



CHAPTER TWO

THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Members of the Security Council:

Belgium	Italy	South Africa
China	Panama	United Kingdom
Congo	Peru	United States of
France	Qatar	America
Ghana	Russian Federation	
Indonesia	Slovakia	

Representatives to the Security Council should note that the agenda provided is only provisional. The Security Council may discuss any international peace and security issue brought before it. For this reason, Representatives must have a broad base of knowledge on current events in the international community. Also, the overviews provided below are only current through the publication of this handbook. Many of the topics listed below will change significantly before the Conference, and Representatives should be familiar with the up-to-date situations. Periodicals are one of the best recommended sources available for day-to-day updates. These include among others: New York Times, UN Chronicle, London Times, Foreign Policy, The Economist and Keesing's Record of World Events.

Also, the UN Foundation's on-line daily newsletter, the UN Wire, is an excellent resource for timely information. Whenever possible, AMUN recommends that Representatives familiarize themselves with the most recent report(s) published by the Secretary-General on each situation, along with other UN documents. These can be found on the UN homepage under the Security Council documents section (www.un.org/Docs/sc/). Please note that the bibliographies for these topics focus primarily on UN sources, with some news sources provided for background on important aspects of the various situations.

Initial background research is provided below for each region, with one or two topics receiving a brief analysis. Security Council representatives are neither limited to the main topics discussed nor to any of the topics listed. Should world events move in a different direction from the topics provided in this handbook, the Security Council is welcome to discuss any peace and security matter which it desires.

Please note that draft resolutions should be written on the sub-topics of each regional area: i.e., resolutions would not be written about "Issues in Africa," but rather about "The Situation in Sierra Leone" or similar sub-topics within the region.

Issues In Africa

The Situation in Ethiopia and Eritrea

The future of the United Nations Mission in Eritrea and Ethiopia (UNMEE) remains uncertain as the border conflict between the two nations continues to simmer. UNMEE was deployed in 2000 as part of a peace agreement that ended the two-year conflict between the countries over a border dispute. As part of the agreement, an international boundary commission ruled on disputed segments of the border, including the contested town of Badme. The commission awarded the town to Eritrea in 2002, but Ethiopia disputed the ruling. In October 2005, the Eritrean government restricted UNMEE helicopter flights, prohibited night patrols, and ended demining operations, leading to an inability for UNMEE to monitor troop movements. In December 2005, the government ordered all American, Canadian, and European peacekeepers to leave the country. The Security Council called for Ethiopia to respect the boundary commission's ruling and for Eritrea to remove its restrictions on the peacekeepers, but neither side has seemed willing to cooperate.

In October 2006, over 2,000 Eritrean Defense Forces (EDF) troops entered the Temporary Security Zone with tanks, artillery, and anti-air guns. Ethiopia has also increased its military presence near the southern boundary of the Zone, deploying around 1,200 troops. In March 2007, Ethiopia contacted UNMEE, informing them of the presence of additional tanks and artillery in the region. Due to the restrictions placed on them, UNMEE could not confirm these reports.

Despite these developments, the number of cross-border incidents have been fewer over the last few months. UNMEE observers, however, report having to defuse a number of tense situations along

the border, and the Secretary-General reports that the moves made by both governments are consistent with a resumed confrontation. Recent terrorist attacks in Ethiopia have also exacerbated the situation, with Ethiopia alleging Eritrean involvement.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- How are the restrictions on UNMEE's movement affecting its mission?
- Do the changing conditions in the region require a change in the objectives of UNMEE? What would a renewal of violence mean for the region and for UNMEE?

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UN Documents:

- S/RES/1741
 S/RES/1710
 S/RES/1681
 S/RES/1670
 S/2007/250 - Progress Report of The Secretary-General on Ethiopia and Eritrea

UN Documents:

S/RES/1744
S/RES/1725
S/RES/1724
S/RES/1676
S/2007/259 - Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict in Somalia
S/2007/115 – Monthly Report of the Secretary-General on Somalia
S/2006/838 - Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in Somalia

The Situation in Somalia

Since 1988 Somalia has been wracked by a civil war. In 1992, a year after the fall of President Mohamed Siad Barre's government, the United Nations sent a force of 35,000 troops in Operation Restore Hope. While this mission initially made progress by 1994 American and European troops within the force withdrew. The UN Mission to Somalia, UNOSOM II, ended with the withdrawal of forces in 1995. The situation worsened over the rest of the 1990s, with the capital of Mogadishu divided between two rival warlords.

At the turn of the century, the situation began to appear more promising. In 2000, Abdikassim Salat Hassan was elected transitional president by various clan leaders in Djibouti. In 2002, the transitional government signed a cease-fire with 21 clan-based factions at talks sponsored by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). In 2004, a 275-member parliament chosen by clan leaders was sworn in Nairobi. The parliament met for the first time in February 2006.

Currently, the situation remains rather fragile. After militias loyal to the Union of Islamic Courts (UCI) took control of Mogadishu and southern Somalia, the Security Council, in S/RES/1725 (2006), authorized IGAD and the African Union (AU) to send a peacekeeping force to help prop up the transitional government. Prior to their deployment, Ethiopian forces helped engage the UCI militias, driving them out of Mogadishu with the assistance of the AU force. The Red Cross said this fighting was the worst in 15 years, and the UN estimated more than 320,000 Somalis fled the country between February and April 2007. Reports of Eritrea cooperating with the UCI militias complicate the situation further. Ethiopia has requested that the AU take over so they can remove their troops.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- Why has the Somali civil war persisted for so long despite significant international attention?
- What might differentiate a new UN mission from previous ones?
- How might Ethiopian and Eritrean involvement further complicate the situation?
- What might be done to help alleviate Somalia's humanitarian crisis?

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Gittleman, Jeffrey, "Somali Capital now Calm after Month in which 1,000 Were Killed," *The New York Times*, 28 April 2007.
Pflanz, Mike, "Refugee Crisis in Somalia Is Worse than Darfur, Says UN," *The Daily Telegraph*, 15 May 2007.
Turner, Mark, "UN Warned of Somalia Tragedy," *Financial Times*, 25 April 2007.

The Situation in Sudan

In 2003, a rebellion broke out in the Darfur region of Western Sudan. The rebels, called the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA), attacked government and military facilities throughout Darfur. After several successful raids, local militias, known as the Janjaweed, began to strike back at rebel held villages and territory. The conflict has resulted in the death of thousands of people and the displacement of hundreds of thousands more, leading the United Nations to declare it "the world's greatest humanitarian crisis." In response, the UN has attempted to provide aid to the refugees, but the high level of violence in the area impedes their efforts. Instances of armed men looting and attacking convoys and humanitarian workers continue to be reported.

Many NGOs and the United States believe the atrocities in Darfur constitute genocide. This declaration accompanied a more forceful approach to the violence. In 2004, following the signing of a cease-fire agreement, the African Union (AU) deployed a force of military observers to monitor the agreement, which was repeatedly violated. The AU observers were not authorized to intervene in the conflict but rather to document any attacks against civilians. By all accounts, the AU presence failed to reduce the violence in the region, with the observers becoming targets of attacks on several occasions. In March 2005, the Security Council referred allegations of war crimes in the region to the International Criminal Court, leading to charges against Sudan's Humanitarian Affairs Minister, Ahmed Haroun. The Security Council also imposed a limited arms embargo on belligerent parties in Darfur; however, this continued to permit arms transfers to the Sudanese government on the condition that they not be used in Darfur. That summer, the AU increased its presence with a 7,000 strong peacekeeping mission.

In May 2006, the Sudanese government signed a peace treaty with the SLA under intense pressure from the American and Nigerian governments. Various other rebel groups did not participate in the treaty and pledged to keep fighting. This has led to a continuance of violence in the region, exacerbated by a spillover of the conflict into Chad, which continued until a peace agreement signed in May of this year between Chad and Sudan. This has also significantly worsened the living conditions for the hundreds of thousands of refugees who had fled across the border into Chad. In late 2006, the Security Council called for a 17,300 strong peacekeeping force to be sent to the region. This plan has been indefinitely suspended due to Sudanese opposition. The continued presence of AU peacekeepers had no effect on the sustained level of violence. And in April 2007, several AU peacekeepers were killed.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- What is the proper role of the UN in an internal conflict of a Member State with a significant humanitarian dimension?

- What has caused the violence in Sudan to continue to escalate despite repeated bouts of diplomacy? What has limited the ability of the Security Council to take action? How might these factors be overcome?
- How might a UN peacekeeping mission be more successful than the AU mission? How would any differences serve your government's interests?
- Does your government consider the situation in Sudan genocide? If so, how does this affect how the Security Council should react?

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 S/2006/1041 - Monthly Report of the Secretary-General on Darfur

Issues In Asia

The Situation in the DPRK

In October of 2002, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) stunned the world by acknowledging that it had hidden a nuclear weapons program for years. In response, six interested parties (China, DPRK, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Russia, and the United States) set up a series of ongoing talks aimed at finding a resolution to the standoff. The talks initially made little progress. The United States then withdrew from the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) agreement, by which it provided energy aid with the ultimate promise of a pair of light-water nuclear reactors in return for a freeze on the DPRK's nuclear program. Shortly afterwards, the DPRK announced it was withdrawing from the Non-Proliferation Treaty, becoming the first nation in the world to do so. Many outside observers believe that the DPRK has since reprocessed a stockpile of plutonium from its nuclear facility at Yongbyon, which could give it enough nuclear material to make a small number of nuclear weapons.

The six party talks reached a series of apparent breakthroughs since 2003, but all have broken down. The five parties continue to

emphasize that their main goal is the complete dismantling of the DPRK's nuclear program.

On 13 February 2007, the six parties agreed on a set of Initial Actions to achieve the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and fully realize the September 2005 Joint Statement. The DPRK invited the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors in for discussions aimed at dismantlement and the US released Banco Delta Asia funds. The Banco Delta Asia funds in Macao had been frozen in 2006 when the US launched a crackdown on a DPRK attempt to launder counterfeit US currency through the world financial system, which triggered many other banks to cut ties to accounts linked to the DPRK. Funds were further frozen by Security Council Resolution 1718, to be kept so unless the DPRK suspended all activities related to its ballistic missile and nuclear weapons programs.

By the Spring, the DPRK had yet to invite the IAEA to begin shutting down the Yongbyon nuclear facility. The DPRK insisted that it first receive \$25 million from the once-frozen accounts, which have remained stalled because of a reluctance of reputable institutions to handle formerly blacklisted funds. The United States has agreed to find a bank to handle the transfer of funds to ensure that this step is met. The other parties will not follow with their next step, providing emergency energy assistance, until this happens

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- What implications does the United States' decision to unilaterally unfreeze the DPRK's accounts, mandated by a Security Council resolution, have on the negotiations process and the mandate of Security Council resolutions?
- How does the history of the DPRK's nuclear program affect the compromises made in the Non-Proliferation Treaty?
- How does the progression of the DPRK's nuclear program affect the negotiations over the Iranian nuclear program?

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- Sanger, David, "Money Shift Could Clear Way to Shut North Korea Reactor," *The New York Times*, 7 April 2007.

UN Documents:

- S/RES/1718
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Additional Web Resources:

- www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/world/dprk/6-party.htm - Global Security page on the Six Party Talks
- www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/Focus/IaeaDprk/index.shtml - IAEA in Focus: IAEA and the DPRK

The Situation in Iran

Although there have long been allegations of a secret Iranian program to develop nuclear weapons, these rumors took on a new life when an Iranian opposition group revealed two previously unknown nuclear sites in 2002. Iran has claimed that its nuclear program exists solely to provide electrical power, but the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) increased inspections aimed at determining whether or not Iran had a military nuclear program operating alongside its civilian program.

Over the past few years, the IAEA has found numerous instances where Iran failed to report nuclear activities and nuclear facilities to the IAEA. While the IAEA has confirmed Iran's ability to enrich uranium to low levels, the organization has admitted significant gaps in its understanding of the Iranian enrichment program.

France, Germany, and the United Kingdom (often known collectively as the EU3) held early negotiations with Iran. The Europeans sought to broker a deal that would allow Iran to develop nuclear reactors that would produce electric energy without allowing Iran technology that could later serve as the building blocks for a military program, such as the enrichment of uranium. The Iranians agreed to suspend controversial activities, such as enrichment, while the negotiations continued. In August of 2005, the negotiations reached a climax, with the EU3 making their final offer to Iran: a series of economic and political incentives to Iran in return for Iran's suspension of nuclear activities. Iran rejected the offer and resumed enriching uranium shortly thereafter.

In April 2006, President Ahmedinejad announced that Iran had "joined the nuclear countries of the world," and that Iran had no intention of giving up its right to enrich uranium as part of negotiations over its nuclear program.

While the SC has often been divided on the issues, the so-called "six powers" (the US, UK, France, Germany, Russia, and China) agreed in early June 2006 on a set of proposals for Iran, containing both incentives and disincentives for Iran to cease enriching uranium. At the same time, the United States offered to join the negotiations with the Europeans if Iran agreed to a freeze on uranium enrichment, while simultaneously rejecting an Iranian proposal for direct talks.

In a May 2007 report, Dr. ElBaradei, head of the IAEA, stated that Iran is ignoring Security Council resolutions, not allowing IAEA monitors to do their job properly, and continuing to enrich uranium. Since Iran had begun enriching uranium on a much larger scale, ElBaradei suggested a negotiated solution that would allow Iran to retain a limited enrichment program: "Instead [of enrichment suspension], the important thing now is to concentrate on Iran now taking it to industrial scale."

Following the report, the Security Council adopted a new resolution that includes banning arms exports, freezing assets, and restricting the travel of additional individuals associated with the nuclear program. The Council also requested a report from the IAEA within 60 days on whether Iran had established full suspension of its enrichment program. The resolution urges Iran to consider diplomatic options, but also warns that the Security Council could consider harsher measures. Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said Iran is ready to show flexibility in talks with Western powers, but says, "the only price we cannot pay is relinquishing the Iranian nation's right to acquire peaceful nuclear technology."

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- How does the presence of the Iranian nuclear program affect the implementation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty?
- What are appropriate actions for the international community to take with regard to Iran's nuclear program?

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- S/RES/1747
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S/RES/1696
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SC/8980

Additional Web Resources:

- www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/Focus/iaeaIran/index.shtml - IAEA in Focus: IAEA and Iran
- www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/world/iran/index.html - Global Security's page on Iran

The Situation in Iraq

Iraq is a frequent topic of discussion in the Security Council, but the Council's active role since the removal of Saddam Hussein's government in 2003 has been limited. While the UN was forced to withdraw much of its personnel in Iraq following the August and September 2003 bombings of its offices, its presence has increased again recently.

The Council's primary action since that time was to establish the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) on 14 August 2003, with the Council's annual review of the mission's work. Instrumental in the December 2005 elections, UNAMI has also been active in assisting the Iraqi government with political and economic development as well as in coordinating reconstruction and humanitarian assistance efforts. Ongoing violence, unfortunately, has served as a constant impediment to the successful work of UNAMI.

Questions to consider from your government's perspective on this issue include:

- What is the proper role of the international community in Iraq?

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