

**MINNESOTA YMCA
YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT
MODEL UNITED NATIONS**



**2016 DELEGATE
STUDY GUIDE**

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FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Hello delegates,

This guide provides a consistent overview of each topic that will be debated at the conference. It should be used to help you with your prep work – particularly as you work on your Position Papers. The guide for each topic is broken down into these sections:

Why this is important: An introductory statement about why this topic was chosen.

Background: This includes a very brief history of the topic. It will not tell the whole story of how the world has dealt with the topic at hand so it's important to do additional research before you come to the conference.

Issues to be addressed: This is a list of the minimum requirements a resolution should mention or resolve before it can move forward to the General Assembly.

Resources: For further reading, background, and current events on a topic look for these links in every topic paper.

There is a glossary for any phrases used in this guide which may not be familiar. If there are any ideas, terms or questions you have, do not hesitate to bring them forward – talk to your committee or organs Secretariat member or your adult advisor.

I look forward to working with you at the conference!

Sincerely,

Brent Horwart
2016 Secretary-General



MINNESOTA YMCA MODEL UNITED NATIONS

2016 MEMBER STATES

STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS FOR GRADES 7 – 8 ONLY!

NATIONS THAT REQUIRE 4 DELEGATES

Angola
China
Egypt
France
Japan

Malaysia
New Zealand
Russian Federation
Senegal
Spain

Ukraine
United Kingdom
United States
Uruguay
Venezuela

NATIONS THAT REQUIRE 1–3 DELEGATES

Afghanistan
Albania
Algeria
Argentina
Armenia
Australia
Austria
Azerbaijan
Barbados
Bangladesh
Belarus
Belgium
Bhutan
Bolivia
Bosnia & Herzegovina
Botswana
Brazil
Cambodia
Cameroon
Canada
Cape Verde
Central African Republic
Chad
Chile
Colombia
Costa Rica
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic
Denmark
Dominican Republic
Ecuador
El Salvador
Ethiopia
Fiji
Finland
Gabon

Georgia
Germany
Ghana
Greece
Guatemala
Haiti
Honduras
Hungary
India
Indonesia
Iran
Iraq
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Italy
Jamaica
Jordan
Kazakhstan
Kenya
Korea, People's Republic
(North)
Korea, Republic of (South)
Kuwait
Laos
Lebanon
Liberia
Libya
Lithuania
Luxembourg
Madagascar
Mexico
Morocco
Mongolia
Mozambique
Myanmar
Namibia

Netherlands
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Peru
Philippines
Poland
Portugal
Qatar
Romania
Rwanda
Samoa
Saudi Arabia
Singapore
Somalia
South Africa
Sri Lanka
Sudan
Sweden
Switzerland
Syria
Thailand
Togo
Tunisia
Turkey
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
Uzbekistan
Viet Nam
Yemen
Zambia
Zimbabwe

MINNESOTA YMCA MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2016 MEMBER STATES

STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS FOR GRADES 9 – 12 ONLY!

NATIONS THAT REQUIRE 7 DELEGATES

China	Russian Federation	United Kingdom	United States
France			

NATIONS THAT REQUIRE 6 DELEGATES

India	Japan
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NATIONS THAT REQUIRE 5 DELEGATES

Albania	Brazil	Italy	South Africa
Australia	Congo**	Korea, Republic of (South)	Switzerland
Bangladesh	Georgia	Kyrgyzstan	Togo
Bolivia	Germany	Morocco	Venezuela
Botswana	Ghana	Panama	

NATIONS THAT REQUIRE 2 – 4 DELEGATES

Algeria	Denmark	Libya	Saudi Arabia
Angola	Dominican Republic	Lithuania	Serbia
Antigua & Barbuda	Estonia	Macedonia	Sierra Leone
Argentina	Georgia	Malaysia	Slovakia
Austria	Ghana	Maldives	Somalia
Belarus	Greece	Mauritius	Spain
Benin	Guatemala	Montenegro	Sudan
Burkina Faso	Haiti	Namibia	Sweden
Canada	Ireland	Nepal	Togo
Chad	Jordan	Netherlands	Tunisia
Chile	Kenya	Pakistan	Turkmenistan
Colombia	Kyrgyzstan	Panama	Uganda
Congo**	Kuwait	Paraguay	United Arab Emirates
Cote d'Ivoire	Latvia	Qatar	Viet Nam
Croatia	Lesotho	San Marino	

NATIONS THAT REQUIRE 1 – 3 DELEGATES

Afghanistan	Dominica	Luxembourg	South Sudan
Andorra	Dominican Republic	Madagascar	Sri Lanka
Armenia	Equatorial Guinea	Malawi	St. Vincent & Grenadines
Azerbaijan	Eritrea	Mali	Suriname
Bahamas	Fiji	Malta	Swaziland
Bahrain	Gabon	Marshall Islands	Syria
Barbados	Gambia	Moldova	Tajikistan
Belarus	Grenada	Monaco	Tanzania
Belize	Guinea	Montenegro	Thailand
Bhutan	Guinea Bissau	Mozambique	Timor-Leste
Bosnia & Herzegovina	Guyana	Myanmar	Tonga
Brunei Darussalam	Hungary	Nicaragua	Turkey
Bulgaria	Iceland	Niger	Tuvalu
Cambodia	Iran	Norway	Uzbekistan
Cameroon	Iraq	Oman	Vanuatu
Canada	Ireland	Palau	Yemen
Cape Verde	Israel	Papua New Guinea	Zambia
Central African Republic	Kiribati	Peru	
Chad	Korea, North	Poland	
Chile	Laos	Romania	
Comoros	Lebanon	Rwanda	
Costa Rica	Lesotho	Samoa	
Cyprus	Liberia	Seychelles	
Czech Republic	Libya	Sierra Leone	
Denmark	Liechtenstein	Singapore	
Djibouti	Lithuania	Solomon Islands	

*** Yes, there really are two Congos – slightly similar names, but different nations.*

MINNESOTA YMCA MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2016 COUNTRY ASSIGNMENTS

STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS FOR GRADES 9 – 12 ONLY!

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Albania	France	Pakistan
Antigua & Barbuda	Georgia	Panama
Argentina	Germany	Portugal
Australia	Ghana	Russian Federation
Austria	Greece	San Marino
Bangladesh	Guatemala	Serbia
Benin	Haiti	South Africa
Bolivia	Honduras	Sudan
Botswana	India	Sweden
Brazil	Italy	Switzerland
Burkina Faso	Japan	Togo
China	Kazakhstan	Trinidad & Tobago
Colombia	Korea, Republic of (South)	Tunisia
Congo**	Kuwait	Turkmenistan
Congo, Democratic Republic of**	Kyrgyzstan	Uganda
Croatia	Mauritania	United Kingdom
Estonia	Mauritius	United States
Finland	Nepal	Zimbabwe

SECURITY COUNCIL

Angola	Malaysia	Ukraine
China	New Zealand	United Kingdom
Egypt	Russian Federation	United States
France	Senegal	Uruguay
Japan	Spain	Venezuela

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Australia	Jamaica	United Kingdom
Brazil	Japan	United States
China	Morocco	Uganda
France	Russian Federation	
India	Slovakia	
Italy	Somalia	

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Albania	Germany	Panama
Algeria	Ghana	Paraguay
Bangladesh	India	Philippines
Belgium	Indonesia	Portugal
Bolivia	Kenya	Qatar
Botswana	Korea, Republic of (South)	Russian Federation
Burundi	Kyrgyzstan	Saudi Arabia
China	Latvia	Slovenia
Congo**	Macedonia	South Africa
Cote d'Ivoire	Maldives	Switzerland
Cuba	Mexico	Togo
Ecuador	Mongolia	United Arab Emirates
El Salvador	Morocco	United Kingdom
Ethiopia	Namibia	United States
France	Netherlands	Venezuela
Georgia	Nigeria	Viet Nam

RESOURCES & GLOSSARY

RESOURCES

In addition to doing research about countries and topic areas, it is a good idea to research a bit about how Model UN programs and the world work.

www.bestdelegate.com

While many of the resources here are related to competitive Model UN activities (YIG's Model UN does not emphasize competition), there is a host of amazing info here.

www.mnyig.org

Look under the "Model UN Preparation" menu . . . go to "Model UN Resources". There is a collection of sites – for UN Info, Country Info, Research & Participation Info and background on different Global Organizations.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Adjudication: The legal process of resolving a dispute.

Analytcs: Discovery and communication of meaningful patterns in data.

Convention: A general agreement on something.

Global North and South: These are preferred terms in political science when discussing development of countries; to break the racist idea of the "first and third worlds."

Rapporteur: A person appointed to an organization to report on its findings.

Reparation: Compensation or satisfaction given to a person/group that has been wronged.

Responsibility to Protect (R2P): A doctrine in international politics which details the international community's obligations to civilian populations in the event their state is unable to ensure their safety.

OCED: Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Organized to help stimulate free trade and economic growth.

State: A synonym for country. State is used primarily in international relations style writing to make it clear for international readers.

PHILOSOPHY

STRUCTURE

The Minnesota YMCA Model United Nations is a simulation of the United Nations assembly. You will find a diagram of the structure of the real United Nations on the following page. For logistical and educational reasons, the YMCA Model United Nations only simulates certain parts of the actual United Nations. Emphasis is placed on simulating the United Nations for the maximum benefit of the delegates. There are a number of committees and topics in the real United Nations which are not being dealt with at this conference due to time and logistical constraints.

THE UNITED NATIONS' ROLE

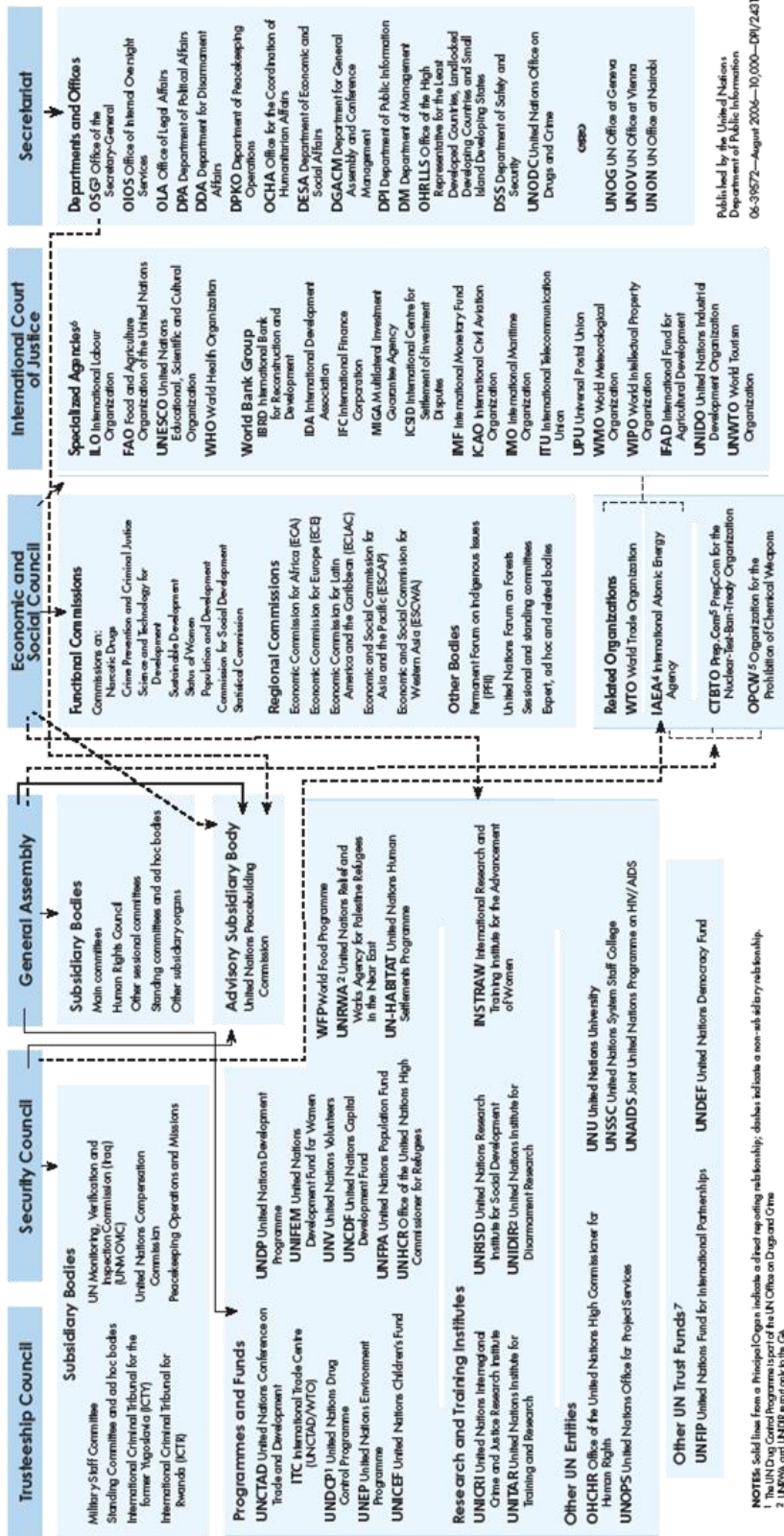
When discussing issues and resolutions at the Model United Nations conference, it is important that the delegates realize what the United Nations is. The United Nations is not a world government. It is an international forum, where a group of sovereign nations meet to discuss international issues. The United Nations can offer solutions to international problems, but it is not in a position to force its member countries to accept any decisions. The reason the United Nations exists is to foster greater communications between countries. In order for the United Nations to produce solutions to problems, there must be a great deal of negotiation. This is one of the skills which will be key to success at this Model United Nations.

International diplomacy has been most successful when nations have found the room to compromise between their national policy and national interests. National policy is a country's original stance on an issue. National interests are a country's response to current events. International diplomacy is the search for common ground between national policy and national interests.

The product of the approach that will be taken at this conference will be resolutions which have the support of the key nations involved in each issue. A passed resolution which is strongly contested by a key nation is not a successful resolution. Only one resolution per topic area will emerge from each committee. This is because international diplomacy is a series of near-consensus compromises by nations with competing views. Therefore, to be effective, a good resolution must be approved by all major players. Resolutions among nations are possible, but they require compromise.

The United Nations System

Principal Organs



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NOTES: Solid lines from a Principal Organ indicate a direct reporting relationship; dashes indicate a non-absolute relationship.

1. UN Drug Control Programme is part of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.
2. The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs is a subsidiary body of the Security Council.
3. The United Nations Ethics Office and the United Nations Ombudsman's Office report directly to the Secretary-General.
4. IAEA reports to the Security Council and the General Assembly (IGAD).
5. The CTBTO Prep-Com and OPCW report to the GA.
6. Specialized agencies are autonomous organizations working with the UN and each other through the coordinating machinery of the ECOSSC at the international level, and through the Chief Executive Board for coordination (CEB) at the inter-organizational level.
7. For more information on the United Nations system, visit the website of the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI) at www.un.org.

GUIDE TO DELEGATE PREPARATION

Status Reports help delegates develop a better understanding of their country's economic, political, and social history. The Status Reports are completed by your country group as a whole and should be a group effort. **THE STATUS REPORT SHOULD BE COMPLETED FIRST – BEFORE THE POSITION PAPERS FOR YOUR COUNTRY.**

Position Papers help prepare delegates for intellectual debate and creative problem solving in committees. Position Papers are the basis of General Assembly, Human Rights Council, ECOSOC and Security Council resolutions and should be completed by General Assembly, HRC, ECOSOC and Security Council delegates, with input and assistance from other members of the country group.

Memorials help ensure an exciting experience for ICJ members, who will be able to choose the most well researched and pertinent cases for hearing. Delegates of the General Assembly, ECOSOC, and Security Council will gain the opportunity to explore their role in the United Nations as a whole.

All these projects require ample research. One of the most rewarding experiences of Model United Nations comes through this process of researching and working with fellow delegates in preparing for the conference. The following pages will provide you with information on how to prepare your status reports, position papers, and memorials.



WRITING STATUS REPORTS

A Status Report in the Model United Nations program is a form designed to guide your research about the country that you are representing. It is intended not only to prepare you, but it will be available to other delegates at the conference wishing to have quick access to information about your country. It is important, therefore, to prepare well-written, in depth answers to the questions asked.

These questions will include areas such as History, Culture, Politics, Religion and Economy. It is important to understand your country's situation in these areas because they are the main factors in the formulation of policy. Because these forms are meant to be a source of facts for both you and others, they should be answered in a non-biased manner. Please use **at least** three separate sources in your paper so you get the best possible info.

Only one report per country is required. This report should be researched, organized and written by all the members representing your country, working as a group. A group project will help you discuss and understand the important issues which your country is facing.

Report forms are available at the YIG website (www.mnyig.org). Remember, these forms are designed to guide your research. They will not cover everything you may need to know and you are encouraged to include any other information that you feel is important.

WRITING POSITION PAPERS

A Position Paper is your country's official opinion on a topic being addressed by the Model United Nations during its session. (Be sure to check and see if your country is already assigned to one or more committees). **Your country must submit a position paper for each topic in each committee or organ you are represented in.** This applies for all General Assembly committees, HRC, ECOSOC and the Security Council

The Position papers must be submitted on the official form available from the YIG website (www.mnyig.org). One page is all that is required. Keep the Position Paper short, concise and thoughtful. Be accurate in your presentation. You should be presenting the official opinion of the country you are representing, not your personal opinion or an opinion that may be unrealistic or unduly controversial. You have some freedom to state the position of your country as you wish. It could be helpful to include statistics and give possible solutions to problems. Position Papers will be used as a lead-in to resolutions in committees and Organs.

RESOLUTIONS – FOR AT THE CONFERENCE

Resolutions are the basic, formal statements which the United Nations produces to express its collective opinion, suggest a course of action, or commit one or more of its various organs to a specific activity.

When a consensus is reached on a topic of debate within a committee of the General Assembly, Human Rights Council, Economic and Social Council, or within the Security Council, the body expresses its decision in the form of a Resolution.

While most resolutions state policy, some may include an entire treaty, declaration or convention. Resolutions may either be general statements or directions for specific organizations, bodies, or states. They may condemn actions of a state, call for collective action, or, as in the case of the Security Council, require economic or military sanctions.

There will be a **limit of one resolution per topic area**, which can pass through each committee. Thus, a great deal of negotiation needs to take place in committee to get a resolution that most countries (at least seventy percent) can agree to. In addition, there will be no individual authors to any resolution. The committee itself is considered the author.

The process of writing a resolution begins in the **Introductory Stage**. During this stage, each country that wants to see certain items in a passed resolution states their position. These stances can come directly from the position papers submitted by member nations.

At this point, the **Negotiation Stage** begins. Invariably, certain delegations will find fault with a number of the clauses in each working paper. These delegations need to negotiate with other countries in order to find a compromise position which at least a majority of countries can agree to. These negotiations will take place during caucus time.

After the negotiation stage has run its course, the **Resolution Stage** begins. At this point, if there are still delegations who disagree with the resolution, they can offer amendments to the draft resolution. Amendments to resolutions include additions, deletions, or changes in draft resolutions.

After all of the amendments have been handled, and there is no more debate (or debate has been closed), the **Voting Stage** begins. If there are still delegations which disagree with certain parts of the resolution, they can move to divide the question into a number of parts. Otherwise voting proceeds as usual. If a majority votes in favor, the resolution passes and goes to the General Assembly Plenary.

RESOLUTION FORMAT GUIDE

HEADING

When presented to an organ or committee, all draft, plenary and other resolutions must be written on the proper forms as provided by the Secretariat. Information on the form must include the organ, Committee and Topic Area.

BODY

The resolution is written in the format of a long sentence. There are format rules for resolutions, just as there are grammatical rules for sentences.

1. The resolution begins with the General Assembly for all General Assembly committees and with the Economic and Social Council for all ECOSOC resolutions. The Specialized Agencies use their own names as the introductory line. The rest of the resolution consists of clauses with the initiating phrases of each clause underlined.
2. The next section, consisting of Perambulatory Clauses, describes the problem being addressed, recalls past actions taken, explains the purpose of the resolution and offers support for the operative clauses that follow. Each clause and the preamble begin with an underlined word and ends with a comma.
3. Operative Clauses are numbered and state the action to be taken by the body. These clauses all begin with present tense, action verbs, which are generally stronger words than those used in the Preamble. Each operative clause is followed by a semi-colon except the last, which ends with a period.

CONTEXT

A well-written resolution demonstrates:

1. Familiarity with the problem. Relevant background information and previous United Nations actions are included.
2. Recognition of the issues. Arguments on the topic are specified early.
3. Conciseness. Every clause and phrase should have a purpose.
4. Good form. An otherwise sound resolution will suffer from clumsy grammar and sloppy form.



INITIATING PHRASES FOR A RESOLUTION

PREAMBULATORY CLAUSES

Acknowledging	Endorsing	Mindful
Affirming	Expressing...	Noting...
Anxious	-appreciation	-further
Appreciating	-deep appreciation	-with approval
Aware	Expecting	-with deep concern
Bearing in mind	Fulfilling	-with regret
Being convinced	fully...	-with satisfaction
Cognizant	-aware	Observing
Concerned	-bearing in mind	Realizing
Confident	Grieved	Recalling
Conscious	Guided by	Recognizing
Considering	Having	Referring
Contemplating	-adopted	Regretting
Convinced	-approved	Reiterating
Declaring	-considered	Seeking
Deeply disturbed	-decided	Stressing
Desiring	-examined further	taking...
Deploring	-received	-into account
Determined	-regard for	-note
Emphasizing	-reviewed	Welcoming
Encouraged	Keeping in mind	viewing with...
		-apprehension

OPERATIVE CLAUSES

Accepts	Directs	Instructs
Adopts	Emphasizes	Notes...
Affirms	Encourages	-with appreciation
Appeals	Endorses	-with approval
Appreciates	Expresses...	-with interest
Approves	-its appreciation	-with satisfaction
Authorizes	-its conviction	Reaffirms
Calls upon	-its regret	Recognizes
Commends	-its sympathy	Recommends
Concurs	-its thanks	Regrets
Condemns	-the belief	Reiterates
Confirms	-the hope	renews its appeal
Congratulates	Further...	Repeats
Considers	-invites	Suggests
Decides	-proclaims	Supports
Declares	-reminds	Takes note of
Deplores	-recommends	Transmits
Designates	-resolves	Urges

MINNESOTA YMCA MODEL UNITED NATIONS SAMPLE RESOLUTION

The General Assembly,

Acknowledging the fact that cultural opinions sometimes do not allow women to receive a formal education,

Keeping in Mind it is illegal in some countries to educate women and girls,

Adapting to this knowledge,

Appreciating the cultures and religions of women and their families, it is not expected that they receive an education if it is to interfere with their beliefs,

Recognizing the danger women are in while traveling to school,

1. Suggests that women under the age of eighteen (18) are accompanied by a guardian or another respected adult to and from school, circumstances permitting,
2. Encourages that women who choose not to receive an education on account of religious beliefs are still taught the basic skills of reading, writing, and simple mathematics, so that they can be economically viable citizens for both themselves and their family,
3. Expects that women have an equal opportunity to be hired for a job and that their pay is equal to that of men in the same rank.
4. Encourages all countries to legalize the education of women
5. Endorses the fact that donations can be made and taxes can be paid to provide funding for the needs of schools to be made up for the new female students.

WRITING ICJ MEMORIALS

To present or respond to a case to the Model International Court of Justice, a party must prepare and present a Memorial. A Memorial must contain three basic elements:

- 1) Claims of Fact
- 2) Assertions of Law
- 3) Prayers for Relief

If a nation is sued in the ICJ, it will be required to submit a counter-memorial, due before the first day of the Model United Nations. Countries being sued will be notified and will be supplied with a copy of the memorial brought against them.

CLAIMS OF FACT

Applicants and Respondents must briefly outline the issues and facts relevant to the case to be decided by the ICJ. Claims of Fact detail the events that lead to the dispute pending before the court. Historical, legal and political research will be helpful in finding and stating the relevant facts. While facts must be truthfully stated, they may be written in the best light of the party preparing the Memorial.

ASSERTATIONS OF LAW

This section is the most important part of the Memorial. It contains the relevant principles and sources of law such as international treaties, international conventions, customary law, previous ICJ decisions, United Nations Resolutions and the works of noted international law writers and jurists.

PRAYERS FOR RELIEF

In this section, each party requests that the court rule and act in their favor. Applicants will generally ask the court to direct the Respondent to correct the wrong or injustice committed or applicants will seek sanctions or a simple declaration of the rights and duties that exist between the disputing parties. Respondents generally request a dismissal of the case or seek counter-relief against the Applicant(s).

To find ideas for Memorials, watch your daily newspaper and magazines for current world events. **All nations sitting on the ICJ are required to author at least one memorial. Nations not sitting on the ICJ are strongly encouraged to write and submit a memorial.**

THERE IS NO FORM FOR MEMORIALS – they are simply typed in the same format as the sample Memorial and are limited to 3 pages.

MINNESOTA YMCA MODEL UNITED NATIONS SAMPLE ICJ MEMORIAL

THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

The Scientists and the People of Japan: *Applicants*

The United States of America: *Respondents*
The International Whaling Community

Claim:

That the United States of America and the IWC (hereinafter known as the Respondents) have not given Japanese Scientists the opportunity to study the Southern Hemisphere Mince Whales because of claims of killing too many whales in the process,

That the Japanese government has issued permits to the Japanese nationals who give them the right to kill the Southern Hemisphere whales for scientific studies,

That the Japanese Scientists are bringing its whaling activities into conformance with the regulations of the IWC,

That Japan is conducting these scientific experiments for the improvement of all countries' knowledge of the Minke Whale,

Assert:

That such regulations are not in accord with the accepted norms of decisions and regulations made within the United States,

That such a regulation is infringing on the rights of the Japanese Scientists to make new discoveries that could seriously change the world in which we live in,

Prayers:

That the court can find that such regulations are unjustifiable;

That the court orders the Respondents to rectify their regulations on Japan's Scientists so they can kill a minimum number of Minke Whales to continue their complex study.

THE CONFERENCE

THE ROLE OF THE DELEGATE

Each delegation to the Minnesota YMCA Model United Nations conference faces an exciting, challenging task in preparing to represent a United Nations Member. You must do some intensive research on a variety of topics and be prepared to clearly state the position actually held by your country. Moreover, you must be prepared to make impromptu speeches explaining your country's position on a developing crisis.

An important element of the conference is the depth of responsibility which is placed on the individual delegate to adequately prepare for the Model UN so as to ensure that constructive and informed discussion of the issues will take place.

DELEGATE RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1) Attend all Delegation meetings and participate in practice simulations of United Nations organs.
- 2) Research your country as a whole and prepare a Status Report, Position Paper and Memorial for the Assembly.
- 3) Review the purposes, structure and major activities of the United Nations. Every Delegate should study carefully the Rules of Procedure for the organ in which they are involved.
- 4) Be prepared to participate in caucusing sessions during the conference with them wherein you will agree on common goals and courses of action to meet those goals.
- 5) Attend all scheduled functions during the Conference.



CAUCUSING

The bulk of United Nations negotiations occurs in caucus groups. In these sessions delegates meet informally, without public scrutiny, to formulate positions and to negotiate with other nations. Amendments to resolutions can be discussed and differences of opinion worked out so that the committee can take some action.

Productive caucusing is not confined solely to your bloc. Agreement on a proposal is only possible if nations of varying political and geographic areas can meet to discuss their differences. As the number of nations that support a view increases, there is a much greater chance for concrete action to take place. This increases the importance of constructive caucusing, rather than confrontation. Delegates to the Model United Nations are encouraged to contact other Delegates before the conference (the Summit is a good opportunity) to discuss common objectives and strategies for realizing those objectives.

Caucus groups may be thought of in terms of voting blocs; that is, Member States which tend to vote together on particular issues in the United Nations. For the purposes of our Model United Nations, we shall consider Caucus Groups as informally organized and structured groups of nations who tend to vote together.

The purpose of the Member States forming Caucus groups is to use the United Nations as a forum for expressing official opinions and as an instrument for protecting their own national interests. Since neither of these goals could be accomplished with all nations pulling in the opposite directions of individual national interests, it has become necessary to combine the common interests of individual nations in an effort to exert a greater amount of political influence within the United Nations.

Caucusing will take place primarily during the periodic recesses of the General Assembly committees and ECOSOC. Countries are encouraged to set up their own bloc meetings with the help of officers or Secretariat members throughout the conference. Countries are also encouraged to apply to host informal gatherings at the conference. Countries may sign up for receptions by the first night of Model UN. Snacks and beverages will be provided for these meetings. For these gatherings, host countries must indicate which other countries they want to invite. See the [Special Agencies](#) section, for more information.



ROLE PLAYING

The YMCA Youth in Government Model United Nations program is a simulation of the actual United Nations, where the countries of the world send delegates to act as representatives of the governments of those countries. Your role as a participant in the Model United Nations is to ACT as a representative of the country you are representing for the conference. Your primary goal is to give your government's views on all the issues in front of your organ, whether you are a member of the General Assembly, ECOSOC or the Security Council. The key here is that you must get into character and play the role of the delegate like you would a character in a play almost. The most important things to remember are:

- You won't be able to know everything about your country, but the most important tool you have is RESEARCH. The more you know about your country, the government and the people who live there, the better you will be able to make EDUCATED GUESSES about how they would feel about issues.
- Pay special attention to your country's ECONOMIC, RELIGIOUS and EDUCATIONAL status. Understanding how your country's trade and overall economic status, primary (or official) religion and overall rate of literacy and education will be key to understanding how your country will be able to respond to many UN issues-not all will be able to support certain resolutions because of religious attitudes, etc...
- The closer you stay to character, the more FUN you will have. Part of this conference's appeal is that you will spend three days acting like someone who most likely has had a very different life than yours, and will therefore have very different views than yours.
- Remember that you are representing your country's views, and NEVER YOUR OWN VIEWS. While it is tempting to respond as you personally feel, you must remember that this conference is not about speaking how we feel, but as world leaders feel.
- When in doubt about how your country might feel about something, look first to the views of delegates representing countries which might have similar views. In order to do this, you need to understand what countries have many things in common with yours. The only real way to know which countries are like yours is, again, RESEARCH. In addition, this will help you build coalitions and "blocs".



SPECIAL AGENCIES

CONFERENCE RESOURCE CENTER

The Conference Resource Center serves as a great resource for delegates throughout the conference. If you have any questions or simply want to update or supplement your research, you may be able to find what you need at the Conference Resource Center. The Conference Resource Center will be the center of **crisis, informal caucus, and communication/reference** coordination. The Conference Resource Center will be open throughout the conference as a place where delegates may find guidance and information.

The Conference Resource Center will have files of status reports, position papers, and memorials for your disposal. The Conference Resource Center will also have supplementary resources about United Nations Member States acquired from embassies, and other reference materials. Topic information collected by the Secretariat will also be available at the Conference Resource Center.

INFORMAL RECEPTIONS

A Secretariat member may help organize informal caucus meetings. Delegates may also coordinate with the Secretariat members during the conference if they want to host other caucus meetings.

MODEL UNITED NATIONS NEWSPAPER

Student editorial staff will write, publish and distribute a daily newspaper to inform participants of conference events. This newspaper will also outline various opinions on specific issues and provide insight on activities of special interest to delegates and advisors, as well as provide the official text of any resolutions coming before any organ of the Model United Nations.



CRISIS SITUATIONS

At various times over the course of the conference, the Crisis Coordinators will be introducing crisis situations. Crises will involve a conflict between a number of nations, and will reflect the current events of the international world. All nations affected by any crisis will be informed of the situation in the form of a communiqué, either from the Secretariat directly or from their "Home Government." Each country should be prepared to deal with any crisis relevant to them. Should a crisis develop, the Security Council shall be the organ which will coordinate any discussion and/or resolution of the crisis. There will be two types of crises that will take place during the conference:

- 1) **Crises of Peace and Security** will be discussed and voted upon by the Security Council. Only resolutions that have passed through the Security Council on these matters and have been sent to other organs for consideration will be discussed in the General Assembly or ECOSOC. Any delegation that would like to submit a proposal or draft resolution to the Security Council on these matters may do so. The Council may invite any Member to participate, without vote, in the discussion of any matter which the Council considers to be of vital interest to said United Nations Member.
- 2) **Crises of Economic, Social, Cultural, or Humanitarian Nature** may be discussed in the General Assembly or ECOSOC, if a draft resolution has been prepared and is submitted to the proper officers.

If you are informed of a crisis involving the vested interests of the United Nations Member which you represent:

- 1) Communicate with your Home Government as directed by the Secretariat in your area.
- 2) Meet with your country members to work out a strategy.
- 3) Meet with other nations, friendly or unfriendly, who are also involved in the crisis.
- 4) Draft a resolution or proposal for the appropriate organ suggesting a response to a crisis which it is discussing.
- 5) If the organ has not already invited you, send a petition to the Secretariat asking to be allowed to participate in the discussion.



TIPS FOR DELEGATE PREPARATION

One of the most important ingredients to a positive Model United Nations experience is adequate delegate preparation. Delegates must research their countries before they arrive at the conference. This is absolutely essential to the success of the conference. While they need not be experts on international affairs, it is important that delegates look toward the proper sources for information. In addition to research at a local library, here are a few other ideas:

1. **Compete the required Status Report.** These documents serve as a great starting place for a country delegation's research. To participate in Model United Nations, each country must turn in a completed Status Report before the conference. Since a completed Status Report makes a good resource, it is highly recommended that each country make multiple copies of this document and bring them along to the conference.
2. **Keep informed of current affairs.** Since global affairs can change quickly, the Internet and newspapers are often your best source of information. Delegates should start a file that relates to the current state of their nation and its relationship to the rest of the world.
3. **Contact embassies of UN missions.** Embassies can be an extremely valuable source of current, hard to find information. The UN website has very helpful links to most missions and can be found on the YIG website, www.mnyig.org. There are several useful research links on the site!
4. **When in doubt, ask a lot of questions.** School or community librarians will be able to suggest other resources. Also, as always, don't hesitate to call the State Office. The State Staff will be happy to answer questions!

SENIOR SECURITY COUNCIL JUNIOR SECURITY COUNCIL



2016 TOPICS

Defining “Terrorist” vs. “Freedom Fighter”
Artificial Islands

THE SECURITY COUNCIL

BACKGROUND

The organ which has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security is the Security Council. The Council is composed of five permanent members-- China, France, The Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United States, and 10 non-permanent members, elected by the General Assembly for two year terms and not eligible for immediate re-election. The number of non-permanent members was increased from six to ten by an amendment of the Charter which came into force in 1965.

FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

While other organs of the United Nations may make recommendations to governments, the Council alone has the power to make decisions which all member States are obligated under the Charter to accept and carry out.

The Council may investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction and may recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement. Disputes and situations likely to endanger international peace and security may be brought to the attention of the Council by any Member State, by a Non-Member State which accepts in advance the obligations of pacific settlement contained in the Charter, by the General Assembly, or by the Secretary-General.

The Council may determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression. It may make recommendations or decide to take enforcement measures to maintain or restore international peace and security. Enforcement actions may include a call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures short of the use of armed force. Under the Charter, all Members undertake to make available to the Council on its call, in accordance with special agreements to be negotiated on the Council's initiative, the armed forces, assistance and facilities necessary for maintaining international peace and security. The Council is also responsible for formulating plans to regulate armaments. In addition, the Security Council exercises the Trusteeship functions of the United Nations in areas designated as strategic. The Security Council makes annual and special reports to the General Assembly.

On the Security Council's recommendation, the General Assembly appoints the Secretary-General.

VOTING AND PROCEDURE

Each member of the Council has one vote. Decisions on matters of procedure are taken by an affirmative vote of at least nine of the 15 Members. Decisions on substantive matters also require nine votes, including the concurring votes of all five permanent Members. This is the rule of "great power unanimity," often referred to as the "veto." All five permanent Members have exercised the right of veto at one time or another. If a permanent member does not support a decision but has no desire to block it through a veto, it may abstain; an abstention is not regarded as a veto.

A State which is a member of the United Nations, but not of the Security Council, may participate, without vote, in its discussions when the Council considers that the country's interests are specially affected. Both Members of the United Nations and Non-Members, if they are parties to a dispute being considered by the Council, are invited to take part, without vote, in the discussions. However, the Council lays down the conditions for participation by a Non-Member State.

The presidency of the Council is held monthly in turn by members in English alphabetical order. The Council decides its own rules of procedure and may establish subsidiary organs.

The Military Staff committee, composed of the Chiefs of Staff of the five permanent members of their representatives, was established under the Charter to advise and assist the Security Council on such questions as the Council's military requirements for the maintenance of peace, the strategic direction of armed forces placed at its disposal, the regulation of armaments and possible disarmament.

UNITING FOR PEACE

The General Assembly in November 1950, adopted a three part resolution entitled "United for Peace." Under that resolution, if the Security Council, because of the lack of unanimity of its permanent Members, failed to exercise its primary responsibility in the maintenance of peace, in a case where there appeared to be a threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression, the Assembly would consider the matter immediately with a view to making recommendations to Members of collective measures, including the use of armed force when necessary, to maintain international peace and security. If not in session, the Assembly would meet in emergency special session within 24 hours of a request for such a session by seven members of the Security Council (now amended to nine) or by a majority of General Assembly members.

DECISIONS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Resolutions of the Security Council: The resolution has been the major vehicle of Security Council action. There are two distinct types of resolutions: 1) consensus resolutions and 2) resolutions adopted by vote. The consensus resolution is a creation of the post 1966 Council. The consensus form is ideal for the council for several reasons. It places the emphasis on an image of unanimity when, in some cases, the members would feel obliged to vote against or abstain on a resolution that was formally voted on.

The resolution adopted by vote is the more traditional approach. Resolutions are adopted by vote when, in spite of consultations, the Council members have failed to reach a consensus; any member may object to an attempt to adopt a resolution by consensus, and thereby force such a vote.

Presidential Statements of Consensus: Often the Council finds that its consensus does not fit conveniently into a resolution form. In this case the Council will resort to a Presidential Statement of consensus. The President may, if he perceives a consensus and sees no resolution, wish to consult with Members concerning the substance of a formal statement. The President then reads that statement in a formal session, and the statement is made an official decision of the Council.

Communications of the President of the Consensus of the Body: This is the most subtle of forms available to the Council. This form is like the Presidential Statement of Consensus except that it is less public. This technique is used when the Council wishes to minimize damaging debate.

ADDITIONAL INFO ABOUT THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Under the 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 exercise the trusteeship functions of the United Nations in "strategic areas";
- to recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General

The Security Council has primary responsibility, under the Charter, for the maintenance of international peace and security. It is so organized as to be able to function continuously, and a representative of each of its members must be present at all times at United Nations Headquarters. On 31 January 1992, the first ever Summit Meeting of the Council was convened at Headquarters, attended by Heads of State and Government of 13 of its 15 members and by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the remaining two. The Council may meet elsewhere than at Headquarters; in 1972, it held a session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, and the following year in Panama City, Panama.

When a complaint concerning a threat to peace is brought before it, the Council's first action is usually to recommend to the parties to try to reach agreement by peaceful means. In some cases, the Council itself undertakes investigation and mediation. It may appoint special representatives or request the Secretary-General to do so or to use his good offices. It may set forth principles for a peaceful settlement.

When a dispute leads to fighting, the Council's first concern is to bring it to an end as soon as possible. On many occasions, the Council has issued cease-fire directives which have been instrumental in preventing wider hostilities. It also sends United Nations peace-keeping forces to help reduce tensions in troubled areas keep opposing forces apart and create conditions of calm in which peaceful settlements may be sought. The Council may decide on enforcement measures, economic sanctions (such as trade embargoes) or collective military action.

A Member State against which preventive or enforcement action has been taken by the Security Council may be suspended from the exercise of the rights and privileges of membership by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council. A Member State which has persistently violated the principles of the Charter may be expelled from the United Nations by the Assembly on the Council's recommendation.

A State which is a Member of the United Nations but not of the Security Council may participate, without a vote, in its discussions when the Council considers that that country's interests are affected. Both Members of the United Nations and non-members, if they are parties to a dispute being considered by the Council, are invited to take part, without a vote, in the Council's discussions; the Council sets the conditions for participation by a non-member State.



Defining “Terrorist” vs. “Freedom Fighter”

Why this is important?

Over the past several decades, combating terrorism has become a top priority for many nations. Various extremist groups such as ISIS and Nusra Front have been dangerous to the Middle East, driving many civilians out of their homes and disrupting the peace in the region. However, as the fight against the jihadist group continues, and help from the outside forces continues to arrive, identifying who are the terrorists and who are the freedom fighters has become an escalating problem.

Topic Summary and Background:

Since the year 2000, Bashar al-Assad gained Presidency in Syria after his father. Due to the discord of whether this was an example of an authoritarian regime, the Free Syrian Army, or the FSA, was formed as the first recognized military opposition to Assad. As more leadership became part of the opposition, local jihadist groups such as Ahrar al-Sham and Jaysh Al Islam also began to gain power. International groups such as Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, also known as ISIS, and Nusra Front began to go after Syria. In order to support the presidential opposition, international forces from Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Qatar created Jaish al-Fateh. While Jaish al-Fateh consisted of Nusra Front and Ahrar al-Sham, they opposed the expansion of ISIS. Other international forces such as the Kurdish People’s Protection Unit (YPG) began to fight ISIS from their territory. The last addition to the fighting forces are the United States and Russian Federation, where the US is supporting the moderate rebel groups but not ISIS, and Russia supports Assad but similarly wants to fight ISIS.

Syria is just one example of the problem attempting to identify terrorists and freedom fighters. With all of the commotion and various goals, international forces willing to fight terrorism have been attacking with airstrikes. However, countries such as the United States, France, and Russia have attacked forces that were fighting ISIS as well, thus attacking a group fighting for the common goal. While the United Nations have passed numerous resolutions attempting to define terrorism and condemning violent extremism, there needs to be more clarification in situations such as this.

Issues to be addressed in a Resolution:

1. What is the difference between a terrorist and a freedom fighter? What is the criteria that a person/s engaged in militant conflict should be classified by?
2. How should power be efficiently delegated in time of militant engagement? Who should be in charge of delegating?
3. What can we do to resolve conflicting disputes between existing groups?
4. How often should UN resolutions and definitions regarding terrorism be revisited and updated?
5. What resources should be allocated to which groups? What can be done to stabilize Syria and regions around?

Resources

http://www.un.org/en/sc/ctc/docs/2015/SCR%202178_2014_EN.pdf (Security Council Resolution 2178)

http://www.un.org/en/sc/ctc/docs/2015/N1527297_EN.pdf (A Security Council document further describing resolution 2178, and discussion on terrorism.)

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-34710635> (Ghadi Sary, "Syria Conflict: Who are the groups fighting Assad," BBC News, November 11, 2015.)

<http://time.com/4059856/syria-civil-war-explainer/> (Julia Zorthian, "Who's Fighting Who in Syria," Time, October 7, 2015.)

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sc11912.doc.htm> (Security Council Meeting Coverage, May 29, 2015.)

<http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/sc11580.doc.htm> (Security Council Meeting Coverage, September 24, 2014.)

Artificial Islands

Why is this important?

Building artificial islands has been a practice for hundreds of years, involving man made efforts to build floating structures or solid bases by expanding existing islets, and constructing on existing reefs. The man made islands serve numerous purposes. While countries such as Saudi Arabia build artificial islands for resorts and tourist attractions, other countries such as Japan and Italy built islands for safety purposes, creating longer airport runways, and efforts in flood defenses. However, recently artificial islands created a controversy of whether they can be abused for various purposes, particularly in economic, power, and militant interests.

Summary and Background:

Since 1958, the United Nation's Conference on the Law of the Sea continually passed treaties on continental shelf ownership, and clarified the usage of water for various purposes. The Law of the Sea Treaty, or UNCLOS III, was adopted in 1982 to further develop the guidelines, setting limits on deep seabed mining, and navigation. It also sets specific jurisdiction limits on the ocean area, including a 12-mile territorial sea limit and a 200-mile exclusive economic zone. When it comes to artificial islands, the treaty specifies that any state may construct one, and they are under the jurisdiction of the nearest coastal state if within the 200 mile limit. As of January 7, 2015, 167 countries have signed the treaty.

Recently, there have been disputes as to whether certain artificial islands follow the treaty guidelines, and whether certain islands were properly recognized. Countries such as China believe that their man made islands are supporting fishermen and provide area for public use, and that various unsupported remarks are aggravating the regional peace and stability. Other countries believe it is an illegal expansion of sovereignty and militarization. When countries begin to expand into the international waters, the issue comes under the Security Council, and it for the security of the country borders, water, and world peace, the dispute on artificial islands needs to be resolved.

Issues to be addressed in a resolution:

1. Should the construction of artificial islands be allowed? If so, under what guidelines? How often should these guidelines be updated?
2. What guidelines should surround the existing artificial islands? Should there be any limitations on exclusive economic zones, installations, and structures?
3. Who should be in control of policing and approving the construction of artificial islands?
4. Should artificial islands be granted the status of islands?
5. Under what circumstances should ships respect the safety zones set around the artificial islands?
6. How often should the Convention on Law of the Sea be updated?
7. How to prevent environmental damage created from artificial islands?

Resources:

- <http://www.nationalcenter.org/NPA542LawoftheSeaTreaty.html> (David Ridenour, "Ratification of the Law of the Sea Treaty: A Not-So-Innocent Passage," August 2006.)
- <http://www.unlawoftheseatreaty.org/> (Information page on Law of the Sea.)
- http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/07/30/world/asia/what-china-has-been-building-in-the-south-china-sea.html?_r=0 (Derek Watkins, "What China Has Been Building in the South China Sea," The New York Times, October 27, 2015.)
- <http://www.cnn.com/2015/10/26/politics/south-china-sea-islands-u-s-destroyer/> (Jim Sciutto and Barbara Starr, "U.S. warship sails close to Chinese artificial island in South China Sea," CNN, October 27, 2015.)
- http://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/part5.htm (Specific text within the Law of the Sea Treaty.)
- <http://www.un.org/depts/los/> (UN webpage on Laws of the Sea.)

HISTORIC SECURITY COUNCIL



2016 TOPICS

Year of Focus - 1994

Rwandan Genocide
Nagorno-Karabakh War

INTRODUCTION

Each section contains background information and essential information to understanding the situation at hand. Information yet to develop (after 1994) is excluded. Delegates should use the background information and research on their countries context during 1994 to try and best approximate their countries stance on the topics.

Following each background section is a list of questions/issues that should inform the Historic Security Council's discussion on each topic. Some of these questions are large and some are short and specific. It is NOT NECESSARY to resolve every question or point brought up in the issues section but there should be discussion and some attempt to compromise in the final product delivered to the Secretary General.

Finally, after each issues section there is a primary source regarding the topic. It is important to know and understand what people were saying about these issues at the time. As members of the Historic Security Council you are not just arguing on behalf of your country you have been assigned, you represent the voices of the past in your country which may not have been heard in 1968. Incorporate the sources into your discussion for added context when necessary.

****KEY THING TO REMEMBER****

To keep continuity between topics, assume this council has convened on April 7th, 1994.

Rwandan Genocide

Background:

Rwanda is a sovereign state located in the African great lakes region of east-central Africa. Its ecological regions include a rainforest-covered west, and savanna-grassland east. Despite the regions mineral wealth; instability, colonization, and colonialisms aftermath have left the region with very little development.

Rwanda is bordered by Uganda to the north, Burundi to the south, Tanzania to the east, and the DRC (Democratic Republic of the Congo) to the west.

Bantu peoples have been the native inhabitants of the region since the Stone Age. The two major groups in the area are the Hutu and Tutsi peoples.

The Hutu people speak the same Bantu language as the Tutsi. The difference between the groups is debated, but the two share much DNA. Hutus are considered to have a darker complexion and features most associated with West Africa and the Congo basin. The Hutu are a farming -culture people.

The Tutsi speak the same Bantu language, but have a lighter complexion and physical features associated with east Africa. The Tutsi have slightly more DNA relating to Nilo-Saharan groups than the Hutu. The Tutsi are a cattle-herding, pastoral people.

Many believe the distinction between the two groups was originally between classes where the minority Tutsi was the upper class and the majority Hutu was the lower class.

Colonial Period

Several Tutsi kingdoms controlled Rwanda when the Germans colonized it from their colony in Tanzania circa 1884. The Germans left the social order intact and allowed the ruling Tutsi's to keep power.

Belgium invaded Rwanda in 1915 during WWI and controlled the territory until after WWII. The Belgians helped the Tutsis establish a royal family and ruling class.

Independent Rwanda

During the 1959 Rwandan Revolution Hutus took control and Belgium now favored the Hutu to rule the country. Many Tutsi were killed or ousted from the country.

In 1990 the RPF (Rwandan Patriotic Front) invaded the north of Rwanda from Uganda and sparked a civil war that would last from 1990 to 1993. This time period spawned the radical "Hutu Power" movement in Rwanda and quickly became a major political force that transcended all parties in Rwanda. The far right Hutu radio station "Radio Télévision Libre des Mille Collines" began to spout hate speech against moderate Hutu and Tutsis. Machetes and other weapons were imported and distributed in mass quantities to Hutu militias.

The current situation:

The Rwandan Civil War lasted until a cease-fire was made between the Tutsi RPF and the Hutu-Rwandan government. This treaty is now in great danger because of the destruction of the plane carrying Rwandan president Juvénal Habyarimana as it approached Kigali.

On April 7th, 1994 the Rwandan Military and Police began rounding up Tutsi and moderate Hutus. Weapons such as machetes were given to Hutu mobs and militias who began to seek out and kill the Tutsi population.

The killings are being committed at an astonishing rate. The international community has done little to stop the killing of Tutsis by Hutus. Many remember the USA's failed attempt in the continent a few years earlier in southern Somalia.

The leader of the RPF, Kigame, claims that if reports of killings continue the civil war will begin again to stop them. It is unclear, although pertinent to this council, how long it would take for Kigame's forces to take the whole country.

Issues to be addressed in a resolution:

1. What more information does this council to act or does the situation require immediate action?
2. Is the cease fire still viable?
3. Are there actors on the ground in the region capable of stopping violence and potential genocide or is outside intervention necessary?
4. What is the UN's role in the crisis currently and how can it be supported?
5. What is the quickest method of discussing this topic to understand the situation fully as well as act quickly if needed to stop the killings?

Nagorno-Karabakh War

Background:

The Caucasus region has been a crossroads for several millennia. The early people of this region were the first to domesticate several varieties of livestock, grapes, apricots, and pomegranates. Aryans migrating from the Indian subcontinent to Europe settled this area thousands of years ago. Persians, Romans, Greeks, Arabs, Mongolians, Turks, Russians, and Soviets have all at some point held control of this region at one time or another and have left a cultural impact on the people and culture. This region was also an important stop for travelers and traders along the Silk Road.

The people of this region are divided by language and region in the post-soviet world. Ethnic rivalries have regained a stronger place in politics with the immersion of nationalism, a rebirth of religious practice, and the lack of a shared enemy. To understand Nagorno-Karabakh (NK), the ethnicities in the region must be defined. The main groups in the area are the Armenian and Azeri people.

The Armenians are an orthodox-Christian group that speaks an Indo-European language that is related to Farsi, Kurdish, Hindi and other languages. The Armenians' original homeland stretched from the Mediterranean coast to the Caspian Sea. The Armenian Genocide of 1915-1923 eliminated the Armenian people from possibly 80% of their original homeland (mostly in central and eastern Turkey). 1.5 million, roughly 75% of the Armenian population in the Ottoman Empire perished as a result of this genocide carried out by the Ottoman Turks. The Armenians have a very large diaspora throughout the former Soviet Union (mainly Ukraine and Russia), the United States, Argentina, Canada, France, Iraq, Iran, Syria, and Lebanon.

The Azeri people are a majority Shia Muslim people who speak a Turkic language very similar to that spoken in Turkey. It is likely that they originated in Central Asia and Mongolia and moved into the area during the Mongol conquests of the 13th century. The first oil wells in the world were drilled on the edge of the ancient trading city of Baku where petrol seeps out of the ground. This region was the main oil-producing region of the Soviet Union through the Second World War and was the main target of the German Army in the southern assault of the Soviet Union 1941-1943. The city of Baku, although never being shelled or bombed throughout the war was awarded the highest civilian declaration in the Soviet Union for the increased oil production.

What is Nagorno-Karabakh?

Nagorno-Karabakh is a highland region in the Lesser Caucasus Mountains that today lies within the borders of Azerbaijan. This historically Armenian dominated region came to be in Azerbaijani territory during the soviet era when Joseph Stalin Jughashvili (an ethnic Georgian) separated the ethnicities of Transcaucasia. This line drawing led to the Armenian stronghold of Nagorno-Karabakh belonging to the Azerbaijani SSR. Soviet control of the area kept conflict to a minimum for many decades.



In 1989, Nagorno-Karabakh had a population of roughly 192,000. The population at that time was 76% Armenian and 23% Azerbaijani, with Kurdish and Russian minorities. The borders of this region are extremely jagged due to gerrymandering the borders to include Armenian villages and exclude Azeri villages.

Nagorno-Karabakh War

Starting in 1988 fighting in the Nagorno-Karabakh had begun between the Armenian separatists and Azeri-SSR forces. Armenians captured the regional capital

In late 1991 with the establishment of independent Armenia and Azerbaijan, conflict escalated between the two countries and ethnicities over the declared Republic of Nagorno-Karabakh. As the last soviet troops left the region Armenians and Azeri militias began to take villages with the ethnic majorities; causing the Armenian or Azeri minorities to flee to friendlier territory.

1992

In early 1992 Armenian troops took control of several Azeri villages expelling the populations causing at least 99 civilian deaths.

Azeri Forces had been shelling the Nagorno-Karabakh capital of Stepanakert from the Azeri village of Khojaly with sometimes as much as 400 GRAD missiles a day. In late February Armenian forces took Khojaly and killed several hundred civilians (claims are disputed on whether this was intentional or a symptom of the fighting). A Human Rights Watch case in 1992 stated that Azeri forces might have been in uniform while interspersed in civilian crowds.

After Khojaly Azeri forces started shelling Stepanakert with regularity

March 28th Azeri forces attacked Stepanakert in an attempt to take it. Repelled by Armenian forces.

By April most of Stepanakert's residents were living underground to avoid the constant shelling.

Armenians attacked Shusha (Nagorno-Karabakh's other main city) on May 8th and took the city the following day

Turkey made the decision to not enter the war, although they did give aid to Azerbaijan.

On May 18th Armenian forces attacked and on the 19th took Lachin, which separated Nagorno-Karabakh from Armenia. This allowed Armenia to supply Nagorno-Karabakh via road.

Azerbaijan had a government change shortly after Lachin with a coup and the new leaders brought closer ties with Turkey.

Armenia starts shelling Nakhchivan in May of 1992.

On 12 June 1992, the Azerbaijani military launched a large-scale diversionary attack in the direction of the Askeran region at the center of Nagorno-Karabakh. Two groups, numbering 4,000 men, attacked the positions to the north and south of Askeran. As a result of fierce

fighting the Azeris managed to establish control over some settlements in the Askeran region.

This offensive led the NKR to organize its military.

By the fall of 1992 the Azeri Army was exhausted and for the most part pulled out from the offensive.

In late August Azerbaijan began bombing civilian targets in the NKR with fixed-wing aircraft.

1993

By the end of January 1993 Armenian forces took back several villages that the Azeris had held since the fall.

West of Northern NK shelling had been coming from the territory known as Kelbajar that was home to some 60,000 ethnic Kurds and Azeri people. From March to April of 1993 Armenian forces took this area even though it was outside of the NKR boundary.

On 30 April, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) passed Resolution 822, co-sponsored by Turkey and Pakistan, demanding the immediate cessation of all hostilities and the withdrawal of all occupying forces from Kelbajar. Human Rights Watch concluded that during the Kelbajar offensive Armenian forces committed numerous violations of the rules of war, including the forcible exodus of a civilian population, indiscriminate fire, and taking of hostages.

After the Kelbajar offensive the Azeri, demoted now colonel Huseynov began a march from NK to Baku demanding the replacement of president Elchibey. Elchibey stepped down and parliamentary member Heydar Aliyev took power.

The political instability in Azerbaijan led to the loss of 5 districts including northern NK.

On July 4th Armenian forces started an artillery barrage on the Azeri village of Agdam and proceeded to capture that area and the Azeri majority areas of Fizuli and Jebrail, south of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Turkey amassed troops on the Armenian Turkish border and threatened to enter the conflict. In response Russian forces in Armenia masses on the boarder to deter Turkey.

By early September Azeri forces were in complete disarray to the point that 1000 Arab and Afghani mujahsdeen had to be recruited to fight in the region, Chechen and Pakistani fighters were also recruited, and American oil-company MEGA OIL hired American military trainers to work for the Azeri military.

In October 1993 Aliyev was elected to the president's office of Azerbaijan.

1994

In January of 1994 Azerbaijani and Afghani forces recaptured parts of the Fizuli district and launched an offensive in the north of NK.

This offensive fizzled out and the Azeri situation became desperate with boys as young as 16 being drafted and used untrained in ineffective human wave attacks.

UNSC resolutions on Nagorno-Karabakh War:

822 – Calls for the cessation of hostilities and withdrawal of local occupying forces troops from Kelbajar district following its occupation on April 3, 1993. –April 30, 1993

853 – Demands the immediate cessation of all hostilities, calls on withdrawal of local Armenian troops from Agdam district of Azerbaijan occupied on June 23, 1993 and reaffirms UN Resolution 822. – July 29, 1993

874 – Welcomes and commends to the parties the "Adjusted timetable of urgent steps to implement Security Council resolutions 822 (1993) and 853 (1993)" set out on 28 September 1993 at the meeting of the CSCE Minsk Group and submitted to the parties concerned by the Chairman of the Group with the full support of nine other members of the Group, and calls on the parties to accept it. – October 14, 1993

884 – Condemns the recent violations of the cease-fire established between the parties, which resulted in a resumption of hostilities; calls upon the Government of Armenia to use its influence to achieve compliance by the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh with resolutions 822, 853 and 874; demands from the parties concerned the immediate cessation of armed hostilities; calls for the withdrawal of local Armenian troops from district of Zangilan and reaffirms UN Resolutions 822, 853, 874. – November 12, 1993

Issues to be addressed*:

1. What state should take point in reestablishing the cease-fire?
2. Is it necessary to address the ruthlessness of the actions taken by both sides fighting including shelling civilians, use of youth soldiers, etc.
3. Is there any way to buffer the two groups from each other to prevent skirmishes?
4. What will the UN resolve to do if the violence escalates even further?

*States may also receive additional information from their home governments on what they should address.

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE



2016 TOPICS

Agenda Determined by Cases Submitted

THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Background

In 1920, the League of Nations approved the Statute of the Permanent World Court. Neither the United States nor the Soviet Union became parties to the statute, but the court did play a role in world affairs throughout its life (1920 - 1940). In 1945, the Permanent Court was reconstructed as the International Court of Justice by a statute annexed to the United Nations Charter. Thus, all United Nations members are parties to the statute.

Representation

Fifteen justices sit on the court. Ten positions are rotated, while five are always held by "The Big Five" (China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States). When disputes involve parties not already represented on the Court, and "ad hoc" justice may be appointed by the unrepresented country to act as a full, voting member for that case.

Technically, the justices are to act as neutral arbitrators in all matters presented to them... All but the President, however, do represent a flag and thus, are concerned with serving their nation's best interests. In preparing for the conference, familiarize yourself with your country's stance on a wide range of international issues. Members of the Court are expected to strike a balance between serving their country and serving the international community. The more you know, the better justice you will be.

Functions and Powers

The basic function of the International Court is to decide in accordance with international law, such disputes as are submitted to it. Its jurisdiction comprises all cases on a truly international level that parties submit to it and all matters specifically provided for in the Charter of the United Nations. In resolving issues, the court is not limited to the suggestions made by the submitting parties. They can render any decision which they deem the best solution to the problem. The Court's power in enforcing its decisions is, however, limited. The strongest move the Court can make is recommending that the Security Council or the General Assembly take action against a nation.



Submitting Cases

To present a case to the ICJ, a party must prepare a memorial. The Memorials must contain (1) the submitting party's (applicant's) name and signature, (2) the responding party's name(s), (3) Claims of Fact, (4) Assertions of Law and (5) Prayers for Relief. All

CLAIMS OF FACT

This is a brief outline of issues and facts relevant to the case. The facts detail the events leading up to the dispute. Historical, legal and political research will aid the finding and stating of relevant facts. The facts must be truthful but may be stated in a manner favorable to the applicant

ASSERTIONS OF LAW

These are the pertinent principles and laws in question. Examples of valid sources of law are international treaties, international conventions, customary law, previous ICJ decisions, United Nations resolutions and the works of noted international law writers and jurists.

PRAYERS FOR RELIEF

This is the section where the submitting party asks the court to act in its favor and states its recommended action. Applicants generally request that the Court direct the Respondent to correct the wrong, recommend sanctions against the Respondent or declare what rights and duties exist between the disputing parties. Respondents generally request dismissal or seek counter-relief against Applicants.

Presentation of Cases

Each party has a designated amount of time to present its case. Judges may ask questions of the presenters at any time throughout the presentation. The basic format for presentation is 10 minutes for Applicant presentation, 10 minutes for Respondent presentation and 5 minutes for rebuttals per side. The format can be altered by the current Model Court.

Deliberation

Judges deliberate for as long as they deem necessary. No justices may leave during presentations of deliberations if they plan to vote on the case at hand. They may, however, participate in deliberations even if they have forfeited their vote.

Decisions of the Court

Voting is done in closed chambers by roll call. Official opinions must then be written for the majority opinion and for each dissenting opinion. The President will make the assignments. All opinions will be collected and announced in the General Assembly.

ECONOMIC & SOCIAL COUNCIL



2016 TOPICS

Water Scarcity
UN Tax Management

Water Scarcity

Why this is important?

Water is absolutely one of the ECOSOC's biggest concerns. Although it has been recognized as a human right by the United Nations, 1.2 billion people currently suffer from water scarcity. This number is projected to increase to 1.8 billion by the year 2025 as the human population continues to grow and industries maintain their destructive practices. While there is enough water on the planet to sustain the population, it is unevenly distributed and much is wasted and tainted.

Background:

Water shortages over the world have detrimental effects on the economies of nations and the citizens of those nations. The United Nations has recognized that water scarcity and improper water management are tied to poverty, lack of educational attainment, desertification, suppression of gender equality, and the spread of mosquito-borne diseases. Many of these are concentrated in the Sub-Saharan region of Africa where subsistence farming is the dominant source of agriculture. Such areas are most prone to water contamination from animal feces, the desertification of crop land, and overly extended trips to the water source.

The World Health Organization has developed standards for what it considers sufficient, safe, acceptable, physically accessible, and affordable water. They state that people should be supplied with fifty to one-hundred liters of water per person per day that is free of health hazards, of clear color, available within one-thousand meters of their home, and should cost less than three percent of household income.

Developing countries have a vested interest in improving the health of their citizens and efficiency of their economy. However, few have taken steps as a result of lack of funds and civil unrest. Developed countries should not dismiss this problem as they are beginning to face droughts due to global weather changes. Some developed countries have started programs that work to improve access to water through the building of wells and sanitary facilities in areas with economic water scarcity. While this has mostly been done privately, developed countries should be aware that preemptive measures could potentially prevent massive wars over access to water in the future.

Past UN Action:

- 2002 – Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights adopted General Comment #15 stating “the human right to water is indispensable for leading a life in human dignity”
- 2010 – Human right to water explicitly recognized by the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 64/292
- 2011 – WHO calls on all member states to form national strategies to ensure access to clean water and sanitation for all citizens?
- 2012 – Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations publishes a report: “Coping with water scarcity. An action framework for agriculture and food security.”

Issues to be addressed:

5. How can freshwater supplies be protected from pollution?
6. How can vulnerable parties like refugees and developing countries be granted their right of access to clean water?
7. How can ECOSOC incentivize the movement of water toward areas facing drought?

Resources:

- <http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/scarcity.shtml> (International Decade of Action “Water for Life” webpage.)
- http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/human_right_to_water.shtml
- http://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/dwq/en/ (This is the World Health Organization’s page on water sanitation and its effects on health.)
- <https://thewaterproject.org/water-in-crisis-rural-urban-africa> (The Water Project webpage.)
- <http://www.cadrought.com/> (This webpage illustrates effects of water shortage in the US.)

UN Tax Management

Why this is important?

The close of the decade dedicated to the Millennium Development Goals has come with the end of 2015. While progress has been made toward these eight goals, there is still much to do before they can be accomplished. Many programs that would advance these efforts could be aided with increased funding, but the United Nations budget does not have the current resources to allocate the necessary sums of money.

Background:

The United Nations is funded by compulsory and voluntary contributions from its member states. Compulsory dues are determined primarily by economic status and fund the Regular Budget. Voluntary donations aid UN programs, funds, and specialized agencies.

Some say the United Nations should institute a global tax to pay for humanitarian projects and peacekeeping missions. Suggestions include taxing carbon emissions, billionaires, and currency transactions, mainly affecting developed countries. This controversial idea is opposed by those who comment that the United Nations has no power or mechanism for enforcing such a tax. There has been a decline in the dues paid by developed nations and an increase in late dues due to economic downturns in many countries. Additionally many developing nations consistently do not pay their full dues on time. Fifteen member states had their ability to vote in the General Assembly revoked this year as a result of being in arrears. Critics also question how the tax would be scaled to individual countries.

Problems with receiving the full funding the UN requires has also been affected by OECD, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. This board, consisting of thirty-four highly developed, democratic nations, details many of the UN's financial policies. As such the opinions and needs of developing countries are not included in OECD reports. Some claim this imbalance of power in has resulted in an economic oligarchy within the United Nations.

Past UN Action:

1961 – OECD officially established

2005 – Decade for the Millennium Development Goals began

2012 – World Economic and Social Survey proposes international tax to raise \$400 billion

Issues to be addressed in a resolution:

6. Should the United Nations have a tax to help fund the completion of the Millennium Development Goals?
7. What would this tax apply to and how would it be enforced?
8. How would this tax be scaled so it is fair for each country?
9. Should OCED be expanded to include developing countries?

Resources:

<https://www.globalpolicy.org/un-finance/tables-and-charts-on-un-finance/the-un-regular-budget.html> (Global Policy Forum information on the UN's budget.)

[http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20\(July%201\).pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/2015_MDG_Report/pdf/MDG%202015%20rev%20(July%201).pdf) (PDF of the Millennium Goals Report from 2015.)

<http://usoecd.usmission.gov/mission/overview.html> (This is a description of the job of the OCED.)

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/policy/wess2012.html> ("UN calls for international tax to raise \$400 billion to finance development needs," July 5, 2012.)

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL



2016 TOPICS

**Passports for Stateless Persons
Adjudication of Criminal Youth**

Passports for Stateless Persons

Why this is important?

Approximately 10 million people in the world are considered “stateless” meaning they have no legal nationality. This contributes to the refugee crisis seen around the world. Stateless persons have almost no legal ability to travel somewhere where they might obtain citizenship.

Background:

A person can become stateless a few different ways. Borders could be redrawn excluding them from a state, they could be persecuted by their home state, or they could simply be a former citizen of a failed state. The United Nations has resolved to end statelessness by 2024. To do this, this topic has been introduced to debate the merits of giving identification and travel documents to refugees suffering from statelessness.

Member states would have to weigh the pros and cons of agreeing to honor these travel and identification documents. There would also be issues of how well the UN can screen these people before granting them the passports. The topic could prove to simply be a symbolic gesture if no states agree, but even that would be progress in recognizing and bringing awareness to the issue of stateless persons. Visibility means that they would be less likely to be persecuted or denied rights for a longer period of time.

This topic is also an important measure to consider in relieving the Syrian refugee crisis where many people have fled to other states within the Middle East and Europe.

Issues to be addressed in a resolution:

1. What member states would agree to allow stateless refugees if they were given special identification by the UN?
2. How would the logistics of applying for identification and screening look like?
3. What other ways can the UN support or bring awareness to people living outside of legal benefits and protections of nationality?



Resources:

<http://www.unhcr.org/546217229.html> (This is a pdf special report from the UN on statelessness.)

<http://www.nationalityforall.org/whatis> (This is a website advocating for stateless people.)

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/StatelessPersons.aspx> (UN Convention relating to stateless persons)

Adjudication of Criminal Youth

Why this is important?

There are many factors which lead to criminality among youth. Rapid population increases, urbanization, and poverty are all contributing factors why the world is seeing more and more children prosecuted for crimes. It is important for the world to understand how to help these children in judicial systems as well as address the causes of why they commit crimes.

Background:

Every state has different laws about who they consider a minor, or a youth and what that means for their prosecution if they commit a crime.

Here is the exact text of the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

States Parties shall ensure that:

“(a) No child shall be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Neither capital punishment nor life imprisonment without possibility of release shall be imposed for offences committed by persons below eighteen years of age;

(b) No child shall be deprived of his or her liberty unlawfully or arbitrarily. The arrest, detention or imprisonment of a child shall be in conformity with the law and shall be used only as a measure of last resort and for the shortest appropriate period of time;

(c) Every child deprived of liberty shall be treated with humanity and respect for the inherent dignity of the human person, and in a manner which takes into account the needs of persons of his or her age. In particular, every child deprived of liberty shall be separated from adults unless it is considered in the child's best interest not to do so and shall have the right to maintain contact with his or her family through correspondence and visits, save in exceptional circumstances;

(d) Every child deprived of his or her liberty shall have the right to prompt access to legal and other appropriate assistance, as well as the right to challenge the legality of the deprivation of his or her liberty before a court or other competent, independent and impartial authority, and to a prompt decision on any.”

This topic will try and ensure that the member states of the UN try and meet this obligations when confining youth in prison.

Issues to be addressed in a resolution:

1. Should the UN follow in the footsteps of the US, and ban solitary confinement for youth?
2. Should rehabilitation steps be necessary for prisons that confine youth?
3. What does the UN identify as the biggest causes of youth criminal activity and how does it resolve to help?
4. Is the Convention on the Rights of the Child adequate protection for youth that have committed crimes?

Resources:

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/ch07.pdf> ("Juvenile Delinquency," World Youth Report, 2003.)

http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2012/10/09/un-canada-crime-bill_n_1951935.html (Heather Scoffield, "UN Criticizes Canada on Crime Bill and Youth," Huffington Post, December 9, 2012.)

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx> (Convention on the rights of the child.)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



MONDALE GA COMMITTEES

(Grades 9 – 12)

**Political & Security
Economic & Financial
Social, Humanitarian & Cultural
Legal
Special Political**

**Administrative
(only for Mondale GA)**

ANDERSON GA COMMITTEES

(Grades 7 – 8)

**Political & Security
Economic & Financial
Social, Humanitarian & Cultural
Legal
Special Political**



POLITICAL & SECURITY COMMITTEE

2016 TOPICS

Judicial Independence
Deportation Law



Judicial Independence

Why this is important?

Judicial systems around the world are the major institutional deterrent against crimes against society. They have the ability to deprive people of their freedom or in some states condemn people to death. It is important that whenever possible member states' court systems operate independently and justly. They should not simply be an extension of a single leader or administration.

Background:

A main objective of judicial systems is to keep the judgments separate and unaffected by various other parts of the government. . In most modern governments there is an attempt to reach a balance between the different branches of government to some degree or another, at least on paper if not in practice. The courts though for the most part are often held up as the impartial third party that seeks to uphold the law in society and is the basement on which governments function. If a court were to operate as a simple puppet of an executive branch of government its judgments would not represent justice and would simply be an arbitrary punishment. The UN's goal is to encourage judicial systems which fairly represent the laws and customs of the people they try. Another goal of the UN is to ensure that just, independent judiciary systems operate in public view. Without these two basic tenants it is impossible for states to accept decisions made in another state and vice versa. For the exact UN wording on what an independent judiciary should look like follow the first link in the resources section.

In order to effectively research this topic, member states should look at their home court system and decide if the judgments represent an extension of central government authority, or if they follow the laws of a country without interference from other powers.

Issues to be addressed in a resolution:

1. What should the UN look for when deciding if a judicial system is independent and fair?
2. How can the UN serve as an arbiter between states when they disagree about the validity of the others court systems?
3. How should the UN raise awareness of the benefits of having a fair judicial system?
4. What is the best way for the UN to condemn corruption in judicial systems around the world?

Resources:

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/IndependenceJudiciary.aspx> (“Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary,” adopted by the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, August 26–September 6, 1985.)

https://www.unodc.org/pdf/corruption/corruption_judicial_res_e.pdf (A PDF from the ECOSOC on what judicial impartiality looks like.)

Deportation Law

Why this is important?

The United Nations hopes that all member states will pass laws that are entirely beneficial to their whole population. The United Nations also supports member states ability to remove or deport people from their borders that are there illegally. This topic addresses when states try and pass unfair laws targeting specific groups who for deportation. Everyone, even those unpopular within their country, have rights as human beings.

Background:

Ethnic minorities face the highest threat of deportation as well as generally being the least protected legally in states around the world. Each member state in the committee should be aware of what process their state has to deport someone, if their country harbors refugees, or if they have any large ethnic minorities they designate as illegal aliens. This background will focus on a few key case study examples on what the UN is trying to fight.

The Rohingya, commonly referred to as “boat people” are an ethnic Muslim group in Southeast Asia. They frequently face persecution in Myanmar and are generally unwanted in nearby states such as Thailand, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Malaysia. They are classified as “illegal settlers” by Myanmar and therefore can be pushed back and forth between different states. This horribly unfair process classifies them in the UN’s eyes as refugees.

In the Dominican Republic there has been a huge push for Haitian refugees to return to their country after the devastating earthquake in 2010. The DR has been accused of forcibly removing these refugees to conditions in Haiti which still cannot support them.

The crisis in Syria further exacerbates this topic because states have varying laws about how to deal with refugees and where to deport them if they enter illegally.

Issues to be addressed in a resolution:

1. What criteria will the UN use to classify if an ethnic minority group is subject to unfair and dangerous deportation?
2. What is the best way for the UN to remind countries of their obligation to all people via the UN Charter agreement?
3. What Non-Governmental Organizations, regional organizations, and human rights groups can the UN partner with to raise awareness about unfair deportation and refugee practices?
4. Should the UN recognize any individual cases which need immediate action to protect ethnic minorities from being violently deported?

Resources:

<http://www.newsweek.com/who-are-rohingya-and-why-are-they-fleeing-myanmar-330728> (Lucy Westcott, "Who are the Rohingya and why are they fleeing Myanmar," Newsweek Online, May 11, 2015.)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/17/world/americas/migrant-workers-in-dominican-republic-most-of-them-haitian-face-deportation.html? r=0> (Azem Ahmed, "Haitian Workers Facing Deportation by Dominican Neighbors," The New York Times, June 16, 2015.)

<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/nov/27/amnesty-international-turkey-syrian-refugees-human-rights-abuse> (Constanze Letsch, "Turkey putting Syrian refugees 'at serious risk of human rights abuse'" The Guardian, November 27, 2015.)

ECONOMIC & FINANCIAL COMMITTEE

2016 TOPICS

Food Analysis
Death of Bees



Food Analysis

Why this is important?

A third of the food produced globally is wasted. This brings a new perspective to the problem of world hunger. It's generally known that the world could adequately feed all those in poverty, but issues like transportation, distribution, and international disharmony keep many hungry every day.

Background:

Currently, there are 794 million undernourished people across the globe. While this number has decreased slightly from the 1 billion people reported in 2009, there is still room for improvement. In the past, the United Nations has held numerous Summits in Rome in order to address the issue of food security. The main goal that was developed at these summits was to reduce the number of undernourished people in the world, by half of the current number, by the year 2015. Unfortunately, this goal has not been reached, therefore new steps should be considered in order to work towards lowering the number of hungry people in the world.

Some Key Dates

- 1974 (Rome, Italy) – World Food Conference, *the first conference of this sort*
- 1996 (Rome, Italy) – World Food Summit, *established the Rome Declaration on World Food Security*
- 2002 (Rome, Italy) – World Summit on Food Security, *established the Right to Food*
- 2009 (Rome, Italy) – World Summit on Food Security, *renewed goals to eradicate world hunger by the earliest possible date*

Another factor that influences food insecurity is food waste. Every year, approximately 1.3 billion tons of food goes to waste, or about a third of the food we have across the globe. This is a growing concern, especially in urban areas, and should be addressed in solutions to the hunger crisis.

Issues to be addressed in a resolution:

1. How might we keep track of the number of calories produced by a State?
2. Should States be required to share their food in the event of a surplus?
3. What can be done to ensure safe transportation if food is transferred from one State to another?
4. What can be done to reduce overall foodwaste?
5. What type of technology should the UN invest in to help with this issue? How can big data (computer analytics) help solve hunger?

Resources:

<http://unep.org/wed/2013/quickfacts/> (This is a quick fact list the UN has compiled on food waste globally. Their sources include Global Food Losses and Food Waste - FAO, 2011, and

The environmental crisis: The environment's role in averting future food crisis – UNEP, 2009.)

<https://www.greenbiz.com/blog/2014/10/22/8-ways-big-data-helps-improve-global-water-and-food-security> (Christopher Neale, "8 ways Big Data helps improve global water and food security," Green Biz, October 22, 2014. This is a cool resource to give you some thoughts about how exactly technology can help you solve this issue.)

<http://www.fao.org/worldfoodsituation/en/> (This is the United Nations page on Food and Agriculture. Use it to find a specific story on your state or for statistics and potential actions you can take in your resolution.)

Death of Bees

Why this is important?

Bees are an extremely important aspect of our global agricultural systems. They are strong pollinators, with a total of 30 percent of our food crops and 90 percent of our wild plants being pollinated by bees. Recently, bees have been facing the deadly issue of Colony Collapse Disorder (CCD).

Background:

The disappearance of bee colonies in Europe and North America is not a new phenomenon but its scope and increasing pace has shocked researchers in the last decade. 10 million beehives in the US alone have died off since 2007 and this number grows dramatically when Europe is taken into account. Experts studying CCD have hypothesized that pesticides applied by humans most notably neonicotinoids, immunodeficiency problems, and new beekeeping practices may be the cause of the disappearances. The EU has banned the use of neonicotinoids for plants to try and curb the effect on bees and a similar ban has been proposed in the U.S. The UN has recently established CCD as a global issue warranting action by its members in order to protect agricultural productivity.

While it is common for bee keepers to see some decline in their numbers over a winter, the numbers have been high recently. Keepers have reported losses of anywhere from 30-90% of their numbers within the colony. Other factors, such as climate change and habitat deterioration are problems as well.

Issues to be addressed in a resolution:

1. Should the UN seek to ban the use of pesticides that cause known harm to bees?
2. What can be done to increase general knowledge about this crisis?
3. Should the UN provide assistance if a State is facing agricultural losses due to lack of pollination?

Resources:

<https://www.nrdc.org/wildlife/animals/files/bees.pdf> ("Why we Need Bees..." Adapted from E.O. Wilson, "Forgotten Pollinators," 1996.)

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=15572> (USDA website on bee colony collapse and how bees affect agriculture.)

<http://www.greenpeace.org/usa/sustainable-agriculture/save-the-bees/> (Green peace is an NGO environmental protection organization. Naturally they too are concerned with the disappearance of the bees and offer some solutions.)

<http://www.cep.unep.org/publications-and-resources/marine-and-coastal-issues-links/persistent-organic-pollutants-pops-and-pesticides> (Check out this source for good information on pollutants and how they can affect delicate ecosystems, you can then indirectly apply this information to the bee problem.)

SOCIAL, HUMANITARIAN & CULTURAL COMMITTEE

2016 TOPICS

**Recovery & Containment of Pandemic Diseases
Reparations to Historically Oppressed Groups**



Recovery & Containment of Pandemic Diseases

Why this is important?

The recent outbreaks of Ebola and Zika virus clearly illustrate the necessity of this topic. The UN and the World Health Organization can do better when it comes to major health scares. This topic seeks to answer how best to recover diseases which means taking samples for future studies and cures. It also looks at containment, how can resources be best deployed at the beginning of an outbreak to stop deaths.

Background:

There is huge international attention on areas of the world facing pandemic diseases during the climax of the situation. Fears of whether the disease will mutate, jump via carriers to other countries and whether efforts to create immunization will be successful.

Less attention is given to the aftermath of these diseases. In survivors of Ebola it has recently been revealed that the virus will remain dormant in their eye fluid. In some cases the remnants of the disease can cause other complications including degradation of the eye tissue and permanent blindness. This is just a single example of the long reaching consequences of large diseases. The reproductive implications of Zika could extend to new generations of people and disrupt huge events like the coming Olympics.

The World Health Organization has recently announced reforms which fall along three major tenants.

1. Programmatic Reform to improve health
2. Governance reform to help raise awareness
3. Managerial reform in pursuit of operational excellence.

Issues to be addressed in a resolution:

1. What resources can the General Assembly muster to assist the WHO in its reforms? Think about logistical obstacles to the delivery of health solutions, like money, government compliance, transport etc.
2. How should the UN deal with the long term implications of diseases like Zika and Ebola?
3. What nongovernmental organizations should the WHO partner with to help fight diseases on the ground and in the laboratory?
4. Information management is the least funded portion of WHO reform. What can member states do to make information more accessible and useful to the WHO?

Resources:

http://www.who.int/about/who_reform/WHO_Reform_map_2015.pdf?ua=1 (This is a pdf chart of the reforms the WHO has announced.)

<http://www.who.int/about/collaborations/non-state-actors/en/> (Information about the WHO's relationships with NGO's.)

<http://spapps.who.int/WHOREform/SitePages/Reports/Dashboard.aspx> (Check out this graphic which shows which parts of the WHO's reform agenda are funded and underway as of 2015.)

<http://www.cdc.gov/zika/qeo/index.html> (The CDC's website on Zika virus)

Reparations for Historically Oppressed Groups

Why this is important?

Throughout history, many groups of people have been oppressed by another, whether it is for their race, gender or religious beliefs. The effects of this oppression leave long lasting effects on these people, and in many cases, leave a social rift between the two groups. In some cases, those who were oppressed can become integrated and forgive their oppressors, in others, racism and hate can still be a barrier in tending old wounds. In other cases, the negative effects of having a low position in their society have left many of these groups have left a psychological mark on them.

Background:

In the 20th century, many former colonized territories have since regained their independence and as a result, many of the original inhabitants seek reparations from their former oppressors for past injustices. From the Jews who were persecuted during the second World War, to the American Indians seeking rights from broken treaties, these groups have sought legal action as well as fought for their independence. Some countries, such as South Africa, have taken steps to mend relationships through government acts, like the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 1990, and seek to repay through monetary compensation.

The term historically oppressed group could mean whatever the committee decides it to mean. It could include oppressed minorities within a state, whole states that have been colonized and used for resources, or it could mean stateless nations of people that have been denied representation in a government. The term reparation is also up for debate. Reparations could be monetary, policy decisions, national and international recognition of past grievances, etc.

There is no easy way to solve all the issues that have been generated from past injustice. This topic at its core is meant to help member states think critically about past interactions with other states and groups in their own borders

Issues to be addressed in a resolution:

1. How does the UN define a “historically oppressed group?”
2. How can the UN best address the grievances between colonized states and their colonizers?
3. How can the UN give recognition to groups that have faced severe injustice in the past?
4. How can the UN use this discussion as a way to continue efforts to help groups still being oppressed today?

Resources:

<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/sep/30/should-britain-government-reparations-slavery> (Hugh Muir, Reni Eddo-Lodge and Esther Stanford-Xosei, “Should Britain Pay Reparations for Slavery,” The Guardian, September 13, 2015.)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/10/21/world/americas/caribbean-nations-to-seek-reparations-putting-price-on-damage-of-slavery.html? r=0> (Stephen Castle, “Caribbean Nations to Seek Reparations, Putting Price on Damage of Slavery,” New York Times, October 20, 2013.)

<https://www.ictj.org/news/ignoring-cries-justice-south-africa-fails-victims-apartheid-era-crimes> (“Ignoring Cries for Justice, South Africa Fails Victims of Apartheid Era Crimes,” International Center for Transitional Justice, January 1, 2013.)

LEGAL COMMITTEE

2016 TOPICS

Intellectual Property in Drug Patents
Youth Work Laws



Intellectual Property in Drug Patents

Why this is important?

Medicine development, trade and distribution globally is very complicated. On one hand most agree that everyone should have access to life saving drugs that fight cancer, HIV/AIDS and other terrible illnesses. On the other hand companies that produce those drugs claim that generic versions are being created and they are being undercut.

Background:

The issue of drug pricing and availability drives a wedge between the Global North and Global South. The essence of this topic can be described by this quote from the New York Times (the whole article is cited in the resources below).

“While poorer nations maintain they have a moral obligation to make cheaper, generic drugs available to their populations — by limiting patents in some cases — the brand name pharmaceutical companies contend the profits they reap are essential to their ability to develop and manufacture innovative medicines.”

This is the case in India where a major drug company Novartis has complained that a generic version of their drug, Glivec, is being mass produced. The highest court in India denied the companies claim to a patent on the drug, meaning that it will continue to be available for much cheaper. Glivec helps treat a form of Leukemia, and the non-generic version can cost up to \$70,000 a year.

This has huge implications for drug companies around the world. If patent law is not protected there may not be enough profit incentive for companies to spend money researching and producing the drugs. To research this topic and find your state’s opinion simply look at the average income of your population, or whether or not your state is home to large pharmaceutical companies.

Issues to be addressed in a resolution:

1. What is the best way to strike a balance between drug producers and states with populations that cannot afford lifesaving medicine?
2. Is there danger involved in mass producing generic versions of drugs that pharmaceutical companies invented?
3. How can the UN help get drugs (generic or not) into the hands of people who need them?
4. Is it possible to create other incentives for companies to produce drugs and distribute them affordably?

Resources:

- <http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/02/business/global/top-court-in-india-rejects-novartis-drug-patent.html> (Gardiner Harris and Katie Thomas, "Low Cost Drugs in Poor Nations Get a Lift in Indian Court," The New York Times, April 1, 2013.)
- <http://www.economist.com/blogs/schumpeter/2013/04/drug-patents> (C.H., "Drug Patents, A Fool's Game, The Economist, April 1, 2013.)
- <https://www.globalpolicy.org/component/content/article/209/43772.html> (Rajeev Dhavan, "The Patent Controversy," Global Policy Forum, December 10, 2004.)

Youth Work Laws

Why this is important?

80 percent of youth under the age of 18 live in the Global South, commonly referred to as the developing world. In many states, there are still youth who are exploited for their labor. They are forced to work in hazardous jobs, in dangerous conditions, for long hours.

Background:

Child labor is a complicated problem. Poverty is the main reason why children work in many countries. Poor households cannot afford food and housing, and the income provided by children can be crucial to survival. There also might be barriers to education where it is not affordable or accessible for families. Additionally, some employers target children in hiring because they are cheaper to pay and often do not seek to organize themselves into unions for protection and support.

1973: Minimum Age for Admission to Employment passed. Ruled that the minimum age for work should not be below the age of 14. Light work should not be below the age of 12, and only if it does not get in the way of a young person's health or education.

1999: Convention on worst forms of child labor. A child is defined as anyone younger than the age of 18. Prohibited all forms of "hazardous" labor, including: child slavery, trafficking of children, forced labor, and recruitment of children for armed conflict. It also banned the use of a child for prostitution or pornography, the trafficking and distribution of drugs, or any work that is likely to harm the health and safety of a child.

In 2008, there were approximately 215 million child laborers, aged 5-17, in the world. Nearly 114 million child laborers are in Asia and the Pacific. Just over 14 million are in Latin America and the Caribbean. Just over 65 million are in Sub-Saharan Africa. Over 22 million are in other regions, which includes the Middle East and North Africa, the developed countries and the former transition economies of Eastern Europe and Asia. The proportion of children engaged in child labor in Sub-Saharan Africa is currently the highest of any region at around 25.3%. This means that in this region, approximately one child in every 4 can be classified as a child laborer.

Most child laborers are working in agriculture (60.0%). 25.6% work in services, 7.0% in industry and 7.5% work in undefined areas. Only one in five child laborers are in paid employment. The overwhelming majority are unpaid family workers. The number of child laborers globally fell by 3% over the 2004 – 2008 period. This is compared with an 11%

decline over the 2000 – 2004 period. With regard to children aged 5-14 in economic activity, the Asian-Pacific region and Latin America and the Caribbean experienced a decrease. In contrast, for the same age group, the number of children in economic activity is increasing in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Issues to be addressed in a resolution:

1. Does the committee need to make a better working definition of “youth” to solve this problem?
2. How can awareness of damage associated with youth work violations be brought to states?
3. How can the damage to states economies that use youth workers be minimized?
4. What are the major reasons why populations employ youth and how can the UN focus on them as well?

Resources:

<http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/briefingpapers/childlabour/index.shtml> (The official UN briefing website on the issue of child labor around the world.)

<http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/unyin/documents/ch02.pdf> (This is a PDF chapter of World Youth Report from 2003.)

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/07/29/child-labor-map_n_5631384.html (Kevin Short, “The Global Crisis of Child Labor, In 1 Map,” Huffington Post, Updated August 4, 2014.)

SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

2016 TOPICS

**Artificial Intelligence
Net Neutrality**



Artificial Intelligence

Why this is important?

The UN works with states around the globe to craft practical and ethical technology policy. Artificial Intelligence, AI, is lumped in with science fiction by some, but now it is becoming clear that intelligent technology is already here in some forms. It is important for the UN to have some opinion on these matters rather than get caught off guard by rapid technological advancements.

Background:

In 1950 Alan Turing posed the question, "Can machines think?" Since the earliest computers, scientists have been striving to make our technology smarter, and more adaptive to solve real world problems. A machine with intelligence could use its computational power to think of solutions to problems that would take humans a much longer time.

There are a few concerns with this technology. First is an ethical or philosophical dilemma. If machines think then do we have obligations to treat them as sentient? This topic will not deal directly with this issue. More importantly, how can technology be developed cooperatively around the world so that everyone has access to intelligent computer systems that perform amazing tasks. Smart machines can assist in diagnosing illness, help track weather and storm patterns, and optimize our daily lives like Google does with its analytics system.

Finally there is also a security component to this topic. With smart machines comes smart cyber weapons. How can AI be developed and responsibly applied to help rather than harm? We exist in a world where boundaries between states are already blurred by the connectivity we have to one another via the internet. AI could be the next step in making that experience better for the world.

Issues to be addressed in a resolution:

1. Is there a need for a direct focus on Artificial Intelligence by the UN? Should it be undertaken by the UN's Chief Technology Officer or should a different group lead the way?
2. Will member states agree to responsibly develop AI and avoid weaponizing smart computer systems?
3. Where can smart technology be directed to do the most good? What problems should it be applied to first?
4. How can the UN help member states share technological advancements to increase access for everyone?

Resources:

<http://cacm.acm.org/news/198779-united-nations-cito-artificial-intelligence-will-be-humanitys-final-innovation/fulltext> ("United Nations CITO: Artificial Intelligence Will Be Humanity's Final Innovation," Tech Republic, February 24, 2016.)

<https://www.techopedia.com/definition/190/artificial-intelligence-ai> (Check out this short article to help understand exactly what AI is.)

<http://www.buzzle.com/articles/applications-of-artificial-intelligence.html> (This is an interesting list of some possible applications of AI.)

Net Neutrality

Why this is important?

The realization of net neutrality is important because it guarantees the fair use of the Internet for everyone regardless of who they are, thus guaranteeing free speech and democracy. However, some corporations are against net neutrality because without it, they can make people who use their services more easily than others' services. Net neutrality is the principle that everything that goes through the Internet must be treated equally by governments and service providers, regardless of user, content, etc. In other word, every usage of the Internet must be treated as equal. For example: watching YouTube vs. watching Netflix, frequently accessing the Internet vs. rarely accessing it, using Comcast vs. using Verizon.

Background:

Net neutrality is the principle that everything that goes through the Internet must be treated equally by governments and service providers, regardless of user, content, etc. In other word, every usage of the Internet must be treated as equal. For example: watching YouTube vs. watching Netflix, frequently accessing the Internet vs. rarely accessing it, using Comcast vs. using Verizon.

There are many countries that have adopted laws in favor of net neutrality, such as Chile and the Netherlands. In the United States, debate is still ongoing because some are being afraid that the government regulating Internet usage can set a bad precedent. The United Nations do not officially have a stance on the issue, but recently the UN Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of the Right to Freedom of Opinion and Expression applauded decisions by the Federal Communications Commission to protect net neutrality.

Issues to be addressed in a resolution:

5. Will net neutrality truly guarantee basic human rights when it comes to using the Internet?
6. Should the United Nations officially endorse net neutrality?
7. Should every United Nations member states adopt net neutrality laws?

Resources:

<http://forwardthinking.pcmag.com/none/332400-the-fcc-on-net-neutrality-be-careful-what-you-wish-for/> (Miller, Michael J. "The FCC on Net Neutrality: Be Careful What You Wish For." PCMAG. N.p., 27 Feb. 2015.)

<http://theundisciplined.com/2014/02/24/why-consumers-should-be-worried-about-net-neutrality/> ("Why Consumers Should Be Worried About Net Neutrality." The Undisciplined. N.p., 24 Feb. 2014.)

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50200> ("UN Expert Applauds US Decision Guaranteeing 'net Neutrality'" UN News Center. UN, 27 Feb. 2015.)

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE

2016 TOPICS

Rules of Engagement for Peacekeepers
Neighbors of Destabilized Countries



Rules of Engagement for Peacekeepers

Why this is important?

Peacekeepers are one of the most visible tools of the UN to keep peace in conflict zones as well as in popular culture. They are often seen as toothless, ineffective means of the UN to say they are helping a situation. This topic asks member states to reexamine the role of peacekeepers and advise on how they can be best utilized accomplish the mission of the UN.

Background:

The first United Nations peace keeping mission occurred in 1948 to monitor a cease fire arranged between states involved in the Arab-Israeli War. 63 missions have been undertaken since involving peacekeepers between deployed to Somalia, The Congo, Rwanda, and Darfur. A major misconception held about the peacekeeping missions is that they are the last resort between two major warring powers. That is simply one of their very flexible and often ambiguous job descriptions.

Since their first mission, it has been debated just how involved the peacekeepers should be in “keeping the peace” and what that statement even means. In today’s world peacekeeping missions include much more than police and military personal, employing many diplomats and civilians working behind the scenes to reinforce peace among potential combatants. The major problem with peacekeeping missions is that in our contemporary world violent situations often spiral out of control quickly. This poses logistic questions unique to each real world scenario such as: which states will send supplies and manpower, how quickly these two things can be assembled, and finally, what exactly is the mission when they arrive. Another major contentious issue with peacekeeping is violations of law by actual members on the ground. Critics cite increases in prostitution as well as sexual assaults against civilians coinciding with the deployment of peacekeeping forces.

Specifically within the 1994 Croatian War, the United Nations Security Council passed resolutions 819, and 824 making specific areas within Bosnia and Herzegovina “Humanitarian Corridors,” or safe zones for civilians to help weather the storm of the conflict. However, the resolutions failed because they were not clear as to how Peacekeepers would defend these corridors, as well as the States who voted in favor of the corridors were unwilling to allocate the resources necessary for such an operation- this culminated with the Srebrenica Massacre.

Issues to be addressed in a resolution:

1. Given failure to assemble a force quick enough (think Rwandan Genocide), should the UN try to keep a permanent PK force instead of assembling one for each situation?
2. Should Peacekeeping Mission parameters still be debated pre deployment, or are there general guidelines (moving to save women, children, minority groups) that can be applied in every situation? Detail or list these potential guidelines.
3. What can be done to make the peacekeeping missions more effective in terms of creating peace more quickly, with less violations of local law?
4. What agreements with regional powers like NATO and others can the UN use to increase the deployment and effectiveness of Peacekeeping Missions?
5. Is the UN Security Council still the best body to make the decision whether or not peacekeepers will be deployed?

Resources:

<http://www.britannica.com/event/Srebrenica-massacre> (R. Jeffrey Smith, "Srebrenica Massacre," Encyclopedia Britannica.)

<http://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2015/07/20-years-since-the-srebrenica-massacre/398135/> (Alan Taylor, "20 Years Since the Srebrenica Massacre," The Atlantic, July 9, 2015.)

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2015/11/safe-zone-syria-conflict/415134/> (Dominic Tierney, "The Hidden Danger of Safe Zones in Syria," The Atlantic, November 10, 2015.)

<http://theglobalobservatory.org/2012/08/are-safe-areas-a-viable-way-out-of-the-humanitarian-deadlock-in-syria/> (J  r  mie Labb  , "Are Safe Areas a Viable Way Out of the Humanitarian Deadlock in Syria?" Global Observatory, August 30, 2012.)

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-eyes-safe-zone-in-jordan-for-humanitarian-work-in-syria/article8093309.ece> (Kallol Bhattacharjee, "India eyes safe zone in Jordan for humanitarian work in Syria," The Hindu, January 11, 2016.)

Search terms such as "DUTCHBAT, Srebrenica Massacre, Humanitarian Corridors, Humanitarian Safe Zones"

Neighbors of Destabilized Countries

Why this is important?

States in the UN can have drastically different responses to neighboring disputes and government failure. This can have a deadly impact on civilians fleeing combat zones. A standardized response by states surrounding a destabilized country could save numerous lives and resources. Political theorists often disagree about what a failed state looks. This topic should create a working definition that can be applied to save lives in the case of conflict.

Background:

States have destabilized or failed and pulled entire regions into much larger combat zones numerous times both recently and in the past. In the 1990's some member states of the UN began using a doctrine that contradicts sovereignty of a nation to protect civilians, "Responsibility to Protect" (R2P).

R2P follows these three principles:

1. The State carries the primary responsibility for the protection of populations from genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity and ethnic cleansing.
2. The international community has a responsibility to assist States in fulfilling this responsibility.
3. The international community should use appropriate diplomatic, humanitarian and other peaceful means to protect populations from these crimes. If a State fails to protect its populations or is in fact the perpetrator of crimes, the international community must be prepared to take stronger measures, including the collective use of force through the UN Security Council.

The UN Security Council generally recognizes these principles and referenced the R2P in situations like Darfur, Côte d'Ivoire, Yemen and Sudan.

Issues to be addressed in a resolution:

1. What criteria should the UN use to classify a country as “failed” or “destabilized”?
2. Is there a general protocol the UN can establish to help neighboring states deal with failed states or areas of extreme conflict?
3. What kind of specific measures can the UN actually take or encourage states to take to allow refugee movement away from conflict, limit weapon flow into a country, and grant the UN access for diplomatic/humanitarian reasons?
4. Is there a minimum threshold of violence before the UN is obligated to immediately deploy peacekeepers? Examples include ethnic cleansing, genocide, extreme attacks on civilian population centers.
5. Is it necessary to update or revise the “Responsibility to Protect” doctrine? Is it too vague, too strongly worded, can countries abuse this power etc.?

Resources:

<https://www.globalpolicy.org/component/content/article/121-policy-papers-articles-and-statements/52459-how-the-syrian-crisis-is-putting-lebanon-at-risk.html> (Doreen Khoury, “How the Syrian Crisis is Putting Lebanon at Risk,” Heinrich Böll Stiftung: July 30, 2013.)

<http://www.mantlethought.org/roundtables/whose-responsibility-protect> (This link leads to a roundtable discussion of the merits of R2P)

http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2014/jul/31/western-liberations-are-grotesque-experiments-just-look-at-libya?CMP=fb_qu (Antony Loewenstein, “Western liberations are grotesque experiments – just look at Libya,” The Guardian, July 30, 2014. This is an opinion piece critiquing western intervention invoking the R2P).

RESEARCHING FOR THE MODEL UN SESSION

One of the best ways to get the most recent information on the country that will be represented at the Model United Nations is by researching your topics through the UN website. The United Nations maintains a host of links to member nations as well as many other sources of helpful information.

www.un.org

There are also resources on the [YIG website](#). Find our "[Model UN Resources](#)" webpage.

www.mnyig.org

