



United Nations Security Council

President's Letter

Oakland University Model United Nations

March 27-28, 2020

Welcome Delegates to the Oakland University Model United Nations conference! I am excited to be your Chair for the United Nations Security Council. Briefly about us: your Chair, Justin Kellner, is majoring in Public Administration in a joint program that will ultimately result in a Masters of Public Administration. Additionally, he is minoring in International Relations, where he has been fortunate enough to participate in Model U.N. during this past academic year. Joining as your Co-Chair is Tanner Trafelet. Tanner is majoring in International Relations and Economics, and minoring in Spanish Language. He has participated in Model U.N. for two years.

This committee will be grappling with tough issues in often unstable corners of the world. The United Nations stands as an institution in which nations may come together to, hopefully, arrive at peaceful solutions to these complex questions. As such, having a solid

understanding of the rules and procedures will allow us to work as effectively as possible.

Delegates are expected to be familiar with the processes we utilize to facilitate debate and make progress on our issues. While asking for clarification is always acceptable, the more prepared delegates are from the beginning, the more successful this committee will likely be.

Additionally, Delegates are reminded to keep in mind who they are representing and how those nations would act on the world stage. It seems from past experience that when Delegates embrace the spirit of the nations they are representing, these committees are not only more fun to be a part of, but everyone will walk away with a more rewarding experience. We look forward to chairing this committee and seeing what idea delegates bring to the table.

Because of the importance and urgency of each topic in the Security Council, each topic will have a set timeframe for discussion. Each session, one of the three topics will be discussed and then discussion on that topic will be closed at the end of the session. We encourage you to remain on topic in your discussion and be productive in order to reach satisfying conclusions for each topic.

More information about each committee, rules of procedure, and policies for the conference can be found at the [conference website](#).

Introduction to the United Nations Security Council

The United Nations Security Council is ultimately responsible for “the maintenance of international peace and security”, as outlined in article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations.¹ Consisting of 15 nations, the UNSC has 5 permanent members and 10 non-permanent members who are elected to serve by the General Assembly. While all 15 members of the Security Council share equal power while casting votes, the five permanent members hold the ability to veto any

¹ <https://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-v/index.html>

resolution with a single vote, these members are; France, The People's Republic of China, The Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States.² Typically, the Security Council will discuss topics that could be considered flash points for escalating conflicts. During 2019 the UNSC took up matters such as "The situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela" and created the "United Nations Mission to support the Hodeidah Agreement", which supports ceasefire efforts in Yemen.³ This year at OUMUN, the Security Council will be focusing their efforts in three areas; the situation in Libya, the situation in Venezuela, and India and Pakistan.

Libya (Friday Night)

Commonly referred to as the Libyan Crisis, the tensions that have spawned Libya's current state of conflict began with the Arab Spring Protests of 2011. During the Arab Spring, Libya became enveloped in a visceral civil war, leading to foreign military intervention, and to the overthrow and execution of Libya's leader, Muammar Gaddafi. In the years following Gaddafi's death, many armed militia groups struggle for control of Libya, resulting in the declaration of the Second Libyan Civil War⁴.

The initial post-Gaddafi government, the Transnational Council, created and relegated authority to the General National Congress (GNC). In June 2014, Libyan voters chose a new body of leadership, the House of Representatives (HoR). Much of the conflict today is centered around the implementation of the Libyan Political Agreement⁵, which was endorsed by U.N> Security Council Resolution 2259. Many smaller militant factions exist within Libya, seemingly changing allegiances upon whims of convenience, and violently ending most local peace talks in

² <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/highlights-2019>

³ <https://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-v/index.html>

⁴ <https://www.cfr.org/interactive/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/civil-war-libya>

⁵ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ly.html>

their stages of infancy. The U.N. brokered a ceasefire in 2015⁶, effectively returning control of Libya's most vital resource, Oil, to the majority government. The creation of a unified government, pacification of Libya's smaller militant groups, and stabilization of the Libyan economy are areas of key interest for the United Nations Security Council.

The U.N. and Libya have made significant strides towards creating a unified Libyan government, that will be able to represent all the people of Libya, and stabilize the nation's internal affairs. The 2015 ceasefire, known as the "Libyan Political Agreement", has been a point of much dissension between Libya's warring groups⁷.

Many small militant groups in Libya have risen to prominence in recent years. Even the major coalitions have faced internal fragmentation and division, leading to even more armed groups vying for control of Libya. Using the country's state of disunity to their advantage, many militant Islamist groups have begun operations in Syria. Most notably Anshar al-Sharia, which while officially disbanded in 2017, still use violent tactics to inspire and lead other militant groups in their endeavours to conquer Libya⁸.

The Libyan economy's most important resource, oil, has only recently been stabilized. But going forward, the Libyan economy must diversify if the people of Libya are to be no longer impoverished. While seemingly not a U.N. Security Council matter, Libya presents a unique situation. Nearly all of Libya's resources, meaning human resources, natural resources, factors of production, are underdeveloped, or unjustly used by military groups for the benefit of only the controlling militant group. Identifying vital areas of the Libyan economy, and how to protect them for the betterment of all Libyan people, is a foremost concern of this council.

⁶<https://news.un.org/en/story/2015/12/517442-libya-un-envoy-urges-endorsement-political-agreement-way-forward-peace-unity>

⁷ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ly.html>

⁸ <https://charityandsecurity.org/country/libya/>

Questions to Consider:

- How do the interests of nations intervening in Libya affect the peace-process?
- What type of peace should be brokered between the factions within Libya?
- What is the role of UN peacekeepers within Libya?
- What types of intervention by country are most likely to worsen the situation within Libya?

Additional Resources:

- [UNSC Resolutions](#)
- [CIA World Factbook](#)
- [Human Rights Watch: Libya](#)
- [Associated Press \(AP\) News](#)

Venezuela (Saturday Morning)

The state of decay and uncertainty within Venezuela began during the former presidency of Hugo Chavez. Following a decrease in oil prices (oil being Venezuela's most lucrative export), recent government improvements in the areas of poverty, literacy, income inequality, and quality of life fell away. To combat these governmental shortcomings, the self-proclaimed Marxist Chavez declared an "economic war" on Venezuela's upper classes⁹. This is arguable the starting point of today's Venezuelan Crisis.

The hand-picked successor of Hugo Chavez, Nicolas Maduro's most recent election brought the plight of Venezuelans into the national spotlight. The election itself was boycotted

⁹ <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/venezuelas-chavez-era>

by a majority of the parties who oppose Maduro's United Socialist Party, and considered fraudulent by many international organizations. This election was highlighted by imprisonment, exile, and prohibition of opposition leaders from running in the election by Maduro's regime. Additionally, the Maduro government prohibited international observation of the election, called the election prematurely, and used tactics to convince Venezuelans that they would lose their jobs and social welfare if they did not vote for Maduro. The U.N. Security Council must work negotiate relations between Maduro and the opposition government, resolve conflicting geopolitical interests with its own members, and prevent violent conflict from arising between conflicting parties within Venezuela.

A National Assembly opposing Maduro was elected in 2015, and a movement towards recalling Maduro began in 2016. Maduro responded by using the Supreme Tribunal to remove power from the National Assembly, creating a constitutional crisis and prompting protests. There now exists a state of extreme tensions between the military-backed Maduro presidency, and the popularly elected government of Juan Guaido.

The main export of Venezuela, oil, is a highly coveted resource in the international economy. Whomever is an ally of the Venezuelan Government will most logically benefit most from economic relations with Venezuela. The role of oil and other resources as a bargaining chip used by the Maduro regime in garnering international support is a challenge that the U.N. Security Council may address through creating a united front in resolving the situation within Venezuela.

Nearly ten thousand people have been executed by the Maduro presidency for "resistance to authority, prompting the flight of nearly four million Venezuelans from their nation. If any change is to occur in the current state of politics, whether that be the reassertion of Maduro, or

the legitimization of the opposition government, tensions in the nation will spike. Drawing from widely accepted studies on power dynamics, bloodshed may seem inevitable. It is the role of the United Nations Security Council to minimize the death toll resulting from political tensions within Venezuela, and maximize the likelihood of a safe, and effective resolution to current violence.

Questions to consider:

- What government gives Venezuela the best chance at recovering from its current state of crisis?
- Is international intervention warranted in order to peacefully resolve this issue?
- Does Maduro regimes' alleged crimes against humanity influence the decision making of this body?
- How has the U.N. Security Council interacted with situations similar to this in the past?
- Who is the recognized leader of Venezuela, and how does this influence the actions of this body?

Additional Resources:

- [AP News: Nicolas Maduro](#)
- [Venezuela's Chavez Era](#)
- [Article about Bolivarianism: Was Bolívar a “Bolivarian?”](#)
- [Latin American Authoritarianism](#)

India and Pakistan (Saturday Afternoon)

The India-Pakistan border conflict, also known as the Kashmir conflict, has its roots back to the end of British rule and partition of the Indian subcontinent.¹⁰ In 1947 the Maharaja of Kashmir, then known as the princely state of Kashmir and Jammu, signed the Instrument of Accession. This document allowed Indian forces into the region and called for the people of Kashmir to decide which nation they wish to become a part of. The existence of the Instrument of Accession has been questioned by Pakistan and is often cited as the beginning of armed tension between the two nations.¹¹

Adding to the complicated nature of this issue is a history of short periods of armed conflict. The first major example being a short war that took place in the region in 1962 between China and India.¹² This resulted in China taking control of the Aksai Chin area and a year later, Pakistan ceding control of the Trans-Karakoram Tract to China. Fighting again flared up between India and Pakistan which resulted in the 1972 creation of the Line of Control (LOC).

The United Nations Security Council has, nearly since the beginning, been involved to some degree on the India Pakistan conflict. In January of 1948, Resolution 39 was adopted which created a three-nation commission which was to investigate claims about the conflict and to advise the Security Council on how to proceed.¹³ Later that year the UNSC adopted Resolution 47, this increased the commission size from three to five and sent the nations of the commission to the region in an effort to assist with the restoration of peace.¹⁴ Currently, the

¹⁰ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-south-asia-16069078>

¹¹ <https://pakun.org/kashmir/history.php>

¹² <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-south-asia-16069078>

¹³ [https://undocs.org/S/RES/39\(1948\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/39(1948))

¹⁴ [https://undocs.org/S/RES/47\(1948\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/47(1948))

UNSC still fields the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), which began supervisory activities in January of 1949.¹⁵

Questions to Consider:

- In what ways do the possession of nuclear weapons by India and Pakistan impact the need for a peaceful resolution?
- The Instrument of Accession document called for self-determination by the people of Kashmir. Does such an old document still have relevance in this situation?
- Both sides of this conflict have made allegations of human rights abuses, will the UNSC alone be enough to settle this conflict?

Additional Resources:

- [Council on Foreign Relations: Conflict Between India and Pakistan United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan](#)
- [Encyclopedia of Conflict between India and Pakistan](#)

¹⁵ <https://unmogip.unmissions.org/background>