



American Model United Nations Conference Conference Alert 20-23 November 2021

01 October 2021

Update for Security Councils

Greetings from the AMUN Secretariat. While this update is primarily for students that will be on one of our Security Council simulations, it contains information that is relevant to everyone. Remember, even if your country does not have a seat on the Security Council, they may still be asked to appear there as a Party to the Dispute or be invited to speak if the Security Council holds an Open Meeting.

Update to Contemporary Security Council Topic Brief

In preparation for the Conference, the Simulations Staff for the Contemporary Security Council will be posting short situation reports, or topic updates, to the Security Council chapter of the online [AMUN Handbook](#). These will be listed directly under the Security Council heading at the top of the page. They will be posted on a regular basis, so please check the page occasionally.

The first update of 2021, regarding The Situation in Afghanistan, is [now available here](#). Please note that as they become available, new updates will be listed at the top of the [Security Council Topic Brief](#) in the AMUN Handbook.

A Commitment to Realism in the Security Councils

For AMUN, our conference isn't just fun, or a way to share our love of the United Nations: it's first and foremost an educational experience for all of our Conference attendees. The key to any educational simulation? Realism. Maintaining realism during a simulation is challenging, but nowhere more so than the Security Council. In the Security Council we have to balance our educational goals with the immediate impact on the simulation caused by Member States' actions.

To avoid frustration, we strongly encourage all Security Council participants to read our *AMUN Accords* post, [Why Realism Is Important: The Goals Of AMUN's Security Council Simulations](#) and understand AMUN's philosophies and goals behind running a Security Council simulation.

Understanding the Veto: The Power of the Permanent Five

One key difference between the Security Council and other UN bodies is the veto. Understanding the dynamics of the veto and how to work successfully in a room where one “no” vote can change the course of discussions is key to successfully navigating the UN Security Council. Read about the dynamics of the veto power in our *AMUN Accords* post, [Understanding the Security Council Veto](#).

Research Tips for Preparing for a Security Council Simulation

Part of the fun of being on the Security Council is the intense debates. The smaller membership size and the complicated topics make for engaging, and sometimes heated, discussions. The best way to prepare to participate is to have your research done. If you’re new to being on an AMUN Security Council, or more importantly, new to Model UN in general, here are some [key research tips](#):

1. **Read the Conference Materials** - AMUN provides topic briefs for all our simulations and the Security Council is no different. Find the Security Council topic briefs in our [AMUN Handbook](#).
2. **Understand how the United Nations Works** - Specifically, how the [Security Council](#) works, but having a deep understanding of the [UN Charter](#) and [Principal Organs](#) is also very helpful.
3. **Know Your Country** - You should, at a minimum, know and understand the basic contours of your country’s population, geography, social and cultural structure, alliances and trade partners, and governmental system. The most helpful tools? The UN’s [World Statistics Pocketbook](#), the BBC’s [Country Profiles](#) and the CIA’s [World Factbook](#).
4. **Do a Deep Dive on the Topics** - In the case of the Security Council, you should be intimately familiar with the topics outlined in the *AMUN Handbook* and also be well abreast of the current events (or the historical events leading up to the Council start date).
5. **Make a Conference Game Plan** - In other United Nations bodies, representatives usually work in smaller groups to write resolutions that address the issues, and these resolutions and the ideas they represent are then debated. In the Security Council, representatives debate the issues and negotiate agreements, then formalize those agreements through written resolutions. Make sure your game plan focuses on negotiations with other representatives. Know who has similar needs and wants and who approaches the issues differently than you. Know what you can compromise on and what you can’t.

Questions, Comments or Concerns?

If you have any questions about this email, please contact us directly at mail@amun.org and we will be happy to help. As always, if you are no longer the primary contact for your school’s Model UN club or class, please contact us at mail@amun.org with updated contact information or fill out our [Change of Address/Contact](#) form online.

Good Luck on Your Preparations,

Dr. Alexandra Middlewood

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