



BEGINNER SECURITY COUNCIL III

Background Guide

University of Colorado Boulder Model United Nations
Committee Chair: Liam O'Dowd-White

- 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 III are:

- I. Developing Security Strategies to Protect Transport Infrastructure from Terrorism
- II. Developing Security Strategies to Protect Transport Infrastructure from Terrorism
- III. Addressing the Risk of the Zika Virus

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,

Liam O'Dowd-White

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:

- 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.

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.

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.

Topic I: Developing Security Strategies to Protect Transport Infrastructure from Terrorism

One of the most common targets for terrorism is transportation. Due to easy access, banality, and lack of security, ensuring the security of public transportation systems present a significant challenge to domestic law enforcement agencies. On trains in Madrid and the London tube, to Mumbai's commuter rail, even a stolen vehicle which drove over nearly a hundred people in Nice, France, securing public safety against the threat of terrorist sabotage or hijacking of vehicles becomes a primary concern/

The United Nations has established special organizations charged with ensuring transportation security, including the International Civil Aviation Organization. On September 22, 2016, representatives of the Council called on states to coordinate with the ICAO to address the evolving threat: terrorism. But aviation is not the only problem the Council has been concerned with. Maritime Transport Security has been an ongoing problem for years. Companies lose money having to take a different route to avoid pirates—or sea terrorism.

In Resolution 2309, the UNSC agreed that states must rally effort toward the protection of civilians from terrorist threats among aviation.

Nations called for:

- Enhanced screening and security checks
- Added numbers of facility security
- Better cooperation and information-sharing among States
- A requirement that airlines provide advance passenger information to national authorities
- Regional and international coordination of border control and law-enforcement.

Links:

<https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctif/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy>

http://www.esteri.it/mae/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/interviste/2012/10/20121004_marpirindonesia.html

<http://www.cfr.org/border-and-port-security/continued-vulnerability-global-maritime-transportation-system/p10074>

<http://www.cfr.org/border-and-port-security/continued-vulnerability-global-maritime-transportation-system/p10074>

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/terrorism/>

http://www.unece.org/trans/main/ac11/ac11_about.html

Topic II: Improving Safeguards for Protection of Medical and Humanitarian Personnel Delivering Aid in Syria

About the Crisis

Since 2011, Syria has been in an appalling social and political crisis that has displaced 4.8 million people. The amounts of humanitarian efforts that have been directed toward it are justified: 13.5 million Syrians currently need humanitarian assistance. This includes health care, prompting medical workers from organizations like Doctors Without Borders risk the lives of their volunteers to help serve those in desperate need of help. Not only are the medical teams risking their lives, but so are the teachers, the emergency response coordinators, and those that struggle to provide enough clean water. At least a thousand Syrians die every month, and in the wake of all of this bloodshed aid workers have found themselves more and more at risk of being caught in the line of fire. On September 19, 2016, 12 aid workers were believed to be dead after an airstrike by a Russian or Syrian aircraft had hit them. Although this was just a rare incident, there need to be long term solutions to ensuring the security of the aid workers in Syria. The ability to access certain regions of Syria is limited due to the amount of rebels afoot, the evolving battle fields, and the blockades developed by the Syrian government.

Resolution 2286 stated that terrorism has taken the lives of medical and humanitarian personnel while attacking their means of transport and equipment.

Topic III: Addressing the Risk of the Zika Virus

In February of 2016, the World Health Organization named the Zika virus an international public health emergency. By the quarterly report released in September, Zika was still a top concern for WHO. Zika continues to pose a threat to the United States and South America, as well as touching parts of Asia and even Africa. To address the threat of Zika, states must develop a concrete long-term strategy to fight against the pandemic.

