



Research Guide for the Security Council Committee **@OBSMUN 2022**

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Security Council

The United Nations Security Council is responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Security Council determines the existence of a threat to peace or international security, or potentially aggressive disputes between nations. The Council unites 15 member states to find solutions to these threats and disputes, usually by peaceful means, however, the council may also impose sanctions to parties in order to maintain international security and peace. In extreme cases, the Council may resort to the authorisation of force in order to restore international security. During the OBSMUN conference, the Security Council will be debating the future of peacekeeping operations in the Sahel region and international cooperation in the peaceful use of outer space. These issues pose a risk to the security of the international community, and must therefore be addressed with utmost urgency, and respect for diplomacy

Purpose of this guide

This research guide was compiled by the Secretariat and Chairs of the OBSMUN. OBSMUN aims to provide delegates with the opportunity to further develop their research skills that will help them in their academics. Thus, these research guides do not cover the whole breadth of the issues at hand. Instead, they are designed to provide a basis from which delegates can undertake their own research into the topics, with the aim of developing clauses from their independent research.

Introduction

The Sahel region is the geographical region between the Sahara desert and the Sudanian savanna. It is a belt stretching from the Atlantic Ocean and the Red Sea. It contains parts of Senegal, Gambia, Mauritania, Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Chad, Central African Republic, South Sudan, Sudan, Eritrea and Ethiopia.

Background on the peacekeeping missions

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission In Mali (MINUSMA) - In the Azawad region of Northern Mali, Tuareg and Arab nomads formed the People's Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MPA), declaring war on the government of Mali. The MPA allied itself with Ansar Dine and Al-Qaeda and launched the first independence conflict in Northern Mali. Since then, other groups have formed which have continued the jihad for independence for Azawad

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) - The Central African Republic Civil War was preceded by the Central African Republic Bush War. The Central African Republic Civil War is a sectarian conflict between Muslim "Seleka" forces and Christian "anti-balaka" fighters. Muslim Seleka fighters took the capital city Bangui and staged a coup in March 2013 after accusing President François Bozizé of not abiding by the peace agreement of the Central African Republic Bush War. Christian anti-balaka forces were formed and they carried out revenge attacks on Seleka fighters. Both sides committed war crimes and atrocious crimes against humanity.

United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) - In 1983, the Sudanese Government tried to Islamicize the whole country and impose sharia law. Christians and Animists formed the Sudan People's

Liberation Army (SPLA) which led insurrections in the south. The Republic of South Sudan gained independence after a referendum in 2011.

United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) - South Sudan was proclaimed an independent state on 9 July 2011. On 9 July 2011 UNMISS was created by the adoption by the Security Council of Resolution 1996. UNMISS would focus on consolidating peace and security, and on helping to establish the conditions for development in the Republic of South Sudan, with a view to strengthening the capacity of the Government of the the Republic of South Sudan to govern effectively and democratically and establish good relations with its neighbours.

Further information

Mali (MINUSMA) - The coup d'état on 24 May 2021 has delayed the revision and audit of electoral lists necessary for presidential and electoral elections to be held in February and March 2022. MINUSMA has continued to work to create an environment conducive to electoral transparency and a smooth electoral process

Central African Republic (MINUSCA) - By 2016 the conflict had led to the de facto partition of the CAR with the Muslim coalition of ex-Séléka fighters called FPRC (Séléka had been disbanded in 2013) controlling the north and east, and antibalaka fighters controlling the south and west. This led to a reduction in violence. Nevertheless, in late 2016, fighting erupted within ex-Séléka fighters. The fighting was between the FPRC which represented the Gula and Runga people and between the UPC which represented the Fulani. The UPC was persecuted by both the FPRC and antibalaka. The FPRC then split between ethnic lines into the factions of the Runga people on one side and of the Gula and Kara people on the other side. In 2017 a group with

no ties to either Séléka or antibalaka was formed. It was named 3R and protected the Muslim Fulani people from Christian antibalaka fighters. Presidential and legislative elections were scheduled for 27 December 2020. Bozizé, who had been removed in the coup of 2013 returned to the CAR and ran for President. However, the Constitutional Court of the CAR did not permit his candidacy. Bozizé then formed the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC) which was a merger of anti-balaka fighters, the 3R, the UPC and FPRC to stage a coup and remove President Touadéra, who they accused of rigging the elections. Currently, the Central African Civil War is a conflict between the CPC and CAR government which is being supported by Russian private military contractors. MINUSCA is supporting the CAR government with ensuring the protection of civilian populations, with the implementation of the Peace Agreement and the holding of transparent elections.

United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) - UNISFA is now mostly concerned with guaranteeing that the area is effectively demilitarized and with clear border demarcation. In the most recent Security Council Resolution concern was expressed at the criminality that occurs in Abyei because of the delayed deployment of UN police to the area. Furthermore, UNISFA is also concerned with women's rights and women's empowerment in Abyei.

United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) - UNMISS is particularly concerned with addressing violence against women, monitoring, analysing and reporting conflict-related sexual violence including rape in situations of conflict and post-conflict

Past resolutions and reports

Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in Mali, 1st October 2021:

https://minusma.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/s-2021-844_-_sg_report_on_minusma_-_english.pdf

Renewed mandate of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission In The Central African Republic:

<https://minusca.unmissions.org/mandat>

Resolution 2609 (2021) Adopted by the Security Council at its 8932nd meeting, on 15 December 2021:

<https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/3951633>

Resolution 1996 (2011) Adopted by the Security Council at its 6576th meeting, on 8 July 2011:

<http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/1996>

2 - International cooperation in the peaceful use of outer space

Introduction

On 20 December 2019, the President of the United States established the sixth branch of the U.S. military, the Space Force. In July of the same year, France had announced plans to create a Space Force Command within its Air Force. Changes in nations' space policies are also creating an escalatory cycle where nations are increasingly trying to find new ways to target each other's space-based assets. The Security Council must protect international security by preventing the weaponisation of space.

Weaponisation vs. Militarization

Most technologically advanced States are now militarily almost completely dependent on outer space for everything from communications to GPS-guided weapons and even intelligence. So the question is not as much one of preventing the militarization of space but preventing the weaponisation of space. The United Nations began implementing measures to prevent the weaponisation and armament of space in 1957. In 1958, the GA recognised the need to formally address the concept of establishing peaceful means of regulating outer space and so the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space was established. The Security Council must now commit itself to the implementation of measures that can mitigate the potential occurrence of space weaponisation. With a huge potential for enhanced national security capabilities by arming satellites and other such outer space devices, the threat of outer-space armament by states is an ever-escalating issue that is coming increasingly closer to reality as modern technologies endorse that potential effort.

Further information

The Outer Space Treaty (OST) forms the basis of international space law. Article IV of the OST, "the Moon and other celestial bodies shall be used...exclusively for peaceful purposes". Article IV, however, does not reserve the use of space itself for exclusively peaceful purposes. The preamble of the OST calls for space to be used "peaceful purposes" however preambles are not legally binding and it doesn't say that space should be used exclusively for peaceful purposes. Delegates could focus resolutions on providing a clear framework under which space can not be weaponised.

Delegates can also focus resolutions on cooperating to solve problems facing the international community. For example, there are more than 750,000 pieces of debris orbiting Earth but current technology can only track bigger debris. International cooperation in developing technologies that can track smaller pieces of debris collisions in space will assist with space traffic management which will strengthen international security as space traffic management is a possible source of tension.

Another aspect to consider which may threaten international security is the commercialization of space. Both the USA and Luxembourg have passed laws which allow their citizens to sell asteroid or space resources which could be seen as a violation of the non-appropriation principle of celestial bodies of the OST. Given that space mining is an industry that could be worth trillions of dollars, if left unaddressed could threaten international security.

Moreover, delegates can also focus on how international cooperation in the peaceful use of outer space can help capacity building in the areas of telehealth and tele-epidemiology, perhaps focusing specifically on COVID-19, and help achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Past resolutions and reports

Outer Space Treaty

<https://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/spacelaw/treaties/outerspacetreaty.html>

Declaration of Legal Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space

<https://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/spacelaw/principles/legal-principles.html>



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