
United Nations Security Council

The role of militarization and foreign intervention in curbing
weaponized terrorism

Bangalore Junior MUN 2021

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Message from the Bureau

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations Security Council! As your Co-Presidents this year, we are beyond excited to meet you all and experience and witness the fruitful debate and discussion, we look forward to your words, ideas and resolutions.

Let's introduce ourselves: I'm Aagney Gorthi and I am one of your co-presidents, I have 4 years of MUN experience, most of those as a part of the security council.. I love basketball and playing chess, this is my first year as an EB member so it is great to have someone as seasoned with MUNs as...

Athmika Krishnan, your other Co-president. My 5 years of MUN experience started off at this very JMUN, and I am so excited to come back as a member of the EB. When I'm not discussing politics and catching up on international news, I love reading and rewatching the Office. I look forward to making this committee an absolute success!

The Security Council is an integral body of the UN since it is the only body that can make legally binding decisions. As such, we hope to see maximum participation from each and every single member of the council. You will not only have to keep in mind the agenda but the mandate of the SC and the ethical and moral implications of your actions. That being said, the UNSC, above all, strives for collective peace and security. While delegates are allowed to take direct and immediate action in the form of directives, they **must prioritize peace and foreign policy** above all. As a delegate of a country, you represent that nation's interests. It is extremely important that you listen carefully, understand different opinions and debate accordingly to reach collective consensus. Every delegate, both in real life and the MUN, is present for the betterment of the entire world, respecting the opinions and values of every different country.

That being said, I hope all of you learn a lot from this experience and are able to come up with an absolutely amazing resolution. Good luck!

If you have any questions please email us at bangalorejmun@oakridge.in with the subject line: "UNSC_Queries" or visit the website at bangalorejmun.com.

Sincerely,

Co-Presidents of the United Nations Security Council

Introduction

Are we responsible for the actions of others? The answer may seem like a definite "no", but what happens when ethics, duty, and morality come into play?

Terrorism hasn't been around forever, but the ideas and philosophies that drive it have. Even in the natural world, organisms are in constant battle to obtain resources, habitats, and mates in order to establish their dominance and ensure their survival. As humanity evolved, these microaggressions became exacerbated. With the development of modern technology, the methods to obtain these fundamentals became more dangerous and devastating.

Today, terrorists don't fight for food, but for beliefs, values, and ideas. In their desire to assure their ideological existence—be it religious, ethnic, political, or scientific—they resort to violence and force, often with intended/unintended consequences on innocent civilian populations.

Terrorism is said to have emerged with the development of large, complex, and modern societies. The term itself was coined only in the 1790s in reference to the terror-tactics used by revolutionists during the French Revolution—specifically what is known as the *Reign of Terror*, a period of massacres and public executions by the guillotine.

Since then, terrorism has evolved into organizations such as the Italian Red Brigades, the German Red Army Faction, and the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) or the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS). In the past decade alone, terrorists have been responsible for the deaths of 21,000 people worldwide, on an annual basis.

This background guide will explore what terrorism is, its purpose, and the ways in which it has been curbed in the past.

How do you use this Background Guide?

Look out for italicized and bolded words. These are key terms that are dispersed throughout the guide. To understand what these key terms mean, refer to Page 4, "Key Terms and Clarifications".

The Background Guide is to help set context for the debate and discussions that the Executive Board would like to see in committee session. Use the Background Guide as your first step in researching your country's stance/policy, and the agenda.

Highlight phrases, definitions, or terms that you think might be useful in your research. This background guide is merely the foundation: it is up to each delegate to develop your understanding of the topic and go above and beyond in your research. These highlighted phrases may be things that you'd like to explore further or research independently.

Key Terms and Clarifications

- **NSAs:** Non-state actors are organizations or individuals that are not funded by, supported by, or affiliated with the government. Non-state actors' purposes and aims can vary from being beneficial (Human Rights Watch, Red Cross, World Wildlife Fund) to being violent, such as militant organizations or rebel alliances.
- **Insurgency:**
- **The Truman Doctrine:** An "anti-communist" ideology propagated throughout the Cold War. Stated that the United States would "provide political, military, and economic assistance to all democratic nations under threat from external or internal authoritarian forces."
- **The Reagan Doctrine:** The doctrine of war used during the Cold War under which the United States provided overt and covert aid to anti-communist guerrillas and resistance movements. Many of these organizations perpetrated acts of terror in their efforts to "stop the spread" of Soviet-backed pro-communist governments in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.
- **Sovereignty:** While the simple definition of sovereignty is "the authority of a state to govern itself, another state or an area of land", the concept in the UN is much more nuanced than that. It can be complicated to truly understand what sovereignty means. An article by the UN Secretary-General (the first link in the bibliography) will give you a good understanding of a concept that is extremely important to this agenda.
- **Coup d'état:** [pronounced: cooh-de-tah] (usually shortened to coup) The sudden, violent overthrow of a nation's existing government by a smaller faction or group. Coups are carried out using a nation's military or police forces and usually do not involve civilians. They are illegal and unconstitutional and are typically followed by an authoritarian governing body or dictatorship.
- **State-Sponsored Terrorism:**
- **Counter Terrorism:**

What is Terrorism?

The key point that differentiates an act of terrorism from violence or hate crimes is the religious, political, or ideological motive that is used to instil fear. Terrorism is not an ideology, rather a tactic to achieve such ideologies. The use of terrorism often entails violation of human rights, the destruction of property/cultural identity, and the

Types of Terrorism

There are two types of terrorism: domestic and international terrorism. Domestic terrorism is defined as violent, criminal acts committed by individuals and/or groups originating from domestic influences. International terrorism is the same but with foreign influences over the acts of terror.

Domestic and International terrorism is achieved in the modern day with two forms: physical and virtual. Physical terrorism is the intent to create terror through the injuring/killing of people and/or destruction of land/infrastructure. An example of physical terrorism was the 9/11 attack, the hijacking of 4 planes to cause severe damage to life and infrastructure in the United States. On the other hand cyber or virtual terrorism is a politically motivated attack which involves the use of screen/information technology to breach data systems in order to procure data or spread fear throughout societies.

Why Does Terrorism Exist?

Terrorism, throughout history and cause, has been used as a tool to level out inequalities and disparities in power. This power may be religious, political, economic, social, or ideological, but the purpose of terrorism remains the same—to protect the interests of the terrorists by preventing or provoking change in a preexisting system or body.

In fact, terrorism represents a struggle for social control from below: attacks are usually directed against targets who represent a central government or superior community. So long as disparities in power continue to exist, there will be parties that resort to violent means to achieve domination.

Terror Financing

Contrary to popular belief, terrorism was not always a tactic used exclusively by **Non-state actors (NSAs)** to pursue religious motives. Especially during the Cold War, developed

superpowers such as the United States and Soviet Union often funded terrorist organizations to safeguard their own national interests.

A key feature of the mid 1900s was the "Red Scare", a war on communism that was largely headed by the United States. As a part of this, the USA employed doctrines such as the **Truman Doctrine** and the **Reagan Doctrine**—engaging in proxy wars within foreign nations to ensure protection "against communism".

A perfect example of this was on September 11, 1973, when Augusto Pinochet rose to power in a **coup d'état** supported and financed by the United States. The Coup ended Salvador Allende's presidency and established a right-wing, authoritarian dictatorship that lasted for 17 years (until 1990). During this time, Augusto Pinochet carried out **state-sponsored terrorism** against the Chilean citizens, using the police and military forces to institutionalize fear and terror. This helped cement his reign as dictator for an extended period of time.

Aside from seeing the implications of state sponsored terrorism, the Chilean Coup stands as one of the largest failures of the United States' foreign intervention tactics. In the USA's haste to further their interests (the preservation of anti-communist nations) they installed a dictator and financed a terror-regime, which killed 3,000 Chileans left 37,000 survivors of torture.

The Emergence of Islamic Jihad: New Age Terrorists

The 1970s is regarded by historians to be the height of global terrorism. Another key conflict that established terrorism was the Soviet-Afghan War. In the 1970s, the United States launched **Operation Cyclone**, to fund an anti-communist rebellion in Afghanistan between 1979 and 1989, known as the **mujahideen**.

The mujahideen may have been successful in driving out Soviet-backed forces, but ended up setting the stage for the emergence of many terrorist organizations. After the Soviet-Afghan war, the mujahideen were left in power, resulting in a decade of devastating infighting between the warlords. This civil war was sought to be stopped by a "new age" Islamic group: the **Taliban**. Formed by former mujahids Mullah Mohammed Omar and Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, the Taliban used weapons and military tactics that had been funded by the US during the Soviet-Afghan War to quickly seize control of Afghanistan.

What is Militarization?

Militarization is the process by which a nation or state organizes itself for military conflict, by increasing its military expenditure and making its defenses the centre of attention.

Foreign Intervention

Foreign Intervention is when a nation uses discretionary power to provide military, political, or economic intervention to "solve" a perceived problem in another nation. This intervention may not always be welcome by the foreign nation.

This brings up an excellent topic of debate: Should foreign intervention be employed?

The United Nations' stance on intervention is incredibly ambiguous. **Humanitarian intervention** is considered legal and even a moral responsibility, but the extents to which it remains so is undefined by the UN Charter. Instead, the ICISS is a framework that is largely used to justify or regulate intervention.

Interventionism Vs Isolationism

Being an interventionist or an isolationist country is based on the nation's doctrine and their stance with their respective foreign policy. Each represents either intervening in international affairs or isolating themselves without a say in other (groups/parties) interests. Being either an interventionist or an isolationist could depend on the sector as well; political, trade, war & conflict among others. There is no issue of morality in being an interventionist or isolationist as each country supports different outlooks.

Treaties of Counter-Terrorism

The Convention on Offences and Certain Other Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, adopted in Tokyo in 1963, is considered to be the first international treaty against terrorism. The treaty was an analysis of the safety in an aircraft and the behaviour of the passengers on the aircraft, it was 5 years in the making.

The International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty. Conducted in 2001 by Canada, it was the first framework that helped popularize humanitarian intervention. It did so under the name "Responsibility to Protect". The purpose of the commission was to address the extent to which humanitarian intervention became an infringement on state sovereignty, and culminated in the ICISS report. However, this report failed to address the main issues of the debate and could not reach a conclusive answer.

The 1999 international convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism, a modern day treaty that made sure countries or parties that financed terrorism were held

criminally accountable, regardless of it being direct or indirect. If a state sponsor is found to be funding a terrorist organization then a review and freezing of the funds will take place; bank secrecy is not a legal justification for non cooperation.

2005 International Convention for the Suppression of Nuclear Terrorism, a treaty outlined the possibility of an attack on nuclear power plants and the use of nuclear weapons, with the emergence of weaponry that has the potential to destroy cities and create impacts for generations, the convention goes in depth about the sharing of information about nuclear weaponry. The extraditing and prosecuting of an individual or party who violates nuclear rules (stated in 1980 convention on the physical protection of nuclear material) must see the cooperation of multiple countries as a method to create a safer mechanism for the transfer of prisoners. The aftermath of nuclear attack is a prominent point, every state must cooperate with the affected state/ party

NATO Article 5- Collective defense, "an attack on one of us is an attack on all of us", the birth of article 5 in Nato occurred after the 9/11 attacks, the 30 countries saw it fit that if one country in NATO were affected by the actions of a terrorist group or individual they would contribute financially, medically, criminally and morally with the country/ state effected. These measures are seen in the response to Syria in the Russian- Ukraine crisis.

Nuclear Terrorism

The recent invasion of Afghanistan begs the question, what if Afghanistan had nuclear weapons? Taliban's use of weapons to gain power and territory is incredibly prominent and it is known that they use violence and the threat of violence to

Suggestions for Further Research

1. Further Research on Treaties for Counter-Terrorism
 - a. Pay attention and make a note of **specific article numbers** to back your statements up with facts
 - b. Look for **loopholes** that need to be addressed or **aspects that have not been addressed** that you think are important but have not been addressed (but again, be ready to back your statements up with facts)
 - c. Some treaties have failed. Research why and what you can do to avoid the same issues.
2. What has been your nation's stance on terrorism?
 - a. Has your nation had state-sponsored terrorism in the past?
 - i. Think about how you may defend these actions or formulate points that remain consistent with your country's history
 - b. Has your nation launched counter-terrorism programs within their country? Did it involve militarization? What were the consequences/results
 - c. Has your nation launched counter-terrorism programs in other countries? Did it involve militarization? What were the consequences/results?
 - d. What treaties, pacts, organizations, or blocs are your nation in, against terrorism?
3. Further Research on the scope of the ICISS
 - a. Why did the nations fail to reach a conclusive decision?
4. What are the ethical implications of interventionism? What are the ethical implications of not providing intervention?
 - a. In your country's opinion, should sovereignty be recognized as independent to the wellbeing of its citizens? Who determines whether a nation is not acting in the best interests of its citizens?
 - b. Note: Even if your country has not explicitly stated its policy regarding the subject, you can **infer it from your country's foreign policy**. The best way to go about **creating a firm stance on the agenda** is to analyze whether or not it would be in the **best interests of your country** to intervene and the **implications for your country if other countries are allowed** to intervene.
5. Many countries do not have the means (economic, political, or social) to fulfill the "Responsibility to Protect", nor do they require humanitarian intervention. How do they fit into this dynamic?
 - a. Again, if your country has not explicitly stated its policy regarding the subject, you can **infer it from your country's foreign policy**.
6. Foreign policy is a nuanced subject, and is rarely black or white. Nations that claim to be isolationist or interventionist may also exhibit the opposite policies in the UN or the global theatre. To be the best representative of your nation's stance, read as many case studies available. Look for official statements made by your secretaries, politicians, or delegates. Look into how your nation responded to a humanitarian crisis and what the outcome was. Most importantly: Is there room for improvement? Is your nation's stance fluid?
7. Understand the **Mandate** of the UNSC

- a. To make a good resolution, one must understand the scope (power) and the mandate (guidelines) of the UNSC [For more information, visit <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/what-security-council/>]
- b. In committee, delegates of the UNSC are allowed to take direct action in their respective countries (personal), as well as in other countries (public) in the form of directives [For help understanding how to write a directive, visit <https://bestdelegate.com/how-to-write-a-crisis-directive/>]

Questions a Resolution Must Answer (QARMA)

1. Should nations be involved in the socio-political affairs of other nations?
2. What framework should be implemented to prevent terrorists from getting access to weapons?
3. To what extent should militarization be used as a tactic to curb weaponized terrorism?
4. To what extent is international humanitarian aid and foreign intervention appropriate in terrorist/conflict situations? What if intervention is against the wishes of the nation?
5. From where

Position Papers

A position paper is a compilation of your research. Writing a position paper is an excellent way to streamline your understanding of a given topic and pinpoint the main ideas that you want to bring up in committee. A position paper is usually divided into 4 sections:

I. General Information

1st

Paragraph – Opening Statement (3 – 4 sentences)

Why is this topic important for the committee to address?

Why does your country care about this topic?

What is your country's policy on this topic?

II. Specifics

2nd

Paragraph – National Actions (3 – 5 sentences)

Is the topic an issue in your country?

What actions has your country taken to improve or address the issue on a national level?

3rd

Paragraph – International Actions (3 – 5 sentences)

How has your country improved or addressed the issues on an international level?

What actions has your country taken on the issues on an international level?

What conventions, treaties and resolutions has your country supported on this issue?

What organizations is your country a member of that addresses this issue?

Can you reference government officials on this issue?

4th

Paragraph – Recommendations for Action (4 – 6 sentences)

What role would your country like to see the international community take to address the problem?

What are your country's recommendations to the committee on how to best resolve the issue?

Tips

- Research, Research, Research
- DO NOT restate information found in the topic guide.
- DO NOT include information about your country that is not related to the issue.
- DO NOT just list facts.
- Give recommendations on issue specifics.

The final and the most substantial section of your position paper should create the foundation for your participation in the committee. It should first detail your nation's general

policy on the key points of contention presented in this background guide. Then, the most important part of your position paper is your presentation or original proposals for how to solve the issues at hand. These should be presented as specific solutions geared towards the nuances of the topic of the position paper. Note that the position paper should not be more than 1 page long. The formatting should be as follows: Font-Times New Roman and Font- 12.

An important point to remember is that a position paper is a formal document and not your own personal opinion.

Bibliography & Links for Further Research

- <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/articles/1999-09-18/two-concepts-sovereignty>
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- MoneyMaker. “What Does ‘Sovereignty’ at the United Nations Really Mean Today?” *OutRight*, 12 Oct. 2017, <https://www.outrightinternational.org/content/what-does-sovereignty-united-nations-really-mean-today>.