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STUDY GUIDE



UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

Agenda

The Situation in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden



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Background Guide

Agenda:

The Situation In Red Sea And Gulf Of Aden

The following guide has been prepared for guidance of the delegates representing their respective nations in the **United Nations Human Rights Council simulation hosted by IOIT MUN 2025**, and the language of business shall be **ENGLISH**.

LETTER FROM THE EB

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to your first step in preparing yourself for IOITMUN 2025! On behalf of ourselves and the Secretariat, we would like to extend our warmest greetings to you.

The issue at hand is highly relevant to today's world. Clearly, current affairs and news will be crucial in your research. However, academic writings and data-led reports will also be highly relevant, and can provide useful insights into the topics.

This study guide should be seen as a springboard, giving out the necessary contextual, legal and structural base knowledge. It will be up to you to find out more about your country's positions regarding the topics and craft a coherent stance to take forward in order to resolve the issue.

However, we feel that a background guide is not an island of its own — it amounts to a mere 20% of total research a delegate must do to properly represent their country. There are a number of resolutions and documents dedicated to this topic.

We wish you the best of luck in the endeavour and look forward to seeing you in the committee. Do take breaks during your research, make sure to hydrate yourself, and most importantly — believe that you can!

Regards,

Abhirav A. Sharma

President, UNSC

Tanishqa Jadhav

Vice-President, UNSC



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HOW TO RESEARCH

Following is a suggested pattern for researching (if required):

1. Research and understand the United Nations and the Committee/Council being simulated – its mandate, including historical work done on the agenda.
2. Research on the allotted country – understanding its polity, economy, culture, and history.
3. Comprehend the foreign policy of the allotted country, including ideology and principles adopted on the agenda. Study past actions taken by the country on related issues — analyzing causes and consequences.
4. Read the background guide thoroughly.
5. Research further using the footnotes and links in the guide, and other sources such as academic papers, institutional reports, national reports, news articles, and blogs.
6. Understand policies adopted by different blocs (e.g., NATO, EU) and major countries involved in the agenda — their positions, ideologies, and actions.
7. Characterize the agenda into sub-topics and prepare speeches and statements on them (similar to moderated caucus topics).
8. Prepare a list of possible solutions and actions the UNSC can adopt in line with your country's policies.
9. Assemble proof/evidence for any important information or allegation you plan to use in committee.
10. Keep your research updated using credible news sources (listed below).

Note: This is not an exhaustive list; it only indicates what delegates can do to refine their research.



Proofs/Evidences Accepted in Committee

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

1. News Sources

a. **Reuters** – Any Reuters article mentioning or contradicting a stated fact may be used as proof.

<http://www.reuters.com/>

b. **State-operated News Agencies** – Can be used in support of or against the state that owns them.

Examples:

- RIA Novosti/RT (Russia): <http://en.rian.ru/>
- Doordarshan/All India Radio (India)
- Xinhua News Agency, CCTV (China): <http://cctvnews.cntv.cn/>

2. Government Reports

Used similarly to state-operated agency reports. Examples include:

- U.S. State Department: <http://www.state.gov/index.htm>
- Ministry of Defence, Russia
- Ministry of External Affairs, India: <http://www.mea.gov.in/>
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, China: <http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/>
- Permanent Missions to the UN: <https://pminewyork.gov.in/>
- Multilateral Organizations like NATO, ASEAN, OPEC.

3. UN Reports

All UN reports are considered credible evidence, e.g.:

- UNSC: <http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/>
- UNGA: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/>



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- IAEA, World Bank, IMF, ICRC, ICC, Antarctic Treaty System, etc.

NOTE: Sources like **Wikipedia, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, The Guardian,** or **Times of India** are **not accepted as proof**, but may be used for contextual understanding.





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UNSC & ITS MANDATE

The **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, charged with maintaining international peace and security, and accepting new members.

Under **Article 25** of the UN Charter, all UN members agree to accept and carry out UNSC decisions. Unlike other organs, the Council alone can take **binding decisions**.

Its powers include:

- Establishing peacekeeping operations
- Imposing international sanctions
- Authorizing military action through resolutions

Under the UN Charter, the Security Council's functions and powers are:

- Maintain international peace and security
- Investigate disputes
- Recommend settlement methods
- Formulate plans for arms regulation
- Determine threats to peace or aggression
- Call for sanctions
- Authorize military action
- Recommend admission of new members
- Exercise trusteeship functions
- Recommend appointment of the Secretary-General
- Elect Judges of the ICJ jointly with the General Assembly



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STUDY IN PROFILE: The Red Sea and Gulf of Aden

The **Red Sea** is a narrow inlet of the Indian Ocean between the **Arabian Peninsula and East Africa**. It serves as a crucial maritime corridor via the **Suez Canal** to the Mediterranean. The **Gulf of Aden**, between Yemen and the Horn of Africa (Somalia, Djibouti, Eritrea), forms a key chokepoint.

Approximately **15% of global trade** passes through these lanes, including vital oil shipments.

However, this stability has been challenged by **non-state actors**, notably the **Houthis** of Yemen, who have launched attacks on shipping to protest Palestinian suffering — later targeting neutral vessels too.

The UNSC has condemned these acts, referencing **Resolutions 2216 (2015), 2722 (2024), and 2827 (2025)** (renewing monthly reports until 2026). Resolution **2722 (2024)** demanded cessation of Houthi attacks and recommended an **arms embargo**.

Despite these, attacks persist. Critics claim Resolution 2722 (2024) is **vague**, enabling arbitrary interpretations and unilateral military actions.

Hans Grundberg, UN Special Envoy for Yemen, stated:

“For Yemen to have a real chance for peace, it must be protected from being further drawn into the ongoing regional turmoil emanating out of the war in Gaza... urging an end to Red Sea ship attacks, missile strikes, and port damage that is slowing vital food imports.”

The Council also warned that **sunken ships** may threaten navigation and global energy supply. Following **U.S. airstrikes** in Yemen, the Houthis agreed not to attack U.S. warships but did not cease attacks on others.

The **legal framework** is rooted in **UNCLOS**, ensuring freedom of navigation. Yet, incidents like the **MV Rubymar** sinking and **MV Galaxy Leader** crew detention question enforcement. The Houthis' demand for **permits** to enter Yemeni waters defies international law, disrupting humanitarian operations.

The UNSC calls for cooperation with the Yemeni government and strengthening of the **UN Verification and Inspection Mechanism for Yemen (UNVIM)**.



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ENDNOTE AND REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT

The issue is multifaceted and an offshoot of the Levant crisis. Incidents such as **MV Galaxy Leader** and **Eternity C** illustrate compromised Red Sea routes, forcing ships to reroute via the **Cape of Good Hope**, impacting global food and energy security.

The **UN** and **IMO** addressed this via resolutions and regional collaborations like the **Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC)** and **Jeddah Amendment (DCoC-JA)**, uniting 20 states against piracy, arms and human trafficking, and illegal trade.

Without a UN force, coalitions like **Combined Maritime Forces (CMF)** — particularly **CTF 153** — and **EU NAVFOR Operation Atalanta** protect shipping, escort convoys, and conduct rescues.

Delegates must ground their deliberations in **UN Charter principles**. This agenda demands a balance between foreign policy leadership and constructive policymaking. Focus on **problem identification and practical solutions**, backed by your nation's stance.

To prepare, review the links and research questions below.

Take breaks and stay hydrated — best of luck with your research!

Questions for Delegates to Consider

1. What measures should ensure safety of commercial shipping in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden?
2. Should the UNSC authorize a multinational maritime task force or reinforce existing coalitions?
3. What role should regional powers play?
4. How should international law and accountability apply to non-state attacks (e.g., Houthis)?
5. What is the status of the arms embargo under Resolution 2216 (2015)?
6. What mechanisms protect civilian crews on seized vessels?
7. Should UNVIM be expanded or restructured?
8. What diplomatic steps can de-escalate tensions?
9. How can compliance with Resolutions 2216 and 2722 be ensured?



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Further Reading

- [UN CHARTER – Functions and Powers](#)
- [Resolution 2216 \(2015\)](#)
- [Resolution 2624 \(2022\)](#)
- [Resolution 2722 \(2024\)](#)
- [Resolution 2787 \(2025\)](#)
- [UN Press – SC16120 \(2025\)](#)
- [IMO – Red Sea](#)
- [Combined Maritime Forces](#)
- [UN News: Red Sea Crisis](#)
- [UNRIC: Role of UN Shipping Agency](#)
- [UNCTAD: Shipping Disruptions](#)
- [Reuters – Red Sea Attacks](#)
- [Reuters – Insurance Impact](#)
- [Reuters – Sinking Ship](#)
- [Reuters – September 2025 Attacks](#)
- [Reuters – Impact on Suez Canal](#)
- [Reuters – Shipping and Arms Infographic](#)