

# **Assessing the impact of peacemaking forces in conflict zones in adherence with international law**

## **Background Guide**

### **A. Letter from the Executive Board**

Greetings,

We extend our warmest appreciation as you join us for the simulation of the United Nations Security Council at the Fairgaze North East & East Conference 2024. Our focus lies on “assessing the impact of peacemaking forces in conflict zones in adherence with international law.”

The Security Council stands as a cornerstone of Model UN Conferences, offering a dynamic and captivating experience. Our Background Guide serves as a primer for your research, providing essential insights into the agenda. Dive into it meticulously as it forms the foundation of your preparation. We eagerly anticipate meeting you all and trust that this guide will ignite your enthusiasm for the engaging discussions ahead.

Every Security Council session bears the potential to reshape global peace and stability. We urge careful consideration before making any decisions during the conference.

Warm regards,

The Executive Board

**United Nations Security Council**

**Krish Gupta,**

Chairperson

[xkrishguptaa@gmail.com](mailto:xkrishguptaa@gmail.com)

**Pranav Aggarwal,**

Vice Chairperson

[pranavaggarwal1012@gmail.com](mailto:pranavaggarwal1012@gmail.com)

## **B. About the Committee**

The inception of the Security Council can be traced back to the seminal Yalta Conference of 1945, where luminaries such as Roosevelt, Churchill, and Stalin delineated its prerogatives as the principal organ of the United Nations entrusted with the solemn duty of safeguarding global tranquillity. As per the precepts established therein, Security Council resolutions wield binding force through the mechanism of collective security, obligating all member states of the United Nations, in principle, to abide by its directives. The council's mandate encapsulates its paramount obligation for international peace and security in Article 24 of Chapter V within the Charter.

Further elaboration within the Charter delineates the avenues through which the Security Council may solicit input and requisition resources from diverse UN entities, albeit subject to the council's solicitation. While endeavoring to arbitrate international disputes, the council's latitude is circumscribed solely by the reservations of its constituent states. Chapters VI and VII, notably, underscore the unchecked potency of the Security Council's enforcement capabilities. Particularly noteworthy is Article 36, which confers upon the body the authority to intervene in "any dispute, or any situation which might lead to international friction." However, the absence of clearly delineated criteria regarding what constitutes "international friction" renders Security Council interventions susceptible to being steered by the interests of its members arbitrarily.

Each member state represented within the Security Council holds equal voting rights. The passage of a resolution necessitates a qualified majority comprising nine member states, which may either endorse or oppose a resolution or opt for abstention, as enshrined in Article 27 II of the UN Charter. The "veto power" vested in the P5 endows them with the ability to preclude the adoption of a resolution by casting dissenting votes. During the Cold War era, the absence of consensus among the P5 engendered frequent recourse to the veto power. Ordinarily, resolutions within the Security Council are adopted through unanimity.

The potential exertion of power vested in the Security Council is formidable; Chapter VII confers upon the council the jurisdiction to implement comprehensive sanctions and military interventions targeting a belligerent state. In Article 41, the Security Council may exercise,

**“complete or partial interruption of economic relations and rail, sea, air, postal, telegraphic, radio, and other means of communication, and the severance of diplomatic relations.”**

## C. Introduction to the Agenda

This agenda underscores the pivotal role of peacemaking forces in mitigating conflict and restoring stability while emphasizing the imperative of upholding international legal norms.

Throughout our session, we will delve into the multifaceted dynamics of peacemaking efforts, examining their effectiveness, compliance with international legal frameworks, and impact on civilian populations. By scrutinizing these aspects, we aim to glean insights that inform our collective approach to conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

In our deliberations, let us remain mindful of the complexities inherent in peacemaking operations and their diverse challenges. We endeavor to chart a course toward sustainable peace and security in conflict-affected regions through open dialogue, cooperation, and a steadfast commitment to the principles enshrined in international law.

---

### References:

1. United Nations Security Council. (2018). Security Council resolution 2436 (2018) on peacekeeping performance. Retrieved from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2436\(2018\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2436(2018))
2. United Nations. (n.d.). Peacekeeping Operations. Retrieved from <https://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations>
3. United Nations. (1945). Charter of the United Nations. Retrieved from <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/chapter-i>

## D. UN Peacemaking Forces

UN Peacekeeping Forces represent one of the most visible and recognizable aspects of the organization's efforts to maintain international peace and security. Established in the aftermath of World War II, the concept of peacekeeping has evolved significantly, with missions tailored to address the unique challenges of each conflict zone.

Comprising military, police, and civilian personnel from various member states, UN Peacekeeping Forces operate under mandates authorized by the Security Council. These mandates typically involve tasks such as monitoring ceasefires, facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid, and supporting political processes aimed at resolving conflicts peacefully.

Over the years, UN Peacekeeping Forces have been deployed to some of the world's most volatile regions, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Despite facing formidable obstacles, peacekeepers have made significant contributions to stabilizing conflict-affected areas and laying the groundwork for lasting peace.

However, the effectiveness of the UN Peacekeeping Forces is contingent upon several factors, including adequate resources, clear mandates, and the cooperation of all parties involved in the conflict. Moreover, peacekeepers must navigate complex political landscapes, adhere to strict rules of engagement, and prioritize the protection of civilians, particularly vulnerable populations such as women and children.

As we assess the impact of peacemaking forces in conflict zones, it is essential to recognize the invaluable role played by UN Peacekeeping Forces. Their presence often serves as a beacon of hope for populations caught in the crossfire, offering a tangible manifestation of the international community's commitment to peace and security.

In the ensuing discussions, delegates are encouraged to explore ways to enhance the effectiveness of UN Peacekeeping Forces, address challenges facing peacekeeping operations, and ensure that these forces operate in strict adherence to international legal frameworks and human rights standards.

---

#### References:

1. United Nations Peacekeeping. (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/>
2. United Nations. (2021). UN Peacekeeping Fact Sheet. Retrieved from <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/fact-sheet>
3. Howard, L. (2008). UN Peacekeeping: Gains and Losses. Council on Foreign Relations. Retrieved from <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/un-peacekeeping-gains-and-losses>

## **E. Case Study: Sudan and South Sudan Crisis**

### **Background:**

The Sudan and South Sudan crisis presents a poignant illustration of the complexities surrounding peacemaking efforts in conflict zones and the imperative of adherence to international law. Following a protracted civil war, Sudan achieved independence from

British and Egyptian rule in 1956. However, internal strife persisted, particularly along ethnic and religious lines, culminating in the secession of South Sudan in 2011.

### **Conflict Dynamics:**

The division of Sudan led to optimism for peace, yet unresolved issues fueled ongoing tensions between the two nations. Key disputes centered on the delineation of borders, distribution of oil resources, and the status of contested regions such as Abyei. These disputes escalated into armed conflict, marked by violence, displacement, and humanitarian suffering.

### **Peacemaking Efforts:**

International efforts to address the Sudan and South Sudan crisis have been extensive, encompassing diplomatic initiatives, peacekeeping missions, and mediation efforts by regional bodies such as the African Union. The United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) was established to maintain peace and facilitate negotiations, while the African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP) played a pivotal role in mediating talks between the two nations.

### **Challenges and Impacts:**

Despite these efforts, challenges abound. The proliferation of armed groups, competition over resources, and the absence of trust between conflicting parties have hindered progress toward sustainable peace. Moreover, allegations of human rights abuses, including attacks on civilians and obstruction of humanitarian aid, underscore the urgency of addressing violations of international law.

### **Adherence to International Law:**

In the context of the agenda, assessing the impact of peacemaking forces in Sudan and South Sudan necessitates a rigorous examination of their compliance with international legal frameworks. Peacekeeping missions must operate within the parameters of UN mandates, respect the sovereignty of host nations, and prioritize the protection of civilians. Furthermore, efforts to resolve the Sudan and South Sudan crisis must be guided by international humanitarian law, ensuring the rights and dignity of all individuals affected by the conflict.

### **Conclusion:**

The Sudan and South Sudan crisis serves as a poignant reminder of the challenges inherent in peacemaking efforts and the imperative of upholding international law. As we deliberate

on this agenda, it is incumbent upon delegates to explore innovative approaches, foster dialogue between conflicting parties, and advocate for the implementation of sustainable solutions that prioritize peace, justice, and the well-being of affected populations.

---

#### References:

1. United Nations Security Council. (2011). Security Council resolution 1990 (2011) on South Sudan. Retrieved from [\(https://undocs.org/S/RES/1990\(2011\)\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1990(2011))([\(https://undocs.org/S/RES/1990\(2011\)\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1990(2011)))
2. African Union. (n.d.). African Union High-Level Implementation Panel (AUHIP). Retrieved from <https://au.int/en/hip>
3. United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA). (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://unisfa.unmissions.org/>

## **F. Case Study: United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)**

### **Background:**

The United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) represents a critical international intervention in response to the multifaceted challenges facing Iraq in the aftermath of conflict and political instability. Established in 2003, UNAMI operates under a mandate to provide support and guidance to the Iraqi government in its efforts to promote peace, stability, and development.

### **Conflict Dynamics:**

The inception of UNAMI coincided with a period of profound upheaval in Iraq, marked by the overthrow of the Saddam Hussein regime and the subsequent emergence of sectarian violence, insurgency, and political unrest. These challenges exacerbated existing fault lines within Iraqi society, posing significant obstacles to the country's transition towards democracy and sustainable peace.

### **Peacemaking Efforts:**

UNAMI's peacemaking efforts have been multifaceted, encompassing a range of initiatives aimed at fostering dialogue, reconciliation, and inclusive governance. The Mission has facilitated national dialogues, supported electoral processes, and provided technical assistance to strengthen the rule of law and promote human rights. Additionally, UNAMI

has played a pivotal role in coordinating humanitarian assistance and facilitating the return and reintegration of internally displaced persons.

### **Challenges and Impacts:**

The task of UNAMI has been fraught with challenges, including security threats, political polarization, and socioeconomic disparities. The resurgence of extremist groups, sectarian tensions, and external interference has hampered efforts to stabilize Iraq. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic has compounded existing challenges, exacerbating health inequalities and disrupting socio-economic recovery efforts.

### **Adherence to International Law:**

In the context of the agenda, assessing the impact of UNAMI in Iraq necessitates a rigorous examination of its adherence to international legal frameworks. The Mission operates under the principles of the United Nations Charter, respecting the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq while promoting human rights, the rule of law, and humanitarian principles. UNAMI's activities are guided by Security Council resolutions and international humanitarian law, ensuring that its interventions are conducted under universally recognized norms and standards.

### **Conclusion:**

The case of UNAMI underscores the complexities inherent in peacemaking efforts in post-conflict environments and the indispensable role of international assistance in supporting national reconciliation and reconstruction. As we assess the impact of UNAMI in Iraq, delegates must explore innovative strategies, foster inclusive dialogue, and advocate for the implementation of sustainable solutions that prioritize the needs and aspirations of the Iraqi people.

---

#### References:

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). (n.d.). Retrieved from <https://www.uniraq.org/>

United Nations Security Council. (2003). Security Council resolution 1500 (2003) on the situation between Iraq and Kuwait. Retrieved from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/1500\(2003\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1500(2003))

United Nations. (n.d.). United Nations Support for Iraq. Retrieved from <https://www.un.org/uniraq>

## G. Guidelines / Resources on Researching

As you delve into the complexities of our agenda, "Assessing the impact of peacemaking forces in conflict zones in adherence with international law," it is essential to adopt a systematic approach to research and analysis. Below are guidelines to aid you in your research endeavors and key areas of consideration to explore:

1. **Understand the Context:** Begin by gaining a comprehensive understanding of the historical background, geopolitical dynamics, and root causes of the conflict under consideration. Analyze the socio-economic, cultural, and political factors contributing to the conflict's perpetuation and the challenges faced by peacemaking forces in this context.
2. **Review Mandates and Resolutions:** Familiarize yourself with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions, mandates, and reports pertaining to peacemaking operations in conflict zones. Pay close attention to the objectives, scope, and limitations of these mandates, as well as any updates or developments since their inception.
3. **Evaluate Peacemaking Efforts:** Assess the effectiveness and impact of peacemaking forces, including peacekeeping missions, diplomatic initiatives, and mediation efforts, in mitigating conflict and fostering peace. Consider factors such as the implementation of ceasefire agreements, protection of civilian populations, and facilitation of humanitarian assistance.
4. **Examine Compliance with International Law:** Scrutinize the adherence of peacemaking forces to international legal frameworks, including international humanitarian law, human rights law, and the United Nations Charter. Evaluate instances of alleged violations or abuses, mechanisms for accountability, and efforts to promote compliance with legal norms.
5. **Assess Humanitarian Concerns:** Explore the humanitarian consequences of conflict and the role of peacemaking forces in addressing humanitarian needs. Consider issues such as access to essential services, protection of vulnerable populations, and the delivery of humanitarian assistance in conflict-affected areas.
6. **Analyze Regional Dynamics:** Examine the regional implications of the conflict and the involvement of neighboring states, regional organizations, and external actors in peacemaking efforts. Assess the impact of regional geopolitics, cross-border dynamics, and regional initiatives on the resolution of the conflict and prospects for peace.



7. **Identify Best Practices and Lessons Learned:** Identify successful strategies, best practices, and lessons learned from past peacemaking experiences in similar contexts. Draw insights from case studies, academic research, and evaluations of peacemaking operations to inform your analysis and recommendations.
8. **Consider Stakeholder Perspectives:** Take into account the perspectives, interests, and priorities of all relevant stakeholders, including governments, non-state actors, civil society organizations, and local communities. Seek to understand their grievances, aspirations, and concerns, and assess their willingness to engage in dialogue and reconciliation efforts.

By adopting a holistic and methodical approach to research and analysis, you will be better equipped to contribute meaningfully to our deliberations and advance the objectives of our agenda. Remember to critically evaluate sources, maintain objectivity, and engage in constructive dialogue with your fellow delegates.

## H. Position Paper

Note: Everything should be in Times New Roman and Font Size 11.

**Country: (Name of the country)** (Right-hand side flag of the nation)

**Committee: (Name of the committee in full form and bracket its short form)**

**Topic: Agenda**

The Position Paper will be in 3 paragraphs

Para 1- A little intro to the agenda

Para 2- What policies your country has adopted, it can include any UN Conventions or Draft resolutions related to the agenda and facts and ranking about it.

Para 3- The delegate can put some solutions regarding the agenda.

Note: Always try to keep the position paper to 1 page or not exceeding 2 pages.

Attached below is the example of the position paper so the delegate can have the reference to see and prepare according to it :-

**Country: Sweden**

**Committee: United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)**

**Topic: Discussion on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related forms of intolerance with follow-up of the Durban Declaration.**



Racial discrimination is a significant factor in conflict, exclusivist nationalism, and state disintegration. Governments, political movements, and violent armed groups use it to mobilize supporters and exclusion. Racism can intersect with gender discrimination, diminishing women's human rights. As economic globalization, regional economic crises, and political upheaval drive migration and refugee flows, it is crucial to address racism as a factor in migration and refugee flows. Government policies and practices can have a pernicious discriminatory effect, barring members of groups defined on racial or related grounds from the enjoyment of their fundamental human rights. Extreme forms of racism, such as apartheid, genocide, slavery, and ethnic cleansing, are at the end of the spectrum. Progress in international justice and action to protect vulnerable populations can help fight and eradicate racial discrimination.

Sweden ranks 3rd in racial equality and 1st in expat quality of life. Sweden supports non-discriminatory law enforcement through the recruiting and retention of officers from diverse backgrounds. The Living History Forum is implementing an educational project on various forms of racism and intolerance, including Afro-phobia.

The government policy states that the national plan will continue to combat racism and xenophobic hate crimes against minorities. The Swedish Agency for Youth and Civil Society distributes government grants to non-governmental organisations and foundations under the Ordinance on State Grants for Activities against Racism and Similar Forms of Intolerance. Additionally, funding has been granted for the production of an overview of the extent of Afro-phobia in Sweden.

Sweden has submitted its voluntary national review in 2021 which also includes a national framework for SDG 10 (Reduce Inequalities). The Human Rights Ombudsman's Office in Sweden handles complaints regarding Human rights violation emphasizing on race and ethnicity to combat xenophobic violence.

Sweden has ratified the following conventions to reduce racism and discrimination such as:

- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

In 2016, Sweden adopted a national action plan against racism, similar forms of hostility, and hate crimes. Since then, more actions have been initiated and carried out. The Defense Research Agency is

responsible for monitoring extremist Internet propaganda. Authorities have also made efforts to integrate refugees and beneficiaries of subsidiary protection, facilitating their access to the labour market. Additionally, a new housing policy package and long-term reform program aim to reduce segregation. This much has been done however there is much more to do.

The delegate would like to state some solutions to achieve this goal at a faster rate:-

- There should be a quota for African people and people of African descent in various sectors such as education, employment, politics, etc.
- Special prosecutors should be established in countries to investigate racist crimes against African people and people of African descent.
- The Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council should visit the countries more frequently to address contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance.
- Countries should focus on the Durban Declaration and take appropriate measures to prevent hate speech and incite violence against vulnerable individuals.
- Government and media should work together to eliminate racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance.
- Sweden would specify in ICESCR that the covenant does not explicitly mention racial or ethnic discrimination and should be omitted and new laws should be made in favour of people facing discrimination in terms of racism or xenophobia.
- Many nations do not adequately report on measures addressing racial and ethnic discrimination and strict and mandatory actions should be taken for the same.