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Security Council

Background Guide 2019

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2019 National Model United Nations New York Conference (NMUN•NY)! We are pleased to welcome you to the Security Council (SC). This year's staff are: Directors Davina Basse and Tiffany Dao (Conference A), and Directors Mia Saint Clair and Adam Wolf (Conference B). Davina is a graduate student at the Institute of European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies, focusing on German-Russian relations and the NATO-EU security relationship, and works at the Centre for European Studies in Ottawa, Canada. Tiffany holds a BA in Law, Societies, and Justice, which focuses on the ways in which both domestic and international law impact society, from the University of Washington-Seattle. Mia is pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence at Columbia University. Adam currently works as the Membership and Outreach Manager for the Alliance for Peacebuilding in Washington, DC. He graduated with a BA in International Studies from the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh in 2013.

The topics under discussion for the Security Council are:

1. Youth, Peace, and Security
2. Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts
3. The Situation in Myanmar

As one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN), the Security Council is mandated by the *Charter of the United Nations* to maintain international peace and security. It is the only body within the UN system with the authority to pass legally binding resolutions. The Security Council is composed of 15 Member States; 5 of which are permanent "veto-wielding" states and the other 10 are elected for 2-year terms. The main powers of the Security Council are: sanctions; the deployment, or approval of the deployment, of military forces; as well as diplomacy and building regional partnerships. In order to accurately simulate the committee, it will be key for delegates to emulate the cooperative and often consensus-based decision making practices of the Security Council.

This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We encourage you to explore your Member State's policies in depth and use the Annotated Bibliography and Bibliography to further your knowledge on these topics. In preparation for the Conference, each delegation will submit a Position Paper by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern) on 1 March 2019 in accordance with the guidelines in the *NMUN Position Paper Guide*.

Two resources, available to download from the NMUN website, that serve as essential instruments in preparing for the Conference and as a reference during committee sessions are the:

1. *NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide* - explains each step in the delegate process, from pre-Conference research to the committee debate and resolution drafting processes. Please take note of the information on plagiarism, and the prohibition on pre-written working papers and resolutions. Delegates should not start discussion on the topics with other members of their committee until the first committee session.
2. *NMUN Rules of Procedure* - include the long and short form of the rules, as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure.

In addition, please review the mandatory NMUN Conduct Expectations on the NMUN website. They include the Conference dress code and other expectations of all attendees. We want to emphasize that any instances of sexual harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated. If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the Conference itself, please contact the Under-Secretaries-General for the Peace and Security Department, Leah Schmidt (Conference A) and Alexander Rudolph (Conference B), at usg.ps@nmun.org.

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

Conference A

Davina Basse and Tiffany Dao, Directors

Conference B

Mia Saint Clair and Adam Wolf, Directors

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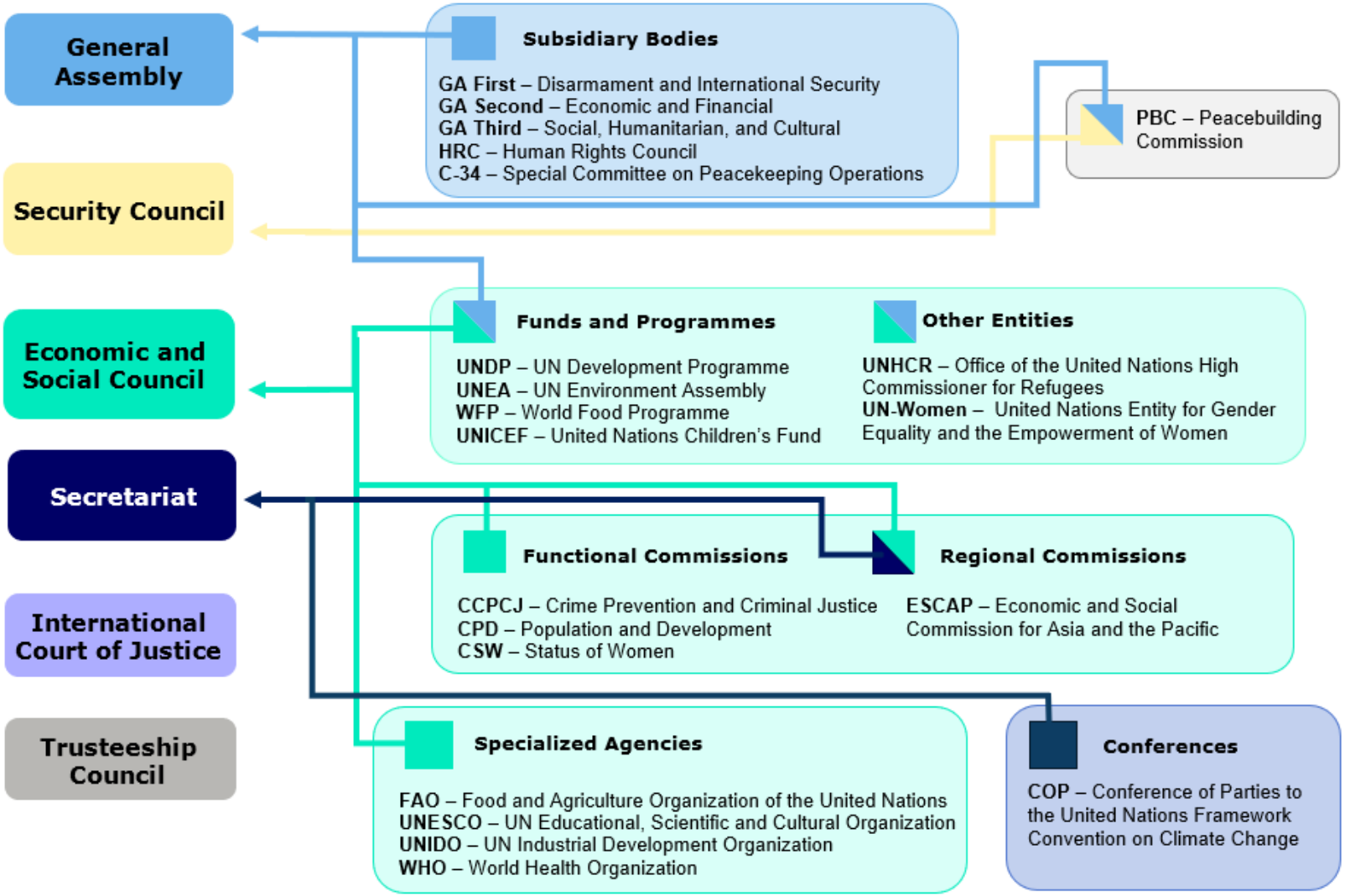
United Nations System at NMUN•NY

This diagram illustrates the UN system simulated at NMUN•NY and demonstrates the reportage and relationships between entities. Examine the diagram alongside the Committee Overview to gain a clear picture of the committee's position, purpose, and powers within the UN system.



Committee Overview

Introduction

After the devastating effects of two world wars, the international community established the United Nations (UN) as an intergovernmental organization with the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security, creating the conditions conducive to economic and social development, and advancing universal respect for human rights.[1] The Security Council was established as one of its six principal organs and was given the primary responsibility of preserving international peace and security.[2]

The Security Council held its first session on 17 January 1946 at Church House in London.[3] After its first meeting, the Council relocated to its permanent residence at the UN Headquarters in New York City.[4] At that time, five permanent members and six non-permanent members comprised the membership of the Council.[5] However, over subsequent years, discussions regarding the structure of the Council began to take place.[6] In 1965, the number of non-permanent members increased to 10, and although membership has not changed since then, discussions regarding a change in configuration take place frequently.[7]

Traditionally, the Security Council discusses issues related to peacekeeping missions, political processes, the protection of human rights, disarmament, and humanitarian crises.[8] However, with the adoption of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda) by the UN General Assembly in 2015, the Security Council began to increasingly focus on the intersection between sustainability, and peace and security.[9] Some important cross-cutting issues the Council is currently addressing include human rights and the protection of civilians for conflict prevention and sustainable development; women, peace, and security; and the prevention of conflict and sustaining peace.[10] At a meeting on 17 November 2015, members of the Security Council highlighted that the goals outlined in the post-2015 development agenda, particularly Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 on achieving peaceful and inclusive societies, cannot be attained without the promotion of peace and security.[11]

Governance, Structure, and Membership

The Security Council is the only UN body that has the power to adopt legally binding resolutions, which places an obligation on Member States to accept and carry out the Council's decisions under Article 25 of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945).[12] The Security Council also has a variety of other tools to address issues on its agenda.[13] For example, the President of the Security Council may issue press statements or presidential statements to communicate the Council's position.[14] Although these are not

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[1] *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Preamble.
[2] UN Security Council, *What is the Security Council?*, 2018.
[3] Ibid.
[4] Ibid.
[5] Hanhimäki, *The United Nations: A Very Short Introduction*, 2008, p. 32.
[6] Ibid.
[7] Bourantonis, *The History and Politics of UN Security Council Reform*, 2005, p. 10.
[8] Council on Foreign Relations, *CFR Backgrounders: The UN Security Council*, 2015; Encyclopaedia Britannica, *United Nations Security Council*, 2014.
[9] UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (*A/RES/70/1)*, 2015; UN DPA, Politically Speaking, *Sustaining peace, Conflict Prevention, Human Rights and Sustainable Development High on Agenda for New Security Council Members*, 2018.
[10] UN DPA, Politically Speaking, *Sustaining Peace, Conflict Prevention, Human Rights and Sustainable Development High on Agenda for New Security Council Members*, 2018.
[11] Lebada, UN Security Council Discusses Links with 2030 Agenda, *SDG Knowledge Hub*, 2015.
[12] UN Security Council, *What is the Security Council?*, 2018; *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 25.
[13] UN Security Council, *Functions and Powers*, 2018.
[14] NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, *Mapping Women, Peace and Security in the United Nations Security Council: Report of the NGOWG Monthly Action Points, 2009-2010*, 2010, p. 11.

legally binding, such statements are used to bring attention to important issues and to recommend solutions to ongoing conflicts.[15]

Membership
The Security Council is comprised of five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members.[16] The five permanent members of the Security Council are: China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, often colloquially referred to as the "P5."[17] Every year, the General Assembly elects five of the 10 non-permanent members for a two-year term.[18] Elections for non-permanent seats on the Council can be competitive, with states expressing interest and campaigning years in advance.[19] States elected to serve on the Security Council are expected to represent the interests of their region; they usually have an influence at the international level and demonstrate leadership in specific areas of interest to their foreign policy.[20]

Bolivia, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland and Sweden are the current non-permanent members for the term 2018-2019.[21] Security Council elections are held in June, six months before the term starts.[22] This change allows Member States sufficient time to prepare for their new role.[23] The 10 non-permanent members represent countries from five groups: Africa, the Asia-Pacific Group, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Eastern European Group, and Western European and Other.[24]

Presidency
Each member of the Security Council holds the presidency of the Council for one month, rotating according to alphabetical order.[25] Security Council meetings can be held at any time when convened by the President, and by the request of any Member State.[26] Under Rule 3 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council, the President shall call a meeting if a dispute or situation requires the Council's attention.[27] In accordance with the mandate of the Security and the Charter of the UN, the President shall call a meeting if a dispute or situation requires the Council's attention.[28]

Participation
Any Member State of the UN may attend the Council's sessions if the body decides to extend an invitation.[29] Member States are invited if the Security Council is discussing an issue that directly concerns the interests of the Member State.[30] Invited Member States do not have the right to vote, but are allowed to submit proposals and draft resolutions.[31] Furthermore, invited Member States can inform the Council

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[15] NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, *Mapping Women, Peace and Security in the United Nations Security Council: Report of the NGOWG Monthly Action Points, 2009-2010*, 2010, p. 15.
[16] UN Security Council, *Current members*, 2018.
[17] Ibid.
[18] Ibid.
[19] UN DPI, *Ahead of Security Council elections, General Assembly President explains how a country can get a non-permanent seat*, 2016.
[20] Bourantonis, *The History and Politics of UN Security Council Reform*, 2005, p. 6.
[21] UN Security Council, *Current members*, 2017.
[22] UN General Assembly, *Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (A/RES/68/307)*, 2014, p. 4.
[23] UN DPI, *Ahead of Security Council elections, General Assembly President explains how a country can get a non-permanent seat*, 2016.
[24] UN General Assembly, *Rules of procedure*, 2017.
[25] UN Security Council, *Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council (S/96/Rev.7)*, 1982.
[26] UN Security Council, *Repertoire of the practice of the Security Council*, 2017.
[27] Ibid.
[28] Ibid.
[29] Ibid.
[30] *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 31.
[31] UN Security Council, *Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council (S/96/Rev.7)*, 1982.

about a current crisis in their region.[32] However, such proposals may only be put to a vote at the request of a member of the Council.[33]

Subsidiary Organs
The Security Council consists of many subsidiary bodies established under Article 29 of the Charter, including: the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, sanctions committees, and ad hoc committees, such as the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on Namibia, among others.[34] Aside from these subsidiary bodies, the Security Council also works with the General Assembly to oversee the work of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC).[35] Additionally, Security Council Member States participate in various working groups, which discuss the topics of concern of the Security Council.[36] These working groups consist of some or all of the Security Council Member States and focus on regional issues, as well as improving the working methods of the Security Council itself.[37] For example, established by Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict recommends possible measures to the Council on promoting the protection of children affected by armed conflict.[38] The Security Council is also responsible for determining if, when, and where a peacekeeping operation is needed.[39] The Security Council creates a peacekeeping operation by adopting a resolution that outlines the mandate and size of a particular mission.[40]

Voting
Every Member State of the Security Council has one vote.[41] Votes on all matters require a majority of nine Member States.[42] However, if one of the five permanent members of the Security Council votes "no" on a matter of substance, such as a draft resolution, it does not pass.[43] This is known as "veto power."[44] In the 1950s, Security Council Member States, in particular the former Soviet Union, made frequent use of their veto power, but its usage declined in the 1960s, rising again in the 1970s and 1980s.[45] In the last decades, the use of the veto power has been a comparatively rare.[46] In recent years, the Council has adopted many resolutions by consensus and has only been divided on a very limited number of issues, a prominent recent example being the case of Syria.[47]

Mandate, Functions, and Powers

The mandate of the Security Council is to maintain international peace and security and to take action whenever peace and security are threatened.[48] The Council's authority is particularly relevant with respect to the UN's four primary purposes, as specified in the *Charter of the United Nations*: maintaining international peace and security; developing friendly relations among nations; cooperating in solving international problems; and promoting respect for human rights, as well as being a center for harmonizing

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[32] Ibid.
[33] Ibid.
[34] UN Security Council, *Structure*, 2018.
[35] Ibid.
[36] UN Security Council, *Repertoire of the practice of the Security Council*, 2018.
[37] Ibid.
[38] UN Security Council, *Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict*, 2018.
[39] UN Peacekeeping, *Role of the Security Council*.
[40] Ibid.
[41] *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 27.
[42] Ibid.
[43] Hanhimäki, *The United Nations: A Very Short Introduction*, 2008, p. 52.
[44] Ibid.
[45] Security Council Report, *In Hindsight: The Veto*, 2013; Security Council Report, *The Permanent Members and the Use of the Veto: An Abridged History*, 2013.
[46] Security Council Report, *The Permanent Members and the Use of the Veto: An Abridged History*, 2013.
[47] Security Council Report, *In Hindsight: Consensus in the Security Council*, 2014; Security Council Report, *In Hindsight: The Veto*, 2013.
[48] UN Security Council, *What is the Security Council?*, 2018.

the actions of nations.[49] Chapters VI and VII of the Charter specifically concern the Security Council and the range of actions that can be taken when settling disputes.[50] Chapter VI by itself aims to settle disputes through peaceful means, such as negotiation and judicial settlement. Additionally, according to Chapter VI, the role of the Security Council is to determine the severity of the dispute brought before the body and the impact of the dispute internationally.[51] Chapter VII explores further actions that can be taken in regard to threats to peace, branches of peace, and acts of aggression. [52] This chapter also authorizes the Security Council to implement provisional measures aimed to de-escalate the situation.[53]

The Charter also provides the Security Council with several powers to guarantee international security, which include sanctions, diplomatic tools, military action, and international and regional partnerships.[54] Under Article 41 in the Charter, the Council can call on its members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or end violence.[55] Some of these measures include arms embargos, enforcing disarmament, or calling upon international criminal mechanisms to become active.[56] Regarding diplomatic tools, the Council is mandated to investigate any dispute or situation that might lead to aggression between states, with other non-state groups, or within states' territories.[57] Aside from diplomatic instruments, the Council may also take military action against a state or other entity threatening international peace and security, and may further decide on the deployment of troops or observers.[58] Article 39 of the Charter states that the Council "shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression."[59] The Council may also decide upon the deployment of new UN peacekeeping operations to be led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO).[60] The Council also cooperates with a number of international and regional organizations as well as non-governmental organizations to implement its decisions.[61] Cooperation between the Security Council and other entities, such as the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapon and International Atomic Energy Agency, is significant.[62] Partnerships with independent regional organizations, such as the European Union and the African Union, are also of paramount importance for addressing a broad range of issues such as terrorism, disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and extreme violence from non-state actors.[63]

Recent Sessions and Current Priorities

In 2018, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2423 (2018) to extend the mandate of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) until 30 June 2019.[64] Some priorities of MINUSMA include assisting with the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali; providing support for the Government of Mali to re-establish state authority; strengthening efforts to enhance coordination between civil, military and police components; and creating a secure environment for the delivery of humanitarian assistance.[65]

With the aim of renewing the measures and provisions outlined in resolution 2205 (2015), which first established the South Sudan Sanctions regime, the Security Council adopted resolution 2428 (2018) on

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[49] *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 1.
[50] Ibid.
[51] Ibid., Art. 34.
[52] Ibid., Art. 1.
[53] Ibid., Art. 40.
[54] *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945; UN Security Council, *Functions and Powers*, 2018.
[55] *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 41.
[56] Malone, *The UN Security Council: From the Cold War to the 21st Century*, 2004, p. 111.
[57] UN Security Council, *Functions and Powers*, 2018.
[58] *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.
[59] Ibid.
[60] UN DPKO, *Forming a New Operation*.
[61] UN Security Council, *Repertoire of the practice of the Security Council*, 2018.
[62] UN Security Council, *Structure,* 2018; UN Security Council, *Middle East (S/RES/2118(2013))*, 2013.
[63] Ibid.
[64] UN MINUSMA, *Mandate*, 2018.
[65] UN Security Council, *The situation in Mali* (*S/RES/2423 (2018))*, 2018, pp. 8-12.

13 July 2018.[66] This resolution calls on all Member States to enforce the arms embargo against South Sudan until 31 May 2019 by taking necessary measures to prevent the direct or indirect supply of arms and other types of weapons and military-related equipment.[67] The resolution also notes that the Council may impose targeted sanctions on any individuals or entities who directly or indirectly threaten the peace, security, or stability of South Sudan.[68]

Debates on the occupied Palestinian Territory and Gaza are also ongoing in the Security Council.[69] In monthly discussions, the Security Council has discussed the fundamental right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and independence; the right of Israelis and Palestinians to coexist side by side in peace, based on a two-state solution that results from direct, peaceful dialogue between all parties involved; and the importance of a multilateral approach to the issue.[70] Further, many members of the Security Council remain concerned about the escalation of violence and the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza, which may threaten stability in the region and prevent progress toward a peaceful solution to the matter.[71]

The Security Council also discusses cross-cutting and thematic issues, such as women, peace, and security and climate change, peace, and security; on 16 April 2018, the Security Council held a General Debate on "Preventing sexual violence in conflict through empowerment, gender equality and access to justice." [72] At this session, the Council stressed that prevention of sexual violence requires addressing the root causes of conflict; strengthening security services and judicial systems; promoting gender equality; and involving all stakeholders in finding solutions to conflict-related sexual violence.[73]

On 11 July 2018, the Council convened a session to discuss the impacts of climate change on peace and security.[74] At this session, members of the Security Council recognized climate change as a cause and exacerbating factor in humanitarian crises and conflicts.[75] Despite this recognition of the seriousness of climate change and its impacts, the Security Council was unable to agree on the degree to which the Council should be involved in this issue.[76] Specifically, some members argued that the Council must address climate change as a risk to peace and security, while others worried that significant involvement may unnecessarily expand the mandate of the Council or interfere with the work of other UN entities.[77]

Conclusion

The Security Council plays an important role in international affairs, especially in matters related to peace and security.[78] The Council also has a uniquely impactful mandate to set norms and govern state actions, as all Member States are required to comply with the Security Council's legally-binding decisions.[79] Although the Security Council is first and foremost the primary UN entity responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda signaled the

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[66] UN DPI, *Security Council Decides to Renew Sanctions against Officials in South Sudan by Vote of 9 in Favor, with 6 abstentions* (*SC/13361*), 2018.
[67] UN Security Council, *Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan* (*S/RES/2428 (2018)*), 2018, p. 2.
[68] Ibid., pp. 3-4.
[69] Security Council Report, *Chronology of Events: Israel/Palestine*, 2018.
[70] UN Security Council, *Summary Record of the 8167th meeting* (*S/PV.8167*), 2018, p. 44.
[71] UN Security Council, *Summary Record of the 8316th meeting* (*S/PV.8316*), 2018.
[72] UN DPA, *Security Council Reporting and Mandate Cycles*, 2018; Security Council Report, *Thematic and General Issues*, 2018.
[73] UN Security Council, *Summary Record of the 8234th meeting* (*S/PV. 8234*), 2018.
[74] Mead, UN Security Council Addresses Climate Change as a Security Risk, *SDG Knowledge Hub*, 2018.
[75] UN DPI, *Addressing Security Council, Pacific Island President Calls Climate Change Defining Issue of Next Century, Calls for Special Representative on Issue* (*SC/13417*), 2018.
[76] Mead, UN Security Council Addresses Climate Change as a Security Risk, *SDG Knowledge Hub*, 2018.
[77] UN DPI, *Addressing Security Council, Pacific Island President Calls Climate Change Defining Issue of Next Century, Calls for Special Representative on Issue* (*SC/13417*), 2018.
[78] UN Security Council, *What is the Security Council?*, 2018.
[79] *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 25.

increasing need to also discuss the linkages between peace, security, and issues of human security and development.[80] The Security Council also continues to address regional and country issues, as well as thematic issues, such as climate change and gender.[81]

Annotated Bibliography

Charter of the United Nations. (1945). Retrieved 13 September 2018 from: http://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/index.html

As the fundamental principles of the Security Council are written down in the Charter, this document should be the first resource for delegates to consider. Article 23, which set the membership structure, and articles 23 to 26, which discuss its basic functions and powers, are important for understanding both the structure and function of the Security Council. In addition, articles 27 to 32 explain the Council's voting procedure and its overall structure. The Charter can also be particularly helpful for delegates in understanding the powers and limitations of the body. Delegates will find Chapters VI and VII most helpful when researching the mandate of the Security Council, and proposing actions and solutions.

Hanhimäki, J. M. (2008). *The United Nations: A Very Short Introduction*. New York, New York: Oxford University Press.

While giving a brief overview of the history, structure, mandate, and perspective of the UN in general, this volume also includes a comprehensive section on the Security Council, as well as a separate chapter on peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The book offers a succinct explanation of the Council's political and operational constraints, including the veto power principle. It further provides delegates with a general overview of the importance of the Security Council for international security from its creation until now. Due to its comprehensive contents, this book may serve delegates as a first starting point for further research on the Security Council as well as on international multilateralism.

Lebada, A.M. (2015, November 25). *UN Security Council Discusses Links with 2030 Agenda*. SDG Knowledge Hub. Retrieved 13 September 2018 from: http://sdg.iisd.org/news/un-security-council-discusses-links-with-2030-agenda/

This news article highlights the debate held by the Security Council on 17 November 2015 on the links between the post-2015 development agenda, and peace and security. The article also provides perspectives on the links between development and the security of individual members of the Security Council. Additionally, this source will provide delegates themselves with the opportunity to think about the relationship between the post-2015 development agenda and peace and security. In particular, the source may further help delegates analyze the ways in which the cross-cutting issues that the Security Council discusses connect to goals outlined in the post-2015 development agenda.

United Nations Department of Political Affairs. (2018). *Security Council Reporting and Mandate Cycles* [Report]. Retrieved 13 September 2018 from: http://www.un.org/en/sc/inc/pages/pdf/sccycles.pdf

Published by the UN Department of Political Affairs, this document provides information on the work and decisions of the Security Council, including resolutions and presidential statements. The document primarily consists of tables on items that have been discussed by the Security Council, various requests by the Security Council, and mandates of different entities and operations that report to the Council. This report will help delegates by providing succinct and clear information on the recent actions taken by the Security

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[80] UN DPA Politically Speaking, *Sustaining peace, Conflict Prevention, Human Rights and Sustainable Development High on Agenda for New Security Council Members*, 2018.

[81] UN DPI, *Fragile countries risk being 'stuck in a cycle of conflict and climate disaster,' Security Council told*, 2018; UN DPI, *Women vital for 'new paradigm' in Africa's Sahel region, Security Council hears*, 2018.

Council on its various thematic issues. Additionally, delegates may find the tables providing the actual clauses of different Security Council resolutions particularly helpful to their research.

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2017). *Highlights of Security Council Practice 2017* [Report]. Retrieved 13 September 2018 from: https://unite.un.org/sites/unite.un.org/files/app-schighlights-2017/doc/highlights_of_security_council_practice_2017.pdf

This document provides data on the work of the Security Council for the year 2017. The report primarily consists of graphs and diagrams, which provide data on the number of meetings of the Security Council, number of Security Council missions by region, and voting records of the committee. With these graphs and diagrams, delegates will find this document easy to read and understand. Delegates will also find this document helpful as they learn about the ways in which the Security Council functions. Moreover, the data provided in the report can help delegates visualize the practice and work of the Security Council.

United Nations, Security Council. (2017). *What is the Security Council?* [Website]. Retrieved 13 September 2018 from: http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/

This website gives an overview of the Security Council's history, its mandate, and its basic functions and powers. It should be considered one of the most important resources for delegates' further research, since it provides detailed information about how the Security Council works in practice. The website also contains the body's provisional rules of procedure and a section on frequently asked questions. The latter is particularly useful when it comes to understanding the Council's functions and powers. Delegates will find on this website detailed information about the Council's recent sessions as well as other relevant outputs, which will aid in further research.

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I. Youth, Peace and Security

Introduction

Due to the growing inter-connectedness of the world, global policymakers are recognizing the importance of youth in achieving sustainable development, peace, and security.[82] With a population of 1.8 billion, today's generation of youth is one of the largest ever seen in history.[83] However, many youth are also disproportionately affected by conflict, with most fragile states having a median age that is below 25.[84] Compounded with other factors such as poverty and inequality, statistics show that young individuals, particularly youth in Africa and south and southeast Asia, tend to have a lower life expectancy due in large part to high rates of crime, violence, and civil conflict.[85] Despite being adversely affected by conflict and violence such as sexual violence, coercion, and lack of education, youth are often stigmatized in these situations.[86] Recent research suggests that youth have been traditionally viewed as "problems to be solved" rather than partners in developing solutions to pressing challenges.[87] This is shown through examples such as poor representative in governance and high youth unemployment.[88] Recent events such as the Arab Spring and the rise of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and Boko Haram, where youth are recruited into extremist groups, have perpetuated a narrative that youth are disruptive and catalysts for instability.[89] In response, the international community has been developing frameworks to help better address the role and involvement of youth on key issues, especially peace and security.[90]

There is no universally agreed upon definition of youth, though various resolutions have described and characterized this group.[91] In 1995, General Assembly resolution 50/81 defined youth as a group of individuals between 15 – 24 years of age.[92] The *World Programme of Action for Youth* (1995) generally uses this definition for the sake of statistical consistency across regions, however this is done without prejudice to other definitions outlined by Member States and other definitions are used by different entities.[93] Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) on "Youth, Peace and Security" defines youth, within the context of the resolution, as persons between the ages of 18 – 29.[94] Through the advocacy of civil society and support from several Member States, the international community convened several meetings, such as the Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security during August of 2015, which eventually led to the adoption of Security Council resolution 2250.[95] This, among other frameworks has provided foundation to engage more productively on this topic through implementing policies that include youth in peace processes and political decision-making, tying socio-economic initiatives to the topic, and building robust partnerships.[96]

International and Regional Framework

The *Declaration on the Promotion Among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding Between Peoples*, adopted by the General Assembly in 1965, contains some of the earliest principles that outline youth's role in international peace and security.[97] This declaration outlines

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[82] UN General Assembly, *World programme of action for youth for the year 2000 and beyond (A/RES/50/81)*, 1995.
[83] Youth4Peace, *The Global Forum on Youth*, *Peace and Security*, 2015.
[84] UNFPA, *State of the World Population 2014*, 2014, p. 6.
[85] Ibid.
[86] Ibid.
[87] Search for Common Ground, *Global Youth Summit Against Violent Extremism*, 2015.
[88] UNFPA, *State of the World Population 2014*, 2014.
[89] Search for Common Ground, *Global Youth Summit Against Violent Extremism*, 2015.
[90] UNDP, *Youth Global Programme for Sustainable Development and Peace | Youth-GPS 2016 – 2020*, 2018.
[91] UN DESA, *Definition of Youth*.
[92] UN General Assembly, *World programme of action for youth for the year 2000 and beyond (A/RES/50/81)*, 1995.
[93] UN DESA, *Definition of Youth*.
[94] UN Security Council, *Youth*, *Peace and Security (S/RES/2250 (2015))*, 2015.
[95] Youth4Peace, *UNSCR 2250 | Introduction*.
[96] Ibid.
[97] UN General Assembly, *Declaration on the Promotion Among Youth of the Ideals of Peace*, *Mutual Respect and Understanding Between Peoples (A/RES/2037(XX))*, 1965.

six principles that emphasize that youth should be raised and educated in the spirit of peace, justice, freedom, and dignity, and be provided with the facilities and capacity to take part in cultural exchanges.[98] The youth, peace, and security agenda has since developed out of various collaborative initiatives and frameworks between civil society, the United Nations, and Member States.[99] In 1995, the General Assembly adopted the *World Programme of Action for Youth* (1995), which outlined 15 policy frameworks and guidelines to help support youth on several social, economic, and political issues, such as increasing employment and educational opportunities.[100] The program of action highlights frameworks and guidelines on protecting youth from armed conflict, reintegrating those involved back into society, and promoting youth's active involvement in maintaining peace and security.[101]

The exact subject of youth, peace, and security was further explored in August of 2015 at the Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security in Amman, Jordan, which brought together non-governmental organizations, governments, and UN entities.[102] The forum yielded the *Amman Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security* (1995), which calls for action in increasing youth participation in governance, recognizing youth-based networks and associations, reducing gender-based violence, and investing in youth socio-economic development.[103] These areas are youth participation and leadership in peace and security, youth preventing violence and building peace, gender equality, and young people's socio-economic empowerment.[104]

Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) is the landmark resolution that helped catalyze other initiatives on this topic and advance the agenda of youth inclusion in peace and security.[105] The resolution identifies five areas of action: participation, protection, prevention, partnerships, and disengagement.[106] This is the first UN Security Council resolution that directly calls for Member States to consider establishing mechanisms that will enable youth to meaningfully contribute to peace processes.[107]

The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) also play an integral role in supporting the youth, peace, and security agenda.[108] Though the SDGs help reinforce peace and security through setting and tracking improvements in many socio-economic indicators, they also introduced the first global goal related to measuring progress in peace, justice, and strong institutions, SDG 16.[109] Many of the targets and indicators for SDG 16 strongly reinforce the youth, peace, and security agenda, such as strengthening inclusive participation in decision-making processes and ending exploitation of children.[110]

In July 2016, the General Assembly fully welcomed the plan of action in its fifth review of the *Global Counter Terrorism Strategy* by adopting resolution 70/291.[111] The plan outlines seven pillars to address the growth and spread of violent extremism, with one pillar specifically focusing on youth empowerment.[112] The resolution emphasizes that the international community must identify better tools to support young people in taking up causes of peace, especially as current methods that connect society, such as technology, are being exploited by violent extremists.[113] In a similar tone to previous frameworks,

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[98] Ibid.
[99] Youth4Peace, *The Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2015.
[100] UN General Assembly, *World programme of action for youth for the year 2000 and beyond (A/RES/50/81)*, 1995.
[101] Ibid.
[102] Youth4Peace, *The Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2015.
[103] Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security, *Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2015.
[104] Ibid.
[105] Youth4Peace, *UNSCR 2250 | Introduction*.
[106] UN Security Council, *Youth, Peace and Security (S/RES/2250 (2015))*, 2015.
[107] Ibid.
[108] Risse, *Youth Initiatives Foster SDG Implementation*, *Peace and Security*, *2018*.
[109] UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Goal 16*, *2018*.
[110] Ibid.
[111] UN General Assembly, *Plan of Action to Prevent Violence Extremism (A/70/674)*, 2015.
[112] Ibid.
[113] Ibid.

this pillar directs the international community to promote the participation of youth in discussions and decision-making processes between stakeholders, and to support activities that facilitate their empowerment.[114]

Role of the International System

The Security Council has invested resources on this topic and commissioned a study, as authorized in resolution 2250 (2015), on "Youth, Peace and Security" to help better identify areas of engagement.[115] This study was conducted over the course of 18 months and involved the input and voices of thousands of youth actors across the globe.[116] The report, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security* (2018), was published in October 2018 and explores the contributions of youth involvement in peace and security and highlighted key areas of focus and policy recommendations to be considered by Member States.[117] This study has been instrumental in identifying key areas for the international community to understand and engage in the topic.[118] It highlights key issues within the context of youth, peace, and security, specifically mentions the need to bolster the participation of youth as stakeholders and to form stronger partnerships between government, the private sector, and civil society that lend support to this issue.[119] The report draws upon hundreds of interviews with youth representatives from various points of view, such as those from civil society groups.[120]

The Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth is the primary entity responsible for streamlining the UN's youth efforts, and it is guided by its four principles of participation, advocacy, partnerships, and harmonization.[121] Under its advocacy principle, the envoy on youth gives special focus to promoting the youth, peace, and security agenda and specifically the implementation of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015).[122] For example, the office has been involved in leading advocacy efforts to encourage UN offices to adopt policies that align with resolution 2250.[123]

The UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD) is the UN's principle working group on all matters related to youth development, including youth, peace, and security.[124] Consisting of over 50 entities, this working group has 15 priority areas of work, including youth participation in peacebuilding, and it supports and reviews the implementation of UN resolutions, conventions, and international goals related to youth.[125] The Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding (WG-YPB) is a working group housed in IANYD and co-chaired by the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), the United Network of Youth Peacebuilders, and Search for Common Ground.[126] The WG-YPB brings together a coalition of civil society organizations, donors, UN entities, and governmental bodies that focus on the role of youth in peacebuilding.[127] The working group focuses on building a community and culture that implements evidence-based practice for activities in youth, peace, and security.[128] Moreover, it developed the *Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding* (2014), which defines the principles of how to meaningfully involve youth in peacebuilding activities and influenced the policy discussions that led to the adoption of resolution 2250 (2015).[129]

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[114] Ibid.
[115] UN PBSO & UNFPA, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. ii.
[116] Ibid.
[117] Ibid., p. 2.
[118] Ibid., p. 3.
[119] Ibid., p. 3.
[120] UN PBSO & UNFPA, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018.
[121] UN Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, *Envoy's Workplan*.
[122] Ibid.
[123] Ibid.
[124] UN DESA, *UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development*, 2018.
[125] Ibid.
[126] Youth4Peace, *Inter-Agency Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding*.
[127] Ibid.
[128] Ibid.
[129] Ibid.

The UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) is the primary UN body that deliberates peacebuilding initiatives and their implementation.[130] As the commission takes on a broader scope of work to address social and economic drivers of conflict, the PBC is positioned to play a central role to build partnerships to support ongoing peacebuilding work, including the realization of the youth, peace, and security agenda.[131] The PBSO is the primary office that coordinates and supports peacebuilding efforts within the UN system; it does so by providing strategic advice and policy guidance and administrating the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF).[132] The PBF specifically delivers financial support to over 120 projects in 25 countries that aim to build peace.[133] The PBF also supports the youth, peace and, security agenda through its various initiatives, such as the Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative in 2018.[134] This initiative supports the empowerment of women and youth as central stakeholders within the UN's peacebuilding efforts.[135] The initiative allocates funds to support the implementation of relevant frameworks including Security Council resolution 2250.[136]

Soon after the Global Forum on Youth, the Global Youth Summit Against Violent Extremism was convened in New York in September 2015.[137] This summit amplified the calls for action laid out in the Amman Declaration and focused on promoting the role of youth as change-makers and active stakeholders in countering violent extremism.[138] This emphasis was meant to counter the narrative that youth are a security problem to be solved and to instead, build a culture of inclusion that encourages youth to be part of the solution.[139] Furthermore, in 2016 the Secretary-General report on "Peacebuilding and sustaining peace" was adopted by the General Assembly and Security Council through General Assembly resolution 70/262 (2016) and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016).[140] The resolutions welcomed the report, which underscores the role that youth have in contributing to international peace and security efforts.[141]

Representation in Peace and Security Activities

Many existing frameworks on youth, peace, and security emphasize that having youth meaningfully participate and engage in peacebuilding activities, policy conversations, and peace mediation is crucial for the advancement of this agenda.[142] However, there remains a persistent absence of youth participation in peace activities, such as negotiation and mediation processes.[143] Exclusion from peace processes and security decisions can exclude youth from decision-making processes that impact their livelihoods, risking them feeling disenfranchised; in some cases, this can lead to youth further distrusting state-led peace and security initiatives and thereby exacerbate instability.[144]

The commissioned research report, the Missing Peace, identifies many challenges to meaningful participation of youth in key peace and decision-making processes.[145] One such challenge is the persistent stereotyping of youth as violent "spoilers of peace" that act as disruptive forces to stability,

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[130] UN PBC, *United Nations Peacebuilding Commission*, 2018.
[131] UN PBC, *Statement of the Chair*, 2018.
[132] UN PBSO, *About*, 2018.
[133] UN PBF, *PBF at a Glance*, *2015*.
[134] UN PBSO, *About GYPI 2018*, 2018.
[135] Ibid.
[136] Ibid.
[137] Search for Common Ground, *Global Youth Summit Against Violent Extremism*, 2015.
[138] Ibid.
[139] UN DPI, *Young People Powerful Agents for Resolving, Preventing Conflict*, *Speakers Tell Security Council Open Debate amid Calls to Change Negative Stereotypes*, 2018.
[140] Ponzio, *The UN's new "Sustaining Peace" Agenda: A Policy Breakthrough in the Making*, 2018.
[141] UN General Assembly & UN Security Council, *Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: Report of the Secretary-General (A/72/707-S/2018/43)*, 2018.
[142] UN PBSO & UNFPA, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. i.
[143] Ibid.
[144] Conciliation-Resources, *Youth Perspectives on Peace and Security: South Sudan*, *2018*
[145] UN PBSO & UNFPA, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018.

further perpetuating social stigmatization.[146] Moreover, the study identifies that while young men were common perpetuators of violence, policies and views that reinforced this narrative only strengthened negative perceptions of young men.[147] The study highlights that harmful narratives are used to justify harsh and oppressive security measures such as harsh criminal penalties and counter-terrorism operations.[148] Such security measures have also been used as a means to exclude youth from taking part in policymaking discussions and activities related to security at the local and national level.[149] This is especially harmful when the conflict in question has a strong youth element, such as the widespread use of child soldiers and the recruitment and radicalization of young men.[150]

Effective approaches to better include youth in governance and decision-making require platforms to engage in local and national issues to educate and empower youth.[151] The Missing Peace emphasizes that protecting the rights of youth is crucial to helping them realize their rights and ability to positively engage in political and economic activities within their communities.[152] Such activities can range from preserving the rule of law institutions, especially post-conflict or fragile states in transition, to setting up frameworks for safe spaces that promote dialogue in communities.[153] One example is Conciliation-Resources, a UK-based global peacebuilding NGO, that set up youth "peace platforms" that created spaces for youth to engage on issues related to their community without fear of violence or reprisal.[154]

Societal Inclusion and Prevention

Many states that have large youth populations and experience violence and fragility also suffer from conditions that reinforce poor societal cohesion.[155] The World Bank Group's recent report, *Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violence*, suggests that policies that promote social and economic inclusion can help reduce violence.[156] One of the main pillars of Security Council resolution 2250 is prevention, which focuses on building societal conditions that strengthen youth resilience and prevent violence and conflict.[157] This effort aims to ensure that youth are an integral part of building societal cohesion, especially in pursuing economic opportunities and education.[158]

The UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs reported that less than 2% of parliamentarians around the world are in their 20s, showing that under-representation of youth in decision-making is still a widespread issue.[159] Corruption and patronage systems have been identified as a key barrier in preventing youth from meaningfully partaking in civic activities, such as running for political office.[160] This has created a strong demand to voice concerns and needs, but youth are often shut out from normal outlets of civic participation, such as running for office.[161] Economic inclusion and opportunity is also

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[146] Ibid., p. x.
[147] Ibid., p. 16.
[148] Ibid.
[149] UNDP, *Guiding Principles for Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding*.
[150] Global Partnership for Children and Youth in Peacebuilding, *Evaluation of Child and Youth Participation in Peacebuilding: Nepal*, *Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, Colombia*, 2015.
[151] UN PBSO & UNFPA, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. 25.
[152] Ibid., p. 25.
[153] Ibid., p. 25.
[154] Conciliation-Resources, *Creating safe spaces for youth to build peace*, *2018*.
[155] UNDP, *Guiding Principles for Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding*.
[155] Global Partnership for Children and Youth in Peacebuilding, *Evaluation of Child and Youth Participation in Peacebuilding: Nepal*, *Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, Colombia*, 2015.
[156] World Bank Group, *As Conflicts Surge Across the World, New Approaches to Prevention Can Save Lives and Money – Up to $70 Billion Per Year*, 2018.
[157] UN Security Council, *Youth*, *Peace and Security (S/RES/2250 (2015))*, 2015.
[158] United Network of Young Peacebuilders, *Security Council Resolution 2250: Annotated and Explained*, p. 14.
[159] UNDP & UN DESA, *Youth*, *Political Participation and Decision-Making*.
[160] UN PBSO & UNFPA, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth*, *Peace and Security*, 2018, p. 64.
[161] Ibid., p. 64.

critical to youth, peace and, security, as it is integral to societal inclusion and well-being.[162] *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security* (2018) acknowledged that violence and instability disrupts economic opportunities, often forcing youth to take up work in the informal economy, which can lead to involvement in illicit activities, including the trafficking of drugs, humans, and weapons; these can in turn be used to support terrorism, armed militants, and transnational criminal groups.[163]

Gender mainstreaming is another important cross-cutting issue in building resiliency and cohesion.[164] For instance, conflict adversely impacts young women through sexual violence, forced migration, and deprivation of education and economic opportunities.[165] Harmful narratives also characterize young women as passive victims, instead of stakeholders meant to take part in solution-building.[166] New research suggests that increased opportunities need to be coupled with increased avenues for civic engagement.[167] The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women suggests that governments should aim to find synergies between Security Council resolutions 2250 (2015) and 1325 (2000) to enhance efforts for the inclusion for young women in national peace and security decisions.[168] Further, Security Council resolution 2419 (2018) calls for the Secretary-General's special envoys to take special consideration in including young women in the participation of decision-making processes and for Member States to do more in combating stereotypes that perpetuate violence against young women.[169]

Partnerships for Youth, Peace and Security

To help catalyze action on youth, peace, and security, the Missing Peace recommends that robust steps be taken to help build effective partnerships that would draw more resources and awareness.[170] One of the key recommended areas for facilitating effective partnerships is in opening more avenues for dialogue and accountability for the youth, peace, and security agenda, especially within the UN and Security Council.[171] This is an especially important step in holding actors accountable to the general principles of the initiative, especially as not many concrete steps have been taken to implement policies in the youth, peace, and security agenda.[172] More robust mechanisms are needed in order to create a culture that would hold actors accountable to these frameworks and to encourage stakeholders to take concrete steps to support implementation.[173]

In order to broaden the participation of youth within the UN system, the progress report encourages the UN Secretariat to build synergies to address youth-related issues between its different offices and envoys.[174] Facilitating such partnerships through the UN system helps streamline policies and action at the international, regional, and local levels.[175] The study recommends the creation of an informal expert group to provide policy advice, to streamlining Security Council resolution 2250 in peacekeeping and peacebuilding mandates, and to ensure that such mandates encompass an approach tailored toward youth issues.[176] Actions can include appointing a lead youth adviser to key UN offices and agencies,

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[162] Ibid., p. 92.
[163] Ibid., p. 92.
[164] UNDP, *Guiding Principles for Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding*, 2016.
[165] Ibid.
[166] UN-Women, *Young Women in Peace and Security: At the Intersection of the YPS and WPS Agenda*, 2018.
[167] UN Department of Public Information, *Young People Powerful Agents for Resolving, Preventing Conflict*, *Speakers Tell Security Council Open Debate amid Calls to Change Negative Stereotypes*, 2018.
[168] UN-Women, *Young Women in Peace and Security: At the Intersection of the YPS and WPS Agenda*, 2018.
[169] UN Security Council, *Maintenance of International Peace and Security (S/RES/2419 (2018))*, 2018.
[170] UN PBSO & UNFPA, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. 54.
[171] Ibid., p. 127.
[172] Ibid., p. 54.
[173] Ibid., p. 54.
[174] Ibid., p. 127.
[175] Ibid., p. 127.
[176] Ibid., p. 127.

similar to what was done under the women, peace and security initiative, and developing a system-wide roadmap to better help coordinate activities and monitor progress between all entities that conduct work in this area.[177]

Another priority in partnerships is to support data collection and gathering evidence of impact when implementing these policy frameworks.[178] The progress study identified that insufficient data has prevented efforts to fully understand the situation faced by youth nationally.[179] Strong partnerships are needed in this area to encourage actors to implement and streamline data-collecting practices.[180] Supporting these efforts is Sustainable Development Goal (Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)) 17 on partnerships, which has a specific emphasis on data, monitoring, and accountability.[181] Moreover, the SDG 16 Data Initiative, which is led by a consortium of various civil society and academic organizations, serves as another strong example on the importance of forming partnerships for data collection and highlights existing mechanisms that can serve as a foundation for expanding these services.[182]

Conclusion

The rise of global security threats in the past decade has led to security policies and frameworks that view youth as an issue to be solved, rather than a potential partner in building peace.[183] This is especially true given that many extremists, militias, and criminal groups have targeted youth.[184] Consequently, many governments have chosen policies that perpetuate the perception that youth are to be addressed as a problem, rather than part of the solution.[185] The international community, particularly with support from civil society, have aimed to take a more inclusive approach that addresses youth's role in peace and security.[186] The youth, peace, and security agenda saw initial progress through the adoption of Security Council resolution 2250, but still requires greater recognition, understanding, and awareness from the international community.[187] With more resources and support, champions of the agenda can better promote its implementation at the international, regional, national, and local levels.[188] Moving forward, the agenda will need the assistance of robust international partnerships to help raise awareness, pool resources, and advocate for its implementation.[189]

Further Research

Delegates are encouraged to expand their research to encompass more sources beyond this background guide. The following questions can help guide delegates in furthering their knowledge on this topic: Has your state taken on any initiative to meaningfully include youth into peace and security frameworks? What are examples of best practices or success stories for meaningful youth inclusion? How can different frameworks related to youth, peace, and security reinforce each other? How do current international development frameworks, such as the SDGs, reinforce the youth, peace, and security agenda? What lessons can be drawn from Security Council resolution 1325 and the women, peace, and security agenda and implemented to support youth, peace, and security?

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[177] Ibid., p. 127.
[178] Ibid., p. 66.
[179] Ibid., p. 66.
[180] UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Goal 17*, *2018*.
[181] Ibid.
[182] SDG 16 Data Initiative, *About Us*, *2018*.
[183] Search for Common Ground, *Global Youth Summit Against Violent Extremism*, 2015.
[184] UN PBSO & UNFPA, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth*, *Peace and Security*, 2018.
[185] Search for Common Ground, *Global Youth Summit Against Violent Extremism*, 2015.
[186] Youth4Peace, *Inter-Agency Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding*.
[187] UN Security Council, *Youth*, *Peace and Security (S/RES/2250 (2015))*, 2015.
[188] UN General Assembly & UN Security Council, *Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: Report of the Secretary-General (A/72/707-S/2018/43)*, 2018.
[189] UN PBSO & UNFPA, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018.

Annotated Bibliography

Search for Common Ground. (2014). *Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding*. Retrieved 13 August 2018 from: https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Guiding-Principles_EN.pdf

The Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding *was one of the main documents that helped establish the youth, peace, and security agenda. Coordinated between UN entities and civil society, the principles, which promote socio-political and sociocultural approaches, are still used today in implementing frameworks used by UN agencies. This resource by Search for Common Ground, one of the civil society leads on this guide, provides a helpful chart that can easily be used to understand each principle and how it can be applied to policy and programming settings. This perspective is useful for delegates when formulating how to practically apply youth, peace, and security frameworks to different initiatives.*

United Nations, Department of Social and Economic Affairs. (2018). *Resources on Youth, Peace and Security* [Website]. Retrieved 9 July 2018 from: https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/international-youth-day-2017/resources-on-youth-peace-and-security.html

This website by the UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs provides an extensive list of resources related to youth, peace, and security. This resource is useful for expanding one's knowledge about the role of the international system in relationship to youth, peace, and security, especially the role of specific UN bodies and agencies. The webpage highlights the different working groups that address this topic and the roles of several UN offices, among other entities. Moreover, it provides key frameworks and reports and explains the involvement UN entities in producing them. This website is important for delegates to understand the historic framing of the topic and highlights actual work conducted by entities outlined in the role of the international system section in the background guide.

United Nations Development Programme. (2018). *Youth Global Programme for Sustainable Development and Peace | Youth-GPS 2016 – 2020* [Report]. Retrieved 9 July 2018 from: http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/Youth-GPS.html

The youth, peace, and security agenda intersects with numerous broader development frameworks, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. The United Nations Development Programme is one of the principle UN bodies that works in this area, taking on various aspects of the youth, peace, and security agenda and applying it to its work. This report highlights its planned and ongoing work in its areas related to peacebuilding, development, and youth. This report provides useful context for delegates aiming to better understand the link between youth, peace, and security and development.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-second session & United Nations, Security Council. (2018). *Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: Report of the Secretary-General (A/72/707-S/2018/43)*. Retrieved 9 July 2018 from: http://undocs.org/a/72/707

This report by Secretary-General Guterres outlines the UN's current progress toward sustaining peace and adopting a more comprehensive approach to peacebuilding that encompasses all stages of conflict. This report updates the status of how the sustaining peace framework is being implemented throughout the UN system. It heavily discusses the role of youth, peace, and security in various sections, showcasing the topic's prominent role in the discussion about improving peacebuilding activities within the UN. This source will give delegates a sound idea of how peace and security agenda is developing in the UN system and how youth, peace, and security is impacting other large frameworks in the UN system.

United Nations, Peacebuilding Support Office & United Nations Population Fund. (2018). *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security* [Report]. Retrieved 18 October 2018 from: https://www.youth4peace.info/system/files/2018-10/youth-web-english.pdf

The Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security was conducted by Graeme Simpson, a researcher appointed by former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in 2016. This crucial report aggregates data, interviews, and other sources of information to bring a comprehensive perspective on how youth in all regions of the world view their role in peace and security. The report provides common perspectives about how to further advance youth involvement in peace and security, including numerous recommendations laid out near the end of the report. Specifically, the report gives a strong impression of the social contract between youth and their governments and identifies strategic areas where the international community can engage in and advance this issue. Moreover, the report's findings aim to debunk assumptions, such as viewing youth as a security threat based on the evidence it gathered, providing fresh perspectives to the topic that may not be noted in Security Council resolution 2250 (2015).

United Nations, Office of Counter-Terrorism. (n.d.). *Plan of Action to Prevent Radical Extremism* [Report]. Retrieved 10 August 2018 from: https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism.ctitf/files/plan_action.pdf

The UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism is an excellent source that highlights one of the most recent and comprehensive frameworks surrounding peace and security in the UN system. Most importantly, it has its own pillar on youth empowerment, which emphasizes the inclusion of youth into decision-making processes at the local and national level. It comprehensively outlines the UN's current approach toward youth in the context of violent extremism. Delegates will find this resource useful in assessing what actions the UN is prioritizing in promoting the inclusion of youth into peace and security frameworks.

United Nations, Security Council, 7573rd meeting. (2015). *Youth, Peace and Security (S/RES/2250 (2015))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 9 July 2018 from: http://undocs.org/S/RES/2250(2015)

Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) is a cornerstone document that outlines the key priorities for addressing Youth, Peace and Security. This resolution highlights key precedents that led to the adoption of the resolution itself and provides a breakdown of how the Security Council originally put the topic into focus. The provisions lend focus to five areas of action: participation, protection, prevention, partnerships and disengagement. Delegates should read this source as this resolution remains crucial in understanding how the topic was framed and has been molded over the course of time.

United Nations, Security Council, 8277th meeting. (2018). *Maintenance of International Peacfe and Security (S/RES/2419 (2018))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 9 July 2018 from: http://undocs.org/S/RES/2419(2018)

This recent Security Council resolution is the latest document from the body that substantively covers the youth, peace, and security agenda. It highlights updates on the topic since the body was presented with the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security. More importantly, this resolution outlines actions and deliverables expected of the UN system, such as the report by the Secretary-General on the progress of implementing resolution 2250 (2015) by 2020. Delegates will find this resolution to be useful in understanding recent deliberations taken by the Security Council since the adoption of resolution 2250 (2015).

United Nations, Security Council, 8241st meeting. (2018, April 23). *Summary record of the 8241st meeting of the Security Council (S/PV.8241)* [Meeting Record]. Retrieved 9 July 2018 from: https://undocs.org/S/PV.8241

The summary of the 8241st meeting of the Security Council provides substantive content about recent deliberations related to the youth, peace, and security agenda. This meeting took place prior to the commencement of the High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace at the United Nations, which prompted informative speeches about how this initiative intersects with youth, peace, and security. Examples of priorities and topics of the meeting include preventing violent extremism, linkages to youth, security

and development, and addressing the topic more broadly with peacebuilding. This source is useful for delegates to understand how Member States deliberate and take policy stances on youth, peace, and security.

Youth4Peace. (2015). *UNSCR 2250 | Implementation.* Retrieved 9 July 2018 from: https://www.youth4peace.info/UNSCR2250/Implementation

One of the highest priorities identified by policymakers and civil society on this topic is the implementation of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015). This resource serves as an excellent reference for understanding how Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) is being implemented through a quantitative approach over a course of time. Moreover, it marks specific milestones and targets, including committed funds for this initiative, that can be used as measurements to compare progress over time. Most of all, this resource can provide delegates with action ideas in how Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) has been implemented by the UN system and in collaboration with civil society.

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II. Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts

"As the terrorist threat evolves, counter-terrorism cooperation must also evolve. It needs to be swifter, occur across regions and between multiple levels of government, and involve non-traditional actors, including the private sector."[190]

Introduction

The United Nations (UN) states that terrorism is one of the most serious current threats to global peace and security.[191] Attacks and threats from terrorist groups continue to occur globally, including a recent and unprecedented Islamist extremist attack on the G5 (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger) Sahel Joint Force in Mali, marking the mitigation of terrorist acts as a continued priority for the UN.[192] However, while the continued presence of terrorist groups remain a global constant, the tactics and strategies used by these actors have evolved.[193] In the early 2000s the UN was concerned with the acquisition of chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear weapons by terrorist organizations; while that threat still remains, more recent attacks have shifted to the usage of less complex but more accessible items as weapons.[194] For example, vans and trucks were used in terrorist attacks carried out by the so-called Islamic States (ISIL/Da'esh) in Nice, Berlin, London, and Barcelona.[195] Additionally, the number and diversity of foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs) joining currently operating terrorist organizations has increased dramatically as compared to past FTF phenomena.[196]

Although the UN does not have an official definition of terrorism, there is agreement among key international organizations that terrorist actors are non-state entities who act with the ideological purpose of causing terror and violence.[197] However, Member States and regional organizations possess different specific definitions of terrorism, leading to differing capacities and priorities when allocating resources to combating terrorism and implementing the existing UN counter-terrorism framework.[198]

International and Regional Framework

Since the 1970s, the UN has drafted multiple counter-terrorism measures, beginning with the 1979 *International Convention Against the Taking of Hostages*, which states that any hostage-taking which aims "to compel a third party," such as a Member State or an individual, to act, classifies as international terrorism.[199] The UN General Assembly's *Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism* (1995) aims to eradicate international terrorism by urging Member States to cooperate on the extradition of terrorists, and to agree to bilateral and multilateral agreements which will increase counter-terrorism cooperation and limit terrorist organizations from obtaining the financial or territorial means to operate.[200] Following this, the General Assembly adopted the *International Convention for the Suppression of*

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[190] UN CTED, High-Level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies, *"Opportunities and challenges in strengthening international cooperation through the sharing of information, expertise and resources" Statement of Assistant Secretary-General Michèle Coninsx Executive Director*, *CTED*, 2018; UN CTED, *Frequently asked questions about UN efforts to combat terrorism*, 2005.

[191] UN Security Council, *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (S/RES/1566 (2004))*, 2004.

[192] UN DPI, *UN condemns deadly attack against G5 Sahel force headquarters in Mali*, 2018; UN DPI, *ISIL 'down but not out' in Iraq; UN envoy urges efforts to defeat group's extremist ideology*, 2017.

[193] UN Security Council, *Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (S/RES/1540 (2004))*, 2004; Deutsche Welle, *Search for Berlin attack suspect intensifies as anger in Germany grows*, 2016.

[194] Ibid.

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[196] UN, Security Council, CTED, *CTED Trends Report: The Challenge of Returning and Relocating Foreign Terrorist Fighters: Research Perspectives*, 2018, p. 4.

[197] Santarelli, *Nonstate Actors*, 2016; UN DPI, *United Nations Urged to Pay More Heed to Role of 'Non-State Actors' in Approach to Global Problems*, 2004; Daboné, *International law: armed groups in a state-centric system*, 2011, pp. 395-396; The Global Regime for Terrorism, *Council on Foreign Relations*, 2011.

[198] *The Global Regime for Terrorism*, Council on Foreign Relations, 2011.

[199] UN General Assembly, *International Convention against the Taking of Hostages (A/RES/34/146)*, 1979.

[200] UN General Assembly, *Measures to eliminate international terrorism (A/RES/49/60)*, 1995.

Terrorist Bombings (1997) and the *International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Financing* (1999).[201] Together, these two conventions provide an international framework to address two major aspects of terrorist acts and organizations.[202] The first aspect is reducing funding of terrorism and thereby reducing terrorist capacity to launch an attack; and the second aspect addresses the use of bombings as terrorist acts, which continues to be one of the main tactics terrorist organizations employ.[203] In 2005, the General Assembly adopted the *International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism* to limit the opportunity for terrorist organizations to acquire nuclear weapons.[204] The Convention calls upon Member States to criminalize the possession of nuclear material by unauthorized persons and to apprehend individuals possessing nuclear weapons through better information sharing between Member States.[205]

In addition to international conventions, the UN General Assembly has adopted resolutions and strategies to enhance the UN framework for combating terrorism.[206] In 2006 the UN General Assembly adopted the *United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy*.[207] This strategy expands on the foundation created by previous conventions and provides a streamlined approach to counter-terrorism by introducing four pillars aimed at combating terrorism.[208] The first pillar addresses mitigating the conditions favorable and conducive to the spread of terrorism; the second aims to combat and prevent further terrorism; the third focuses on building Member States' capacity to combat terrorism; and the final pillar focuses on the maintenance of human rights and the rule of law.[209]

As terrorism poses a complex threat, the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (SDG) goal 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions and goal 17 on partnerships for the goals are also important for the fight against terrorism.[210] As terrorist organizations disrupt the peaceful functioning of societies, SDG 16 is crucial in maintaining state structures that can contain and combat terrorist organizations.[211] Additionally, SDG 17 provides the basis for cooperation with institutions, such as regional organizations like the Organization of American States (OAS) and the Council of Europe.[212] These regional organizations have adopted their own counter-terrorism frameworks, including the 1987 South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC)'s *SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism*, the Organization of the African Union (OAU)'s *OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism* (1999), the OAS's *Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism* (2002), and the *Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism* (2005).[213] All these regional conventions urge parties to adopt legal frameworks against terrorism and promote regional cooperation in combating terrorism.[214]

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[201] UN General Assembly, *International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (A/RES/52/164)*, 1997; UN General Assembly, *International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (A/RES/54/109)*, 1999.
[202] Ibid.
[203] Ibid.
[204] UN General Assembly, *International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism (A/RES/59/290)*, 2005.
[205] Ibid.
[206] UNOCT, CTITF, *UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy*, 2018.
[207] UN General Assembly, *The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288)*, 2006.
[208] UN General Assembly, *The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288)*, 2006; UNOCT CTITF, *UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy*, 2018.
[209] Ibid.
[210] UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Goal 16: Targets & Indicators*, 2018; UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Goal 17: Targets & Indicators*, 2018.
[211] UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Goal 16: Targets & Indicators*, 2018.
[212] UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Goal 17: Targets & Indicators*, 2018.
[213] SAARC, *SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism*, 1987; OAU, *OAU Convention on the Prevention and Combating of Terrorism*, 1999; OAS, *Inter-American Convention Against Terrorism*, 2002; Council of Europe, *Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism*, 2005.
[214] Ibid.

Role of the International System

The Security Council takes a multi-faceted approach to combating terrorism by adopting resolutions, overseeing programs and ad hoc committees, and mandating peacekeeping operations.[215] Following the 11 September 2001 New York City terrorist attacks, the Security Council created the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and its Executive Directorate (CTED) through Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), with the mandate to strengthen Member States' capacity to combat terrorism through capacity-building mechanisms.[216] The CTC also hosts fora, such as the 2018 High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, to provide states with the opportunity to share best practices on counter-terrorism measures.[217] In 2004 through Security Council resolution 1535 (2004), the CTC's mandate was further extended and updated.[218] More recently, the annex to the document, "Letter dated 26 April 2017 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established by resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council" (S/2017/375) created the first *Comprehensive international framework to counter terrorist narratives*.[219] Since Security Council resolution 1624 (2005), the CTC has worked to implement this framework and has identified the increasing terrorist threat of incitement and radicalization.[220] The framework outlines the importance of legal and law enforcement measures, public-private partnerships, and counter-narratives in combating terrorism.[221] This framework is strengthened by Security Council resolution 2354 (2017).[222]

The General Assembly First Committee, with a mandate to promote and maintain international peace and security, is also a crucial actor in combating terrorism.[223] Founded in 2005 and endorsed by the General Assembly in 2006, the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) is made up of 38 international organizations who act to strengthen counter-terrorism efforts within the UN system.[224] Created in 2017 by the UN General Assembly through resolution 71/291, the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) oversees CTITF and the CTC.[225] Headed by an Under-Secretary-General, the UNOCT is tasked with providing leadership for the UN's counter-terrorism efforts.[226] UNOCT is also responsible for ensuring the implementation of the 2006 *UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy*, facilitating capacity-building for Member States, advocating and mobilizing resources for UN counter-terrorism efforts, and ensuring the continued presence of counter-terrorism matters in the UN's work.[227]

The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) is a member of CTITF and provides a database for biological and chemical weapons that could be used by terrorist organizations, which is supplemented by the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)'s biocrimes database.[228] INTERPOL also has

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[215] UN Security Council, *Functions and Powers*, 2018.
[216] UN Security Council CTC, *The United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee*, 2018; UN Security Council, *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (S/RES/1373 (2001))*, 2001.
[217] High-level Conference on Counter-Terrorism, *High-level Conference of Heads of Counter-Terrorism Agencies of Member States, 28-29 June 2018*, 2018.
[218] UN Security Council, *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (S/RES/1535 (2004))*, 2004.
[219] UN Security Council, *Letter dated 26 April 2017 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2017/375)*, 2017.
[220] Ibid., p. 2.
[221] Ibid.
[222] UN Security Council, *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (S/RES/2354 (2017))*, 2017.
[223] UN General Assembly, *Disarmament and International Security (First Committee)*, 2018.
[224] UNOCT, CTITF, *About the Task Force*, 2018.
[225] UN General Assembly, *Strengthening the capability of the United Nations system to assist Member States in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/71/291)*, 2017; UNOCT, *Home*, 2018.
[226] UNOCT, *Home*, 2018.
[227] Ibid.
[228] UNODA, *United Nations Counter-Terrorism-Strategy: The Role of the Office for Disarmament Affairs*, 2018; INTERPOL, *Guide to UN Counterterrorism*, 2012, pp. 91-92.

the Counter-Terrorism Fusion Centre, which investigates the organizational structure, financing, methods, and motivations of terrorist organizations.[229] In collaboration with the Security Council, INTERPOL has also combined its effective "Special Notice" notification system with the UN sanctions regime, which informs local law enforcement of sanctions and how to implement them.[230]

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) further supports counter-terrorism efforts through its Terrorism Prevention Branch (TPB).[231] As a member of CTITF, and working in collaboration with international and regional organizations working on counter-terrorism, TPB provides legislative assistance and capacity-building measures to Member States to help curb the threat to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.[232] Additionally, the Special Rapporteur on the "promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism" was appointed by the UN Human Rights Council and is responsible for advising on strategies to protect human rights while combating terrorism and integrating a gender perspective into counter-terrorism initiatives.[233] The UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) further introduced a gendered perspective on the issue, as it recently published the academic paper entitled "Empowerment or Subjugation: An analysis of ISIL's (Da'esh) gendered messaging" (2018) and hosted a workshop in collaboration with CTED in July 2018 that assessed the nexus of gender and terrorism.[234]

The Continuing Global Threat of ISIL (Da'esh)

ISIL (Da'esh) is one of the most prominent and well-known terrorist organizations currently operating.[235] ISIL (Da'esh) has been the focus of more Security Council resolutions since 2014 than any other terrorist organization discussed by the UN.[236] The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has stated that ISIL (Da'esh) has committed war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide during its occupation of parts of Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic.[237] Although ISIL (Da'esh) was defeated militarily in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic over the course of recent years, the organization persists as a threat to the international community.[238] According to the Secretary-General's Special Representative and Head of the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI), ISIL's (Da'esh) threat continues to span a wide variety of tactics ranging from more conventional military methods to expand its territory, to spreading its extremist ideology to inspire small terrorist cells around the world.[239] While ISIL (Da'esh) terrorists continue to defend a geographic region in Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, ISIL (Da'esh)-supported and -inspired attacks wreak havoc around the world from Afghanistan to France as

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[229] INTERPOL, *Counter-Terrorism Fusion Centre*, 2018.
[230] INTERPOL, *Special Notices*, 2018.
[231] UNODC, *Terrorism prevention: Our Work*, 2018.
[232] UNODC, *Terrorism prevention: Our Work*, 2018; UNODC, *Partnerships with United Nations System Entities*, 2018; UNODC, *Partnerships with International, Regional and Sub-Regional Organizations*, 2018.
[233] UN OHCHR, *Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism*, 2018.
[234] UN-Women, *Empowerment or Subjugation: An analysis of ISIL's gendered messaging*, 2018; UN Security Council CTC, *CTED and UN Women host research symposium on gender and terrorism*, 2018.
[235] UN Security Council, *Sixth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat (S/2018/80)*, 2018.
[236] UN Security Council, *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (S/RES/2170 (2014))*, 2014; UN Security Council, *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (S/RES/2249 (2015))*, 2015; UN Security Council, *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (S/RES/2253 (2015))*, 2015; UN Security Council, *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (S/RES/2178 (2014))*, 2014; UN Security Council, *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (S/RES/2396 (2017))*, 2017; UN Security Council, *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts – Preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons (S/RES/2370 (2017))*, 2017.
[237] UN OHCHR, *ISIL may have committed war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide: UN report*, 2015.
[238] UN Security Council, *Sixth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat (S/2018/80)*, 2018.
[239] UN DPI, *ISIL 'down but not out' in Iraq; UN envoy urges efforts to defeat group's extremist ideology*, 2017.

they shift tactics to increasingly mobile, international, and guerrilla operations.[240] Moreover, ISIL (Da'esh) has spread its territorial control to other regions, such as post-Arab Spring Libya, resulting in the claim of territory in Iraq, Libya, and Syria.[241]

As a result, combating the terrorist threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) requires a broad spectrum of counter-terrorism initiatives, and the international community has taken a number of approaches to address the impact of ISIL's (Da'esh) terrorist acts.[242] Since the rise of ISIL (Da'esh) in 2014, the Security Council has adopted numerous resolutions that deal with the effort to holistically combat ISIL (Da'esh) and affiliates, and to take effective counter-terrorism measures.[243] One dominant theme in Security Council resolutions focuses on ISIL's (Da'esh) activities in certain regions, such as Iraq or Libya, while another recent theme has aimed to tackle the terrorist threat from broader issues, such as financing of terrorist groups and the illegal acquisition of weaponry by terrorist organizations.[244] The Security Council also recently adopted resolution 2368 (2017) to provide comprehensive sanctions and regional monitoring frameworks to more effectively combat ISIL(Da'esh) and the global threat it presents by limiting the terrorist organization's ability to finance its activities and operate freely.[245]

While significant progress has been made in reducing ISIL's (Da'esh) conventional power, different interpretations and definitions of terrorism have at times prevented a united response from the Security Council.[246] As a result, UN bodies other than the Security Council have created more comprehensive assessments and frameworks to combat the global threat that ISIL (Da'esh)-supported and -inspired terrorism poses.[247] UN-Women recently published an academic paper assessing the connection of gender and gendered messaging and ISIL (Da'esh), which in connection with the Security Council's 2017 *Comprehensive international framework to counter terrorist narratives*, provides a valuable tool in combating the dissemination of ISIL (Da'esh) ideology.[248] From a law enforcement perspective, INTERPOL continues to be a key organization in facilitating information sharing and inter-agency cooperation to apprehend ISIL (Da'esh) members and fighters.[249] And while other UN bodies have taken more actions against ISIL (Da'esh), their documents are not legally binding and therefore only act as recommendations.[250]

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[240] Tisdall, *Islamic State attacks how group is intent on killing Afghan peace hopes*, 2018; BBC, *Paris attacks: What happened on the night*, 2015.

[241] Agence France-Presse, *ISIS attack on Libya election commission kills more than a dozen*, The Guardian, 2018; UN DPI, *UN human rights body strongly condemns recent 'shocking attacks' against civilians in south-west Syria*, 2018.

[242] UN Security Council, *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (S/RES/2170 (2014))*, 2014; UN Security Council, *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (S/RES/2249 (2015))*, 2015; UN Security Council, *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (S/RES/2253 (2015))*, 2015; UN Security Council, *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (S/RES/2178 (2014))*, 2014; UN Security Council, *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (S/RES/2396 (2017))*, 2017; UN Security Council, *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts – Preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons (S/RES/2370 (2017))*, 2017.

[243] Ibid.

[244] Ibid.

[245] UN Security Council, *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (S/RES/2368 (2017))*, 2017.

[246] Nichols, *Russia casts 10th U.N. veto on Syria action, blocking inquiry renewal*, 2017; Security Council Report, *Syria: Vote on Two Draft Resolutions on the Joint Investigative Mechanism Renewal*, What's in Blue, 2017.

[247] Rosand, UN Counterterrorism Reform: Now It's the Security Council's Turn, 2017.

[248] UN-Women, *Empowerment or Subjugation: An analysis of ISIL's gendered messaging*, 2018; UN Security Council, *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (S/RES/2354 (2017))*, 2017; UN Security Council, *Letter dated 26 April 2017 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2017/375)*, 2017.

[249] INTERPOL, *Terrorism*, 2018.

[250] Rosand, UN Counterterrorism Reform: Now It's the Security Council's Turn, 2017.

Combating the Foreign Terrorist Fighters Problem

In September 2014, the Security Council recognized FTFs as a global threat in Security Council resolution 2178 (2014).[251] FTFs are defined by the Security Council as individuals who travel abroad "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."[252] While FTFs are present in most terrorist organizations around the world, over 40,000 FTFs have traveled to Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic alone.[253] Whereas before the conflict in Syria, FTFs were military-aged men, recently an increasing number of women are being recruited as well.[254] This increase in individuals who are trained to fight in support of extremist groups pose an increased threat to global security, as they may further facilitate the spread of terrorist ideology and tactics globally if they return home.[255] As such, international cooperation on preventing individuals from becoming FTFs as well as rehabilitating and reintegrating FTFs upon return to their Member State of origin is crucial.[256]

The UN Security Council, most notably through the CTC, and UNOCT are the two main UN bodies that coordinate efforts to reduce the recruitment of FTFs, and also help coordinate rehabilitation and reintegration efforts once the fighters return to their country of origin.[257] UNOCT's 2017 report entitled *Enhancing the Understanding of the Foreign Terrorist Fighters Phenomenon in Syria* highlights the importance of having national, regional, and international bodies cooperate in order to effectively curb the flow of FTFs and the reduce risks of their participation upon their return to their Member State of origin.[258] Moreover, the report presents 45 projects coordinated by UNOCT that fall under the FTF implementation plan, which are designed to combat the FTF problem.[259] These projects include strengthening UN bodies and Member States, building legal programs for the prosecution of FTFs, and region- and Member State-specific FTF programs.[260] Furthermore, INTERPOL hosts the Counter-Terrorism Fusion Centre, which runs the Foreign Terrorist Fighters Program.[261] This program addresses the issue of FTFs by providing Member States with access to global databases and secure communications, as well as aids in border management through the Integrated Border Management Task Force.[262] However, despite these programs and initiatives, numerous issues remain that prevent the international community from curbing the threat posed by FTFs.[263] For instance, the scope of FTFs and their geographical reach still remains largely unknown, with up to 50% of FTFs being unaccounted for as of January 2018.[264] Moreover, the difficulty of applying existing legal frameworks to FTFs and prosecuting them remains a significant hurdle, as prosecuting FTFs does not necessarily lead to the successful reintegration of individuals into society nor does it effectively de-radicalize returnees.[265]

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[251] UN Security Council, *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (S/RES/2178 (2014))*, 2014.
[252] UN Security Council CTC, *Foreign terrorist fighters*, 2018.
[253] UN, Security Council, CTED, *CTED Trends Report: The Challenge of Returning and Relocating Foreign Terrorist Fighters: Research Perspectives*, 2018, p. 4.
[254] Ibid., p. 4.
[255] UNOCT, *Enhancing the Understanding of the Foreign Terrorist Fighters Phenomenon in Syria*, 2017, pp. 47-49.
[256] Ibid., pp. 47-49.
[257] UNOCT, *Overview*, 2018.
[258] UNOCT, *Enhancing the Understanding of the Foreign Terrorist Fighters Phenomenon in Syria*, 2017, pp. 47-49.
[259] Ibid., pp. 55-58.
[260] Ibid., pp. 55-58.
[261] INTERPOL, *Counter-Terrorism Fusion Centre*, 2018.
[262] INTERPOL, *Foreign terrorist fighters*, 2018; INTERPOL, *Border management*, 2018.
[263] UN, Security Council, CTED, *CTED Trends Report: The Challenge of Returning and Relocating Foreign Terrorist Fighters: Research* Perspectives, 2018, p. 12.
[264] Ibid., pp. 12-13.
[265] Ibid., p. 13.

Counter-Terrorism in Peacekeeping Operations

In April 2018 a UN peacekeeper was killed in a terrorist attack while serving for the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) peacekeeping operation.[266] Similarly, the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) recently condemned a terrorist attack near Misrata in May 2015 and another attack against a checkpoint in August 2018, also urging the Libyan government to better protect civilians and peacekeepers from terrorist attacks.[267] While neither the UNSMIL or MINUSMA peacekeeping operations are explicitly tasked with counter-terrorism operations, both have become involved with counter-terrorism efforts in the field.[268]

Although the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)'s operations and UN peacekeeping missions are not specifically designed to address acts of terrorism, DPKO's mandate does include assisting the Secretary-General and Member States with maintaining international peace and security by mitigating violent extremism in its operations.[269] While the 2018 report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34) explicitly states that UN peacekeeping missions "are neither suited nor equipped to engage in counter-terrorism operations," peacekeeping missions are increasingly forced to reconcile that the violent extremism their operations address also encompass terrorist acts; this has become increasingly relevant as recent terrorist have specifically targeting the peacekeepers themselves.[270] In response, in February 2018 the Secretary-General announced the need to streamline UN-wide counter-terrorism efforts, which will include an increased focus on integrating these approaches into peacekeeping operations.[271]

The 2018 C-34 report has also emphasized an increased need for cooperation between UN peacekeeping operations and UN frameworks that address terrorism.[272] In particular, the C-34 report emphasized that the need to maintain the impartiality of UN peacekeeping, while also needing to address the increasing risk that terrorist violence poses to UN peacekeeping missions.[273] The result is that UN peacekeeping missions will have to strike a delicate balance between fulfilling their broad operational mandate and required impartiality, while also addressing the increasing risk that terrorist acts pose to UN peacekeeping forces.[274]

Conclusion

The continued threat to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts is complex and multidimensional.[275] As such, a wide array of UN bodies, regional organizations, and Member States are currently engaged in counter-terrorism initiatives in an attempt to curb the spread of terrorism and terrorist ideologies.[276] The continuing threat of globally influential groups such ISIL (Da'esh) poses new challenges to the international community.[277] Moreover, FTFs pose new risks to both the regions directly affected by these terrorist groups and the fighters' countries of origin upon their return.[278] Finally, the increasing involvement of UN peacekeeping operations in counter-terrorism efforts has politicized DPKO

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[266] UN DPI, *UN strongly condemns latest deadly attack on peacekeepers in northern Mali*, 2018.
[267] UNSMIL, *UNSMIL Condemns Suicide Bombing Near Misrata, Urges Unity Government to Combat Terrorism*, 2015; UNSMIL, *UNSMIL Condemns Attack on Al-Kaam Checkpoint*, 2018.
[268] UN Peacekeeping, *MINUSMA Fact Sheet*, 2018; UNSMIL, *Mandate*, 2018.
[269] UN Peacekeeping, *Department of Peacekeeping Operations*, 2018.
[270] UN General Assembly, *Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/72/19)*, 2018, p. 20.
[271] UN DPI, *UN chief inks pact to better coordinate counter-terrorism support to Governments*, 2018.
[272] UN General Assembly, *Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/72/19)*, 2018, p. 20.
[273] Ibid., p. 20.
[274] Ibid., p. 20.
[275] Council on Foreign Relations, *The Global Regime for Terrorism*, 2011.
[276] UNODC, *Terrorism prevention: Our Work*, 2018.
[277] UN Security Council, *Sixth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat (S/2018/80)*, 2018, p. 2.
[278] UN, Security Council, CTED, *CTED Trends Report: The Challenge of Returning and Relocating Foreign Terrorist Fighters: Research Perspectives*, 2018, p. 4.

and UN peacekeeping missions, as well as drawn criticism for losing peacekeeping's traditional impartiality.[279] As terrorist organizations' practices and tactics continue to evolve, the Security Council must be prepared to evolve its own fight against terrorism.[280]

Further Research

Delegates are encouraged to conduct further research on this topic, specifically keeping in mind the recent developments discussed above, including: How can the messaging of ISIL (Da'esh) and similar extremist groups be effectively countered by existing UN frameworks? Considering the increasing number and diversity of FTFs, how can the international community and the Security Council respond to individuals traveling to join terrorist organizations? Witnessing the continuing terrorist attacks against UN peacekeepers and other combatants in the field, what would be an effective approach in mitigating these attacks? How can the Security Council effectively apply the 2006 *UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy* to the evolving terrorist threat? As UNOCT is a relatively young UN body, how can the Security Council effectively use this organization in its fight against terrorism?

Annotated Bibliography

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This paper presents a study concerning the connection between gender and ISIL's (Da'esh) recruitment tactics. This study looks at the gendered messaging and specific strategies used by ISIL (Da'esh) to target women and men differently for recruitment. One influential strategy is to focus on women's empowerment and their importance in society to recruit young women to join ISIL (Da'esh). This document is significant in understanding the complexity of international terrorist organizations and limiting the dissemination of such messaging from influential extremist groups.

United Nations, General Assembly, Fifty-second session. (1997). *International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings (A/RES/52/164)*. Adopted on the report of the Sixth Committee (A/52/653). Retrieved 8 August 2018 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/52/164

This Convention, along with the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Financing, acts as one of the foundational UN documents that aims to restrict terrorist organizations' actions. This Convention specifically focuses on effectively mitigating, preventing, and addressing the terrorist tactic of bombing. This document will prove useful to delegates by providing an understanding of the legal counter-terrorism framework currently employed by the UN, and the specific acts which are currently prohibited under its scope.

United Nations, General Assembly, Fifty-fourth session. (1999). *International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (A/RES/54/109)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Sixth Committee (A/54/615). Retrieved 11 July 2018 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/54/109

This Convention is one of the foundational documents of the UN's global counter-terrorism regime. The Convention remains a critical document in ensuring accountability for Member States and non-state actors who may be involved in the financing of terrorist organizations. In particular, this document is notably useful because it prohibits the financing of terrorism in all its forms; it enables Member States and the international community to curb the spread of terrorism and the resources made available to terrorist organizations by proposing the implementation of sanctions against non-compliant

[279] Charbonneau, Counterterrorism and Challenges to Peacekeeping Impartiality, *International Peace Institute Global Observatory*, 2018.

[280] Rosand, UN Counterterrorism Reform: Now It's the Security Council's Turn, *International Peace Institute Global Observatory*, 2017.

Member States. Delegates will find this particular document useful for understanding the wide range of tactics utilized to limit the reach of terrorist groups.

United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. (2017). *Enhancing the Understanding of the Foreign Terrorist Fighters Phenomenon in Syria* [Report]. Retrieved 11 August 2018 from: http://www.un.org/en/counterterrorism/assets/img/Report_Final_20170727.pdf

This report serves to explain the FTF phenomenon, particularly how it has played out in the Syrian Arab Republic. The report is based on interviews with former FTFs and provides insight into the motivations members have to both join and leave terrorist organizations. The pressures of war, disillusionment, and disappointment with the terrorist organization and its leadership were among the factors which led former members to desert the groups. This report will be useful to delegates in understanding FTFs' motives and to then create an effective framework preventing FTFs from joining terrorist organizations in the future.

United Nations, Office of Counter-Terrorism & United Nations, Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. (2018). *Counter-Terrorism Strategy* [Website]. Retrieved 11 July 2018 from: https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy

This website provides an overview of the UN's Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The strategy was adopted by consensus in 2006 and consists of four pillars: (1) "Addressing the Conditions Conducive to the Threat of Terrorism," (2) "Preventing and Combating Terrorism," (3) "Building [Member] States' capacity and strengthening the role of the United Nations," and (4) "Ensuring Human rights and the rule of law." The strategy provides a detailed plan of action for Member States and is reviewed every two years. This strategy is also significant as it provides a streamlined and widely applicable plan to guide all UN organs and affiliated programs. Delegates will find this website useful as it provides a clear overview of the UN's Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

United Nations, Security Council, 4385th meeting. (2001). *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (S/RES/1373 (2001))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 11 July 2018 from: http://undocs.org/S/RES/1373(2001)

This Security Council resolution is the foundational document for UN counter-terrorism efforts and the creation of a global counter-terrorism regime. This resolution was drafted in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the United States of 11 September 2001. It calls for the global collective effort to curb terrorist activity by limiting access to funding for terrorist organizations and by strengthening policy responses to terrorist activities. The document also created the Security Council CTC, which is one of the key UN bodies working to combat terrorism. This document will prove as a useful resource to delegates, as it is one of the foundational documents for the current UN counter-terrorism framework.

United Nations, Security Council. (2016). *Report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat (S/2016/92)*. Retrieved 11 July 2018 from: http://undocs.org/S/2016/92

This detailed report of the Secretary-General is the first of six reports regarding the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh). The report identifies the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh), its reach beyond Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic, and the humanitarian needs in the affected regions. Furthermore, the document discusses the group's sources of funding and the planning process of attacks committed by ISIL (Da'esh). Finally, the report provides a list of recommendations for Member States to implement, such as countering the financing of terrorist groups and disrupting the travel of FTFs, which will be a useful starting point for delegates in understanding how to further expand the UN's counter-terrorism framework.

United Nations, Security Council, 8148th meeting. (2017). *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (S/RES/2396 (2017))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 11 July 2018 from: http://undocs.org/S/RES/2396(2017)

This Security Council resolution addresses the threat of FTFs and urges all Member States to criminalize terrorist activities. Furthermore, this resolution highlights the importance of border security, information sharing, judicial measures, international cooperation, prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration strategies, as a means to effectively combat terrorist actions. The document also discusses efforts on returning FTFs to their Member State of origin and reintegrating them. Delegates will find this document useful because it provides a proposed framework to counter the rising trend of FTFs, highlighting best practices and providing a detailed foundation from which Member States can create national policies.

United Nations, Security Council. (2018). *Sixth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat (S/2018/80)*. Retrieved 11 August 2018 from: http://undocs.org/S/2018/80

This report of the Secretary-General is the sixth and final report produced in a series to assess the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security. In addition to providing this analysis, the report also provides a number of suggestions for future action, such as limiting terrorist organizations' access to financial means and engaging in transnational law enforcement cooperation. The report also provides insight into how the international community can combat terrorism and thwart it in the future. This document in combination with the first report of this series (S/2016/92), is useful to delegates in presenting the development and progress the UN has made in the field of counter-terrorism in recent years.

United Nations, Security Council, Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. (2018). *CTED Trends Report: The Challenge of Returning and Relocating Foreign Terrorist Fighters: Research Perspectives*. Retrieved 11 August 2018 from: https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/CTED-Trends-Report-March-2018.pdf

Building on the UNOCT's report, Enhancing the Understanding of the Foreign Terrorist Fighters Phenomenon in Syria*, this report discusses the motivations and experiences of FTFs in the Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq, assesses the impact of returning FTFs, and provides a discussion of the future impact of FTFs by drawing on previous experiences. The document also discusses future challenges regarding FTFs, including the unknown whereabouts of most FTFs, the difficulty in identifying the scope of the phenomenon, and the implications of returning FTFs for international security. This report provides a wealth of information to help create an effective framework to mitigate the impact of returning FTFs.*

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III. The Situation in Myanmar

Introduction

In the 19th century, Britain colonized large territories in south Asia including modern day Myanmar, then known as Burma.[281] Migration from India and Bangladesh into Burma was common and seen as internal population movement, considering the British held all three territories.[282] After Burma's independence in 1948, these migrants remained in the Rakhine State of Burma and became known as the Rohingya.[283] Later that year, the state government passed the Union Citizenship Act defining which ethnicities were authorized to obtain citizenship, excluding the Rohingya people.[284] Individuals whose families had resided in Myanmar for at least two generations were originally given special identification cards allowing the Rohingya to reside in the state, mostly as non-citizens.[285]

After a military coup in 1962, Myanmar citizens were required to carry national registration cards; the Rohingya, however, were given foreign identity cards that came with several academic and career limitations.[286] This discrimination was followed by widespread destruction and assault on the Rohingya people.[287] The first wave of extreme violence began in 1978 from the Myanmar military.[288] In an effort to expel the Rohingya from the state, so-called "illegal immigrants," including the Rohingya, were identified and encouraged to leave the region.[289] This resulted in rape, arbitrary arrests, destruction of mosques and villages, and land confiscation leading to over 200,000 Rohingya refugees fleeing to Bangladesh.[290] New laws in 1982 further limited the rights of the Rohingya to study, work, travel, marry, practice religion, vote, and access health care.[291] Since then, there was another wave of violence in 1992 leading to another influx of refugees to Bangladesh; although the United Nations (UN) High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) assisted in the repatriation of many refugees in the early 2000s, it is reported that they returned to Myanmar to continued violence and discrimination.[292]

Today, the government of Myanmar recognizes 135 official ethnic groups in its state.[293] However, the Rohingya people, who primarily inhabit the Rakhine State of Myanmar and total over one million individuals, have been denied status as an official ethnic group and denied citizenship since 1982.[294] In the past several decades, the Rohingya people have faced persecution as well as political and social discrimination with state laws and policies that deny them fundamental human rights.[295] Tensions between the Rohingya, the state military, and other actors have led to ethnic and religious-related violence since the beginning of the discriminatory laws which has escalated in the past few years.[296]

A new political party was voted into Myanmar government office in 2015 led by Aung San Suu Kyi, Nobel Peace Prize Laurate and now the Myanmar State Counsellor, with hopes of ending the refugee crisis.[297] The government has not played an active role in the violence against the Rohingya, as under the current constitution the Myanmar military acts independently of the governing party.[298] Despite the new

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[281] Pillalamarri, When Burma Was Still Part of British India, *The Diplomat*, 2017.
[282] Ibid.
[283] *Who Are the Rohingya?*, Al Jazeera, 2018.
[284] Ibid.
[285] Ibid.
[286] Ahmed, The Rohingya: Myanmar's Outcasts, *Al Jazeera*, 2012.
[287] Ibid.
[288] Ibid.
[289] Ibid.
[290] Ibid.
[291] Ibid.
[292] Ibid.
[293] *Who Are the Rohingya?*, Al Jazeera, 2018.
[294] Ibid.
[295] UN General Assembly, *Situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/RES/72/248)*, 2018.
[296] *Who Are the Rohingya?*, Al Jazeera, 2018.
[297] *How Aung San Suu Kyi Sees the Rohingya Crisis*, BBC, 2018.
[298] Ibid.

developments in the Myanmar political leadership, the military retains control over all defense and border operations without opportunity for the government to intervene.[299] New violence in the past half-decade has worsened conditions for the Rohingya as their villages were raided and soldiers have committed violence that has been compared to an "ethnic cleansing campaign."[300] This has threatened the safety and security of Rakhine State, leaving many stateless and relying on UN aid for survival.[301] In August 2017, new violence incited significant amounts of Rohingya to seek refuge in nearby states.[302] Due to the ongoing persecution, nearly one million Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh, Malaysia, and other Southeast Asian states.[303]

International and Regional Framework

The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) (1948) guarantees several fundamental human rights that relate directly to the situation of the Rohingya people. This includes the right to "life, liberty, and security of person" in articles two and three, entitling each person to the same rights regardless of several distinctive factors including national origin.[304] There are several other freedoms enshrined in the UDHR that are relevant to the situation in Myanmar, including the right to work and free choice of employment in article 23, access to healthcare in article 25, and the right to education in article 26.[305]

Other human rights agreements adopted by the international community are useful in the context of the situation in Myanmar, including the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* (ICCPR) (1966) and the *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination* (ICERD) (1965).[306] The ICCPR states that no state shall restrict one's fundamental human rights including liberty, security of person, freedom to leave any country, religion, right to opportunity, and equal rights without discrimination of national origin.[307] While Myanmar is not currently party to the ICCPR, the agreement is considered part of customary international law and can be universally applied.[308] Meanwhile, the ICERD condemns and prohibits all forms of racial discrimination, calling for the complete removal of all racial barriers.[309]

The General Assembly first discussed the situation in Myanmar in General Assembly resolution 46/132, adopted on 17 December 1991.[310] This resolution focuses on promoting the creation of a democratic state and addressing the 'human rights situation' in Myanmar.[311] In recent years, the General Assembly has continued considering topics on the situation in Myanmar, focusing on the human rights issues and the continued persecution of the Rohingya people.[312] In General Assembly resolution 72/248 adopted 24 December 2017, the body calls upon the government of Myanmar to end the violence and allow for the peaceful delivery of aid to those in need, along with several other provisions to address the needs of the Rohingya and create a peaceful state.[313] This recent resolution adopts measures to support refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) by increasing efforts for humanitarian access and fact-finding missions, supporting the return and relocation of Rohingya refugees and IDPs, and encouraging

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[299] Ibid.
[300] Ibid.
[301] *Who Are the Rohingya?*, Al Jazeera, 2018.
[302] Ibid.
[303] Ibid.
[304] UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*, 1948.
[305] Ibid.
[306] UN General Assembly, *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (A/RES/2200 (XXI))*, 1966; UN General Assembly, *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (A/RES/2106 (XX))*, 1965.
[307] UN General Assembly, *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (A/RES/2200 (XXI))*, 1966.
[308] Ibid.
[309] UN General Assembly, *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (A/RES/2106 (XX))*, 1965.
[310] UN General Assembly, *Situation in Myanmar (A/RES/46/132)*, 1991.
[311] Ibid.
[312] UN General Assembly, *Situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/RES/72/248)*, 2018.
[313] Ibid.

assistance from the international community through diplomatic measures to uphold the rights and security of the Rohingya.[314]

The UN Human Rights Council (HRC) has also addressed the crisis and the need to protect the human rights of the Rohingya.[315] HRC resolution 37/32 adopted on 23 March 2018 addresses the violence in the Rakhine State and calls upon the government to resolve the mistreatment of the Rohingya, including addressing all human rights abuses, the lack of rule of law, and mistreatment of women and children, and to work toward a lasting peace.[316] The Special Rapporteur, nominated by the HRC in resolution 1992/58, published a report on 8 September 2017 describing an improved human rights situation within the Myanmar national parliament, while also noting room for improvement in enhancing state accountability and an apparent climate of impunity.[317]

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), part of the *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* adopted by General Assembly resolution 70/1 in 2015, outline 17 major goals for states and the UN to achieve globally.[318] State laws that restrict the Rohingya people from access to services, work, and limit their movement and freedoms prevent the region from reaching several goals including SDG 3 covering good health and well-being, SDG 4 on quality education, and SDG 8 on providing decent work for all.[319] In light of the continued persecution of the Rohingya people and the number of refugees and IDPs among this population, several other goals must be addressed to ensure sustainable living for the Rohingya.[320] In order to reach a level of sustainability, the international community must address SDG 2 on zero hunger, SDG 4 on clean water and sanitation, and SDG 16 on achieving peace, justice, and strong institutions.[321]

Role of the International System

The Security Council has taken a limited role in addressing the situation in Myanmar.[322] Thus far, the Council has released several presidential statements acknowledging the security threat posed by the violence in Rakhine State including statement 2008/13 in 2008 and statement 2017/22 in 2017.[323] These statements highlight the worsening humanitarian crisis and the increasing number of Rohingya refugees and IDPs.[324] The statements call upon the Myanmar government to take responsibility for and resolve the violence occurring within the state to halt the crisis.[325] On request from the Security Council, the Secretary-General has written a report on the "Situation of children and armed conflict in Myanmar," recommending greater state accountability and efficiency in verifying soldier recruitment cases.[326] The Secretary-General also appointed Christine Schraner Burgener, former Swedish ambassador to Germany, as special envoy to report on the state of Myanmar and communicate with local officials about the progress of UN programs.[327] In May 2018, the Security Council sent a delegation to visit Rakhine State and deliberate with local representatives on measures to improve safety to build trust, establish

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[314] UN General Assembly, *Situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/RES/72/248)*, 2018.
[315] Ibid.
[316] UN HRC, *Situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/HRC/RES/37/32)*, 2018.
[317] UN General Assembly, *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar (A/72/382)*, 2017.
[318] UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015.
[319] Ibid.
[320] Ibid.
[321] Ibid.
[322] UN Security Council, *Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2017/22)*, 2017.
[323] UN Security Council, *Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2008/13)*, 2008; UN Security Council, *Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2017/22)*, 2017.
[324] UN Security Council, *Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2017/22)*, 2017.
[325] Ibid.
[326] UN Security Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Myanmar (S/2017/1099)*, 2017.
[327] UN DPI, *Secretary-General Appoints Christine Schraner Burgener of Switzerland as Special Envoy on Myanmar*, 2018.

positive relations with local governments, and promote UN principles.[328] However, the meetings were unsuccessful in making tangible progress due to disagreements over how to resolve the violence in the region.[329]

UNHCR has contributed to the protection of Rohingya refugees on both political and international fronts.[330] Politically, UNHCR has directly negotiated for repatriation deals including the most recent 2018 memorandums of understanding.[331] The agency has negotiated memorandums with the governments of Bangladesh and Myanmar to ensure that Rohingya refugees can return to Myanmar when certain living conditions are met and that until these conditions are met, they have safe refuge in Bangladesh.[332] On the humanitarian front, UNHCR has built refugee camps, airlifted emergency aid, built latrines and safer water systems, and addressed safety and security threats around refugee camps.[333] UNHCR is a vital agency supporting the Rohingya; they provide some of the most detailed data and updated news on the refugees while advocating for the Rohingya on the international stage.[334] UNHCR, along with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), leads the Inter-Sector Coordination Group in Bangladesh to coordinate and organize humanitarian aid provision to the refugees residing there.[335]

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) is working in Bangladesh to provide stable living conditions and promote human rights for the Rohingya refugees.[336] UNDP typically works on initiatives involving policy and strengthening national institutions.[337] UNDP has partnered with UNHCR on several past policy initiatives, including the negotiations for the 2018 memorandum of understanding with Myanmar for refugee repatriation.[338]

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) organizes much of the humanitarian aid delivered to the country and works to raise the funds necessary to provide sufficient aid to the Rohingya people.[339] Through the Joint Response Plan 2018, the office has requested $950 million in order to fully assist the refugees and provide safety, security, and a stable environment in refugee camps.[340] Thus far the plan is only 34% funded with contributions totaling $320 million.[341]

In 2016, the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State was created as a joint project from the Government of Myanmar and the Kofi Annan Foundation in order to provide recommendations to the Myanmar government that will promote peace and prosperity.[342] Other civil society organizations have also supported the Rohingya, including the Open Society Foundations, which created a $10 million emergency fund to support the Bangladeshi refugee camps during the 2018 monsoon season, when the camps were at higher risk of devastation.[343]

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[328] *UN Security Council Team Visits Northern Rakhine State*, The Irrawaddy, 2018.
[329] Ibid.
[330] UNHCR, *Rohingya Emergency*, 2018.
[331] UN DPI, *UN Agencies and Myanmar ink agreement*, *setting stage for Rohingya return*, 2018.
[332] *Bangladesh and UNHCR Agree on Voluntary Returns Framework for when Refugees Decide Conditions Are Right*, UNHCR, 2018.
[333] UNHCR, *Rohingya Emergency*, 2018.
[334] UNHCR, *Situation Refugee Response in Myanmar*, 2018.
[335] UNOCHA, *Rohingya Refugee Crisis*.
[336] Rassool, *A human rights-based response to the Rohingya crisis*, 2017.
[337] UN DPI, *UN Agencies and Myanmar ink agreement*, *setting stage for Rohingya return*, 2018.
[338] Ibid.
[339] UNOCHA, *Rohingya Refugee Crisis*, 2018.
[340] UNOCHA, *Joint Response Plan for Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis*, 2018.
[341] Financial Tracking Service, *Bangladesh: Rohingya Refugee Crisis Joint Response Plan 2018*, 2018.
[342] Rakhine Commission, *About the Commission*, 2016.
[343] Open Society Foundations, *The Open Society Foundations and BRAC Sound Alarm for the Rohingya Ahead of Monsoon Season in Bangladesh*, 2018.

Security of the Rakhine State

On 25 August 2017, following an attack against Myanmar border guard police by Rohingya armed groups, violence in Rakhine State escalated as local military forces started a new wave of "clearance operations" against Rohingya individuals.[344] The violence included raids on houses and villages, random shootings and stabbings, widespread destruction of homes and personal property, and sexual violence.[345] This led nearly 700,000 Rohingya to flee from Myanmar to the district of Cox's Bazar in Bangladesh, a district already inhabited by several hundred thousand refugees from previous violence, to avoid further persecution.[346] During an interview with Rohingya individuals residing in refugee camps, half of the participants reported having a family member killed and half of the women interviewed experienced sexual violence from the security forces.[347] A September 2018 report from the UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar confirmed the wrongdoings of the Myanmar military as actions that are "grossly disproportionate to actual security threats."[348] The report contains several suggestions for further action by the UN, including a suggested Security Council tribunal to try suspected perpetrators or refer them to the International Criminal Court, imposing an arms embargo on Myanmar, and placing sanctions on those with the most responsibility for crimes against the Rohingya.[349] In September 2018, the International Criminal Court opened a preliminary examination of the "forced displacement of the Rohingya people" and the violence committed against them.[350]

The Myanmar-owned newspaper, Global New Light of Myanmar, reported that extremist groups such as the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army have contributed to the continued violence.[351] Reports state that these groups originate from Rohingya extremists working to fight against the state using violence, as well as Buddhist extremists empowered by the state's persecution of the Rohingya.[352] To counteract the violence, the Myanmar government is working to increase the presence of state security forces in the region.[353] The UN General Assembly has condemned the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army for their attacks against police and military posts.[354] Myanmar forces have combatted extremist and terrorist groups by enacting counter-terrorism legislation, partaking in counter-terrorism training courses led by the International Criminal Police Organization, and participating in regional information-sharing initiatives.[355] However, challenges remain in establishing rule of law and transparency.[356] The government continues to deny the allegations against the state military and prevent further information dispersal about conditions within Rakhine State.[357] Terrorist groups as well as the state military continue to create unsafe conditions in the region and threaten the safety of civilians.[358]

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[344] Médecins sans Frontieres, *'No one was left' – Death and Violence Against the Rohingya*, 2018.
[345] Ibid.
[346] UN OHCHR, *Rohingya Emergency*, 2018.
[347] UN OHCHR, *Devastating cruelty against Rohingya children*, *women and men detailed in UN human rights report*, 2017.
[348] UN OHCHR, *Myanmar: Tatmadaw leaders must be investigated for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes – UN report*, 2018.
[349] Nebehay, Myanmar Generals had 'Genocidal Intent' against Rohingya, Must Face Justice – UN, *Reuters*, 2018.
[350] International Criminal Court, *Statement of ICC Prosecutor*, *Mrs Fatou Bensouda*, *on opening a Preliminary Examination concerning the alleged deportation of the Rohingya people from Myanmar to Bangladesh*, 2018.
[351] *Security increased for ongoing terrorist attacks in N-Rakhine*, Global New Light of Myanmar, 2017.
[352] Counter Extremism Project, *Myanmar (Burma): Extremism & Counter-Extremism*, 2018.
[353] *Security increased for ongoing terrorist attacks in N-Rakhine*, Global New Light of Myanmar, 2017.
[354] UN General Assembly, *Situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/RES/72/248)*, 2018.
[355] Counter Extremism Project, *Myanmar (Burma): Extremism & Counter-Extremism*, 2018.
[356] Nichols, U.N. Security Council Pushes Myanmar on Accountability over Rohingya, *Reuters*, *2018*.
[357] Nebehay, Myanmar Generals had 'Genocidal Intent' against Rohingya, Must Face Justice – UN, *Reuters*, 2018; Doubek, Reuters Journalists in Myanmar Convicted, Sentenced to 7 Years, *National Public* Radio, 2018.
[358] Nichols, U.N. Security Council Pushes Myanmar on Accountability over Rohingya, *Reuters*, 2018.

Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons

Sharmeela Rassool, Chief Technical Advisor on Justice and Human Rights for UNDP Bangladesh, has called the situation in Myanmar the "fastest, largest, and the most concentrated" refugee crisis in recent times.[359] Due to continued violence against the Rohingya people in their native Rakhine State, over one million refugees have fled to neighboring states.[360] Many have fled to Bangladesh while others have immigrated to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, India, Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia.[361] However, the main refugee crisis centers in Bangladesh, which houses an estimated 905,000 refugees in Cox's Bazar, a single district in Bangladesh.[362] Additionally, there are approximately 241,000 IDPs residing in camps in different states of Myanmar.[363] There are safety risks to consider in refugee camps in both Bangladesh and Myanmar.[364] Camps in Bangladesh are reported to be "large, densely packed, poorly constructed, unplanned, and extremely vulnerable."[365] Further, extreme weather is expected during the upcoming monsoon and cyclone seasons, increasing the safety risks for all refugees currently in these camps with threats of landslides, flooding, and the spread of diseases.[366] A reported 100,000 refugees face life-threatening conditions during this extreme weather.[367]

The IOM, UNHCR, humanitarian partners, and government agencies have partnered to assist Rohingya in refugee camps.[368] There are several organizations working to improve conditions including UNHCR in their work with the Médecins sans Frontières, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the UN Children's Fund to distribute medical supplies in Bangladeshi camps.[369] Aid organizations including OCHA, UNHCR, and IOM have noted several challenges faced in aid distribution that are harming the safety and security of refugees, including: congestion of the camps, contaminated water, disease outbreaks, extreme climate, psychosocial issues, lack of access to fuel, and the unique needs of women.[370] UNHCR, IOM, and OCHA have requested $951 million to carry out a joint response action plan that would properly address the worsening humanitarian crisis and specific issues faced by refugees and IDPs in these camps.[371] However, the financial tracking service used by OCHA has reported that thus far only $321 million in funding has been provided.[372]

The Role of the Myanmar Government

The UN Security Council has confirmed that Myanmar military forces are playing an active role in perpetrating the violence against the Rohingya community; because of the separation of powers, the government is unable to intervene.[373] The Myanmar military rejects any accusation that excessive violence was used on the Rohingya people during the 2017 raids.[374] However, the international community has taken steps to enact justice against those responsible for the recent violence against the Rohingya.[375] The European Union and Canada have imposed sanctions including asset freezes and

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[359] Rassool, *A human rights-based response to the Rohingya crisis*, 2017.
[360] *Who Are the Rohingya?*, Al Jazeera, 2018.
[361] Ibid.
[362] Ibid.
[363] UNOCHA, *About OCHA Myanmar*, 2018.
[364] *Myanmar: Accountability needed to stem continuing abuses against Rohingya*, Human Rights Watch, 2018.
[365] Ibid.
[366] UN DPI, *UN agencies helping Rohingya refugee camps brace for potentially devastating rains in southern Bangladesh*, 2018.
[367] Ibid.
[368] Ibid.
[369] UNHCR, *UNHCR distributes aid to Rohingya refugees ahead of Bangladesh winter*, 2017.
[370] UNOCHA, *Joint Response Plan for Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis*, 2018.
[371] Financial Tracking Service, *Bangladesh: Rohingya Refugee Crisis Joint Response Plan 2018*, 2018.
[372] Ibid.
[373] UN DPI, *Security Council Presidential Statement Calls on Myanmar to End Excessive Military Force, Intercommunal Violence in Rakhine State (SC/13055)*, 2017.
[374] *Aung San Suu Kyi: No ethnic cleansing of Myanmar Muslim minority*, BBC News, 2017.
[375] Emmott & Slodkowski, EU, Canada sanction Myanmar generals over Rohingya; Myanmar says two are fired, *Reuters*, 2018.

traveling restrictions against senior officials in the Myanmar military for their abuse of power and the actions they have taken against the Rohingya.[376]

Despite recent democratization in the state government of Myanmar, the government has supported the military's actions, claiming that there is no ethnic cleansing or excessive force from the state military.[377] State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi has stated that the government hopes to regain control of the military in order to establish peace, however she has yet to denounce the military's actions as unlawful since entering office.[378] In order to assist the Rohingya people on a political platform, the government has formed a Central Committee for the Implementation of Peace and Development in Rakhine State in order to discuss security, citizenship verification, and other issues to develop the region, however there are no reports of further action from the committee.[379] However, it was reported that the government will not consider reforming the laws that prevent the Rohingya from gaining citizenship.[380] The government of Myanmar signed a memorandum of understanding with UNHCR and UNDP agreeing to create conditions for the repatriation of Rohingya refugees living in Bangladesh.[381] The memorandum provides greater access for UN organizations to operate in parts of Rakhine State in order to build local capacity to ensure safe conditions before the repatriation processes begins.[382] However, the likelihood that the region will ever reach such safety levels is contested by the UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights who states that, despite decreased violence, the Myanmar military are continuing a forced terror and starvation campaign, preventing Rohingya refugees from returning anytime in the conceivable future.[383]

Conclusion

Violence in Rakhine State has left many Rohingya people homeless, stateless, and in need of protection.[384] This violence and displacement denies the Rohingya people of several fundamental human rights guaranteed in the UDHR.[385] The UN General Assembly has confirmed that the continued violence caused by both the Myanmar state military forces and non-state terrorist groups threaten the safety of Rohingya within Rakhine State.[386] In attempts to engage the government on protection of the Rohingya, the UN Security Council and the Myanmar government have had meetings on how to increase security, prevent further harm to the Rohingya people, and promote peace.[387] The current situation in Myanmar has been called one of the fastest growing refugee crises as the Rohingya people flee to neighboring countries, mainly Bangladesh, in search of safer conditions; this continues despite Myanmar government's denial of the responsibility of the state military.[388] UNHCR, UNDP, and IOM have supported the refugee camps and worked to create living conditions with increased access to food, water, and supplies.[389] However, due to extreme weather and low funding, the plans to ensure refugee safety have not been completely enacted.[390] Despite repatriation agreements, the security levels required by the

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[376] Ibid.
[377] *Aung San Suu Kyi: No ethnic cleansing of Myanmar Muslim minority*, BBC News, 2017.
[378] Ibid.
[379] The Republic of the Union of Myanmar President Office, *Govt forms committee to implement peace*, *stability*, *development in Rakhine State*; *Central Committee for Implementation of Peace*, *Stability*, *and Development in Rakhine State meets*, Global New Light of Myanmar, 2016.
[380] McPherson, Exclusive: Myanmar rejects citizenship reform at private Rohingya talks, *Reuters*, 2018.
[381] UN DPI, *UN Agencies and Myanmar ink agreement*, *setting stage for Rohingya return*, 2018.
[382] Ibid.
[383] UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Myanmar: Senior UN human rights official decries continued ethnic cleansing in Rakhine State*, 2018.
[384] *Who Are the Rohingya?*, Al Jazeera, 2018.
[385] UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*, 1948.
[386] UN General Assembly, *Situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/RES/72/248)*, 2018.
[387] *UN Security Council Team Visits Northern Rakhine State*, The Irrawaddy, 2018.
[388] *Myanmar: Accountability needed to stem continuing abuses against Rohingya*, Human Rights Watch, 2018.
[389] UNHCR, *Rohingya Emergency*, 2018.
[390] Financial Tracking Service, *Bangladesh: Rohingya Refugee Crisis Joint Response Plan 2018*, 2018.

memorandum of understanding between Myanmar and UNHCR to ensure a safe return for the refugees has not yet been met.[391]

Further Research

This is a constantly developing topic as the refugee crisis continues to become more extreme and face worsening challenges, and as the Myanmar political climate changes. Delegates can continue in their research by considering: What role can the UN play in protecting the safety of the Rohingya from violent actors? What special considerations should be taken to ensure the safety and security of the camps for refugees and IDPs? How can the Security Council contribute to finding safe, sustainable living situations for the Rohingya? What can the UN do to further the rule of law in the region and bring those responsible for the mistreatment of the Rohingya to justice?

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The constitution of Myanmar is fundamental to understanding this topic, including the different jurisdiction of both the government and military and how they interact. The document includes the laws that govern Myanmar and the various political and legal bodies that comprise the government. It is a key document to frame the topic and explain how accountability of the violence and refugee crisis affect the government and military. It is helpful to delegates as they determine solutions to address the correct body within the Myanmar state institutions.

Emmot, R. & A. Slodkowski. (2018, June 25). EU, Canada sanction Myanmar generals over Rohingya; Myanmar says two are fired. *Reuters.* Retrieved 14 August 2018 from: https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-eu/eu-canada-sanction-myanmar-generals-over-rohingya-myanmar-says-two-are-fired-idUSKBN1JL0SC

In this article, Emmot and Slodkowski outline efforts by states to address the situation in Myanmar. Although the UN Security Council has yet to adopt a resolution on the topic, some states and intergovernmental organizations are taking action against Myanmar. This article details the sanctions the European Union and Canada have placed on seven senior military officials, which followed an arms embargo to Myanmar. Delegates will find this article important reading to understand how states respond to the situation in Myanmar outside of the United Nations.

How Aung San Suu Kyi sees the Rohingya crisis. (2018, January 25). BBC News. Retrieved 13 August 2018 from: https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-42824778

The news article discusses Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of Myanmar, and analyzes her approach to the current refugee crisis. This source is key to understanding the policies of the political party in power in Myanmar and the opinions of the party toward the Rohingya. This news article provides an understanding of the unique political leader and how the political party may respond to different actions the UN may take to address the crisis. Delegates should read the article as a good starting point both for a thorough understanding of the political climate and as a check for the feasibility of future solutions.

Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2017). *Interviews with Rohingyas fleeing from Myanmar since 9 October 2016* [Report]. Retrieved 15 August 2018 from: https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/MM/FlashReport3Feb2017.pdf

This flash report contains an in-depth analysis of the different wrongdoings committed against Rohingya people. It consists of several personal interviews with Rohingya

[391] UN OHCHR, *Myanmar: Senior UN human rights official decries continued ethnic cleansing in Rakhine State*, 2018.

refugees about their experiences fleeing assault, destruction, and other types of violence in Rakhine State. This report helps inform delegates on the conditions that impact the safety and security of the Rohingya. Delegates will find the statistical analysis of the interviews helpful to understanding the level of crime in the region.

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2018, February 27). *UN agencies helping Rohingya refugee camps brace for potentially devastating rains in southern Bangladesh* [News Article]. Retrieved 14 August 2018 from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/02/1003651

This news article from the UN Department of Public Information provides a highlight of the kind of work UN agencies are doing with refugees in the region. In particular, this article details some of the precarious and dangerous situations that refugees face, particularly in relation to severe weather conditions. This shows that as the Rohingya become refugees, the places that they migrate to are not completely safe or secure. Delegates will find this source useful to understand the human security dimensions of the situation and the ongoing precarious situation faced by refugees.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-second session. (2017). *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in Myanmar (A/72/382)*. Retrieved 15 September 2018 from: http://undocs.org/A/72/382

This report explores possible reforms in the democratic systems of the Myanmar government that would ensure political rights, economic and social development, and peacebuilding among the Rohingya people. The report covers reforms including democratic protections, rule of law, land rights, special considerations for the role women and children, and other topics that could help the Rohingya. It is a valuable resource for delegates to examine ideas of the next steps needed to stop the violence against the Rohingya people and promote development in the region.

United Nations, Human Rights Council, Thirty-Seventh session. (2018). *Situation of human rights in Myanmar (A/HRC/RES/37/32)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 9 July 2018 from: http://undocs.org/A/HRC/RES/37/32

The most recent resolution from the HRC provides great insight into the role that the committee has taken in addressing the situation in Myanmar. In this resolution, the HRC takes a more involved role in the creation of solutions within the state and made specific recommendations to the government on actions needed to improve human rights in Rakhine State. It addresses issues such as the curfew restriction placed in Rakhine State, the need for further fact-finding missions, and other provisions. This is an important resource for delegates to understand the Human Rights Council's position and the ongoing shortcomings of the Myanmar government and security provisions in Rakhine State.

United Nations, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2018). *Joint Response Plan for Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis* [Report]. Retrieved 16 August 2018 from: https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/JRP%20for%20Rohingya%20Humanitarian%20Crisis%202018.PDF

The plan is split into sections covering the current needs of the refugees, a strategy directive prioritizing needs, and specific coverage of different humanitarian fields. The report provides helpful statistical information about the number of refugees entering the camp and the resources necessary to address the needs of the refugees. While the report focuses on the humanitarian needs of the refugees, it also addresses the safety risks faced by many in the camp that the Security Council can address to ensure the refugee's safety.

United Nations, Security Council, 8085th meeting. (2017, November 6). *Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2017/22)* [Presidential Statement]. Retrieved 15 August 2018 from: http://www.undocs.org/s/prst/2017/22

This source is the most recent presidential statement from the Security Council on the situation in Myanmar. The statement recognizes the progress by the government of

Myanmar to help the Rohingya that is shown by terms of the memorandum of understanding while also stating the shortcomings in the lack of responsibility for the Rohingya. As the Security Council has not adopted a resolution on the topic, this statement can be of great aid to delegates to understand the current approach of the Security Council and the actions enacted by other bodies that the Council is supporting.

Who are the Rohingya? (2018, April 18). Al Jazeera. Retrieved 9 July 2018 from: https://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/features/2017/08/rohingya-muslims-170831065142812.html

This briefing from Al Jazeera is an in-depth article on the history of the past century regarding the government of Myanmar as well as the continued persecution of the Rohingya people. It provides a well-rounded background of the economic, political, and cultural aspects of the issue. The article offers details on many aspects of this long-standing conflict including the contribution of the opposing political party, the contribution of other Member States, and the recent repatriation deal. It is a useful starting point for delegates to gain a well-founded understanding of the issues faced by the Rohingya people.

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