



SRMUN Charlotte 2016

The United Nations at 70: Addressing the Changing Landscape of Peace Security & Stability

March 31 - April 2, 2016

sc_charlotte@srmun.org

Greetings Delegates,

Welcome to SRMUN Charlotte 2016 and the Security Council (SC). My name is Ryan Baerwalde, and I will be serving as your Director for the SC. This will be my second conference as a SRMUN staff member. Previously, I served as the Assistant Director of the SC in SRMUN Atlanta 2015. I am currently a graduate student at the University of Denver, where I am pursuing a Master's Degree in International Security and hold a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Valdosta State University. Our committee's Assistant Director will be Brittany Cabrera. This will also be Brittany's second time as a SRMUN staff member. She previously served as the Assistant Director for the Commission on the Status of Women at SRMUN Atlanta 2015. Brittany holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science with a minor in Philosophy and Religious Studies, both from Valdosta State University. Brittany and I have worked together for many years, especially as members of our Alma Mater's Model UN team, so we fully expect to have a great working relationship on the dais.

The SC is one of the most demanding and engaging committees of the United Nations. Brittany and I will expect our delegates to reflect this in their work, as well as their conduct. Although the demands of this committee are great, please consider both of us as resources to help you learn and grow in this fantastic committee!

Due to the fact that the SC at SRMUN Charlotte 2016 will have an open agenda, there will be no provided agenda topics. Instead, we ask each delegation to prepare for two topics of international peace and security that are most important to their respective Member State. In addition, it would be beneficial for delegates to remain up to date on current international affairs and their Member State's position on them, as the SC will be simulating an international crisis scenario at some point in the conference, which will pull heavily from real-world situations.

The background guide provides a strong introduction to the committee and should be utilized as a foundation for the delegate's independent research. 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, March 11, 2016 by 11:59pm EST via the SRMUN website.**

Brittany 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 the Director-General, Maricruz Retana, Brittany or myself if you have any questions while preparing for the conference.

Ryan Baerwalde
Director
sc_charlotte@srmun.org

Brittney Cabrera
Assistant Director
sc_charlotte@srmun.org

Maricruz Retana
Director- General
dg_charlotte@srmun.org

History of the Security Council

The Security Council (SC) was created under Article V of the United Nations (UN) Charter in June 1945, as one of the six original organs of the UN.¹ As the only body in the UN with the power to make binding decisions, which Member States are obligated to follow, the SC is a unique and, in essence, the only organization in the UN structure with concrete power.² Fifteen Member States, five of which maintain permanent seats, constitute the SC, while the remaining 10 seats are filled by Member States to achieve “equitable geographic distribution,” according to a majority vote of the General Assembly (GA).³ The five permanent members, or the P5 as they are interchangeably known, are the People’s Republic of China (China), the French Republic (France), the Russian Federation (Russia), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK or United Kingdom), and the United States of America (USA).⁴ Each non-permanent member of the SC serves a two-year term on a rotational basis; every year, five non-permanent Member States are replaced.⁵ The presidency of the SC is selected in alphabetical order and is rotated monthly amongst the current members.⁶ All decisions made by the SC become effective upon a concurring vote of a majority, or nine members, including the votes of the P5.⁷ As the P5 maintain the power to veto a decision of the SC, should one of the P5 vote against a resolution, the resolution will not pass.

The SC, as the only body with the power to enforce its decisions, was created to serve as the world leader in maintaining international peace and security.⁸ The SC serves as the primary body of the UN in carrying out the organization’s four purposes outlined in the UN Charter: to maintain international peace and security, to promote and develop amicable relations amongst Member States, to assist in solving international conflicts and disputes as well as encouraging a respect for human rights, and to serve as the international center for coordinating peaceful actions amongst Member States.⁹ More specifically, according to the UN Charter Chapter V, the SC has the sole power of making and implementing decisions, which all Member States are bound by the UN Charter to uphold.¹⁰ Meeting whenever there is a perceived threat to international security, the SC considers the situation and whether there is, in fact, need for further action.¹¹

In an attempt to fulfill its mandate, the SC has developed an array of enforcement measures that encompass peaceful measures, such as economic sanctions and arms embargoes, as well as measures that utilize intervention, including peacekeeping operations or the authorization of military action.¹² Upon convening, if the SC determines that a threat to peace does exist, the Council investigates the situation, followed by a recommendation as to how to peacefully resolve the conflict.¹³ Should a peaceful resolution fail to institute peace and a dispute leads to hostilities, the Council then shifts its focus to ending all hostilities as soon as possible by means of declaring a ceasefire or dispatching peacekeeping forces to the afflicted area.¹⁴ Should these methods prove ineffective as well, the Council then resorts to more drastic actions, including collective military action against the aggressors and the severance of diplomatic relations.¹⁵ Additionally, the SC serves to “recommend the admission of new Member States, exercise the trusteeship function of the UN in ‘strategic areas,’ and recommend to the GA the appointment of the Secretary-General and, together with the GA, elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice (ICJ).”¹⁶

¹ “About,” United Nations Security Council, <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/> (accessed July 27, 2015).

² Ibid.

³ “Current Members,” United Nations Security Council, <http://www.un.org/en/sc/members/> (accessed July 27, 2015).

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Charter of the United Nations, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-v/index.html> (accessed July 27, 2015).

⁸ “The Security Council,” United Nations Security Council, <http://www.un.org/en/sc/> (accessed July 27, 2015).

⁹ “About,” United Nations Security Council, <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/> (accessed July 27, 2015).

¹⁰ Charter of the United Nations, United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-v/index.html> (accessed July 27, 2015).

¹¹ “About,” United Nations Security Council, <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/> (accessed July 27, 2015).

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ibid.

Financing for the SC, as well as the GA, Economic and Social Council, ICJ, the Secretariat, and the UN's special political missions, are funded through the UN Regular Budget.¹⁷ According to the current payment structure, a Member State is expected to pay between 0.001 percent and 22 percent of the annual costs, based on each Member State's financial situation and ability to pay.¹⁸ Voluntary contributions by Member States are also utilized to finance a majority of the humanitarian relief operations.¹⁹ Additionally, peacekeeping operations are funded by a separate budget, compounded in a similar fashion to the Regular Budget but with greater discounts for those Member States who cannot afford to pay.²⁰ As a result, members of the P5 are required to contribute more than most Member States to make up for the deficit.²¹

All members of the SC are expected to be available at all times in case a matter of consideration arises.²² While all members must be present whenever the SC convenes, Member States who are not currently members of the SC are permitted to attend, upon invitation, to discuss with the Council matters that specifically affect the interests of that Member State.²³

The following Security Council Member States will be offered at SRMUN Charlotte 2016:

ANGOLA, CHAD, CHILE, CHINA, FRANCE, JORDAN, LITHUANIA, MALAYSIA, NEW ZEALAND, NIGERIA, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SPAIN, UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND VENEZUELA.²⁴

¹⁷ "The UN Budget Process," Better World Campaign, <http://www.betterworldcampaign.org/issues/funding/the-un-budget-process.html?referrer=https://www.google.com/> (accessed July 27, 2015).

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ "Financing Peacekeeping," United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/financing.shtml> (accessed July 27, 2015).

²¹ Ibid.

²² "The Security Council," United Nations Security Council, <http://www.un.org/en/sc/> (accessed July 27, 2015).

²³ "About," United Nations Security Council, <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/> (accessed July 27, 2015).

²⁴ SRMUN Charlotte – Nations, SRMUN, <http://www.srmun.org/charlotte/nations.php> (accessed November 21, 2015).

Security Council Addendum

I. Overview of Agenda

Adoption of Agenda

The Security Council's (SC) annual agenda can be generated from the following five sources: the previous year's agenda, the President of the SC, any United Nations (UN) Member State, the UN Secretary-General and/or other UN bodies. The SC 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 reappears on the agenda is Women, Peace and Security. The President of the Office of the SC plays a crucial role as well because the president has the capability of placing items on the agenda. In January 2000, for instance, the United States of America (USA), which held the SC presidency at the time, placed AIDS as a threat to international security on the agenda of the SC. Furthermore, Article 35 of the UN Charter grants UN Member States the right to refer disputes to the SC. In 1948, India used this mechanism to refer the situation in Kashmir to the SC. Likewise, under Article 99, the UN Secretary-General may bring items to the attention of the SC as seen when Former Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar asked the SC to investigate Geneva Convention violations in the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s. Other UN bodies may also refer items to the SC. The General Assembly (GA), for instance, is afforded this right under Article 11 of the UN Charter. GA Resolution 194 of 1948, for example, requested the SC to discuss the demilitarization of Jerusalem. The President of the SC 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 SC who then discuss and adopt the agenda. The SC 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 SC at SRMUN Charlotte 2016 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 the said assigned 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 SC. The Secretary-General and the President of the SC are staff members and will not impact substantive debate, except when necessary. This leaves the agenda in the hands of the SC delegates. Delegates to the SC thus should be equipped for a myriad of likely topics.

After the roll is called, the President of the SC will open discussion of the 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 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 SC 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 SC require nine affirmative votes to pass, as outlined in the UN Charter. For instance, a vote of eight in favor, with zero opposed and seven abstentions would fail. Substantive votes (resolutions, amendments and second vote of division of question) additionally require the “concurring votes” of the permanent five (P-5) members of the SC (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) and the United States of America (USA)). 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.²⁵

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

III. Position Papers

Due to the open agenda of the SRMUN SC, 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 address them. For instance, the Chad delegate, 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 UK may propose: 1) UN Participation in the Rebuilding of Iraq; and 2) Terrorism.

IV. Updates

As SRMUN Charlotte 2016 draws closer, delegates will begin receiving updates from the Director of the SC. These updates are meant to draw attention to particular international issues that may pertain to the crisis situation, as well as provide delegates with a base of topic knowledge from which they can build their own research. The updates are not meant to be viewed as part of the crisis itself, but rather a means of pointing the delegates in the right direction prior to the start of the conference.

V. Crisis

Background

The UN Charter states that the SC should be able to function continuously as the SC 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 SC 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 SC. 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 SC 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 SC will be notified. If other SRMUN committees are not involved, then SC delegates SHOULD NOT interfere with the work of delegates in other committees. It is up to SRMUN SC 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 Member State in any potential crisis.

²⁵ 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> (accessed November 21, 2015).

VI. Outside Parties

Background

The UN Charter gives the SC the option to invite non-Member States of the SC to participate, without vote, in discussions that affect the non-Member State(s).

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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 nine in favor to pass.

VII. The Double Veto

Background

Representatives at the San Francisco, California, USA conference that created the UN left ultimate decisions on whether a vote in the SC was procedural or substantive. On rare occasions, P-5 members are able to question whether an item is procedural which requires nine affirmative votes and a yay or abstention from each of the P-5. For instance, a P-5 may challenge the President of the SC's ruling that an issue is procedural. The SC 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, and then veto the original motion. This is known as the double veto. The double veto is rarely used.

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The SRMUN SC has a limited meeting time, and the desire of the committee is to maximize the available time. The Director of the SC 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 China 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 SC 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 SC 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 SC related question, please do not hesitate to consult your Director, Assistant Director, the Director-General or Deputy Director-General.