



# THE HISTORICAL SECURITY COUNCIL OF 2003

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In 2003 the world and the Council continue to face a new era of threats to peace and security, learning to deal with a new age of terrorism and the idea of rogue States. Foremost on Council Members' minds is Iraq's continuing refusal to fully comply with weapons inspections and the increasing question of whether the imposed sanctions are bringing Iraq into compliance with Security Council mandates. The breakdown in peace and security in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Liberia and other areas in Africa and the continuing question of Palestine and the Middle East peace process also hold the Council's attention. In addition, the Council has its eye on peace processes around the world, the highest profile of which being Afghanistan's recovery and political reorganization.

For each topic area, Representatives should consider the following questions. These questions are designed to assist in developing a deeper understanding of the issues at hand, particularly from your country's perspective:

- Should the United Nations be involved in the situation? If yes, what role can the United Nations play in the situation?
- How can regional organizations be brought into the discussion and aid in solutions to the problems?
- Does your government feel that this situation is a threat to international peace and security?
- What are your government's interests in the region?

## THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

After decades of conflict during the 1970s and 1980s, Afghanistan fell into civil war after the withdrawal of foreign troops in the 1990s. As a result, millions of civilians fled the country. The civil conflict also destroyed the Afghan economy. In December 1993, the United Nations Secretary-General created the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan (UNSM) to reduce instability and address the refugee and human development crises facing the country. Despite this effort, fighting continued in Afghanistan through the mid-1990s and became more ethnically divided. From the mid-1990s to 2001, Afghanistan was controlled by the Taliban, a fundamentalist group that gained control in Afghanistan due, in large part, to foreign support during the Cold War. During this same time, al-Qaida, a radical Sunni Muslim organization, formed a close relationship with Mullah Omar, the head of state of Afghanistan and spiritual leader of the Taliban. Following the 1998 terrorist bombings on US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania by al-Qaida, the Security Council passed Resolution 1193, which reiterated concerns of the continued and growing presence of terrorists in Afghanistan territory and condemned terrorist attacks on United Nations personnel in Taliban-held areas of Afghanistan. Concerned

that the Taliban was continuing to provide support and protection to al-Qaida, the Security Council demanded that the Taliban cease providing sanctuary and training for international terrorist organizations in Resolution 1214. The Resolution also requested that all Afghan factions cooperate in bringing indicted terrorists to justice. Concerns that the Taliban was providing support and protection to al-Qaida grew. During the late 1990s and into 2000, the Security Council expressed grave concern at the seriously deteriorating humanitarian situation and deplored the worsening human rights situation - including forced displacements of civilian populations, summary executions, abuse and arbitrary detention of civilians, violence against women and girls, and bombings on civilians.

Reaffirming its commitment to the sovereignty and independence of the Afghan State and also recognizing the humanitarian needs of the Afghan people, the Security Council passed Resolution 1333 in December of 2000, which called for multilateral peace negotiations and a broad-based, multi-ethnic, representative Afghan government. The resolution further called upon United Nations Member States to enforce sanctions on the Taliban, as had previously been requested in Resolution 1267 from October 1999. Resolution 1333 requested the formation of a special committee by the Secretary-General to monitor the sanctions. However, Council actions did little to remedy the situation. In a report released 7 December 2001, the Secretary-General concluded that the combination of drought, conflict and human rights abuses, as well as the deteriorating operating environment for aid agencies, had deepened the Afghanistan humanitarian crisis.

After a US-led military offensive in Afghanistan, the Taliban lost its political power and control in 2001, but al-Qaida's presence and objectives continued in Afghanistan. In 2001, the United Nations facilitated the Bonn Agreement, which established a six-month Afghan Interim Authority (AIA). In Resolution 1386, the Security Council authorized the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to assist Hamid Karzai in the administration of the AIA. The ISAF primary objective was to enable the Afghan government to provide effective security across the country and develop new Afghan security forces to ensure Afghanistan would never again become a safe haven for terrorists. After the AIA mandate expired, an emergency Loya Jirga (Grand Council) met and formed the Transitional Administration (TA), also led by Hamid Karzai as Interim President.

Despite these developments, conflict has continued, worsening the humanitarian situation. In 2002, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimated that there were approximately 3.5 million Afghan refugees, but the Commission discourages them from returning to Afghanistan due to security issues. Maintaining security



inside of Afghanistan remains a significant challenge, with some estimating the need for an international force of 80,000. A force of this size would cost approximately \$300 million per year. Although initial financial support for the security and humanitarian efforts in Afghanistan was strong, international financial support has declined. Without adequate long-term funding, the success of the political and humanitarian efforts is compromised.

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## THE SITUATION IN IRAQ

The Security Council passed numerous resolutions in response to the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990. Resolution 661 imposed strict sanctions on Iraq by restricting foreign financial assistance to humanitarian and medical aid. Once Iraqi troops withdrew from Kuwait in 1991, Resolution 687 required Iraq to agree unconditionally to the destruction or disarmament of its chemical, biological and ballistic weapons. Resolution 687 also called for Iraq to grant a commission of weapons inspectors unfettered access within Iraq to ensure compliance. The Security Council also established the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission in April 1991, which periodically submits reports to the Security Council. The United States, United Kingdom and France

also established no-fly zones to protect Kurdish and Shiite Muslim populations in Iraq.

In the mid-1990s, United Nations weapons inspections uncovered weapons and technology in Iraq that had been banned by earlier Security Council resolutions. In response, the Security Council imposed sanctions designed to prevent Iraq from redeveloping or strengthening its military and weapons capabilities. The imposed sanctions came hand in hand with aid designed to help Iraqi citizens with their basic needs. Resolution 986 established the Oil-for-Food Programme in April 1995. The Programme was designed to prevent a severe humanitarian crisis and serve as a temporary measure of providing for Iraqi citizens' humanitarian needs until Iraq complied with all previous resolutions' requirements.

Amid concerns of Iraq developing prohibited weapons and violating no-fly zones, the United States bombed several Iraqi military installations in 1998. Afterwards, Iraq refused to allow weapons inspectors to enter, and sanctions became less effective as neighboring countries sought to re-establish economic relationships with Iraq, ignoring the mandates from earlier Security Council resolutions.

Since this past autumn, international pressure on Iraq to allow the return of inspectors has intensified. In a statement to the General Assembly on 12 September, United States President George W. Bush demanded the disarmament of Iraq, accusing Iraq of harboring and supporting al-Qaida terrorists and weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). In light of the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks on the United States and continued Iraqi noncompliance with Security Council demands to allow weapons inspectors access, President Bush stated that disarming Iraq was an extremely urgent necessity. On 16 September, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq, Naji Sabri, wrote to the Security Council accepting the return of inspectors without conditions. Despite these assurances, many, including the United States, remain unconvinced that inspections will, in fact occur, particularly in light of United States reports of Iraq firing on Allied jets.

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## THREATS TO INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY BY INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM

Prior to 1999, the Security Council addressed international terrorism issues in the context of broader security issues or in condemnation of specific terror attacks. Beginning with Resolution 1269 in 1999, addressing international terrorism has become an increasingly important thematic issue for the Council in its own right. Concerned by the increasing number of terrorist attacks, the Council passed Resolution 1269, urging all States to work together to detect and prevent terrorist attacks. Focus further intensified in response to the 11 September 2001 attacks and the growing threat posed by international terrorism with the passage of Resolution 1373 which created the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee. Resolution 1373 further obligates Member States to take measures to prevent terrorist activities while assisting and promoting cooperation among States to adhere to international counter-terrorism instruments. Subsequent resolutions, including Resolution 1452 of 2002, have affirmed the purpose of the Counter-Terrorism Committee. These resolutions also encourage Member States to root out international terrorism and set forth guidelines regarding the funding of terrorism, identifying and locating known or suspected terrorists and preventing future terrorist attacks.

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## THE SITUATION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has suffered from decades of political instability. Regions of DRC are particularly mineral-rich, which has led to continued conflict. Since conflict over political control of the newly independent Congo first began in the 1960s, various political groups have used these minerals as a means to finance their

purposes, as well as control and inflict terror on civilians living and working in these resource-rich regions. Wars in neighboring regions have also contributed to destabilization within DRC. Large numbers of Rwandese Hutus fled the 1994 Rwandan genocide into the Democratic Republic of the Congo (then known as Zaire). Rebellion and fighting broke out in DRC in 1996, primarily between forces led by prominent Tutsi General Laurent Kabila and Congolese President Mobutu Sese Seko. With assistance from Rwanda and Uganda, Kabila forces were able to gain control over the government in Kinshasa in 1997, renaming the country the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Widespread fighting erupted in 1998 when the Rally for Congolese Democracy (RCD) launched a rebellion against the Kabila government. The Kabila government found support from Angola, Chad, Namibia and Zimbabwe, but the RCD was able to hold Kivu and other eastern areas with Rwandan and Ugandan support. Internal conflict however soon led the RCD to split into different factions between 1998-1999, including the RCD-Goma and the RCD-Kisangani.

The Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement, signed in 1999 by the DRC, Angola, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda and Zimbabwe, attempted to bring stability to the region. Despite this, rifts emerged between the Congolese Liberation Movement (MLC) and Rally for Congolese Democracy (RCD), resulting in continued fighting and the deaths of tens of thousands of civilians from violence, disease and starvation. Thereafter, the Security Council authorized the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), a United Nations force of 5,500 troops and 500 observers, to monitor the Lusaka Ceasefire as well as humanitarian conditions, human rights, child protection and medical support issues; however, fighting continued between the rebels.

Humanitarian groups estimate that, since 1999, the fighting and conflict have displaced over half a million people and resulted in the deaths of approximately 50,000. Additionally, there are significant concerns about human rights violations, particularly in Eastern DRC, where there are reports of systematic rape of women and girls, destruction of property and mass killings. Despite previous Security Council resolutions condemning such violence, ethnically and nationality based violence, attacks and killings against civilians continue.

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## THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

The First Intifada, which ended in 1993, brought the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians back to the attention of the international community, illustrating the daily struggles for both Palestinian and Israeli citizens and highlighting many of the humanitarian issues faced by Palestinian people. On 28 September 2000, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon visited the Haram al Sharif, also known as the Temple Mount, where in his speech he said, “The Temple is in our hands,” a phrase from the 1967 Six-Day War. This offended many Palestinians and resulted in protests. The protests and subsequent Israeli response quickly spiraled into the Second Intifada. Violence presently continues to escalate due partly to the mounting humanitarian crises and failed peace talks. The conflict has been characterized by Palestinian suicide bombers and Israeli military operations. In the days following Sharon’s visit to the Mount and the resulting demonstrations, at least 47 Palestinians were killed and over 1,800 were wounded. Responding to the violence, the Security Council passed Resolution 1322 in October 2000, which not only condemned acts of violence, particularly those against Palestinians, but also called for negotiations to resume.

In 2002, Israel launched Operation Defensive Shield in response to a 27 March suicide bombing of a Passover Seder that killed 30 and injured over 140, for which Hamas claimed responsibility. The 36 day offensive was the largest in the West Bank since the Six-Day War. A total of 497 Palestinians and 30 Israeli soldiers were killed in the conflict; many Palestinian-controlled cities were occupied and Palestinian infrastructure was heavily damaged. In June, Israel began construction of a 440-mile West Bank security barrier.

The conflict has renewed calls from the international community and the Security Council for increased safety for civilians and for the Israeli and Palestinian sides to work toward a political settlement, as described by Resolution 1397 (March 2002). Additionally, Members of the United Nations, the United States, the Russian Federation and the European Union met in Madrid and formed the Quartet on the Middle East in an effort to broker a ceasefire and lasting peace. The Quartet also advocates for a two-State solution, though details of its Road Map to Peace are being withheld until a Palestinian Prime Minister is in place. There is growing concern for the escalating violence and the declining humanitarian situation, particularly with regard to Palestinian civilians and in Palestinian cities.

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## OTHER ISSUES IN AFRICA

The Security Council recognizes that security and humanitarian issues affect many regions in Africa. After the death of its president in 1993, Cote d’Ivoire fell into a conflict for control that ended with a coup in 1999. Cote d’Ivoire has since held presidential elections but has also suffered further attempted coups. On 19 September 2002, simultaneous attacks were conducted by rebel forces in most major cities of Cote d’Ivoire. Fighting continues to intensify.

Sierra Leone, meanwhile, was embroiled in civil war beginning in 1991 between government forces and the Revolutionary United Front (RUF). The RUF, along with other rebel groups, fought for control of Sierra Leone, diamond mines and the capital city of Freetown. The RUF was temporarily driven to Liberia in 1999 after United Nations intervention, and militarily defeated in 2002, ending the civil war. RUF leader Foday Sankoh is currently awaiting trial for war crimes.

Adding to regional tensions is Liberia’s involvement in Sierra Leone. President Charles Taylor has been accused of aiding the RUF in Sierra Leone in an attempt to destabilize the government and acquire diamonds. In return for aid in Sierra Leone, the RUF helped Liberia increase its diamond output from 100,000 to over 6 million carats per year in the late 1990s by reportedly transferring diamonds from the mines of Sierra Leone to Liberia.

In 1999, Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), loosely aligned across Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea, began a campaign specifically against Taylor’s government. Guinea began directly supporting LURD after RUF forces, then pushed out of Sierra Leone into Liberia, invaded Guinea in September 2000. The Security Council has increasingly isolated Liberia, in particular for its role in the Sierra Leone civil war and subsequent continued unrest. Liberian



noncompliance has resulted in arms and diamond embargoes and a travel ban for senior Liberian officials, while direct aid from other States has dwindled or been cut off altogether.

Since decolonization in 1975, civil war and internal fighting began in Angola with several periods of heavy fighting. The Angolan conflict intensified in 1998 and continues, largely funded through the diamond trade. Additionally, Sudan and Somalia are still without strong central governments, while the territorial dispute between Eritrea and Ethiopia has yet to be resolved. Fighting, violence against civilians and a severe economic collapse have caused a significant destabilization in Zimbabwe. Political instability, the use of child soldiers in armed conflicts, and humanitarian issues continue to be a significant concern in Africa for the Security Council.

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