



SRMUN Charlotte 2018
Global Interdependence and the Changing Role of the United Nations
April 12-14, 2018
sc_charlotte@srmun.org

Esteemed Delegates,

I welcome you to SRMUN Charlotte 2018 and the United Nations Security Council (referred to as the Security Council or SC). I am Vanessa DuBoulay and it is my distinct pleasure to serve as your Director for this stimulating and exciting committee. This is my fourth year participating with the conference and will be my first time on staff. SRMUN Charlotte 2018 will be my 22nd conference and I have served in many different roles prior to joining SRMUN. Additionally, I hold a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science with a concentration in international law from Nova Southeastern University.

Serving, as your Assistant Director (AD) for this committee is Claudia Tio. This is her first time on staff at SRMUN, having attended SRMUN Atlanta 2016 as a delegate. Claudia is currently attending the University of Florida to pursue a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Economics. Previously, she earned her Associates of Arts at Broward College and, by participating extensively in its Model United Nations team, developed a passion for MUN. She is thrilled to serve as the AD for the Security Council, and cannot wait to see what creative and effective solutions delegates bring to the table at the conference.

The Security Council is an exceptionally important committee since it is tasked primarily with the maintenance of peace and security worldwide. The Security Council discusses a wide range of topics, most importantly those regarding the existence of threats to peace, breaches of peace, and any otherwise aggressive acts in the international community. Consequently, the SC has a responsibility to act in accordance with the United Nations purposes and principles and to address these breaches according to the mandates of Chapter VII of the UN Charter.

The Security Council will operate with an open agenda. During debate delegates will be tasked with bearing in mind the mandate of the Security Council and the SRMUN Charlotte 2018 theme of "*Global Interdependence and the Changing Role of the United Nations*".

Updates will be released to delegates prior to the position paper due date. Updates will highlight a sampling of key current events for delegates to keep in mind when drafting your position papers. However, it is not mandatory to base and write position papers off the published updates. Delegates are encouraged to explore writing position papers on issues that are relevant to their Member State. Security Council operates from an open agenda and delegates will need to look at issues that affect more than just your respective Member State. The position papers for this committee should reflect the complexity of the issues you propose for debate. All 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 must adequately demonstrate your Member State's position, policies, and recommendations on each of the two topics deemed relevant. More information regarding formatting and examples for position papers can be found at srmun.org. **All position papers MUST be submitted no later than March 23, 2018 by 11:59 pm EST via the SRMUN website.**

Claudia and I send you the warmest regards in preparation for the 2018 SRMUN Charlotte Conference and look forward to reviewing your position papers. Please feel free to contact Desiree, Kayla, Claudia, or me should you have any questions during your preparation for the conference.

Vanessa DuBoulay
Director
sc_charlotte@srmun.org

Claudia Tio
Assistant Director
sc_charlotte@srmun.org

Desiree Kennedy
Director-General
dg_charlotte@srmun.org

Committee History of the Security Council

Created in June 1945 under Chapter V of the Charter of the United Nations (UN), the Security Council (SC) is one of the six original organs of the UN.¹ Tasked primarily with peacekeeping and security maintenance, the UN Charter further commissions the SC to “act in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations,” to submit annual and special reports to the General Assembly, and to assess the existence of threats to peace, breaches of peace, and any otherwise aggressive acts in the international community.²³ The SC also recommends candidates to the General Assembly for appointment to the Secretariat of the UN.⁴

Although currently located within the UN Headquarters in New York City, the SC first gathered in London on 17 January 1946 and was formed by 11 Member States, including the victors of WWII and six temporary seats.⁵ Today, the SC consists of 15 Member States, each of which may cast one vote.⁶ Of these 15 Member States, five are outlined as permanent members by Article 23 of the Charter of the UN. These Member States, colloquially referred to as the P5, are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.⁷ Unique to the P5 is the power of veto. As outlined in Article 27 of the Charter of the UN, all substantive matters shall pass the SC by “an affirmative vote of nine members,” provided all five permanent members either vote affirmatively or abstain from voting.⁸ This ultimately means that, unlike other bodies of the UN, a simple majority is not enough to pass a resolution in the SC. Resolutions require the consent or abstention of the P5. All non-substantive or procedural matters also pass the SC by an affirmative vote of nine members; however, votes against by members of the P5 do not automatically invalidate the motion.⁹

The remaining ten slots for Member States serving on the SC are filled via election by the General Assembly and are non-permanent members of the SC.¹⁰ These ten non-permanent members are elected for two-year terms with five seats changing on a rotational basis, and retiring members cannot return for immediate re-election.¹¹ Pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 1991 (XVIII) of 17 December 1963, these ten spots are filled on a geographic basis: five Member States are selected from African and Asian Member States, one from Eastern European Member States, two from Latin American Member States, and two from Western European and other Member States.¹² A representative of all SC members must be present at the UN Headquarters in New York City at all times to ensure the continuous feasibility of a SC meeting.¹³

For 71 years since the creation of the SC, the body has been faced with many issues, and has worked to maintain peace globally.¹⁴ The first peace mission was established in 1948 to “monitor the Armistice Agreement between Israel and its Arab neighbors.”¹⁵ The general topics the SC could address in any given session include but are not

¹ “About: Security Council,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/> (Accessed June 30, 2017)

² “Charter of the United Nations,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-v/index.html> (Accessed June 30, 2017)

³ “Charter of the United Nations,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-vii/index.html> (Accessed June 30, 2017)

⁴ “Charter of the United Nations,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-xv/index.html> (Accessed June 30, 2017)

⁵ “Peace-keeping budgets,” United Nations, <http://www.un.org/ga/61/fifth/peacekeepingfinance.pps> (accessed June 6, 2016).

⁶ “Charter of the United Nations,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-v/index.html> (Accessed June 30, 2017)

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ “UN Security Council Working Methods,” Security Council Report, <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-security-council-working-methods/procedural-vote.php> (Accessed July 28, 2017)

¹⁰ “Frequently Asked Questions: Security Council,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/faq.shtml> (Accessed June 30, 2017)

¹¹ “Charter of the United Nations,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-v/> (accessed June 5, 2016).

¹² A/RES/1991 (XVIII). The United Nations General Assembly. (Accessed June 30, 2017).

¹³ “About: Security Council,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/> (Accessed June 30, 2017)

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

¹⁵ Ibid.

limited to disarmament of nuclear, chemical, and conventional weapons through SC Resolution 1540, drug control, crime prevention, and counter-terrorism.¹⁶

Paramount to the operations of the SC is the obligation clause, found in Article 25 of the UN Charter. This clause compels all Member States to “accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council.”¹⁷ Actions that can be taken by the SC are outlined in Chapter VII of the UN Charter. With the purpose of maintaining peace and security, the SC’s first action aims to reach a peaceful consensus between the involved parties by setting forth 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.”¹⁸ Should the dispute escalate, Chapter VII dictates that hostilities may be brought to an end through ceasefire directives or by sending military observers and/or peacekeepers to decrease the high tensions.¹⁹ In the case that harsher actions are required, the SC has the power to set economic sanctions, arms embargoes, financial restrictions, travel bans, severe diplomatic relations, and blockades.²⁰ In the event unarmed intervention fails, the UN Charter goes on to broadly enable the SC to carry out militarized action in Article 42.²¹ Chapter VII further stipulates that all Member States are expected to comply in “affording mutual assistance,” classified as technical or financial assistance through the provision of weapons, people, technology, or funds, in the militarized endeavors of the SC.^{22 23}

The UN enforces a rigorous approval process for any new or expanded peacekeeping missions. First, a survey mission is sent to the affected area; if approved, the budget for the mission depends on the findings of this operation.²⁴ Second, the Secretary-General presents a report to the SC to convince the need for a peacekeeping operation.²⁵ Third, the SC meets to consider the operation and, should they choose to initiate, pass a resolution to establish a mandate to start the operation.²⁶ A team of UN peacekeepers is sent as soon as possible, as established by the mandate.²⁷ From there 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.²⁸ These endeavors were afforded, in the past fiscal year, a budget of USD \$7.87 billion.²⁹

General funding for the SC comes from the General Budget of the UN, which is maintained by the contributions of Member States.³⁰ Individual Member States may be expected to contribute as little as 0.001 percent to as high as 22 percent of the budget.³¹ In funding the peacekeeping budget, which is separate from the General Budget of the UN, contributions expected of developing Member States are more severely discounted.³² The P5 is expected to fund the resultant deficit.³³ Voluntary contributions are also accepted to fund UN operations and these contributions are made at the discretion of individual Member States.³⁴

¹⁶ “Key Issues,” United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/sections/priorities/> (accessed June 5, 2016).

¹⁷ The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-v/index.html> (Accessed June 30, 2017)

¹⁸ “About,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/> (accessed June 5, 2016).

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ “Charter of the United Nations,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-vii/index.html> (Accessed June 30, 2017)

²² Ibid.

²³ “Repertoire of Practice of the Security Council,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/actions.shtml> (Accessed January 10, 2018).

²⁴ “Peace-keeping budgets,” United Nations, <http://www.un.org/ga/61/fifth/peacekeepingfinance.pps> (Accessed June 6, 2017)

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ “Peace-keeping budgets,” United Nations, <http://www.un.org/ga/61/fifth/peacekeepingfinance.pps> (Accessed June 6, 2016)

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ “Approved resources for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017,” The United Nations, http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/C.5/70/24 (Accessed June 30, 2017)

³⁰ “UN Budget Process,” Better World Campaign, <https://betterworldcampaign.org/us-un-partnership/importance-of-funding-the-un/un-budget-process/> (Accessed June 30, 2017)

³¹ Ibid.

³² “Understanding the United Nations Budgetary Process,” The United Nations, <http://www.un.org/en/ga/61/fifth/Presentations/64th%20Session/budgetingprocess2008.09.18.pdf> (Accessed July 28, 2017)

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.