



HIS MUN 2025 BACKGROUND GUIDE UNSC



Letter from the Executive Board

It is with profound honor and immense pleasure that we welcome you to the most powerful committee of the United Nations, the Security Council at HISMUN 2025. As the Executive Board, we are dedicated to ensuring a seamless and enriching committee experience over the next two days. Your roles as representatives of member nations are critical as you engage in meaningful debates, deliberations, and consensus-building on our agenda.. The EB will do everything in our power to ensure that the committee progresses smoothly over the three days and we hope that every delegate emerges from this committee as a more experienced diplomat.

As you go through your background guide, we have highlighted key topics which are sensitive areas in this conflict. It is of utmost importance to note that this background guide only serves as a headstart to your research and every delegate is expected to do his/her own research and bring strong and valid arguments to the table. We also hope to emphasise that this experience is more than the awards/certificates you get, it is about building awareness regarding current affairs and building transferable skills such as diplomacy and negotiation. Last but not least, a committee is only as good as its delegates and we believe that each and every one of you has the potential to excel and lead, first-timer or not. We encourage each and every one of you to speak and participate as it would give us great joy to know that each delegate walked away from our committee with more knowledge than he or she walked in with. A word of advice - do look into the technicalities of the agenda and be well-versed with your facts. Being prepared is the key to being confident. We look forward to three days of extensive and productive debate. Good Luck!

Atharva Puri, Chairperson
Sahithya M, Vice-Chairperson
Arush Halder, Moderator

Origin and overview of UNSC

The UNSC is often referred to as the pillar of the United Nations and the global forum, The fifteen members of the UN Security Council seek to address threats to international security. The UN Charter established the Security Council, which gives primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the Security Council, which may meet whenever peace is threatened. The Security Council consists of ten elected members, and five permanent members.

Under the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions. It calls upon the parties to settle any dispute by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorizing the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security. The Security Council has five permanent members—the United States, China, France, Russia, and the United Kingdom—collectively known as the P5. These nations possess the ‘veto power’

UNSC has one goal, to maintain international peace and security; to develop friendly relations among nations; to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights; and to be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations

H-UNSC specifications (How the H-UNSC is different from UNSC)

- Functions as if the Council is meeting in the past, at a specific historical moment. In this agenda, 7th October 2001, the US attacked the Taliban and Al Qaeda.
- Delegates must represent their country only with information available up to the historical freeze date given, without hindsight.

Resolutions are hypothetical, exploring how history could have unfolded if the Council acted differently.



Nature of evidence

Documents from the following reports and documents will be accepted in the committee in cases of any controversial statements made in the session. Below, some reports will not serve as proper evidence in the committee.

- 1. Reuters, AlJazeera -** Documents and quotations from the Reuters and Al Jazeera news agencies will be widely accepted. In cases of executive board approval of the accuracy check on statements that surround controversy which are made in committee.
- 2. Official Government documents -:** Government official documents, reports and quotations will also be considered as evidence or proof of any such statement made during committee.
- 3. UN official reports-** All United Nations agency reports will be accepted as adequate evidence and proof. Quotations and Verbatim from UN charters will suffice as solid proof and will stand valid.
- 4. Invalid sources -** Evidence and quotations from sources like Wikipedia will not serve as authentic proof in committee. Although it is barred to serve as proof, it can be used to understand the agenda better

Rules of Procedures

A Model UN is built upon its rules of procedure. With no proper conduct, we fail the entire point of a mock UN. This section of the Background guide will cover all the ROPs required to know the basic happenings of a conference.

- 1. Research:** Each delegate must research the nation's profile, agenda background, previous international action, and the country's foreign policy, along with possible solutions that relate to the agenda. These five aspects serve as the cornerstones of the research made by the delegate.
- 2. Roll call:-** A delegate can vote either 'present' or 'present and voting'. 'Present' grants the delegate to abstain from voting upon the draft resolution whereas 'Present and voting' does not grant the delegate the same power of abstaining.
- 3. The General Speakers List:-** The GSL refers to a speech of merely 90 seconds that talks about the agenda or summarizes one's position paper. It is to be of relevance to one's nation and the agenda.
- 4. Time Yields:-** If a delegate has an amount of time remaining in their speech, they may yield their time in the following ways.
 - a) Yield to the EB
 - b) Yield to the floor for questions
 - c) Yield to comments
 - d) Yield to another delegate

5. Moderated Caucus: A moderated caucus refers to speech made to cover a sub-topic of the agenda. It requires a majority of committee votes to pass. It requires specific verbatim to make it valid.

For example:- “The delegate of XYZ would like to motion for a moderated caucus on the topic XYZ for a total period of X, providing X to each speaker.

6. Unmoderated Caucus:- During this caucus, delegates are free to lobby, discuss future moderated caucuses, make allies, work on papers, etc. It is often referred to as informal debate.

7. Points:- Four points are used in a conference. They are as follows:

a) Point of information - POIs are questions directed to a delegate's speech under the agenda and are strictly required to be relevant.

b) Point of order - Under a point of order a delegate may raise either a 'logical fallacy' or 'factual inaccuracy' .

i) Logical fallacy - When a delegate mentions something in their speech that is logically fallacious, we refer to it as a logical fallacy.

ii) Factual inaccuracy - When a delegate has mentioned a fact that is wrong or inaccurate in any way, we refer to it as a factual inaccuracy.

c) Point of parliamentary inquiry - A POE may be raised to clarify any doubts and misunderstandings concerning the proceedings of the committee.

d) Point of personal privilege -A Point of Personal Privilege must refer to a matter of personal comfort, safety, and/or well-being of the members of the committee.

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8. Documentation

- a) Position paper-Refers to a paper that is to be submitted before the dates of the conference. It contains the stance of your nation and must answer the following Current position of the nation Past actions Possible solutions.
- b) Draft resolution -Resolutions are a commuted compilation of the solution discussed in committee that are presented to the world community as an actionable suggestion to curb a certain issue.
- c) Working Paper -: Working papers are an outline of the solutions proposed. They are usually to be submitted before the tabling of the DR.

9. Voting

- a) There are 5 types of voting methods. All being :-
 - Yes
 - No
 - Yes with rights (VETO only)
 - No with rights (VETO only)
 - Abstain

AGENDA: *Discussing the rising tensions in the Afghan Region.*

FREEZE DATE: 7th October 2001

Introduction to the agenda:

On the 11th of September 2001, the terrorist organisation, Al-Qaeda planned an attack which resulted in two planes deliberately crashing into the World Trade Center towers in New York City, causing their complete collapse, while a third struck the Pentagon near Washington, D.C. The fourth, United Airlines Flight 93, went down in Pennsylvania after passengers resisted the hijackers.

Nearly 3,000 people were killed and thousands more injured, shocking the world and exposing the new level of transnational terrorism. Investigations quickly confirmed that the attacks were planned by Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network, which was operating out of Afghanistan under the protection of the ruling Taliban. Despite international pressure, the Taliban refused to extradite bin Laden or dismantle terrorist training camps scattered across Afghan territory. The President of USA George W. Bush issued an ultimatum for the Taliban, which was refused.

Following this Afghanistan had become a place of instability due to the US-led invasion which started on the 7th of October 2001. The Taliban's refusal to comply triggered Operation Enduring Freedom, marking the beginning of a large-scale international military intervention, initiating airstrikes and special operations against Taliban and Al-Qaeda targets. As tensions rise between the Taliban, the Northern Alliance, and foreign powers, the Security Council faces the urgent task of addressing terrorism while safeguarding regional stability, civilian protection, and the sovereignty of Afghanistan as well as securing justice for the USA.

Countries of Interest

1. United States of America (USA)

The United States of America sees Afghanistan under Taliban control as a direct threat to global security due to its harboring of Al-Qaeda. Legally, it invokes Chapter VII of the UN Charter and Resolutions 1368 and 1373 to justify counter-terrorism measures, including military action if necessary. Priorities include pressuring the Taliban to hand over Osama bin Laden and dismantling terrorist infrastructure, while minimizing civilian casualties. The US emphasizes that Taliban failure to act against Al-Qaeda constitutes a breach of international peace and security, legitimizing UNSC intervention.

2. United Kingdom (UK)

The UK aligns with the US but emphasizes legality and diplomacy. It supports using UNSC-mandated sanctions and diplomatic pressure to compel Taliban compliance. The UK stresses adherence to international humanitarian law when considering military measures, including civilian protection and proportionality under the Law of Armed Conflict. Its position balances counter-terrorism urgency with UNSC procedural legitimacy.

3. Pakistan

Pakistan historically supported the Taliban and seeks to preserve influence in Afghanistan. It stresses Afghan sovereignty under Article 2(4) of the UN Charter and cautions against military intervention, arguing that external action could violate international law and destabilize the region. Pakistan advocates for negotiation and mediation, emphasizing that sanctions or forced military action may harm civilians and cause instability.

4. India

India opposes Taliban rule and supports the Northern Alliance. India frames Taliban links to Al-Qaeda as a violation of international law by enabling terrorism. It advocates for UNSC measures under Chapter VII (as mentioned before by the USA) to deny Taliban support and restrict terrorist activity. India stresses humanitarian law by highlighting civilian suffering and the oppression of women and minorities, urging the UNSC to authorize sanctions or international assistance to the Northern Alliance.

5. Russia

Russia prioritizes regional security, fearing extremist ideologies spreading to Central Asia. It supports sanctions and international pressure on the Taliban under UNSC authority, while emphasizing cooperation with neighboring states. Russia frames Taliban control as a threat to international peace, justifying measures under Chapter VII while advocating for regional coordination.

6. United Arab Emirates (UAE)

The UAE occupies a mediator role. While historically recognizing Taliban authority, it now stresses diplomatic engagement and humanitarian access in accordance with international law. UAE's position is that UNSC measures should be proportionate, prioritize civilian protection, and encourage negotiation between Taliban and opposition forces.

7. Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (De Facto Rulers)

The Taliban asserts itself as Afghanistan's sovereign authority, invoking Article 2(4) and non-intervention principles to reject external demands. It denies responsibility for Al-Qaeda's actions, arguing that sanctions or foreign military action would violate Afghan sovereignty and international law. The Taliban frames any UNSC coercion as an overreach and emphasizes that civilian populations would bear the brunt of punitive measures.

Legal Frameworks

The below mentioned charters, rulings, etc.. are preferred to be looked into as this is a Security Council committee which deals with a lot of the same. Delegates are welcome to add additional legal frameworks outside this list.

1. UN CHARTER: The UNSC's powers and limits come directly from the Charter of the United Nations, which is a binding international treaty.

IMPORTANT ARTICLES:

Article 24 – Gives the UNSC primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

Article 41: Non-military measures (sanctions, embargoes).

Article 42: Military action if necessary.

Article 51: Right of individual or collective self defense.

2. INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW AND THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS: Geneva Conventions (1949) and Additional Protocols regulate treatment of civilians, POWs, and combatants.

Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions is a crucial provision for conflicts not of an international character (non-international armed conflicts or civil wars), providing a minimum standard of protection for persons not actively participating in hostilities.

3. CUSTOMARY INTERNATIONAL LAW AND JUS COGENS NORMS

-Prohibition of aggression, genocide, torture, and crimes against humanity are peremptory norms (cannot be violated).

-The UNSC relies on these norms when authorizing or condemning actions.

4. INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Article 41- Allows the ICJ to indicate provisional measures temporary steps to prevent worsening of a conflict.

Previous ICJ RULINGS

Advisory Opinion on the Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons (1996) – Confirms Article 51 limits on self-defense.

Nicaragua v. United States (1986) – Defines armed attack, necessity, and proportionality in self-defense.

5. ROME STATUTE

Article 8 - Defines war crimes – grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, including willful killing, torture, targeting civilians, or use of banned weapons.

Article 5 - Defines the crimes under ICC jurisdiction: (a) genocide, (b) crimes against humanity, (c) war crimes, (d) the crime of aggression.

Article 7 - Defines crimes against humanity – widespread or systematic attacks on civilians (e.g., murder, torture, persecution).

6. ICC refers to the International Criminal Court, a judicial body that prosecutes individuals for crimes like genocide and war crimes.

Article 10 - Humane treatment of prisoners – everyone deprived of liberty must be treated with dignity.

Article 14 - Right to a fair trial before an independent tribunal.

7. ICCPR stands for the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, a multilateral treaty that obligates signatory nations to respect the civil and political rights of individuals within their territory. It protects fundamental freedoms such as the right to life, freedom of speech and religion, and the right to a fair trial, and is a key part of the International Bill of Human Rights along with the Universal Declaration Of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Article 6- Right to life – no one shall be arbitrarily deprived of life.
Article 7 - Prohibition of torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

QARMA^s (Questions A Resolution Must Answer)

1. Should foreign troops or UN peacekeeping forces be reintroduced to maintain internal security?
2. What role should the regional actors have played to control the conflicts before 7th october 2001?
3. To what extent has the Taliban government fulfilled its commitments under international law?
4. On what legal grounds did the United States invoke Article 51 of the UN Charter to justify its military action in Afghanistan?
5. How did the Security Council's Resolutions 1368 and 1373 shape or limit the legality of the U.S.-led intervention?
6. What intentions resulted in high militant and security interest by western countries and powerful army nations in Afghanistan?

The above mentioned legalities are for the reference of the delegates and the EB expects further research on the legalities as it's one of the major requirements of a Security Council committee.

Thank You

