



# BEGINNER SECURITY COUNCIL II

## Background Guide

University of Colorado Boulder Model United Nations  
Committee Chair: Tara Khan

- 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 pleased to welcome you to the 2016 University of Colorado Boulder Model United Nations Conference.



The topics under discussion by Security Council II are:

I. The protection of civilians and volunteers in UN Peacekeeping Operations

II. Countering IS in Syria and Iraq

III. Women's rights in situations of conflict, i.e. Boko Haram in Nigeria, Yazidi tribe in Kurdish regions of Iraq

Participating in this mock session of the Security Council of the United Nations is a highly important and valuable experience for any student. The matters we will discuss are austere, and I urge you to fully contemplate the solutions and consequences of each individual topic with thoughtfulness and engagement. It is critical to be aware of how the Security Council functions within the UN, and what our personal goals are for this conference. Corresponding to the official Security Council brief, "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.

We hope to see you soon,

Tara Khan

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

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.

<http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/rules/> - Detailed rules of Security Council Procedures

## 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.

## 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.

## I. The protection of civilians and volunteers in UN Peacekeeping Operations

Introduction:

United Nations Peacekeeping plays an essential role in establishing a presence of the UN throughout the world, and more specifically, conflict-ridden areas. The goal of this specific branch is to mainly aid countries torn by conflict create an environment through various methods that ensures lasting peace. It is the Security Council's responsibility to do its best to guarantee the safety and security for UN peacekeepers, while still working towards the goal of functioning as an effective mediator towards peace in situations conflict.

Function of Peacekeepers:

“Peacekeeping has proven to be one of the most **effective tools** available to the UN to assist host countries navigate the difficult path from conflict to peace.

Peacekeeping has unique strengths, including legitimacy, burden sharing, and an ability to deploy and sustain troops and police from around the globe, integrating them with civilian peacekeepers to advance multidimensional mandates.

UN Peacekeepers provide security and the political and peacebuilding support to help countries make the difficult, early transition from conflict to peace.”

(<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/peacekeeping.shtml>)

Fundamentally, peacekeeping is absolutely imperative to the UN as it acts as a materialization and enforcement of resolutions passed through the more diplomatic functions of the organization. However, it is a tricky trade. Because these regions are areas of contention, it is difficult to completely ensure the safety of acting member forces while still striving for solution and peace.



UN Peacekeeping is guided by three basic principles:

- Consent of the parties;
- Impartiality;
- Non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate.

It's important to acknowledge that there are many sub-sects of Peacekeepers. Involved in each operation are troops and military observers, police personnel, international civilian personnel, These operations are multidimensional, constantly evolving, and highly dynamic. Between facilitating the political process, protecting civilians, assisting in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants; supporting the organization of elections, protecting and promoting human rights and assisting in restoring the rule of law, the function of UN Peacekeepers is more complex than ever. (un.org)

Current Operations:

According to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, there are currently 16 UN peacekeeping operations deployed on four continents. Another aspect to consider during discussion within the Security Council, is that the UN does not have a military. Rather, it relies heavily on the contribution of members states. As of 2016, 213 countries contributed military and police personnel to UN Peacekeeping forces. Thus, this is intensely international arena with several people all coming from difference places with various objectives and all working towards the overarching goal of lasting peace. The duration of actives forces within a member nation is also meaningful to contemplate. For example, UN Peacekeepers have had a presence in Cyprus since 1964. They were set up by the Security Council, and have been there ever since. Additionally, they have also been in the Central African Republic since 2014 attempting to support the transition process in the reintegration and repatriation processes. Conclusively, there are a multitude of purposes for dispatching UN Peacekeeping forces throughout several countries in conflict around the world. To keep this unit as strong and secure as possible is of the utmost importance to maintain the functionality and enforcement of the United Nations diplomatic peacekeeping methods.

## II. Countering IS in Syria and Iraq

### Introduction:

In this day and age, through the media, cultures, and governments throughout the world, international terrorism has persisted to be an incredibly omnipresent thought of peril. Everyday, we hear more about the threat of ISIS, HAMAS, Boko Haram, etc. in terms of international impudence. It is the job of the Security Council to not only realistically measure how great of a threat these particular international terrorist organizations pose to specific countries worldwide, but also to impose counteracts to keep the works of global terrorism as minimal as possible.

### International Terrorism:

Terrorism, at some point in time, has impacted every country in the world. But, international terrorism is a somewhat new kind of warfare. Though it has only occurred a small number of times, relatively speaking, it has the potential to have detrimental effects in several aspects of a society. The FBI defines International Terrorism as having the following three characteristics:

- Involve violent acts or acts dangerous to human life that violate federal or state law;
- Appear to be intended (i) to intimidate or coerce a civilian population; (ii) to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or (iii) to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination, or kidnapping; and
- Occur primarily outside the territorial jurisdiction of the U.S., or transcend national boundaries in terms of the means by which they are accomplished, the persons they appear intended to intimidate or coerce, or the locale in which their perpetrators operate or seek asylum.

<https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/terrorism>

### Countering Terrorism:

There are several terrorist organizations in many countries throughout the globe. It is imperative for the Security Council to provide the guidance and assistance to member states seeking to address these forceful,

militant, and combative groups. As the most powerful body of the United Nations, it is also the responsibility of the Security Council to counteract these terrorist groups when and if they are posing a threat to international security. Prevailing questions such as, “*How much involvement should the Security Council procure?*”, “*What actions should the Security Council initiate?*”, and “*In what circumstances, if ever, should force be applied to combat international terrorist organizations?*” will be addressed throughout the discussion regarding countering terrorism pertaining to international threats.

### **III. Women's rights in situations of conflict**

#### **Introduction:**

Historically, the people who are most affected by conflict time and time again have been the average citizens of a country -men, women, and children. However, it is pressing to acknowledge that women especially are often severely impacted when being used as a tool during war. Sexual assault has been continuously used as a form of punishment and as a form of power. The trafficking of women and teens as an exchange or as commerce is a common warfare strategy as well. The protection of women in situations of conflict is a priority for the Security Council given the statistical evidence that they are a particular demographic most often victimized.

#### **Previous Security Council Involvement:**

The past involvement of the Security Council on the topic of women, peace, and security should be stressed to better create new resolutions and implementation tactics during our discussion. “The Security Council adopted resolution (S/RES/1325) on women and peace and security on 31 October 2000. The resolution reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and

security. Resolution 1325 urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts. It also calls on all parties to conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, in situations of armed conflict. The resolution provides a number of important operational mandates, with implications for Member States and the entities of the United Nations system.”

(<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/#resolution>) This is just a singular example of the importance the United Nations holds on involving women in peacekeeping and securing their rights during conflict.

Examples:

From Boko Haram kidnapping 276 girls in Nigeria, to Yazidi girls regularly being sold as sex slaves to members of ISIS in Iraq, the security of women is constantly being compromised in regions of conflict even in this day and age. In certain cultures and societies around the world, it is common for women to not have much of a voice when it comes to politics or conflict resolution. Ensuring that changes, and transitions towards women being able to defend themselves and participate in peacebuilding is absolutely imperative when working towards a more equal world.