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About GTMUN

Conference History

The Georgia Tech Model UN High School Conference is a two-day conference for high school students on Georgia Tech’s campus, located in the heart of Atlanta. Established in 1998, GTMUN has strived to provide delegates with unique insight and perspectives into the most complex and pressing global issues faced by world leaders. GTMUN prides itself as being a venue in which the brightest minds in the region can come together to learn the significance of diplomacy, gain new perspectives on global issues, and gain a meaningful understanding of teamwork, leadership, and collaboration.

The conference has grown in size over the years and now attracts schools from the entire Southeast and beyond. Run by Georgia Tech students from a variety of majors, GTMUN offers a range of committees and issues for high school students to enjoy. Our Model United Nations simulation places delegates at the forefront of global issues and allows delegates to develop a profound understanding of the UN. Through negotiation, compromise, and shrewd manufacturing, students learn the process and challenges of diplomacy. GTMUN fosters these challenges by ensuring delegates accurately represent their countries and balance national interests with those of the international community.

2015 Secretariat

Should you have any questions or concerns throughout the conference please do not hesitate to seek out any member of the Secretariat or find a Staff Member to do so.

Andrew Hull  Secretary General

Andrew Hull is a fourth year Computer Science major with a minor in International Affairs. He has been involved with GTMUN since 2012 and previously served as Secretary General for GTMUN 2014. Andrew has managed the GTMUN website, overseen the development of the committees and topics, as well as developed the registration materials provided prior to the conference. He is the contact for high school programs and other external groups should there be questions or concerns prior to the conference. During the conference Andrew will be a liaison between the conference staff and faculty advisors.

Anna Malcom  Undersecretary General for Administration

Anna Malcom is a third year Nuclear and Radiological Engineering major with a minor in Scientific and Engineering Computation and has competed in MUN since 2010. Anna joined the collegiate team her freshman year in 2013 and currently serves as the Recruitment chair for the program along with her position as an Undersecretary. Anna has worked to develop the registration materials and conference information provided prior to the conference. Throughout the conference Anna will be available to answer any administrative concerns and will be ensuring the conference runs smoothly.
Laura Bernstein  **Undersecretary General for Crisis**

Laura Bernstein is a fourth year Business Administration major and Spanish minor. She first became involved with Model UN in high school as a delegate and has been an active member of the GTMUN conference since 2013, and has previously been the crisis committee director and Chief of Crisis. Laura has worked closely in the development of the committee topics and background guides and the development of the crisis committee for GTMUN 2015. During the conference she will work with the crisis staff to facilitate the crisis committee and will be available to answer any questions or concerns.

Jenilee Trew  **Undersecretary General for Policy**

Jenilee Trew is in her fifth year at Georgia Tech and is an International Affairs masters’ degree candidate who completed her Bachelors this past summer. Jenilee joined the Model United Nations Program at Tech in the fall of 2012 and has served as a committee Director, as well as Finance Officer, PR/Recruitment Officer, and currently serves as Operations Officer for the collegiate team in addition to her position as Undersecretary General for Policy. Jenilee has overseen the staff training and development of the rules of procedure for GTMUN 2015. During the conference she will be working with the staff to ensure committee sessions run smoothly and will be available to answer any questions that may arise.

Schuyler Cottrell  **Undersecretary General for Finance**

Schuyler Cottrell is a second year Mechanical Engineering major with a minor in International Affairs. He first became involved in Model United Nations as a freshman in high school as a delegate on his high school team, and immediately joined the GTMUN Program at the start of 2014. Schuyler has previously been a Director at GTMUN 2014 and is an active delegate on the collegiate team. He has worked closely in the development of the GTMUN budget and in handling conference finances. During the conference Schuyler will be available to answer any questions or concerns.

Vince Pedicino  **Faculty Advisor**

Vince first joined the Sam Nunn School of International Affairs in 1995 as an undergraduate student. He is currently the Graduate Advisor and provides student services support to all MSIA and PhD students as well as coordinates the graduate programs. He manages the registration process for all International Affairs and serves as a faculty resource on institute technology systems. He is also responsible for the School’s social media efforts and websites. Vince also proudly advises several of the departmental student groups including the Ambassadors program, the International Affairs Graduate Organization, the Model UN programs, and Sigma Iota Rho. Vince teaches courses on Comparative Politics and European Politics as well as the Model UN preparation course.
Conference Policies

In general, GTMUN expects and REQUIRES all delegates to act in a professional manner during his or her participation in this conference. The policies that are provided for delegates in this guide are intended to protect delegates while they are in the City of Atlanta and at Georgia Tech as well as to ensure that the conference is a good experience for everyone involved.

Respect

Delegates are to show respect to others at all times while participating in GTMUN. This means that all delegates should respect staff members, fellow delegates, faculty advisors, guests of the conference, Georgia Tech faculty, and anyone else that they come in contact with during the GTMUN Conference. This applies in all circumstances. Delegates are responsible for the manner in which they treat other delegates in caucus, the content of notes passed during committee, and all other ways in which they interact with others. Any delegate who is not respectful to other participants will not be considered for awards at the end of the conference. Any delegate who shows extreme disrespect, including vulgar notes, will be asked to leave the conference and will become the responsibility of their advisor.

Location

The dates that have been chosen for GTMUN are days that Georgia Tech does not have classes. For that reason, the number of Georgia Tech students who will be on campus during the conference will be less than that of a typical day of class. However, there will be a large number of students that live on campus that will have continuous access to some of the same buildings that will be in use during GTMUN. Delegates are not to associate with these students under any circumstances. Delegates are also required to remain in their respective debate areas at all times. Committee directors will assign locations where caucusing is acceptable, and will closely monitor those places. This is for the protection of all delegates. In addition, the staff requires that delegates wear their credentials at all times. Delegates are not allowed to remove them for lunch, caucus, or for any other reason. Any delegate that leaves the building without express permission from their Director will be asked to leave the conference. The location for the 2015 conference is the Scheller College of Business located at Tech Square. There will be security present at all times, and the building is handicap accessible.

Dress

The dress for GTMUN is Western business attire. All delegates at GTMUN are expected to be dressed appropriately, and there are no exceptions to this rule. For men, a blazer or business suit is appropriate. A business suit is often best; tuxedos, while excellent for formal social events, are not recommended for a business conference. For women, skirts or slacks with a blouse, or dresses are acceptable, provided that the tops are not excessively low-cut, and that the skirts are not short. Dresses and skirts should still be professional; prom dresses and dresses for other social events are not proper attire for a formal conference. Jeans, shorts, athletic shoes, sandals, or t-shirts are not acceptable under any circumstances. All decisions concerning the acceptability of a delegate’s dress will be made solely at the discretion of the GTMUN Secretariat, and delegates dressed offensively will be expected to leave the conference.
Technology

The GTMUN Conference has a NO TECHNOLOGY policy, unless you are a participant of the Press Corps committee. Delegates are not to use laptop computers, tablets, or cell phones in committee. Should a delegate be seen using any of these technologies at any point during the conference, he or she will receive a warning from the committee Director. Should the behavior continue, the Director will contact the Secretary General to inform the faculty advisor for further action. If a delegate needs to use their cell phone for an emergency purpose they may inform the committee Director and will be permitted to step outside to make the appropriate phone call. Should a delegate require the use of technology due to a disability, he or she will be allowed access to the technology. Faculty advisors must notify the Secretariat prior to the conference about the student with the disability and their technological needs so that we may make appropriate accommodations.

Preparation

The GTMUN Conference asks all delegates to do the appropriate research in order to be sufficiently prepared for debate. All delegates will be asked to write a Position Paper on each topic presented in their committee background guide and submit it prior to the conference start. It should also be noted that it is AGAINST GTMUN policy to accept pre-written resolutions. While it is expected for the delegates to be well versed in the opinions and policies of the nation they represent, any pre-written resolutions, clauses, or amendments will not be accepted by the Dias. Delegates attempting to use pre-written documents may not be considered for awards.

Consequences

GTMUN is only successful if delegates gain knowledge and experience from their participation in the conference. It is very important, therefore, that the GTMUN staff carefully and quickly handle any situations dealing with delegate behavior during the conference before they hinder the ability of another to effectively participate. Inappropriate behavior will not be tolerated. If a delegate persists with inappropriate behavior after a warning, GTMUN staff will notify the delegate’s faculty advisor. GTMUN also reserves the right, in extreme circumstances, to bar a delegate from further participation in the conference if necessary. The delegate will be placed under the supervision of the faculty advisor in such a case.
Things to Remember

Location/Parking Map

- GTMUN 2015 will take place from October 12-13, 2015.
- GTMUN 2015 will take in the Scheller College of Business at Georgia Tech, located at 800 West Peachtree, NW Atlanta, Georgia 30308 in Tech Square.
- It is located adjacent to the Barnes and Nobles Book Store, and across the street from the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center.
- The entrance to Scheller is located on West Peachtree Street. All other entrances will be locked for security purposes.
- There will be security present throughout the conference and conference identification must be worn visibly at all times.
- Parking is located adjacent to the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center. Parking passes were purchased with registration or you can pay for parking by taking a ticket when you enter and paying the daily fee upon exiting. The deck is marked on the above map and is accessible from Spring St.
- There are numerous dining options within walking distance of Scheller along 5th Street including Ray's New York Pizza, Barrelhouse, Waffle House, Tin Drum, Chuck's Famous Sandwiches, Moe's Southwestern Grill, Gyro Brothers, Subway, Yogli Mogli and Starbucks.
GTMUN 2015 Rules of Procedure

1. These Rules of Procedure are considered adopted by the Assembly prior to its first meeting.
2. Interpretation of these Rules shall be reserved exclusively to the Secretary General and his or her designate(s).

Rule 1

Dates of Convening and Adjournment

The Assembly shall meet every year in regular session commencing and closing on the dates designated by the Secretary General. The dates shall be October 12-13 2015.

Rule 2

Place of Sessions

The Assembly shall meet at a location designated by the Secretary General. The meeting location shall be The Scheller College of Business, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, Georgia.

Rule 3

Invitation to Silent Prayer or Meditation

Immediately after the opening of the Assembly, the Director may invite the representatives to observe one minute of silence dedicated to private prayer or meditation.

Secretariat

Rule 4

Composition of the Secretariat

The Secretariat will be composed of the Secretary General, Undersecretary General for Administration, Undersecretary General for Policy, Undersecretary General for Crisis, and Undersecretary General for Finance. All Directors, Assistant Directors, and Staff Members are considered designates of the Secretariat.

Rule 5

Statements by the Secretariat

Any member of the Secretariat, at any time, may make oral or written statements to the body concerning any question under consideration.

Dais
Rule 6

Composition of the Dais

The Dais shall be comprised of the Director and Assistant Director(s) of the committee.

Rule 7

The Director

The Secretariat shall appoint a Director who shall hold office and chair the committee for the duration of the session, unless otherwise decided by the Secretariat. If the Director finds it necessary to be absent during a meeting or any part thereof, the Assistant Director will assume the role of Director.

Rule 8

General Powers of the Director

In addition to exercising powers conferred upon him/her elsewhere in these Rules, the Director shall declare the opening and closing of each meeting of the session, direct the discussions, ensure observance of these Rules, accord the right to speak, put questions to a vote, and announce decisions. He or she shall rule on points of order and, subject to these rules, shall have complete control of the proceedings at any meeting and over the maintenance of order. The Director may, in the course of discussion of an item, propose to the Assembly the limitation of the time to be allotted for speakers, the limitation on the number of times each representative may speak, the closure of the list of speakers, or the closure of debate. He or she may also propose the suspension or the adjournment of the meeting or the adjournment of debate on the item under discussion. The Director may also, for any reason, rule any points or motions dilatory or out of order.

Rule 9

The Assistant Director

The Secretariat shall appoint at least one Assistant Director who shall hold office and co-chair the committee for the duration of the session. The Assistant Director shall serve as Acting Director in the absence of the Director, unless otherwise decided by the Secretariat. Alternatively, if the Assistant Director is unable to perform his or her functions, a new Assistant Director shall be appointed for the remainder of the term at the discretion of the Secretary General or his or her designate.

Conduct of Business

Rule 10

Official and Working Language

English shall be the official and working language of each committee. Any representative wishing to address the body or submit a document in a language other than English shall
provide simultaneous translation into English and, for a speech, be afforded an equal amount of time to introduce the translation in addition to the original speech.

**Rule 11**

**Quorum**

The Director may declare a meeting open and permit debate to proceed when representatives of at least one-third of the members of the committee are present. The presence of a majority of the members shall be required for any decision to be taken.

**Rule 12**

**Provisional Agenda**

The provisional agenda shall be drawn up by the Secretary General and communicated to the members of the Assembly at least forty-five days before the opening of a session.

**Rule 13**

**Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda provided by the Secretary General shall be considered adopted as of the beginning of the opening session. Motions to reorder the agenda shall be accepted and debated in each committee. The Director may limit the allowed number of speakers for debate upon the order of the agenda. At any time, delegates may move to set the agenda and each motion shall immediately be put to vote. Majority vote of those present in the body shall determine the order of the agenda items.

**Rule 14**

**Speeches**

No representative may address the committee without having previously obtained the permission of the Director. The Director shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak. The Director may call a speaker to order if his or her comments are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

**Rule 15**

**List of Speakers**

Members may be on the list of speakers once but may be added again after they have spoken. After the initial establishment of the list of speakers by the Director, any representative wishing to be added to the list must submit, in writing, their request. Any representative has the right to make a motion that the list of speakers be closed or, if already closed, reopened. This motion is not subject to debate, and requires the support of the majority of members present to pass. If the list of speakers becomes exhausted, formal debate automatically concludes and the committee proceeds directly into voting procedure.

**Rule 16**
Time Limit on Speeches

The Director may determine the initial time limit for speakers. The committee may, by a majority vote, limit the time allotted to each speaker and/or the number of times a representative may speak on a question. Before a decision is taken, however, two representatives may speak in favor of, and two against, a proposal to set such limits. When a delegate exceeds the allocated time, the Director shall call him or her to order without delay.

Rule 17

Yields

If a speaker concludes his or her substantive speech before the allotted time has expired, he or she may yield the remaining time to the Director, another Speaker, or to Questions.

Rule 18

Points of Order

To correct an error in procedure, a representative may rise to a point of order during the discussion of any matter. The Director, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, shall immediately decide on the point of order immediately. A representative may appeal against the ruling of the Director to the Director General by informing the Director in writing. A representative rising to a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion.

Rule 19

Points of Personal Privilege

Any representative may rise to a point of personal preference if the noise in the chamber is too loud, the speaker cannot be heard, if the temperature of the room is uncomfortable, or for some similar reason. If and only if a question requires immediate action may a representative exercising a point interrupt the current speaker.

Rule 20

Points of Information

Any representative may rise to a point of information to direct a question, concerning procedure, to the chair. The point may concern a clarification regarding the Rules of Procedure, the United Nations, or the direction of the proceedings. This point is in order only when the floor is open to formal debate.

Rule 21

Rights of Reply

If a remark impugns the integrity of a representative’s State, the Director may permit a right of reply following the conclusion of the controversial speech, and shall determine an appropriate
time limit for the reply. No ruling on this question shall be subject to appeal. Requests for any rights of reply must be submitted to the Director in writing.

Rule 22

Moderated Caucus

During the discussion of any matter, a delegate may move for a Moderated Caucus, or a suspension of the formal rules of debate, by specifying a time limit, speaking time and a topic. Such motions shall not be debated upon, but shall be immediately put to a vote, requiring the majority of the members present, or present and voting, to pass. The Director shall moderate the committee and set all limitations during the specified time period.

Rule 23

Unmoderated Caucus

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move for an Unmoderated Caucus, or suspension of the meeting, specifying a length of time for the suspension. Such motions shall not be debated upon, but shall be put to a vote, requiring the support of a majority of the members present, or present and voting, to pass.

Rule 24

Tabling of a Topic

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move for tabling the topic of debate. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives favoring and two representatives opposing tabling the topic, after which the motion shall be put to an immediate vote. If a motion for tabling of the topic passed by two-thirds of the members present, or present and voting, the topic is considered dismissed and no action will be taken. The committee shall immediately proceed to consider the next agenda topic.

Rule 25

Closure of Debate

A representative may, at any time, move for the closure of debate on the item under discussion. Permission to speak on the motion shall be accorded only to two representatives opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put to a vote. Closure of debate shall require a two-thirds majority of the members present, to pass. If the committee favors the closure of debate, the committee shall immediately move to voting procedure on all proposals introduced under that agenda topic.

Rule 26

Adjournment of the Meeting

During the discussion of any matter, a representative may move for the adjournment of the meeting. This motion requires no debate and shall be put to a vote, requiring the support of a
majority to pass. After adjournment, the committee shall reconvene at its next regularly scheduled meeting time; adjournment of the final meeting shall adjourn the session.

**Rule 27**

*Order of Motions*

Motions before the committee shall have precedence in the following order:

1. To suspend the meeting,
   a. Unmoderated Caucus
   b. Moderated Caucus
2. To adjourn the meeting,
3. To table the topic of discussion,
4. To close debate on the item under discussion, and
5. To suspend the rules.

**Rule 28**

*Working Papers*

Working papers shall be submitted to the Director, with the names of at least four sponsoring members and a minimum total of ten members recognized by the Secretariat who would like to see the committee consider a working paper, unless specified by the Director. A working paper shall retain the required number of sponsors to remain in debate and shall be written in the correct format. The Secretariat may, at its discretion, approve the working paper for circulation of copies to the delegates. The Director, however, may permit the discussion and consideration of working papers without such working papers having been circulated. The Director, at his or her discretion, may also set a limit to working papers that may be introduced.

**Rule 29**

*Sponsorship of Working Papers*

Working papers must have a minimum of four sponsoring members and a minimum of ten signatory members wishing to see the committee consider the proposal, unless specified by the Director. Observer delegations may not be counted as sponsoring members of proposals; observer delegations may be counted as a signatory member.

**Rule 30**

*Withdrawal of Motions and Working Papers*

Any motion made may be withdrawn, by its sponsoring representative, from the floor before it is entertained by the Director and action taken upon it. Likewise, the sponsors of a working paper may withdraw their working paper at any time before voting procedure has commenced, provided that no amendments have been submitted for the working paper. A motion or working paper thus withdrawn may be reintroduced by any representative.
**Draft Resolutions**

Once a working paper has been approved by the Dais, it shall be typed and numbered. Any member of the Committee can move to introduce the Draft Resolution at which point it will be distributed to the committee as a draft resolution. This does not require a vote. Immediately following its distribution the Sponsors will receive a right to a five-question question-and-answer session with the committee to facilitate discussion. Only draft resolutions, alongside any amendments to the draft resolution, may be considered during voting procedure.

**Rule 32**

**Amendments to Draft Resolutions**

Substantive amendments to draft resolutions may be submitted to the Director. The Secretariat may, at its discretion, approve the amendment for circulation of copies to the delegations. The Director, however, may permit the discussion and consideration of amendments without such amendments having been circulated.

**Rule 33**

**Procedure for Amendments to Draft Resolutions**

If all of the sponsors agree to the adoption of a proposed amendment, the draft resolution itself shall be modified accordingly and no vote shall be taken on the adoption of the proposed amendment. A document modified in this manner shall be considered as the proposal pending before the body for all purposes, including subsequent amendments.

**Voting**

**Rule 34**

**Voting Rights**

Each Member State with full membership of each committee shall have one vote on all substantive and procedural matters. Each Observer Delegation of each committee shall have one vote on all procedural matters. Observer Delegation members do not have a vote on substantive matters.

**Rule 35**

**Majority Required**

Unless specified elsewhere in these Rules, procedural decisions of the committee shall be made by a majority of the members in attendance of the committee. Substantive decisions of the committee shall be made by a majority of the members in attendance that cast an affirmative or negative vote with all abstentions disregarded from the majority calculation.

**Rule 36**

**Meaning of the Phrase “Present and Voting”**

For the purpose of these Rules, the phrase “members present and voting” shall mean the members casting an affirmative or negative vote. All members must cast an affirmative or
negative vote on all procedural motions. However, on substantive motions members may abstain from voting, provided they are not recorded on the roll as “present and voting.” Members who abstain from voting are not considered as voting.

Rule 37

Method of Voting

Committees shall normally vote by a show of placards, but any member may request a roll call vote on any item of substantive consideration. The roll call vote shall be taken in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members. The name of each member shall be called in any roll call, and one of its representatives shall reply, “Yes,” “No,” “Abstain,” or “Pass.” The results of voting shall be listed in the record in the English alphabetical order of the names of the members. Only one pass is allowed per delegation per vote, and any member wishing to pass relinquishes their right to abstain from the vote. Any member may also request to adopt an item of substantive consideration by acclimation. Such motions shall not be debated upon, but shall be put to a vote, requiring no opposition to pass. However, a motion for a roll call vote during voting procedure shall take precedence over a motion to adopt by acclimation.

Rule 38

Conduct During Voting

After the Director has announced the beginning of voting, no representative shall interrupt the voting except to a point of order in connection with the actual process of voting. The Director may permit members to explain their vote, either before or after the voting if a request has been submitted, in writing, before the commencement of voting procedure. The Director may limit the time to be allowed for such explanations. The Director shall not permit any sponsor of a proposal or amendment to explain his or her vote on his or her own proposal or amendment. Explanations shall be permitted only if a member has voted in a manner contrary to what was made apparent during debate.

Rule 39

Assembly During Voting

At the beginning of voting, the page system will be suspended and entry into the chamber will be prohibited. The permitted assemblage in the committee room during voting procedure will be composed of the Dais of the committee, all full members of the committee, all observer delegation members of the committee, and any members of the Secretariat.

Rule 40

Voting on Draft Resolutions

If two or more draft resolutions are related to the same topic, the committee shall vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted.

Rule 41

Voting on Amendments
When an amendment is moved to a draft resolution, the amendment shall be voted upon first. When two or more amendments are moved to a draft resolution, the committee shall vote on the amendments in the order they are received. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended draft resolution shall then be voted upon. A motion is considered an amendment if it adds to, deletes from, or revises part of the draft resolution without having the full support of all sponsors of the draft resolution.

Rule 42

Division of Draft Resolutions and Amendments

Immediately before a draft resolution comes to a vote, a representative may move that sections of a draft resolution or amendment be voted on separately. The motion for division shall be voted upon, requiring the support of a majority of the members present and voting to pass. Permission to speak on the motion for division shall be given only to two speakers in favor and two speakers against. The Director may limit the time allowed for these speeches. At the completion of these speeches, the committee shall move to an immediate vote. If the motion for division is carried, each section of the draft resolution or amendment that has been divided shall be substantively voted on separately. If a majority of the members present vote in favor of the divided sections of the draft resolution or amendment, the sections are returned to the draft resolution or amendment as an annex. If a majority of the members present vote against the divided section of the draft resolution or amendment the section will be considered rejected by the committee. If all operative sections of the draft resolution or amendment have been rejected, the entire draft resolution or amendment shall be considered rejected.

Security Council

Rule 43

Security Council Working Papers

Working papers in the Security Council must have a minimum of at least three sponsoring members, including at least one permanent member, and a minimum of five signatories.

Rule 44

Security Council Voting

Passage of any substantive item of consideration in the Security Council shall require the approval of at least nine members with no negative votes from all permanent members.
The United Nations Security Council

Description of Committee

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was established with the ratification of the UN Charter in 1945 following the end of the Second World War. The UN Charter established the six main organs of the United Nations, with the Security Council having the primary responsibility to maintain international peace and security. According to the Charter, the UNSC has four primary purposes:  

1. To maintain international peace and security;
2. To develop friendly relations among nations;
3. To cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights; and
4. To be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations.

Additionally, the UNSC has certain powers that no other UN Body has such as creating peacekeeping operations, enacting international sanctions, authorizing military action, and passing binding resolutions that all UN Member States must adhere to.

Because the UNSC is able to produce binding resolutions, the body generally follows a specific course of action to help mediate conflict. When the council first hears of a threat to peace it will usually recommend for the involved parties to reach an agreement through peaceful means by setting forth principles for such an agreement; undertaking an investigation and mediation, and in some cases, dispatching a mission, appointing special envoys, or requesting the Secretary-General to use his offices to achieve a specific settlement of the dispute.

If a dispute leads to hostilities, the UNSC has the power to issue ceasefire directives that can help prevent an escalation of the conflict. The UNSC may also dispatch military observers or a peacekeeping force to help reduce tensions, separate opposing forces and establish a calm in which peaceful settlements may be sought. The UNSC is able take measures towards enforcement such as: economic sanctions, arms embargoes, financial penalties and restrictions, travel bans, severance of diplomatic relations with the involved parties; a physical blockade or even collective military action.

Membership and Voting

Membership

The UN Security Council is made up of 15 UN Member States. Five of the members sit permanently on the UNSC. These nations are People’s Republic of China, France, Russian Federation, The United Kingdom, and The United States of America. The other ten members are chosen on rotating basis. They are voted to the UNSC by the General Assembly for a period of two years.

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1 "What is the Security Council."
2 Ibid.
3 Ibid.
4 Ibid.
Additionally, non-council members (states that are not currently sitting on the UNSC) may be present at a meeting. They may participate, without a vote, in its discussions when the UNSC considers that that country’s interests are affected. Both Members and non-members of the United Nations, if they are parties to a dispute that the UNSC is discussing may be invited to take part in the discussions. The UNSC will set specific conditions for participation by a nation that is not a UN member to participate.

Voting
It is important to remember that the five permanent members of the UNSC have the right to veto during voting. This means that for a resolution to be passed by the UNSC the five permanent members must unanimously agree to vote yes.

**Current Members**

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Topic 1:

Preventing Non-State Actors from Acquiring Nuclear Weapons
Topic One: Preventing Non-State Actors from Acquiring Nuclear Weapons

Introduction

The development of the atomic bomb led to an era of fear as government officials, scientists, and private citizens alike realized that weapons of mass destruction could fall into the hands of dangerous terrorist groups or rogue regimes. It is no surprise that nuclear weapons are deemed to be the most dangerous weapons on Earth. They have the capability to destroy a whole city, potentially killing millions and jeopardizing the lives of future generations through its long-term catastrophic health effects. Even though nuclear weapons have only been used twice in our world’s history (both times by the United States of America to end the Second World War in 1945), about 22,000 nuclear weapons are reportedly still present today and there have been over 2,000 nuclear tests conducted to date.\(^1\) Given these massive numbers, the concern turns to the safeguarding and protection of the weapons such that dangerous organizations and individuals do not come to possession of these weapons. However, as it currently stands, there is no mandate in place by the Security Council to ensure that the nine states that have claim to nuclear weapons properly safeguard the weaponry against non-state actors such as terrorist organizations.

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\(^1\) "UNODA - Nuclear Weapons Home." UN News Center.

* Iran maintains that it is enriching uranium for civilian energy purposes only, but the International Atomic Energy Agency says Iran has not been cooperating enough for the agency to verify whether the intent is solely for peaceful means. As a result, the U.N. Security Council and a number of Western nations have placed economic and arms-related sanctions on Iran.

However, amongst the nine states that have access to weapons of mass destruction, it is safe to say that none would knowingly provide a terrorist organization with nuclear weapons. Not
only is it irrational for a nation to hand over its most powerful weapon to terrorist organizations over which it has no definitive control, but the weapons themselves could likely be traced back to their country of origin. For this reason, retaliation against the supplying state would be devastating and anticipation of this fate deters countries from giving nuclear weapons to terrorists. That said, however, the greatest threat lies in the possibility that a non-state actor could steal a nuclear weapon or the materials needed to make one. According to Mohamed ElBaradei, Chief of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the number of reported nuclear thefts is "disturbingly high" and this only further emphasizes the need for a swift response from the international community to deter possible future nuclear threats from non-state actors.

**Topic History**

In order to understand the threat of acquisition of nuclear weapons by non-state actors, it is important to consider the history of nuclear weapons as a whole and evaluate how each country maintains their nuclear facilities. As a way to deter the threat of nuclear weapons, the Treaty of Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was approved in 1968 and entered into effect on March 5, 1970. Not only is the NPT the central international mechanism for non-proliferation and disarmament, but it also is the only legally binding international commitment by nuclear-weapon states to the goal of nuclear disarmament. Only a few decades after ratification, however, the treaty was soon endangered as the Soviet Union dissolved and the Soviet nuclear arsenal and materials were spread across the territory of 11 states outside the control of the Russian governments. In addition to the fall of the Soviet Union, other incidents further verify that the threat of nuclear weaponry did not simply fade away as the Cold War came to a close.

During the Cold War (1947-1991), tensions between the United States of America and Soviet Union created fear of a nuclear exchange with horrendous consequences for mankind. In the aftermath of the Soviet Union’s demise, however, the nature of the nuclear threat has shifted. While the possibility of nuclear war between two nation-states should not be discounted entirely, the current reality is that terrorist groups, rather than organized militaries, are the entities most likely to execute a nuclear attack. Thus, in the aftermath of the Cold War, and particularly in the post-9/11 era, the nuclear threat facing the world shifted the possibility of terrorist organizations stealing or receiving nuclear assets from nuclear-armed states, and using those assets to execute a nuclear attack.

**Current Situation**

In his 2008 annual report to the U.N. General Assembly, Chief Mohammed ElBaradei said there were nearly 250 reported thefts of nuclear or radioactive material worldwide during the twelve-month period ending in June 2008. Though, of course, a terrorist nuclear weapon could originate from any of the

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3 Joseph Cirincione, A Global Assessment of Nuclear Proliferation Threats.
nine states that currently possess a nuclear arsenal, three states, in particular, stand out as the most likely to serve as the source of a terrorist-controlled nuclear weapon: The Russian Federation, Pakistan, and The Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK).

The Russian Federation
In Russia, the threat lies primarily in the form of terrorist groups stealing nuclear materials from Russian facilities. The questionable security of Russian nuclear facilities has its roots in the immediate aftermath of the Cold War, when the Soviet collapse left Russia with the responsibility of securing the USSR’s vast nuclear arsenal, a task for which the emerging Russian Federation was vastly underprepared. Recognizing the threat that a porous Russian nuclear complex posed to international security, the United States has, in the years since the end of the Cold War, partnered with Russia in a variety of nuclear security initiatives in order to reduce the threat of nuclear theft from Russian facilities. However, while the security of the Russian arsenal is undoubtedly better than it was twenty years ago, much work remains to be done.

Pakistan
Among supplies most susceptible to nuclear theft, Pakistan’s current stockpile of 60 nuclear weapons and related facilities is considered to be at risk given the presence of Al Qaeda operatives in Pakistan and the country’s problematic nuclear security system. In Pakistan, the threat of nuclear materials falling into terrorist hands is a multi-faceted danger, composed of several different scenarios, such as insiders within the Pakistani nuclear program providing nuclear assets and knowledge to terrorist groups, a terrorist group stealing nuclear materials from a Pakistani facility, or a radical Islamist group seizing control of the Pakistani government and nuclear arsenal through a coup or even though democratic elections.

In response, the Pakistani government has utilized a range of measures, with varying degrees of success, to enhance the physical security of its nuclear facilities and prevent illicit collaboration between nuclear personnel and terrorist groups. In addition, the Pakistani government has engaged with the US government on several nuclear security initiatives, though a lack of transparency between the two governments has hindered the effectiveness of these programs.

The Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea
The nuclear threat from the DPRK manifests itself primarily in the possibility of the Kim regime providing nuclear assets to terrorist groups, either directly or indirectly. In the past twenty years, the DPRK has had a decidedly antagonistic relationship with the global nuclear nonproliferation regime, a relationship that when coupled with the country’s isolation on the diplomatic stage, has raised concerns that the Kim regime may feel that it has nothing to lose by proliferating nuclear weapons. The United States has responded to this threat by both engaging with the DPRK in diplomatic talks, and by overseeing interdiction efforts to prevent the DPRK from spreading its nuclear assets to outside agents.

Clearly recognizing the threat that nuclear proliferation poses to global security, the international community has, over the course of more than fifty years, constructed a framework to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons through the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and creation of the International Atomic Energy Agency. However, these treaties are limited in the scope of their power and thus threats of nuclear proliferation to non-state actors continues to pose a very real international threat.

**Directive**

As representatives of the Security Council, this body shall strive to create a joint resolution addressing the threat of nuclear proliferation to non-state actors. Focus should be given to states whose own political instability attributes to a nuclear arsenal susceptible to theft, chiefly the Russian Federation, Pakistan, and the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea. While these countries are at the heart of this controversy, however, it is important to still keep in mind that no country should be overlooked in discussion with regards to nuclear security, especially those that are marred by political and/or economic instability.

A primary issue to consider when discussing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction within member states is state sovereignty. Amongst other powers, the Security Council has the ability to send United Nations Peacekeeping Troops or employ reconnaissance drones. Such actions are often deemed unfriendly and infringement of sovereignty in certain states. For this reason, it is important to consider a multi-pronged approach when discussing this issue as to receive support of a larger portion of the body.

Another factor to consider is that since the adoption of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the international community has rigorously pursued two objectives: convincing non-nuclear-weapons states to forgo membership in the nuclear club, and convincing nuclear-weapons states to reduce or limit the size of their arsenal. Thus, not only should discussion be focused on how to safeguard nuclear weapons from current non-state actors who pose threats, but also how to prevent further proliferation of these weapons to other states. Nonproliferation efforts that directly address state motivations are the most likely to succeed. On that note, it’s important to consider the limited scope of punishment for non-state actors. Most nonproliferation measures directed at states, such as sanctions and export controls, may not be effective against non-state actors. They may, however, be viable against states that support terrorists groups that seek nuclear weapons.

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Bibliography


Topic 2:

Instability in West Africa and the Middle East Caused by Boko Haram and ISIS
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Introduction

In the past year, Boko Haram and ISIS have both risen to prominence as two most widely referenced Islamic militant groups. Both follow the Islamic phrase, which says, “Anyone who is not governed by what Allah has revealed is among the transgressors.”

Boko Haram is an Islamic sect that believes politics in northern Nigeria has been seized by a group of corrupt, false Muslims. It wants to wage a war against them, and the Federal Republic of Nigeria, to create a pure Islamic state ruled by Sharia Law. Tactics employed by government security agencies against Boko Haram have been consistently brutal and counterproductive. Their reliance on extrajudicial execution as a tactic in dealing with any problem in Nigeria not only created Boko Haram as it is known today, but also sustains the group and gives it fuel to expand. The group will continue to attack softer targets in the northeast rather than international targets inside or outside Nigeria. It is also likely to become increasingly involved in the Jos crisis, where it will attack Christian indigenes of the north and try to push them out. Such a move would further threaten to destabilize the country’s stability and unity.

ISIS, also referred to as the Islamic State or Daesh (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant), works with aim of creating an Islamic State, referred to as a Caliphate, across Sunni areas of Iraq and in Syria. ISIS is known for killing dozens of people at a time and carrying out public executions, crucifixions and other acts in the name of Sharia Law. It has taken over large swaths of northern and western Iraq. The group currently controls hundreds of square miles. It ignores international borders and has a presence from Syria’s Mediterranean coast to south of Baghdad.

Topic History

Boko Haram
Founded in the 1990s as a religious study group, Boko Haram did not begin to transform into the insurgent group it is today until Mohammed Yusuf assumed control. Calling themselves the Nigerian Taliban, Boko Haram established a camp in a remote area of northeast Nigeria. From the early 2000’s to 2009, Boko

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1 Dr. Alfonse Javed. “The United Front of ISIS, Boko Haram and Al-Qaeda…”
2 In reference to the Catholic Bishop of Jos in Central Nigeria
Haram engaged in low-level conflict with local police forces and non-compliant villagers. In 2009, a crackdown on Boko Haram members from Nigerian police forces in Borno state erupted into fighting. On July 26, 2009, sect members launched an attack against a police station in Bauchi state, resulting in the death of 39 Boko Haram members, two police officers, and one soldier. This ignited a five-day standoff between Boko Haram and security personnel that led violent attacks and battles across the three northern Nigerian states and culminated in a final battle in the city of Maiduguri in Borno state. On July 30, 2009, the battle of Maiduguri ended when Nigerian security forces captured and killed Boko Haram’s leader, Mohammed Yusuf, in what human rights groups have deemed an extrajudicial killing. The death of Yusuf marked a turning point for Boko Haram and forced the group underground.

**ISIS**

“The only law I subscribe to is the law of the jungle” – Abu Muhammed al-Adnani

The self-styled Islamic State is an accident of history, emerging from multiple social, political and economic tensions in the Middle East and beyond. It has challenged the territorial divisions imposed on the region following the collapse of the Ottoman Empire by carving out for itself a large area of territory. Ultimately, its impact will flow as much from its challenge to established concepts of government, national sovereignty, and national identity. The causes of ISIS’s unrestrained extremism lie in its origins in Al-Qaeda in Iraq, founded by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who was killed by American operatives in 2006. The US-led invasion and occupation of Iraq caused a rupture in an Iraqi society already fractured by decades of war and economic sanctions. The United State of America’s destruction of Iraqi institutions, particularly its dismantling of the Baath Party and the army, created a vacuum that unleashed a fierce power struggle and allowed non-state actors, including Al-Qaeda, to infiltrate the fragile political system.

**Current Situation**

*Boko Haram*

In the recent decade, Boko Haram re-emerged, radically more violent and determined to seek vengeance against the Nigerian state for the execution of Mohammed Yusuf. In June 2011, Boko Haram militants bombed the police headquarters in Abuja and two months later carried out a well-publicized suicide attack against the nearby United Nations headquarters.

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3 Matthew Levitt, Interview with Bernard Gwertzman, “The Hezbollah Connection in Syria and Iran.”

4 Joseph Holliday, “The Assad Regime From Counterinsurgency to Civil War.”

5 Fawaz A. Gerges, “Isis and the Third Wave of Jihadism.”

Despite the international outcry following the U.N. bombing, Boko Haram’s attacks have continued. Since that time, the organization has embraced international Jihad. Since August 2011, Boko Haram has planted bombs almost weekly in public or in churches in Nigeria’s northeast. The group has also broadened its targets to include setting fire to schools. In March 2012, some twelve public schools in Maiduguri were burned down during the night, and as many as 10,000 pupils were forced out of education. Most recently, however, Boko Haram has caused international outcry with their kidnapping of 276 Nigerian girls from a boarding school in the northeastern town of Chibok. The kidnapping resulted in the popular “Bring Back Our Girls” social media movement, which pushes lawmakers to take definitive action against the Islamic militant group.

ISIS

It was the fall of Mosul in 2014 that granted the Islamic State of Syria and ISIS its moment of glory and it will be the fate of the “City of Prophets” again in 2015 that will ultimately determine the fortunes (or lack of) for the radical group.

The defeat of the self-proclaimed Caliphate must involve recapturing Mosul. In more than one way, ISIS’ litmus test in 2015 will be the fate Mosul, says Bruce Riedel a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and director of the center’s Intelligence Project. Mosul is the largest territory governed by ISIS, and is the bread and butter for the group. In a nutshell, Riedel says if ISIS loses Mosul “it will be all decline from here...and if they hold it, then the group and its state are here to stay for the foreseeable future.”

7 Joyce Karam. "ISIS in 2015: All Eyes on Mosul."
Directive

As the Security Council, this body shall strive to create a joint resolution addressing the growing threat of both ISIS and Boko Haram in the Middle East and West Africa respectively. There are numerous opportunities available for Security Council Member States to make meaningful interventions to ameliorate the conflict and its consequences. By focusing on particular aspects of the situation – opposed to trying to address it in its entirety – the Security Council should be able to identify and collaborate on issues where progress is possible and needed. The situation in Syria is dire and in need of leadership at every level. If unaddressed by the UN’s most powerful body, the political, security, and humanitarian consequences of the Syrian conflict could haunt the international community for decades to come.

A few ideas to consider is to possible increase intelligence collected on Boko Haram and ISIS through the use of reconnaissance drones or other such methods. In recent years, Al-Qaeda affiliates and allies have dramatically increased their presence and operational activity throughout Africa. This has left much of the international community faced with an increasingly diverse and deadly adversary, in an environment with limited resources to combat the threat. To better form ideas for resolutions in your discussion, consider the following questions in your research:

1. What can be done to assist the millions of refugees and those in need of humanitarian assistance?
2. How should the international community respond to the violence throughout this region?
3. What can the governments in West Africa and the Middle East do to lessen the conflict?
4. Should the United Nations Security Council authorize Peacekeepers to be sent to this region?
Bibliography


