UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

BACKGROUND GUIDE

AUTHORS: DERRIK WHITLOW, ALEC SADER, ARIANE LAROUCHE

14TH CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

CANIMUN
2017

United Nations Association in Canada
Association canadienne pour les Nations Unies

A WELCOME FROM THE DAIS

Dear delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)! Your committee will be staffed by Derrik Whitlow (Director) and Alec Sader (Chair). Derrik Whitlow is a graduate of West Virginia University, and previously served in the US Coast Guard. He has done multiple Model UN conferences as a delegate, and is also on staff for the 2017 National Model UN (NMUN) New York Conference. Alec Sader is from Montreal, Canada, and is in his graduating year at Dawson College. He also plays hockey, holding the position of goaltender and coaches young goaltenders in his spare time, and, as is customary for any Montrealer, he is a die-hard Canadiens fan. His MUN experience includes participating and working in various committees, including the UNSC at CANIMUN 2016, a committee he is happy returning to this year as a staff member.

The following topics will be discussed by the UNSC:
1. Threats to International Security Caused by Global Terrorism
2. The Situation in Syria

Per the United Nations Charter, the UNSC is responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security. This means that its mandate ranges from reaching an agreement to a conflict through peaceful means; to the deployment of multilateral peacekeeping force;s to the implementation of economic sanctions, arms embargoes, and severance of diplomatic relations; and lastly, collective military action as a last resort.

We hope that you will find this Background Guide useful in your preparation to the conference. You are also encouraged to do your own research to explore in-depth your own Member State's policies. The bibliography sections of this background guide and the UNSC website are good starting points.

Each delegate will also be required to submit a Position Paper before **16 February 2017** to unsc@canimun.org. Guidelines and requirements are available on CANIMUN website on the Delegates Resources page.

Prior to the conference, make sure you review our Rules of Procedure and Delegate Code of Conduct, both of which can also be found on our website.

If you have any questions regarding the committee or the conference, feel free to contact us.

We wish you all the best in your preparation and look forward to meet you at CANIMUN 2017!

<div style="text-align:center">

Derrik Whitlow   **Alec Sader**
Director   *Chair*

</div>

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW

Introduction

The Security Council (SC) is one of the main six body of the United Nations (UN) and is primary responsible for maintaining international peace and security.[1] According to the UN Charter, Member States have to « accept and carry out the decisions of the SC ».[2] Therefore, it is considered as one of the most influential and powerful organ of the UN.

The history of the SC is intrinsically linked to the end of World War II (WWII). In fact, on 24 October 1945, France, Republic of China, Union of Socialist Soviet Republics (USSR), United Kingdom of Great Britain (UK) and Northern Ireland, and United States of America (USA) ratified the UN Charter and implemented the SC.[3] Those five Member States became the permanent members of the SC (known as the "P5") and gave themselves the "unique ability to veto resolutions".[4] The SC was initially composed of the P5 and six additional non-permanent members.[5] In 1965, the non-permanent membership was increased to 10 Member States.[6]

A few months later, on 17 January 1946, the SC held its first meeting in London, UK.[7] Even though the SC had held meetings in different cities, it has permanently established its meetings in the UN headquarters in New-York city, USA.[8] In 1948, the SC had approved and launched the first UN peacekeeping mission in the Middle East.[9] Since then, more than 60 peacekeeping missions have been deployed throughout the world.[10]

Over its 70 years of existence, the SC has taken action "to defuse international crises" and other threats to international peace and security.[11] Issues that have been handled by the SC since its creation include various peacekeeping missions, counter international terrorism, protection of vulnerable people in armed conflicts, and non-proliferation of nuclear and chemical weapons.

---

[1] United Nations. (2016). *The Security Council.*
[2] United Nations. (1945). *Charter of the United Nations,* Article 25.
[3] United Nations Foundation. (2012). *The UN Security Council.*
[4] *Ibid.*
[5] United Nations Foundation. (2012). *The UN Security Council.*
[6] *Ibid.*
[7] *Ibid.*
[8] United Nations. (2016). *What is the Security Council?*
[9] United Nations. (2016). *History of Peacekeeping.*
[10] United Nations Foundation. (2012). *The UN Security Council.*
[11] *Ibid.*

Governance, Membership, and Organization

As previously mentioned, the SC is one of the main UN bodies. Its composition and powers are defined by Chapter V of the UN Charter. According to the Article 29, the SC can decide to established any "subsidiary organs as it deems necessary for the performance of its functions".[12] Actual sub-committees of the SC include the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) which was created by resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), the Non-Proliferation Committee, and the Peace Building Commission (PBC) which serves as "an intergovernmental advisory body that supports peace efforts in countries emerging from conflict".[13] Sanctions committees can also be implemented following a SC resolution.[14] Before the entry into force of the *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court* (2002), the SC established the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia (ICTY) in 1993 and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in 1994 in order to prosecute individuals accused of human rights violations and other violent war crimes.[15]

Membership

The SC consists of 15 Member States: five are permanent members and ten are non-permanent members. The P5 were amongst the founders of the UN and are explicitly named in Article 23(1) of the UN Charter.[16] As mentioned above, the P5 have the power to veto resolutions.[17] In other words if one of the P5 vetoes a resolution, it will not be adopted and implemented even if the remaining Member States agree with the dispositions. The ten remaining members are elected by the General Assembly for a two-year term.[18] The non-permanent seats are distributed in accordance to regional representation: five seats for Africa and Asia, one for Eastern Europe, two for Latin America and the Caribbean, and two for Western Europe and other Member States.[19] As of December 2016, the non-permanent Member States of the SC are Angola, Egypt, Japan, Malaysia, New Zealand, Senegal, Spain, Ukraine, Uruguay, and Venezuela.[20] Furthermore, each month a different Member State is designated as the President of the SC.[21] Member States take turn on a monthly basis, "following the English alphabetical order of the Member States names".[22]

---

[12] United Nations. (1945). *Charter of the United Nations,* Article 29.
[13] United Nations. (2016). *Security Council Subsidiary Bodies : An Overview.*
[14] *Ibid.*
[15] *Ibid.*
[16] United Nations Foundation. (2012). *The UN Security Council*; United Nations. (1945). *Charter of the United Nations,* Article 23(1).
[17] United Nations Foundation. (2012). *The UN Security Council.*
[18] United Nations. (2016). *Current Members.*
[19] United Nations. (2016). *Frequently Asked Questions.*
[20] United Nations. (2016). *Current Members.*
[21] United Nations. (2016). *Security Council Presidency in 2016*.
[22] *Ibid.*

Mandate and Functions

According to the Article 24 of the UN Charter, the SC is primarily responsible for "the maintenance of international peace and security".[23] From that perspective, the SC has the power to "determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of peace, or act of aggression" and can make subsequent recommendations to address the issue.[24] In accordance to Articles 40 to 42, the SC can make recommendations to "prevent an aggravation of [a] situation" and may authorise the use of armed force, should previous measures taken have proven to be inadequate to prevent the escalation of a conflict.[25]

In a similar manner to the other UN bodies, the SC will adopt its own agenda at the beginning of each session. However, it is important to note that the emergence to any threat to international peace and security can result in the SC calling for an emergency meeting to address the issue at hand. In fact, when "a complaint concerning a threat to peace is brought before" the SC, it can recommend to the parties to reach a peaceful agreement by setting principles for an agreement, undertake investigation or mediation, or sending a special envoy from the Secretary-General office.[26] If the conflict is leading to hostilities, the SC can decide to dispatch peacekeeping forces, or "opt for enforcement measures" such as sanctions, blockades, and collective military actions.[27]

Recent Work and Upcoming Challenges

Since the beginning of the 71st session of the UN (in September 2016), the SC has discussed and adopted resolutions on a variety of issues including specific situation of actual or potential escalations of conflicts (Liberia, Haiti, Middle East, Somalia, etc.), and non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.[28] Furthermore, the Secretary-General has submitted reports to the SC in order to give an overview of specific issues and highlight some recommendations on the situation of Afghanistan, and peacekeeping missions.[29]

More recently, in December 2016, the SC has adopted a resolution extending the mandate of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) to enable the peacekeeping operations to "deter and prevent sexual violence […] and investigate hate speech".[30] The SC has also adopted a resolution that reiterates "the need to continue to strengthen ongoing cooperation among intergovernmental bodies and entities concerning terrorist groups".[31]

---

[23] United Nations. (1945). *Charter of the United Nations,* Article 24.
[24] United Nations. (1945). *Charter of the United Nations,* Article 39.
[25] United Nations. (1945). *Charter of the United Nations,* Articles 40-42.
[26] United Nations. (2016). *What is the Security Council?*
[27] *Ibid.*
[28] United Nations. (2016). *Reports submitted by / transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Security Council in 2016.*
[29] United Nations. (2016). *Security Council Resolutions.*
[30] United Nations. (2016). *Security Council adjusts mandate of UN mission in South Sudan to deter sexual violence, monitor hate speech*
[31] United Nations. (2016). *Security Council underlines need to halt proliferation of weapons of mass destruction*

The SC also called Member States to fully implement of resolution 1540 (2004) "on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction".[32] As terrorism is still an omnipresent global threat and armed conflicts escalating in the Middle East and in sub-Saharan Africa, the SC will have various issues to examine and deal with in 2017.

Conclusion

By addressing the most pressing issues and emerging threats to international peace and security, the SC has a crucial role to play within the UN system and on the international level. New challenges await the SC as 2017 starts, such as the escalating situation in Syria, protecting vulnerable populations in armed conflicts, and non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. As the SC can adopt a new agenda as new threats emerge, it is strongly recommend that delegates be fully aware of the international news, especially those on peace and security, as they are preparing for the conference.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

United Nations. (1945). *Charter of the United Nations*. Retrieved 17 December 2016 from : http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-v/index.html

The UN Charter is the essential start point to understand how the UN is functioning and what are its guiding principles. Chapter V provides an overview of the functions and governance of the SC while Chapter VII paints a clear picture of the actions that can be taken by the SC to prevent an escalation and resolve conflicts. Delegates should familiarize themselves with the provisions in both Chapters.

United Nations. (2016). *History of Peacekeeping* [Website]. Retrieved 17 December 2016 from: http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/history.shtml

This website provides a good overview of the past and actual peacekeeping missions of the SC. It also gives clear indications on how and why the nature of peacekeeping operations has evolved through time. As peacekeeping missions are a major component of the SC work, it is imperative for delegates to understand the evolution and the functions of peacekeeping missions.

---

[32] *Ibid.*

United Nations. (2016). *Security Council Resolutions* [Website]. Retrieved 17 December 2016 from: http://www.un.org/en/sc/documents/resolutions/2016.shtml

This webpage lists all the resolutions adopted by the SC in the last year. It is useful for delegates to consult the recent resolutions as it will give a clear picture of what the SC has been doing and what are the recent developments. This will also help delegates to understand which actions needs to be taken and what should be the way to move forward.

United Nations. (2016). *What is the Security Council?* [Website]. Retrieved 17 December 2016 from: http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/

This webpage provides a clear and short overview of the mandate, functions, organization and history of the SC. It represents a good starting point for a research on the organization. Delegates should familiarize themselves with the mandate and organization of the SC prior to the conference.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

United Nations. (1945). *Charter of the United Nations*. Retrieved 17 December 2016 from : http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-v/index.html

United Nations. (2016). *Current Members* [Website]. Retrieved 17 December 2016 from: http://www.un.org/en/sc/members/

United Nations. (2016). *Frequently Asked Questions* [Website]. Retrieved 17 December 2016 from: http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/faq.shtml#nonpermanent

United Nations. (2016). *History of Peacekeeping* [Website]. Retrieved 17 December 2016 from: http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/history.shtml

United Nations. (2016). *Reports submitted by/transmitted by the Secretary-General to the Security Council in 2016* [Website]. Retrieved 17 December 2016 from: http://www.un.org/en/sc/documents/sgreports/2016.shtml

United Nations. (2016). *Security Council adjusts mandate of UN mission in South Sudan to deter sexual violence, monitor hate speech* [News article]. Retrieved 17 December 2016 from: http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55825#.WFXnsPnhDIU

United Nations. (2016). *Security Council Presidency in 2016* [Website]. Retrieved 17 December 2016 from: http://www.un.org/en/sc/presidency/

United Nations. (2016). *Security Council Resolutions* [Website]. Retrieved 17 December 2016 from: http://www.un.org/en/sc/documents/resolutions/2016.shtml

United Nations. (2016). *Security Council Subsidiary Bodies: An Overview* [Website]. Retrieved 17 December 2016 from: https://www.un.org/sc/suborg/en/scsb

United Nations. (2016). *Security Council underlines need to halt proliferation of weapons of mass destruction* [News article]. Retrieved 17 December 2016 from: http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55812#.WFXowfnhDIU

United Nations. (2016). *The Security Council* [Website]. Retrieved 17 December 2016 from : http://www.un.org/en/sc/

United Nations. (2016). *What is the Security Council?* [Website]. Retrieved 17 December 2016 from: http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/

United Nations Foundation. (2012). *The UN Security Council* [Website]. Retrieved 17 December 2016 from: http://www.unfoundation.org/what-we-do/issues/united-nations/the-un-security-council.html?referrer=https://www.google.ca/

TOPIC 1: THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL SECURITY CAUSED BY GLOBAL TERRORISM.

Introduction

The UN Security Council (UNSC) specifically defines acts of terrorism as:

> "Criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons, intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act, which constitute offences within the scope of and as defined in the international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, are under no circumstances justifiable by considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other similar nature.[33]"

Threats to international security caused by global terrorism are as dangerous as it has ever been. The job of the UNSC is to collectively address those threats in the most expedient manner possible. In both 2015 and 2016, the world has seen the bloodiest years on record caused by the likes of Daesh, Al Qaeda, and Boko Haram, among many other terrorist entities.[34] These entities can to varying degrees strike anywhere across the globe, and have already done so multiple times in the past. Just recently the General Assembly (GA) came together for the 5th review for the *UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.[35]* The results of which, at the request of the UNSC, will outline a comprehensive international framework to combat Daesh, Al-Qaeda, and other state & non-state actors who use their narrative to commit terrorist acts.[36]

Just recently we have seen attacks in Cairo, Istanbul, and Mogadishu where bombings in crowded city centers took place.[37] These are just a few examples of the common occurrence of such attacks, and the lethality they have against innocent civilians. As a consequence, the UNSC has called for a concerted effort on the prohibition of financing terrorist organizations by unanimously adopting a joint resolution condemning terrorists acts against peace and stability with Resolution 2322 (2015).[38] More specifically, Resolution 2322 (2016) calls for the possibility of the transfer of criminal prosecutions in terrorist related cases, and an increase in judicial cooperation to increase the capacity to prosecute terrorist organizations and the crime syndicates that support them.[39]

---

[33] United Nations Security Council, Resolution 1566 (2004), S/RES/1566 (2004).

[34] Gerard von Bohemen, "UN Security Council Open Debate: Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts".

[35] United Nations, "United Nations Actions to Counter Terrorism".

[36] United Nations General Assembly "The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review".

[37] United Nations News Centre. "Security Council Underlines Need for Stronger Judicial Cooperation to Combat Terrorism".

[38] United Nations, "In Fight against Terrorism, Security Council Adopts Resolution 2322 (2016), Aiming to Strengthen International Judicial Cooperation".

[39] *Ibid*

International and Regional Framework

The bulwark against international terrorism was the passing of Resolution 1566 (2004).[40] This resolution was passed in light of the attacks on 9/11, the 2004 Beslan School Massacre that took place in Beslan, Russia, and a number of other atrocities that were committed as acts of terrorism. Resolution 1566 puts into action building a robust framework to go after terrorist infrastructures, and to establish legal norms that make it harder for terrorists to seek safe havens across the globe.[41] It served as the predecessor to Resolution 2178 (2014) and Resolution 2199 (2015). Resolution 2178 shines a light on the need to counter foreign terrorist fighters (FTF) going to terror hot-spots in places such as Syria, Iraq, and Libya.[42] FTF has been defined as "individuals who travel to a State other than their State of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or the providing or receiving of terrorist training, including in connection with armed conflict."[43] Subsequently, the UNSC estimates that there's been over 30,000 FTF's from over a 100 Member States have gone to warzones in Iraq, Syria, Somalia, etc.[44] The USNC took a more targeted approach in the adoption Resolution 2199 by implementing measures that would use targeted sanctions to go after funding from terrorist entities – specifically oil, antiquities, hostages, and off the book donations.[45]

In 2006, the GA adopted the *UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy*, which holds an annual conference every two years to both critique and bolster counter terrorism strategies.[46] By updating their counter-terrorism strategy the GA can focus on both critiquing current strategies, and bolstering measures that prove effective such efforts. As laid out in the introduction, these efforts are specifically targeted at working within the current frameworks to reduce the likelihood of terrorist entities of being successful in committing atrocities against civilian populaces. Furthermore, there are a number of universal conventions that the UN utilizes to combat terrorism. A 2003 report by the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) titled the *Legislative Guide to the Universal Anti-Terrorism Conventions and Protocols* lays out a plethora of information on earlier published works regarding counter-terrorism

---

[40] *Ibid.*

[41] United Nations, "Security Council Acts Unanimously to Adopt Resolution Strongly Condemning Terrorism as One of Most Serious Threats To Peace".

[42] United Nations Security Council, Resolution 2178 (2014), S/RES/2178(2014).

[43] *Ibid.*

[44] United Nations News Centre, "At Debate, UN and Security Council Renew Pledge to Counter Foreign Terrorist Fighters".

[45] United Nations, "Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2199 (2015), Security Council Condemns Trade with Al-Qaida Associated Groups, Threatens Further Targeted Sanctions".

[46] United Nations Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force, "United Nations General Assembly Adopts Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy".

efforts.[47] Notable examples are the *International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (1998)*, and the *International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (2000).[48]* From a regional context, there are a number of organizations that focus on terrorism efforts in their specific geographical region. A 2008 report titled *The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Regional and Subregional Bodies: Strengthening a Critical Partnership* gives insight into many of the regional bodies that would often get overlooked in the grand scheme of things.[49] Examples of these regional bodies and conventions the African Union's *Counter-Terrorism Plan of Action*, Shanghai Cooperation Organization's *Shanghai Convention on Combating Terrorism*, the European Union's *Comprehensive Counterterrorism Strategy and Action Plan*, the Organization of the Islamic Conference's (OIC) *Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism*, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nation's (ASEAN) *ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism*.

Role of the International System

Despite the diligence of UN bodies and member states; terrorism is still a wide spread global problem that must be curtailed. Terrorism is still a daily reality in places across the globe, but especially in the Middle East where political instability and conflict remain a daily norm throughout the region. The primary mechanism, within the UNSC, for dealing with global terrorism is the United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC).[50] This subsidiary organ was created to have a primary role in preventing acts of global terrorism, and was created by the passage of Resolution 1373 (2001).[51] The CTC's main responsibilities include deny terrorism financing, deny the provision of safe haven to terrorists, coordinate with other government entities, and criminalize the passive support by states, organizations, and individuals.[52] The CTC works in tandem with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED). Their primary responsibility is the coordination and the implementation of Resolution 1373 (2001).[53] Some of the specific roles the CTED performs is technical assistance, terrorist financing, extradition, legal assistance, and human rights issues within counter-terrorism.[54] Both the CTC and CTED have had specific roles in attacking the financial networks of Daesh and Al-Qaeda by going after sources of funding.[55]

---

[47] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, "Legislative Guide to the Universal Anti-Terrorism Conventions and Protocols".

[48] *Ibid.*

[49] Eric Rosand, Alistair Millar, Jason Ipe, and Michael Healy. (2008). "The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Regional and Subregional Bodies: Strengthening a Critical Partnership".

[50] United Nations Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee, "The United Nations Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee".

[51] United Nations, "Security Council Unanimously Adopts Wide-Ranging Anti-Terrorism Resolution 1373 (2001); Calls for Suppressing Financing, Improving International Cooperation".

[52] United Nations Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee, "About the Counter Terrorism Committee".

[53] *Ibid*

[54] *Ibid*

[55] Thomson Reuters Accelus, "Paris Attacks Showed Role of Small Transaction in Terror Finance; UN Meeting Hears".

While the UNSC and its respective bodies have an incredibly important role to play, the ultimate responsibility still lies with member states to prevent terrorism within their borders and greater regions. The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) has 5 pillars to assist states in meeting their collective security needs.[56] Those pillars are addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; preventing and combating terrorism; building states' capacity and strengthening the role of the United Nations; and ensuring human rights and the rule of law.[57] CTITF, along with the CTC and CTED, work on projects related to charity projects, chemical and bio attacks, right to a fair trial, countering terrorism appeal, nuclear and radiological attacks, I-Act, Central Asia, and raising awareness.[58]

Other UN Bodies that deal with counter-terrorism efforts are the 1st GA, UNODC, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), International Monetary Fund (IMF), World Bank Group (WBG), International Court of Justice (ICJ), United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHCR), and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which is an expansive, but exhaustive list of UN bodies that deal specific facets of counter-terrorism efforts.

Core Issues in Emerging Threats

Terrorism is truly global in nature, but the areas that remain that remain the most vulnerable to terrorist attacks are Western (the US, Canada, and Europe), the greater Middle East, and Central Asia. Given the perpetual warfare in the Middle East, i.e. Syria & Iraq, and the West's involvement in a number of conflicts the likelihood of terrorist entities targeting these areas remains as high as ever. This by no mean limits other parts of the globe from terrorist attacks. The South Pacific and South East Asia has turned into a hot bed of activity, and some trends have alarmed the UNSC greatly. A recent report by The Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), with assistance of UNODC and the EU, gives a comprehensive assessment of Daesh infiltration into Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines.[59] The report highlights the activities of Abu-Sayyaf in relations to Daesh, the recruitment of terrorist cells, and what can be to counter these extremists across the region.[60] Syria & Iraq continue to be the biggest hotbed of political activity across the globe. Given that that Raqqa, Syria is the capital city of Daesh – it remains the command and control of the bulk of Daesh operational activities across the globe. The UNSC has tried to put a particular focus on counter Daesh's financial resources by Resolution 2253 (2015), which specifically targets their ability to acquire funding via sanctions, travel bans, and cooperation

---

[56] United Nations Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee, "UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy".

[57] *Ibid*

[58] United Nations Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee, "Projects".

[59] Thomas Koruth-Samuel. (2016). Radicalisation in Southeast Asia: A Selected Case Study of Daesh in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, The Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT).

[60] *Ibid.*

from financial institutions.[61] Resolution 2253 also created the Daesh and Al Qaeda Sanctions Committee.[62] It targets specific individuals within their leadership and operatives network to stem the flow on illicit resources to decision makers of both entities.[63] The largest attack thus far was in the Karada District of Baghdad, which killed over 200 people back in July. In sum, attacks by Daesh thus far have killed over 2000 people in 29 attacks across the globe.[64] Daesh and Al Qaeda are not the only threats the world faces. A number of regional threats continue to plague certain regions. Boko Haram continues to terrorize Nigeria and neighboring countries. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) director Anthony Lake has said that the insurgency of Boko Haram is so bad that Northeast Nigeria is on the verge of a complete disaster.[65]In the Horn of Africa and South East Africa, Al-Shaabab continues a brutal insurgency throughout the region. In 2015, Al-Shaabab stormed Garissa University, in Nairobi, Kenya, killing 150 students, and leaving scores more injured.[66] This is only merely touching the surface, as there are scores of smaller terrorist groups across the globe that continue to work under the radar and commit terrorist acts and atrocities with little to no attention.

Conclusion

The threats that exists in the post 9/11 world continue to grow, and the need for more expansive solutions does as well. The instability in places like Syria, Iraq, and Libya only underscore the need for UNSC member states to cooperate on the most pressing issues of the day. As operations get underway to retake the city of Mosul the likelihood of reprisal attacks from Daesh will only likely increase in the coming months. Other threats such as Al Qaeda, Boko Haram, Al-Shaabab, and Abu Sayyaf will continue to perpetrate violent acts so long as they have the funding to continue to commit such atrocities. No amount of military action alone from the US, NATO, or other countries can completely dismantle these vast terrorist networks. Given this reality, the UNSC, and the rest of the UN, must continue to do its part to disrupt the funding and financial flow of money to all terrorist organizations. Lastly, the UN and member states must collectively address the capacity building and economic conditions of vulnerable states as a viable alternative to individuals considering joining terrorist entities across the globe.

Questions to Consider

1. What can the UNSC do to better prepare vulnerable states to deal with insurgencies of terrorist networks within their respective countries, e.g. Iraq?

2. Where can Russia and the United States do within UNSC to work together to come up with a collective plan of action to destroy Daesh if at all?

---

[61] United Nations Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee, "Foreign Terrorist Fighters".
[62] United Nations Security Council, "ISIL (Daesh) and Al Qaida Sanctions List".
[63] *Ibid.*
[64] Tim Lister, "ISIS Goes Global: 143 Attacks in 29 Countries Have Killed 2043".
[65] Dibie Ike Michael "UNICEF Decries Devastating Impact of Boko Haram Insurgency on Children".
[66] Holly Yan, "What is Al-Shaabab, and What Does It Want?".

3. How can member states utilize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the promotion of countering violent extremism?

4. Are there other alternatives to military action and cutting off funding when it comes to dismantling terrorist networks. If so, what sorts of activities can the UNSC and member states partake in?

5. Is there any likelihood that other vulnerable states could be on the verge of catastrophe aside from Iraq, Syria, Libya, and Somalia. If there are, then what are some of the issues that those states are currently facing, and what can be done by the UNSC to mitigate the likelihood of catastrophe.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

United Nations, "In Fight against Terrorism, Security Council Adopts Resolution 2322 (2016), Aiming to Strengthen International Judicial Cooperation," accessed on December 14th, 2016, from: https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12620.doc.htm

Resolution 2322 (2016) lays out the most current fight against Daesh and other terrorist entities. There has been a renewed focus on judicial cooperation to combat terrorism, and more effective procedures to strengthen cooperation between entities such as Interpol, various intelligence agencies, and regional mechanisms. This should give delegates a good understanding of the most current happenings within the UNSC, and how to address the most current issues to peace and security.

United Nations Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee, "UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy," accessed on December 14th, 2016, from: https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy
The CTC website lays out its – and by extension the UN's – global counter terrorism strategy. This is vitally important to understand as it lays what the UNSC and CTC hope to accomplish by maintaining peace and security across the globe. Delegates would find it beneficial to study the strategy thoroughly in order to apply it to the pressing issues before the UNSC and member states.

United Nations Security Council, Resolution 1566 (2004), S/RES/1566 (2004), 8 October 2004, accessed on December 14th, 2016 from: file:///C:/Users/Freddie/Downloads/SC1566.pdf
Resolution 1566 (2004) is what created the CTC, and set the current course of initiatives in combating global terrorism. Not only did it create the CTC, but also served as the catalyst for the full implementation of Resolution 1373 (2001). This will help delegates understand the original purpose of the CTC, and will also help them become familiarized with its duties as a subsidiary of the UNSC.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ike Michael, Dibi, "UNICEF Decries Devastating Impact of Boko Haram Insurgency on Children," Africa News, December 14th, 2016, accessed on December 14th, 2016, from: http://www.africanews.com/2016/12/14/unicef-decries-devastating-impact-of-boko-haram-insurgency-on-children/

Koruth-Samuel, Thomas. (2016). Radicalisation in Southeast Asia: A Selected Case Study of Daesh in Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines, The Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism (SEARCCT), accessed on December 14th, 2016, from: https://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/terrorism/explanatory_english2.pdf

Gerard von Bohemen. "UN Security Council Open Debate: Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts ", New Zealand Foreign Affairs and Trade, accessed on December 14th, 2016, from: https://mfat.govt.nz/en/media-and-resources/ministry-statements-and-speeches/un-security-council-open-debate-threats-to-international-peace-and-security-caused-by-terrorist-acts/

Lister, Tim, "ISIS Goes Global: 143 Attacks in 29 Countries Have Killed 2043," CNN, accessed on December 14th, 2016, from: http://www.cnn.com/2015/12/17/world/mapping-isis-attacks-around-the-world/

Rosand, Eric, Millar, Alistair, Ipe, Jason, and Healey, Michael. (2008). "The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Regional and Subregional Bodies: Strengthening a Critical Partnership," Center on Global Counterterrorism Cooperation, 1 October 2008, accessed on December 14th, 2016, from: http://globalcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2008/10/strengthening_a_critical_partnership.pdf

Thomson Reuters Accelus, "Paris Attacks Showed Role of Small Transaction in Terror Finance; UN Meeting Hears," accessed on December 14th, 2016, from: http://www.un.org/en/sc/ctc/docs/2016/thomson_reuters_15_april_2016.pdf

United Nations, "Security Council Unanimously Adopts Wide-Ranging Anti-Terrorism Resolution 1373 (2001); Calls for Suppressing Financing, Improving International Cooperation," accessed on January 4th, 2017, from: https://www.un.org/press/en/2001/sc7158.doc.htm

United Nations, "In Fight against Terrorism, Security Council Adopts Resolution 2322 (2016), Aiming to Strengthen International Judicial Cooperation," accessed on December 14th, 2016, from: https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/sc12620.doc.htm

United Nations, "Security Council Acts Unanimously to Adopt Resolution Strongly Condemning Terrorism as One of Most Serious Threats To Peace," accessed on December 14th, 2016, from: https://www.un.org/press/en/2004/sc8214.doc.htm

United Nations. "United Nations Actions to Counter Terrorism," accessed on December 14th, 2016, from: http://www.un.org/en/counterterrorism/index.shtml

United Nations Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force, "United Nations General Assembly Adopts Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, accessed on December 14th, 2016, from: https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/united-nations-general-assembly-adopts-global-counter-terrorism-strategy

United Nations News Centre, "At Debate, UN and Security Council Renew Pledge to Counter Foreign Terrorist Fighters," accessed on December 14th, 2016, from: https://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=51005

United Nations News Centre. "Security Council Underlines Need for Stronger Judicial Cooperation to Combat Terrorism," accessed on December 14th, 2016, from: http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=55788#.WFICUOYrLIV

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, "Legislative Guide to the Universal Anti-Terrorism Conventions and Protocols," 1 July 2016, accessed on December 14th, 2016, from: https://www.unodc.org/pdf/crime/terrorism/explanatory_english2.pdf
United Nations Security Council, "ISIL (Daesh) and Al Qaida Sanctions List," accessed on December 14th, 2016, from: https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/focus-areas/foreign-terrorist-fighters/

United Nations Security Council, Resolution 1566 (2004), S/RES/1566 (2004), 8 October 2004, accessed on December 14th, 2016 from: file:///C:/Users/Freddie/Downloads/SC1566.pdf

United Nations Security Council, Resolution 2178 (2014), S/RES/2178(2014), 24 September 2014, accessed on December 14th, 2016 from: file:///C:/Users/Freddie/Downloads/SC1566.pdf

United Nations Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee, "Foreign Terrorist Fighters," accessed on December 14th, 2016, from: https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/focus-areas/foreign-terrorist-fighters/

United Nations Security Council Counter Terrorism Committee, "UN Global Counter Terrorism Strategy," accessed on December 14th, 2016, from: https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy

Yan, Holly, "What is Al-Shaabab, and What Does It Want?, CNN, April 2nd, 2016, accessed on December 14th, 2016, from: http://www.cnn.com/2015/04/02/world/africa/al-shabaab-explainer/

TOPIC 2: THE SITUATION IN SYRIA

Introduction:

In 2011, uprisings in the Maghreb and the Middle East began, starting in Tunisia and reaching Syria in mid March of the same year.[67] Syria has been under the rule of Bashar Al-Assad, following in the path of his father who was the Syrian dictator since 1971.[68] In 1963, the Syrian government implemented martial law, using as justification that the country was in a "state of emergency", its goal being to silence protests against the government and alienate government opponents.[69] This measure was not lifted for another 48 years, part of Assad's compromise with the Syrian people, when the aforementioned pro-democratic uprisings occurred in the country, the first one allegedly leading to the death of over 20 demonstrators.[70] The situation further devolved in June of that year, leading the international community to respond to the situation. Turkey's prime minister condemned Assad's actions against Syrian civilians,[71] and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) further responded by drafting a "peace plan" meant to reduce the tensions of the Arab Spring, but international frictions increased, as the United States threatened Assad with invasion were chemical weapons to be used against civilians, and Turkey threatened the Assad administration with war if troops were ever to approach the Syrian-Turkish border.[72]

Though the political crisis has no end in sight, its unpredictability dictating United Nations (UN) and foreign government involvement, the humanitarian aspect of the conflict is clear. The number of people defined as being "in need of humanitarian assistance" is 13.5 million, 4.8 million people have fled their country and another 6.1 million have been "displaced by violence".[73] Aid for the conflict's victims is a priority, as has been made clear by the international community, but lack of funding has been a critical issue, with only 41% of financial needs being met.[74] A further problem facing civilians is the involvement of groups such as ISIL who have been the cause of multiple human right infringements. These include executions, abductions for "sexual slavery", as vulnerable groups such as women and children were targeted.[75]

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and the United Nations (UN) have addressed the political and humanitarian aspects of the conflict, but uncertainty looms over the region, as tensions rise and innocent people perish. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

---

[67] The Editors of Enclypaedia Britannica, "Syrian Civil War".

[68] *Ibid*

[69] Alkarama, "The Permanent State of Emergency – A Breeding Ground for Torture: Report submitted to the Committee Against Torture in the context of the review of the initial periodic report of the Syrian Arab Republic".

[70] The Editors of Enclypaedia Britannica, "Syrian Civil War".

[71] *Ibid*

[72] BBC World, "Syria profile – Timeline".

[73] OCHA, "Syrian Arab Republic".

[74] *Ibid*

[75] Amnesty International, "Iraq 2015/2016".

himself stated that this crisis "is a test of everything [the UN] stands for",[76] and the UNSC must play its part in helping solve the international threat of Syrian instability.

International and Regional Framework:

The UN has worked for many years on stabilizing the region in which the Syrian disruption finds its roots, and the UNSC has taken a forefront role in implementing measures. Humanitarian resolutions were drafted, such as resolution 66/253 adopted by the General Assembly on 16 February 2012, whose aim was to reiterate UNSC resolutions in condemning human right violations and illegal war acts, as per international law stipulations[77] The UN's focus on international law in this crisis has been ongoing. Resolution 67/97 adopted by the General Assembly on 14 December 2012 concerning "the rule of law at the national and international levels" has been often reiterated in UN and UNSC resolutions, containing clauses that pertain to the critical adherence countries must have to international law, and clearly reminding member states of the power the UNSC has if it believes it is necessary to act in more so than a peaceful manner.[78]

The UNSC is the branch of the United Nations that has power beyond recommendation; its crucial differentiation from other UN branches is that it has executive power. By this, the United Nations has in its charter a section known as Chapter VII. The preceding Chapter VI focuses on the peaceful resolution of conflict, examples being "negotiation, enquiry, mediation, conciliation, arbitration, judicial settlement" and others,[79] in order to deescalate conflict and to press opposing parties to minimize harm within the dispute. When this section is deemed to be inadequate, or to have been ineffective, aforementioned Chapter VII can be triggered, and has the power to decide as to what actions the United Nations will take concerning a situation deemed to threaten "international peace and security".[80]

This Chapter can decide what measures of security are to be taken once it is triggered, including the use of "armed forces", built by member state troops, and the actions the UNSC takes from there is determined by all member states, or member states selected by the UNSC.[81] The UNSC decided that Chapter VII measures would be implemented in Syria, as per its resolution 2118 (2013), if the use of chemical weapons was to occur, a violation of international law, as per the *Geneva Protocol* (1925) "for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare".[82] The

---

[76] Secretary General Ban KI-moon, to the General Assembly, "Remarks to the General Assembly on Syria".
[77] United Nations General Assembly, "66/253. The situation in the Syrian Arab Republic" A/RES/66/253 (7 August 2012).
[78] United Nations General Assembly, "67/97. The rule of law at the national and international levels", A/RES/67/97 (14 January 2013).
[79] United Nations, "UN Charter: Full Text".
[80] *Ibid*
[81] *Ibid*
[82] United Nations Security Council "resolution 2118 (2013)", S/RES/2118 (27 September 2013).

use of chemical weapons was further condemned by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), which worked with the UNSC in the dismantling of chemical weapons in Syria in 2013.[83] The EC-M-33/DEC.1 (2013) OPCW resolution contains specific procedures in how to proceed with the aforementioned dismantling,[84] which the UNSC decided the Syrian Arab Republic would comply with.[85] The use of chemical weapons is also regulated under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which outlines what chemical warfare is, and outlines all processes by which chemical weapons are created or distributed illegally, and what sanctions these processes can, and will, trigger.[86]

The United Nations also constructed a Six- Point Plan, outlining steps by which to manage and solve the Syrian crisis. Annexed to Security Council Resolution 2042 (2012), this plan discusses both the unstable political situation in Syria, as well as the ongoing humanitarian crisis.[87] However, the plan remains vague as to how its steps are to be accomplished, and serves as a guideline for future resolutions concerning the conflict to refer to. In resolution 2042 however, explicit steps are mentioned as to how the Six-Point Plan is to be addressed, for example stating its intention of creating a UN "supervision mission in Syria" if armed violence does not cease within a reasonable delay.[88]

Other UNSC resolutions adamantly discussing the situation in Syria are, for example, UNSC Resolution 2254 (2015), which expressed support for elections to be held in Syria, the target time being May of 2016.[89] As the conflict has not devolved enough however, this measure has far exceeded the desired timeline. Other issues in the resolution, such as the suppression of terrorism and the acceptance of humanitarian groups to enter the country, have been a further focus of the resolution,[90] and as terrorism and humanitarian needs are perpetuating instability within the region, the holding of democratic elections in the near future is potentially overly ambitious. UNSC Resolution 2258 (2015) declared the extension of parts of Security Council Resolution 2165 (2014) that targets humanitarian relief, until 10 January 2017.[91] This resolution further addresses concerns of terrorist groups within the region that promote instability and are a consistent source of human right violations, further reiterating the responsibility Syrian officials have in protecting their civilian population, be it by ceasefires of otherwise.[92] UNSC Resolution 2268 (2016) emphasized the role of the international community in helping solve the conflict, commending the Russian Federation

---

[83] *Ibid.*

[84] Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, "Decision: Destruction Of Syrian Chemical Weapons".

[85] United Nations Security Council "resolution 2118 (2013)", S/RES/2118 (27 September 2013).

[86] "Chemical Weapons Convention: Convention On The Prohibition Of The Development, Production, Stockpiling And Use Of Chemical Weapons And On Their Destruction".

[87] United Nations Security Council, "Six-Point Proposal of the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States" (14 April 2012).

[88] United Nations Security Council "resolution 2042 (2012)", S/RES/2042 (14 April 2012).

[89] United Nations Security Council "resolution 2254 (2015)", S/RES/2254 (18 December 2015).

[90] *Ibid.*

[91] United Nations Security Council, "resolution 2258 (2015)", S/RES/2258 (22 December 2015).

[92] *Ibid*

and the United States in their efforts to devolve the violence in the region.[93] All UNSC resolution pertaining to Syria also include the crucial preamble which reaffirms the UNSC's "strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Syrian Arab Republic, and to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations",[94] thus defining that the sovereignty of the Syrian Arab Republic is the predominant variable by which the United Nations addresses the region's issues, hence the UNSC's desire for a peaceful and democratic resolution of the conflict, all in the outmost respect for international laws.

Role of the International System:

The international system has been observing the situation in Syria with deep concern since 2011, but as the sixth year of the conflict dawns, assertive international involvement in attempting to deescalate the instability in the region has not met its goal of peace and security. The UNSC still strives, however, to protect civilians in the region, while simultaneously upholding the need for sovereignty in the Syrian Arab Republic. However, the UNSC remains divided on the issue of how to address the ongoing crisis, as vetoed Security Council resolutions are not uncommon due to internal disagreement, particularly between the five permanent Member States.

The city of Aleppo has been at the center of the humanitarian crisis in Syria, as the Syrian government has attempted to retake the city from Syrian rebels, leading to the displacement of "tens of thousands of people". [95] In October of 2016, two draft resolutions were presented to the Security Council, both concerning the humanitarian crisis that is Aleppo, and focusing on the city's military situation.[96] The founding premise of Draft Resolution 846 was much more the humanitarian crisis, taking place in Syria, as well as a recalling of the atrocities committed by terrorist groups, such as ISIL or Al-Nusra.[97] Draft Resolution 847 rather advocated for the cessation of hostilities in Aleppo, with more explicit measures concerning terrorist groups plaguing the region, and reiterating the need for a "Syrian-led political process" that respects the guidelines constructed by past UNSC resolutions, such as 2118, 2254, and 2268.[98] Both resolutions failed, and the divide of the UNSC was reiterated, as differences between parties on the Council make difficult for agreement to be reached, and resolution to be met.

The international system has nonetheless been working tirelessly in Syria, a multitude of international organizations having responded to the crisis. Responses from other UN bodies, such as the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), who outlines

---

[93] United Nations Security Council "resolution 2268 (2016)", S/RES/2268 (26 February 2016).
[94] *Ibid.*
[95] "Syria".
[96] *Ibid.*
[97] United Nations Security Council, "Draft Resolution S/2016/846".
[98] United Nations Security Council, "Draft Resolution S/2016/847".

the financial needs in aiding those in precarious situations, have arose, and focus on variables other than the political conflict at hand. The UNHCR has been outlining a plan for winter 2016-2017, focusing on the dispensing of food and shelter to those at risk, reaching 4.51 million people, the organization having been able to collect 100% of the financial resources required for the humanitarian winter plan in Syria.[99] The role of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) has also been crucial in responding to the humanitarian crisis, but some NGOs have dissent form the "Whole of Syria (WoS) information-sharing program", claiming that some sections of the (WoS) mechanism have been altered unfairly.[100] NGOs are crucial to supplying aid to vulnerable people, and their protection is also key in treating the wound of the crisis, while international political organizations attempt to cure the crisis' causes.

The potential response from other international bodies, mainly legislative ones in the near future, must also be taken into consideration. As previously outlined, the use of chemical weapons and attacks on civilians are gross transgressions of Human Right Law. Correspondents of organizations such as Amnesty International have expressed their displeasure in the UNSC not referring the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court (ICC), or to prepare an International Criminal Tribunal, as was done for Rwanda and Yugoslavia.[101] The ICC would target all players in the Syrian situation, whether these be governmental or non-governmental aggressors, and nations under the League of Arab States have also called for ICC involvement in Syria.[102] In a 2013 United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHCR) Report entitled A/HRC/22/59, the use of the ICC more so than the creation of an International Criminal Tribunal was called for, as the current Syrian situation reiterates the need for such a court, which was specifically created for such instances of human right infringements.[103] The document outlines as well the notion that the looming consequence of international sanctions that transcend the so-far monitoring of the situation in Syria must be made clear, in order for an effective solution to take place.[104] The document further outlines the need for cohesion within the international community in assessing the Syrian situation and providing context as per the governmental and military situation in Syria,[105] which has not improved in the three years since the document was created.

International groups have responded to both the human right violations, as well as the militarisation, of the region, and the role of the international community in providing peace and security to both Syria and the victims of the conflict. There is a call for more

---

[99] United nations High Commissioner for Refugees, "Regional Winter Assistance 2016-2017: Progress Report – Syria and Iraq situations".

[100] Al Jazeera News And Agencies, "Syria's war: Aid agencies suspend cooperation with UN".

[101] Sammonds, Neil, "Baby Steps on the Long Road to Justice for Atrocities in Syria".

[102] Human Rights Watch, "Syria and the International Criminal Court: Questions and Answers".

[103] United nations General Assembly, "Report of the independent international commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic".

[104] *Ibid*

[105] *Ibid*

decisive action in the region, the UNSC being the main international body that can address the crisis and lead in its devolvement.

Recent developments

Instability in the region has worsened in the past few months. In February 2016, there were talks between Turkey and the Syrian Kurd forces,[106] but the devolution of the situation was made clear when a failed coup in Turkey, allegedly led by the Turkish military, confirmed the power of president Recep Erdogan, who took immediate action in responding to the coup. Persons were jailed or fired, many being journalists, politicians, and even military personnel,[107] an encroachment of civil liberties. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon expressed concern towards the state of emergency triggered by Turkey, which restricted civil liberties of people in the country, and also cited "'worrisome reports'" that discussed the mistreatment of incarcerated people within the country.[108] As per the same document, the coup was the cause of 290 deaths and "more than 2000 injured".[109]

The perceptions of key groups in this conflict also determine how easily, or not so easily, the conflict will be solved. Turkey, for example, has been critical of Bashar Al-Assad's Syrian government, and has also been hostile to the Syrian Kurdish Popular Protection Units (YPG) as they are viewed as being related to the Turkish Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) by Turkey.[110] The most tangible tensions however exist between the United States and Russia. The United States does not support the Assad regime in Syria, and has been bombing ISIL targets, but has also been bombing Syrian Army forces, an action Russia condemns.[111] Russia has backed the Assad government, and has vetoed UNSC draft resolutions that may be unfavourable to the Syrian military.[112] The United States and Russia have further worked towards implementing ceasefires, but these attempts have failed,[113] to the detriment of Syrian civilians.

Turkey-Russia relations have also been difficult, as in June of 2012 Syria shot down a Turkish plane, and Turkey shot down a Syrian plane in October of that same year,[114] However, the relationship between both countries has improved, as Turkey apologized for a downed Russian plane, which was shot in November 2015.[115] Issues in the relationship still remain, as both groups back opposing sides in the Syrian conflict, but the recent restoring of

---

[106] "Syria".

[107] Hennigna, W. J. and Brian Bennet, "Russia, Turkey expand military operations in Syria during Trump's transition to power".

[108] "Turkey: In call with Foreign Minister, Ban seeks update on current probe into attempted coup".

[109] *Ibid.*

[110] "Syria Crisis: Where Key Countries Stand".

[111] "Syria".

[112] *Ibid*

[113] BBC World, "Syria profile – Timeline".

[114] *Ibid.*

[115] "Putin mends broken relations with Turkey's Erdogan".

exchanges between both groups may lead to a focus on peaceful resolve rather than an extension of the conflict. Meditation done by the two groups could accelerate processes, but the instability Erdogan's government has brought to the region raises many uncertainties as to how the situation will proceed.

The Supreme Military Council (SMC) in the region also has a grasp on the military situation devolving there, as it is the highest operating branch of the Free Syrian Army (FSA), the main opponent of the Assad regime.[116] Though the FSA is said to be a cohesive aggregate of rebel groups, other parties state that the FSA is rather "a loose network of brigades",[117] making addressing the organization difficult, as groups may act independently on occasion, the international reaction to actions done by groups under the FSA thus needing to be carefully addressed.

Terrorist groups have also been key actors in this conflict, as ISIL, Al-Nusra, and others fight, but for different goals. Al-Nusra, for example, "[controls] territory in Northern Syria" and was listed as a terrorist organization by the United States, after suicide bombings and attacks on civilians in Syrian cities multiplied.[118] ISIL is a group that split from Al-Nusra, and asserts dominance over some cities in Syria, the most crucial one being Aleppo.[119] These groups have infringed countless human right laws, and have been at the forefront of the conflict, and this topic is one the rare ones the international community has voiced in condemning, as the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) pronounced itself on.[120] The countless violations of human rights by these terrorist organizations has been a UNSC focus and will continue being monitored by the UN branch, as per Resolution 2254.

Conclusion

The political and humanitarian reality in Syria is one with many layers that cannot be addressed without proper considerations of the dynamics between groups, and the proper taking into consideration of at-risk people within the region. The implementation of the Six-Point Plan has been slow to say the least, and dissent within the Security Council, especially among permanent members, has restricted action concerning military and even humanitarian involvement in the region. As the numbers of civilian deaths and displaced people increase, the UNSC has the pressing mandate to stabilize the militarization of groups in the region, and to act as an authoritative voice of reason within the international community, looking to end, and not simply react to, the crisis at hand. As dawn rises on the sixth year of conflict in Syria, how long the darkness in the region will last is unpredictable, the one light in the situation in Syria being a Security Council that acts decisively and cohesively.

---

[116] BBC World, "Guide to the Syrian rebels".
[117] *Ibid.*
[118] BBC World, "Guide to the Syrian rebels".
[119] *Ibid.*
[120] "Note to Correspondents: Statement of the International Syria Support Group".

Questions to Consider:

1. How can humanitarian aid be carefully delivered to those in need within Syria, as animosity between groups in the region remains stable in its instability, or even escalates past what has been observed so far?

2. Could the UNSC consider referring the situation in Syria to the ICC, as is the Security Council's right if it so chooses to exercise it? There is also the possibility of referring organizations such as ISIL and Al-Nusra to the Court; however bear in mind that this process is debatable, as only focusing on selected groups instead of the whole situation may lead to disputes as to what groups should be referred to the ICC.[121]

3. Should a UN intervention occur in Syria and, were it to occur, how would the organization of the intervention take place and what would its primary focus be? Stemming from this, what main groups, if any, should be targeted and how should different groups be targeted by the UNSC? Consider Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations in assessing this question, and remember that Chapter VI is the preferred means of reaction in any international conflict, especially one in which many international players are involved.

4. What steps can the UNSC take in order to better implement the Six-Point Plan with more effective results than those that have so far been observed? Reviewing Resolution 2042, Resolution 2254, and Resolution 2268 is paramount in considering established guidelines and how they can be modified in future resolutions during the meeting of the Security Council later in February 2017.

5. Does the use of chemical weapons impact the UNSC's decision to trigger Chapter VII, as it said it would in Resolution 2118, if further incidents were to occur? Dwell on the importance of the response to this violation and how strong said response should be. Moreover, how would this violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and Resolution 2118 be addressed after the resolving of the conflict, and what parties can and/or should be deemed responsible for the breach of international laws related to the use of chemical weapons?

6. How can political processes take place in the Syrian Arab Republic in ensuring a democratic regime be in power in the state, and in the upholding of international law?

---

[121] Kersten, Mark, "Is the ICC the Right Response to the ISIS Crisis?".

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

BBC World, "Syria profile – Timeline", *BBC.* 20 September 2016, accessed September 30 2016, available from http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14703995

> *This BBC document gives a comprehensive point-form version of how the Syrian Crisis escalated from 2011 to the present, but also delves into the tumultuous past of the country, which delegates can use in order to expand their knowledge as to how the conflict escalated and who the big players are in the conflict, as well as who they are allied with. This report gives for a comprehensive and concise outline from which delegates can build on, as it mentions both relations between groups within the country, and how the influence of other countries affected the region.*

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, *Protecting and Supporting the Displaced in Syria: UNHCR End of Year Report 2015*, (n.d.), available from http://www.unhcr.org/56cad5a99.html

> *This document outlines the plight of the Syrian people, both in Syria and as a diaspora. Goals are determined by the UNHCR and plans described to solve these issues are many and also detailed by the UN branch. Due to this being an end of year report, the document describes what it has done to aid the situation, and also describes the help that still needs to be provided for the refugees in and out of Syria. Delegates should use this source to build upon what has already been done by the UNHCR and use these evolutions in order to guide the Syrian Crisis to a resolution.*

United Nations Security Council, "Six-Point Proposal of the Joint Special Envoy of the United Nations and the League of Arab States" (14 April 2012), accessed on October 6 2016, available from http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/six_point_proposal.pdf

> *This document outlines the six points by which the UNSC wishes the groups involved within the Syrian Crisis to help devolve the situation and to find a peaceful resolution, and the document is annexed to resolution 2042 cited below. It outlines, as the title indicates, six points that must be followed in order for the process of peace to be effective and for Syria to become independent through binding legislation in the country. The plan underlines humanitarian needs, military goals such as ceasefires and the return of the population to their country, then moving towards providing freedom to the media in the region and respecting the rights of all to peace. The document will help delegates understand the foundation of the search for peace in Syria and is a needed starting point for them to begin their research.*

United Nations Security Council, "Resolution 2336 (2016)" (31 December 2016), accessed on 15 January 2016, available from http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2336.pdf

> *This Resolution addresses the Turkey-Russia relationship as well as expresses enthusiasm at the prospect of having the opposing parties in the Syrian conflict meet in order for progress to be made in the region. Delegates should note the political process this document stresses takes place, in concordance with other*

Security Council resolutions and international measures. Delegates should take note of the documents and events mentioned in the resolution for their preparation to be as up to date as possible.

United Nations, "UN Charter: Full Text", (n.d.) accessed on November 12 2016, available from http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/un-charter-full-text/

The full UN Charter should guide delegates throughout their search for an answer during the conference. It is expected that the sections relating to the Security Council, thus Chapters V to VII, be well articulated in the minds of delegates for these are the foundations by which the committee operates. These chapters are referenced in multiple Security Council resolutions, but it is also essential for delegates to understand the primary source before understanding how it was expanded upon.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Al Jazeera News And Agencies, "Syria's war: Aid agencies suspend cooperation with UN" (8 September 2016), accessed on November 16 2016, available from http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/09/syria-war-aid-agencies-suspend-cooperation-160908164810695.html

Alkarama, "The Permanent State of Emergency – A Breeding Ground for Torture: Report submitted to the Committee Against Torture in the context of the review of the initial periodic report of the Syrian Arab Republic", 9 April 2010, accessed on 7 November 2016, from http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/Treaties/CAT/Shared%20Documents/SYR/INT_CAT_NGO_SYR_44_10098_E.pdf

Amnesty International, "Iraq 2015/2016", n.d., accessed 9 November 2016, from https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/middle-east-and-north-africa/iraq/report-iraq/

BBC World, "Guide to the Syrian rebels", *BBC*. 12 December 2013, accessed October 3 2016, available from http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-24403003

"Chemical Weapons Convention: Convention On The Prohibition Of The Development, Production, Stockpiling And Use Of Chemical Weapons And On Their Destruction" (n.d.), accessed 19 November 2016, available from http://www.meti.go.jp/policy/chemical_management/cwc/files/110joyaku_eibun.pdf

Hennigna, W. J. and Brian Bennet, "Russia, Turkey expand military operations in Syria during Trump's transition to power" (November 17 2016), accessed on 19 November 2016, available from http://www.latimes.com/nation/la-fg-trump-syria-20161117-story.html

Human Rights Watch, "Syria and the International Criminal Court: Questions and Answers" (September 2013), accessed on November 15 2016, available from

https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/related_material/Q%26A_Syria_ICC_Sept2013_en_0.pdf

Kersten, Mark, "Is the ICC the Right Response to the ISIS Crisis?" (22 April 2015), accessed on 19 November 2016, available from https://justiceinconflict.org/2015/04/22/is-the-icc-the-right-response-to-the-isis-crisis/

"Note to Correspondents: Statement of the International Syria Support Group" (17 May 2016), United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, accessed on 19 November 2016, available from https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents/2016-05-17/note-correspondents-statement-international-syria-support

OCHA, "Syrian Arab Republic", October 2016, accessed on 10 November 2016, from http://www.unocha.org/syria

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, "Decision: Destruction Of Syrian Chemical Weapons", 27 September 2013, accessed on November 12 2016, available from https://www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/EC/M-33/ecm33dec01_e_.pdf

"Putin mends broken relations with Turkey's Erdogan" (9 August 2016), *BBC,* accessed on November 19 2016, available from http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-37018562

Sammonds, Neil, "Baby Steps on the Long Road to Justice for Atrocities in Syria", (11 April 2016), accessed on November 15 2016, available from https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2016/04/baby-steps-on-the-long-road-to-justice-for-atrocities-in-syria/

Secretary General Ban KI-moon, to the General Assembly, "Remarks to the General Assembly on Syria", 3 August 2012, accessed on November 10 2016 from http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocus/sgspeeches/search_full.asp?statID=1613

"Syria Crisis: Where Key Countries Stand" (30 October 2015), *BBC,* accessed on 19 November 2016, available from http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-23849587

"Syria", *Security Council Report,* n.d., accessed on November 15 2016, available from http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/chronology/syria.php

The Editors of Enclypaedia Britannica, "Syrian Civil War", 8 December 2015, accessed on 3 November 2016, from https://www.britannica.com/event/Syrian-Civil-War

"Turkey: In call with Foreign Minister, Ban seeks update on current probe into attempted coup" (27 July 2016), *UN News Center,* accessed on 19 November 2016, available from http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=54572#.WDD4mGQrLfY

United Nations, "UN Charter: Full Text", (n.d.) accessed on November 12 2016, available from http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/un-charter-full-text/

United Nations General Assembly, "66/253. The situation in the Syrian Arab Republic" A/RES/66/253 (7 August 2012), accessed on November 12 2016, available from http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/66/253%20B

United Nations General Assembly, "67/97. The rule of law at the national and international levels", A/RES/67/97 (14 January 2013), accessed on November 12 2016, available from undocs.org/ A/RES/67/97

United Nations General Assembly, "Report of the independent international commission of inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic" (5 February 2013), accessed on November 17 2016, available from http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/CoISyria/A.HRC.22.59_en.pdf

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, "Regional Winter Assistance 2016-2017: Progress Report – Syria and Iraq situations" (9 November 2016), accessed on November 15 2016, available from file:///Users/Home/Downloads/UNHCRRegionalWinterAssistanceProgressReport-9November.pdf

United Nations Security Council, "Draft Resolution S/2016/846" (8 October 2016), accessed November 15 2016, available from http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2016/846

United Nations Security Council, "Draft Resolution S/2016/847" (8 October 2016), accessed November 15 2016, available from http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=s/2016/847

United Nations Security Council "resolution 2042 (2012)", S/RES/2042 (14 April 2012), accessed on October 3 2016, available from undocs.org/S/RES/2042.

United Nations Security Council "resolution 2118 (2013)", S/RES/2118 (27 September 2013), accessed on October 2 2016, available from undocs.org/S/RES/2118.

United Nations Security Council "resolution 2254 (2015)", S/RES/2254 (18 December 2015), accessed November 13 2016, available from undocs.org/S/RES/2254/

United Nations Security Council, "resolution 2258 (2015)", S/RES/2258 (22 December 2015), accessed on November 14 2016 available from undocs.org/S/RES/2258.

United Nations Security Council "resolution 2268 (2016)", S/RES/2268 (26 February 2016), accessed November 14 2016, available from undocs.org/S/RES/2268/