

SRMUN Charlotte 2015
Preserving Fundamental Human Rights:
Our Responsibility to Protect
April 9-11, 2015
Charlotte, NC
sc_charlotte@srmun.org



Dear Delegates,

Welcome to SRMUN Charlotte 2015 and the Security Council (SC). My name is Alexandra Fortes and it gives me great pleasure to serve as your Director. As the Dais for Security Council, we are here to ensure that this committee will be an exceptional, educational, and rewarding experience for all delegates.

The Security Council is a very unique and dynamic body of the United Nations (UN); it is the only body whose decisions are binding. The SC is tasked with maintaining peace and security throughout the international community, and as such regularly deals with severe circumstances and crises. Due to the sensitive nature of the issues brought before the SC, this committee holds a significant responsibility as well as the ability to speedily impose solutions. Although the five Permanent Members of the Security Council have veto power, resolutions are most often than not reached by a consensus.

The simulation of the SC at SRMUN Charlotte 2015 will differ from previous conferences in that the committee will no longer provide pre-selected topics; instead, this committee will reflect the true nature of the SC and entertain an open agenda that must be voted upon by the committee. Therefore, delegates are encouraged to address two topics that reflect each of their Member States' current situation and needs when writing their position papers, while keeping in mind the Conference's theme: "Preserving Fundamental Human Rights: Our Responsibility to Protect." Delegates should also strive to stay up-to-date with current events leading to the Conference, as it will contribute to the flow of debate.

Position papers are required for each Delegation and should be no longer than two pages, single-spaced. Delegates are advised to carefully read and follow the mandatory guidelines for position papers outlined on the SRMUN website. Position papers should address the position of a Member State, providing some history on the topic and plans for action. Addressing the national, regional and international perspectives on each topic is also of importance, as the matters brought forth to the SC are generally of concern to more than one Member State. **Position papers MUST be submitted by 20 March 2015 by 11:59pm EST via the online submission system at <http://www.srmun.org>.**

Please remember that the Security Council is a single delegate committee. We are looking forward to meeting you and serving as your Dais for this conference. We are confident that each of you will do an outstanding job preparing for the SC and will contribute greatly to the flow of this committee. Please do not hesitate to contact Director-General Devin McRae or myself if you have any questions or concerns.

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The Committee History for the United Nations Security Council

The Security Council (SC) was created under Article V of the United Nations Charter with the unconventional ability to pass resolutions that are binding on the Member States of the United Nations (UN). The SC is tasked with the responsibility of maintaining global peace and security. More specifically, as established in the Charter, the main function of the SC is to foster amicable relations amongst Member States, facilitate cooperation amongst nations, and to act as an advocate for the understanding and respect of human rights.¹ While many organs within the UN can make recommendations and suggest actions, Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations states that the Security Council has the power to enforce decisions and demand actions from Member States to prevent, or as a reaction to, an international crisis.² To fulfill its mandate and maintain peace and security, the Security Council has implemented various enforcement measures which range from peaceful approaches, such as the imposing of financial and economic sanctions, to more interventional methods such as peacekeeping operations or authorization of military action.³ When facing the need for potential action, the first function performed by the SC is to determine whether a threat to peace exists. If the council should determine the presence of conflict they first, investigate the situation; second, recommend methods of reaching settlement; third, establish a system to regulate armaments; fourth, call upon Member States to use economic sanctions or force to end the aggression; and finally, they take necessary military action against the aggressors. The SC additionally functions to “recommend the admission of new Members, exercise the trusteeship function of the United Nations in ‘strategic areas,’ and recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and, together with the GA, elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice.”⁴

There are fifteen Member States that make up the Security Council, consisting of five permanent members and nonpermanent members which are elected by the General Assembly every two years by a majority vote.⁵ The 10 rotating members are apportioned by region to achieve “equitable geographical distribution” and five of the ten are replaced each year.⁶ The five permanent members, often referred to as the ‘P-5,’ are the People's Republic of China, the French Republic, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. The concept of a permanent five Member States was established after World War II when the United Kingdom, USSR, and the United States demonstrated strong global leadership following the war.⁷ U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt supported the inclusion of China for its ability in international security and policing.⁸ Likewise, Great Britain suggested France’s participation to block any potential German Soviet alliance. Interestingly, before the actual creation of the P5, Member States debated the idea of permanent membership and veto power, “It was acknowledged that such arrangements reflected the overriding global political influence of the P5 and that, without these privileges, the US and USSR would not ratify the UN Charter.”⁹

The UN Regular Budget finances the Security Council, as well as all of the UN’s special political missions.¹⁰ The present budget agreement for the UN Regular Budget is divided amongst Member States based on their gross national product (GNP) figures.¹¹ The maximum rate expected for contribution is 22 percent of a Member State’s GNP and the minimum is a mere .001 percent.¹² Funding also derives from pre-determined contributions and voluntary donations by Member States; pre-determined contributions are assigned by a Member State’s ability to

¹ “About,” United Nations Security Council. <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about> (accessed April 4, 2014)

² Charter of the United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter5.shtml> (accessed April 5, 2014)

³ “About,” United Nations Security Council. <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/#> (accessed April 4, 2014)

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ “About,” United Nations Security Council. <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/#> (accessed April 4, 2014)

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ “Russia as a Permanent Member of the UN Security Council,” International Policy Analysis. <http://library.fes.de/pdffiles/iez/09461.pdf> (accessed April 5, 2014)

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ “The P5 and the Slow Pace of Security Council Reform,” Global Policy Forum. <http://www.globalpolicy.org/the-dark-side-of-natural-resources-st/water-in-conflict/41307.html> (accessed April 4, 2014)

¹⁰ “UN Budgeting Process,” Better World Campaign. <http://www.betterworldcampaign.org/issues/funding/the-un-budgetprocess.html> (accessed April 4, 2014)

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² “UN Budgeting Process,” Better World Campaign. <http://www.betterworldcampaign.org/issues/funding/the-un-budgetprocess.html> (accessed April 4, 2014)

pay, as well as their depth of involvement in a matter, or the various treaties which they become party to.¹³ The larger portion of pre-determined funding for Security Council peacekeeping operations come from the five permanent members who are expected to pay a greater fraction due to their exclusive veto power and duties regarding the preservation of peace and security.¹⁴

Each member of the Security Council is expected to be available at all times in case of an international crisis. As they are in a continuous session, this is the only UN body that must remain “on call.”¹⁵ It should be noted that not all Member States of the UN have been chosen to hold a seat within the SC.¹⁶ In specific instances, Member States that are not on the SC have been invited to speak to the council and participate in discussions that “specifically affect” their interests. The Presidency of the SC is selected in alphabetical order, rotated monthly and provides each Member State the opportunity to hold the position.¹⁷

Voting within the Security Council vastly differs from other UN committees. In all other organs of the UN, Member States are given an equal voice, but in the SC the five permanent members are given “the great Power unanimity” which is often known as the veto.¹⁸ If one of the five permanent Member States on the SC votes nay on a draft resolution, the draft resolution or decision is void, even if there were a majority pro votes on the issue by the other members of the council. On both procedural and substantive matters, there is a requirement of nine pro votes in order for the item voted on to pass.

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

Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, China, France, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, United Kingdom, and United States of America.

**Written by Jessica DeJesus and Devon Preston

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ “Financing Peacekeeping,” United Nations Peacekeeping. <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/financing.shtml> (accessed April 5, 2014)

¹⁵ “Insiders Guide to the Security Council,” CNN. <http://edition.cnn.com/2006/WORLD/europe/10/16/insider.securitycouncil/> (accessed April 4, 2014)

¹⁶ “Members,” United Nations Security Council. <http://www.un.org/en/sc/members/index.shtml> (accessed April 5, 2014)

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ “Membership and residency of the Security Council in 2003,” UN Members. http://www.un.org/docs/unsc/unsc_members.html (accessed April 4, 2014)

Security Council Simulation Addendum

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 Charlotte 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 (resolutions, amendments and second vote of division of question) additionally 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.¹⁹

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 country 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

¹⁹ 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>

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.

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 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 a yay or abstention from each of the P-5 members. For instance, a P-5 member may challenge the Security Council President's ruling that 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 Directory General.