SRMUN Atlanta 2015
Unifying Our Global Community through
Humanitarian Collaboration
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Atlanta, GA
sc_atlanta@srmun.org

Esteemed Delegates,

Welcome to SRMUN Atlanta 2015 and to the Security Council (SC) committee. My name is Samantha O'Brien and it is my honor to serve as your director. My Assistant Director will be Alex Adams and together as your dais, we are looking forward to hearing all of your perspectives, ideas and innovative solutions to the greatest issues threatening global security.

The Security Council was formed with the specific duty of discussing important matters such as threats to global peace and security. Decisions made by the Security Council are binding and failure to meet their demands can lead to severe consequences, including but not limited to expulsion from the United Nations (UN). It is due to the nature of this committee's importance that there are no proposed topics for this simulation. The Security Council has an open agenda which will be set by the committee, depending on what Member States maintain is of top priority.

Each Member State will be required to submit a position paper discussing two topics endangering their security in the world or two topics threatening overall global security. The paper should be single spaced and must not exceed two pages in length. Delegates should use these papers as an opportunity to persuade other delegates that their solutions to the topics will be the most viable courses of action to take. Each delegate will use these papers not only to show their Member State's history within their chosen topics, but their previous course of action and their proposed solutions to each issue.

A strong position paper is a delegation's foundation for their positions in committee and should show each delegate's research and understanding of the topics' severity and importance in relation to global security. Additional information regarding position papers can be found at **http://www.srmun.org**. **All position papers MUST be submitted by 11:59 p.m EST. on Friday, 30 October 2015, via the online submission system on the SRMUN website**.

We have included a SC logistics document within the Background Guide that can also be found as a separate resource on the SRMUN website. The logistics document explains the differences between how the UN SC runs and how the SRMUN Atlanta 2015 Security Council simulation will be run, while also explaining the expectations for the SRMUN simulation. Delegates should consider this logistics document essential to their preparation for the Security Council, and a critical resource to utilize during committee.

I would like to remind all delegations that the Security Council is a single delegate committee in which delegates will be discussing severe matters relevant to ensuring global security. I am looking forward to meeting all of you, listening to well-thought debate on the committee's agenda, hearing your perspectives on the topics, and understanding the solutions delegates have engineered for these topics. Please do not hesitate to contact Alex Adams, myself, or the Director-General Joel Fitzgerald if you have any questions or concerns.

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The Committee History for the United Nations Security Council

On 24 October 1945 the Allied Nations of World War II ratified the United Nations Charter establishing themselves as the permanent Member States within what would become the most legitimate and universally recognized collective security organization to this day, the United Nations Security Council.[1] The United Nations sought to end the creation of alliances for the sake of international affairs in an attempt to reduce the polarization of states into power blocs. Previously, these power blocs often led to international tensions from which both World Wars were born. The Security Council was created in Chapter V of the UN Charter to mediate global issues as a body, in order to determine when it would be appropriate for the United Nations to intervene in international affairs.[2] 70 years later, the Security Council continues to operate as the premier global organization for the maintenance of peace as intended.

The Security Council was initially divided into a council of five permanent members: China, France, the U.S.S.R., the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as six rotating members that would serve two year terms. In 1965, the Security Council expanded to include a total of ten rotating Member States from Africa, Asia, Eastern and Western Europe, and Latin America and the Caribbean in order to better represent the international community.[3] The permanent five Member States (P-5) have the power to veto any resolution their delegation finds unsuitable for the promotion of peace and security. This veto power places responsibility in the hands of states that have historically proven their ability to act with the interest of the international community in mind. When a P-5 has an individual state issue with resolutions, the option to abstain from the voting process is present, as any negative vote by a permanent member is counted as a veto.[4]

The Security Council functions to establish and maintain peace internationally through a variety of means. To ensure this promotion of peace, any decision made by the Security Council is one that Member States of the United Nations are bound to by virtue of the very membership itself.[5]

In the process of establishing peace the Council should first attempt to have parties involved in conflict reach a peaceful agreement and assist states by promoting the use of investigation and mediation. This could include the approval of a UN sanctioned investigative mission or even request direct assistance from the Secretary-General, as his office offers legitimacy as the governing individual of the single largest cooperative peace organization. The Council has also met in times of great need when hostilities arise, through which the body is tasked with preventing conflict escalation, reducing active party tensions, and ushering the conflict to a point at which peaceful agreements can be made.[6]

Funding for the Security Council's peacekeeping operations is the legal obligation of every Member State. The General Assembly allocates funding from the budget based on cost assessments formulated by Member States. Annually the peacekeeping budget is low compared to the global military expenditure, but still often exceeds five billion USD.[7]

In times of international crises, the Security Council may call an emergency session in which Member States will convene to discuss any immediate action the body should take. The international crises that call for immediate action often require extra measures be taken beyond the normal function, in which case penalties are often likely. In the event that some form of penalty is deemed necessary by the Security Council, Member States can opt for "economic sanctions, arms embargoes, financial penalties and restrictions, travel bans, severance of diplomatic

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[1] "The UN Security Council," United Nations Foundation. http://www.unfoundation.org/what-we-do/issues/united-nations/the-un-security-council.html (accessed April 12 2015)

[2] "What is the Security Council?" http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/ (accessed April 12, 2015)

[3] "The UN Security Council," United Nations Foundation. http://www.unfoundation.org/what-we-do/issues/united_nations/theun-security-council.html (accessed April 12, 2015)

[4] "Provisional Rules of Procedure," Repertoire of the Practice of the Security Council. http://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/rules/overview.shtml (accessed April 15, 2015)

[5] "What is the Security Council?" http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/ (accessed April 12, 2015)

[6] "The UN Security Council," United Nations Foundation. http://www.unfoundation.org/what-we-do/issues/united-nations/the-un-security-council.html (accessed April 12 2015).

[7] "The UN Budget Process," Better World Campaign. http://www.betterworldcampaign.org/issues/funding/the-un-budget-process.html (accessed April 17, 2015)

relations, blockade, or even collective military action".[8] When the Security Council takes action in a conflict or global security risk it may then create subsidiary organizations to carry out the mandate of peace on that matter. Numerous subsidiary organs have been established since the inception of the Security Council with varying intentions. Organizations such as the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee established in 2001 works to "bolster the ability of United Nations Member States to prevent terrorist acts."[9] A number of committees exist to meet the demands of sanctions imposed.[10] These organs are also created to oversee peacekeeping missions under the command of Department of Peacekeeping Operations, which currently includes sixteen different active operations.[11]

In the past, missions taken on by the United Nations have had varying results. The Rwandan Genocide serves as an example of the negative result of Member States of the Security Council disagreeing on the course of action to take in a human rights issue. This particular case resulted in over 800,000 deaths over a 100 day time span, which evidences the need for urgency when handling major crises.[12] Reversely, when Member States operate swiftly and collectively, the chances for a successful peacekeeping operation are extremely high, as was the case with the Cambodian mission, United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) in 1992 and 1993.[13] With this mission, the Security Council effectively resolved a conflict that had lasted over a decade, and helped to rebuild the Cambodian state. Member States worked together to establish a framework for Cambodian factions to follow in the peace formation process that eventually led to elections for the Cambodian state. A divided council unyielding to compromise for the greater good can be detrimental to global peace; however as a council bound together to carry out the goals of the organization, the Council can play an integral role in bringing peace to Member States like Cambodia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mozambique and many more.

Member States Represented on the Security Council at SRMUN Atlanta 2015 include:

PERMANENT MEMBERS: CHINA, FRANCE, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, THE UNITED KINGDOM, AND THE UNITED STATES.

NON-PERMANENT MEMBERS: ANGOLA, CHAD, CHILE, JORDAN, LITHUANIA, MALAYSIA, NEW ZEALAND, NIGERIA, SPAIN, VENEZUELA (BOLIVARIAN REPUBLIC OF).

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[8] "What is the Security Council?" http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/ (accessed April 12 2015)
[9] "Our Mandate," Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee. http://www.un.org/en/sc/ctc/ (accessed 12 April 2015)
[10] "Subsidiary Organs," United Nations Security Council. http://www.un.org/en/sc/subsidiary/ (accessed 12 April 2015)
[11] "Current peacekeeping operations," United Nations Peacekeeping.
        http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/current.shtml (accessed 12 April 2015).
[12] "Rwanda." Global Policy Forum. https://www.globalpolicy.org/security-council/index-of-countries-on-the-security-council-agenda/rwanda.html (accessed April 20, 2015)
[13] "Facts and Figures," Cambodia- UNCTAC. http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/past/untacfacts.html (accessed April 25, 2015)

I.   Overview of Agenda

Adoption of Agenda

The Security Council's annual agenda can be generated from the following five sources: the previous year's agenda, the President of the Security Council, any United Nations (UN) Member State, the UN Secretary-General and/or other UN bodies. The Security Council may decide to keep some items on its agenda if more discussion is deemed necessary by the body. For example, a very universal yet timeless, topic that re-appears on the agenda is Women and Peace and Security. The Office of the Security Council President plays a crucial role as well because it has the capability of placing items on the agenda. In January 2000, for instance, the United States, which held the Security Council presidency at the time, placed AIDS as a threat to international security on the agenda of the Security Council. Furthermore, Article 35 of the UN Charter grants UN Member States the right to refer disputes to the Security Council. In 1948, India used this mechanism to refer the situation in Kashmir to the Security Council. Likewise, under Article 99, the UN Secretary-General may bring items to the attention of the Security Council as seen when Former Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cueller asked the Security Council to investigate Geneva Convention violations in the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s. Other UN bodies may also refer items to the Security Council. The General Assembly, for instance, is afforded this right under Article 11 of the UN Charter. General Assembly Resolution 194 of 1948, for example, requested the Security Council discuss the demilitarization of Jerusalem. The President of the Security Council and the Secretary-General prepare a provisional agenda based on all sources of potential agenda items. The provisional agenda is provided to the members of the Security Council who then discuss and adopt the agenda. The Security Council may choose to discuss or not to discuss any agenda item referred to it by another body or Member State.

How the SRMUN Security Council Will Set the Agenda

The Security Council at SRMUN Atlanta 2015 will operate differently than previously simulated committees held at SRMUN conferences. As opposed to providing delegates with pre-selected topics to consider, the SC, in line with how the real committee operates at the UN, will have an open agenda. Each Member State is charged with setting the agenda, based on the current issues of importance to the SC, and by means of a majority vote. Each delegate will be responsible for presenting two potential topics within their position papers that they will later defend before the Council to be considered as agenda items. These two topics should reflect the most important issues or crisis affecting your Member State.

The SC will operate independently of the other organs at SRMUN due to the possibility of a crisis scenario. Therefore, other UN organs represented at SRMUN will not refer items to the Security Council. The Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council are staff members and will not impact substantive debate, except when necessary. This leaves the agenda in the hands of the SRMUN Security Council delegates. Delegates to the Security Council should therefore be prepared for a range of likely topics.

After the roll is called, the President of the Security Council will open discussion of the Security Council agenda. Delegates may make formal speeches and utilize caucuses to discuss potential topics and negotiate how to proceed. After some discussion and negotiation, delegates may make motions to set the agenda. An example of such a motion is:

"The Delegate from Jordan moves for a discussion of the Situation in the Middle East."

Note that the naming of the topic will affect the breadth of the topic. For instance, the issue of Israeli practices concerning the human rights of the Palestinian people is much narrower and more focused than the situation in the Middle East.

There can be multiple motions for different agenda items, but each motion can only name one potential agenda item. Motions for agenda items will be voted on in the order in which they are received. The first motion to receive nine or more affirmative votes will be the agenda item. At the conclusion of discussion of that agenda item (either through voting or adjournment of the agenda item), the Security Council will again move back into a discussion of

setting the agenda, and the process will proceed until the next agenda item passes by nine or more votes. Delegates may choose to negotiate more than one agenda item at a time, but they can only vote on one item at a time. For example, delegates may choose to discuss the Situation regarding Iran's atomic energy program and then Children in Armed Conflict. Delegates would move to set the agenda as Iran. Once Iran has been discussed and resolutions have been voted on or discussion on Iran adjourned, then the Council will move to discuss the agenda again, and delegates would have to move to discuss Children in Armed Conflict.

II.   Voting

All votes (both procedural and substantive) in the Security Council require 9 affirmative votes to pass, as outlined in the UN Charter. For instance, a vote of 8 in favor, with 0 opposed and 7 abstentions would fail substantive votes. Substantive votes include votes on draft resolutions, amendments and the second vote during a division of the question. Additionally, substantive votes require the "concurring votes" of the permanent 5 (P-5) members of the Security Council (China, France, Russia, UK and US). The UN interprets that an abstention by a member of the P-5 does not represent a veto. Therefore, for a resolution to pass, all members of the P-5 must either vote yes or abstain, and the resolution must receive 9 affirmative votes. Note that the P-5 have rarely utilized the veto in the past eight years; only 12 vetoes have been cast in that time, and in 1996, 1998 and 2000, no vetoes were cast.[14]

The SRMUN Security Council will adhere to the voting rules set forward in the UN Charter.

III.   Position Papers

Due to the open agenda of the SRMUN Security Council, delegates will be asked to write position papers that are different from all other SRMUN committees. Delegates should identify two issues related to international peace and security that best reflect the interests of their Member State. Position papers should present the significance of the two issues in the order in which their Member State wishes to see them addressed. For instance, the delegate for Chad may propose the following two topics in order: 1) UN Efforts to Remove Landmines; and 2) Eliminating the Small Arms trade in Africa, whereas the delegate for the United Kingdom may propose: 1) UN Participation in the Rebuilding of Iraq; and 2) Terrorism.

IV.   Crisis

Background

The UN Charter of the United Nations states that the Security Council should be able to function continuously, and that the Security Council is the primary UN organ for dealing with crises that could impact international peace and security. Following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, for example, the Security Council held an emergency meeting at 2:00 am.

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Addressing a crisis situation is often incremental in the work of the SRMUN Security Council. If a crisis situation arises, the Secretariat will provide delegates with pertinent briefing materials and periodic updates. The Secretariat will also forward communications from the governments of Security Council Member States to their representatives; this may include reports and communiqués. Other committees at SRMUN may or may not become involved; however, if such a situation arises, the Security Council will be notified. If other SRMUN committees are not involved, then Security Council delegates **SHOULD NOT** interfere with the work of delegates in other committees. It is up to SRMUN Security Council delegates to decide a course of action to attempt to resolve a crisis. The primary tools for delegates to resolve a crisis are diplomacy and negotiation. Delegates should be prepared to represent the interests of their countries in any potential crisis.

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[14] This chart breaks down use of the veto by decade/year. "Changing Patterns in the Use of the Veto in the Security Council." Global Policy Forum. http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/data/vetotab.htm

V.   Outside Parties

Background

The UN Charter gives the Security Council the option to invite non-Member States of the Security Council to participate, without vote, in discussions that affect the non-Member States.

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The resources of SRMUN are limited, so logistically, it may not be possible to honor all requests. If a potential crisis requires it, SRMUN may seek ways to accommodate such a request. To invite a non-Member State, delegates must first advise the SC committee Director and Assistant Director (from a logistical standpoint.) If it is cleared, a delegate should make a motion such as: "Under Article 32, the delegate from Argentina moves for the invitation of representatives from Cameroon to participate in a discussion of the agenda item under discussion." The motion requires a vote of 9 in favor to pass.

VI.   The Double Veto

Background

Representatives at the San Francisco conference that created the UN left ultimate decisions on whether a vote in the Security Council was procedural or substantive up to the Security Council. On rare occasions, P-5 members are able to question whether an item is procedural which requires 9 affirmative votes and an affirmation or abstention from each of the P-5 members. For instance, a P-5 member may challenge the Security Council President's ruling on whether an issue is procedural. The Security Council then has a substantive vote on whether the issue is procedural or not. The P-5 member can veto this vote, making the issue substantive, then veto the original motion. This is known as the double veto. The double veto is rarely used.

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The SRMUN Security Council has limited meeting time, and the desire of the committee is to maximize the available time. The Director of the Security Council has the right to limit the use of the double veto on procedural issues that have minor impacts on debate such as suspension of the meeting and setting speakers' time. However, procedural motions such as agenda setting or inviting a party to a dispute, could be subject to a potential double veto.

To call for the double veto, a member of the P-5 should raise their placard after a motion has been made, but before a vote has been taken and make the following motion:

> *"The delegate from the UK moves to declare this motion a procedural motion."*

For Example:

> *"The Delegate from Romania moves for a discussion of the Use of Pre-Emptive Force."*

The Delegate from the UK raises their placard and is recognized:

> *"The Delegate from the UK moves to declare this motion a procedural motion."*

Once the President accepts this motion, the Security Council moves to a substantive vote on whether or not the motion to set the agenda is procedural. A "yes" vote means that it is procedural; a "no" vote means that it is substantive. If the UK votes no, then the motion to set the agenda is considered substantive. At this point, the Security Council votes substantively on the motion to set the agenda. A no vote from any member of the P-5 will veto the motion.

If you have any questions about these issues or any other Security Council related question, please do not hesitate to consult your Director, Assistant Director, the Director-General or Deputy Director General.