



# **NewMUN Chapter V**

United Nations Security Council

BACKGROUND GUIDE

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Dear Esteemed Delegates,

Welcome to UNSC. We, Shrayes Tom and Ifrath Mariyam, Chairs of the UNSC conference, are honored to have you here and look forward to your contributions.

As many of you know, The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) plays a crucial role in maintaining international peace and security. Comprised of fifteen member states, including five permanent members with veto power (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States), the UNSC serves as the main decision-making body within the United Nations.

The primary responsibility of the UNSC is to determine threats to peace and security and take appropriate actions to address them. This includes authorizing peacekeeping missions, imposing sanctions on countries or individuals involved in conflicts or human rights violations, and even authorizing military interventions in extreme cases.

Nevertheless, despite its limitations, the UNSC remains an essential institution for global governance and serves as a forum for addressing pressing international issues. Its role in maintaining peace and security cannot be understated as it continues to navigate complex geopolitical dynamics in an ever-changing world.

We encourage all delegates to approach the topics with an open mind, a willingness to collaborate, and a focus on finding solutions that benefit everyone.

As chairs, we are committed to facilitating a fair, impartial, and respectful debate that allows all voices to be heard. We encourage all delegates to participate actively and constructively and to respect the opinions of others. In addition, we ask that all delegates maintain the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and ethical behavior.

We look forward to working with all of you and to the insights and ideas that will emerge from our discussions. We wish you all the best of luck in your deliberations and hope that this conference will be a memorable and enriching experience for everyone involved.

Sincerely,  
Shrayes Tom & Ifrath Mariyam  
Chairs of UNSC Council Newmun

COUNCIL: UNSC

TOPIC 1: Addressing the threat of maritime terrorism and enhancing the security of the seas.

CHAIRS: Shrayes Tom & Ifrath Mariyam

## Introduction:

Maritime terrorism poses a significant risk in today's global landscape, with several countries being directly involved. Past incidents have highlighted the potential for catastrophic consequences and the urgent need for robust security measures.

Countries such as Somalia, Nigeria, and Yemen have been known hotspots for maritime terrorism activities. These regions have witnessed numerous incidents involving piracy, hijacking of vessels, and attacks on maritime infrastructure. These acts endanger the lives of seafarers and disrupt global trade routes and impact economic stability.

Recently, there have been notable incidents, such as the attack on the USS Cole in Yemen in 2000 and the hijacking of MV Maersk Alabama by Somali pirates in 2009. These events serve as stark reminders of the ever-present threat that maritime terrorism poses.

The international community recognizes the gravity of this situation and has taken steps to address it. Collaborative efforts between countries, international organizations, and naval forces have resulted in increased patrols, intelligence sharing, and

capacity building initiatives to combat maritime terrorism effectively.

However, despite these efforts, challenges remain. The vastness of the oceans and limited resources can make it difficult to monitor every vessel or identify potential threats accurately. Additionally, evolving tactics employed by terrorist groups necessitate constant adaptation of security strategies.

It is crucial for nations to invest in advanced technologies and enhance cooperation to mitigate the risks associated with maritime terrorism comprehensively. Strengthening intelligence networks, improving information sharing mechanisms among stakeholders, implementing stricter protocols for vessel security checks are just a few measures that can help deter terrorist activities at sea.

In conclusion, understanding past incidents involving maritime terrorism is essential in addressing future risks effectively. By acknowledging the countries involved in these acts and learning from historical events, we can work towards safeguarding our seas from this persistent threat while ensuring safe global trade flows uninterrupted.

## EXAMPLE OF RECENT CASES IN MARITIME TERRORISM:

In recent years, there have been several notable cases highlighting the risk of maritime terrorism. Various countries



around the world have been involved in these incidents, each with its own unique circumstances and consequences.

One such example is the case of the MV Limburg, a French oil tanker that was attacked off the coast of Yemen in 2002. The vessel was targeted by terrorists who detonated an explosive-laden boat alongside it, causing a significant oil spill and resulting in the death of one crew member. This incident highlighted the vulnerability of maritime assets to terrorist attacks and raised concerns about security measures in place to protect vessels operating in high-risk areas.

Another notable case occurred in 2011 when pirates hijacked the MV Iceberg off the coast of Somalia. The vessel and its crew were held captive for an astonishing 1,079 days before being rescued by Puntland Maritime Police Force. This incident drew attention to piracy as a form of maritime terrorism and underscored the need for international efforts to combat this threat.

These examples illustrate how maritime terrorism can take different forms and impact various regions around the world. It emphasizes the importance of ongoing vigilance, collaboration between countries, and effective security measures to mitigate these risks and ensure safe navigation on our oceans.

## MAJOR COUNTRIES INVOLVED:

Maritime terrorism poses a significant threat to global security, with several countries having experienced past incidents. Understanding the major countries involved in this risk is crucial for maintaining maritime security.

One country that has faced the menace of maritime terrorism is Somalia. Due to its strategic location along major shipping routes and the presence of pirate groups, Somalia has been a hotspot for maritime attacks. These attacks have not only targeted commercial vessels but also humanitarian aid ships and fishing boats.

Another country that has witnessed incidents of maritime terrorism is Nigeria. The Niger Delta region, known for its oil wealth, has seen attacks by militant groups on oil installations and vessels operating in the area. These incidents have had significant implications for global energy markets and have prompted international efforts to combat piracy and protect maritime infrastructure.

The Southeast Asian region, particularly the waters surrounding Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines, has also been a hotspot for maritime terrorism. The presence of extremist groups such as Abu Sayyaf and Jemaah Islamiyah has led to kidnappings for ransom and attacks on commercial ships in these waters.

Lastly, it is important to mention Yemen as a country involved in the risk of maritime terrorism. The ongoing conflict in Yemen has created an environment conducive to terrorist activities at sea. Houthi rebels have targeted vessels passing through the Bab el-Mandeb strait, a critical chokepoint connecting the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden.

These examples highlight some of the major countries that have experienced past incidents of maritime terrorism. It is crucial for international cooperation and vigilance among these nations to

ensure effective counter-terrorism measures are in place to safeguard global maritime security.

## **MEASURES TAKEN TO IMPROVE MARITIME SECURITY:**

All of the essential areas listed in the Code of Conduct are being implemented by IMO.

The IMO West and Central Africa Maritime Security Trust Fund will continue and intensify IMO's participation to accomplish these aims, depending on the level of contributions received.

The plan also intends to enhance capacity in the West and Central African marine sectors, as well as to implement, comply with, and enforce the provisions of SOLAS Chapters V and VI.

## **CRITICAL MEASURES TO BE IMPLEMENTED:**

Long-range identification and tracking of ships (LRIT) systems, ships' automatic identification systems (AIS), land-based or airborne radars, fishing vessel monitoring systems, vessel traffic systems, and airborne surveillance platforms, as well as ship security alert transmissions, can provide valuable and real-time information that can be used and aided by law enforcement authorities and the military in their efforts to protect ships and interdistrict commerce. As a result, the construction of a marine surveillance system that integrates available data would be beneficial to the proper application of the Code of Conduct's rules.

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COUNCIL: UNSC

TOPIC 2: The role and impact of the Wagner Group in global conflicts and security.

CHAIRS: Shrayes Tom & Ifrath Mariyam

### Introduction:

The Wagner Group is a private military company (PMC) that has gained significant attention and controversy in recent years. Founded by Dmitry Utkin, a former Russian military officer, the group has been involved in various conflicts around the world, including Ukraine and Syria.

Operating under a veil of secrecy, the Wagner Group has been accused of carrying out covert operations on behalf of the Russian government. Its activities have raised concerns among international observers due to its involvement in destabilizing regions and undermining national sovereignty.

The group's capabilities are vast and encompass not only combat operations but also intelligence gathering, logistics support, and training. With its highly trained personnel and access to advanced weaponry, the Wagner Group has become an influential force in contemporary warfare.

However, it is important to note that the exact nature of the group's relationship with the Russian government remains largely speculative. The Kremlin denies any official connection

with the Wagner Group, despite ample evidence suggesting otherwise.

In this section, we will delve deeper into the origins of the Wagner Group, its alleged ties to Russia's political elite, and its impact on global security dynamics. By examining these aspects, we hope to gain a better understanding of this enigmatic organization and its role in contemporary geopolitical affairs.

## General Overview:

The Wagner Group, which was formally created in 2014, quickly developed a reputation as one of the world's most successful yet dangerous private security contractors, specializing in operations overseas in direct support of the Russian state or its international customers. The Wagner Group comprised initially of ex-active-duty men, was active in Syria and portions of Africa, where it built a large physical, informational, and reputational presence.

The Wagner Group has been actively involved in assisting pro-Russian separatist troops in the Donetsk and Luhansk areas since the commencement of the Russia-Ukraine conflict in 2014. From 2022, its increased combat group will be engaged in frontline operations in central Donbas against Ukrainian forces.

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personnel, was active in Syria and parts of Africa, where it established a significant physical, informational, and reputational presence.

Since the beginning of the Russia-Ukraine war in 2014, the Wagner Group has been actively involved in aiding pro-Russian rebel troops in the Donetsk and Luhansk territories. From 2022, the expanded fighting group will be involved in frontline operations against Ukrainian forces in central Donbas.

It is probable that the coup will result in any linkages managed by the Wagner being transferred to official channels or other private companies functioning in the interests of the Russian state within Myanmar and North Korea. While Russia's capacity to use the Wagner Group for future covert operations across Asia will be limited, some of its members may still be called upon if they are assimilated into Russia's power structures or within another organization.

The attempted coup has a more severe impact in terms of Putin's credibility as a long-term political power ruling Russia in the perspective of Asian countries. During the Shanghai Cooperation Organization's online conference on 4 July 2023, Putin emphasized that the mutiny did not affect the unity of his nation or governing elites, indicating that he remained in charge of the country.

Still, doubts remain about whether Prigozhin's activities revealed latent vulnerabilities inside the Kremlin and the Russian political spectrum as a whole. The disclosure of certain facts from a special meeting between Putin, Prigozhin, and



Wagner Group leaders is likely to raise more concerns than it answers.

The persistent uncertainty may impact Asia's governing elites' future perceptions of their nations' dealings with Russia, at a time when Moscow is frantically attempting to deepen ties with the area. China is an excellent example. Although Beijing's official reaction to the coup news was carefully phrased given its special partner status, alarm was voiced on official media channels.

Many other Asian countries' reactions were similarly ambivalent. Official criticism has been either reserved or condemnatory of the mutiny, while regional media has tended to focus on Putin's regime's issues. Some Indian media outlets went so far as to publicly doubt Russia's stability, while Thai media predicted that a weaker Putin may be more susceptible to Beijing's influence.

It will take time for the Kremlin to regain the trust of regional elites in its political viability. The Russian diplomatic corps in Asia is now faced with a significant burden of damage management and reputation rehabilitation. Putin will have to demonstrate that he is still in power, that the Kremlin is unified, and that Russian oligarchs such as Prigozhin are not driving the country's internal and external agendas. If Putin fails, Russia risks losing its image as an alternative power center to the US and China that it has cultivated over the last two decades.

Examples of recent cases in Wagner group:



1. **Syria:** The Wagner Group has been active in Syria, providing support to the Syrian government forces during the ongoing civil war. They have been involved in combat operations, training and advising Syrian troops, and securing strategic locations.

2. **Ukraine:** The Wagner Group's presence in Ukraine has also been documented. They have been accused of participating in the conflict between Ukrainian forces and pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine. Their activities include combat operations, intelligence gathering, and providing security for key installations.

3. **Central African Republic:** The Wagner Group has expanded its operations to the Central African Republic (CAR). They have been involved in training local security forces and supporting the government against rebel groups. Their presence has raised concerns about human rights abuses and destabilization of the region.

\*It is important to note that much of the information regarding these cases comes from open-source intelligence and media reports, as the Wagner Group operates with a high level of secrecy. These examples highlight some of their known activities but may not provide a comprehensive picture of their overall operations.

### Major Countries involved:

**Russia:** Russia is widely believed to be the home base and main supporter of the Wagner Group. It is believed that the group has close ties to Russian intelligence agencies and operates with their tacit approval.

**Ukraine:** Ukraine has been one of the main theaters of operation for the Wagner Group. The group's involvement in Ukraine's conflict with pro-Russian separatists has been well-documented.

**Syria:** Syria is another country where the Wagner Group has been active. It is believed that Russian-backed forces, including members of the Wagner Group, have supported Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's regime in their fight against rebel groups and ISIS.

Other countries where there have been reports or allegations of Wagner Group involvement include **Libya, Sudan, Central African Republic, and Mozambique.**

### Timeline of key events:

**Syrian Civil war:** The Wagner Group's role in the war became particularly notable during 2015. The group was reported to have provided support to Syrian government forces, aiding them in their fight against rebel factions and terrorist organizations. Their involvement ranged from conducting military operations on the ground to providing strategic advice and training.

**Russo-Ukrainian War:** The Russo-Ukrainian War, also known as the Russo-Ukrainian conflict, refers to the ongoing military conflict between Russia and Ukraine. It began in 2014 and is still ongoing.

**When it happened:** The conflict started in February 2014 following the Ukrainian Revolution of that year. It was triggered by Russia's annexation of Crimea and the subsequent unrest in eastern Ukraine.

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# SAMPLE POSITON PAPER

TOPIC – THE DEMILITARIZATION OF THE ARCTIC

COUNCIL – UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

COUNTRY – INDIA

## POSITION PAPER

The serene beauty of the Arctic region has not just captured the hearts and minds of people world over; it has also caught the attention of nations worldwide. With more than 30 percent of the world's undiscovered natural gas and 15 percent of the world's undiscovered oil lying below its chests the arctic is literally in pole. The lucrative resources available in the Arctic are not only appealing to all, they are the most essential commodities that are being exhausted rapidly and hence of significant commercial value. It's of no surprise that several countries have announced claims over this land mass, with nations readying their military advances to defend their claims in the region, the untapped windfall being the greatest incentive.

Currently, all territorial claims to the Arctic region are regulated through the United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) under international law. With 160 nations as signatories, the UNCLOS imposes coastal state jurisdiction and control in the Arctic region. The Arctic Council is a forum that has been assembled in order to address issues faced by the governments in the arctic region and those of the indigenous people of the Arctic. Even though the Arctic Council handles issues in the Arctic Region, it is yet to take peace and security onboard its agenda. However, the Council is often dragged into security and geopolitical issues with not much attention focussed on the impact of climate change posed by the melting of polar ice caps at an alarming speed.

At the heart of all the challenges is the fact that United States is not a signatory to UNCLOS and Russian desires in enhancing their activities in Arctic sharing its borders in the North. With both being "Permanent" members of the UN Security council, the passing of a constructive draft resolution is a foregone conclusion.

Indian discourse on Arctic issues emerged following the establishment of India's research base 'Himadri' at Svalbard in 2008. This discourse is constituted by a set of different voices that focus on various aspects of Arctic issues, such as energy and

resources, strategic concerns and Arctic governance. An important element in this discourse is the view that India has soft power capacities and capabilities in international affairs and that the soft power displayed by India's scientific research activities in the Arctic may increase India's leverage in international affairs.

### Potential Solutions

- Increased presence and involvement of the UN by expanding the jurisdiction of UNCLOS. Provide strict and clear guidelines to all member states in an effort to protect the fragile landmass.
- Amending the Arctic council's agenda to include the discussion of security issues in the Arctic and stop arms race in the region which could potentially be catastrophic.
- Creating a common ground for all nations to reside to, providing an equal voice to all nations.
- Support scientific research on the impact of global warming if this ecologically sensitive area is plundered for its wealth.



