



4th Annual High School Conference

March 1-2, 2019

United Nations Security Council

Greetings delegates, I will be your chair for the Security Council for OUMUN this year. I am looking forward to seeing all of you debate and discuss the topics we have selected for you this year. This is my second year on Oakland's Model UN team, but this will be my sixth year participating in Model UN functions. This will be my fourth time staffing a conference, and second time doing so for OUMUN. While being on the dais, I hope to see you all actively participate and engage as the conference progresses.

Even though we want you to think creatively, there are also some expectations to maintain throughout the conference. Respect to everyone is very important in this conference. Although we would like for you to be creative in these solutions and resolutions, it is important to maintain a focus on what the UN would be doing today. Therefore, it is important to research to gain knowledge on the topics discussed during the conference, along with information that can help guide you on how your country maintains their position on those said topics. Understanding the rules before coming to the conference will also be very beneficial, although it is important to continue to ask questions when needed. The last expectation we have for you is to participate. I know it can be scary to speak in front of your peers and put yourself out there, but the positive environment will allow you to be comfortable in communicating your knowledge and ideas.

My peers and I will be evaluating your performance over the next few days on how you participate as a delegate. This background guide will not only let you know how we evaluate you but also some background on the topics you will be debating. The issues we will be discussing are important and relevant to the international community and the United Nations today. It is important to stay focused throughout the event and maintain a maturity that these topics deserve. Although this letter to you may seem a little serious, I want you all to have a fun and positive experience throughout OUMUN. I know Model UN has changed my life for the better, and I hope you have similar experiences as well.

Introduction to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

The United Nations Security Council is one of the most influential and powerful bodies within the United Nations. With its 15-member states, the UNSC is a body which can pass legally binding resolutions that help maintain international order and peace. There are many influential members of the Security Council, especially the Permanent 5-member states with veto power, the UNSC tries to maintain its diversity by allowing nations to sit on the UNSC with them from different regions of the world. The P-5 countries have permanent seats in the Security Council, which include the United States, the People's Republic of China, France, the United Kingdom, and the Russian Federation. The other ten members rotate every two years, five countries switching every year. The UNSC helps determine where the resources need to go to maintain international security and peace, but it also has the power to impose sanctions and authorize the use of force to restore international order.

Conflict in the Middle East: Israel and Palestine

Background

The debate about the State of Israel and the Palestinian Authority (PA) has been discussed in the UN Security Council since 1948 on many occasions, including topics like The Question of Palestine and the Conflict in the Middle East. As a result of World War Two, a deal was made to allow the Jewish population to settle in the land now called Israel. This caused tension in the region because there were many regions and states that have important religious ties there, especially Palestine. When the violence first erupted in the area, the Security Council ordered a cease-fire and deployed UN peacekeeping forces and military observers into the region.¹ It became an important mission for the UNSC to continue to work towards peaceful settlements for all of the people in the region, which led to Resolution 242 (1967), which established borders for both sides and Palestine rejected, and Resolution 338 (1973), that called for the immediate termination of military activity and to start negotiations for peace. Many Palestinians live in bordering countries as refugees, accumulating to about five million refugees from the 750,000 Palestinian refugees in 1950.² The Security Council has also pushed for a two-state resolution with secure and recognized borders. In 2011, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas submitted the application for UN membership for the Security Council's review. Although there have been many UN actions that have attempted to prevent conflict in the Israeli-Palestinian region, violence has continued to plague the people who live there.

International Attention

As of 2017, the United States of America has decided to move their embassy in Israel to Jerusalem from Tel Aviv, causing international backlash towards the nation. Although there were many countries that were angry and disappointed at the US from moving its embassy to Jerusalem, there has been a wave of countries that have decided to do the same. The Australian Prime Minister

¹ <https://www.un.org/unispal/data-collection/security-council/>

² <https://www.unrwa.org/palestine-refugees>

announced that the Australian government would recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, although they would not move their embassy until there is peace in the region.³ There have been other countries who are considering to acknowledging Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, including Brazil and Guatemala.

The United States has also taken the steps to withdraw from funding the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). The Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas condemned the action and called it “an attack on the rights of the Palestinian people” (Duncan). In previous years, the US contributed about 30% of the budget for this UN agency.⁴ This agency also helps the Palestinian refugees in boarding countries, including Jordan and Lebanon. Also, on December 21, 2018, Palestinians have protested on the Israeli-Palestinian border for 39 straight weeks as a part of the Great March of Return movement.⁵ The demonstrators are calling for the right for Palestinian refugees to return peacefully to their country and ending the Israeli blockade.

Egypt has taken diplomatic efforts to help establish peace in the Gaza Strip between Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and Hamas. In the Gaza Strip, Hamas and the PA government have been disputing who has control. President Abbas dissolved the Palestinian Legislation (PLC), which caused Hamas to reject the claim and add tension in the region.⁶ Egypt has had a blockade on the border of the Gaza, but in 2018 Egypt began to partially open its border, which was encouraged by both Hamas and Israel.⁷ Egypt has also been working with both the Palestinian Authority and Hamas to help negotiate peace with both groups while trying to negotiate relations with Israel as well.

The Russian Federation has also allowed a meeting to be scheduled with the Hamas leaders. Although it was canceled, Russia has invited at met with Hamas leaders frequently in the past. Russia has increased its involvement with the Israeli and Palestinian conflict, which Israel and the Palestinian Authority have highly discouraged the move. The Russian Federation also increasing its efforts in the region because of worsening relations between



³https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-46576716?intlink_from_url=https://www.bbc.com/news/topics/c207p54m4rqt/israel-the-palestinians&link_location=live-reporting-story

⁴<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/palestine-unrwa-israel-refugees-united-nations-trump-administration-a8518651.html>

⁵ <https://www.aljazeera.com/podcasts/thetake/2018/12/gaza-39-straight-fridays-protests-181221224010498.html>

⁶ <https://www.jpost.com/Arab-Israeli-Conflict/Egyptian-officials-meet-Hamas-Haniyeh-in-effort-to-defuse-Gaza-crisis-576994>

⁷ <https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-says-egypt-will-reopen-border-crossing-as-pressure-builds/>

the United States and Palestine.⁸ Israeli and Russian relations have been tense because during an Israeli airstrike a Russian aircraft over Syrian territory, and Israel denies it was them.

UNSC Action/ Resolutions

The United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 2334 in 2016 to inform the international community its position on the topic of the Israel and Palestine. Resolution 2334 reaffirms the UNSC position that there have been illegal Israeli settlements on Palestinian land since 1967 that is decreasing the likelihood of a two-State solution.⁹ The resolution also calls for both parties to put forth efforts into the promotion of peace and security. Although there have not been many new resolutions that have come out from the Security Council in the last few years, there still have been many statement and actions the UN has made in the past few years. On August 27, 2018, there was a call from the General Assembly for the Secretary-General to urge the Security Council to continue efforts for more actions on establishing peace in the Palestinian-Israeli region.

In 2018, Kuwait submitted a draft resolution that was vetoed by the United States in a vote 10-1-4 that condemns Israeli action in the Palestinian territory. It deplores any actions that provoke violence in the region and calls on all actors in the conflict. The failed resolution also calls for the end of the restrictions that Israel has created in the Gaza Strip for humanitarian aid in accordance with international law. Although this is a failed resolution, it shows the tone for many of the nations on the Security Council and how action on the part of Israel and Palestine is an important step towards peace. The resolution also encourages steps for intra-Palestinian reconciliation.¹⁰

On November 12, 2018, the representative of Israel sent a letter to the Security Council on the “terror attack” that have been committed by the Palestinian based group Hamas, the largest assault since 2014. The letter calls for the Security Council and the United Nations to condemn the actions of Hamas and the attack on Israel’s civilian people. Israel also stated that their country issued a counter-attack, targeting Hamas strongholds in the Gaza Strip.¹¹

Issues for the Security Council

Although there have been numerous efforts by the United Nations to decrease the tension between Israel and Palestine since 1948, there is still an abundance of violence between the government of Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and Hamas. A framework for a two-state solution has been crafted in the past, but initiating peace in the region to help establish this plan still has a long way to go. Every year there are thousands of people killed because of the violence, and although there have been multiple attempts by the United Nations through the Security Council and the General Assembly, it is important to continue the discussion until the conflict is resolved.

Questions to Consider

⁸ <https://www.timesofisrael.com/hamas-leader-says-he-has-been-invited-to-moscow/>

⁹ <http://www.un.org/webcast/pdfs/SRES2334-2016.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/draft-security-council-resolution-on-protecting-civilians-in-gaza-s2018516-vetoed/>

¹¹ http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2018_1012.pdf

- How can the UN Security Council take steps to help deescalate the situation in Israel and Palestine?
- Is the two-state solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict effective and can it be improved?
- Should there be stricter international efforts on dealing with the Israeli government? Palestine?
- Is there any new laws or action that the international community create to encourage the peace between Israel, Palestine, and Hamas?

References

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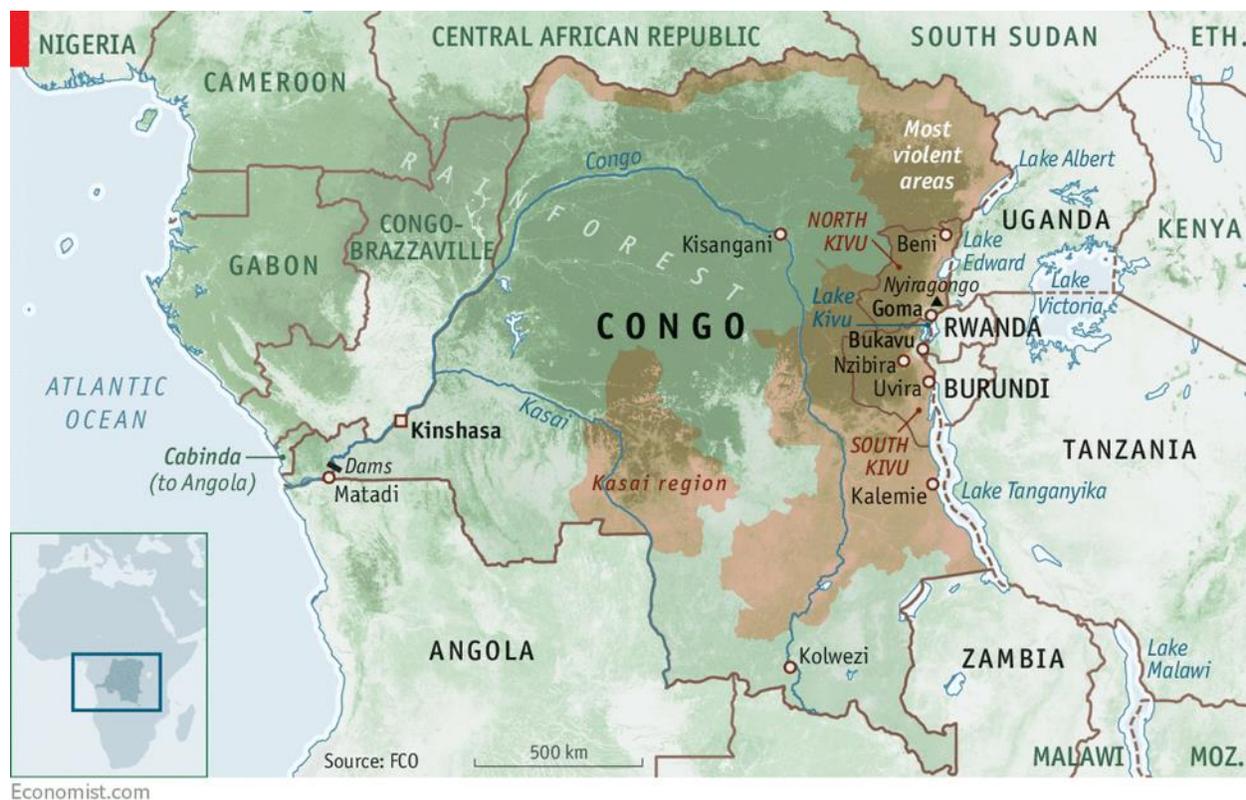
<https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/>

<https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/israelpalestine/>

<http://www.un.org/webcast/pdfs/SRES2334-2016.pdf>

Situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has a long history of political instability, especially in the east. The power of the central government is ever changing and for the most part local militias and rebel groups have controlled most areas outside the capital, Kinshasa. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is also home to vast mineral wealth including zinc, tin, diamonds, cobalt and gold. Much of the Congolese government's tax revenue comes from the mining of these resources, but conflict over this wealth funds much of the ongoing fighting and instability, as local militias fight to maintain control of the mines and the workers who operate them and smuggle illicitly produced "conflict minerals" out of the country.



The Democratic Republic of the Congo has also been shaped by external conflicts in neighboring states which have crossed their borders. The Second Congo War (1998-2003) was the bloodiest conflict since World War II, resulting in the deaths of an estimated 5.4 million people. It began in the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide in 1994, when over two million Rwandans fled to eastern Congo to live as refugees. When these refugees began attacking Rwanda, Rwandan forces invaded the Democratic Republic of the Congo multiple times. Local warlords and militias took advantage of the chaos to plunder villages, commit rape on a massive scale and seize diamond and mineral mines. Troops from many of the Democratic Republic of the Congo's neighbors took part in the fighting to help the government.

The conflict formally ended in July 2003, when the Transitional Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo took power under the Global and All-Inclusive Agreement between the Congolese government and several of the most powerful rebel and opposition groups, including indigenous rebel factions such as the Movement for the Liberation of the Congo and the Congolese Rally for Democracy. However, most of these rebel groups never fulfilled the terms of the agreement, fearing centralization of power.

In 2000, the Security Council established the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) to monitor a cease-fire agreement. In July 2010, MONUC was superseded by the United Nations Organization and Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). At over 18,000 peacekeepers, MONUSCO is currently the largest UN peacekeeping force in the world and likely the most experienced in

combat. A joint offensive between MONUSCO and Congolese forces defeated a rebel group known as M23 in late 2012, after the Security Council changed MONUSCO's mandate to include protecting civilians and monitoring human rights abuses.

President Joseph Kabila, who took power in 2001 when his father Laurent Kabila was assassinated, is now in the seventh year of a five-year term that began in 2011. According to Congolese law, President Kabila was required to hold an election in 2016 and is barred from running again. He did not hold the election as scheduled. On 31 December 2016, the national government and most prominent opposition parties signed the Comprehensive and Inclusive Political Agreement in Kinshasa. The agreement called for "peaceful, credible, inclusive and timely elections" no later than December 2017 and a peaceful transition of power. President Kabila has delayed or refused to implement much of the agreement. No elections took place in 2017.

In January 2018, mass protests erupted against Kabila's failure to step down, mostly at Catholic churches in Kinshasa and other major cities. Kabila used the Congolese police, which he controls, to crack down on the protests. These crackdowns used beatings, teargas and, in some cases, live ammunition, to kill and intimidate protestors. Hundreds of arrests were made.

In December 2018, the United Nations Security Council urged "continuous dialogue and transparency" to make sure that trust is maintained until elections are held in the country.¹² Elections were scheduled for December 23 were delayed by the National Independent Electoral Commission in the country. Human rights violations have been on the rise since 2015, with violations being committed by both armed groups and the army (FARDC). In the Maii and Lubero territories from January 2017 to October 2018, the UN has documented 324 summary executions, 832 victims of torture and degrading treatment, 173 incidents of rape, and 431 victims of forced labor, with the civilian population being the largest victim.¹³ These activities have also affected emergency response to the Ebola epidemic in the Kubero region, spreading the disease. The country's last democratic transfer of power was in 1960. The country has seen violence since its liberation from Belgian rule seventy years ago.¹⁴ The violence has also begun to threaten the mineral rich area of Katanga, which has 50 to 60 percent of the world's reserves of cobalt, an important mineral for both U.S. and European national security.¹⁵ Refugees have been fleeing to surrounding nations including: Uganda, Tanzania, Angola, and Zambia.

The UN has previously discussed imposing of sanctions against the country due to violations of international humanitarian law, has tried to put in place the Agreement and the restoration of trust among the different parties in preparation of elections, and has condemned the violence in the

¹² <https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/12/1029241>

¹³ <https://monusco.unmissions.org/en/un-reports-hundreds-human-rights-violations-security-situation-north-kivu-deteriorates>

¹⁴ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/12/1028991>

¹⁵ <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/democratic-republic-congo/2017-10-13/worsening-crisis-congo>

region along with violence against MONUSCO peacekeepers.¹⁶ On December 7, 2017 15 Tanzanian peacekeepers were killed in an attack staged by the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF).¹⁷

Even outside of the protest crackdowns, the humanitarian situation degraded significantly in 2017. Over two million Congolese were forced to flee their homes, mostly in rural areas, where over 70 rebel groups fight each other and attack civilians. The number of internally displaced people now sits at 4.3 million.

On 27 March 2018, the Security Council renewed MONUSCO's mandate, reaffirming the Council's "strong support" for the Comprehensive and Inclusive Political Agreement. In renewing the mandate, the Council focused on the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the country, with 13.1 million people in need of humanitarian assistance and 4.49 million internally displaced persons and examined MONUSCO's ongoing role in supporting the election process.

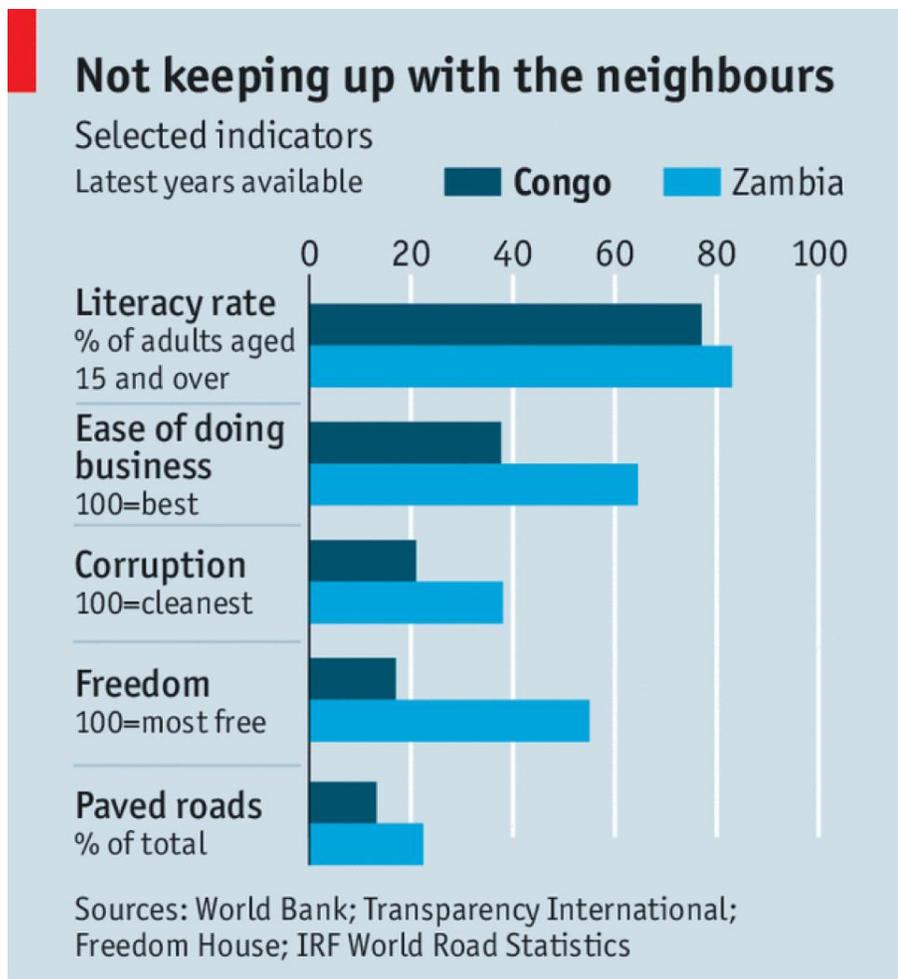
In January 2019, the government shut down the country's internet service, isolating the nation from the rest of the world. According to officials, this move was to keep order after fake election results were circulated on social media, and that it would remain offline until results were posted January 6. The United States, European Union, Canadian and Swiss diplomats called on the Congolese government to refrain from shutting down means of communication. This move comes after an election seen as a defeat for ruler Joseph Kabila. The shutdown cuts off thousands of Congolese refugees from contact with their relatives and stops insight into the ongoing humanitarian catastrophes in the country.

When Ebola was eradicated from the country previously, it required cooperation on global health as epidemics cannot be solved with unilateral solutions. The Ebola outbreak in the country is the second-deadliest and second-largest in history. Prolonged insecurity in the country could lead to a further rise in Ebola cases, some of which have been reported close to the Ugandan border.¹⁸ Even though Ebola responders have never had so many tools at their disposal to fight the virus — experimental vaccines and treatments that have shown promise — the incidence of the disease has more than doubled since September. Even worse, many of the newly diagnosed cases cannot be linked to other known cases. That means there are still people spreading the disease whom health officials have not yet identified. There is also a problem with burial rituals in the nation, where families touch the body of the deceased further spreading the disease.

¹⁶ [http://undocs.org/S/RES/2409\(2018\)](http://undocs.org/S/RES/2409(2018))

¹⁷ <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-congo-un/rebels-kill-15-peacekeepers-in-congo-in-worst-attack-on-u-n-in-recent-history-idUSKBN1E21YK>

¹⁸ <https://www.cnn.com/2019/01/02/health/ebola-600-cases-africa-intl/index.html>



Economist.com

Due to the ongoing conflict in the region, the US government has decided it's too dangerous to allow its top Ebola experts to work at the outbreak's epicenter. The US has maintained this stance despite outcry from public health officials who say the US isn't doing enough to help. At least 400 infants and children have been orphaned or left on their own when their parents or caregivers contracted Ebola and were taken to treatment centers or died. UNICEF and partners have opened a crèche next to the treatment facility in Beni, providing nutritional care and psychosocial and educational support for Ebola-infected children, orphans and unaccompanied children.

After elections were held on December 30, the National Electoral Commission released the results that Felix Tshisekedi had won, Martin Fayulu came in second, and Emmanuel Shadary was last. The runner up, Fayulu, insists he won the vote and wants a manual recount of results.¹⁹ Troops have been sent to Fayulu's residence as he has accused Tshisekedi of making a deal with Joseph Kabila. Thousands of people have been in the streets either celebrating the results or protesting them. In Kikwit, due to the clash of emotions at least two policemen and two civilians have been

¹⁹ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-46850690>

killed. Several hundred protesting students were dispersed by tear gas in another town called Mbandaka. The United Nations Secretary General has urged all sides to “refrain from violence.”

Questions To Consider

How can you eradicate Ebola within the DRC?

How can you stop the spread of the disease into surrounding nations? What can be learned from the eradication of the disease in other nations, including Nigeria and Senegal in 2016?

How can you stop the spread of Ebola into other nations, specifically regarding peacekeepers?

Should more peacekeepers be brought into the DRC?

How can peace talks be continued?

How will you deal with the unequal distribution of wealth in the country?

How will you get the country to remain honest about election results?

How will you deal with the humanitarian crisis?

Where will the refugees from the country go?

How will you get the country, and candidates, to accept the election results?

References

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/12/102924>

<https://monusco.unmissions.org/en/un-reports-hundreds-human-rights-violations-security-situation-north-kivu-deteriorates>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-46850690>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/12/1028991>

<https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/democratic-republic-of-the-congo/>

Reminders for Security Council

Unlike other committees at this conference, Security Council has an open agenda. This means that this committee is not bound to the two topics listed above, and delegates could potentially discuss other issues based on current developments that happen in the next coming months. While the Israel-Palestine Conflict and the Situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo will be the main topics of focus and should receive the majority of your attention, please also be up to date on the following issues:

- Situation in Yemen

- Situation in Myanmar
- North Korea
- Situation in Syria

These are some of the most relevant issues happening in the world today, but another issue could be discussed that's not on this list depending on what happens in the world. The best advice to delegates is to stay up to date on current events. Below are a list of links that will aid delegates in their research of these other topics.

<https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/country-regional-issues>

<https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world>

<https://www.nytimes.com/section/world>

<https://www.economist.com>

Lastly, remember that the Security Council can often benefit from calling in unrepresented states and actors to address the body. This is allowed under OUMUN rules. It should be easy to imagine possible actors you could invite in on these issues, and if the committee believes hearing from these actors would be useful, we encourage you to call them in and ask them questions.