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MACMUN 2017 | SC Background Guide



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“There is nothing we can say to the world’s children that can convince them the world needs to be the way it is. That means we must do everything we can to close the gap between the world as it is, and the world as it should be.”

– UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon

Committee Overview

History

The United Nations was created in the wake of World War II to maintain world peace, replacing past international organizations such as the League of Nations. As victors of the war, the United States and the Soviet Union, along with the United Kingdom and other world powers, found themselves at the helm of a new world order in 1945. Leaders of these nations desired a united international body to maintain peace and order. The United Nations was subsequently formed out of this goal. The Security Council was created as a “powerful institution of international relations” and was placed at the centre of the organization, with the United States, Soviet Union, and United Kingdom granting themselves permanent membership on the Council, along with China and France. The primary goal of the UNSC, as outlined by the UN Charter, is “to investigate any dispute, or any situation which might lead to international friction or give rise to a dispute, in order to determine whether the continuance of the dispute or situation is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security.” In the early stages of its existence, the Security Council was virtually paralyzed by Cold War tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union, but has become increasingly active on the world stage since the 1990s and the formation of the Russian Federation.

Mandate and Function of the Committee

According to the Charter of the United Nations, the UN, with the Security Council at its core, has four fundamental purposes:

- I. To maintain international peace and security
- II. To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples
- III. To achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, cultural, or humanitarian nature
- IV. To be a centre of harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends

The UNSC wields more power than any other UN body or committee. The Security Council is able to create resolutions that, unlike in other assemblies, are binding according to international law. The Security Council is also well known for its peacekeeping missions; as of mid-2015, there were sixteen ongoing authorized peacekeeping missions. Furthermore, the Council has many tactics at their disposal, including the right to impose economic sanctions, travel bans, and arms embargoes. In extreme cases, the Council may take military action against any state threatening their mandate.

Structure, Governance and Members

The Security Council is comprised of five permanent (P5) and ten non-permanent members. The P5 members are China, France, the Russian Federation (formerly the Soviet Union), the United Kingdom, and the United States. On the original council there were six non-permanent members in addition to the permanent members. In 1965, however, this number was increased to ten. The non-permanent members each hold their place for a two-year term, with five new members elected every year.

The Security Council presidency rotates on a monthly basis, according to the English alphabetical order of their names. UNSC meetings can be held at any time when convened by the President and by the request of any Member State. Under Article 35 of the Charter, “the president shall call a meeting if a dispute or situation calls the Council’s attention.” The provisional agenda for each meeting is set by the Secretary-General of the UN and is further approved by the President of the Security Council.

Each member of the Security Council has one vote on procedural and all other matters. Decisions are made by a vote from nine of the fifteen members. However, all five permanent members must all vote in favour or abstain in order for a resolution to pass. This rule is called the “Right to Veto”. The Right to Veto was established in 1945 with the UNSC, due to the perceived importance and influence of the permanent member states in matters of peace and security. The Right to Veto was commonly used by the United States and the Soviet Union in the first several decades of the Council’s existence due to their pronounced differences in ideology during the Cold War. Because of these tensions, Security Council meetings used to be much less frequent. Since the end of the conflict around 1990, the Security Council has become intensely active and generally meets on an ongoing basis.

It is important to note that the right to veto held by the five permanent members remains a contentious issue in the United Nations. Many critics contend that the veto allows permanent members a disproportionate amount of power, and that even the threat of the veto is an advantageous tool for these states.

Simulation Style/Composition of the Committee

Two designated chairs will head the MACMUN Security Council, rather than the United Nations system of rotating presidency of a single member. Chairs will be responsible for maintaining the course of debate in accordance to the National Model UN rules and procedures. The chairs will take on various roles including opening and closing each meeting, setting the agenda, managing the list of speakers, and facilitating discussion. Moreover, the chairs will be given the final rule on any disputed points, and will declare when motions are to be voted on by the body. It will also be the decision of the chairs to pass any draft resolution to be introduced for debate.

MACMUN’s Security Council will consist of 15 delegates, each representing an assigned Member State. To provide the closest possible simulation of the UNSC, there will be delegates

representing the P5 members as well as ten non-permanent members. Note that the non-permanent members are not representative of the true members of the UNSC and have been altered to provide a more exciting simulation. As a result, the MACMUN members of the council will be: Brazil, Cuba, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, India, Italy, People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Russia, South Africa, Sweden, Ukraine, United Kingdom, and United States. In anticipation of the conference, delegates will be expected to research the topics provided in this package, submit a position paper, and be prepared to debate based on their country's global stance and foreign policy.

Sample Timeline

9:30-9:40 – Roll Call
9:40-9:55 – Setting the Agenda
9:55-12:30 – Debate on the Agenda Topic and Motions
12:30-1:30 – Lunch
1:30-4:00 – Debate on the Agenda Topic, Motions, and Draft Resolutions
4:00-4:30 – Voting on the Draft Resolutions
4:30 – Closure/Adjournment of Debate

Forming Resolutions

Resolutions represent the opinions of the United Nations body as a comprehensive solution to the issue at hand. It is a final result of the discussions and negotiations regarding a topic that details a recommended course of action. A resolution is first considered a draft resolution prior to being voted on by the body. During the course of debate delegates can decide to work alone or collaborate with others to write a draft resolution. The delegates writing the resolution are considered “sponsors” and must recruit a certain number delegates as “signatories” in order for their resolution to be introduced by the Chairs to the committee. Signatories are members who wish to bring the resolution to debate but do not have to support the document. Once brought to debate, amendments can be made until the final resolution is voted on by the body.

Position Papers

The Position Paper is a detailed essay of your country's policies and position on the topics that are going to be discussed in your committee. The creation of your position paper is an important task because it will help you, the delegate, to organize your thoughts and ideas about MACMUN topics so that you can successfully engage with the rest of the committee. Additionally, the position papers will be judged by the conference hosts, and the writer of the top position paper in each committee will be recognized at the conference award ceremony. Please note that to be considered for any award at MACMUN 2017, you must submit a position paper.

Your goals are to research your assigned country in depth, to examine the stance they take on the given topics, and to summarize this information in one position paper. The length should not exceed one page per topic, single spaced.

A strong MACMUN position paper should include the following:

1. How your country is affected by the issues
2. Your country's policies with respect to the issues
3. Quotes from your country's leaders about the topics
4. Actions that your country has taken with regard to the issues
5. What your country believes should be done to address the issues
6. What your country would like to accomplish in the committee's resolution
7. Description of your relations with other countries' as it relates to the issues at hand

Important Notes:

- Include your name, assigned country, and committee
- Please do not include illustrations, diagrams, decorations, national symbols, watermarks, or page borders
- Include citations and a reference page, making sure to use a standardized citation style of your choice consistently, giving due credit to the sources used in research (the reference page is not included in the page limit)

The deadline to submit your position paper is ***February 5, 2017 at 11:59PM***; submissions should be emailed to macmunconference@gmail.com.

Where to Start Your Research

The United Nations itself has a multitude of resources for you to explore. As a starting point for your research on your assigned country, the UN has an extensive collection of fact sheets and assessments on every state under its jurisdiction.

<http://www.un.org/en/members/>

The UN's Security Council website will likely be of specific interest to you for social documents, news, and miscellaneous information.

<http://www.un.org/en/sc/>

The Security Council Report is an “independent think tank” that assesses the Security Council’s activities on a monthly basis. Their website provides an excellent starting point for your research and should help especially the investigation of specific issues. <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/>

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Topic #1: Nuclear Armament as a Threat to International Security

I have to bring to your notice a terrifying reality: with the development of nuclear weapons Man has acquired, for the first time in history, the technical means to destroy the whole of civilization in a single act.

– Polish physicist who worked on the Manhattan project and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Sir Joseph Rotblat

Introduction

Nuclear weapons have been the forefront of disarmament debate over the recent decades. As all P5 members possess nuclear weapons, the Security Council seemingly poses significant challenges to the discussions of international security. This is a volatile issue as there is a threat of nuclear weapons with a backdrop of unrest in Eastern Europe, Middle Eastern turmoil, tense Indo-Pakistan relations, the South China Sea dispute and the threat of terrorism.

History and Background

There have been several efforts to control nuclear armament by the international community. The Treaty on the Nonproliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) effective in 1970 was created to prevent the spread of nuclear armament, promote peaceful use of nuclear energy and disarm existing nuclear weapons. These three pillars of the NPT are followed by all signatories; however, notable non-signatories include India, Pakistan and Israel, which are suspected to have nuclear weapon stockpiles. Tense geopolitical and bilateral relationships for each of these countries increases the threat level of the nuclear situation. India and Pakistan, for example, have a tense history propagated by the threat of nuclear weapons. Israel's geopolitical interests in the Middle East pose additional security threats. Perhaps more alarmingly, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) withdrew from the treaty in 2003 and openly declared its possession of nuclear weaponry and have tested and paraded their weapons on several occasions. It is also important to note that simply signing the NPT is not the same as following its expectations or fully binding to this agreement.

Overseeing many of the international community's nuclear investigations is an organization known as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The IAEA was created out of the IAEA statute and reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and the United Nations Security Council. It is responsible for promoting the peaceful use of nuclear energy. The IAEA has been criticized and rejected by the Iranian government, and the DPRK have also refused IAEA inspections into their weapons arsenal. In 1996, nations also signed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty. Again, the same non-signatories of the NPT refused to sign this treaty as well. Researching the treaties and organizations surrounding nuclear armament are key to

understanding the main points of the issue, its history, the solutions used in the past, and how nations may sign but not necessarily follow through on expectations.

Current Situation

The United States of America President-elect, Donald Trump has openly encouraged the nuclear armament of other member states. This kind of discussion alarms the international community as it suggests continued proliferation, directly opposing NPT values. Presently, although the threat of nuclear weapons exists, the use of nuclear weapons as a means of destruction has not been employed in a very long time. The no first use and mutual assured destruction tactics assist in the hesitation in starting nuclear war. Having learned of the destructive power of nuclear weapons of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in World War II, the world understands the ramifications of employing a single nuclear missile. However with global tensions running almost as high as the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, our world is faced with a test to negotiate with one another to prevent annihilation and mutually assured destruction.

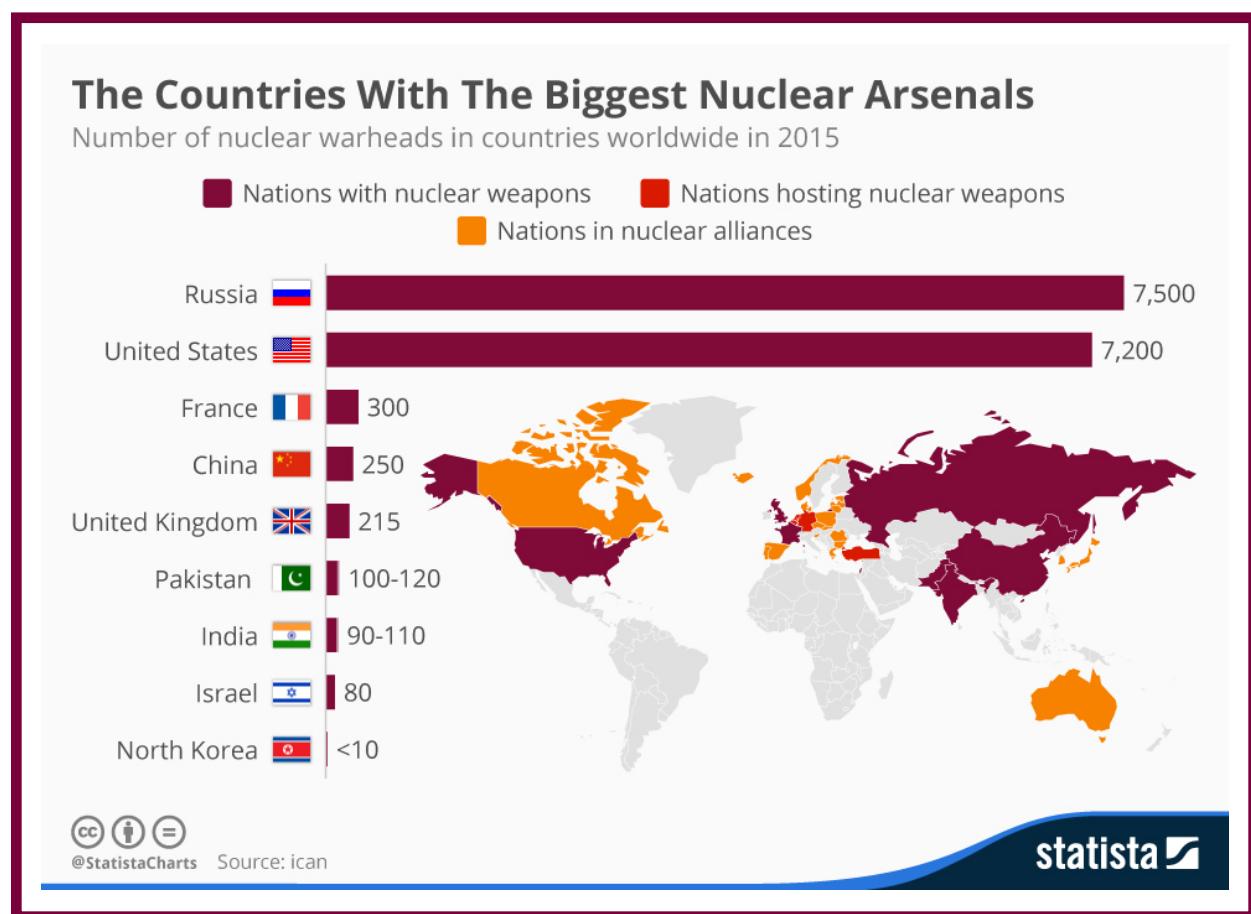


Figure 1: A figure detailing the nations that possess nuclear arms as well as the quantity of nuclear warheads.

Challenges

The main challenges in this debate include compromising between Israeli-Iranian relations, DPRK resistance, and the unclear future of the USA's nuclear policy. Regarding relations between India and Pakistan, both nations refuse to sign until the other complies. Israeli-Iranian conflict is a great concern to the council as well, with potential nuclear capabilities of both states. A large challenge will be easing these tensions amidst a boiling crisis in the Middle East currently dealing with unrest in post-Arab Spring states, the rise of terrorism and civil war. In addition, tackling DPRK's resistance and isolation to nuclear talks is a difficult task for the committee. With DPRK's tense situation with neighbouring Republic of Korea, this could potentially break into heated debate and poses a difficult task for the council. Reaffirming the pillars of the NPT as well as renewing exercise of the IAEA are crucial to solving the issue at hand. In addition, the future of the USA's perspectives on nuclear weapons is troubling. Reassuring the conviction of the USA to disarming nuclear weapons is also hefty task. The President-elect is also skeptical of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which currently has the USA housing nuclear weapons in Belgium, Germany, Italy, Netherlands and Turkey (a neighbour in the Middle East). This creates added tension to the European nuclear threat. The President-elect has also voiced support for expansion of nuclear programs in Pacific states, such as Japan and the Republic of Korea in an effort to become less reliant on US defense support. Tensions could be rising among the DPRK and Republic of Korea, and a more militaristic Japan against the People's Republic of China's territorial claims in the South China Sea. The added component of nuclear weapons could further exacerbate these tense situations to the very edge. Resolutions should seek to reaffirm a united goal and concrete plan to disarm nuclear weapons, negotiate peace talks between nations in tense conflict, and preventative strategies to deter nuclear warfare.

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Topic #2: The Situation in Kashmir – Dispute Between India and Pakistan

If you look at Indian movies, every time they wanted an exotic locale, they would have a dance number in Kashmir. Kashmir was India's fairyland. Indians went there because in a hot country you go to a cold place. People would be entranced by the sight of snow.

– Novelist Salman Rushdie

Introduction

The dispute between India and Pakistan over the land of Kashmir is one of immediate importance, with the potential of escalating to a nuclear battle considering the dark history between the two nations and the powers of their allies. Both nations are armed with nuclear weapons and stake a claim in the region. With constant ceasefire violations and cross border infiltrations, the tension between the two nations is high, with neither nation eager to step down.

The UNSC must act as an intermediary and work to resolve the underlying issues between these nations. These talks must neutralize current and future tensions that may evolve into armed and violent conflict.

Background Information

In 1947, the British vacated the Indian subcontinent, leading to the partition of the state into Dominion of Pakistan (later becoming Pakistan and Bangladesh) and Union of India (later becoming the Republic of India). Due to the nature of the partition, states were thereafter left to choose to join India, Pakistan or to remain independent. Due to the muslim majority of the state of Kashmir, according to the two-nation theory, Kashmir should have been with Pakistan. Instead India claimed it for itself, after initially being an independent state.

The tensions turned into a full-blown war in late 1947 and 1948. The UN intervened, passing resolution 47 on April 21, 1948, and called on the Government of Pakistan “to secure the withdrawal from the state of Jammu and Kashmir of tribesmen and Pakistani nationals not normally resident therein who have entered the state for the purpose of fighting.” It also asked Government of India to reduce its forces to minimum strength. In the future, India has shown disregard for the resolutions by failing to hold a plebiscite to determine the future allegiance of the state. Reason for the disregard was given by the Indian Defence minister, who said “Kashmir would vote to join Pakistan and no Indian Government responsible for agreeing to plebiscite would survive.”

In 1949, the major event leading to renaming the ceasefire line to the Line of Control (LOC). The Simla Agreement was signed by both governments, whereby the countries resolved to settle their

differences by peaceful means through bilateral negotiations and to maintain the sanctity of the Line of Control. In 2015, Pakistan's outgoing National Security Advisor asked for third party involved into the matter since the agreement has failed in the past. He said " Such bilateral talks have not yielded any results for the last 40 years. So then what is the solution?". Since then, China has imposed international pressure on India regarding the matter, additionally acting against the wishes of the Indian Government on the international stage.

Several infiltrations led to growing tensions between the nations leading up to 1999, where Pakistani forces infiltrated Jammu and Kashmir and took position in the vacant mountain peaks during the winter. They blocked the only link between the Kashmir Valley and Ladakh. This resulted in a large-scale conflict between the Indian and Pakistani armies. The final stage involved major battles by Indian and Pakistani forces resulting in India recapturing most of the territories held by Pakistani forces. With the fear of a nuclear engagement, the US President at the time, Bill Clinton, called upon the Pakistani government to withdraw its remaining troops, thus ending the conflict. In a 'Letter to American People' written by Osama bin Laden in 2002, he stated that one of the reasons he was fighting America was in part because of US support for India on the Kashmir issue. This sparked heavy allegations that the Pakistani army was aiding terrorist groups including Al-Qaeda, Taliban, Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed. While on a visit to Pakistan in January 2010, US Defense Secretary Robert Gates stated that Al-Qaeda was seeking to destabilise the region and planning to provoke a nuclear war between India and Pakistan. In the scenario of a nuclear war, neighbouring countries China and Russia would pick sides. Being 2 of 5 veto power, their opinions would carry a large impact in a UNSC meeting. In 2011, US military forces carried out a covert operation where they successfully killed Osama bin Laden in his home in Pakistan. The compound was located less than a mile from Pakistan Military Academy and less than 100 kilometers' drive from Pakistan's capital. Thus, this further sparked allegations between the Pakistani government and the militants who targeted Indian villages on the border, violating the ceasefire. Indian forces have claimed that Pakistani forces have violated the ceasefire 151 times in 2016 alone, with no response from the Pakistani government.

Current Status

Violence erupted in the summer of 2010, which resulted in the death of over 100 people. It was followed by Pakistan and India agreeing to resume peace talks that halted during the Mumbai attacks in 2008. On September 16, 2016, four terrorists crossed the Line of Control and killed 18 Indian soldiers. This event drew heavy backlash from the Indian population. A United Nations General Assembly meeting was then held, in which India and Pakistan made their cases, with few nations calling Pakistan a terrorist state. Since the attack, India has carried out a surgical strike, in which they claim to have wiped out terrorist hot spots, while the Pakistan army persistently claims that the strikes did not happen. Due to the high tensions, the Pakistani PM has said that they are not going to be afraid of using "tactical missiles" if necessary. Indian authorities have threatened to "choke" Pakistan by controlling their river flows, to which the Pakistani PM replied that he will look to the United Nations for repercussions against India if those actions are taken. UN secretary general has said that the UNMOGIP (United Nations Military Observer

Group in India and Pakistan), as per resolution 91 (1951), will continue to observe and report violations of ceasefire. The military authorities of Pakistan have continued to lodge complaints with the UNMOGIP about ceasefire violations. The military authorities of India have lodged no complaints since January 1972 and have restricted the activities of the UN observers on the Indian side of the Line of Control.



Figure 2: A map detailing the disputed areas within the Kashmir Border Dispute as well as the lines of control.

Challenges

In the past, China has supported Pakistan in a public forum along with United States and Russia backing both countries. Around the time rumours spread about India's decision to 'choke' Pakistan through its water supply, it was reported that China had dam projects which directly affected India and Tibet. Given the nuclear capabilities of the two nations and their past relations, the situation in Kashmir could result in a severe outcome with heavy casualties unless action is taken on the world stage by neighbouring and strong political powers. China has also claimed Aksai Chin for themselves and actively participates in any international debate regarding these regions. With all involved nations possessing nuclear weapons, the risk of a nuclear war is probable. Both nations are stern in believing Kashmir is an integral part of their country and should belong with

them. It is up to the delegates attending the conference to reach a common end ground to satisfy both nations and successfully resolve all reasons for conflict.

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