



# UNSC

Topic Area:

**Addressign threats to international peace and security from non state actors.**



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## **Introduction to the Committee: UNSC**

The Security Council is one of the six main bodies of the United Nations.

According to the UN Charter, it bears the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Whenever the latter are threatened, the UN Security Council is entitled to meet and discuss upon the matter arisen.

UN Security Council holds a various arsenal of measures and initiatives that may take in order to deliver its crucial role regarding the maintenance of international peace and security. In particular, in case that peace and security is at stake, the Council can decide upon ways to resolve the problem that has emerged and call upon the parties involved to keep a specific stance. Among others, the Council can propose the signing of agreements and provide guidelines and principles for its conclusion, entertain mediation process between the parties, launch specific missions and envoys, as well as to ask the Secretary General for its good offices aiming to a peaceful settlement of the crisis. In cases of aggravation, the UN Security Council has the authority to ask for ceasefire and for the deployment of military observers or peacekeeping forces. Furthermore, the authority of the Council encompasses also the adoption of measures, such as economic sanctions, embargoes, rupture of diplomatic relations, blockades and, of course, collective military action under the prerequisites set by the UN Charter.

Being the only UN body of which the decisions are empowered with binding force, meaning that everyone is obliged to respect and implement them, UN Security Council plays the leading and crucial role in preserving international peace and security.

As far as its composition is concerned, it consists of 15 members, by which the 5 have a permanent seat (United States of America, Russian Federation, China, United Kingdom, France), whilst the other 10 seats are filled under a rotating system which also sets as criterion the contribution of a state in international peace and security.

## **Introduction to the chairs**

### **I. Rida Zainab**

Hello hello there delegates!

My name is Rida Zainab, a Nutrition Sciences undergrad at UMT.

I'm greatly honoured and humbled to be serving as one of the committee directors for UNSC at PTMUN this year!

I congratulate all of you who will be a part of this very committee, because UNSC is definitely going to test you in all aspects, be it your debate, documentation or diplomacy, so a little pre-event advice would be to make sure your research is authentic and upto date.

Respect your fellow delegates, know your RoPs and also remember "what happens in UNSC stays in UNSC" (iykyk)!!!

Anywho, I hope my little knowledge could help drive your personal and professional development.

Feel free to reach out to me at any time!

See ya'll there.

Godspeed!

### **II. Muhammad Umair Ali**

Hello Delegates,

I am Mohammad Umair Ali, a senior year student of Electrical Engineering at UET Lahore. I have been associated with the MUN circuit since late 2016. Since then I have bagged numerous awards and also held management positions at different MUNs. Additionally, I am the head of the advisory council of the UET MUN society.

For the past 1 years I have been working with the international telecommunication union (ITU) through the generation connect program which is a working body of UN and strives to achieve digital transformation and connectivity thus moving towards 2030 sustainable agenda.

I believe in working hard and partying hard rule. Motivated to learn and grow, and dedicated to mentor my fellows, I am in for a healthy debate and an active-minded diplomacy without any bounds.

### III. **Naqsh Fatima**

Greetings Delegates,

My name is Naqsh Fatima and I am currently a sophomore at the University of Punjab, Lahore pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Statistics. I have been part of the debating circuit for the past 5 years and have been part of the MUN circuit for more or less 3 years. I have participated in various reputable international and national Model UN Conferences as a Delegate, Secretariat and member of the Executive Board.

For me, the most significant component of a MUN conference is the quality of debate and the level of diplomacy that shall follow. If you have the ability to negotiate and come to terms with those around you, you shall make it to my good list. Fun fact about me: i love the show Brooklyn Nine-Nine, and I have identified myself as a 'Cool Nerd'. You will always find me in the UNHRC or UNCSW as a delegate; my remarkable fascination towards issues pertaining to them does often emerge in my write-ups and articles. Cumulatively, I am your average youth, yearning to make my mark with my journalism, public speaking and creative skills simultaneously. I look forward to seeing you all at the conference!

## **UN Security Council Voting**

To be approved, a Council resolution must have nine "YES" votes out of 15 and no "NO" votes from any of the five permanent members. Each Council member has one vote. A "NO" vote from one of the five permanent members kills the resolution. There is no such thing as a "VETO" vote in formal UN rules, though a "NO" vote from a permanent member has the effect of vetoing a resolution. If a member "ABSTAINS" from voting, it does not count as either a "YES" or "NO" vote. Members raise their placards to vote.

## **Key Terms**

### **International Law:**

International law is a system of treaties and agreements between nations that governs how nations interact with other nations, citizens of other nations, and businesses of other nations.

### **International Security:**

International security, also called **global security**, is a term which refers to the measures taken by states and international organizations, such as the United Nations, European Union, and others, to ensure mutual survival and safety. These measures include military action and diplomatic agreements such as treaties and conventions. International and national security are invariably linked. International security is national security or state security in the global arena.

### **Non-State Actors:**

Non-state actors include organizations and individuals that are not affiliated with, directed by, or funded through the government. These include corporations, private financial institutions, and Non-Governmental Organizations, as well as paramilitary and armed resistance groups. Generally, non-state armed groups are defined as distinctive organizations that are

(i) willing and capable to use violence for pursuing their objectives and (ii) not integrated into formalized state institutions such as regular armies, presidential guards, police, or special forces. They, therefore, (iii) possess a certain degree of autonomy regarding politics, military operations, resources, and infrastructure. They may, however, be supported or instrumentalized by state actors either secretly or openly, as happens often with militias, paramilitaries, mercenaries, or private military companies. Moreover, there may also be state officials or state agencies directly or indirectly involved in the activities of non-state armed actors – sometimes for ideological reasons (e.g. secret support for rebels), sometimes because of personal interests (such as political career, corruption, family or clan ties, clientelism, and profit). Nevertheless, despite close relationships with state actors, these groups can still be seen as non-state actors since they are not under full state control.

## **Major Trends Related to International Peace & Security**

Preventing and addressing conflict and violence constitute both a tremendous challenge and an urgent priority. Nevertheless, efforts to promote peace and security are interrelated with and complicated by other factors – some causing conflict and organized violence, some, at least in part, being consequences of it, and others undermining collective efforts to prevent, manage or resolve it. The General Assembly and the Security Council have on different occasions recognized the connections between peace and security and human mobility (Assembly resolution 70/1), economic relations and trade (resolution 70/262 and Council resolution 2282 (2016)), inequality (resolution 70/1), civic participation (resolution 70/168), digital technologies (resolution 74/29), climate change (resolution 63/281) and the proliferation of weapons. In turn, it is necessary to comprehensively address these and other drivers of, and contributing factors to, conflict to achieve the 2030 Agenda.

These trends include but are not limited to:

- a. Human mobility, including refugee flows, forced displacement and migration
- b. Economic trade & relations
- c. Inequality
- d. Civic Participation
- e. Digital Technologies
- f. Climate Change
- g. Disarmament and regulation of arms

## **Article 39 of the UN Charter and Threats to International Peace & Security**

Before the Security Council can adopt enforcement measures, it must determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression. The range of situations which the Council determined as giving rise to threats to the peace includes country-specific situations such as inter- or intra-State conflicts or internal conflicts with a regional or sub-regional dimension. Furthermore, the Council identifies potential or generic threats as threats to international peace and security, such as terrorist acts, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction or the proliferation and illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons.

## **Types of Non-State Actors**

- **Warlords**

The distinguishing features of warlords have been elucidated by numerous scholars who are broadly in agreement that they are charismatic individuals, (most of whom have had some military background or experience) able to exercise control over certain territories in large part through their military power. They sometimes co-exist with a state but typically try to ensure that the writ of the state does not extend to the territory under their control – even if this requires the use of force. They are also willing to use force against their rivals. As one analysis states, warlords share certain characteristics: they command private military forces; they rule a specific territory, usually linked to their ethnic community; they have a degree of legitimacy and a symbiotic economic and military relationship with the local population; they participate in the global economic system, engaging in one or more forms of illicit or informal economy; and they challenge, privatize or supplement the state functions, resources and instruments on their territories.

At the same time, coercion is rarely absent and is often used to impose taxes on licit and illicit business alike. Warlords put their individual interest above any notion of collective interest. One result of this is that warlord alliances are inherently temporary; they tend to fluctuate in response to both threats and opportunities. In terms of their objectives, warlords typically seek power and resources. They want political power at least over a portion of state territory and seek to exploit the resources of that territory, sometimes engaging in looting of natural resources and sometimes providing protection and support for activities such as opium cultivation.

- **Militias**

Militias are in some respects very similar to warlords, albeit without the charismatic leader. A militia can be understood as an “irregular armed force operating within the territory of a weak and/ or failing state. The members of militias often come from the under classes and tend to be composed of young males who are drawn into this milieu because it gives them access to money, resources, power and security. In many instances, they are forced to join; in others, joining is seen as an opportunity or a duty. Militias can represent specific ethnic, religious, tribal, clan or other communal groups. They may operate under the auspices of a factional leader, clan or ethnic group, or on their own after the break-up of the states’ forces. They may also be in the service of the state, either directly or indirectly. Generally, members of militias receive no formal military training. Nevertheless, in some cases they are skilled unconventional fighters. In other instances, they are nothing more than a gang of extremely violent thugs that prey on the civilian population.” Militias are “outside the formal security sector and central government command,” and outside the law. Because they often come into existence to provide security where the central government – for whatever reason – has failed to do so, however, “militias are often considered legitimate entities” filling the gap resulting from “the absence of effective national, provincial, or local security institutions.” If they fill a functional hole left by the state, however, this in



turn further challenges the legitimacy of the state. Moreover, the potential for conflict is very real. Militias “do not support state institutions. Loyalties lie within the militia organization.”

- **Paramilitary Forces**

The distinction between militias and paramilitary forces is not entirely clear. One possible distinguishing characteristic is that paramilitary forces are, initially at least, an extension of government forces. They come into existence with the tacit consent and often the active encouragement of the government or the state’s military forces. Sunil Dasgupta, one of the most authoritative analysts of paramilitary forces or “parallel military formations” describes them as “armed formations outside regular military and police commands.” He also suggests that paramilitaries are often “poorly trained, lightly equipped, highly fragmented, frequently reorganized, but politically recruited and operated, enabling them and the regimes that control them to hold territory inexpensively.” The difficulty with paramilitary forces, however, is that once created, they often prove difficult to control.

- **Insurgencies**

An insurgency has been defined by the United States Department of Defense as “an organized movement aimed at the overthrow of a constituted government through the use of subversion and armed conflict.” More elaborately, it has been described as an “organized, armed political struggle whose goal may be the seizure of power through revolutionary takeover and replacement of the existing government. In some cases, however, an insurgency’s goals may be more limited. For example, the insurgency may intend to break away from government control and establish an autonomous state within traditional ethnic or religious territorial bounds. The insurgency may also only intend to extract limited political concessions unattainable through less violent means.” Insurgents typically operate within a defined territory and seek to deprive the existing government of legitimacy while establishing themselves as a viable and legitimate alternative. Insurgents seek a transformation in governance with the existing incumbents overthrown and replaced by the insurgent group, which espouses different values, whether they stem from national identity or from concerns about social justice. While insurgencies often use terror tactics their activities go well beyond this and in areas they control they typically establish alternative forms of governance to that provided by the state.

- **Terrorist Organizations**

As discussed above, some VNSAs use terror as a tactic. For terrorist organizations, in contrast, the use of indiscriminate violence against civilian targets is not only central to their strategy but is also their defining characteristic. These groups seek political change using violence. At the same time, terrorist organizations differ enormously in terms of origins and objectives. Each of the four waves of modern terrorism identified by David

Rapoport – anarchist, anti-colonial, leftwing and religious – has had its own set of militant organizations seeking change and using violence to bring it about. Yet, the dominance of one kind of terrorist organization does not mean the absence of others. The successors of anti-colonial terrorist organizations, for example, are groups dissatisfied with the outcome of decolonization, seeking national self-determination and see a terrorist campaign as the only way to achieve their objectives. For these groups the state remains the dominant frame of reference and they typically want a state of their own. When such groups have popular sympathy, a degree of legitimacy and some territorial control, they typically develop into an insurgency.

- **Criminal organizations and youth gangs**

Of all the VNSAs considered here, criminal organizations are the most ubiquitous. Although some criminal organizations remain local, more and more of them have responded to the opportunities of globalization by becoming transnational in scope. They have also become increasingly diverse with more traditional organized crime groups such as the Chinese Triads, Italian Mafia organizations and the Japanese Yakuza increasingly sharing the spotlight with Nigerian drug traffickers and financial fraudsters, Russian and Albanian criminal organizations, Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs, and Mexican drug-trafficking organizations among others. Almost all of these organizations are transnational in their activities and, therefore, are referred to here as transnational criminal organizations or transnational organized crime. Transnational criminal organizations are essentially rational actors and can even be described as Clausewitzian: crime for them is simply a continuation of business by other means. The aim of transnational criminal organizations is to derive as much profit as possible from their activities – within the limits of acceptable risk. In some instances, they will accept higher risk for higher profits; in others, they will avoid risk and accept lower profits.

- **NGOs**

Non-government Organizations (NGOs) play a very crucial role in determining peace and stability conditions in any region. They are allowed to operate as separate entities that work on individual terms and receive funding via charity or other fund-raising mechanisms. They offer humanitarian assistance and are actively engaged in welfare of masses.

The other side of the coin is that such organizations are used as covers for undercover intelligence assets that are tasked with upsetting normalcy. Furthermore, such organizations can also be used for illegal financial activities such as money laundering and/or terror financing. Therefore, we can conclude that their role is significant in the face of global security and establishment of peace in any region

- **Private Sector**

Definition of Non-State Actors extend to private sector as well. This sector includes small and medium enterprises (SMEs), retailers, large national and multinational corporations. This sector is for profit and expanding business/product footprint. This sector can bring

prosperity to any region in the form of employment opportunities, stronger economy and overall higher chances of a competitive market.

On the other hand, companies can be used as shell/off shore companies for illicit financial activities that can have adverse effects on the safety and stability of any region

### **Threats from Non-State Actors**

Currently, one of the most dramatic threats to human security is internal armed conflict. In 1998 alone, violent conflicts took place in at least 25 countries. Of these armed conflicts, 23 were internal, engaging one or more non-state armed groups. A crucial feature of internal conflicts is the widespread violation of humanitarian and human rights by armed groups, from rebel movements to private militias. With the proliferation of weapons, especially small arms and landmines, and the erosion of state control, threats to human security are increased, both because people are the direct targets of violence and as a result of the organized crime and random violence that occurs in these chaotic conditions. Armed groups are certainly not accountable for all the violence perpetrated against civilians, but their presence among civilians blurs the dividing line between combatants and non-combatants, the basic concept on which humanitarian protection rests. In this context, understanding and promoting the responsibilities of armed groups towards civilians has become a crucial element of protection strategies.

Despite the increased role of non-state armed groups in internal conflicts, international humanitarian law (IHL) and human rights standards offer only limited opportunities to persuade armed groups to comply, whereas a collection of legal instruments has been developed to supply state actors with a comprehensive framework, guiding the conduct of their combatants. This discrepancy between state and non-state actors reveals the extent to which the development of humanitarian law has been subjugated to political considerations, denying significantly less protection to armed groups than to state actors. Despite the critical role of armed groups in internal conflicts, human rights law is de jure applicable only to state entities, and IHL offers only general principles of protection under common Article 3 of the four Geneva Conventions and some rules of engagement in Additional Protocol II. Moreover, the conditions for the application of IHL are often not met in minor conflicts.

### **Points a Resolution Must Have**

1. Identification of role of every non-state actor in global peace and security
2. Threat mitigation frameworks for International peace and security
3. Role of regional and country politics on international peace and security

### **Questions a Resolution Must Answer**

1. What are the threats caused that must be tackled?
2. What is the role of regional politics in Global security with regards to the status quo?
3. What are the past UN Actions relevant to non-state actors and how effective have they been?