

Valdosta State University Model United Nations
Background Guide for the Security Council

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2016 Valdosta State University Model United Nations conference, and congratulations on being selected to serve on the Security Council. My name is Jacob Nalley, and it is my pleasure to be a part of this conference for the second year. I have also been a delegate for the Valdosta State Model UN team for two years, and have had the privilege of attending conferences in Atlanta, New York, and the Czech Republic. I am currently finishing the final year of my Political Science degree, along with a minor in Philosophy, and certificate in European studies. After I graduate, I plan to pursue a graduate degree in international relations, a passion I discovered through the Model UN program.

The Security Council is, perhaps, the most vital and powerful organ of the United Nations. It is the job of the Security Council to address matters of international security, and to respond to a variety of global crises that may arise at any time.

The topics presented before the Security Council are:

- I. International Cooperation to Counter Extreme Terrorism
- II. Addressing the Disputes in the South China Sea

In order to prepare you for the conference, this background guide has been prepared to give you a general overview of these topics, as well as a committee directive that helps guide delegates with their own research. This background guide will provide brief descriptions of the history of these topics, previous international developments in these topics, and current developments. While this background guide gives valuable information, each delegate should do his or her own outside research to be prepared for committee.

Each delegation is also required to submit a position paper, outlining their member state's views on each topic, as well as their countries own relation to the issue. These papers should be no longer than two pages. Further information on formatting, as well as a delegate preparation guide to help guide you in preparation for the conference, can be found on the Valdosta State Model United Nation website.

Good luck, delegates, and I look forward to seeing the work you've done at the conference.

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Security Council

History

Due to the tremendous effects of two devastating wars during the first half of the 20th century, the international community decided to establish the United Nations (UN). The United Nations Charter authorized the development of six main organs that would each hold different responsibilities within the organization. The principal organ responsible for preserving peace and security on an international level would be the Security Council (SC). While being the primary body responsible for international peace and cooperation, the Security Council has also become instrumental in developing an acknowledgment of universal respect to human rights.¹

The Security Council held its first session on 17 January 1946, at Church House in London. At the time of inception, the Security Council membership consisted of five permanent members, and six non-permanent members. However, the size of the Security Council led to intense discussions and debate regarding the structure of the body. In 1965, the number of non-permanent members increased to ten, but discussions regarding the size and membership of the Council continue to this day.² Since its first meeting, the Security Council has taken permanent residence at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. Over the course of the 20th Century the Security Council has also travelled to many different host nations, holding sessions in Ethiopia in 1972, and in Panama and Geneva in 1990. A representative from each of the member nations must be present at all times at the UN Headquarters so that the Security Council can meet at any time.³

During the Cold War, tensions between the Soviet Union and the United States prevented the council from being an effective institution. Agreements and understandings could not be reached by either nation, even in regards to very basic topics. Following the demise of the Soviet Union beginning in the late 1980's and early 1990's, the council has become very active on the world stage. The Security Council has authorized and approved peacekeeping missions in the former Yugoslavia, Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kosovo, and East Timor.⁴ Coming into the 21st Century, international terrorism and extremism have become a new priority for the Security Council.

Mandate

The mandate of the Security Council is to maintain international peace and security by taking the necessary steps and actions whenever threats may arise. According to the *Charter of the United Nations*, there are four primary purposes for the organization as a whole.⁵ Those purposes are maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among countries, working to solve international disputes, and promoting respect for human rights. The Security Council's authority is relevant in regards to the Charter, and according to Article 39 of the UN Charter, the council has the right to determine the existence of any threat to international security and devise the steps necessary to de-escalate that threat. The Security Council may also recommend new Member States to UN General Assembly, as well as suggest the expulsion of a Member who has violated UN principles laid out by the Charter.

Functions and Powers

The Charter of the United Nations allows the Security Council with a number of powers in order to guarantee security on an international level.⁶

Sanctions

Members can be asked to impose economic sanctions, financial penalties, travel bans, and blockades in order to halt or prevent violence. Sanctions are a non-violent tactic that is authorized by Article 41 in the Charter that is useful in deterring oppressive governments from committing atrocities. In recent years, the Security Council have imposed sanctions on different organizations known for terrorism and extremist ideologies.⁷

Military Response

The Security Council also can decide upon the use of UN peacekeeping forces to be sent around the globe to prevent threats against peace and security. The Security Council can also recommend the deployment of observers to hostile nations, who in turn can keep the Security Council updated on any possible threat to warfare or violations to human rights.⁸

Diplomacy

The Security Council does have a mandate to inquire about any dispute or condition that may advance to hostilities between Member States or other non-state groups. The Security Council may do this by “recommending methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement; formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments; determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and recommend what action should be taken.”⁹

Partnerships

Cooperation is vital for the success of the Security Council in fulfilling its mission of peace. Working alongside international and regional organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations is critical in implementing decisions. Working with other UN-related organizations is an integral part of addressing a wide range of threats such as terrorism, disarmament, and nuclear non-proliferation.

Structure and Membership

According with Article 25 of the UN Charter, Member States are required to accept and carry out any of the Council’s decisions in regards to resolutions adopted by the Security Council. This requirement comes from the Security Council having the authority to adopt binding resolutions, which is the only body in the UN that can do so.¹⁰

Presidency

Each Member State in the Security Council fills the Presidency position on a monthly rotational basis, according to alphabetical order. The President can convene meetings at any time, and may also issue press statements or presidential statements. Under Article 35 of the

Charter, the president shall call a meeting if a dispute or situation comes to the attention of the Security Council.

Participation

The Security Council can invite any United Nations Member State to the Council's sessions, however, invited Member States do not have the right to vote. The invited Member State can present proposals and draft resolutions, but would only reach a vote at the request of a representative from the Council.

Membership and Voting

The Security has five members that hold permanent membership with "Veto Power", which means one of the five permanent members can vote against a draft resolution and prevent it from passing. The five permanent members are China, France, Great Britain, The Russian Federation, and the United States of America. The 10 non-permanent members on the council serve for 2 year terms. Every year, the General Assembly selects five new non-permanent members to be appointed to the Security Council.¹¹ Competition is extremely high for the vacant seats, and countries usually express interest in the position years in advance. Countries are expected to represent the best interest of the regional area of where their country is located.

I. Addressing the Disputes in the South China Sea

"Today we stand on a bridge leading from the territorial state to the world community. Politically, we are still governed by the concept of the territorial state; economically and technically, we live under the auspices of worldwide communications and worldwide markets."
*Christian Lous Lange*¹²

Introduction

The conflict of the South China Sea revolves around that of resource distribution, territory, and sovereignty. The nations involved in this conflict do have varying levels of capability when it comes to dealing with such a major issue. The variance is so high that external entities have been pulled into the mix to help combat the problem. This is not a new problem, however, as China has been engaged in the same territorial disputes in the South China Sea since 1974.¹³ The conflict officially begins in 2013 the Philippines decided to take China to a UN tribunal under the umbrella of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).¹⁴ Chapter VI of the UN Charter states that, "The Security Council may investigate any dispute, or any situation which might lead to international friction or give rise to a dispute, in order to determine whether the continuance of the dispute or situation is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security."¹⁵

History and Conflict

The dispute over the South China Sea has morphed into a modern day stalemate between The People's Republic of China and the rest of the world. The two biggest actors in this debate over territory are China and the United States of America. The South China Sea covers more than 1.16 million square miles on the western edge of the Pacific Ocean and consists of hundreds

of uninhabited small islands, islets, and rocks. The Paracel and Spratly chains contain the biggest islands, and are the areas of highest contention. China and Taiwan have traditionally claimed nearly all of the South China Sea, while Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei each have overlapping claims. China's claim is based on a historical map of "Nine Dashes" which encroaches upon the coast of several other countries. During China's republican era, China laid claim to 291 islands and reefs in the region, but neighboring countries contest that the "Nine Dash" map claims are kept deliberately vague so that no one knows exactly what China claims. China has countered these retorts from neighboring nations by stating that the islands are just a physical expression of its rule over four-fifths of the South China Sea and all foreign shipping should respect China's sovereignty.

The United States counters China's claim to four-fifths of the sea by saying that the South China Sea is international water, and sovereignty in the area should be determined by the United Nations Convention on Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS). UNCLOS states that countries cannot claim sovereignty over any landmasses that are submerged at high tide, or that were previously submerged but have been raised above high tide level by construction.¹⁶ The fact that many of the claims on territory in the sea were previously submerged, but are now raised by construction is a clause overlooked by all of the claimants who continue to engage in aggressive island building. The United States believes that while island building is permissible, it does not lend ultimate sovereignty over maritime affairs in the region.¹⁷

The South China Sea presents a major boost to the economic power of whosoever controls it, which is why in recent years China has been so aggressive in cementing its claim. The sea is the main maritime link between the Pacific and Indian oceans, giving it enormous trade and military value. Its shipping lanes also connect East Asia with Europe and the Middle East. Control of the South China Sea would allow China to dominate a major trade route through which most of its imported oil flows. It would also allow China to disrupt, or threaten to disrupt, trade shipments to all countries in East and Southeast Asia, as well as deny access to foreign military forces, particularly the United States. There has also been a recent discovery of unexploited oil and gas deposits that lie underneath the seabed.¹⁸ Sovereignty over the region could give China a level of energy security and independence beyond what it currently possesses.

Previous Conflicts

China has held all of the Paracel islands since a conflict with Vietnam in 1974, which left 53 Vietnamese military personnel dead. Vietnam is believed to occupy and control more than 20 of the Spratly islands and reefs, the most of any other claimant. Taiwan has a garrison controlled by its coastguard on Itu Aba Island, and is the largest in the Spratlys. Taiwan announced in July that it would deploy longer-range artillery in the areas under its control in the Spratlys. The Philippines occupies nine of the Spratly Islands, making the Philippines the second largest nation in the area. The Philippines has a military and civilian presence living on Thitu Island in the Spratlys, which it calls Pagasa. This military presence is an ally to the US and is believed to serve as a deterrent to hostile Chinese encroachment. China occupies at least seven of the Spratlys including the Johnson Reef, which it gained after a naval battle with Vietnam in 1988. Malaysia occupies three of the Spratlys. The most significant presence is on Swallow Reef, called Layang Layang Island in Malaysia, where it has a naval post and a diving resort. Brunei

does not currently occupy any land formation but claims a submerged reef and a submerged bank in the Spratlys.

Aside from the 1974 battle for the Paracels, the only other major conflict occurred when Vietnam and China fought a naval battle on the Johnson Reef in the Spratlys in 1988, which left 70 Vietnamese military personnel dead. However, Chinese naval vessels have fired at other times on Vietnamese fishing boats in the area. In 2011, Vietnam accused Chinese marine surveillance vessels of cutting an oil survey ship's exploration cables which sparked nationalist protests in Vietnam. In June this year, Vietnam passed a law proclaiming its jurisdiction over all of the Paracel and Spratly islands, triggering Chinese protests. At about the same time China announced it had created a new city, Sansha, on one of the Paracel islands, which would administer Chinese rule over its perceived South China Sea domain.

In 1995, China began building structures on Mischief Reef, within the Philippines' Exclusive Economic Zone. Since then, tensions between the Philippines and China have started to climb significantly. In March 2011, Chinese vessels harassed a Philippine-chartered gas and oil exploration vessel at Reed Bank. The Philippines then accused the Chinese of a pattern of intimidation which included firing warning shots at Filipino fishermen and laying buoys around Philippine-claimed islets. A standoff between Chinese and Philippine vessels, which began in April of 2015, at Scarborough Shoal further, inflamed tensions between these two nations. Philippine Foreign Minister Albert del Rosario has repeatedly accused China of duplicity and intimidation.¹⁹

Current Issues

Malaysia, the Philippines, Vietnam, and China believe that the key to claiming sovereignty over areas in the South China Sea are not legal arguments but a continuous human presence. Whether an island generates an Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) or simply a twelve-mile territorial sea is determined by whether it is able naturally to sustain human life. This has led to a rush of "island building" in order to seize and control any and all land features in the South China Sea and to demonstrate that people can live on the islands. Island building is defined as the expansion of existing land masses via artificial means. This practice has been going on for decades, primarily by Vietnam and the Philippines which have laid claim to 29 islands collectively. Vietnam, Taiwan, and the Philippines have all stationed military forces on some of their islands, but Vietnam, in accordance with UNCLOS regulation, has not put troops on what it calls "floating islands" which are islands constructed on submerged sandbars, reefs, and other land masses.

China has come late into the island building game, but its efforts have been on a scale never before seen in the region. In the last 18 months, China has constructed more new island surfaces than all other neighboring nations have constructed throughout history. In early May of 2015, U.S. officials stated that they believed that China had reclaimed 2,000 acres of new land in the Spratly Islands.²⁰ Unlike other claimants, China has placed military equipment on one of its artificial islands, and officials have said that the government plans to do so again. Of all the nations staking claims to territory in the South China Sea, China possesses enough modern military vessels to protect its claims. China has presented itself as a powerhouse to lay what it perceives to be a historical claim over nearly all of the South China Sea.

United Nations' Actions and Roles

As of October 29, the UN Permanent Court of Arbitration ruled that it does have jurisdiction to hear the claims of the Philippines against China over the disputed areas in the South China Sea.²¹ The basis of Manila's claim comes from Article 56 of the UNCLOS charter saying,

1. In the exclusive economic zone, the coastal State has: (a) sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing the natural resources, whether living or non-living, of the waters superjacent to the seabed and of the seabed and its subsoil, and with regard to other activities for the economic exploitation and exploration of the zone, such as the production of energy from the water, currents and winds; (b) jurisdiction as provided for in the relevant provisions of this Convention with regard to: (i) the establishment and use of artificial islands, installations and structures; (ii) marine scientific research; (iii) the protection and preservation of the marine environment; (c) other rights and duties provided for in this Convention. 2. In exercising its rights and performing its duties under this Convention in the exclusive economic zone, the coastal State shall have due regard to the rights and duties of other States and shall act in a manner compatible with the provisions of this Convention. 3. The rights set out in this article with respect to the seabed and subsoil shall be exercised in accordance with Part VI.²²

The tribunal under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) decided that China's claim to own four-fifths of the South China Sea is not an indisputable fact, as the Chinese government claims.²³ The tribunal concluded that the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Indonesia have the right to have their objections to China's claims heard and judged before a court of arbitration. On October 27th, 2015, the United States sent a guided-missile destroyer, the USS Lassen, to challenge China's claims to authority over shipping on the South China Sea. After giving warning that the US operation was a "freedom of navigation operation" and affirming the right of passage to all navies and merchant marine, the USS Lassen purposefully sailed within 12 nautical miles of the Subi Reef in the Spratly Islands. China's response to this maneuver was that the U.S. action had threatened China's sovereignty and the USS Lassen had "illegally" entered China's territorial waters.

Article 57 establishes the breadth of the exclusive economic zone (EEZ) at 200 nautical miles.¹² In July, during pre-tribunal hearings the Filipino Secretary of Foreign Affairs said "China has irreversibly damages the regional marine environment, in breach of UNCLOS, by its destruction of coral reefs in the South China Sea, including areas within the Philippines' EEZ, by its destructive and hazardous fishing practices, and by its harvesting of endangered species."²⁴ The Chinese government has rejected The Hague's claims over jurisdiction on this case and has boycotted the proceedings. China is standing by their original statement that this a debate of sovereignty, which is not covered by UNCLOS and out of the arbitration court's jurisdiction, not exploitation.²⁵

Since 2014 China has started a process of dredging sand off the ocean floor and reclaiming a number of islands in the Spratlys²⁶. The United Nations Convention on the Laws of

the Sea (UNCLOS) does allow for the construction of artificial islands per Article 11 of its charter, though Article 60 states that “They [artificial islands] have no territorial sea of their own, and their presence does not affect the delimitation of the territorial sea, the exclusive economic zone or the continental shelf.” The Chinese land reclamation projects have been killing the marine environment in the South China Sea.²⁷ The Spratly Islands, in particular, are home to SE Asia’s most productive coral reef ecosystem.²⁸ This ecosystem is used as a base for a multitude of fish species to breed and it also is a huge contributor to the sustenance of coastal Filipino communities.²⁹ Along with the issues associated with the sea floor dredging the Chinese themselves are deploying and operating their insatiable fishing fleet.³⁰ Beijing claims that the island building activities in the South China Sea will only have minimal environmental damage, but research has shown that since these islands are being built on top of atolls then when a big storm comes the waves will not have a natural break and the results can be even more devastating.³¹ Damage to the environment due to the construction of these artificial islands is also a violation on UNCLOS charter Article 145, “...the protection and conservation of the natural resources of the Area and the prevention of damage to the flora and fauna of the marine environment.”³² The artificial islands being built by the Chinese, though they are legal per Article 60 of UNCLOS they are violating Article 61.2 which states that “Such measures shall also be designed to maintain or restore populations of harvested species at levels which can produce the maximum sustainable yield, as qualified by relevant environmental and economic factors, including the economic needs of coastal fishing communities.”³³

The territory China has claimed in the South China Sea is known as the “nine-dash line.”³⁴ This line encroaches on the borders of Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, and the Philippines. Using Article 287 of UNCLOS the Filipino government is going after China is a UN tribunal. China argues that Article 60 of the UNCLOS charter gives them (the coastal state) “exclusive jurisdiction over such artificial islands...”³⁵ and that the tribunal doesn’t have jurisdiction to hear the arbitration case because China has the right to govern its own islands, artificial or not. The arbitration hearing is expected to be completed by June 2016.

Conclusion

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) adopted a non-binding "declaration of conduct" in 2002 to discourage hostile acts in the South China Sea, but attempts to turn it into a legally binding "code of conduct" have failed. The dispute has created divisions within ASEAN. A meeting of foreign ministers in July ended for the first time in the block's 45-year history without a joint statement because of infighting over the issue.

The dispute between the United States and China is likely to escalate in the near future. U.S. Pacific Command planners are preparing to sail and fly within 12 nautical miles of areas that China claims as sovereign territory on a more continuous basis. The USS Fort Worth and a P-8 surveillance aircraft have already operated close by, and while China objected, it did not take hostile action. However, China has stated that it will defend what it considers its territorial limit and under its sovereignty. This stalemate in the South China Sea could present major losses to whosoever bends first. If Vietnam, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines concede to China’s claims they stand to lose virtually all of their economic power in the region and globally. If the Chinese government blinks, it could suffer domestically due to the loss of face for the Communist Party as well as the economic stronghold of power it currently holds.

Committee Directive

As you conduct your own research, you should keep some questions in mind. What will be done by all countries to properly adhere to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea? How can it be ensured that China doesn't impede on its neighbors territory with the expansion of its own territory? Should the United Nations Arbitration Court have jurisdiction in cases where its sovereignty versus violation of a UN Convention? How will the environment be repaired after the incurred damage? Is it right for China to reclaim islands in another nations EEZ?

II. International Cooperation to Counter Extreme Terrorism

"The purpose of terrorism lies not just in the violent act itself. It is in producing terror. It sets out to inflame, to divide, to produce consequences which they then use to justify further terror."-Tony Blair³⁶

Introduction

The Charter of the United Nations sets forth the goals of promoting rule of law, human rights, diplomatic approaches to crisis resolution, and protection of civilians.³⁷ In 2013, a total of 9,707 terrorist attacks occurred worldwide, causing more than 32,000 injuries and 18,000 deaths. In addition, thousands of people were kidnapped and taken hostage.³⁸ Every day, terrorism continues to harm incident civilians, rip families apart, and spread fear throughout the international community. It is clear that terrorism violates all aspects of the goals of the United Nations (UN), and efforts must be continued to stop its spread. The UN has played a crucial role in global counter-terrorism since the 1960's, however terrorism's roots are much older

History and Conflict

Perhaps the most important achievement the UN has made in countering global terrorism is the adopting of *A/RES/60/288* in 2006. This resolution established the United-Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the UN's first organization-wide agreement to counter-terrorism.³⁹ Though great progress has been made, terrorism continues to be one of the most crucial issues facing international peace and security. While terrorism is a threat that all countries face, it seems to be concentrated in certain areas of the world. Nearly 82% of all terrorist attacks occur in Iraq Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria, and Syria alone.⁴⁰

While the international community has stepped up to counter extreme terrorism, the scope of the issue is evolving. As globalization has spread, it has become easier for terrorists to act along. Terrorists can now "take advantage of porous borders and interconnected international systems—finance, communications, and transit—terrorist groups can reach every corner of the globe."⁴¹ These increased capabilities have led to a shift in the sponsorship of terrorism. In the past, state actors have often sponsored terrorism, however in recent decades, non-state actors increasingly sponsor terrorist organizations.⁴²

One issue that has hindered the further progression of counter-terrorism policies is the lack of agreement on a universal definition. The first definition of terrorism to come out of the UN was proposed in 1994, by the 49th session of the General Assembly in the *Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism*. They proclaimed terrorism to be "criminal acts intended or calculated to provoke a state of terror in the general public, a group of persons or

particular persons for political purposes are in any circumstance unjustifiable, whatever the considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or any other nature that may be invoked to justify them.”⁴³ The next definition was proposed in 2004 by the *High-Level Panel of independent experts on Threats, Challenges and Change*, who defined terrorism as “any act that is intended to cause death or serious bodily harm to civilians or non-combatants, when the purpose of such an act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population, or to compel a Government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act.”⁴⁴

Current Issues

The international community continues to face a multitude of issues related to extreme terrorism. Most recently, the international community has been faced with the decision on how to combat extreme terrorist groups rising out of Iraq and Syria, specifically the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS). The Security Council adopted resolution 2170 in August of 2014, in an effort to condemn the gross and widespread abuses of human rights conducted by extreme groups in Iraq and Syria.⁴⁵ These groups routinely partake in beheadings, mass killings, and the taking of hostages. Statistics say that between September 2013 and October 2015, ISIS killed 2157 civilians, of which 150 were children and 154 were women.⁴⁶

Many national institutions have been forced to focus on preventing the radicalization of their citizens, confronting extremism, and hindering the financial backing of terrorist groups.⁴⁷ Despite individual efforts by Member States, counter-terrorism is best combatted through multilateral approaches. This has proven difficult, as Member States disagree on how to bring stability to the region. In particular, the United States and Russia have been unable to agree on the future of the region.

United Nations’ Actions and Roles

In recent decades the rise of terrorism has escalated and continued to grip the world in fear. Since the early 1990’s, the Security Council has expanded its efforts to combat extreme terrorism, through the promotion of international cooperation between member states. The Security Council can take action to maintain or restore international peace and security under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.⁴⁸ Its actions took the forms of sanctions against States considered to have links of terrorism: Libya (1992); Sudan (1996); and Afghanistan with *Resolution 1267* (1999). The Taliban in 1999, and expanded to also include Al-Qaida in 2000 by *Resolution 1333*.⁴⁹ Prior to the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001, the Security Council had established a strong counter-terrorism tool: the 1267 Committee.

The 1267 Committee was established in 1999 by *Resolution 1267* to oversee the sanctions imposed against the Taliban and Al-Qaida. These sanctions were strengthened by the Security Council after strong pressure from the United States and Russia in 2000. The Security Council passed a number of resolutions approving “targeted” sanctions on alleged members and associates of the Taliban and Al-Qaida in response to concerns that general sanctions hurt innocent civilians.⁵⁰ Sanctions have taken a number of different forms, measures have ranged from comprehensive economic and trade sanctions to more targeted measures such as arms embargoes, travel bans, financial or commodity restrictions, and terrorist financing.⁵¹ However, concerns from the human rights community raised new controversies over the use of targeted

sanctions.⁵²The Secretary General has appointed an Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team to assist the 1267 Committee at the request of the Security Council.⁵³

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 sparked the establishment of a Counter-Terrorism Committee under unanimously adopted, *Resolution 1373*. The Committee works to increase the ability of United Nations Member States to prevent terrorist attacks within their borders and/or across regions. A landmark resolution, number 1373 calls upon Member States to implement a number of measures intended to enhance their legal and institutional ability to counter terroristic activities. These measures include taking steps to criminalize the financing of terrorism, freeze funds without delay related to persons involved in acts of terrorism, deny all forms of financial support for terrorist groups, suppress support or sustenance for terrorists, share information with other governments on any groups practicing or planning terrorist acts, cooperate with other governments in the investigation, detection, arrest, extradition, and prosecution of those involved in such acts, and criminalize activity/passive assistance for terrorism in domestic law and bring violators to justice.⁵⁴ Member States are required to regularly report to the Counter Terrorism Committee on the measures they have taken to implement *Resolution 1373*. To monitor the implementation of this resolution and to facilitate the provision of technical assistance to Member States the Council adopted *Resolution 1535* (2004), creating a Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate.⁵⁵The Counter Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate carries out the policy decisions of the Committee and conducts expert assessments of each Member State.⁵⁶

The United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted *Resolution 1540* in 2004, establishing an additional counter-terrorism related body: Committee 1540. *Resolution 1540* imposes binding obligations on all Member States to adopt legislature to prevent the proliferation and delivery of WMD and to control the trafficking of nuclear and biological weapons with non-state actors or terrorist groups.⁵⁷ The resolution affirms support for multilateral treaties and reiterates that none of the obligations within the resolution will conflict or alter the rights and obligations of State Parties regarding treaties or alter the responsibilities of the IAEA and OPCW.⁵⁸ The obligations of this resolution complement and strengthen the growing number of treaties, convention, and protocols that address WMD proliferation.⁵⁹ Thus, encouraging enhanced international cooperation on such efforts.

The Security Council unanimously adopted *Resolution 1566* in 2004. *Resolution 1566* established the 1566 Working Group made up of all council members to recommend practical measures against groups and organizations engaged in terroristic activities that were not subject to the Al-Qaida/Taliban Sanctions Committee (1267 Committee).⁶⁰ The recommendations could include more effective procedures for bringing the perpetrators to justice through prosecution and extradition.⁶¹ The role of the 1566 Working Group was also to explore the possibility of setting up a compensation fund for victims of terrorism and their families.⁶²

On the heels of the 2005 World Summit, the Security Council adopted *Resolution 1624*, which builds on *Resolution 1373*, and others concerned with threats to international peace and security caused by acts of terrorism. At its core, the resolution deals with prevention and places increased emphasis on social contexts that may relate to the spread of extreme terrorism.⁶³ It also

called on Member States to prohibit by law terrorist acts and incitement to commit them and to deny safe haven to any persons guilty of such conduct.⁶⁴

Conclusion

Through a number of resolutions, the Security Council has strengthened the work of its counter-terrorism bodies. Today, terrorism is a serious threat due to its evolving nature. Terrorists constantly review their strategies and tactics, using all tools at hand to pursue their criminal plans. The United Nations is doing the same with a view to disrupt those plans.⁶⁵ The Council understands that a comprehensive and cooperative global approach is necessary to combat extreme terrorism.

Committee Directive

As you conduct further research, delegates should consider how further cooperation can be encouraged among Member States. What actions can be taken to further counter terrorism, which have not yet been taken? How can Member States come together to stop international terrorism? Furthermore, what role can the UN play in helping aid the victims of terrorism? How can the support base of terrorist groups, like ISIS, be dried up?

Security Council Overview

¹ *Basic Facts about the United Nations 2014*. New York: United Nations Department of Public Information, 2014. Print.

² Ibid

³ Ibid

⁴ Ibid

⁵ "Charter of the United Nations." United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/>

⁶ "Security Council, SC, UNSC, Security, Peace, Sanctions, Veto, Resolution, President, United Nations, UN, Peacekeeping, Peacebuilding, Conflict Resolution, Prevention." *UN News Center*. <http://www.un.org/en/sc/>.

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Ibid

⁹ Ibid

¹⁰ "CFR Backgrounds." Council on Foreign Relations. <http://www.cfr.org/international-organizations-and-alliances/un-security-council-unsc/p31649>

¹¹ Ibid

I. Addressing the Disputes in the South China Sea

¹² <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/territorial.html>

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- ¹³ “Q&A: South China Sea Dispute.” BBC. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-13748349>
- ¹⁴ Ibid
- ¹⁵ “Charter of the United Nations.” United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/>
- ¹⁶ “United Nations Convention on the law of the Sea.” United Nations. http://www.un.org/Depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/closindx.htm
- ¹⁷ “Washington, courts defy Beijing Imperials.” Facts and opinions. <http://www.factsandopinions.com/tag/south-china-sea/>
- ¹⁸ “South China Sea: Key Facts to Know.” The Christian Science Monitor. <http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Asia-Pacific/2014/0810/South-China-Sea-Key-facts-to-know>
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