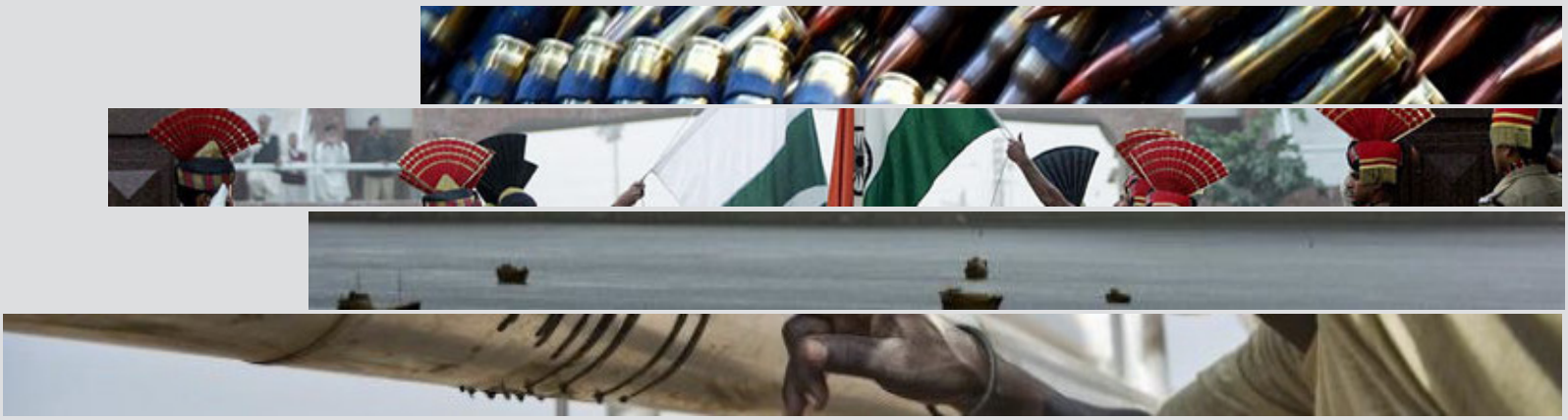
United Nations

Security Council



Model United Nations at Illinois XXII

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Letter from the Director

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Security Council! My name is Tanmay Kanth and I am a sophomore at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, studying Mechanical Engineering with minors in Electrical Engineering and Business Administration.

More importantly, however, I have the pleasure of being the Crisis Director for the Security Council at MUNI XXII 2017.

This is my fifth year in Model United Nations and I have participated in over 20 conferences around the world in varying capacities. This will be the 2nd MUNI I will have staffed. In past conferences, I have worked as a Chair, Crisis Staffer, Rapporteur, Director and Head of Conference.

I will be the Simulations Director for the challenging, chaotic and at times crazy United Nations Security Council which will pit nations against each other and promises to be one of the most exhilarating simulations to date.

One aspect which makes this Security Council an especially interesting Model UN committee is that the topics for discussion are extremely sensitive to the prevailing geo-political climate at the time and thus any delegate must not only have an excellent understanding of foreign policy as well as objectives of each nation present, but also be able to predict how actions by individual nations or groups such as NATO would affect the trajectory of the committee over the course of debate. To succeed, I encourage you to research and truly understand your nation's policy as well be cognizant long-term objectives of your peers in the council. Unlike a normal committee, I expect delegates to adhere to foreign policy while devising ways to best further the interests of their nations. I look forward to seeing how the Council will attempt to confront armed conflict and radical political movements, while responding to the international challenges presented during the course of the conference.

Outside of Model UN, I enjoy watching movies and TV shows with House of Cards and Game of Thrones being my favorites. I am fond of traveling to far and exotic places and have travelled to over twenty countries and lived in five until now. I enjoy cooking and love watching soccer with my favorite team being Real Madrid and would love to talk about soccer if any of you are interested.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to with any questions or concerns you may have at tkanth2@illinois.edu.See you soon!

Yours,
Tanmay Kanth
Crisis Director, Security Council

Introduction

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is the principal organ of the United Nations and is charged with the maintenance of international peace and security. Its powers, outlined in the United Nations Charter, include the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the establishment of international sanctions, and the authorization of military action. Its powers are exercised through United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The Security Council held its first session on January 17th 1946 at Church House, Westminster, London. Since its first meeting, the Council, which exists in continuous session, has travelled widely, holding meetings in many cities, such as Paris and Addis Ababa, as well as at its current permanent home at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City.

History and Structure

The UN charter was ratified on June 26, 1945, in San Francisco, and came into effect on October 24, 1945.1 The charter later saw amendments to Articles 23 and 27 on December 7, 1963 (which came into effect August 31 1965) which expanded Security Council membership to fifteen nations from the previous eleven, and required measures to receive nine votes in order to pass. Article 23 in Chapter V of the charter dictates that the United States, the United Kingdom, France, China, and the USSR, the five major victors of World War II, shall hold permanent seats on the Security Council, leading to them being referred to as the P5. The non-permanent members are elected for two year terms from various regional blocs, and the role of presidency of the Security Council rotates monthly.

Each one of the Permanent Members holds a veto over all substantive matters debated by the Security Council; this has historically been a major point of contest for the remaining members of the United Nations. However, any amendment to the structure of the UNSC requires the full approval of the P5 and 2/3rd of the General Assembly, thus effectively locking in the current system. There are two main groups demanding reform - The Group of Four (Germany, India, Brazil and Japan), who seek immediate reform and possible permanent seats for themselves on the UNSC, and the "Uniting for Consensus" group (Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Italy, Malta, Mexico, Pakistan, South Korea, San Marino, Spain and Turkey) which seeks global consensus before any reform.

The Security Council occupies a special place in the structure of the United Nations. Chapter VI of the UN Charter discusses the "pacific of settlement of disputes" and outlines the role of the Security Council in this field. Article 33 dictates that the body can call upon member nations in disputes which may threaten international peace and security to settle a dispute by negotiation or arbitration. Article 36 permits the Security Council to make specific recommendations in order to address the situation.

Chapter VII of the UN Charter discusses "action with respects to threats to the peace, breaches of peace, and acts of aggression", and similarly outlines the role that the Security Council may hold in this area. Article 41 states that the Security Council may determine non-militaristic steps that can be taken to ensure a dispute is resolved, and can call upon member nations to implement these actions. Article 42 states that the Security Council can take military actions if the peaceful actions have failed to successfully resolve the situation, and further

articles dictate specific military requirements, including Article 45 requiring nations to make troops available on-call for the Security Council, and Article 47 establishing a specific Military Staff Committee.

The current non-permanent members of the Security Council are Japan, Kazakhstan, Sweden, Italy, Ukraine, Uruguay, Bolivia, Senegal, Ethiopia and Egypt.

On this occasion, when international security is so deeply threatened such that the United Nations Security Council deems it necessary to meet immediately and in closed session, it creates an Emergency Committee, comprised of all Council members. This committee represents such a body, but the precise nature of this special UN Security Council Meeting will not be revealed until the first session of MUNI. This committee will stray from the typical Security Council Model United Nations committee in several other ways which are listed below.

Characters

Delegates will not be representing countries. Rather, each delegate will be representing a specific character within the governments of the current members of the UNSC, usually a head-of-state and another important government official assigned to be their Permanent Representative to the United Nations Security Council and the dais insists that all delegates stay firm on both country and character policy. Delegates serve as their nation's ambassador to the Security Council, and have the ability to make suggestions to their nation's government for possible

actions to take, in the form of directives, communiqués, and press releases. The body can also take action as a whole using directives, communiqués, and press releases, though these can be vetoed by a permanent member of the body.

Main Conflicts

This simulation will not, as is usually the case, offer two over-arching topics that we will address over the course of conference. This simulation of the Security Council will operate under an open agenda, permitting delegates to discuss the topics that they feel are the most important for the body to address. We have, however, chosen regions and topics that are particularly pertinent in the realm of international security, and we hope that every delegate will enter committee with an excellent grasp of each of them and has considered possible links across topics and regions. A few topic briefs are listed at the end of this guide and possible additional briefs and committee updates will be provided to delegates as the date of the conference approaches.

Regions and Topics to consider

- Indian Subcontinent
- Korean Peninsula
- Strait of Hormuz
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Dual Use of Nuclear Technology
- Militarization of the Arctic

- The Situation of Refugees
- Geopolitics of Drugs

This list is non-exhaustive and delegates are encouraged to read as much as they can on topics that concern their nations and they would like discussed. That being said, the topics listed above are good starting points and would enable delegates directly delve into the issues that the United Nations Security Council has been asked to moderate in the past. For each topic area, Representatives should consider the following questions. These questions should assist Representatives in gaining a better understanding of the issues at hand, particularly from your country's perspective:

• How did this conflict begin? Is this a new conflict or a re-ignition of a previous conflict?

• How have similar situations and conflicts been peacefully resolved?

• What state and regional actors are involved in this conflict?

• If there are non-State actors involved in a conflict, are there any states supporting them? If so, which ones?

The Contemporary Security Council topics listed above are not all-inclusive of what the Council might talk about at Conference. With the ever-changing nature of international peace and security, these topics are a guide to help direct your research for your State's position. The issues that the committee will tackle at conference will address the themes that are stated above, but will also be buttressed by current affairs. As such, we recommend that all delegates keep

themselves up-to-date with political and international periodicals and publications. The committee will be set in the present, and we foresee that the conference will cover about two months in time – roughly ten days will pass with each committee session. We look forward to working with you in March. We encourage you to contact us with any questions you may have.

COUNTRY PROFILES

Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council

Below is a brief description of the countries you will be representing with some select military capabilities. I would highly recommend printing out your country's full list of capabilities from the following website to allow for more flexible crisis notes.

http://www.globalfirepower.com/

United States

Number one in weapons exports, Olympic gold medals, as well as this country description list, the US is also one of the most significant players in international affairs. It is number one in financial contributions to UN peacekeeping missions and has a history of intervening in foreign conflict, most recently in a war against the Islamic State. It is also an economic powerhouse with a diversified economy that has received a recent boost in part from lowered energy costs. Some domestic issues include stagnated wages for lower class workers, a large deficit and national debt, as well as numerous social issues. The unexpected win of Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is likely to cause unpredictable shifts in United States policy.

World Military Ranking	1st
Active Frontline and Reserve Personnel	1,400,000 1,100,000
Tanks and armored vehicles	8,848 41,062
Total Aircraft	13,444
Total Navy Strength	415
Defense Budget	581,000,000,000 USD

United Kingdom

One of 26 monarchies left in the world and at one time reaching over ¼ of the Earth's surface, the United Kingdom is still a continued international voice. Its economy is the third largest in Europe,and it caused quite a stir when it elected in June to leave the European Union. It currently has a military presence in Iraq and Brunei as well as having soldiers deployed to support training efforts in Afghanistan and various places around Africa.

World Military Ranking	6th
Active Frontline and Reserve Personnel	150,000 182,000
Tanks and armored vehicles	407 5948
Total Aircraft	879
Total Navy Strength	76
Defense Budget	55,000,000 USD

Russia

The heart of the former Soviet Union, Russia is still the largest country on Earth by surface area. Although the Russian Federation has of a market based economy than existed during the Soviet Union, industries such as energy, defense, and transportation are still in government hands. The

Russian Federation is also one of the world's top producers of oil and natural gas, and the decrease in oil prices paired with international sanctions drove Russia into a recession in 2015. Since the breakup of the Soviet Union, Russia has experienced complicated relations with other former Soviet states, and most notably annexed the Crimea region of the Ukraine in March of 2014.

World Military Ranking	2nt
Active Frontline and Reserve Personnel	766,055 2,485,000
Tanks and armored vehicles	15,389 31,298
Total Aircraft	3,547
Total Navy Strength	352
Defense Budget	46,600,000,000 USD

China

The People's Republic of China is both the world's largest exporter and has the largest population on Earth. In 1942, the People's Republic of China headed by Mao Zedong established an autocratic socialist state with the government of the Republic of China shrinking to the island of Taiwan. Economic reforms and decentralization since the 1970s have led to much of China's economic success. The People's Republic of China has had chronic territorial disputes and involved in a complex dispute over islands in the South China Sea. Additionally, the People's Republic's assertions of sovereignty over the de facto independent island of Taiwan, and its history with Japan dating back to World War II has given it tense relations with its neighbors.

World Military Ranking	3rd
Active Frontline and Reserve Personnel	2,335,000 2,300,000
Tanks and armored vehicles	9,150 4,788
Total Aircraft	2,942
Total Navy Strength	714
Defense Budget	155,600,000,000 USD

France

France has been a long standing influential player on the world stage. In addition to being a permanent member of the Security Council, France is a member of many other international organizations, plays a significant role in shaping the European Union, and contributes more peacekeepers than any other P5 country. France has still suffered from economic woes with unemployment hovering around 10% since 2012. With various headscarf bans and terrorist attacks, treatment of domestic Islam is a source of tension in France. As for the military, France has intervened in various peacekeeping operations, and notably has participated in missions against Bashar Al Assad, Muammar Gaddafi and the Islamic State. France also has had a strong history of working with fellow nations in the EU in military interventions, being a part of the Franco-German Brigade and the Eurocorps.

World Military Ranking	5th
Active Frontline and Reserve Personnel	205,000 195,770
Tanks and armored vehicles	423 6,863
Total Aircraft	1,282
Total Navy Strength	118
Defense Budget	35,000,000,000 USD

The non-permanent members of the 2017 Security Council

Japan

With the world's third largest economy, Japan has seen impressive economic success considering its lack of natural resources and status after World War II. Although its relations are still strained with some nations it acted against in the last world war, Japan is the 3rd largest financial contributor to peacekeeping operations and has had a large role in the international community. Although Japan had found success in the electronics and automotive industries in the last century, it has experienced some decline. With an aging population and debt surpassing 230% of GDP, Japan has pressing internal issues to address. Although Japan does have military capabilities, it is constitutionally limited to only self-defense.

World Military Ranking	7th
Active Frontline and Reserve Personnel	250,000 57,900.
Tanks and armored vehicles	678 2,850
Total Aircraft	1,590
Total Navy Strength	131
Defense Budget	40,300,000,000 USD

Kazakhstan

First ever central Asian country to be elected to the Security Council, the once Soviet republic Kazakhstan has been experiencing rapid change in the last decade. With the return of ethnic Kazakhs to the country, there has been a large demographics change with the nation suddenly becoming more Muslim and with a reversal the Russian majority established in the Soviet "Virgin Lands" program. There have also been major shifts within Kazakhstan's economy. With plentiful resources, Kazakhstan has reaped the benefits of its oil, natural gas, and mining industries. However, with the decrease in oil prices in recent years, it has aimed to expand its focus to other industries such as pharmaceuticals and food processing. Kazakhstan participated in the Iraq War.

World Military Ranking	53
Active Frontline and Reserve Personnel	110,000 378,000
Tanks and armored vehicles	300 1,613
Total Aircraft	244
Total Navy Strength	15
Defense Budget	2,435,000,000 USD

Sweden

Ranking number 14 on the Human Development Index, Sweden is known for its high standard of living and its policy of neutrality. Sweden has not fought in a war for 200 years. It has a capitalist government system mixed with a strong emphasis on social welfare, and places such value on its system, that it chose not to join the Eurozone in order to protect its sovereignty over its domestic

welfare. Education is also a high priority for Sweden and it pays high schoolers 187 USD a month to attend school.

World Military Ranking	29th
Active Frontline and Reserve Personnel	14,000 26,000
Tanks and armored vehicles	120 2,470
Total Aircraft	228
Total Navy Strength	63
Defense Budget	6,215,000,000 USD

Italy

As much as they are known for their art and history, Italy is also noted for its corruption. Starting with fascist dictatorship of Benito Mussolini in the 1920's, corruption has been a perennial issue for the Italian government that attempts such as the "mani pulite", or clean hands operation, have failed to remedy. Italy has also been plagued with economic problems and was one of the PIIGS countries in the European debt crisis. Italy is currently participating in 26 missions worldwide, many as a part of the United Nations or European Union.

World Military Ranking	10th
Active Frontline and Reserve Personnel	320,000 42,000
Tanks and armored vehicles	586 6,972
Total Aircraft	785
Total Navy Strength	143
Defence Budget	34,000,000,000 USD

Ukraine

Gaining independence with the end of the Soviet Union, Ukraine has a complicated relationship with Russia. West Ukraine favors closer ties to Western Europe while there are areas in the East with greater pro-Russian sentiments. This conflict came to a boiling point in November of 2013, then president Viktor Yanukovych abandoned a trade agreement with the European Union in order to pursue cozier ties with Russia with the ensuing protest leading to Yanukovych's ousting. Soon after, Russia invaded the Ukrainian region of Crimea and annexed it using an illegitimate referendum. Both the referendum and the current occupation have been condemned by the United Nations and UNGA resolution 68/262 reaffirms Ukraine's sovereignty over the region. Additionally, the Ukraine depends on imports from Russia for a large portion of its energy needs and has an economy that is structurally vulnerable. The Ukrainian has been more and more participative in UN peacekeeping operations in recent years and has been particularly close with Poland forming the Ukrainian-Polish Battalion in 1998.

World Military Ranking	30th
Active Frontline and Reserve Personnel	160,000 1,000,000
Tanks and armored vehicles	2,809 8,217
Total Aircraft	234
Total Navy Strength	25
Defence Budget	4,880,000,000 USD

Uruguay

Known as the “Switzerland of South America”, Uruguay is known for its liberal social laws and social spending as well as its free market economy. Relatively high taxes on industry paired with high levels of social spending have given Uruguay a well-educated workforce. As a nation whose military is used for primarily peacekeeping operations, it has sent significant forces to the Democratic People’s Republic of the Congo and Haiti.

World Military Ranking	105th
Active Frontline and Reserve Personnel	25,000 1,000
Tanks and armored vehicles	79 434
Total Aircraft	47
Total Navy Strength	20
Defence Budget	490,000,000 USD

Bolivia

One of the least developed countries in South America, Bolivia has had a dramatic past. Since breaking away from Spain in 1825, Bolivia has had near 200 coups. Additionally, Bolivia is one of the largest producers of coca, the plant that is processed to make cocaine, and is a source country for people subjected to sex trafficking and forced labor. As natural gas is one of its most important exports, Bolivia's GDP has taken a hit since the decline in energy prices. Bolivia has also recently engaged in border disputes with Chile and Peru.

World Military Ranking	81st
Active Frontline and Reserve Personnel	55,500 37,100
Tanks and armored vehicles	54 137
Total Aircraft	84

Total Navy Strength	173
Defence Budget	315,000,000 USD

Senegal

Among the most stable countries in Africa, the Republic of Senegal has come far from its slave and ivory exportation of the 17th and 18th centuries. Agriculture is now its biggest industry, and with over 3,600 troops currently in the UN, Senegal is now known for its peacekeeping contributions. Additionally, Senegal has one of the freest presses in Africa. Senegal is not without its problems. Desertification and other environmental problems threaten agriculture, and since the 1980s, there has been a separatist conflict in its southern region of Casamance, although since a 2014 ceasefire, violence has diminished. Senegal has been involved militarily in the Gulf War, the 2015 Saudi-Arabian led intervention in the Yemen, the 2008 invasion of Anjouan, and has recently been receiving foreign aid and training in order to resist terrorist organizations in the region.

World Military Ranking	No Information
Active Personnel	19,000
Tanks and armored vehicles	No information
Total Aircraft	No information
Total Navy Strength	No information
Defence Budget	289,000,000 USD

Ethiopia

As well as being a founding member of the United Nations, Ethiopia is the second most populous country in Africa and has never been colonized by a foreign power. In 1974, a coup ending the Ethiopian monarchy began its transformation to its current federal parliamentary republic government. Ethiopia has been subject to droughts and famine over the years, but is currently the 5th fastest growing economy with one of the lowest levels of income inequality in the world. As for international issues, Ethiopia has had border disputes with its former territory Eritrea since it gained independence in 1991, with clashes as recently as June. Ethiopia has also had a presence in Somalia since 2006 and has participated in several UN peacekeeping operations.

World Military Ranking	42th
Active Frontline and Reserve Personnel	185,500 No active reserve personnel
Tanks and armored vehicles	2,300 800
Total Aircraft	80
Total Navy Strength	Navy disestablished 1996
Defence Budget	340,000,000 USD

Egypt

Egypt is the largest Arab country and has the 3rd largest population in Africa. It has had a long history with the British, and was a formal protectorate from 1914 to 1922 with British troops finally leaving in 1956. Egypt's economy is dependent on agriculture and tourism, and has been under strain from rapid population growth. There has been significant political unrest in recent

years, with 2 presidents being overthrown since the start of the Arab Spring. Since the Arab Spring, significant political power has shifted to the Egyptian Military which has led it being called “a state within a state”. In Egypt’s long past it has participated in no shortage of conflicts. It is currently involved in the Sinai Insurgency, Katanga Insurgency, Second Libyan Civil War and the Intervention in Yemen alongside Senegal.

World Military Ranking	12th
Active Frontline and Reserve Personnel	470,000 800,000
Tanks and armored vehicles	4,624 13,949
Total Aircraft	1,133
Total Navy Strength	319
Defence Budget	4,4000,000,000

Topic Briefings

The Indian Subcontinent

Of the now 7 billion people on this planet, 20% live within the borders of Pakistan and India. The Indian Subcontinent is a key location in the realm of global politics. In the past decade, many Western nations have relied upon these two nations to fight a global wave of terrorism.

Pakistan and India have been considered rivals since the partition of 1947. In the 100-year period before 1947, India and Pakistan were colonies of Great Britain. In 1947, Britain withdrew and handed over power to the newly independent nations of Pakistan and India. The

division of the subcontinent was unable to reassure Muslim activists as the nationalist Congress Party routinely interchanged the terms ‘Hindu’ and ‘nationalist’ in their rhetoric. As these nations grew in their post-colonial states, they became embittered with one another especially on religious grounds. Although relatively dormant today, this embitterment reveals itself ever so often in dialogue between the two nations.

India’s government has lately been riddled with inefficiency and excessive monetary regulation, which is often criticized for wasting taxpayer money and time. The Indian government’s multitude of interruptions and recesses for the bureaucracy has wasted approximately 250 million INR to date (approximately 4.7 million USD). Based on information provided by the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, the lower house of the Indian Parliament wasted 93.24 percent of its time in session with interruptions; moreover, the upper house of the Parliament wasted 88.43 percent of its time for similar reasons. These interruptions are ascribed to scandals that have marred Indian politicians. With such inefficiency, the Indian government has become ineffective and distracted from the real issues at hand such as corruption within the police, growth fears with the economy, and aid payments to the poor and lower middle class.

India is not the only victim of inefficiency and ineffectiveness. The same attributes of ineffectiveness and inefficacy extend to Pakistan. The extension of these characteristics, however, must be put in context. While longstanding corruption and a selfish interest have come to characterize a Pakistani politician, there is more to the problem. Pakistan has always had tension with its neighbor Afghanistan: Afghanistan was the only nation to vote against letting

Pakistan into the United Nations. In the past decade, terrorism within Afghanistan's borders has required the assistance of Pakistani cooperation. This cooperation has been hard to acquire due to the distrust between the two nations in addition to disputes among tribes along Pakistan's northern border with Afghanistan. With this distrust, a lack of transparency has been a key issue within the Pakistani government and its Inter-Services Intelligence Agency (ISI) has done little to share its intelligence information with Afghanistan and other nations, only further spreading distrust.

This censorship of information extends beyond the bureaucracy. Recently, the Pakistani government ordered the regulatory agency for telecommunications to block 'offensive text messages' sent by the populace to each other. Staff at the Pakistan Telecommunication Authority (PTA) was told to compile a list of offensive words to the government in order to "control the menace of spam in the society." This censorship creates an even further unstable state that has little loyalty from its people. Public broadcasting rules were relaxed in 1999 under then President Pervez Musharraf. And so, in 2007, when Musharraf attempted to impose martial laws and restrict certain freedoms such as those of broadcasting, he found himself soon voted out of office. The Pakistani government is facing a hard balancing act allowing freedom of information and inciting protests in a very fragile country.

The Strait of Hormuz

The Strait of Hormuz is a very contentious area; pirates regularly visit it, it is near Iranian

waters, and it is within a conflict zone – the Middle East. The strait is located between the Gulf of Oman and the Persian Gulf. The nations that surround this strait include Iran, the United Arab Emirates, and Oman.

This strait is a strategic route for the world's oil supply. Approximately 40 percent of the world's oil tankers travel through this route everyday carrying about 17 million barrels of oil. Iran and the United Arab Emirates have long had disputes over the strategically important islands close to the strait. The Gulf Cooperation Council, a regional organization, suggested that the International Court of Justice resolve the disputes between Iran and the UAE; however, Iran refuses to abide by this suggestion.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been the prime model of an Islamic theocracy since the Iranian Revolution in 1979. In the past few years, Iran has become a hot topic of discourse among many Western nations, ever since Iran has publicized its hopes to develop nuclear energy. The United States has suffered from antagonistic relations with Iran ever since. For example, a US spy drone was caught within Iranian air space in early December 2011. The Islamic Republic of Iran complained to the Security Council on 9 December 2011 about the "hostile and aggressive behavior" of the United States in using spy drones over its borders. Iran subsequently captured such spy drone (a RQ-170 drone) in after this complaint to the UNSC.

These tensions have been a concern ever since the United States publically suspected Iran of building a nuclear arsenal. Iran has contested that it is developing a safe nuclear energy

program, and does not intend to develop weapons. In early 2011, Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced that Iran is relocating its uranium enrichment work to a safer location since it fears harm from either Israel or the United States. Moreover, President Ahmadinejad has felt greater insecurity with the release of a publication published by the IAEA on November 8th 2011 that stated that Iran might have be constructing a nuclear weapons program, and, as a result, the UN encouraged increased economic sanctions by the Western hemisphere, and increased surveillance of Iranian borders.

Iran occupies a strategic position in the Persian Gulf region since it has a coastline that is shared with Oman within the Strait of Hormuz. Iran controls islands and naval bases within the Gulf and the strait allowing it to keep track of tanker and shipping routes that pass nearby. Iran poses a threat within the strait because of its naval forces that are able to harass and forbid ships from moving through the strait. Moreover, Admiral Ali Fadavi of Iran's naval forces stated that it was developing advanced anti-ship weaponry for its submarines and surface combatants within the region. This threat and Iran's control over half of the strait make Iran a formidable force within the region.

Oman, a nation of three million people, is the largest Arab oil producer outside of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). Oman produces 0.85 million barrels per day and uses the Strait of Hormuz to transport its oil, as the strait is partly under its control. Oman, one of the few nations that has been unaffected by the sweeping protests in the Arab world, is a nation of relative stability. Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman has raised the minimum

wage, increased unemployment allocations, and developed a plan to create more than 50,000 jobs in a region filled with instability. Oman's importance in this region is critical since Oman is one of the three nations that have access to the Strait of Hormuz. Oman has been in disputes, similar to the UAE, with Iran over control of the strait. Although Oman has not used the Strait as leverage against a nation, were Oman to need to do so, it would have a right to block part of the strait greatly hindering the transmission of oil and other necessary goods.

As time goes on, the strategic importance of the Strait of Hormuz can only increase. The Strait will soon be carrying upwards of 50 percent of the world's oil every day, and if Iran has greater strategic control of the region, then it shall decide how to control the route of oil to nations across the world.

Sub-Saharan Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa is the area that lies below the Sahara Desert on the African continent. Sub-Saharan Africa has a population of over 700 million people with a landmass of 9.4 million square miles. It is a region of diverse people, culture, and geography. The region has been subject to European colonialism in its history, similar to the Caribbean. The main conflict between peoples in this region is economic in nature – economic activities bring people together as well as divide them. It is within this context that Sub-Saharan Africa faces difficult tasks in experimenting with democracy, nation building, and the power plays of one-party politics. To describe the area's concerns, we will focus upon a few nations within the region. These nations

are South Africa, Somalia, Djibouti, Sudan, and Zimbabwe.

While civil unrest affects the southern tip of Africa, there exists a constant struggle between Somalia and the international community. The Indian Ocean and its surrounding bodies of water are a hotspot for Somali pirates. Recently, Somalia's pirates have been raided by various naval forces and captured, placing the issue of piracy under the spotlight again. Naval forces from the United Kingdom and the United States on October 10th 2011 raided an Italian ship that had been taken over by Somali pirates. Italy, along with the UK and the US, had conducted the operation with forces staffed in Djibouti preparing to protect merchant vessels in the Indian Ocean. These types of operations have become a regular occurrence as various nations have increased their military presence within the region in order to combat piracy and pirates from taking over their own vessels. Records from the International Maritime Bureau (IMB) show that there have been 203 attacks in the area in 2011. It is estimated that piracy costs 3.2 billion USD a year for insurance upon vessels and approximately $2.95 billion to reroute ships around the Cape of Good Hope.

President Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe has recently threatened the nationalization of companies that originate from countries, mostly Western nations, which impose sanctions upon his nation. This is one aspect of Mr. Mugabe's plans, which call for foreign-owned firms that have more than $0.5 million in assets to give a majority stake to Zimbabweans. Mr. Mugabe issued a further threat to his coalition partner that any person who calls for sanctions against the nation of Zimbabwe should be given the penalty for treason – death. This threat stems from the

revelation that the coalition partner, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai had privately maintained that Western nations should continue with their sanctions (as revealed through a WikiLeaks cable). The political and economic dynamic in Zimbabwe is currently fragile, especially as it has recently posted its first year of growth in the past decade.

When discussing Sub-Saharan Africa, it is imperative to note the secession of South Sudan in the first half of 2011. Decades of civil wars between the north and the south plagued Sudan, killing 2 million and creating 4 million refugees. A referendum was held between January 9th and 15th of 2011 to decide if Sudan should be split into two separate nations. Results from the referendum revealed that over 98 percent of the population voted for independent nations. On February 7th 2011, Omar Hassan al-Bashir, President of Sudan, approved the split of South Sudan from his nation after the proposal of secession had been put to a vote. South Sudan became independent on July 9th 2011. After the initial split, the hardest issue that both Sudan and South Sudan have had to tackle is the division of oil where oil output is estimated at 500,000 barrels a day.

China's state oil company (CNPC) has the largest share (40 percent) within three producing main areas of oil production, around the border. In December 2011, South Sudan accused Sudan of stealing oil from its nation since South Sudan must export its oil through its northern neighbor. Both nations are dependent upon oil revenues as an income stream and this news come to light as Sudan issues statements of taking a 23% cut of revenues from oil

production. South Sudan took 75% of oil production when it seceded and has not reached an agreement with Sudan as to how to share the revenues from this production. In the meanwhile, China and CNPC urges both nations to quickly resolve their differences and is losing patience as oil revenue worries continue.

Sub-Saharan Africa is currently dealing with various disputes among nations. The need for political and economic security is imperative within a region that is constantly struggling. Sub-Saharan Africa is most vulnerable now because of its disputes. The threat of chaos, uprisings, and challenges to the status quo threaten the United Nations aim for peace. It is the task of the Emergency Session of the United Nations Security Council to address this challenge and meet it with open arms.

Trade

Trade, defined as engaging in the "exchange, purchase or sale of goods," is an enormous and complex issue. In this briefing, and for the purposes of this Committee, we will focus on trade as it pertains to international security. As such, we will address three key topics: technology transfer and trade, border security, and United Nations Security Council sanctions.

It is no question that the use of the internet and cyber technology is increasing at ever impressive speeds. The internet – and internet security – is now an essential tool for all successful organizations, from governments to corporations. Some even argue that access to

broadband internet is a “civil right,” because those without it are at a severe disadvantage when it comes to finding and maintaining, employment. More importantly, though, is the internet’s role in facilitating trade between nations and, often, the trade of security and warfare technology. By that same token, the cyberspace has been said to become “the fifth dimension of warfare,” after land, sea, air and space. So, while sharing and trading advances in technology can be beneficial across nations, that same technology can be used aggressively. It is the role of the United Nations Security Council to ensure international peace and security, as mandated by the UN Charter, so it must increasingly create a focus to issues of cyber-security, rather than traditional, tangible, security issues.

The main purpose of trade is to maximize a nation’s income and economy without imperiling its national security. Most of the time, these two issues are not in conflict with one another, especially when trading with a political ally. It has been noted, however, that technology falls outside the realm of obvious choice because, in many instances, its military significance is not necessarily readily apparent. And, further, because technology is not a tangible export and import, its regulation or the ability to transfer it becomes an incredibly hazy issue. Some corporations have capitalized on this haziness, and specialize in the transfer of technological material and intelligence through commercialization, all in the name of business and economics. But these companies could potentially pose a severe threat to international security if they publish sensitive material, or material that could potentially be distorted or manipulated.

The trade of arms technology is perhaps the most central issue when discussing security

issues surrounding technology transfer and trade. Because of the elusive nature of trade, it can be easy to transfer sensitive military and arms technology – often illicitly or secretly – across borders. This transfer, of course, can bring immense benefit to political and military allies who wish to strengthen each other's military arsenal, but can also be incredibly dangerous. For example, in May of 2010, the United Nations accused North Korea of exporting nuclear and missile technology to Syria, Iran and Burma. Though North Korea had specifically been sanctioned to avoid such transfers, it was able to avoid its sanctions by using a number of "masking techniques." Again, because the transfer of such material is much more intricate than the passing of one tangible object from one hand to the other, the trade of technology can be extremely difficult to detect and prevent.

Border Security

Technology can also benefit border security, facilitating trade. The North American Center for Transborder Studies recently published a report, "Technology to Enhance Border Security and International Trade," and, though it was commissioned by a private communications company, the report highlighted recommendations that are pertinent to sovereign and the entire international trade community The report highlights "communications" as the critical technology of border security infrastructure, and stresses that there must be cooperation and the use of open technology between any two countries that attempt to enter a trade agreement, especially if those countries share a border. "Communications" consists of many elements, most importantly, the coordination of detecting, tracking and interdicting the

movement of goods. Another key recommendation made by the report is to establish trust and governance models to develop effective border communication plans. This recommendation highlights another sensitive issue of secure trade: trade between antagonistic nations.

If technological communication and trust are key to ensuring successful and secure trade, the world's greatest trade partnership could be on the brink of disaster: the volatile relationship between the United States of America (USA) and the People's Republic of China (PRC) grows exponentially tenser. Frictions between the two countries stem from much more than issues of trade, but their disputes on issues of governance, rights, economics and law greatly impact their trade relationship. And the lack of communication and 'closed-door' policies that the two countries take toward one another, as a report by the Congressional Research Service indicates, leads to further tension and the hindrance of trade. The United States is now more willing to enter in trade relations with countries that are more favorable to its politics, and those that are more readily willing to share their technology.

Trade of illicit material, such as weapons, drugs and humans, is also an issue of concern for the United Nations Security Council. Of course, the trade of weapons technology, as mentioned above, is of great concern to the entire international community, but the UNSC must also focus on physical trade. Countries have distinct obligations under relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions to prevent weapons smuggling, yet such activity is prevalent, especially in the Middle East. In March of 2011, Israel intercepted a ship loaded with weapons that was en route from Turkey to Egypt, and had originated in Syria. The weapons were said to

have been bound for Gaza, to the hands of Hamas. This is but one of example of elaborate and consistent arms trafficking throughout the Middle East. Drug trafficking also plagues the Middle East: the outpour of opium from Afghanistan's southern regions, an issue the United Nations has struggled with for over a decade. Finally, human trafficking affects the entire world, and has been referred to by the United Nations as a "modern form of slavery" by its Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). There is no question that tighter, more secure and better-coordinated border control could help to combat drug, arms and human trafficking.

Piracy

While rates of piracy in many parts of the globe have diminished over the years, since the turn of the century the areas around and including the Gulf of Guinea and the coastline of Somalia have seen a stark increase in the rates of piracy.[6] The problem affects several countries on the coast of Western Africa, especially Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Nigeria, and Togo. A committee put together by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon in 2011 recommended reforms to international maritime defense policy and trading policies be made to regional bodies. In 2012, the United States began joint-naval training for countries in the region affected by piracy. Also in 2012, the UNSC released a Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2012/24) reaffirming international and regional efforts to curb piracy and ensure economic and national sovereignty. The issue of piracy extends beyond economic and

trading impact and feeds directly into issues of regional instability and the availability of small-arms weapons used by pirating organizations.[7] Proposed solutions to this problem should address the social/humanitarian, economic, and security-based concerns of this ongoing conflict and should comprehensively ensure national sovereignty is defended while fostering international and regional cooperation.

Terrorism in Latin America

The Muslim population throughout Latin and South America hovers around one percent, with official sources reporting much less and Muslim-backed sourcing reporting as high as 1.5% of total regional population.[8] Islam as a religion spread throughout the region via the immigration of both Spanish and European Muslims in addition to relatively sizeable Muslim Arab immigrant/refugee population. This demographic is also growing considering Islam is experiencing some of the highest religious conversion rates throughout the region, following a global trend. The ongoing war against terror, of the distinctly Islamic variety, find its way to Latin and South America by way of United States-sponsored concerns of international security and regional stability.[9] The main expressed worry is that extremist groups may find themselves aligned with existing anti-Western organizations such as drug cartels, militaristic organizations such as FARC, or anti-Western/American governments such as those currently ruling in Venezuela and Bolivia. The main area of concern for this body is the security of the tri-border area located along Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay.

A proposed solution to this situation would be one that ensures the national sovereignty of all regional actors, ensures the social/humanitarian rights of the regional Muslim population, and one that confronts the ongoing conflicts in the region, including but not limited to the international war on drugs and internal conflict for regional actors. The solution should incorporate both international and regional action.

Sanctions

"The use of mandatory sanctions is intended to apply pressure on a state or entity to comply with the objectives set by the Security Council without resorting to the use of force. Sanctions thus offer the Security Council an important instrument to enforce its decisions. The universal character of the United Nations makes it an especially appropriate body to establish and monitor such measures. The UNSC often employs the use of sanctions as a first step to dealing with countries that pose a threat to international security, and these sanctions carry huge implications on trade. Sanctions do not only affect the nation, and those within it, but those countries and companies that export to the sanctioned nation. Sanctions are also often criticized as a measure that does more harm than good, because it often limits access to goods to the vulnerable and suffering people of a nation, rather than directly pressuring that nation's government. UNSC Sanctions are often the result of noncooperation with United Nations trade recommendation, such as the exchange of arms or weapons technology across nations.

Refugees

"We in UNHCR look to the Security Council as the center stage of a system of global governance that preserves the security of persons as well as of states – as these two principles are increasingly indivisible. We insist on our humanitarian impartiality. But we also need guidance and support in order to safeguard the integrity and effectiveness of humanitarian action."

The United Nations Security Council has played an increasingly greater role in the protection of refugees. The mass displacement of peoples is often a direct result of international conflict, and, conversely, the displacement of certain populations can be a direct cause of conflict. As a result, the issues of international security and of refugees are not necessarily as separate as one might suspect. While the United Nations originally created two separate bodies to address the concerns of international security and of the safety of refugees, the UNSC to address the former and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the two bodies have had to work hand in hand over many years to address multiple conflicts.

In "The Development of International Refugee Protection through the Practice of the UN Security Council," Christiane Ahlborn explores how the UNSC's role in refugee protection has expanded since the early 1990s. Often, in its resolutions, the UNSC has condemned certain actions that have resulted in mass exoduses of refugees, which the UNSC characterizes as threats to international peace. Moreover, the UNSC has promoted the right of return to refugees in order to restore international peace and security, as in the case in Cambodia, Bosnia and Hezegovina and Sudan. But we must remember that the UNSC's mandate is to ensure State security, and it

has often been criticizing for prioritizing such security over the security of refugees by preventing vulnerable populations from seeking asylum outside of their countries. Moreover, as mentioned in our briefing on trade, comprehensive sanctions regimes, intended to induce compliance with international law, can have a harmful humanitarian impact on the situation of refugees and displaced persons at different stages of their displacement process.

The issue of refugees in the Middle East and North Africa is of growing concern to the UNSC: as violence and unrest grows in those regions, the number of asylum seekers grows with it. Moreover, if political instability plagues an entire region, the difficulty of ensuring security for refugees becomes more difficult and of greater concern.

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