



# BEGINNER SECURITY COUNCIL I

## Background Guide

University of Colorado Boulder Model United Nations

Committee Chair: Lauren Goldfarb

- To maintain international peace and security

- To develop friendly relations among nations

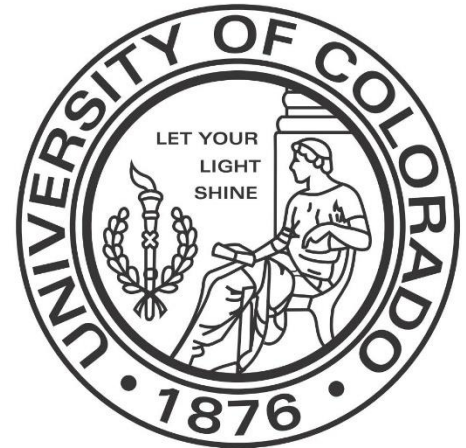
- To cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights

- To be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations



Dear Delegates,

I am delighted to welcome you to the 2016 University of Colorado Boulder Model United Nations Conference.



The three topics that will be covered under Beginner Security Council I are:

- I. Recommendation for the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations
- II. Addressing the failure of the ratification of final peace agreement between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), and the Colombian government
- III. Nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament

The role of the United Nations Security Council relates to the primary responsibility of international peace and security. Furthermore, this means that the delegations representing the 15 Members of the current Security Council are vital to international collaboration and policy on some of the most pressing issues facing the global platform. In this guide, background information will be provided on the topics presented as well as other resources to reference while researching for your delegation. We fully hope that you will explore member states positions and policies further. Many items will be brought up in the guide that may be a valuable starting point for your research. Prior to the conference each delegation should submit a position paper representing the views of their delegation on the issues in the agenda. Please review the guidelines for Model United Nations before attending and be familiar with policies on conduct and guidelines.

We hope to see you soon,

Lauren Goldfarb

Committee Chair

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## Introduction

“Under the Charter, the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions. The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security. The Security Council also recommends to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and the admission of new Members to the United Nations. And, together with the General Assembly, it elects the judges of the International Court of Justice.”

### **Mandate**

The UN Charter established six main organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council. It gives primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the Security Council, which may meet whenever peace is threatened.

According to the Charter, the United Nations has four purposes:

- To maintain international peace and security;
- To develop friendly relations among nations;
- To cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights;
- To be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations.

All members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, only the Security Council has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.

## Structure

### Basic Procedure:

I. When a complaint concerning a threat to peace is brought before it, the Council's first action is usually to recommend that the parties try to reach agreement by peaceful means. The Council may:

- set forth principles for such an agreement;
- undertake investigation and mediation, in some cases;
- dispatch a mission;
- appoint special envoys; or
- request the Secretary-General to use his good offices to achieve a pacific settlement of the dispute.

II. When a dispute leads to hostilities, the Council's primary concern is to bring them to an end as soon as possible. In that case, the Council may:

III. A chief concern is to focus action on those responsible for the policies or practices condemned by the international community, while minimizing the impact of the measures taken on other parts of the population and economy.

- issue ceasefire directives that can help prevent an escalation of the conflict;
- dispatch military observers or a peacekeeping force to help reduce tensions, separate opposing forces and establish a calm in which peaceful settlements may be sought.

Beyond this, the Council may opt for enforcement measures, including:

- economic sanctions, arms embargoes, financial penalties and restrictions, and travel bans;
- severance of diplomatic relations;
- blockade;
- or even collective military action.

### Links:

<http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/> -Security Council Info Page

<http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/faq.shtml> -Frequently Asked Questions Info Page

<http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/functions.shtml> - More Info on UN Mandate on Functions and Powers of S.C.

## Function and Power

Under the United Nations Charter, the functions and powers of the Security Council are:

- to maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations;
- to investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction;
- to recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
- to formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments;
- to determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken;
- to call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression;
- to take military action against an aggressor;
- to recommend the admission of new Members;
- to exercise the trusteeship functions of the United Nations in "strategic areas";
- 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.

### United Nations Charter Referencing Functions and Powers of Security Council

#### Article 24

1. In order to ensure prompt and effective action by the United Nations, its Members confer on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and agree that in carrying out its duties under this responsibility the Security Council acts on their behalf.
2. In discharging these duties the Security Council shall act in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations. The specific powers granted to the Security Council for the discharge of these duties are laid down in Chapters VI, VII, VIII, and XII.
3. The Security Council shall submit annual and, when necessary, special reports to the General Assembly for its consideration.

## Article 25

The Members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the present Charter.

## Committee Basics

### How to write your Position Paper

The Position Paper is a short document that is essentially a summary of your knowledge of the topic and the position your country plans to take when it enters committee. It typically contains four sections: Background of Topic, Past International Actions, Country Policy, and Possible Solutions. Position Papers are usually due before the conference.

- **Background of topic:** Background guide of the topic provided by the conference, Google, the news, Wikipedia (to frame the topic)
- **Past international actions:** UN website, your committee's website, key treaties or resolutions mentioned in your background guide, UN or NGO reports
- **Country policy:** CIA World Fact book, your country's foreign ministry website, domestic programs within your country, and your country's voting record on key treaties or resolutions
- **Possible Solutions:** NGO or think tank policy recommendations, past UN resolutions that you'd like to change or expand on, and your own creativity!

### How to write your Draft Resolutions (not applicable in Beginner Security Council)

**Perambulatory Clause:** The preamble of a draft resolution states the reasons for which the committee is addressing the topic and highlights past international action on the issue. Each clause begins with a present participle (called a **perambulatory** phrase) and ends with a comma.

- References to the UN Charter;
- Citations of past UN resolutions or treaties on the topic under discussion;
- Mentions of statements made by the Secretary-General or a relevant UN body or agency;
- Recognition of the efforts of regional or nongovernmental organizations in dealing with the issue;

- General statements on the topic, its significance and its impact.

**Operative Clause:** Operative clauses offer solutions to issues addressed earlier in a resolution through the perambulatory section. These clauses are action oriented and should include both an underlined verb at the beginning of your sentence followed by the proposed solution. Each clause should follow the following principals:

- Clause should be numbered;
- Each clause should support one another and continue to build your solution;
- Add details to your clauses in order to have a complete solution;
- Operative clauses are punctuated by a semicolon, with the exception of your last operative clause which should end with a period.

## Committee Structure

1. Each committee is led by a Chairperson who facilitates the discussion for the committee. The committee will start with the Chairperson taking roll call. Afterward, the committee will vote on which of the assigned topics to discuss first. After the topic is selected, the committee is ready to begin debate on the selected topic.

2a. There are three debate formats. The default debate format is called the **Speakers List**. This where delegates take turns making speeches in front of the room by the order that they are listed on the Speakers List as selected by the Chair. Speeches are typically around 1 minute or 1 minute and 30 seconds, but the speaking time can be changed by a majority vote from the delegates.

2b. After a certain number of speeches, the delegates may vote to change up the debate format to either **Moderated Caucus** or **Unmoderated Caucus**. Moderated Caucus is when the committee decides to focus on a sub-issue and get a back-and-forth debate going. Delegates will raise their placards to be called on to speak, and the Chairperson will call on speakers one-by-one until the Moderated Caucus time has expired.

2c. Unmoderated Caucus is when delegates are free to get up out of their seats and roam around the room to work with other countries with similar policies. The first one or two unmoderated caucuses will be spent finding allies, but afterward most of the unmoderated caucuses are spent writing [working papers](#), to be worked on with your caucus bloc (your group of allies). All delegates are encouraged to be a sponsor — an author — of a working paper. Committee will switch between Speakers List, Moderated Caucus, and Unmoderated Caucus until draft resolutions are complete, merged, and ready to be presented.

3. Resolutions will be presented either as they are ready or all at once near the end of the conference (sometimes this is called Formal Caucus). Some conferences allow a question-and-answer period after the presentations, and some conferences will also allow time to make mergers or amendments to the resolution.

4. Finally, all the countries in the committee will vote on whether or not they want a resolution to be passed. Afterward, committee will repeat the same process again for the second topic if one exists.

## Topic I: Recommendation for the appointment of the Secretary-General of the United Nations

The position of Secretary-General is one of great importance that requires the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity, and a firm commitment to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. The President of the General Assembly and of the Security Council invite candidates to be presented with proven leadership and managerial abilities, extensive experience in international relations, and strong diplomatic, communication and multilingual skills. Equal parts diplomat and advocate, civil servant and CEO, the Secretary-General is a symbol of United Nations ideals and a spokesman for the interests of the world's peoples, in particular the poor and vulnerable among them. The current Secretary-General, and the eighth occupant of the post, is Mr. Ban Ki-moon of the Republic of Korea, who took office on 1 January 2007.

Article 97 of the UN Charter provides that, “The Secretary-General shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the Security Council.” In other words, Article 97 creates a two-stage process: a recommendation by the Security Council followed by a decision by the General Assembly. While nothing in the Charter prevents the Security Council from recommending more than one candidate, General Assembly resolution 11 (I) of 24 January 1946 stipulates that it is desirable for the Security Council to “proffer one candidate only” and that has been the consistent practice. The Security Council adopts a resolution setting out its recommendation. This resolution has consistently been adopted at a private meeting of the Council, since rule 48 of the Provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council states, “Any recommendation to the



General Assembly regarding the appointment of the Secretary-General shall be discussed and decided at a private meeting”. In years when a number of candidates are being considered, the Council will conduct balloting before adopting its resolution. In years when only one candidate is being considered, the Council’s normal practice is to proceed directly, without prior balloting, to adopting a resolution, usually by acclamation.

**The new Secretary-General has been selected already. Nonetheless, this committee will proceed as though a decision had not been made on the matter, as this is a unique opportunity to simulate an infrequent process in Model UN. Ask the chair if you have questions on this.**

**Links:**

[http://www.un.org/pga/70/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2015/08/15-Dec-2015\\_Appointment-of-Secretary-General-15-December-2015.pdf](http://www.un.org/pga/70/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2015/08/15-Dec-2015_Appointment-of-Secretary-General-15-December-2015.pdf) - Example Letter Recommending a Secretary General

<http://www.un.org/pga/71/sg/> - Procedure on Selecting a New Secretary General

## Topic II: Addressing the Failure of the Ratification of the Final Peace Agreement between the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), and the Colombian government

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia—People's Army (FARC) is a guerrilla movement involved in the continuing Colombian armed conflict since 1964. It has been known to employ a variety of military tactics in addition to more unconventional methods, including terrorism. The FARC-EP, which formed during the Cold War period as a Marxist–Leninist peasant force, promotes a political line of agrarianism and anti-imperialism. The operations of the FARC–EP were funded by kidnap and ransom, illegal mining, extortion or taxation of various forms of economic activity; and the taxation, production, and distribution of illegal drugs. The United Nations has estimated that 12% of all killings of civilians in Colombian conflict have been committed by FARC and ELN guerrillas, and the rest, 80%, by government forces and paramilitaries.

Relations between the FARC-EP and local populations vary greatly depending on the history and specific characteristics of each region. In rural areas where the guerrillas have maintained a continuous presence for several decades, there are often organic links between the FARC and peasant communities. Such ties include shared generational membership and historical struggles dating back to the period of La Violencia. The FARC has also been able to provide limited social services in these regions, such as health care and education, including building minor infrastructure works in the form of rural roads. Peasants who have grown up in areas under historical FARC control may become accustomed to accepting them as the local authority. The guerrillas also attempt to keep the peace between peasants and drug traffickers in addition to regulating other aspects of daily life and economics.

On 25 January 2016, The Security Council moved to set up a United Nations political mission in Colombia, approving a team of international observers to monitor disarmament should the Colombian Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia–People’s Army (FARC-EP) reach a final

agreement to end Latin America's longest armed conflict. Through the resolution, the Council decided that the Mission would be made up of unarmed international observers, and a part of the tripartite mechanism that will monitor and verify the definitive bilateral ceasefire and cessation of hostilities, consistent with the wishes of the parties.

On June 23, 2016 a ceasefire accord was signed between the FARC Guerilla Army and the Colombian Government, in Havana, Cuba. Leaders of several Latin American countries which contributed to the deal, including Cuba and Venezuela, were present. Under the accord, the Colombian government "will support massive investment for rural development and facilitate the FARC's reincarnation as a legal political party." FARC "promised to help eradicate illegal drug crops, remove landmines in the areas of conflict, and offer reparations to victims." FARC leaders can avoid prosecution by acts of reparation to victims and other community work. Although a final peace agreement required a referendum, the accord had been seen as a historic step to ending the war that has gone on for fifty years. However, On October 2, 2016 Colombians voted and rejected a peace-deal with FARC by 50.2% to 49.8%.

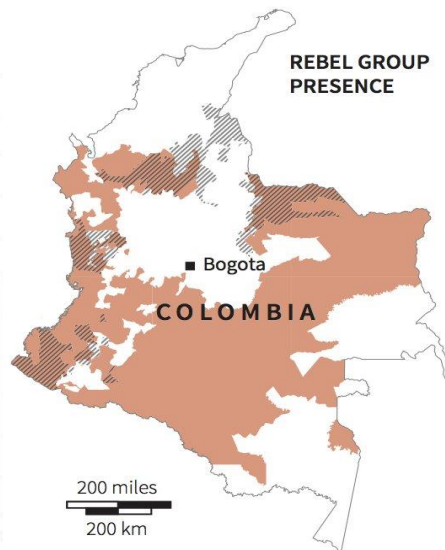
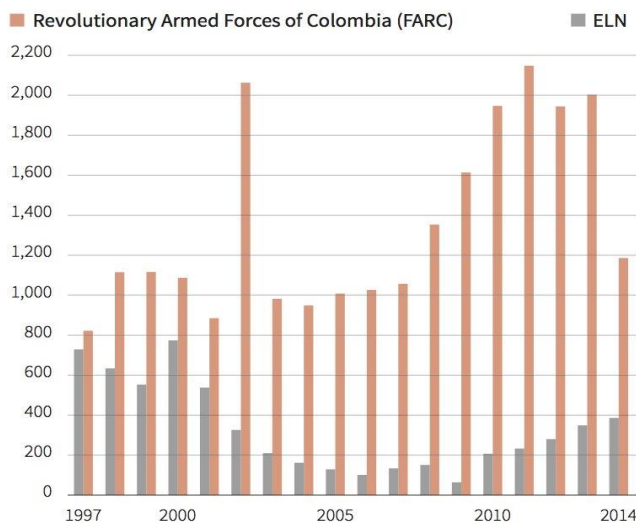
The delegation you represent must research and discuss whether or not it is the duty of the Security Council to take action against FARC for failing to ratify the peace agreement, or whether taking action is not the duty of the council, as an infringement of the national duties of Colombia.

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## Colombia rebel groups

Colombia's government and leftist FARC rebels signed a historic ceasefire deal on June 23, capping three years of peace talks. Smaller rebel group National Liberation Army (ELN) said recently it would also start peace talks.

### INCIDENTS OF ARMED CONFLICT



Sources: Report "What We Have Achieved" by the Peace and Reconciliation Foundation; Reuters  
R. Carrera, 24/06/2016

REUTERS

### Links:

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55241#.WAv4vOArI2w>

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=53091#.WAv4zeArI2w>

## Topic III: Nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear disarmament

Nuclear weapons are the most dangerous weapons on earth. One can destroy a whole city, potentially killing millions, and jeopardizing the natural environment and lives of future generations through their long-term catastrophic effects. The dangers from such weapons arise from their very existence. Although nuclear weapons have only been used twice in warfare—in the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945—about 22,000 reportedly remain in our world today and there have been over 2,000 nuclear tests conducted to date. Disarmament is the best protection against such dangers, but achieving this goal has been a tremendously difficult challenge.

The United Nations has sought to eliminate such weapons ever since its establishment. The first resolution adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1946 established a Commission to deal with problems related to the discovery of atomic energy among others. The Commission was to make proposals for, inter alia, the control of atomic energy to the extent necessary to ensure its use only for peaceful purposes. The resolution also decided that the Commission should make proposals for “the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction.” A number of multilateral treaties have since been established with the aim of preventing nuclear proliferation and testing, while promoting progress in nuclear disarmament. These include the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests In The Atmosphere, In Outer Space And Under Water, also known as the Partial Test Ban Treaty (PTBT), and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which was signed in 1996 but has yet to enter into force.



The primary objective of your delegation and the committee is to research and create a resolution that limit the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. Challenges include collaboration on the solutions which protect global nations from threat of nations whom have weapons of mass destruction without

infringing upon national sovereignty, and if your nation has weapons of mass destruction, to what extent do you want the United Nations to control how you use them?

**Links:**

<http://research.un.org/en/docs/disarmament/sc>

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/>

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=32223&#.WAv-yOArI2w>