AITCHISON COLLEGE
MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE VI

United Nations Security Council

Special rules of the Security Council

The right of veto decisions is one of the special rules applied in the UNSC and sets it apart from the other main bodies of the UN. The following rules, additional to the rules mentioned in the ACMUN Rules of Procedure guide, will be applied in the UNSC:

1.1. Veto power

The right to veto a decision of the body is the privilege of the permanent members. The veto is automatically in force if a permanent member votes against a substantial decision.

It is not necessary for a permanent member to announce the usage of the veto. However it is not possible to veto in procedural votes. Even if 11 states are in favor of a particular decision, one "no" vote from a permanent member of the UNSC is enough to fail the entire vote. You should use your veto wisely as it is quite easy not only to upset the nonpermanent members of the Council by reminding them of their "second class membership", but also to damage relations with permanent Member States and quite possibly intensify the tensions of the Cold War.

1.2. Declare a vote substantial

Another privilege of the permanent members is to declare a procedural motion substantial: Directly after a specific procedural motion, (for example, to suspend the meeting), has been brought in by a Delegate, a permanent member may move to declare it substantial. This motion passes without a vote or debate. If the committee then votes upon the now substantial motion, (1) delegates may abstain if they are only present, (2) a member may declare a roll call vote on this motion, or (3) the permanent members may use their veto. As with normal motions, the chair will ask if there is any objection to declaring a motion substantial. If there is objection, there will be a vote to re-declare the now substantial motion into a procedural motion. But: This vote is a substantial vote with all outlined consequences, meaning that the permanent member who brought in the motion may use its veto and so prevent re-declaring it.

1.3. Status of observers

According to Article 31 and 32 of the UN Charter, states, which are currently not members of the UNSC, may participate in the debates of the Council as well. This is normally the case

when (a) a state feels specially affected by the outcome of the current topic, or (b) the UNSC invites a state, which is party to a dispute currently under discussion. However, the observer state will not be granted the right to vote in the Council, and its presence has always to be approved by the Council. States can also be requested to appear before the UNSC to answer questions. After the questioning is finished the state leaves, unless its continued presence as an observer is approved by the Council.

History of the Security Council

The United Nations Security Council is one of the six principal UN organs. Its main function is the maintenance of international peace and security. It also endeavors to prevent, contain and settle conflicts, which pose a threat to peace. The first session of the UNSC was held on 17 January 1946. From 1946 until 1965 it consisted of five permanent members

(China, France, USSR, United Kingdom, United States of America) and six non-permanent members.

Further functions of the Security Council are to investigate any dispute or situation, which might lead to international friction, to determine the existence of a threat to peace or of an act of aggression and to recommend what action, should be taken, including military action against an aggressor.

The Security Council is the only UN organ, which can adopt binding resolutions and can give a mandate for UN peacekeeping operations. Such a mandate contains specific information on the conditions under which it will be implemented. For peacekeeping operations the mandate also contains instructions on the circumstances under which the participating peacekeeping troops may use force in order to carry out their mission.

Dual Delegate Committees

At ACMUN VI, the UNSC and HSC will be dual delegate committees. The rules of dual delegate committees are as follows:

Procedure

In dual delegate committees, two delegates from the same team represent each country. When a particular country is recognized, either one of the delegates can speak. There may also be, depending on the discretion of the Chair, an informal unmoderated caucus taking place outside the committee, in which one delegate from each country takes part.

Judging

The delegates will be judged together as one team, on the basis of the following, in addition to the normal judging criteria for single delegate committees:

a) Their ability to debate and lobby
b) How well they switch roles
c) Their co-ordination

Introduction

For the sixth session of the Aitchison College Model United Nations Conference, the Security Council will be discussing the situations in South Sudan and the Central African Republic. Both of these issues fall under the Security Council because of their implications for peace and security worldwide.

While multiple plans of action have been undertaken by the United Nations, none has been effective enough as to effectively counter the growing expanse of the conflict in South Sudan. With mass violations of human rights occurring and continuing deterioration of the situation, the conflict continues to pose a major threat to international peace. For all these reasons, delegates must analyse all necessary aspects of the situation in detail so as to draft a comprehensive and effectual solution to the issue at hand.

Likewise, the growing conflict in the Central African Republic is also to be of immediate concern for the Security Council because of its vastly explosive nature. The situation is a farrago of violent clashes between armed rebellious forces and the government resulting in gross human rights violations with the likes of murder, extortions, mutilations, rape, etc. The conflict may well not be limited only to the CAR but also has the potential to leak into the surrounding regions. Through constructive debate, delegates of the Security Council must devise a way not only to effectively deter the conflict from worsening, but also to prevent it from engulfing the entire region as a whole.

Come September, delegates are expected to be well-researched about the topics. This study guide has been formulated to assist you in your research and to set the parameters in which the debate is to take place. Do not, however, limit your research to the background guide, and look favourably upon further research from the internet, books, magazines, journals and newspapers. Not only shall this help fuel a more constructive and heated debate, which shall keep delegates engaged throughout the course of the four days, but will also result in formulation of highly effective solutions to the problems, which can actually be made of use in the real world.

History and Working of the Committee

The United Nations Security Council was founded in 1945 and is an integral part of the United Nations itself. Chapter V of the UN Charter establishes the purpose of the Security Council as to maintain "International Peace and Security."

The Security Council has 15 members. 5 of the members have permanent seats, and are more commonly known as the P5 countries. The P5 include the United States of America, the Russian Federation, China, the United Kingdom, and France. The other 10 members serve for two year terms and are known as the non-permanent members. The current non-permanent members are Argentina, Australia, Chad, Chile, Jordan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Nigeria, Republic of Korea and Rwanda.

Each member has one vote. Nine "affirmative votes" are required to pass decisions on procedural matters. However, "all other matters," i.e. resolutions, require not only nine affirmative votes, but also that none of the permanent members votes "no" — this is the infamous veto power. In abstract, this power means that a draft resolution cannot be passed by the Security Council if any one of the Permanent Five votes against it.

Chapters VI through VIII of the Charter describe the Security Council's powers. This includes investigating disputes and calling for peace talks (Ch. VI), authorizing the use of force (Ch. VII), and referring conflicts to regional organizations (Ch. VIII). With subsidiary organs and other security committees in the United Nations, the Security Council thus works to raise the standard of peace and security around the world.

Topic A: The Situation in South Sudan

Statement and History of the Problem

The South Sudanese Civil war is a prolonged armed conflict between the Sudanese government and the rebel opposition as a result of power struggle between the Northern (government) and Southern (rebels) areas. Many military actions have been taken by both sides which have resulted in immense casualties and downfall of economy along with disturbance in Social set-up and degradation of basic necessities of life. Since the beginning of the conflict, more than 2.2 to 2.5 million people have suffered drastic losses.

Since the independence of Sudan in 1956, it had been decided that South Sudan would have and equal say in how the government was to be ran. But with the political power bequeathed to the Arabs, these promises were not met resulting in social unrest in south Sudan and thus creation significant friction between these districts. This caused to a power struggle and disturbance which led to two prolonged periods of armed conflict (1955-1972 and 1983-2005). As much as 220,000 personnel have been adversely affected due to internal military problems and natural factors resulting in mass violations of Human Rights.[1]

The South Sudanese Army prepares for conflict against mutants

The Anya-Nya movement was established as a loosely knit rebel group in 1963, deriving its name from a snake poison. This guerilla army's core members were veterans of the 1955 mutiny in Torit. Its activities contributed indirectly to the fall of General Abboud's military regime in 1964. With a subsequent infusion of arms from Congolese rebels, the insurgency intensified, winning popular support against the Umma-led governments' violent attempts at a solution. While Southern politicians in exile were unable to create a unified movement, the military leaders became more and more active in political affairs. Starting in 1967, Colonel Joseph Lagu challenged the leadership of Emilio Taffeng and eventually became the new supreme commander, bringing together rivaling factions in a more cohesive umbrella organization, the Southern Sudanese Liberation Movement (SSLM). Thanks to material support from Israel, the SSLM managed to gain control over large parts of the Equatoria region. After the 1969 May Revolution, Colonel Jafar Numeiri's new regime first increased military pressure but then

entered into negotiations with the SSLM, which quickly resulted in the March 1972 Addis Ababa peace agreement. It granted autonomy to the South and absorbed the Anya-Nya fighters into the Sudanese army and government services. However, the peace remained fragile and mutinies of former Anya-Nya in 1975, 1976 and early 1983 culminated in the May 1983 rebellion, the beginning of the second war. [2]

The Second Sudanese Civil War was a conflict from 1983 to 2005 between the central Sudanese government and the Sudan People's Liberation Army. It was mainly the result of the dismay and friction caused by the first civil war. The war was extremely destructive as it continued for over 22 years and which would ultimately lead to the recent occurrences. The clashes were primarily only in South Sudan but spread to the Nebu mountains and River Nile.

Roughly two million people have died as a result of war, famine and disease caused by the conflict. Four million people in southern Sudan have been displaced at least once (and often repeatedly) during the war. The civilian death toll is one of the highest of any war since World War II and was marked by a large number of human rights violations, particularly by the government. These include slavery and mass killings. The conflict officially ended with the signing of a peace agreement in January 2005. This conflict ended in writing but these backgrounds are what led to the recent civil war. [3]

Current Situations

The conflict started on 15 December 2013 when the president ordered general marital of the presidential guard to disarm his troops but one of the generals soldier refuted against this command, thus triggering the war. The fighting was made to put down but instead it increased. President blamed the vice president for arranging the coup. Since then there has been a lot of fighting going on with many casualties. More than 220,000 people have suffered losses. There is increase in internally displaced as people have started to migrate. Social set-up has been destroyed. The government (president) blames UN for not taking drastic measures. Many civilians have died and police stations burned down. The last major move was taken on 1 April when UNICEF warned that Conflict in South Sudan has triggered a serious risk of famine that will kill up to 50,000 children within months if immediate action is not taken. Although massive fighting has declined, still the issue has not been resolved properly. This was only followed by renewed fighting and more casualties. The South Sudanese Sudan Tribune reported clashes breaking out in the Munuki neighborhood late on 14 December in South Sudan's capital Juba. On 22 December, major tank battle erupted between defected and loyalist factions in Upper Nile. At the same time, U.S. and Nigerian

envoys were on their way to Juba to try to negotiate a solution. On 23 January 2014, representatives of the Government of South Sudan and representatives of rebel leader Riek Machar reached a ceasefire agreement in Ethiopia. On 10 February, the South Sudan government spokesman Michael Makuei told that the peace talks in its second round were not resuming that day. The postponement in negotiations was also confirmed by a government official from the host country Ethiopia. On 5 March, SPLA infighting over delayed salaries erupted at a military barracks in the capital Juba killing 5 government soldiers. On 9 May 2014, Kiir and Machar signed another ceasefire in Addis Ababa, which promptly disintegrated within hours of coming into effect. [4]

The South Sudanese unrest was recently added to a list of the world's ten worst conflicts

The Guardian and BBC reported that 240 Nuer men were rounded up and killed at a police station in Juba in mid-December. Along with that, there have been fatal victims also. There has been massive migration of locals as well as foreigners on an emergency basis. The area is not habitable and lacks shelter along with food and water. There are also evidential diseases which are spreading rapidly. Although health actors have reported fewer cholera-related deaths in recent days, the case fatality rate remains above the U.N. World Health Organization (WHO) emergency threshold of 1 percent. The Government of the Republic of South Sudan (RSS) and relief agencies continue efforts to mitigate the spread of the disease and treat affected individuals. The violent ongoing conflict has created an urgent health and humanitarian crisis, forcing more than 923,000 from their homes within the country, while an additional 293,000 have fled to neighboring countries. More than 100,000 South Sudanese have fled to Uganda since the escalation of violence began in December, and the influx continues. The problem has not been fully solved and no recent peace talks have been held.

Within South Sudan, armed groups threaten the region's peace, and tribal clashes over land, water and cattle are common. The fighting quickly spread across the country, threatening to push it into all-out civil war. The two sides signed a ceasefire in January 2014, but the fighting continues. Clashes between tribes over cattle, land and water have also displaced tens of thousands of people. The conflict in Jonglei has overlapped with the activities of the

Yau Yau rebel group, which operates in Jonglei, Eastern Equatoria, Upper Nile, and Central Equatoria states.[5]

Civilians have been caught in the crossfire between the Yau Yau and government forces. Locals officials say the Yau Yau have killed and raped civilians, looted property and killed the livestock of those refusing to join the rebellion, according to the Small Arms Survey. Terror is prevalent over South Sudan. The fear of the Neur aspects is found over the whole area. The rebel forces are made up of mutinous soldiers from Bor, Malakal and Bentiu ethnic groups. They have lost control of several towns, lacking sufficient supplies to hold out against government forces, backed by Ugandan units. Tanks have been deployed and allegedly Ugandan air force fighters.

Meanwhile, in government, factionalism and chronic corruption present enormous challenges. The cleavage between Riek Machar and his Nuer supporters, and Salva Kiir, who like Garang is a Dinka, have quietly persisted. In July 2013, Kiir abruptly sacked Machar from his position as vice president, as well as numerous other members of his cabinet. [6]

The Warring Parties; a Bird's Eye view

The conflict in South Sudan involves multiple warring parties belonging to both the government as well as mutant groups. A brief overview of the major groups and factions is given below to aid with research. Be mindful, that when formulating solutions for the issue, policies to ensure peace by demobilization of such military factions shall be expected from the delegates.

The Sudanese People Liberation Movement or SPLM is the main party of which the main opposition comes from the SPLA rebels. The SPLA government mostly consists of Dinka whereas the opposition consists of Neur aspects. Uganda also has a part to play and is supporting SPLM government militarily and aiding them with troops. In the recent clashes, 21 Ugandan soldiers have been killed. The United Nations Mission in South Sudan or the UNMISS is also helping the government in ensuring peace and tightening the security. It is reported that UNMISS men have also suffered casualties with confirmed killings of two Indian UNMISS men. There are also emerging supporters of what can be called 'the anti-government movement' such as the Yau Yau.[7]

Relevant UN Actions

The situation in South Sudan is one that poses profound threat to international peace and security. There have been a number of resolutions passed by the United Nations to deal with the sprawling expanse of war and disregard for human rights in the area. The situation, however, continues to worsen. It is therefore that delegates of the Security Council must assess all necessary aspects of the conglomeration of issues prevalent in South Sudan, and draft an implementable and effective solution. Detailed analysis of past actions shall be of immense importance in the process.

An employee of the UNMISS with a displaced South Sudanese child

On the 8th of July 2011, the Security Council declared that a United Nations Mission in the Republic South Sudan (UNMISS) would be established so as to consolidate peace and security in South Sudan. The mission was given 7,000 military personnel, including military liaison officers and staff officers and up to 900 civilian police personnel to ensure effective implementation of its purpose. In addition, it was also to advise the government with regards to administration of the state. [8] Resolution 2057 adopted by the Security Council on the 5th of July, 2012, reviewed the workings of the UNMISS and decided to extend its mandate through to the 15th of July, 2013. A similar resolution, 2109, was passed in 2013 to extend the mandate of UNMISS further till the 15th of July, 2014. These extensions were fully welcomed by the government of South Sudan. A more important resolution however, was resolution 2132 of the Security Council which was passed on the 24th of December 2014. It increased the military personnel of the mission as the situation in South Sudan further deteriorated, and at the same time, advocated immediate cessation of hostilities and called for open and extensive dialogue. [9]

Proposed Solutions

The conflict in South Sudan is not an isolated issue of peace and security within the country, but also a threat to the security of the entire region. Therefore, proposed solutions must consider ways of not only addressing the situation *within* South Sudan, but also to prevent leakage of conflict to surrounding states. All solutions that delegates present must hence be carefully drafted and comprehensive, yet effective and implementable. The following few paragraphs cover a number of possible solutions to the issue at hand. However, delegates

are advised to contemplate thoroughly on all possibilities, and not limit their propositions and suggestions solely to this reference guide.

The most precise way of explaining the situation is simple- an arcane power struggle. The root cause of this friction between the two regions is simply that South Sudan believed that it was not given the political power that they had truly deserved all along. Perhaps the most immediate solution could be the separation of North and South Sudan. This separation may not only satisfy a multitude of warring parties, but also result in momentary peace in the region. However, delegates must keep in mind the vast number of implications this may have. Such an action, rather than establishing peace, may cause further friction between the two sides. If such a situation does occur, catering to it may be more difficult than the original problem itself.

Another solution can be to give south Sudan a guarantee that they would be given equal part to play in the government and both North and South would be autonomous. Once again, delegates are advised to ponder on the various results this may have such as further power struggle or rising friction.

Another possible solution is to have a new cabinet vote in which all of the country would be given voting rights because we can clearly see that administrative problems are still prevalent. Steve McDonald, Director of the Africa Program at the Wilson Center, says top leaders failed to do their jobs in these words: "since independence, the government of South Sudan has been wracked with incompetence, malfeasance and corruption," he said. "Elites were lining their pockets, while the vast majority went hungry. Warlords were making deals with international entrepreneurs in their sectors, but the central government seemed totally ineffective." [7]

Also, there are too many parties involved in South Sudan and so it is no surprise that the government is weak and cannot control the rebellion groups. "It is apparent that South Sudan, two years after independence, is yet to establish legitimacy as a state with a functioning government that can keep its people safe and provide services to them," said Josephine Kibe and Mwangi S. Kimenyi of the Brookings Institution's Africa Growth Initiative. They accuse the top leaders of corruption. "The legitimacy of the state can only be achieved if it provides essential services such as education, health and security to the citizens," they wrote.[8] Delegates are hence expected to devise effective plans of action to eliminate corruption and to destabilize or immobilize the vast number of armed factions operating in South Sudan.

United Nations initiatives such as the United Nations Mission in South Sudan may just serve as the backbone of progress inside South Sudan, especially considering the considerable success of the UNMISS in neutralizing the problem and helping with causalities and victims. Such missions are to be, but naturally, directly accountable to United Nations. Common consensus can be reached by holding diplomatic peace talks between the rebels and the government. There could also be monthly investigations to make sure that no military-grade ammunition is being used.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

- What is the most effective solution to the problem at hand given the current situation; military intervention or table talks?
- What short, as well as long term measures are to be undertaken to counter the growing expanse of the conflict?
- What efforts should be made to monitor the status of peace and security in the region?
- If negotiations are deemed more suitable, what framework for the effective implementation of such a policy is to be adopted?
- What plan of action is to be implemented in case possible peace-talks fail to be productive?
- If military action is proposed, who will carry out the operations? Likewise, what framework for military action will be adopted, and how will the intervention take place?
- What measures to deter similar conflicts from erupting in the future should be taken?

Bloc Positions

The Security Council shall probably see the formation of two major blocs; those advocating military intervention, and those in favor of peace-talks. Nations will likely form blocs with countries sharing similar interests in international relations and security worldwide. The groups listed below shall therefore not be of surprise as these categories have been hinted throughout this guide.

Pro-Military Intervention

The first potential caucus bloc might consist largely of developed countries, those that have a record of military interventions in the past and/or nations that hold similar views with regards to worldwide security. These will probably include the United Kingdom, France and the

United States of America. As for other members of the Security Council, geographical location and trading relations with the above mentioned three countries shall be of utmost importance in determining their bloc positions. This bloc will stress upon military intervention as the most viable option with regards to the conflict in South Sudan, at least for most part of the debate. What shall be expected of this bloc is not only a solid, convincing and implementable framework for their policies and advocacies, but also an effective plan of action to effectively maintain and monitor security.

Pro-Peace Talks

A second bloc will probably comprise of nations that view military intervention as to worsen an already deteriorating situation, or as something to be resorted to only if peace talks and negotiations do not prove to be fruitful. This bloc will most probably consist of The Russian Federation and China, which also have a history of providing solid opposition to the notion of military intervention. As of before, geographical location and trade relations with these nations, shall determine siding with this bloc for other members states of the Security Council. This group will carry negotiations and table talks as the most feasible and appropriate solution to the rising conflict throughout the course of the weekend. Once again, solid policies and effective framework will be expected of this side, so as to facilitate productive and heated debate.

Suggestions for Further research

As mentioned before, delegates are advised not to limit their research and should feel free to consult the internet, magazine articles, journals, columns, books and etc. Not only shall this contribute to a more engaging and heated debate throughout the conference, but will also ensure a more enriching experience for all delegates of the Security Council.

Researches and statement documents by Steve McDonald, Director of the Africa Program at the Wilson Center may prove helpful for in depth analysis of the situation and rising conflict in South Sudan. "*Africa's Long Spring*," and extensive article authored by Mr. McDonald provides some useful information which shall prove beneficial to your research. [9]

The *Sudan Tribune* generally has some good articles which shall help develop a deeper understanding of the situation. The crisis in South Sudan is an ongoing conflict and thus, by the time September arrives, there may have been a multitude of progressions in the conflict.

This website shall assist you in keeping yourself up to date with the latest events and developments in South Sudan.

For more information on the atrocities of the conflict and also for a better understanding of the politics in South Sudan, by far the best source I have come across is *"South Sudan: From Revolution to Independence" by Matthew Arnold and Matthew Le Riche.* The book covers a vast number of topics with regards to the past workings of the government and conflict in South Sudan.

For specific case studies and further analysis of the conflict in South Sudan, *New York Times* and *Amnesty International* shall prove of great help. Not only do they provide well updated news and press statements by government officials, but also help you deepen your understanding with regards to effective solutions of the problem.

Topic Area B: Crisis In The Central African Republic

Statement and History of the Problem

The CAR crisis is an on-going military warfare which poses a pertinent threat to global peace. It is a civil war between the rebel forces mainly comprising of the 'Séléka' and the government. The rebels had claimed that the government had failed to abide by the peace treaties signed in 2007 and 2011 and this was the root cause for waging the civil war. There has also been economic devastation along with the military clashes with have resulted in loss of lives. The war has rendered the entire region in turmoil.

Soldiers prepare for the Central African Republic Bush War

Although the war had started in late 2012, there are multiple historic events that fueled the rebel forces and resulted in the current situation of military warfare. The flaw in the administration could be seen from the very start. The Central African Republic (CAR) gained independence in 1960 when it separated itself peacefully from the French colonial empire. Sometime later, power struggle started within the government as CAR became a region under the influence of one-party rule. In 1990 democracy was established but not exactly in the way the French had really hoped. Instability and ethnic displease could already be seen. The government had failed to protect the needs of different ethnic groups and this resulted in an uprising. Administrative failure to protect the interests of the people could also be seen at this point in time just as it was seen in 2007 and 2011. This ultimately proceeded in a military struggle of the rebels in 2001 to weaken the shackles of the government rule and army. [1]

The next year, 2002, a high-ranking officer named Francois Bozizé played a pivotal role in the power struggle and soon took control of CAR. In the elections held in 2005, he emerged victorious. Bozizé hoped to set up a renewed and stable constitution. He was soon, however, met with a new challenge in the form of the Union of Democratic Forces for Unity UFDR rebels. They claimed that Bozizé was just like his ruling predecessors and only protected his own ethnic interests. This resulted in the Central African Republic Bush War. [2]

The Central African Republic Bush War (2004–2007) initiated with the rebellion UFDR in North-Eastern Central African Republic, led by Michel Djotodia. This quickly escalated into major fighting during 2004. During this conflict, the UFDR rebel forces fought the CAR government concurrently with several other rebel groups that were located in other parts of the country, including the Groupe d'action patriotique pour la libération de Centrafrique (GAPLC) etc. From this we can deduce that there was dismay and uprising across many parts of the country which resulted in the unification of the rebel forces. [3]

On 13 April 2007, a peace agreement between the government and the UFDR was signed in Birao. According to this agreement, the rebels were recognized as a political party and were given a chance to participate in the local and presidential elections. This meant that the next   government formed would be a unified one. This government was formed in January 2009. It should be noted that the rebels in the current civil war were also veterans on The Central African Republic Bush War. This meant that some of the rebels were still unsatisfied at the time of the formation of the government in January 2009. During this timeline, thousands of people had been deeply affected. Hundreds had lost their lives, many homes were burned down and people started to move to the northern areas of CAR. [4]

Current Situation

Some progress towards stabilizing the country was made between 2008 and 2012, before the new Seleka rebel alliance marched south and captured the capital in March 2013, ousting President Francois Bozize.

Despite the signing in August 2012 of a peace agreement between the government and the CPJP that promised final closure of the Central African Republic Bush War, political violence continued in eastern and central CAR. On 15 September a dissident faction of the CPJP, led by Colonel Hassan Al Habib and calling itself "Fundamental CPJP", attacked the towns of Sibut, Damara and Dekoa. Two members of the national army, the Central African Armed Forces (FACA) were reportedly killed at Dekoa. In November 2012 the 'New Seleka' rebel coalition rapidly overran north and center of country. This also included Convention of Patriots for Justice and Peace (CPJP), but also includes the lesser known Patriotic Convention for Saving the Country (CPSK). Two other groups based in northern CAR, the Democratic Front of the Central African people (FDPC) and the Chadian group Popular Front for Recovery (FPR), also announced their allegiance to the Séléka coalition. The country descended into ethno-religious violence, with thousands of people fleeing their homes and the UN warning that there was a high risk of genocide.

Civilians in shelter from the ongoing conflict

This was followed by a constant power struggle and the government lost many areas to the rebels. A general uprising had started and there were many instances by appeals by the people. On 26 December, hundreds of protesters angered by the rebel advance surrounded the French embassy in Bangui, hurling stones, burning tires and tearing down the French flag. On 27 December, Bozizé asked the international community for assistance, specifically France and the United States, during a speech in the capital Bangui. The French President openly declared that he would not send troops and that his concern was to protect the people of CAR and not Bozizé's government.

Illegal weapons proliferate across the CAR, the legacy of years of unrest. The unrest has displaced tens of thousands of Central Africans; many of them have crossed the border into Chad. Delegates would also have to discuss how to stop the supply of such weapons in order to minimize warfare on an emergency basis. A French photojournalist has been killed in the Central African Republic, the presidential palace announced on Tuesday evening. "Another attack took place on Sunday killing 6 people, the anti-balaka Colonel Rock decides to send his elements there to patrol around and take people who fled the bush back to their homes safely. "On Tuesday, the Elysée said the French president, François Hollande, had ordered "the immediate dispatch of a French team and police from the African force deployed in the CAR to the scene. "All necessary means will be deployed to shine light on the circumstances of this assassination and find the killers of our compatriot," The French have always had a major role in CAR and have been forced to involve in the current crisis. [5]

Another major turn of event was that Amnesty International reported that it had uncovered proof of a fresh massacre in a village where the only survivor was a Muslim orphaned girl aged about eleven, and France said it would send an extra 400 peacekeeping troops. International peacekeepers deployed in the country have failed to immobilize the violence. France claimed that it would send an additional 400 troops to join its existing 1,600 troop strong force.

On 30 December, President Bozizé agreed to a possible national unity government with members of the Séléka coalition, after meeting with African Union chairperson Thomas Yayi Boni. He added that the CAR government was ready to begin peace talks "without condition

and without delay". In January 2013 Bozize established himself as the head of defense ministry, taking over his son and upon the failure of the previous head in stabilizing the situation.

On 11 January 2013, a ceasefire agreement was signed in Libreville, Gabon. On 13 January, Bozizé signed a decree that removed Prime Minister Faustin-Archange Touadéra from power, as part of the agreement with the rebel coalition. The rebels also made limited concession and agreed for Bozize to stay in power but instead they demanded that a prime minister be made from the side of the rebels. On 18th March 2013 the rebels demanded that political prisoners be released and also that the South African soldiers to retreat. The rebels threatened to use arms if their demands were not met. Soon, the rebels renewed their offensive and started to take up control of towns of Damara and Bossangoa.

On 24 March, rebels reached the presidential palace in the center of the capital, where heavy gunfire erupted. The presidential palace and the rest of the capital soon lost power and fell to rebel forces and Bozizé fled to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This was one of the most brutal of occurrences in the civil war. The rebels have claimed that they had ensured that there were no thefts or violence but it has been reported by the locals that there was widespread looting and violence.

A new government headed by Tiangaye, with 34 members, was appointed on 31 March 2013; Djotodia retained the defense portfolio. The Seleka had formed a new government and had taken many seats. There was some resistance against this new regime, mostly by the youth who had been armed and were loyal to the former government. On 3 April 2013, African leaders met in Chad and declared that they did not recognize Djotodia as President.

Relevant UN Actions

As previously hinted upon in this guide, an in-depth analysis of the past actions on the topics is of vital importance to the formulation of an effective solution. An overview of past actions with regards to the topic by the United Nations has been provided. However, you are once again asked to broaden your understanding of the topic through detailed individual study of all relevant actions.

There have been a vast number of resolutions adopted by the Security Council in relation with the crisis since 1997. The latest resolution has been passed in the April of 2014, Resolution 2149, which established the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization

Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and deployed up to 10,000 military personnel to hinder the growing conflict.[6]

The Conflict continues to increase

One of the most important resolutions in this regard is the one passed by the Security Council in the March of 1998, Resolution 1159, which established the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic, which came to be known as MINURCA. The mandate of this mission in the CAR was subjected to many extensions in the subsequent resolutions, along with which the United Nations, notably, welcomed elections in the region.[7, 8]

A United Nations Integrated Peace-building Office in the Central African Republic, more commonly known as BINUCA was also formed by the Security Council. In the newly adopted resolution in the April of 2014, this was subsumed into the Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA).[9]

Proposed Solutions

"The presence of the French troops inside of the Central African Republic, as well as their allies, has worsened the political and security situation inside the country," Abayomi Azikiwe, the editor of the Detroit-based Pan African Newswire, said in an exclusive interview with Press TV.

In the absence of "a larger geopolitical strategy" to deal with the situation, Azikiwe said, Paris is now calling on the United Nations Security Council to send more foreign troops into the country.

"But this is not going to solve the problem because right now it is reported that over two million have been displaced as a result of the violence. So there needs to be a political solution to the crisis," he pointed out.[10]

This statement precisely tells us the very essence of the problem. Negotiation has never had fruitful results as far as conditions in Central African Republic are concerned. The most common step by the UN can be to aid the government in holding off the rebels but it should be also kept in mind that this whole crisis has been created because of the suppressed views

of the minorities. The delegates also have to be especially careful in their approach to this problem.

Another solution can be a referendum under UN peacekeeping forces in which all of the country will be given a say on who should be their ruler. There also has to be maximum election monitoring and short-term and long-term observers to make sure that the problem is not escalating and that there is minimum rigging.

It also has to be kept in mind that the Seleka consists of uneducated bandits and it has to be made sure that every person who is running elections must have a certain degree of reliable history and qualifications. This is necessary in long-term safety and prosperity of Central African Republic. A certain degree of awareness in this regard and the importance of the right to vote should also be spread. . Even if such success is not made into convincing the government on making such compromises, then there should be instant negotiations and there has to be a possibility of a proper cease-fire which should not be violated at any costs.

Michel Djotodia, the former president who initially led the Séléka, is a Muslim from the north of the country, and the Séléka consists mostly of Muslim members – but Zounmenou says religion is not at the heart of the conflict. 'This conflict pits against one another political and military actors who know each other very well – they've worked together in the past and feel betrayed or disappointed by the political dispensation that Bozizé put in place.' [11]

Even if this is the case then it should not be forgotten that religion is one of the base aspects that constructs a society and in no point in time can the religious beliefs of the people be suspended. Another thing that this statement tells us that there is already too much bad blood between the previous government and the rebels and so it has to be kept in mind that the primary demand of the rebels in a negotiation-scenario would be complete political power.

Another crucial way forward is to ensure accountability, credibility and most importantly transparency. Kiir's supporters still believe that the crisis initiated with an attempted coup by Machar and other major oppositions in the country. But no foreign country or international body fully agrees to this story, who suspects Machar and his supporters are entertaining secret links with western capitals. So, it is crucial that there is full transparency of the whole issue in order for it to be solved.

"For the past year our people have been undergoing very dark hours and we cannot simply stand by with indifference when we look at our people plunge into the greatest depths of despair" — Archbishop Dieudonné Nzapalainga

"I'd like to talk about justice. As you know, one of the causes of the crisis in the CAR currently is impunity; the lack of justice. We are a country that has known many a coup d'état. And those involved in those coups d'état were never worried about the justice system or being brought to justice, because the justice system has always been beholden to those in power, and not to the people. We all talk about reaching reconciliation but how can we rebuild if nothing is there to build with?" — Imam Omar Kabine Layama

It also has to be kept in mind that whatever action is to be taken, it has to be taken on an emergency basis and as soon as possible because too many lives have been lost and there has already been too much chaos.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

- What immediate measures to counter the increasing conflict in the Central African Republic are to be undertaken?
- How can the situation be prevented from further escalation in the long term?
- How can the inflow of illegal arms fueling the conflict be prevented so as to minimize the expanse of the war?
- What can be done so as to prevent the arming and training of the youth for conflict and war?
- Which shall prove more effective; stoppage by force or peace-talks?
- How can the status of peace and security be monitored in the region?
- How shall the effects of the plan of action adopted by the Security Council on the civilian population be managed?

Bloc Positions

Just as of the first topic, this topic too shall divide the committee into two major blocs; one advocating peace talks, the other, military intervention and the use of force. Bloc formation in this topic shall thus be as in the first topic, which has been previously elaborated upon. Delegates however, must look for ways of collaboration between the blocs so as to stand within the true essence of the United Nations, and to work as one for the formation of an effective and implementable draft resolution.

Suggestions for Further Research

Delegates are yet again advised not to limit their research to the reference guide but also consult various articles, websites and use the internet to their advantage to ensure more heated debate.

The issue in the Central African Republic sees rapid developments. Information that may be valid now, may not be valid a month from now. Therefore, delegates are advised to keep themselves updated with all the latest from the ongoing conflict. Amnesty International's website has many useful articles which shall prove of benefit, and is also known for being up-to-date with the latest.

The New York Times, the Guardian, Yahoo! and the BBC are some of the best known sources for information on this topic and regular consultation of their websites would be of help. For detailed reports and fast facts concerning this topic, perhaps the best source would be crisis groups.

For a better understanding of the politics of the region, reports by the African union shall be of great assistance. A great source of information on the topic is '*The Media and Conflicts in Central Africa,*' a book by *Marie-Soleil Frère*. The book contains a vast number of rare facts and information about the topic.

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Position Paper Requirements

You shall each be expected to write one position paper per topic. Each Position Paper should be one page, single spaced, and written in font size 12, in font style Times New Roman. In a header at the top of the page, include your full name, the institution that you attend, your allotted country, and the topic area you are addressing.

Your position papers should be divided into three sections. The first section should contain the most salient aspects of the topic for your country, and the most important aspects of the topic, that you would want to be discussed in the committee. In the second section, highlight your country's previous actions with regards to the topic. Your stance, country policy and legislation on the topic should all be included in this section. For the third section, write about the potential solutions that your country might support. For issues that have not been settled, this information is more than often hard to find. If that might be the case, and you do not find any solution to the topic that your country officially endorses, you should deduce your own logical solutions based on your country's policy and legislation.

Position papers are written to sufficiently summarize your nation's position on a given topic. Please do not try to lengthen your position papers by including irrelevant details which shall prove of no use. You should devote your time to thinking how position papers would structure and determine the course of the committee sessions.

Closing Remarks

September promises to bring yet another memorable edition of the Aitchison College Model United Nations Conference. As delegates of the Security Council you shall be discussing issues of world peace and security and shall be following in the footsteps of renowned philosophers, thinkers, politicians and more importantly, diplomats. You shall be expected to rise to the level of discussion necessary to debate these sensitive yet complicated issues at hand. The Dais shall also hope that your resolution be an intelligent testament of the enthusiasm that you put into your research, public speaking and the wish to lead.

We shall be judging you for your ability to lead without strong-arming others, not for making a group of people listen to you without effect. You shall be preferred over others for being an accepted leader not one who enforces his wish, for your abilities in diplomacy and the extent to which you can keep true to your promises.

Again, the importance of research prior to the conference is underscored. School is undoubtedly a busy time, but do keep in mind how much of an opportunity ACMUN VI is for polishing your skills as a delegate, a policy-maker, a diplomat, and a leader. The more time you put into research, the better you shall understand the committee, and the more interesting the conference will be for you.

That said, we look forward to meeting you in September, and shall be delighted to cheer you on come ACMUN VI. Good luck!