



# **FairGaze National Model United Nations** **2023**

## Background Guide

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### **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)**

Agenda: Deliberation upon combating terrorism  
in the MENA region.

# LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Greetings delegates,

Firstly, let me, on behalf of the Executive Board, begin by applauding you and your guides to encourage you to participate in this Model United Nations conference. For those who have discovered the fraternity for the first time, welcome, and to all the seasonal Munnors, I'd say it's obvious that the tug of debate has led you back to this arena on your journey towards becoming a global citizen! Each delegate's contribution will determine the effectiveness of the United Nations Security Council as a committee. Either way, I assure you that this Executive Board and the Secretariat has, and is going to, work tirelessly to ensure an exceptional experience.

This background guide is of greater importance than I could adequately express via words. I must emphasise that it has been read in all its glory and is thoroughly comprehended. I am conscious that most delegates rarely read background guides or pay it any regard. I, for one, have discovered myself a frequent member of the group. The objective or content of this background guide, however, is by no means conventional.

In terms of content, it incorporates very little reliable factual information regarding terrorism in the MENA Region and its associated impacts. A substantial number of guides will typically be along the lines of analysing terrorism in the MENA region, the most contemporary deliberation on the subject at hand, and an outline of its roots. But this guide primarily raises questions and ideas rather than merely provide facts. Although it contains an extensive quantity of knowledge that is factually relevant, the intent of this background guide is not to orient you with the facts you will need. The key objective of the content in this guide is to introduce the philosophical and academic debate surrounding the problems brought on by this. A significant portion of this guide analyses, examines, and critically assesses the academic and intellectual viewpoints on the topic. Additionally, it aims at facilitating you to think strategically about the agenda and the issues it raises instead of simply providing you with a factual understanding of the status quo (your research ought to facilitate that).

Therefore, you must read this guide with the intention of reading it as an academic publication in lieu of as a guide. This guide fulfills the same objective as the discussions themselves in terms of intent. Terrorism is an intriguing subject that can lead to many diversions.

This committee's goal must be to immediately address the concerns mentioned in this guide with a cerebral and academic approach, not only a pragmatic one. This agenda places a strong emphasis on theory and theorising. Of course, it is perilous for law to

distinguish between theory and conduct, but it is equally problematic for theory to be informed by practicalities. Theory should be developed with an intellectual and academic foundation that enables it to fit within the larger legal framework, while also keeping a close eye on practicality.

More than its executive board, a committee is defined by its delegates. You, the participating delegates, determine how the proceedings play out. Therefore, you must be ready to engage in an enlightening experience. Delegates should be familiar with their nation's historical background and present international relations and global political situation in addition to the research on the agenda. A clear foreign policy and representatives from the governments of the delegates' home nations should be brought to the committee. The participants must be well-versed in diplomatic protocol in addition to conducting research related to the agenda items and the committee's mandate. The notion of diplomacy can be used to determine what constitutes general diplomatic behaviour. Diplomatic conduct can also be country-specific.

I am wholeheartedly conscious that a number of the demands I have made in this letter may be challenging to comprehend precisely (even though precise comprehension is crucial), and that some of the topics in this guide may be difficult to interpret and critically consider. I place tremendous importance on the committee members having a critical and intellectual comprehension of the talks in the background guide and the agenda. In light of this, I fervently implore and advise you to write to either the Vice-Chairperson or I (the Chairperson), as often as necessary, with any important queries or topics for debate pertaining to the agenda's substance, both within and outside of the Background Guide.

At the conference, I'm truly looking forward to interacting with you. As a final note of caution, please peruse every word of this guide carefully and get in correspondence with us if you have any questions.

All the Best!

### *The Executive Board*

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# COMMITTEE HISTORY AND MANDATE

One of the United Nations six main bodies, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is in charge of safeguarding global security and peace, proposing new UN members for inclusion to the General Assembly, and approving any amendments to the UN Charter.

It has the authority to impose international sanctions, launch military operations, and form peacekeeping missions. The only UN body with the power to impose legally binding resolutions on member nations is the UNSC.

Each of its fifteen members has one vote. According to the United Nations Charter, all Members are required to abide with Council decisions.

Five of the fifteen members of the Security Council—China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States—are permanent members.

Any substantive Security Council resolution is subject to the veto (blocking) power of the permanent members. This veto power does not apply to any votes or matters that come before the General Assembly or emergency special sessions of the General Assembly. The remaining ten members are chosen regionally and serve two-year terms. The group's members alternate monthly holding the presidency.

When determining whether there is a violation or imminent danger to the peace, the Security Council is in charge. It suggests ways of altering the terms of settlement and encourages parties to a conflict to settle it peacefully. The Security Council occasionally has the option of using sanctions or even approving the use of force in order to preserve or restore global peace and security.

Article 30 of the Charter stipulates that the Security Council shall adopt its own rules of procedure, and in 1946, the council adopted its Provisional Rules of Procedure(S/96). Subsequently, the Provisional Rules of Procedure were modified on several occasions; the last revision was made in 1982(S/96/Rev.7) in order to add Arabic as the sixth official language, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 35/219 of 17 December 1980.

Under the United Nations Charter, the functions and powers of the Security Council are:

- to maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations;
- to investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction;

- to recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
- to formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments;
- to determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken;
- to call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression;
- to take military action against an aggressor;
- to recommend the admission of new Members;
- to exercise the trusteeship functions of the United Nations in "strategic areas";
- to recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and, together with the Assembly, to elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice.

### ***Mandate:***

The United Nations Charter established six main organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council. It gives primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the Security Council, which may meet whenever peace is threatened.

According to the Charter, the United Nations has four purposes:

- to maintain international peace and security;
- to develop friendly relations among nations;
- to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights;
- and to be a centre for harmonising the actions of nations.

All members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, only the Security Council has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.

When a complaint concerning a threat to peace is brought before it, the Council's first action is usually to recommend that the parties try to reach agreement by peaceful means. The Council may:

- set forth principles for such an agreement;
- undertake investigation and mediation, in some cases;
- dispatch a mission;

- appoint special envoys; or
- request the Secretary-General to use his good offices to achieve a pacific settlement of the dispute.

When a dispute leads to hostilities, the Council's primary concern is to bring them to an end as soon as possible. In that case, the Council may:

- issue ceasefire directives that can help prevent an escalation of the conflict;
- 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.

Beyond this, the Council may opt for enforcement measures, including:

- economic sanctions, arms embargoes, financial penalties and restrictions, and travel bans;
- severance of diplomatic relations;
- blockade;
- or even collective military action.

The primary goal is to aim at those liable for the international community's condemned policies or practices while minimizing the repercussions of the actions taken on other segments of the population and the economy.

Delegates are requested to visit the given link for more information on the UNSC and its work:

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

# EVIDENCE IN COMMITTEE

Evidence or proof from the following sources will be accepted as credible by the committee:

## 1. News Resources:

- a. Reuters (<https://www.reuters.com/>)  
Any Reuters' article that explicitly mentions the fact mentioned or contradicts the fact mentioned by another delegate in council may be cited to support claims made in the committee.
- b. State operated News Agencies  
The State that owns the News Agency may benefit or fall victim by these revelations. These reports may be used to advocate for or against any nation as a whole if they are reliable or substantial enough, but in that case, any other member of the council may refute them.

Some examples are:

- i. Russia: RIA Novosti (<http://en.rian.ru/>)
- ii. Iran: RNAI (<https://www.irna.ir/>)
- iii. China: Xinhua News Agency and CCTV (<http://cctvnews.cntv.cn/>)

## 2. Government Reports:

These narratives can be used in a manner similar to that of State Operated News Agencies and can be perpetually refuted by another nation. The Executive Board, however, may nevertheless consider a report as reliable information notwithstanding a given country's denial of it.

Some examples are:

- a. Government Websites like the State Department of the United States of America (<http://www.state.gov/>) or the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation (<http://www.eng.mil.ru/>).
- b. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of various nations like India (<http://www.mea.gov.in/>) or People's Republic of China (<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/>).

- c. Permanent Representatives to the United Nations Reports (<http://www.un.org/>).
- d. Multilateral Organisations like NATO (<http://www.nato.int/>), ASEAN (<http://www.aseansec.org/>), OPEC (<http://www.opec.org/>), etc.

### 3. UN Reports:

For the Executive Board, all UN Reports are regarded as reliable sources of information or proof.

- a. UN Bodies like the UNSC (<http://www.un.org/>) or UNGA (<http://www.un.org/>).
- b. UN Affiliated bodies like the International Atomic Energy Agency (<http://www.iaea.org/>), World Bank (<http://www.worldbank.org/>), International Monetary Fund (<http://www.imf.org/>), International Committee of the Red Cross (<http://www.icrc.org/>), etc.
- c. Treaty Based Bodies like the Antarctic Treaty System (<http://www.ats.aq/>), the International Criminal Court (<http://www.icccpi.int/>).

### **NOTE:**

*Under no circumstances will sources like Wikipedia, Amnesty International, or newspapers like the Times of India, etc. be accepted as PROOF/EVIDENCE. But if the material provided in such sources is in line with the beliefs of a Government, they can be used to gain a better understanding of any topic or even be brought up in discussion.*



# INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region is a wide stretch of geographical area interconnecting the continents of Africa, Asia, and Europe. It is a diverse and historically rich region. The region is of extreme importance with regard to cultural, religious, economic, and geopolitical standpoints. It is also characterized by an intricate web of historical occurrences and present-day challenges. The MENA region, which stretches from the lush regions of the Nile River Valley to the arid deserts of the Arabian Peninsula, has proven crucial in shaping world history and remains an epicenter of debate on an international scale.

The MENA region has endured its share of challenges in addition to its rich past. Political upheavals, conflicts, colonial legacies, and shifting geopolitical factors have left their marks on the region. The region has witnessed an array of terrorist acts executed by a myriad of actors, each with distinct objectives and ideologies. The Arab-Israeli conflict, tensions triggered by the oil industry, and efforts for autonomy have all had a significant impact on the region's modern history.

The panorama of terrorism in the region has been significantly shaped by religious extremism. The rise of foundations like Al-Qaeda, followed by ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria), which used misinterpretations of Islam to justify their vengeful activities, brought this concern to light. They succeeded in managing to recruit combatants and supporters from every corner of the world owing to their transnational nature and capacity to benefit from modern communication aids.

State-sponsored terrorism has also occurred in the MENA region, where regimes have employed terror tactics to repress opposition and retain dominance. The lines of demarcation between non-state and state entities associated with terrorism have grown increasingly obscure as a result, aggravated by the security dynamics in the area.

Regional catastrophes like the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Iranian Revolution, and the ongoing civil war in Syria have heightened sectarian tensions and provided numerous terrorist organizations with opportunities to take advantage of fragile governments and power vacuums. The availability of arsenals and an influx of foreign fighters have increased the extent and severity of terrorist actions.

In the MENA region, counterterrorism efforts have employed military, political, and diplomatic approaches. To combat terrorist organizations, international alliances have been established, and regional governments have taken measures to strengthen security cooperation. Addressing the underlying issues that contribute to terrorism, such as insufficient governance, socioeconomic inequalities, and ideological extremism, remains an intricate endeavour.

# HISTORY OF THE AGENDA

With a number of factors influencing its inception and development, the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region's terrorism crisis has a complex and multidimensional history. Decades of sociopolitical, religious, economic, and geographical upheavals have contributed to this history. The main historical occurrences and trends that have impacted the prevalent issue of terrorism in the MENA region have been outlined as follows:

- 1. Anti-Colonial Struggles and Nationalism (20th Century):** Nationalist movements and anti-colonial struggles arose in the early 20th century primarily as a consequence of the Ottoman Empire's demise and the subsequent annexation of several MENA nations by European powers. Across the region, nationalist movements emerged in response to foreign domination. Many of these movements were nonviolent; however, some resorted to violence to attain their objectives, which facilitated the use of violence in politics.
- 2. Cold War Dynamics (1950s–1980s):** The MENA region operated as an active theater of conflict for ideological warfare between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War. Both superpowers aimed to sway the political structure in the area and its administrations. Throughout this period, armed groups with an array of ideologies emerged and frequently acquired foreign help. For instance, Osama bin Laden, who subsequently established Al-Qaeda, was one of the foreign soldiers lured to the Afghan resistance amid the 1980s Soviet rule.
- 3. Emergence of Radical Ideologies (1970s-1990s):** Radical Islamist principles started surfacing in the 1970s and 1980s, and they were typically executed to overthrow legitimate governments and oppose Western influence. An Islamist state was established as a result of the Iranian Revolution in 1979, which also sparked similar movements abroad. During this time, militant organizations like Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Palestine rose to prominence. Such groups employ violence to accomplish their political goals.
- 4. Gulf War and the Rise of Al-Qaeda (1990s):** The Gulf War's aftermath and the creation of US military outposts in the region were witnessed in the 1990s. Osama bin Laden established Al-Qaeda, which grew into a worldwide terrorist group that carried out assaults against American targets and promoted the creation of an

Islamic Caliphate. The group's global reach was made apparent by its assaults on the USS Cole (2000) and the U.S. embassies in East Africa (1998).

- 5. Iraq War in the 2000s and the Post-9/11 Era:** A pivotal moment in international counterterrorism operations was the September 11, 2001, attacks in the United States. The U.S.-led war in Afghanistan overthrew the Taliban regime and targeted Al-Qaeda, while the Iraq War that followed in 2003 destabilized Iraq and increased sectarian conflict. As a result of the power vacuum that was created in Iraq, extremist organizations like Al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), which later changed its name to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), flourished.
- 6. Arab Spring and Regional Unrest (2010s):** Demands for political reform, social equality, and human rights were common threads in the MENA region's uprisings throughout the Arab Spring, which commenced in 2010. The rise of armed organizations and the spread of warfare were, however, caused by the instability and violence that were frequently associated with these shifts. The complex interaction of regional and global factors was particularly underlined by the Syrian civil war and the growth of ISIS.
- 7. Present-day Barriers and Evolving Threats:** Extremism and terrorism continue to pose problems for the MENA region. Regional rivalries, ongoing crisis in Syria, Yemen, and Libya, as well as the combat against extremist ideology, all serve as reminders of the need for comprehensive solutions to tackle underlying issues, foster stability, and combat violent extremism.

In conclusion, socioeconomic, political, religious, and historical elements have all played a significant role in the history of terrorism in the MENA region. The emergence of terrorist organizations and ideologies is a reflection of the complex dynamics of the area and the interaction of local, regional, and international forces. A comprehensive strategy that takes into account both immediate security needs and long-term plans to address the root causes of extremism is needed to combat terrorism in the MENA region.

# RELEVANT LAWS AND REGULATIONS

Due to varying legal systems, political environments, and degrees of security, the MENA region has a wide range of laws and regulations pertaining to counterterrorism. To combat the threat of terrorism, many nations in the region have adopted some common themes and strategies. Here are some general strategies and illustrations of legislation pertaining to tackling terrorism in the MENA region:

- 1. Anti-Terrorism Legislation:** Several nations in the MENA region have passed specific anti-terrorism laws that define terrorism, impose penalties for engaging in terrorist activity, and outline methods to locate and prosecute terrorists. These laws frequently give authorities expanded authority for monitoring, detaining, and prosecuting those accused of involvement in terrorism.
- 2. Criminalization of Terrorist Acts:** Anti-terrorism laws frequently render an array of terrorist-related activities that include planning, funding, recruiting, and committing terrorist attacks. Additionally, attempts to join or support terrorist organisations are criminalized under these laws, as well as the dissemination of information that encourages terrorism.
- 3. Counter-Financing Measures:** Governments have set rules and regulations into force to maintain surveillance on and regulate the flow of funds to terrorist organisations. This entails the seizure of assets, the barring of financial transactions, and the prevention of NGOs and charities being used to fund terrorism.

It's crucial to remember that, despite the fact that these actions are meant to fight terrorism, worries have been expressed regarding possible power abuses, human rights violations, and the repression of political dissent while these actions are being used to fight terrorism. In the region, it is still difficult to strike a compromise between maintaining security and preserving human rights.

The efficiency of these measures can also change depending on the political environment, the capability of law enforcement, and the general stability of each nation. Because of this, attempts to combat terrorism in the MENA area necessitate a thorough and context-sensitive strategy that targets both security issues and the underlying socio-political causes of radicalization and extremism.

# CASE STUDIES

- 1. The Arab-Israeli Conflict:** The ongoing conflict between Israel and the Palestinian territories, particularly the West Bank and Gaza Strip, is a key issue for the MENA region. The conflict began as a result of tensions between the Jewish immigration to Palestine in the late 19th and early 20th centuries and the Arab population. It culminated in the founding of Israel as a state in 1948 and ensuing conflicts. The conflict still causes a lot of unrest and has an impact on both local stability and global geopolitics.
- 2. The Iranian Revolution (1979):** The Iranian Revolution of 1979 saw the downfall of the Iranian Shah and the founding of the Islamic Republic under the leadership of Ayatollah Khomeini. This incident changed Iran's political landscape by heralding an Islamic administration in place of the country's pro-Western monarchy. Iran's regional influence, its relationship with the US, and its part in influencing Shia politics in the area are all repercussions of the revolution.
- 3. The Syrian Civil War (2011-present):** With demonstrations against Bashar al-Assad's autocratic government, the Syrian civil war had its start as a component of the larger Arab Spring uprisings. A complex and devastating war involving numerous armed factions, foreign involvement, and regional powers resulted from the conflict's escalation. Massive human misery, relocation, and political disintegration have all been effects of the war.
- 4. The Rise of ISIS (2014-2017):** The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) arose to prominence as an aggressive extremist organisation that seized substantial portions of Iraq and Syria. It recruited soldiers from all over the world, declared itself to be a "caliphate," and engaged in horrible acts of bloodshed. The group's territorial authority was considerably reduced as a result of military campaigns launched by the international community in response to the group.
- 5. The Yemeni Civil War (2014-present):** Multiple parties have engaged in the civil conflict in Yemen, including the Houthi rebels allied with Iran and the internationally recognised government supported by a coalition led by Saudi Arabia. A severe humanitarian crisis, including widespread disease, famine, and displacement, has been brought on by the conflict. The predicament serves as an

example of the complexity of intra- and inter-regional conflicts, sectarian tensions, and power struggles.

- 6. Hezbollah and the July 2006 War:** In 2006, the militant group Hezbollah in Lebanon captured two Israeli soldiers, triggering a conflict between Hezbollah and Israel known as the July 2006 War. Israel launched a military campaign against Hezbollah targets in Lebanon, aiming to weaken the group's military capabilities and infrastructure. The conflict resulted in significant casualties on both sides and extensive damage to infrastructure in Lebanon. While the war did not eliminate Hezbollah's presence, it highlighted the group's military capabilities and its influence in the region.

These case studies highlight the MENA region's historical heritage, current issues, and the interaction of local, regional, and global factors. They illustrate the region's diversity and complexity. They draw attention to the region's major influence on global affairs as well as the difficulties in resolving disputes, protecting human rights, and navigating political transitions.

# CONCLUSION

Though not typical in terms of a broad background guide, I hope that this background guide was intriguing and thought-provoking to pursue. This background guide was not intended to serve as a factual introduction. It was an intellectual approach. Model UN discussions are frequently reduced to sterile arguments for the status quo. However, model UNs must strive to create a shared future rather than discuss the present. To achieve this, it is essential to consider the agenda from an intellectual rather than a factual standpoint. “Why is that? What gaps are there? What are the intellectual strategies that might be able to fill in logical gaps?” The committee's goal must be to achieve this. The status of terrorism in the MENA region is more dubious than it is established. This background guide has examined various scepticisms, talked about how to address it, and critically assessed the outcomes. It is challenging to sum up all of the information in this handbook. You must therefore be familiar with and read the manual backwards. However, the next part has the most effective summation in the form of a conclusion.

Pay tremendous attention to it, and during the committee, devote an enormous amount of effort into fulfilling those responsibilities without digressing.