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women
CSO	Civil society organization
CTC	Counter-Terrorism Committee
CTITF	Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force
CVE	Countering Violent Extremism
DFS	Department of Field Support
DPKO	Department of Peacekeeping Operations
DPRK	Democratic People's Republic of Korea
EAPC	Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council
EU	European Union
FARC-EP	Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia
GCTS	<i>The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy</i>
IANWGE	Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality
ICTR	International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda
ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
IMO	International Maritime Organization
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
IO	Intergovernmental Organization
ISIL	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
MARA	Monitoring, Analysis, and Reporting Arrangement
MINUSCA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic
MINUSMA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali
NAP	National Action Plan
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	Non-governmental organization
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
PBC	Peacebuilding Commission
PKO	Peacekeeping Operation
RAP	Regional Action Plan
REC	Regional Economic Community
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
SRSG	Special Representative of the Secretary-General
TOE	Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict
UDHR	<i>Universal Declaration of Human Rights</i>
UN	United Nations
UN-Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNMIK	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo
UNSOM	United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia
WFP	World Food Programme
WPA	Women's Protection Advisor
WPS	Women, Peace and Security

Committee Overview

Introduction

After the devastating effects of two world wars, the international community decided to establish the United Nations (UN) as an intergovernmental organization (IO) with the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security, creating the conditions conducive to economic and social development, while advancing universal respect for human rights.¹ The Security Council was established as one of its six principal organs and was given the primary responsibility of preserving international peace and security.²

The **United Nations Security Council** is one of the six primary organs of the United Nations, mandated by the *Charter of the United Nations* to maintain international peace and security. The Council submits an annual report to the General Assembly.

The Security Council held its first session on 17 January 1946 at Church House in London.³ After its first meeting, the Council relocated to its permanent residence at the UN Headquarters in New York City.⁴ At that time, five permanent members and six non-permanent members comprised the membership of the Council.⁵ However, over subsequent years, discussions regarding the structure of the Council began to take place.⁶ In 1965, the number of non-permanent members increased to ten, and although membership has not changed since then, discussions regarding a change in configuration take place frequently.⁷

During the Cold War, disagreements between the United States of America (USA) and the former Soviet Union blocked the Council from being an effective institution due to lack of agreement on even the most basic of issues.⁸ However, over the past two decades, progress has been made, especially in the field of peacekeeping missions, which have improved to cover a wider range of issues, such as facilitating political processes, protecting human rights, and assisting with disarmament.⁹ Additionally, traditional challenges to international peace and security have shifted, forcing the Council to adapt to new scenarios, such as the challenge of addressing multiple humanitarian crises simultaneously, and in different regions of the world.¹⁰ After the year 2000, terrorism, extremism, and other thematic, rather than country-specific issues, became priorities of the Council, as evidenced by the adoption of a range of resolutions and the establishment of several subsidiary bodies on cross-cutting issues.¹¹

Governance, Structure, and Membership

The Security Council is the only UN body that has the power to adopt legally binding resolutions.¹² This means that when the Council adopts a resolution, Member States, under Article 25 of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945), are obliged to accept and carry out its recommendations and decisions.¹³ The Security Council also has a variety of other tools to address issues on its agenda.¹⁴ For example, the President of the Security Council may issue press statements or presidential statements to communicate the Council's position.¹⁵ Although these are not legally binding, such statements are used to bring attention to important issues and to recommend solutions to conflicts.¹⁶

¹ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Preamble.

² UN Security Council, *What is the Security Council?*, 2017.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Hanhimäki, *The United Nations: A Very Short Introduction*, 2008, p. 32.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ Bourantonis, *The History and Politics of UN Security Council Reform*, 2005, p. 10.

⁸ Encyclopaedia Britannica, *United Nations Security Council*, 2014.

⁹ UN Security Council, *Structure*, 2017.

¹⁰ Council on Foreign Relations, *CFR Backrounders: The UN Security Council*, 2015; Encyclopaedia Britannica, *United Nations Security Council*, 2014.

¹¹ Security Council Report, *September 2014 Monthly Forecast: Counter-Terrorism*, 2014.

¹² UN Security Council, *What is the Security Council?*, 2017.

¹³ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 25.

¹⁴ UN Security Council, *Functions and Powers*, 2017.

¹⁵ NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, *Mapping Women, Peace and Security in the United Nations Security Council: Report of the NGOWG Monthly Action Points, 2009-2010*, 2010, p. 11.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 15.

Membership

The Security Council is comprised of five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members.¹⁷ The five permanent members of the Security Council are China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.¹⁸ Every year, the General Assembly elects five of the 10 non-permanent members for a two-year term.¹⁹ Elections for non-permanent seats on the Council can be extremely competitive, with countries expressing interest years in advance.²⁰ Countries elected to serve on the Security Council are expected to represent the interests of their region; they usually have an influence at the international level and demonstrate leadership in specific areas of interest to their foreign policy.²¹ Bolivia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Senegal, Sweden, Ukraine, and Uruguay are the non-permanent members through the end of 2017.²² Security Council elections are held in June, six months before the term starts.²³ This change allows Member States ample time to prepare for their new role.²⁴ The 10 non-permanent members represent countries from five groups: Africa, the Asia-Pacific Group, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Eastern European Group, and Western European and Other.²⁵ Italy and the Netherlands are currently splitting one of the European seats, with each holding the seat for one year.²⁶

Presidency

Each member of the Security Council holds the presidency of the Council for one month, rotating according to alphabetical order.²⁷ Security Council meetings can be held at any time when convened by the President, and by the request of any Member State.²⁸ Under Rule 1 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council, the President shall call a meeting if a dispute or situation requires the Council's attention.²⁹

Participation

Any Member State of the UN may attend the Council's sessions if the body decides to extend an invitation.³⁰ Member States are invited if the Security Council is discussing an issue that directly concerns the interests of the Member State.³¹ Invited Member States do not have the right to vote, but are allowed to submit proposals and draft resolutions.³² Furthermore, those Member States can inform the Council about a current crisis in their region.³³ However, such proposals may only be put to a vote at the request of a member of the Council.³⁴

Subsidiary Organs

The Security Council has many subsidiary bodies established under Article 29 of the Charter, including: the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), sanctions committees, and ad hoc committees, such as the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on Namibia.³⁵ The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) is a body that reports jointly to the General Assembly and the Security Council.³⁶ Additionally, Security Council Member States participate in various working groups, which discuss the topics of

¹⁷ UN Security Council, *Current members*, 2017.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ UN DPI, *Ahead of Security Council elections, General Assembly President explains how a country can get a non-permanent seat*, 2016.

²¹ Bourantonis, *The History and Politics of UN Security Council Reform*, 2005, p. 6.

²² UN Security Council, *Current members*, 2017.

²³ UN General Assembly, *Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (A/RES/68/307)*, 2014, p. 4.

²⁴ UN DPI, *Ahead of Security Council elections, General Assembly President explains how a country can get a non-permanent seat*, 2016.

²⁵ UN General Assembly, *Rules of procedure*, 2017.

²⁶ *Italy, Netherlands ask to share Security Council seat*, Al Jazeera, 2016.

²⁷ UN Security Council, *Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council (S/96/Rev.7)*, 1982.

²⁸ UN Security Council, *Repertoire of the practice of the Security Council*, 2017.

²⁹ UN Security Council, *Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council (S/96/Rev.7)*, 1982.

³⁰ Ibid.

³¹ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 31.

³² UN Security Council, *Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council (S/96/Rev.7)*, 1982.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ UN Security Council, *Structure*, 2017.

³⁶ Ibid.

concern of the Security Council.³⁷ These working groups consist of some or all of the Security Council Member States, and focus on regional issues, as well as improving the working methods of the Security Council itself.³⁸ The Security Council is also responsible for determining if, when, and where a peacekeeping operation is needed.³⁹ A peacekeeping operation is created through an adopted Security Council resolution, and the Council must monitor the operation through reports issued by the Secretary-General, as well as specific Security Council meetings.⁴⁰

Voting

Every Member State of the Security Council has one vote.⁴¹ Votes on all matters require a majority of nine Member States.⁴² However, if one of the five permanent members of the Security Council votes “no” on a matter of substance, such as a draft resolution, it does not pass.⁴³ This is known as the “veto power.”⁴⁴ In the 1950s, Security Council Member States, in particular the former Soviet Union, made frequent use of their veto power, but its usage declined in the 1960s, rising again in the 1970s and 1980s.⁴⁵ In the last decades, the use of the veto power has been on a comparatively low level.⁴⁶ In recent years, the Council has adopted many resolutions by consensus and has only been divided on a very limited number of issues, a prominent example being the case of Syria.⁴⁷

Mandate, Functions, and Powers

The mandate of the Security Council is to maintain international peace and security, and to take action whenever peace and security are threatened.⁴⁸ The Council’s authority is particularly relevant with respect to the UN’s four primary purposes, as specified in the *Charter of the United Nations*: maintaining international peace and security; developing friendly relations among nations; cooperating in solving international problems; promoting respect for human rights, as well as being a center for harmonizing the actions of nations.⁴⁹ Chapters VI and VII of the Charter specifically concern the Security Council and the range of actions that can be taken when settling disputes.⁵⁰ Although the main goal is always to dissolve the disputes, Chapter VI aims to achieve this by peaceful means, whereas Chapter VII explores further actions that can be taken.⁵¹ As noted in Chapter VI, the role of the Security Council is to determine the severity of the dispute brought before the body and the impact of the dispute internationally.⁵² The Security Council is responsible for making recommendations to broker peace that take into consideration the previously attempted measures by the parties involved.⁵³ Under Chapter VII, the Security Council has the authority to implement provisional measures aimed to de-escalate the situation.⁵⁴ If the provisional measures are ignored or are unsuccessful, the Security Council may decide to call upon military forces to act on behalf of the UN.⁵⁵ The Charter provides the Security Council with several powers to guarantee international security:

- **Sanctions:** Pursuant to Article 41 in the Charter, the Council can call on its members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or end violence.⁵⁶ These include economic sanctions, financial penalties and restrictions, travel bans,

³⁷ UN Security Council, *Repertoire of the practice of the Security Council*, 2017.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ UN Peacekeeping, *Role of the Security Council*, 2017.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 27.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Hanhimäki, *The United Nations: A Very Short Introduction*, 2008, p. 52.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Security Council Report, *In Hindsight: The Veto*, 2013; Security Council Report, *The Permanent Members and the Use of the Veto: An Abridged History*, 2013.

⁴⁶ Security Council Report, *The Permanent Members and the Use of the Veto: An Abridged History*, 2013.

⁴⁷ Security Council Report, *In Hindsight: Consensus in the Security Council*, 2014; Security Council Report, *In Hindsight: The Veto*, 2013.

⁴⁸ UN Security Council, *What is the Security Council?*, 2016.

⁴⁹ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 1.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid., Art. 34.

⁵³ Ibid., Art. 36.

⁵⁴ Ibid., Art. 40.

⁵⁵ Ibid., Art. 41.

⁵⁶ Ibid., Art. 41.

severance of diplomatic relations, and blockades.⁵⁷ It may further mandate arms embargoes, enforce disarmament, or call upon international criminal mechanisms to become active.⁵⁸

- **Diplomatic Tools:** The Council is mandated to investigate any dispute or situation that might lead to aggressions between states or other non-state groups or within states' territories.⁵⁹ To do so, it may "recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement; formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments; determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression, and recommend what action should be taken."⁶⁰
- **Military Action:** Aside from diplomatic instruments, the Council may also take military action against a state or other entity threatening international peace and security and may further decide on the deployment of troops or observers.⁶¹ Article 39 of the Charter states that the Council "shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression."⁶² The Council may also decide upon the deployment of new UN peacekeeping operations to be led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, as well as the extensions of their mandates and subsequent modification or drawdown of any troops.⁶³
- **Partnerships:** The Council also cooperates with a number of international and regional organizations as well as non-governmental organizations to implement its decisions.⁶⁴ Cooperation between the Security Council and UN-related organizations, such as the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, is significant, but partnerships with independent IOs, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the African Union (AU), are also of paramount importance for addressing a broad range of issues such as terrorism, disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and extreme violence from non-state actors.⁶⁵

Recent Sessions and Current Priorities

The topic of Africa has occupied the Council during much of 2017, with 18 resolutions adopted focusing on the continent in the first half of the year. This included resolution 2359 on "Peace and Security in Africa," which discussed the countries of the Sahel region, Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger.⁶⁶ The resolution commended the deployment of an AU force to the region.⁶⁷ Further, the Security Council noted both the slow implementation of the 2015 peace accords and the spread of violence throughout Mali, where more than 100 peacekeepers from the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), established in 2013 by the Council, have been killed.⁶⁸ The Council requested that the force take "a more proactive and robust posture" in the resolution extending MINUSMA's mandate through to 2018.⁶⁹

The other region receiving the most attention from the Council is the Middle East, on which five resolutions have been adopted in so far in 2017.⁷⁰ This included resolution 2362 on "The Situation in Libya," which reaffirmed existing measures in place in Libya, including an arms embargo, and asset freezes and travel bans targeting

⁵⁷ Biersteker et al., *The Effectiveness of United Nations Targeted Sanctions: Findings from the Targeted Sanctions Consortium*, 2013; UN Security Council, *United Nations Security Council: About*, 2014.

⁵⁸ Cousens & Malone, *Conflict Prevention in The UN Security Council: From the Cold War to the 21st Century*, 2004, p. 111.

⁵⁹ UN Security Council, *Functions and Powers*, 2017.

⁶⁰ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

⁶¹ *Ibid.*

⁶² *Ibid.*

⁶³ UN DPKO, *Forming a New Operation*, 2017.

⁶⁴ UN Security Council, *Repertoire of the practice of the Security Council*, 2017.

⁶⁵ UN Security Council, *Structure*, 2017; UN Security Council, *Middle East (S/RES/2118 (2013))*, 2013.

⁶⁶ UN Security Council, *Peace and Security in Africa (S/RES/2359 (2017))*, 2017, p. 1.

⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

⁶⁸ UN Peacekeeping, *Fatalities by mission, year, and incident type*, 2017, p. 1; UN Security Council, *The situation in Mali (S/RES/2100 (2013))*, 2013; UN Security Council, *The situation in Mali (S/RES/2364 (2017))*, 2017.

⁶⁹ UN Security Council, *The situation in Mali (S/RES/2364 (2017))*, 2017, p. 7.

⁷⁰ UN Security Council, *Resolutions adopted by the Security Council in 2017*, 2017.

individuals in violation of existing resolutions.⁷¹ The resolution further identified illegal export of petroleum as a key factor fueling Libya's conflict and undermining the Government of National Accord, and condemned the practice.⁷²

Turning to South America, in support of sustainable peacebuilding in Colombia after the 2016 agreement to end the decades-long civil war, the Council adopted resolution 2366 in July 2017.⁷³ This resolution welcomed the disarming of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP), and established a political mission in Colombia, the Verification Mission, which will report on the implementation of the peace accords.⁷⁴

Nuclear non-proliferation is also back on the Council agenda in 2017. In response to ballistic missile tests conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), and rising tensions on the Korean peninsula, two resolutions were adopted, this first of which condemned the tests and reiterated the demand of the complete dismantling of DPRK's nuclear weapons program, as well as setting out additional asset freezes and travel bans.⁷⁵ A second resolution, 2372, in response to further missile tests in July tightened the implementation of economic sanctions, introducing further restrictions on a diverse range of activities, from the financial sector to seafood.⁷⁶

In addition to focusing on regional issues, the Council has also attempted to address global, thematic problems in 2017. Four resolutions have been adopted focusing on "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts," the most recent in June concentrating specifically on preventing terrorist organizations from acquiring weapons.⁷⁷ A resolution was also adopted in June focusing on landmines.⁷⁸ While this topic has long been a focus of the international community, the increased use more recently of improvised explosive devices by terrorist and non-state actors has to be factored into the Council's thinking when addressing this problem.⁷⁹

Conclusion

As the international community faces increasing asymmetrical threats from non-state actors and transnational organized crime, the Security Council has tried to adapt to new working methods.⁸⁰ The peace agreement signed in Colombia demonstrates that no conflict, however long running, is intractable. The current situations in Somalia, Mali, Libya, and the Korean peninsula showcase the Security Council's inability to completely guarantee peace and security in all regions of the world, but they also represent the systemic divides among Council members.⁸¹ This lacking capacity can be partially explained by the Council's controversial decision-making process, specifically the veto power of the five permanent members.⁸² However, as the Security Council is the only UN body with the power to adopt binding resolutions, it is still the most important entity for maintaining international peace and security.⁸³

Annotated Bibliography

Charter of the United Nations. (1945). Retrieved 23 August 2017 from: <http://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/index.html>

As the fundamental principles of the Security Council are written down in the Charter, this document should be the first resource to consider. Article 23, which sets the membership structure

⁷¹ UN Security Council, *The situation in Libya (S/RES/2362 (2017))*, 2017, p. 1.

⁷² *Ibid.*, p. 2.

⁷³ UN DPI, *Security Council reiterates commitment to Colombian peace process*, 2016; UN Security Council, *Identical letters dated 19 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/RES/2366(2017))*, 2017, p. 1.

⁷⁴ UN Security Council, *Identical letters dated 19 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/RES/2366 (2017))*, 2017, p. 1.

⁷⁵ UN Security Council, *Non-proliferation/Democratic People's Republic of Korea (S/RES/2356 (2017))*, 2017, p. 1.

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 1-3.

⁷⁷ UN Security Council, *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts - Preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons (S/RES/2370 (2017))*, 2017, p. 1.

⁷⁸ UN Security Council, *Maintenance of International Peace and Security: Mine Action (S/RES/2365 (2017))*, 2017, p. 1.

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

⁸⁰ UN Security Council, *Structure*, 2017; UN Security Council, *1540 Committee*, 2015.

⁸¹ Security Council Report, *The Permanent Members and the Use of the Veto: An Abridged History*, 2013.

⁸² Security Council Report, *The Permanent Members and the Use of the Veto: An Abridged History*, 2013.

⁸³ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 24.

and articles 23 to 26, which discuss its basic functions and powers, are important for understanding both the structure and function of the Security Council. In addition, articles 27 to 32 explain the Council's voting procedure and its overall structure. The Charter can be particularly helpful for delegates in understanding the powers and limitations of the body. Delegates will find Chapters VI and VII most helpful when researching the mandate of the Security Council, and while at the conference simulating the body.

Council on Foreign Relations. (2013). *CFR Backgrounders: The UN Security Council* [Website]. Retrieved 23 August 2017 from: <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/un-security-council>

The Council on Foreign Relations provides a comprehensive introduction into the structure and work of the Security Council and therefore constitutes a good starting point for more detailed research. The website discusses the Council's powers and possibilities in taking coercive actions and addresses broadly discussed issues as criticism to the Security Council's structure as well as possible reforms. In addition, the website contains links on further resources on the Security Council and recent international security issues as, for example, the Global Governance Monitor, which evaluates the international regime for armed conflict.

Cousens, E., & Malone, D. (2004). *Conflict Prevention, The UN Security Council: From the Cold War to the 21st Century*. Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc.

This volume provides readers with a very detailed overview of the Security Council and its past and present challenges. This book touches upon many of the Council's themes, institutions, and operations, explaining the Council's structure in depth. As it discusses major operations on four continents, the document can be a useful tool for detailed analysis on various international security crises.

Hanhimäki, J. M. (2008). *The United Nations: A Very Short Introduction*, New York, New York: Oxford University Press.

While giving a brief overview of the history, structure, mandate, and perspective of the UN in general, this volume also includes a comprehensive section on the Security Council, as well as a separate chapter on peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The book offers a succinct explanation of the Council's political and operational constraints, including the veto power principle. It further provides delegates with a general overview of the importance of the Security Council for international security from its creation until now. Due to its comprehensive contents, this book may serve delegates as a first starting point for further research on the Security Council as well as on international power relations.

Security Council Report. (2017). *Security Council Report* [Website]. Retrieved 23 August 2017 from: <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/>

On the Security Council Report website, there is a separate page for each month that describes the action plan for the Security Council meetings that will take place. The website is updated monthly to reflect the current agenda of the Security Council. Delegates will be able to review these pages throughout the year, beyond what is discussed in the guide. Delegates will also find links to UN source documents on this website, which will be helpful during their research.

United Nations, Security Council. (2017). *What is the Security Council?* [Website]. Retrieved 23 August 2017 from: <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/>

This website gives an overview of the Security Council's history, its mandate, and its basic functions and powers. It should be considered one of the most important resources and a foundation for delegates' further research, since it provides detailed information on how the Security Council works in practice. The website contains the body's provisional rules of procedure and a section on frequently asked questions. The latter is particularly useful when it comes to understanding the Council's functions and powers. Delegates will find on this website detailed information about the Council's recent sessions as well as other worth noting outputs.

United Nations, Security Council, 7958th meeting. (2017). *Non-proliferation – Democratic People's Republic of Korea (S/RES/2356 (2017))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 16 July 2017 from: [http://undocs.org/S/RES/2356\(2017\)](http://undocs.org/S/RES/2356(2017))

This resolution was in response to ballistic missile tests conducted by DPRK, prohibited by the Council in a series of earlier resolutions. While the resolution condemns the missile tests and DPRK's nuclear program "in the strongest terms" and reaffirms existing sanctions, it does not add any new measures, reflected a level of disagreement within the P5 as to the best approach to this long-standing problem. This document shows delegates the Council's current approach to addressing conflict with DPRK, as well as demonstrating how to craft resolutions despite divisions within the Council on policy.

United Nations, Security Council, 7991st meeting. (2017). *The situation in Mali (S/RES/2364 (2017))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 16 July 2017 from: [http://undocs.org/S/RES/2364\(2017\)](http://undocs.org/S/RES/2364(2017))

This resolution, adopted in June 2017, renews and expands the mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). Following criticism that the mandate was insufficiently robust, and that the casualty rate of the 15,000-strong mission was too high, MINUSMA is instructed to take a "more proactive and robust posture." MINUSMA's main role is to support the faltering peace agreement, the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali, signed by the government and various armed groups in 2015. This document is a useful example of a peacekeeping mandate for delegates, as well as demonstrating appropriate language to strengthen the mandate of a mission.

United Nations, Security Council, 7997th meeting. (2017). *Identical letters dated 19 January 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Colombia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council (S/RES/2366 (2017))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 16 July 2017 from: [http://undocs.org/S/RES/2366\(2017\)](http://undocs.org/S/RES/2366(2017))

This resolution, adopted in July 2017, welcomes the signing of the final peace deal in Colombia between the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP). It welcomes the disarming of individual FARC members, and establishes a political mission in Colombia, called the Verification Mission, which will monitor and report on the implementation of the signed peace deal. Delegates will find a useful overview of the Council's current involvement with the Colombian peace process here, serving as an example of how the Council remains involved even after final peace accords are signed.

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