



SRMUN ATLANTA 2018

Our Responsibility: Facilitating Social Development through Global Engagement and Collaboration

November 15 - 17, 2018

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Greetings Delegates,

Welcome to SRMUN Atlanta 2018 and the Security Council (SC)! My name is Hannah Cake and I will be your Director this year. This will be my second conference as a SRMUN staff member. Previously I served as the Assistant Director for the Commission on the Status of Women at SRMUN Atlanta 2017. I am currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in Political Science and International Affairs at Florida State University. Our committee's Assistant Director will be Joshua Perry. This will be Joshua's first time as a staff member but he has previously served as a chair for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) at SRMUN Atlanta 2017 and has attended three past SRMUN conferences as a delegate. Joshua is pursuing a bachelor's degree in history and political science at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Within the UN, the SC is the only committee that can enforce its decisions and is considered as the body that maintains peace and security around the world. This is critical, as the SC is used to carry out the fundamental goals outlined in the UN charter and is considered the primary body of the UN. The Council consists of 15 Member States, five of which hold permanent seats, known as the Permanent Five (P5).

By focusing on the mission of the SC and the SRMUN Atlanta 2018 theme of "*Our Responsibility: Facilitating Social Development through Global Engagement and Collaboration*," we have developed the following topics for the delegates to discuss come conference:

Open Agenda

The background guide provides a strong introduction to the committee and the topics and should be utilized as a foundation for the delegate's independent research. While we have attempted to provide a holistic analysis of the issues, the background guide should not be used as the single mode of analysis for the topics. Delegates are expected to go beyond the background guide and engage in intellectual inquiry of their own. The position papers for the committee should reflect the complexity of these issues and their externalities. Delegations are expected to submit a position paper and be prepared for a vigorous discussion at the conference. Position papers should be no longer than two pages in length (single spaced) and demonstrate your Member State's position, policies and recommendations on each of the two topics. For more detailed information about formatting and how to write position papers, delegates can visit srmun.org. **All position papers MUST be submitted no later than Friday, October 26, 2018 by 11:59pm EST via the SRMUN website.**

Joshua and I are enthusiastic about serving as your dais for the SC. We wish you all the best of luck in your conference preparation and look forward to working with you in the near future. Please feel free to contact Jordin Dickerson, Joshua or myself if you have any questions while preparing for the conference.

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The History of the Security Council

At the end of World War II in 1945, the United Nations (UN) was created, along with the Security Council (SC) under Chapter V with an original total of 11 Member States.¹ Although currently located within the UN Headquarters in New York City, the SC first gathered in London on 17 January 1946.²³ Since then, the five main victors of WWII -- China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America -- became the permanent members of the SC; together with six temporary seats, which increased to ten in 1965 bringing the total body to 15 Member States.⁴ The ten non-permanent members of the SC are elected for two-year terms with five seats changing on a rotational basis, bearing in mind that retiring members cannot return for immediate re-election.⁵

The SC elects a president, which is “held by each of the members in turn for one month, following the English alphabetical order of the Member States’ names.”⁶ The President’s role is defined by the Council’s Provisional Rules of Procedure (S/96/Rev.7), which includes presiding over the meetings, overseeing any crisis, and approving the agenda proposed by the UN Secretary-General as stated under Chapter II, Rule 7.⁷ Decisions by the SC require at least nine votes, five of which must be from the permanent members -- who also have the power to veto any procedural matters.⁸

Article 24, Chapter V of the UN Charter states that the SC is authorized to make binding decisions, which other Member States are obligated to follow.⁹ When maintaining peace and security, the SC’s first action aims to reach a peaceful consensus between the involved parties through an agreement, undertaking investigation and mediation, appointing special peaceful envoys, or “request[ing] the Secretary-General to use his good offices to achieve a pacific settlement of the dispute.”¹⁰ Should the dispute escalate, the main mission is to bring the hostilities to an end through ceasefire directives or sending military observers and/or peacekeepers to decrease the high tensions.¹¹ Much harsher decisions are sometimes required, and the SC retains the power to implement economic sanctions, arms embargoes, financial restrictions, travel bans, severe diplomatic relations, blockades, and, in some cases, send collective military action.¹² Its jurisdiction also expands beyond just keeping international peace, but it also recommends the “admission of new Member States, exercise the trusteeship function of the UN in “strategic areas,” recommends the appointment of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly (GA), and, together with the GA, elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice (ICJ).”¹³

For 71 years since its creation, the Body has dealt with several issues and has restored peace as intended, such as the first peace mission established in 1948 to “monitor the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbors.”¹⁴ The general topics the SC addresses include ensuring international law is respected, disarmament of nuclear, chemical, and conventional weapons through SC Resolution 1540, drug control, crime prevention, and counter-terrorism.¹⁵ Over the last few years, the SC has passed numerous resolutions. For example, in 2016 SC Resolution 2334 reaffirmed that the establishment of Israeli settlements in Palestinian territory holds “no legal

¹ “The UN Security Council,” The United Nations Foundation, <http://www.unfoundation.org/what-we-do/issues/united-nations/the-un-security-council.html?referrer=https://www.google.com/> (accessed June 5, 2016).

² “About,” United Nations Security Council, <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/> (accessed June 5, 2016).

³ “The UN Security Council,” The United Nations Foundation, <http://www.unfoundation.org/what-we-do/issues/united-nations/the-un-security-council.html> (accessed June 5, 2016).

⁴ “The UN Security Council,” The United Nations Foundation, (accessed June 5, 2016).

⁵ “Charter of the United Nations,” The United Nations, June 26, 1945, <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-v/> (accessed June 5, 2016).

⁶ “Security Council Presidency in 2016,” United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/sc/presidency/> (accessed June 5, 2016).

⁷ “Provisional Rules of Procedure (S/96/Rev.7),” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/rules/> (accessed June 5, 2016).

⁸ “Charter of the United Nations,” The United Nations, June 26, 1945, (accessed June 5, 2016).

⁹ “Charter of the United Nations,” The United Nations, June 26, 1945, (accessed June 5, 2016).

¹⁰ “About,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/> (accessed June 5, 2016).

¹¹ “About,” The United Nations, (accessed June 5, 2016).

¹² “About,” The United Nations, (accessed June 5, 2016).

¹³ “About,” The United Nations, (accessed June 5, 2016).

¹⁴ “Peace and Security,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/globalissues/peacesecurity/> (accessed June 5, 2016).

¹⁵ “Key Issues,” United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/sections/priorities/> (accessed June 5, 2016).

validity” under international law.¹⁶ More recently, the SC passed SC Resolution 2397, focusing on the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) and their nuclear weapons testing.¹⁷ The Resolution “condemns in the strongest terms” the most recent nuclear launch by the DPRK, strictly prohibits all other Member States from participating in the sale or transfer of items to the DPRK for the purpose of aiding the nuclear program, or aiding other industries to promote the state’s military interests.¹⁸

The overall budget of the SC, known as the regular budget, is considered and approved by the General Assembly’s (GA) Fifth Committee under Article 17 of the UN Charter.¹⁹ Budgets for peacekeeping operations are separate and calculated “based on the missions’ mandate from the SC.”²⁰ Within the UN, Member States are required to financially contribute to the regular budget and peacekeeping budget. However, some Member States may opt to voluntarily contribute more than what is required in the form of supplies, personnel, or other resources.²¹ Depending on each Member States’ financial capabilities, the UN funds its peacekeeping budget differently with “greater discounts for poorer countries,” which is “compensated for by the five permanent members of the SC.”²² The permanent members pay a larger share because “of their higher responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security,” as reinstated under GA Resolution 235.²³ The SC approves peacekeeping operations and, during the last two decades, has experienced a large increase in these operations, which has led to a drastic rise in debt to the budget of up to USD 1.6 Billion as of 30 June 2015.²⁴ This increase in operations arose from higher involvement in more conflicts or peacebuilding operations around the globe. Because of the higher financial responsibility and leverage the permanent members hold, many of the decisions from the SC are impacted by their willingness to expand or continue peacekeeping missions.

The UN budget goes through a rigorous approval process for any new or expanded peacekeeping missions. First, a survey mission is sent to the affected area and the budget will depend on the findings of this operation.²⁵ Second, the Secretary-General presents a report to the SC to convince the need for a peacekeeping operation and the estimated costs.²⁶ Third, the SC meets to pass a resolution to establish a mandate to start the operation.²⁷ A team of UN peacekeepers is sent as soon as possible as established by the mandate.²⁸ From there on, the peacekeeping budget is prepared for a duration of 12 months, from July to June, based on the peacekeeping budget is prepared for a duration of 12 months, from July to June, based on the most recent mandate of the Body.²⁹

¹⁶ United Nations Security Council, Seven Thousandth Eight Hundredth and Fifty Third Meeting, Resolution 2334, *The Situation in the Middle East, Including the Palestinian Question*, S/RES/2334, 2016.

¹⁷ “Security Council Tightens Sanctions on Democratic People’s Republic of Korea,” December 22, 2017, <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc13141.doc.htm> (accessed March 22, 2018).

¹⁸ “Security Council Tightens Sanctions on Democratic People’s Republic of Korea,” December 22, 2017, (accessed March 22, 2018).

¹⁹ “Financing peacekeeping,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/financing.shtml> (accessed June 5, 2016).

²⁰ “Financing peacekeeping,” The United Nations, (accessed June 5, 2016).

²¹ “The UN Regular Budget and Payments to Specialized Agencies,” Better World Campaign, <https://betterworldcampaign.org/us-un-partnership/importance-of-funding-the-un/un-budget-process/> (accessed June 5, 2016).

²² “The UN Regular Budget and Payments to Specialized Agencies,” Better World Campaign, (accessed June 5, 2016).

²³ “Financing peacekeeping,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/financing.shtml> (accessed June 5, 2016).

²⁴ “Tables and Charts on UN Peacekeeping Operations Budget,” Global Policy Forum, <https://www.globalpolicy.org/un-finance/tables-and-charts-on-un-finance/the-un-peacekeeping-operations-budget.html> (accessed June 6, 2016).

²⁵ “Peace-keeping budgets,” United Nations, <http://www.un.org/ga/61/fifth/peacekeepingfinance.pps> (accessed June 6, 2016).

²⁶ “Peace-keeping budgets,” United Nations, (accessed June 6, 2016).

²⁷ “Peace-keeping budgets,” United Nations, (accessed June 6, 2016).

²⁸ “Peace-keeping budgets,” United Nations, (accessed June 6, 2016).

²⁹ “Peace-keeping budgets,” United Nations, (accessed June 6, 2016).