FAIRGAZE PRESENTS

FREEVOICE MUN 2.0

Online Edition

BACKGROUND GUIDE

United Nations Security Council

UNSC

AGENDA

The Discussion on International Peace and Security in West Asia: Establishing a Sustainable Regional Security Architecture following the 2026 Iran Conflict, with Special Emphasis on Ceasefire Enforcement, Freedom of Navigation and Prevention of Nuclear Proliferation

4 November 2026 · Online

Open to students of Grade 6 and above

For the use of delegates only. This is not an official United Nations document.

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BEFORE YOU BEGIN

How to Use This Guide

This guide is written for delegates who may be attending a Model United Nations (MUN) conference for the very first time. You do not need any previous MUN experience to read it, understand it and do well in committee. Read it in order: Part I explains what an MUN is and how your committee works, Part II teaches the rules you will use on the day, Part III explains the agenda in depth, and Part IV shows you how to research and prepare.

- **Blue boxes** explain an idea in simple words.
- **Gold boxes** are practical tips for delegates.
- **Green boxes** contain key facts and figures you can quote in committee.
- **Red boxes** warn you about common mistakes.

Facts in this guide were checked against United Nations and other official sources available up to mid-2026. This agenda keeps changing, so always confirm the latest developments yourself before 4 November, and quote dated sources ("according to the October 2026 report of…") rather than live totals.

COMMITTEE AT A GLANCE

Item	Details
Conference	FairGaze FreeVoice MUN 2.0, Online Edition
Committee	United Nations Security Council (UNSC)
Agenda	The Discussion on International Peace and Security in West Asia: Establishing a Sustainable Regional Security Architecture following the 2026 Iran Conflict, with Special Emphasis on Ceasefire Enforcement, Freedom of Navigation and Prevention of Nuclear Proliferation
Delegations	44 delegations allotted (an expanded Council for this conference); each has one vote
Outcome	A resolution adopted by a simple majority, with no veto from a permanent member
Date and format	Wednesday, 4 November 2026; one day of online committee sessions on a video-meeting platform. The meeting link and timings are shared in your committee's WhatsApp group.
Who can take part	Students of Grade 6 and above. Registration is free.

Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

It is our privilege to welcome you to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) at FairGaze FreeVoice MUN 2.0. FreeVoice is built on a simple idea: every voice deserves to be heard. It is free, it is online and it is open to any student from Grade 6 upwards, wherever you live. Whether this is your tenth conference or your first, you belong here, and you will leave a more confident speaker and a sharper thinker.

Our agenda is the most urgent security crisis in the world today: The Discussion on International Peace and Security in West Asia, establishing a sustainable regional security architecture following the 2026 Iran conflict, with special emphasis on ceasefire enforcement, freedom of navigation and the prevention of nuclear proliferation. Since February 2026 a war involving Iran, Israel and the United States has spread across the Gulf, closed one of the world's most important sea lanes and pushed up fuel prices in every country, including our own.

This is a live conflict involving real loss of life. Research it carefully, speak about it with respect, and focus on solutions the Council could actually agree: how to make a ceasefire hold, how to reopen the seas, how to get nuclear inspectors back, and how to build a region where the next war is less likely.

This guide is your starting point, not your finishing line. It explains the rules of procedure, the history of the issue, the law that applies and the positions of different countries. Your task is to go further: to discover what your country believes, why it believes it, and what it would be willing to agree to. The best delegates are not those who speak the loudest, but those who listen carefully, negotiate in good faith and write solutions that others are willing to sign.

Remember that in committee you represent your allotted country, not your personal opinion. You may be asked to defend a position you personally disagree with. That is the real skill of diplomacy, and it is what makes MUN such a valuable experience. Keep your camera on, keep your notes close, and do not be afraid to raise your hand. We look forward to an informed, respectful and lively debate.

With warm regards,
The Executive Board
United Nations Security Council (UNSC)
FairGaze FreeVoice MUN 2.0

PART I

Understanding Model United Nations

What an MUN is, and how your committee works in the real world

1. What is a Model United Nations?

A Model United Nations is an educational simulation of the United Nations and other international bodies. Each student becomes a **delegate** who represents a country (called a **portfolio**) in a committee. Delegates research their country's views, give speeches, debate, form alliances, negotiate and finally write and vote on a **resolution**, the formal document in which the committee records what it has agreed, just as real diplomats do in New York, Geneva and Nairobi.

MUN conferences began in universities in the mid-twentieth century and are now held in schools across the world. In India they have become one of the most respected co-curricular activities, because they build skills that classrooms alone rarely develop: public speaking, research, negotiation, teamwork and clear formal writing.

Who is who in committee

Role	What they do
Delegate	Represents a country. Speaks, negotiates, drafts documents and votes according to that country's policy.
Executive Board (EB)	Chairs the committee: usually a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson and a Rapporteur. They keep order, apply the rules, recognise speakers and evaluate delegates.
Secretariat	The FairGaze team that organises the whole conference: the meeting links, schedules, technical help and certificates.
Host / tech support	In this online edition, manages the meeting room: admitting delegates, muting and unmuting, breakout rooms and screen sharing.

IN SIMPLE WORDS

Think of MUN as a mini United Nations on your screen. You are not playing a character in a play; you are doing the real work of a diplomat: understanding a problem, speaking for your country and persuading others to agree on a solution.

2. The United Nations in Brief

The United Nations was founded on 24 October 1945, after the Second World War, when its Charter entered into force. Its purposes, set out in Article 1 of the Charter, are to maintain international peace and security, to develop friendly relations among nations, and to achieve international co-operation in solving economic, social, cultural and humanitarian problems and in promoting respect for human rights. Today it has 193 Member States. The Charter created six principal organs:

Principal organ	In one line
General Assembly	Every Member State, one vote each; discusses any issue and makes recommendations.
Security Council	15 members, 5 of them permanent with a veto; the only organ whose decisions bind all States.

Principal organ	In one line
Economic and Social Council	Co-ordinates the UN's economic, social and environmental work and its agencies.
Trusteeship Council	Supervised territories on their way to independence; inactive since 1994.
International Court of Justice	The UN's court in The Hague; settles legal disputes between States.
Secretariat	The UN staff, led by the Secretary-General, who carry out the Organization's day-to-day work.

Your committee is the Security Council itself, one of the six principal organs and the only one whose decisions Member States are obliged to carry out (Article 25 of the Charter).

3. The Security Council

Under Article 24 of the Charter, the Security Council has **primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security**. In reality it has **15 members**: five permanent members (China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States) and ten elected members serving two-year terms. A substantive decision needs nine votes in favour and no veto from a permanent member.

At FreeVoice MUN 2.0 the Council sits in an **expanded format** of 44 delegations, including Iran and Israel, so that the main parties and many affected States can take part. All five permanent members are present and keep the right of veto.

The Council can act under **Chapter VI** (recommending peaceful settlement) or **Chapter VII** (binding measures). It can demand ceasefires, create observer and peacekeeping missions, impose sanctions, refer situations to the International Criminal Court and, as a last resort, authorise the use of force. Under Chapter VIII it can work with regional organisations such as the Arab League and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

What UNSC can do	What UNSC cannot do
Adopt binding decisions under Chapter VII, including demanding a ceasefire	Act if a permanent member vetoes the draft
Create observer or monitoring missions and maritime arrangements	Deploy any force without troops and ships offered by Member States
Impose sanctions, or lift or adjust existing ones	Inspect nuclear sites itself (that is the IAEA's role)
Ask the IAEA and the Secretary-General for reports	Force States to sign a regional treaty
Endorse peace agreements and convene or support conferences	Rewrite UNCLOS or the NPT

DELEGATE TIP: STAY WITHIN THE MANDATE

Security Council language is strong and specific: 'demands', 'decides', 'condemns', 'acting under Chapter VII', 'requests the Director General of the IAEA to report within 30 days'. Make clear which clauses are binding and who must do what by when. Remember that a draft vetoed by a permanent member fails.

PART II

Rules of Procedure

How debate is run at FreeVoice MUN 2.0, online

Every MUN committee follows rules of procedure so that debate is fair and orderly. The rules below are those commonly used at school conferences in India, adapted for an online committee. The Executive Board may interpret or adjust them where needed, and its decision is final.

4. The Flow of Committee

Most committee sessions follow the order shown below. Do not worry about memorising it now: the Executive Board will guide the committee through each stage.



Figure 1. The usual flow of a UNSC session, from roll call to the final vote.

5. Stages of Debate

5.1 Roll call

At the start of each session the Chair reads out the names of all countries. When your country is called, unmute and reply "Present" or "Present and Voting", then mute again. A delegate who says "Present and Voting" gives up the right to abstain on substantive votes and must vote either for or against. The roll call also establishes **quorum**, the minimum number of delegates needed for the committee to work.

5.2 Setting the agenda

UNSC has a single agenda, so a delegate simply raises a motion to set the agenda to the topic in this guide. It passes by a simple majority.

5.3 General Speakers' List (GSL)

The GSL is the backbone of debate. Delegates who wish to speak are added to a list, and each speaks in turn for a set time, usually 60 to 90 seconds. Your first GSL speech is your **opening speech**: it presents your country's position. When no motion is on the floor, debate returns to the GSL. If time remains at the end of a GSL speech, the speaker must **yield** it:

Yield	What happens
Yield to the Chair	The remaining time goes back to the Executive Board. This is the most common yield.
Yield to another delegate	Another delegate uses the remaining time. They cannot yield it again.
Yield to Points of Information	Other delegates may ask the speaker questions about the speech, as many as the time allows.

5.4 Moderated caucus

A moderated caucus is a focused debate on one sub-topic, for example "A UN-backed maritime corridor through the Strait of Hormuz". A delegate proposes it with a total time, a time per speaker and a topic. If the motion passes, the Chair calls on speakers one by one. Moderated caucuses keep debate specific and fast-moving.

5.5 Unmoderated caucus

During an unmoderated caucus, formal debate is suspended so that delegates can talk freely, form blocs and write working papers. Online, the Executive Board may open **breakout rooms**, or delegates may use the chat and shared documents as the Board directs. This is where most negotiation happens, so use it well: find allies, share ideas and draft clauses together.

EXAMPLE MOTIONS, EXACTLY AS YOU WOULD SAY THEM

- Moderated caucus: "The delegate of Pakistan would like to raise a motion for a moderated caucus of 10 minutes, with 1 minute per speaker, on the topic 'A UN-backed maritime corridor through the Strait of Hormuz'."
- Unmoderated caucus: "The delegate of Japan would like to raise a motion for an unmoderated caucus of 15 minutes to begin drafting working papers."

6. Points and Motions

Points are requests a delegate makes to the Chair. **Motions** are proposals that the committee does something, and most are put to a vote. Online, use the **Raise Hand** button (or hold your placard up to the camera, if the Board asks for placards) and wait to be recognised before you unmute.

Point	When to use it	Can it interrupt a speaker?
Point of Personal Privilege	You cannot hear the speaker, your connection has dropped, or you are personally uncomfortable.	Yes, only if it concerns audibility
Point of Order	You believe the rules of procedure have been applied incorrectly.	No
Point of Parliamentary Inquiry	You have a question about the rules or about what is happening in committee.	No
Point of Information	You wish to ask another delegate a question about their speech.	No; only when the speaker yields to points

Motion	What it does	Vote needed
Set the agenda	Begins debate on the agenda topic	Simple majority
Moderated caucus	Focused debate on a sub-topic with set speaking time	Simple majority
Unmoderated caucus	Informal negotiation and drafting time	Simple majority
Extend the caucus	Adds time to the current caucus (usually not more than half the original time)	Simple majority
Introduce a working paper or draft resolution	Presents a document formally to the committee	Simple majority, at the Chair's discretion
Divide the question	Votes on operative clauses separately	Simple majority
Close debate	Ends debate and moves the committee into voting	Two-thirds majority
Suspend the meeting	Pauses committee for a break	Simple majority
Adjourn the meeting	Ends the session or the conference	Simple majority

6.1 Right of Reply

If a delegate's speech insults the national integrity of your country, you may send a written request for a Right of Reply to the Chair. If the Chair grants it, you may respond briefly. A Right of Reply to a Right of Reply is not allowed.

6.2 Chits

Chits are short written notes between delegates or to the Executive Board. In this online edition, chits are sent in the way the Board announces at the start of committee, usually as private messages in the meeting chat. All chits must be in English, relevant to committee and diplomatic in tone; the Board may read them and may count good chits towards your evaluation.

COMMON FIRST-TIMER MISTAKES

- Speaking in the first person ("I think"). Always use the third person: "The delegate of Kenya believes..."
- Giving your personal opinion instead of your country's policy.
- Unmuting or interrupting a speaker. Only a Point of Personal Privilege about audibility may interrupt.
- Leaving your camera off, or a display name that does not show your country.
- Quoting a figure without saying where it comes from and how recent it is.

7. Documents of Committee



Figure 2. The life of a resolution in committee.

7.1 Working papers

A working paper is an informal document that sets out a bloc's ideas. It has no fixed format and can include bullet points, tables or proposed clauses. Online, blocs usually write it together in a shared document and send it to the Executive Board, who may share it on screen.

7.2 Draft resolutions

A draft resolution is a formal document written in the format of a real resolution. It needs **sponsors** (the main authors, usually two to five countries, who must support the document) and **signatories** (countries that wish to see it debated but need not agree with all of it). The Executive Board sets the minimum number of signatories. Once approved by the Chair, it is introduced, read out and debated.

7.3 Amendments

An amendment adds, removes or changes an operative clause. A **friendly amendment** is accepted by all sponsors and is added without a vote. An **unfriendly amendment** is not supported by all sponsors and must be voted on. Preambulatory clauses cannot be amended.

7.4 Voting

Once debate is closed, no one may join or leave the meeting until voting ends. Each draft resolution is voted on in the order it was introduced. Delegates vote Yes, No or Abstain, by voice, by Raise Hand or by the poll tool the Board opens. In this expanded Council a draft passes with a **simple majority of members present and voting**, provided that **no permanent member (China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, the United**

States) votes against it. An abstention by a permanent member is not a veto. Procedural motions are not subject to veto.

8. How to Write a Resolution

A resolution is one long sentence. It begins with the name of the committee, continues with **preambulatory clauses** that explain the background and reasons, and ends with **operative clauses** that say what the committee will actually do.

Part	Rules	Example
Heading	Committee, agenda, sponsors and signatories	Committee: UNSC; Sponsors: ...; Signatories: ...
Preambulatory clauses	Begin with an italicised phrase; end with a comma; are not numbered; cannot be amended	Recalling its resolutions 598 (1987), 2231 (2015) and 2817 (2026),
Operative clauses	Begin with an underlined verb; are numbered; end with a semicolon; the last ends with a full stop	1. Demands that all parties fully respect the ceasefire;

Preambulatory phrases	Operative phrases
Acknowledging, Affirming, Alarmed by, Aware of, Bearing in mind, Concerned by, Convinced, Deeply concerned, Determined, Emphasizing, Expressing concern, Fully aware, Guided by, Having considered, Mindful of, Noting with concern, Observing, Reaffirming, Recalling, Recognizing, Seeking, Stressing, Taking into account, Underlining, Welcoming	Authorizes, Calls upon, Condemns, Decides, Demands, Encourages, Expresses its intention, Reaffirms, Requests the Secretary-General to, Stresses, Strongly urges, Underlines, Urges, Welcomes

Sample clauses on our agenda

The clauses below show the style. They are examples only and do not represent any country's position.

Reaffirming the obligation of all Member States to refrain from the threat or use of force, and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of all States of the region,

Recalling its resolutions 598 (1987), 2231 (2015) and 2817 (2026),

Gravely concerned by the disruption of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz and its effects on the global economy and on food and energy security,

1. Demands that all parties fully respect the ceasefire and refrain from any attack on civilians, civilian infrastructure and merchant shipping;

2. Calls upon all States to respect the rights of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz in accordance with international law, and requests the Secretary-General, with the International Maritime Organization, to propose arrangements for a safe maritime corridor;

3. Requests the Director General of the IAEA to report to the Council within 60 days on the restoration of safeguards verification in Iran.

9. The Position Paper and Your Opening Speech

A **position paper** is a one-page summary of your country's views on the agenda. It shows the Executive Board that you have researched well. If the Organising Committee asks for position papers, it will share the format and deadline in your WhatsApp group. Even if it does not, writing one is the best way to prepare. A strong position paper has four short sections:

1. **Background:** the problem in two or three sentences, in your own words.
2. **International action:** what has already been done, with document names and years.
3. **Your country's policy:** how your country has voted and what it has said, with evidence.
4. **Proposed solutions:** two to four concrete ideas your country would support in a resolution.

A 90-second opening speech

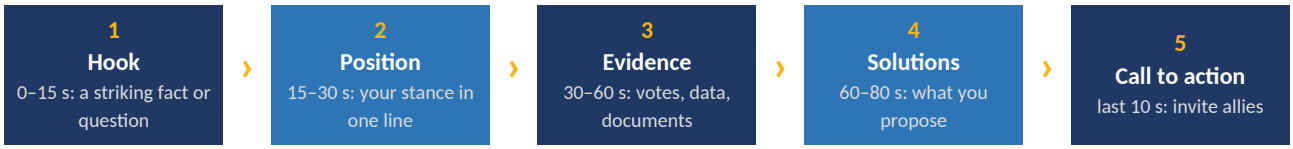


Figure 3. A simple structure for a strong first speech on the GSL.

10. Committee Etiquette, Online

Diplomacy depends on respect. The Executive Board evaluates not only what you say but how you say it.

- Address the Chair as "Honourable Chair" and other delegates as "the delegate of [country]".
- Set your display name to your country and name, for example "Pakistan – Aarav", before you join.
- Keep your camera on and your microphone muted unless you have been recognised.
- Use Raise Hand (or your placard) to be recognised. Never speak over another delegate.
- Join ten minutes early from a quiet place with a charged device and a stable connection. If you drop out, rejoin at once and tell the Board in the chat.
- Never criticise another delegate personally. Disagree with a policy, not a person.
- Use formal English. Avoid slang, jokes about other countries and offensive language. Follow any dress code the Organising Committee shares.

Instead of saying...	Say...
"Iran is a terrorist State."	"The delegate of the United Arab Emirates condemns the attacks on its territory and calls for full respect of resolution 2817."
"America started this war."	"The delegate of Iran considers the strikes of 28 February a violation of Article 2(4) of the Charter."
"Open the strait now."	"Japan calls for the immediate restoration of transit passage through the Strait of Hormuz."
"Join our group."	"The delegation of Norway invites all like-minded delegations to work on a joint working paper."

Your day in committee

FreeVoice MUN 2.0 runs in a single day. The Executive Board decides the pace, but committees usually move through these stages. Exact timings are shared in your committee's WhatsApp group.

Session	What usually happens	Your goal
Session 1	Roll call, setting the agenda, opening speeches on the GSL, first moderated caucuses	Deliver a clear opening speech and note who agrees with you
Session 2	Moderated and unmoderated caucuses on sub-topics; blocs form and write working papers	Join or lead a bloc and contribute to a working paper
Session 3	Draft resolutions introduced and debated, amendments, closure of debate and voting	Defend your clauses and vote according to your country's policy

HOW DELEGATES ARE USUALLY EVALUATED

- **Research and knowledge:** accurate facts, correct use of documents and a clear understanding of the agenda.
- **Speeches and points:** clarity, structure, confidence and relevance on the GSL and in caucuses.
- **Diplomacy:** staying in your country's policy, building alliances and negotiating respectfully.
- **Documentation:** meaningful contributions to working papers, draft resolutions and amendments.
- **Participation and conduct:** active involvement through every session, punctuality and online etiquette.

PART III

Understanding the Agenda

War, the Strait of Hormuz and the nuclear question in West Asia

READ THIS FIRST

This is a live conflict. Facts in this chapter were checked against UN and other public sources up to the end of October 2026, but events are moving every week and early reports are often revised. Before committee, check UN News, Security Council Report and the IAEA for anything after that date, and quote every figure with its source and date.

11. Introduction to the Agenda

On **28 February 2026**, Israel and the United States launched a large air campaign against Iran, saying their aims were to destroy Iran's nuclear and ballistic-missile programmes. Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, was killed on the first day, and his son Mojtaba Khamenei was named his successor on 8 March. Iran answered with missile and drone attacks on Israel, on US bases, and on targets in Gulf Arab States, including Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Houthis in Yemen joined the fighting, and Israel launched operations in Lebanon.

Iran also moved to close the **Strait of Hormuz**, the narrow sea passage between Iran and Oman through which about a fifth of the world's oil normally passes. Commercial traffic almost stopped. Oil and gas prices jumped, the International Energy Agency's members released emergency oil stocks, and countries far from the Gulf, including India, felt the shock in fuel and fertiliser prices.

A ceasefire mediated by **Pakistan** took effect on **8 April 2026**, but it has been fragile. Talks in Islamabad failed on 12 April and the United States imposed a naval blockade of Iranian ports. A US–Iran memorandum signed in June extended the truce, but attacks on shipping and strikes resumed in July. As of autumn 2026 the strait remained largely closed, and negotiations through Pakistani, Qatari and other mediators continued. Meanwhile, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has had no access to Iran's nuclear sites since the war began and cannot say where Iran's stock of highly enriched uranium is.

The agenda asks the Council to look beyond the immediate fighting: how can the region build a **security architecture**, a lasting set of rules, institutions and guarantees, so that ceasefires hold, ships can sail freely and no new nuclear-armed State emerges?

IN SIMPLE WORDS

A war between Iran on one side and Israel and the United States on the other has spread across the Gulf and shut one of the world's most important shipping lanes. The Security Council must decide how to make a ceasefire stick, how to reopen the sea route, and how to make sure Iran's nuclear programme cannot become a bomb, and then how to build something that stops the next war.

12. Key Terms Explained

Term	Meaning
West Asia	The region often called the Middle East: the Arabian Peninsula, Iran, Iraq, the Levant, Türkiye and the Caucasus. India uses 'West Asia' officially.

Term	Meaning
Regional security architecture	A set of agreements, institutions and habits (such as hotlines, inspections and non-aggression pacts) that lets rival States manage disputes without war.
Ceasefire enforcement	The ways a ceasefire is made to hold: monitoring, verification, reporting violations, and consequences for breaking it.
Freedom of navigation	The right of ships of all States to sail the seas and pass through international straits, protected by the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
Transit passage	The UNCLOS rule that ships and aircraft may pass continuously and quickly through straits used for international navigation, and coastal States may not suspend it.
Strait of Hormuz	The 33–39 km wide passage linking the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea, bordered by Iran and Oman.
Non-proliferation	Preventing the spread of nuclear weapons to more States. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is the core treaty.
Safeguards	IAEA inspections and accounting that check that nuclear material is not diverted to weapons.
Highly enriched uranium (HEU)	Uranium enriched to 20 percent or more of the isotope U-235. Weapons usually need about 90 percent; Iran had enriched to 60 percent.
Snapback	The mechanism in resolution 2231 (2015) that allowed earlier UN sanctions on Iran to return; triggered by France, Germany and the UK in 2025.
Proxy	An armed group supported by a State that fights on its behalf, such as Hezbollah or the Houthis in Iran's case.

13. The Three Pillars of the Agenda

13.1 Ceasefire enforcement

The April 2026 ceasefire was agreed between governments with mediators, not by the Security Council, and it had no UN monitors. Disputes arose at once over whether it covered Lebanon, whether the strait was to reopen, and what counted as a violation. The Council has tools it could use: it can endorse a ceasefire under Chapter VII, create a monitoring or observer mission (as it did with UNDOF on the Golan Heights in 1974 or UNIFIL in Lebanon), ask the Secretary-General to report on violations, or set up a joint commission of the parties and mediators.

13.2 Freedom of navigation

Before the war, around 20 million barrels of oil a day and a large share of the world's liquefied natural gas passed through Hormuz. Since March 2026, Iran has claimed sovereignty over the strait, demanded transit fees and stopped or attacked ships; mines have been reported. The United States has used force to clear routes and, since April, blockaded Iranian ports. The Houthis have also threatened shipping in the Bab al-Mandab strait and the Red Sea, as they did in 2023–24. Under UNCLOS, a coastal State may not suspend transit passage through an international strait. Iran signed UNCLOS but never ratified it, and argues that the transit passage regime does not bind it; most other States treat it as customary law.

13.3 Preventing nuclear proliferation

Iran is a party to the NPT and says its programme is peaceful. But by 2025 it had produced more than 400 kg of uranium enriched to 60 percent, which the IAEA said had no credible civilian purpose and which, if enriched further, could be enough for several weapons. Israel and the United States struck Iran's nuclear sites in June 2025 and again in 2026. Since 28 February 2026 IAEA inspectors have had no access, and in June 2026 the IAEA Board of Governors demanded that Iran declare where its enriched uranium is and allow verification, warning

that it could report the matter to the Security Council. The question is how to get inspectors back in and stop any move towards a weapon, without rewarding the use of force or pushing Iran out of the NPT.

KEY FACTS (CHECK FOR UPDATES)

- The war began on **28 February 2026**; a Pakistan-mediated ceasefire took effect on **8 April 2026**.
- **Resolution 2817 (2026)**, adopted in March, condemned Iran's attacks on its Gulf neighbours and reaffirmed navigation rights; China and Russia abstained.
- On **7 April 2026**, China and Russia vetoed a Bahrain-led draft on the Strait of Hormuz (11 in favour, 2 against, 2 abstentions).
- UN OCHA has reported **more than 3,400 civilians killed** in Iran; casualties were also recorded in Israel, Lebanon and the Gulf States.
- IAEA inspectors have had **no access** to Iranian nuclear sites since 28 February 2026.

14. Historical Timeline

Year	Event
1968–70	The NPT is signed (1968) and enters into force (1970); Iran is an original party.
1979	The Islamic Revolution in Iran; the US embassy hostage crisis.
1980–88	Iran–Iraq War; in the 'Tanker War' both sides attack shipping in the Gulf. Security Council resolution 598 (1987) ends the war.
1982	UNCLOS is adopted, including the transit passage regime for international straits.
2002–03	Undeclared Iranian nuclear sites at Natanz and Arak are revealed.
2006–10	Security Council resolutions 1737, 1747, 1803 and 1929 impose sanctions on Iran's nuclear and missile programmes.
2015	The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) limits Iran's programme in return for sanctions relief; endorsed by resolution 2231.
2018–19	The United States leaves the JCPOA; Iran steps back from its limits; attacks on tankers near Hormuz.
2020	The Abraham Accords normalise relations between Israel and the UAE and Bahrain.
2023	China brokers a restoration of Saudi–Iranian relations. After the 7 October attack on Israel, war in Gaza; Houthis attack Red Sea shipping.
2024	Direct Iran–Israel exchanges of fire in April and October.
Jun 2025	Twelve-day Israel–Iran war; US strikes on Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan; ceasefire on 24 June. Iran suspends co-operation with the IAEA.
Sep 2025	France, Germany and the UK trigger snapback; UN sanctions on Iran are re-imposed, a step Iran, Russia and China reject.
Feb 2026	Nuclear talks fail; on 28 February Israel and the US begin strikes; Khamenei is killed; Iran attacks Israel and Gulf States and moves to close Hormuz.
Mar 2026	Resolution 2817 condemns Iranian attacks on Gulf States; Israel launches a ground operation in southern Lebanon.
Apr 2026	China and Russia veto a draft on Hormuz (7 April); ceasefire from 8 April; Islamabad talks fail; US blockade of Iranian ports.
Jun 2026	IAEA Board demands Iran declare its enriched uranium; the 'Islamabad Memorandum' extends the truce.
Jul–Oct 2026	Truce breaks down over attacks on shipping; the strait remains largely closed; mediation through Pakistan, Qatar and others continues.

15. The Legal Framework

Source	Why it matters
UN Charter, Article 2(4) and Article 51	Ban on the use of force, and the right of self-defence against an armed attack. Each side argues the other attacked first or posed an imminent threat.
UN Charter, Chapters VI, VII and VIII	Peaceful settlement, binding enforcement measures and the role of regional arrangements in keeping the peace.
UNCLOS (1982), Part III	Transit passage through international straits may not be suspended. Coastal States may adopt navigation rules but not block passage.
Law of naval warfare (San Remo Manual, 1994)	Rules on blockades, mines and attacks on merchant ships during armed conflict.
NPT (1968), Articles II, III and X	Non-nuclear States must not seek nuclear weapons and must accept IAEA safeguards; Article X allows withdrawal with three months' notice.
IAEA Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with Iran (1974)	Obliges Iran to declare and allow verification of all nuclear material.
Resolution 2231 (2015)	Endorsed the JCPOA; its snapback provision was used in 2025. Whether its terms have now expired is disputed.
Resolution 2817 (2026)	Condemns Iranian attacks on neighbouring States and reaffirms the right of navigation.
International humanitarian law	Protects civilians and civilian objects such as energy infrastructure, ports and desalination plants in every armed conflict.

16. The United Nations and Regional Response

- **The Security Council** adopted resolution 2817 in March 2026, but a draft on Hormuz was vetoed in April and a further US–Bahrain draft on shipping, mines and a humanitarian maritime corridor was circulated in May.
- **The Secretary-General** has repeatedly called for a ceasefire, respect for international law and the reopening of the strait.
- **The IAEA** Director General Rafael Grossi has sought a return of inspectors; the Board of Governors adopted a resolution in June 2026.
- **Mediators**: Pakistan brokered the April ceasefire and hosted talks; Qatar, Oman and others have carried messages between the sides.
- **The International Maritime Organization (IMO)** and navies have worked on shipping safety; the IEA co-ordinated emergency oil releases.
- **Regional organisations**: the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Arab League and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation have met in emergency sessions.
- **Humanitarian agencies** (OCHA, WFP, UNHCR, WHO) respond to casualties and displacement in Iran, Lebanon and elsewhere.

17. Case Studies and Models

17.1 The Tanker War and resolution 598 (1987)

During the Iran–Iraq War, both sides attacked hundreds of merchant ships. Foreign navies escorted tankers, and the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 598, demanding a ceasefire, withdrawal to borders and a UN observer group (UNIIMOG). It took a year for both sides to accept it, but it did end the war in 1988. It shows the Council acting together on the Gulf, with monitoring built in.

17.2 The JCPOA (2015)

The nuclear deal between Iran and China, France, Germany, Russia, the UK, the US and the EU capped enrichment at 3.67 percent, cut Iran's stockpile and gave the IAEA its most intrusive inspections anywhere, in exchange for sanctions relief. The IAEA repeatedly confirmed Iran's compliance until the US withdrew in 2018. Delegates may ask whether a new deal could build on it, and what guarantees would make it last.

17.3 The Helsinki model: the OSCE

In 1975, rival Cold War blocs agreed the Helsinki Final Act, creating what became the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe. It combined principles (no use of force, respect for borders), confidence-building measures such as notifying military exercises, and regular dialogue. Many experts have proposed a similar 'Conference on Security and Co-operation' for the Gulf. Could it work in West Asia?

17.4 The Black Sea Grain Initiative (2022–23)

During the war in Ukraine, the UN and Türkiye brokered a deal that let ships carry grain out of Ukrainian ports, with a Joint Coordination Centre in Istanbul to inspect ships and keep a safe corridor. It ran for a year before Russia withdrew. It is a model for a UN-backed maritime corridor in wartime, as proposed for Hormuz in 2026.

17.5 The Middle East WMD-Free Zone conference

Since 2019 the UN has held an annual conference on a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, first called for in 1974 and endorsed by the 1995 NPT Review Conference. Israel, which is widely believed to possess nuclear weapons and is not an NPT party, and the United States have not taken part.

18. Key Issues for Debate

1. **Making the ceasefire hold.** Should the Council endorse it under Chapter VII? Should there be UN monitors, and who would provide them?
2. **Reopening Hormuz.** How can the strait be reopened quickly? A UN-backed maritime corridor, naval escorts, mine-clearing, or a negotiated reopening linked to lifting the blockade?
3. **Nuclear verification.** How can IAEA inspectors return, and what should happen to Iran's enriched uranium? What would Iran need in return?
4. **Self-defence and accountability.** Should the Council comment on the legality of the strikes and counter-strikes? Can it do so without a veto?
5. **Proxies and non-State actors.** How should the Council address Hezbollah, the Houthis and armed groups in Iraq and Syria?
6. **Regional architecture.** Should the Council call for a regional security conference including Iran, the Gulf States, Israel and others? Who should guarantee any agreement?
7. **Humanitarian and economic impact.** How can civilians, energy infrastructure and global supplies of fuel, food and fertiliser be protected?

19. Positions of Countries and Blocs

The positions below are broad tendencies to start your research, not fixed rules. Positions in this conflict change quickly, so check the latest Council meeting records.

Group	Typical position
United States	Says the strikes were needed to stop an Iranian nuclear weapon and missile threat; demands no enrichment, the return of inspectors and the reopening of Hormuz; maintains the blockade and seeks a deal linked to wider regional normalisation.

Group	Typical position
Israel	Regards a nuclear-armed Iran and Iran's proxies as existential threats; insists on the right to act in self-defence; opposes any outcome that leaves Iran able to enrich.
Iran	Calls the strikes illegal aggression and the killing of its leader a crime; claims self-defence; links reopening the strait to an end to attacks, the lifting of the blockade and sanctions; insists on its right to peaceful enrichment under the NPT.
Russian Federation and China	Condemn the US–Israeli strikes as violations of the Charter; vetoed the April Hormuz draft as one-sided; call for a ceasefire, dialogue and respect for Iran's sovereignty; China depends heavily on Gulf energy and wants the strait open.
United Kingdom and France	Condemn Iranian attacks on Gulf States and shipping, support freedom of navigation and the IAEA, and call for a negotiated settlement; triggered snapback with Germany in 2025.
Gulf States (Saudi Arabia, UAE)	Victims of Iranian strikes; led drafting of resolution 2817; want strong guarantees for navigation and an end to proxy attacks, but also fear a wider war on their territory.
Türkiye, Egypt, Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia	Call for de-escalation and an end to attacks on all sides; Pakistan mediated the ceasefire; Egypt is hit by lost Suez Canal revenue from Red Sea disruption.
Energy importers (India, Japan, South Korea, Bangladesh, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore)	Highly exposed to oil and gas shocks and with many nationals working in the Gulf; stress freedom of navigation, de-escalation and diplomacy; India relies on ties with both Iran and the Gulf.
European and other States (Germany, Italy, Spain, Netherlands, Belgium, Poland, Nordic States, Switzerland, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Ukraine)	Support the IAEA, freedom of navigation and international law; differ on how far to criticise the original strikes; Switzerland protects US interests in Tehran.
Latin America and Africa (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa)	Generally stress the Charter's ban on force, multilateral diplomacy and the NPT; worried about fuel and food prices; South Africa and Brazil are BRICS partners of Iran.

20. Questions a Resolution Must Answer

1. What does the Council demand of all parties to make the ceasefire permanent, and how will violations be monitored and reported?
2. How and when will the Strait of Hormuz, and the Red Sea, be reopened to all shipping, and who will keep the routes safe?
3. How will the IAEA regain access, and how will the fate of Iran's highly enriched uranium be verified?
4. What incentives, guarantees or measures will encourage all sides to comply?
5. Should the Council convene or endorse a regional security conference, and who would take part?
6. How will civilians, humanitarian access and critical infrastructure be protected?

PART IV

Research and Preparation

How to turn this guide into a winning position

21. How to Research the Agenda

1. **Understand the agenda.** Read Part III twice. Write the agenda in your own words in one sentence.
2. **Find your country's position.** Search your country's foreign or commerce ministry website, its statements at the UN or other forum, and how it voted on the key documents named in this guide.
3. **Know your allies and opponents.** Look at which bloc your country belongs to (Section 19) and who voted the same way.
4. **Collect evidence.** Pick three to five facts with a source and a date. Quality beats quantity.
5. **Prepare solutions.** Write three or four operative clauses your country would support and that others could accept.
6. **Practise.** Time your opening speech aloud. Prepare answers to the two hardest questions someone could ask you.

A WORD ON SOURCES

Wikipedia, blogs and AI chatbots can help you start, but they are not evidence. Quote the UN document, the official statement or the report itself, and check every figure an AI tool gives you, because such tools often invent numbers and document symbols. The Executive Board may ask for your source.

22. Official Sources and Reference Pointers

Source	What you will find
securitycouncilreport.org	Monthly forecasts and 'What's in Blue' explainers on every Council discussion of the Middle East, including the April 2026 vote.
press.un.org and news.un.org	Summaries of every Security Council meeting, with each country's statement.
iaea.org	Reports of the Director General and Board of Governors resolutions on Iran.
digitallibrary.un.org	Texts and voting records of resolutions 598, 2231 and 2817.
imo.org and iea.org	Shipping safety notices and energy-market impact.
Your government's foreign ministry	Statements on the conflict, the strait and the nuclear issue.

23. Countries in This Committee

These are the 44 delegations allotted in UNSC at FreeVoice MUN 2.0. Iran and Israel, the main parties, are both delegations in this committee.

Delegations			
Argentina	France	Netherlands	South Korea
Australia	Germany	New Zealand	Spain

Delegations			
Bangladesh	India	Nigeria	Sweden
Belgium	Indonesia	Norway	Switzerland
Brazil	Iran	Pakistan	Thailand
Canada	Israel	Philippines	Türkiye
Chile	Italy	Poland	Ukraine
China	Japan	Russian Federation	United Arab Emirates
Colombia	Kenya	Saudi Arabia	United Kingdom
Denmark	Malaysia	Singapore	United States
Egypt	Mexico	South Africa	Vietnam

24. Glossary

Term	Meaning
JCPOA	Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency, the UN-linked nuclear watchdog in Vienna.
GCC	Gulf Cooperation Council: Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE.
UNCLOS	UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982).
Blockade	Using naval force to stop ships entering or leaving an enemy's ports.
Bloc	A group of countries with similar positions that work together in committee.
Quorum	The minimum number of delegates who must be present for the committee to work.
Sponsor / signatory	Sponsors write a draft resolution; signatories only want it debated.

25. Delegate Research Worksheet

Fill this in before the conference and keep it open beside you in committee.

Question	Your notes
Is my country a party to the conflict, a target of attacks, a mediator or an affected energy importer?	
How did my country vote on resolution 2817 and the April 2026 Hormuz draft (if a Council member)? What has it said since?	
What is my country's position on Iran's enrichment, the IAEA and the 2025 snapback?	
Three facts I will quote (with source and date)	
Two operative clauses I want in the resolution	

Question	Your notes
Countries I will approach first in an unmoderated caucus	

26. References and Further Reading

Documents are listed by their official title and symbol so you can find them in the UN Digital Library or on the organisation's website.

Charter of the United Nations, Articles 2(4), 24, 25, 27, 33, 39–42, 51 and 52.

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (1982), Part III (Straits used for international navigation).

Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (1968).

Security Council resolutions 598 (1987), 1737 (2006), 1929 (2010), 2231 (2015) and 2817 (2026).

Security Council draft resolution on the Strait of Hormuz, vetoed on 7 April 2026, and the record of that meeting.

IAEA Board of Governors resolution on Iran, June 2026, and reports of the Director General on verification in Iran.

Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, Vienna, 14 July 2015.

San Remo Manual on International Law Applicable to Armed Conflicts at Sea (1994).

Helsinki Final Act of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (1975).

UK House of Commons Library, Israel/US–Iran conflict 2026: Background and UK response (CBP-10521).

We look forward to seeing you in committee on 4 November.

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