Introduction to the Security Council

Representatives of the Security Council should note that the agenda provided is only provisional and represents a fraction of the issues the Security Council discusses. Any issue regarding international peace and security may be brought before the Council. Many topics listed in this guide will change significantly before the Conference. Additional topics may be added as necessary or as the Council sees fit.

For this reason it is highly advised that representatives have a broad knowledge base regarding current events in the international community. Periodicals and online sources are some of the best sources available for day-to-day updates. Recommended sources include: The New York Times, United Nations Chronicle, The Times of London, Al Jazeera, Mail & Guardian, Foreign Policy and The Economist. The United Nations Foundation's online daily newsletter, United Nations Wire, is also an excellent resource for timely information. Whenever possible it is also recommended that representatives stay abreast of the most recent reports published by the Security Council and other relevant United Nations bodies. These can be found via the United Nations homepage under the Security Council section.

Unlike many other simulations, Security Council Members are able to make declarative statements and operational decisions that will affect the course of the simulation. It will be the job of Council representatives to actively bring their State's national policies and capabilities into the simulation. While AMUN Simulations Staff will frequently consult with Council Members, representatives are welcome and encouraged to make declarative statements—including real or implied threats and deals—that do not carry operational implications outside of the United Nations. Representatives must always consult with the Simulations Staff before making ANY operational decisions. Operational decisions would include announcements of the movements or actions of military forces, as well as any other actions that would have an effect outside of the United Nations. In these cases, the Simulations Staff would be equated with the actual home office or government of the involved Member States(s).

Representatives are also encouraged to seek out Simulations Staff to act in the home office capacity when they need to supplement their research on a situation. Simulations Directors wear many hats, including acting as an in-house resource for representatives about their countries as well as the topics at hand.

OTHER INVOLVED COUNTRIES

From time-to-time other States will be involved in the deliberations of the Council. Delegations representing these States, if present at AMUN, will be asked by the body to participate in deliberations by the Council. If they are not present, or choose not to participate in deliberations, a member of the AMUN Secretariat will represent them as necessary. It is customary for the Council to request the presence of relevant Member States during discussion of a topic relevant to that State's interests, however it is not required. Any State mentioned in the background research for a specific Security Council is a potential candidate for an outside participant in the Council as well as any State related to a topic

relevant to international peace and security. For delegations that may be asked to appear before one of the Historical Security Councils (HSC) these States will be notified in advance by the Secretariat, and should have one or more representatives prepared to come before the HSC at any time. Because these States will not be involved in all issues, the representative(s) responsible for the HSC must be assigned to another Committee, preferably with a second representative who can cover that Committee while they are away. A floating Permanent Representative would also be ideal for this assignment. All delegations will be asked to identify their representative(s) to the HSC at registration, and to indicate where they can be reached if needed.

A NOTE ABOUT HISTORICAL SECURITY COUNCILS

AMUN's HSCs are unique not only in their topics, but also in their treatment of those topics. History and time are the HSC's media and they are flexible. Both HSC Simulations will preempt history from their start date, which are provided later in this chapter. History will be as it was written until the moment the Council convenes. From that moment forward, however, what transpires will be dependent upon both Council Members' actions and Simulations Staff decisions. Council Members are encouraged to exercise free will based on the range of all the choices within their national character and upon the capabilities of their governments.

Effective roleplaying for an HSC Member State will not just be a routine replay of national decisions as they evolved in that year. Indeed, the problems of the era may not transpire as they once did, and this will force active evaluations—and reevaluations—of national policies. Thus, it cannot be said that the policy course a government took in that year was necessarily the wisest. While rote replays must be, by definition, in character, it is not a sure thing that—given a second opportunity to look at events—any given national government would do things exactly the same way. History is replete with the musings of foreign ministers and heads of state pining for second chances.

It will be the job of Council representatives to actively bring their country's policies and capabilities into the simulation when discussing problems and issues which may not have had adequate contemporary resolutions. There is almost always more than one alternative choice in any situation. In particular the international community has often chosen not to actively involve itself in many regional disputes or political crises where it might have shown greater involvement. The United Nations itself has often been a bystander to regional or international conflict. Representatives will need to decide what changes, if any, could have been made to the Security Council's posture on the various issues. One major factor representatives should consider when deciding whether or not to be actively involved, is the cost of involvement by the United Nations. An increase in costs often causes the Security Council to reprioritize its efforts.

While national governments often did not want international meddling in what they felt to be national policies or disputes, this in no way lessens the responsibility of Council Members to make the effort and find ways to actively involve themselves in crisis solutions. This task must, however, be accomplished without violating the bounds of the Member States' national characters.

Representatives should approach these issues based on events through the final days before the start date of the simulation and should do their research accordingly. In studying their roleplaying assignments, it is strongly recommended that research be done on these topics using timely materials. The world has changed dramatically over the years, but none of these changes will be evident within the chambers of the HSC. While histories of the subject will be fine for a general overview, representatives should peruse periodicals from 3-5 years prior to the year in question to most accurately reflect the world view at that time. Magazines featuring an overview of that year may give a particularly good feel for the international mood in which the simulation is set. Periodicals contemporary to the period, which can be easily referenced in a Readers Guide to Periodical Literature or the New York Times Index, should provide a much better historical perspective and feel for the times than later historical texts, which can be useful for general information.

Both HSC simulations will follow a flexible timeline based on events as they occurred and as modified by the representatives' policy decisions in the Council. The Secretariat will be responsible for tracking the simulation and keeping it as realistic as possible. In maintaining realism representatives must remember that they are roleplaying the individual assigned as their State's representative to the United Nations. They may have access to the up-to-the-minute policy decisions of their States, or they may be relatively in the dark on their State's moment-to-moment actions in the world.

In this area, the AMUN Simulations Staff will frequently consult with HSC members. Representatives are welcome and encouraged, as their State's spokesperson, to make whatever declarative statements they like. Declarative statements would include any comments or actions (including real or implied threats or deals) that an individual at the United Nations could normally make. Representatives must, however, always consult with the Simulations Staff before making ANY operational decisions. Operational decisions would include announcements of the movements or actions of military forces as well as any other actions which would have an effect outside of the United Nations. In these cases, the Simulations Staff would be equated with the home office or government of the involved State.

Representatives are also encouraged to seek out Simulations Staff to act in the home office capacity when they need to supplement their research on a situation. Simulations Directors wear many hats, including acting as an in-house resource for representatives about their countries as well as the topics at hand.

OPEN ISSUES

A unique feature of each Security Council in simulations at AMUN is the Council's ability to set its own agenda. In addition to the situations outlined in the council-specific topic guides on the following pages, each Security Council can discuss any topic that the body wishes. For the contemporary Security Council this includes any real-world event up until the day the simulation convenes. For the Historical Security Councils, representatives should have a working knowledge of the events prior to and including the start date for their respective simulation. For the Historical Security Council of 1973, the start date is 01 May 1973. For the Historical Security Council of 1990, the start date is 10 March 1990.

For the time periods in question, open issues could include any active United Nations peacekeeping operations, the work of any United Nations body active at the time, and any social or economic issue of the day. It is *strongly recommended* that all representatives be well versed on current and historical global events relevant to their simulation.

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

The following are brief synopses of the main international situations facing the Security Councils. For the contemporary Security Council these briefs are current as of spring 2016. Information for the Historical Security Councils covers information available up until the respective start dates of each simulation. It is recommended that representatives have a solid foundational knowledge of the background of major international issues. The topics laid out in this handbook are provided as a starting point for further research.



MEMBERS OF THE	CONTEMPORARY	SECURITY (Council
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ANGOLA MALAYSIA UKRAINE

CHINA NEW ZEALAND UNITED KINGDOM

EGYPT RUSSIAN FEDERATION UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

France Senegal Uruguay

Japan Spain Venezuela

The Contemporary Security Council topics below are not all-inclusive of what the Council might talk about at Conference. With the everchanging nature of international peace and security, these three topics are a guide to help direct your research for your State's position. The information below should be considered a briefing as to the general background of the topics presented. It is not meant to be comprehensive, and representatives are encouraged to do further research into each situation. A more complete and updated version of likely topics for the Contemporary Security Council will be posted online in September at www.amun.org.

For each topic area, representatives should consider the following questions. These questions should assist representatives in gaining a better understanding of the issues at hand, particularly from your country's perspective:

- How did this conflict begin? Is this a new conflict or a re-ignition of a previous conflict?
- How have similar situations and conflicts been peacefully resolved?
- What State and regional actors are involved in this conflict?
- If there are non-State actors involved in a conflict, are there any States supporting them? If so, which ones?

THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SYRIA

Civilian protests began in March 2011, when residents took to the city streets of Deraa to protest the torture of teenagers who had put up antigovernment graffiti. The protesters called for the following reforms: resignation of President Bashir al-Assad; allowing political parties in the country; granting equal rights to the Kurdish population; and other political freedoms, such as freedom of the press. The protests turned violent when Syrian security forces fired on the protesters, killing several people.

After the incident, President Assad announced several conciliatory measures, including releasing dozens of political prisoners, dismissing the government and canceling the state of emergency that Syria had lived under since 1963. Unappeased by Assad's measures, protests spread to other communities and fighting between protesters and government forces escalated. By May 2011, Syrian forces had moved into the suburbs surrounding Derra, Banyas, Homs and Damascus to suppress protestors. The consistent attacks from government forces led the United Nations Security Council to condemn the atrocities in August 2011, with the Arab League suspending Syria and imposing sanctions in November.

In February 2012, Kofi Annan was appointed as the United Nations and Arab League Special Envoy to Syria, and a six-point peace plan was announced in March, which Syria accepted. However, the disjointed opposition groups did not agree to the proposal and the peace plan was never implemented. In April 2012, the Security Council passed Resolution 2043 to form the United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS) to monitor cessation of violence. Syria did not cooperate with the mission and the mandate expired on 19 August 2012.

Violence continued unabated for the next several of years with the refugee and internally-displaced people counts rising. Neighboring countries such as Turkey had to temporarily halt the flow of refugees into the country, so more refugee camps could be built to house the continually-growing population, which already numbered over 200,000. Additionally, the international community grew concerned with the use of chemical weapons on civilian populations, leading to United Nations Security Council Resolution 2118. The resolution set out milestones for the Syrian government to meet in the destruction of its chemical weapons stockpiles and forgo Chapter VII action. The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) reported on 23 June 2014, that 100 percent of Syria's chemical weapons had been removed. Additionally, all chemical weapon production equipment had been destroyed in cooperation with Resolution 2118.

Threats from neighboring Iraq added to an already declining security situation throughout 2014. The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) began systematically attacking Syrian forces and taking away major profit centers, including oil refineries near the Iraqi border. The United States began airstrikes against the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in the fall of 2014, hoping to curb the violence against the Syrian population and working to stem the advance of ISIL from neighboring Iraq. While the airstrikes from the United States and its allies worked to a degree, the lack of coordination among the opposition groups on the ground allowed Syrian forces to continue to make gains against the protestors. By June 2015, government and opposition forces were fighting unchecked around the city of Aleppo with human rights violations on both sides, including the use of barrel bombs on civilians.

THE ISLAMIC STATE IN IRAQ AND THE LEVANT (ISIL)

While ISIL has had many incarnations since the early 1990s, it can trace its present roots to the release of Abu Musab al-Zarqawi from a Jordanian prison in 1999. Al-Zarqawi had been instrumental in key fights in Afghanistan with the Taliban in the 1980s and returned to Afghanistan and Pakistan after release. However, feeling that a United States invasion of Iraq was imminent, al-Zarqawi made his way to Iraq and began militant uprisings against American and Sunni forces. By

2004, al-Zarqawi's success garnered the attention of Al-Qaeda, and he pledged his support to their cause, a limited partnership that would last until 2014.

Even though al-Zarqawi was killed by a United States airstrike in 2006, his followers made impressive gains in the early years after the United States invasion of Iraq, before the surge of American troops between 2007 and 2010 forced them underground. It was not until 2011, when American troops began to withdraw, that they were able to make substantive gains again. With tensions high between the Iraqi government and the Kurdish population, ISIL moved to Mosul and began working to consolidate power and land. On 10 June 2014, ISIL seized Mosul and declared itself a caliphate on 29 June, claiming exclusive political and theological authority over the world's Muslim population. The seizures of the Iraqi cities of Mosul and Tikrit allowed ISIL access to oil fields in both Syria and Iraq. Additionally, ISIL destroyed the Sykes-Picot border, the demarcation between Iraq and Syria that was created after the first World War to divide the Middle East into British and French spheres of influence.

In 2014, ISIL began acquiring territory and exerting influence in Syria as well, working with a presumed agreement with President Assad to attack government opposition forces. However, ISIL forces attacked all forces, including civilian populations, causing a split with Al-Qaeda and encouraging Assad to note that only the Syrian government was strong enough to stand against terrorist forces. ISIL also worked to destroy museums and artifacts predating Islam and forced non-Muslim women into sex slavery. The United States and its allies began airstrikes against ISIL territory in the fall of 2014 with minimal success on the ground. By early 2015, ISIL was in control of several key areas in Syria and Iraq, including oil fields. Additionally, ISIL has worked to establish state institutions, such as a Council of Ministers, as well as recruit additional forces internationally through social media and the exploitation of the international media. On 12 February 2015, the Security Council passed Resolution 2199 condemning both trade with terrorist groups as well as the paying of hostage ransom fees.

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THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE

In February 2013, representatives from Ukraine and the European Union met to discuss the political and economic measures necessary for the adoption of a European Union Association Agreement with Ukraine and the entry of the Ukraine into a free trade zone with European Union members. In 2012 the European Union's members expressed concern that the weakening of democracy and human rights in the Ukraine posed a barrier to ratification of the agreement. Tensions escalated when Russia increased customs inspections on Ukrainian imports as a reaction to Ukraine's increasingly warm relationship with western Europe. Additionally, the Ukrainian Parliament declined to release former Prime Minister Yulia V. Tymoshenko from prison for medical treatment, a change required by the European Union before the political and trade agreements could be signed. Largely due to political pressure, President Viktor Yanukovich announced on 21 November 2013 that Ukraine would suspend its plans to sign the European Union agreement and would instead pursue closer ties with Russia. This announcement sparked outrage in many European capitals and spawned protests in Kyiv. International concern and pressure on the Yanukovich government to respond to protesters' demands grew. On 15 December, the European Union suspended negotiations with Ukraine after President Yanukovich failed to address protester and international concerns regarding Russia's involvement in Ukraine. In February 2014, Russian Special Forces extracted President Yanukovich from Ukraine. Upon learning that President Yanukovich had fled to Russia, the Ukrainian Parliament removed him from power and set up a provisional government until elections could be held.

Following President Yanukovich's removal, protesters in the Ukrainian province of Crimea, an autonomous republic within Ukraine where the majority of the population identifies as ethnically Russian, made calls to rejoin Russia. The idea soon garnered broad support within greater Crimea, including within the Crimean Parliament. On 28 February, Ukrainian officials accused Russia of invading Crimea with roughly 16,000 troops and trying to incite further violence in Ukraine. Russia denied these charges and noted that the troop movements were in line with any agreement made with the Ukrainian government for troops stationed in the area. On 6 March 2014, the pro-Russian Crimean Parliament set a date of 16 March for a referendum on whether to secede from Ukraine and become part of Russia. Over 90 percent of referendum voters voted to join Russia. Ethnic Russians make up the

majority of the population of Crimea, but there are a significant percentage Ukrainian and Crimean Tatar minorities.

The United States, the European Union and the United Nations (in A/RES/68/262) have called these elections invalid and have declared Russia's occupation of Crimea illegal. The conflict has since become a flashpoint, exacerbating tensions between Russia, the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). The tensions have resulted in a series of economic sanctions against Russia by Western countries. Following the annexation referendum, a United Nations human rights monitoring team was deployed to Crimea with a pending invitation to visit the capital, Simferopol; they were denied entry. In March 2014, Russia vetoed an otherwise unanimous Security Council resolution declaring the Crimean referendum invalid.

Elections were held in Ukraine in May 2014, and Petro Poroshenko was elected President. President Poroshenko announced that he would push for early parliamentary elections and would work to mend ties with Russia, with reconciliation contingent on Russia's recognition of Ukraine's territorial claim to Crimea. Even with these gains, violence continued in eastern Ukraine between Ukrainian forces and pro-Russia rebels. The violence intensified on 17 July when Malaysian Airlines flight MH17 was shot down over Ukraine, killing everyone aboard. Western States believed rebels in eastern Ukraine were responsible for the attack and responded with new sanctions on Russia, while the United Nations called for an independent investigation into the incident. Violence continued throughout the summer, with intensified fighting in the south and east near Russia's border, leaving thousands of people dead or displaced.

In September 2014, a ceasefire between Ukrainian forces and pro-Russia rebels was reached, however rebel communities in Crimea continue to refuse to acknowledge actions by the Ukrainian government. In February 2015, the Minsk Agreement was adopted by Ukraine, Russia and other interested parties to help stem the violence in the eastern portions of Ukraine. This Agreement contains provisions for a ceasefire, withdrawal of heavy weaponry by both sides to create a demilitarized zone and constitutional reform in Ukraine, among other things. The Security Council adopted Resolution 2202 on 17 February 2015, calling on all parties to implement the Minsk Agreement.

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THE SITUATION IN THE SUDAN AND SOUTH SUDAN

Violence and political unrest in Sudan and South Sudan has spanned several decades. Two rounds of north-south civil war since 1962 have cost the lives of over two million people. A continuing conflict in the western region of Darfur over political control, sovereignty, religion, and land and water rights has driven millions from their homes and killed hundreds of thousands. South Sudan, which seceded in 2011, has also experienced infighting between different ethnic groups. The government of South Sudan continues to struggle to put an end to violence within its borders. Fighting between government troops and rebel factions erupted into a conflict that had killed thousands and prompted millions to flee their homes by the time a tentative internationally-mediated peace agreement was signed in August 2015. Between Sudan and South Sudan lies the oil-rich Abyei region, which both States claimed as their territory following South Sudan's independence, leading to continued conflict and outbreaks of violence.

SUDAN, THE NORTH-SOUTH WAR AND DARFUR

Between 1983 and 2011, more than two million Sudanese died, four million were internally displaced and at least 600,000 fled the country as a result of the north-south civil war. The majority of the fighting was between the southern rebel force, known as the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), and the Sudanese government. In 2004 the United Nations Security Council approved a special Political Mission, the United Nations Advance Mission in the Sudan (UNAMIS), to facilitate contacts between involved parties and to prepare for the introduction of a United Nations peace support operation. In response to escalating violence in Darfur, the Security Council assigned additional tasks to UNAMIS, including: reinforcing efforts by the international monitoring team led by the African Union, activating inter-agency humanitarian mechanisms and facilitating the work of international monitors in the area. The Southern-aligned SPLM/A continued to clash with the northern Sudanese forces over southern autonomy and independence until 2005. In January 2005, a comprehensive peace agreement was reached between the government of Sudan and the SPLM/A, though South Sudan did not become independent for six more years. Also in 2005, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1590, creating the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) focusing on political support for the peace process, security, governance, and humanitarian and development assistance, among other goals. In 2006, the UNMIS mandate was expanded in the Darfur region to include a peacekeeping force of up to 18,600 troops to protect civilians, despite strong opposition from the Sudanese government.

Ethnic cleansing, systematic rape and the deaths of thousands have plagued the Darfur region. Despite United Nations efforts in the region, Darfur remains in a state of humanitarian and security crisis, with little to no progress toward ending the conflict. The United Nations estimates that around 450,000 people were displaced due to the violence in 2014 alone, placing the total number of displaced peoples at close to 2.5 million since the start of the most recent civil war in 2003. Following consultations in Ethiopia in November 2006, the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) augmented the existing African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) and deployed

mainly in the Jebel Marra area of North Darfur.

an unprecedented joint peacekeeping operation in Darfur: the African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID). UNAMID was originally authorized by Security Council Resolution 1869 in July 2007 with 19,555 military personnel, 6,432 police and a significant civilian component. The mission was reauthorized in June 2015 for one year. The United Nations reports that this year more than 200,000 individuals have been displaced due to attacks,

The International Criminal Court has alleged that Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir has been ordering the repression and ethnic cleansing of the Darfur region's non-Arab population (e.g., ethnic groups such as the Fur, the Masalit and the Zaghawa), resulting in genocide. The International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for President al-Bashir in 2009, but he refutes the charges and refuses to turn himself in. Following South Sudan's independence in 2011, the Sudanese government terminated the presence of UNMIS in Sudan, including the Darfur region. However, there is still a large UNAMID peacekeeping force present in Darfur, despite the Sudanese government's efforts to restrict its operations. In June 2015, the United Nations voted to remain in the Darfur region until June 2016. President al-Bashir won another five-year term in April 2015 in an election marked by low turnout.

SOUTH SUDAN

South Sudan gained independence from Sudan in July 2011. The 2005 peace deal that ended the Sudanese civil war stipulated that Sudan hold a referendum on independence. In the January referendum, 98.83 percent of election participants voted for independence. Following this vote, the United Nations Security Council established a new mission, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), to assist with the transition.

Ethnically-charged attacks broke out in South Sudan's Central Equatoria, Jonglei, Lakes, Unity and Upper Nile states, among others, in December 2013. The fighting has been primarily between the Dinka, President Salva Kiir's ethnic group, and the Nuer, the ethnic group of his rival, Riek Machar; it has been about ethnic and political differences, as well as an overall lack of resources (e.g., food, cattle, etc.). Within weeks almost 500,000 peoples were displaced within South Sudan and around 74,300 people fled to neighboring countries. These numbers continued to grow, with total displacement by the end of February 2014 reaching 900,000 people, 167,000 of whom crossed into neighboring countries. The number of civilians classified in the "acute" or "emergency" categories of food insecurity increased from 1.1 million to 3.2 million.

Despite the peace agreement, infighting between ethnic groups continues to cause unrest in the country. In 2014, in response to the severe humanitarian crisis, UNMISS reprioritized its mission toward the protection of civilians, human rights monitoring and support for the delivery of humanitarian assistance. United Nations peacekeepers are sheltering nearly 200,000 people at six protection sites in South Sudan, and more than 2.3 million people have been displaced since the fighting began in 2013.

Security Council Resolution 2206, passed in March 2015, outlines sanctions against South Sudan, including, but not limited to, a travel ban on South Sudanese entering other Member States and freezing South Sudanese assets in Member State territories. Since July 2015, thousands of South Sudanese refugees have been moved to the Abyei region between Sudan and South Sudan in response to the humanitarian and food crises in the South Sudanese state.

ABYE

The oil-rich Abyei Region is a disputed territory that sits between Sudan and South Sudan that has seen intense clashes between the governments of Sudan and South Sudan, as well as local ethnic groups, since 2008. As part of the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement, Abyei was scheduled to have a referendum in January 2011 to decide its fate, but it never took place, as Sudan and South Sudan disagreed on who should be able to participate. The Ngok-Dinka, a non-Arab ethnic group native to the southern part of the region, and the Misseriya, a nomadic Arab ethnic group from the northern part of the region, have long fought for control of the area. The Misseriya migrate south into Abyei from Sudan for half the year, seeking water and pasture for their cattle. Cattle raids, killings and revenge attacks are frequent and brutal in Abyei. The Misseriya have been known to abduct Ngok-Dinka children. The Ngok-Dinka held a unilateral referendum in 2013, voting to join South Sudan. Such an action would allocate the region's considerable resources entirely to South Sudan. This vote has never been recognized by the Misseriya tribe or by the Sudanese government. South Sudanese officials have been carrying out a diplomatic campaign to convince the international community to recognize the result of the 2013 referendum, with little success. In 2011 the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) was sent to monitor the implementation of a demilitarized zone in the region, as per Security Council Resolution 1990. In December 2015, the United Nations Security Council voted to extend UNISFA until May 2016.

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