

Dear Delegates,

It is an honor and pleasure to welcome you to Dayton Model United Nations XXVII (“DAYMUNC”). My name is Angie Loyd and I will be serving as the DAYMUNC Director for the Peacebuilding Commission (“PBC”). The Dais is looking forward to seeing all the research and preparation of delegates. In order to assist, please review this welcome letter and Background Guide in preparation for the conference.

The selection to host the PBC is due to its unique function within the United Nations (“UN”) and the need to understand how to create and implement sustainable peacebuilding effort continue continues to be a critical need. While at the conference, delegates will have the opportunity to address the following topics:

- I. Increasing Women's Participation in Peacebuilding and Recovery Strategies in Post-Conflict
- II. The Situation in Syria

Brief Overview of PBC

These topics reflect the core principles of the PBC’s mission and mandate. The PBC was created by General Assembly (“GA”) resolution 60/180 (2005) and Security Council (“SC”) resolution 1645 (2005) to support peacebuilding initiatives in post-conflict societies.¹ The Commission’s mandate is to:

- bring together all relevant actors to coordinate resources and to advise on and propose integrated strategies for post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery;
- focus attention on the reconstruction and institution-building efforts necessary for recovery from conflict and to support the development of integrated strategies in order to lay the foundation for sustainable development;
- provide recommendations and information to improve the coordination of all relevant actors within and outside the UN, to develop best practices, to help to ensure predictable financing for early recovery activities and to extend the period of attention given by the international community to post-conflict recovery.²

The committee is comprised of 31 members elected from the GA, SC, and Economic and Social Council.³ The members serve two-year renewable terms.⁴ In addition to the elected members, the top financial contributing States and top troop contributing States to the UN system are also part of the organization.⁵ The PBC is focused on collaboration, coordinating resources, and stakeholders to engage in peacebuilding. This focus allows for non-members, such as the

¹ United Nations Peacebuilding. United Nations Peacebuilding Commission. [Website] Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/commission>.

² United Nations Peacebuilding. Mandate. [Website] Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/commission/mandate>.

³ United Nations Peacebuilding. Membership. [Website] Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/commission/membership>.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ United Nations Peacebuilding. United Nations Peacebuilding Commission. [Website] Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/commission>.

International Monetary Fund, Organization of Islamic Cooperation, World Bank, pertinent UN organizations, regional and sub-regional organizations, civil society, youth organizations, and women organizations, to participate in meetings.⁶

Helpful Terms and Definitions

- **Gender Mainstreaming**: “The process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women’s as well as men’s concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres, so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated. The goal of gender mainstreaming is to achieve gender equality.”⁷
- **Gender-Responsive Peacebuilding**: “Gender-responsive peacebuilding pays attention to the specific ways conflicts affect people differently depending on their sex, age, ethnicity, etc. and addresses gender-specific implications and concerns, as well as particular recovery and protection needs, if any. It aims among other things at enhancing women’s participation and leadership in all peacebuilding activities.”⁸
- **Peacebuilding**: “Refers to efforts to assist countries and regions in their transitions from war to peace and to reduce a country’s risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict by strengthening national capacities for conflict management and laying the foundations for sustainable peace and development.”⁹

Tips for Delegate Success

In order to be well prepared for committee, delegates must be familiar with the mandate and stay up-to-date on events. Understanding the scope of the PBC’s mission, mandate, and vision, will help provide an operating framework. Delegates are also encouraged to remain up-to-date on events. While in committee, take a chance and put your placard up! Everything is a learning opportunity so please review the rules and procedures and make motions while in committee.

Very Respectfully,

Angie Loyd

Director, Peacebuilding Commission
DAYMUNC XXVII

⁶ United Nations Peacebuilding. Membership. [Website] Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/commission/membership>.

⁷ United Nations Peacebuilding Commission. (2016). *Peacebuilding Commission’s Gender Strategy*. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/07092016-pbc_gender_strategy_final_1.pdf

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ United Nations. Peace and Security. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/peace-and-security/>.

I. Increasing Women's Participation in Peacebuilding and Recovery Strategies in Post-Conflict

Women and Conflict

In post-conflict, there is a lapse of rule of law which subjects marginalized populations, such as women, to an increase of exploitation, poverty and vulnerability to trafficking.¹⁰ As the social and familial structures weaken, the normalization of violence is increased due to systematic social norms and discrimination.¹¹ In 2019, out of the 132 million people in need of humanitarian aid and protection, 35 million of those people were women, young women, and girls that required access to sexual and reproductive health services, and interventions to prevent sexual and gender-based violence (“SGBV”).¹² The various manners in which conflict impacts women results in women having an unique experience that must be incorporated into the peacebuilding and recovery strategies if it is to be effective.

Women need to be represented within the economic recovery, social, and political legitimacy of peacebuilding and recovery strategies as they can ensure a more diverse perspective is accounted for as well as contribute to the legitimacy of the process and increase local buy-in.¹³ Agreements signed by women have a higher number of provisions targeting political reform with a high implementation rate.¹⁴

Women also need to be incorporated in peacekeeping to ensure mission success. Women being represented and participating as peacekeepers increases accountability in peacekeeping and higher reporting of gender-based crimes and lower incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers.¹⁵ Women still represent a very small number of peacekeepers.¹⁶ The international community is striving to increase the participation of women peacekeepers by developing partnerships and allocating resources. For example, UN Women, the PBC and the Peace Building Support Office are collaborating to ensure that gender issues are address in all efforts and allocating 15% of dedicated funds to post-conflict recovery that focus on projects that enhance

¹⁰ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2006). *CEDAW and Security Council Resolution 1325: A Quick Guide*. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2006/1/cedaw-and-security-council-resolution-1325-a-quick-guide>.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2019). *Facts and Figures: Peace and Security*. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/facts-and-figures>.

¹³ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2019). *Conflict Prevention and Resolution*. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/conflict-prevention-and-resolution>.

¹⁴ Ibid.

¹⁵ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2006). *CEDAW and Security Council Resolution 1325: A Quick Guide*. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2006/1/cedaw-and-security-council-resolution-1325-a-quick-guide>.

¹⁶ Ibid.

gender equality.¹⁷ Another priority of the international community is security sector reform and demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, another aspect of peacebuilding that women are excluded from. The role of women in conflict, is often viewed as solely victims of violence; however, can also be perpetrators of violence. Only viewing women as victims of violence, does not account for their role as combatants and omits them from Disarmament Demobilization Reintegration (“DDR”) strategies.¹⁸

When DDR strategies neglect female combatants and only focus on male combatants, it makes women vulnerable.¹⁹ Strategies that overlook women female ex-combatants increase the marginalization of women and deny them service and provisions of these strategies. For example, land is used as a tool of reintegration as it provides social and economic benefits. Without being accounted for in the DDR strategies, women are denied access to land which can lead to an increase in malnutrition, disease, and poverty.²⁰ Moreover, female ex-combatants experience social and cultural stigmas that serve as barriers for reintegration into society.²¹ An example of how being left out of DDR strategies can impact women is the use of land in DDR strategies.

International Framework

Bearing in mind the need to address the impacts of conflict on women and integrating women into peacebuilding and recovery, the international community has established frameworks and commitments. *The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women* (“CEDAW”) and SC resolution 1325 (2000) serve as a large part of the international framework for Women, Peace Women, Peace, and Security.²² *CEDAW* is an international treaty adopted by the UN in 1979.²³ *CEDAW* is often referred to as the Bill of Rights for Women that highlights the need for an international standard to protect and promote the human rights of women. The treaty takes a comprehensive approach to address political, civil, cultural, economic, and social life.²⁴ It defines the legal standards to achieve gender equality through the elimination of discrimination and requiring governments to implement initiatives that ensure equality for women. It further requires

¹⁷ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2013). *In Brief Peace and Security*. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.unwomen.org//media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2013/12/un%20women%20briefthematicpsuswebrev3%20pdf.pdf?la=en>.

¹⁸ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2006). *CEDAW and Security Council Resolution 1325: A Quick Guide*. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2006/1/cedaw-and-security-council-resolution-1325-a-quick-guide>.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid.

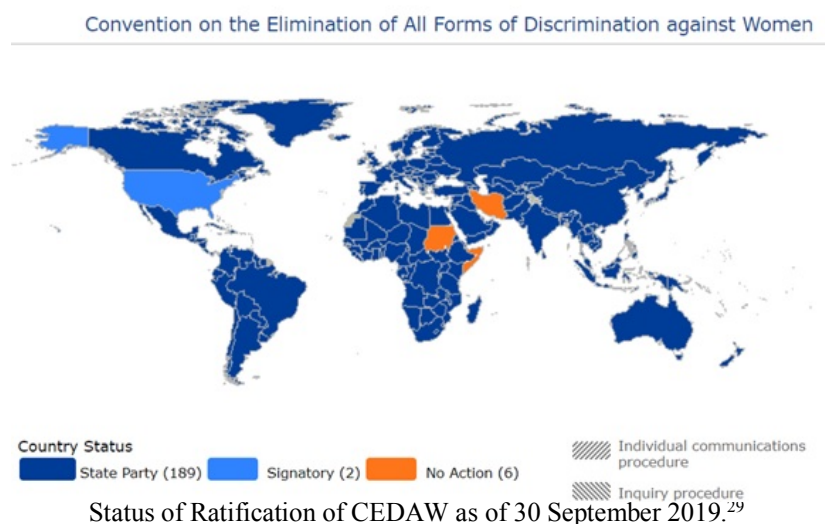
²² Ibid.

²³ Amnesty International (2005). *A Fact Sheet on CEDAW: Treaty for the Rights of Women*. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from https://www.amnestyusa.org/files/pdfs/cedaw_fact_sheet.pdf; United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2006). *CEDAW and Security Council Resolution 1325: A Quick Guide*. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2006/1/cedaw-and-security-council-resolution-1325-a-quick-guide>.

²⁴ Ibid.

governments to enact laws focusing on combating the social and political discrepancies that women encounter.²⁵

To oversee the implementation of *CEDAW*, there is a Committee on CEDAW. The committee is a body of 23 independent experts that monitor the implementation of *CEDAW*. As outlined in the *Optional Protocol to the Convention*, the committee receives communications from persons or groups submitting claims of violations and initiate reviews into situations systematic or critical violations with the consent of the State involved.²⁶ Moreover, the committee can provide feedback, suggestions, and recommendations directly to States regarding the provisions listed within the treaty.²⁷ The map below illustrates State Parties, Signatories, and No Action.²⁸



Similar in principle, *The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* of 1995 requires governments to: demonstrate commitment to women's rights; address discrimination in multiple forms; increase accountability; incorporate men as gender equality advocates; and increase investments into gender equality and women's rights.³⁰ The international efforts complement each other and work together to support the human rights of women. The CEDAW committee requires States reference the implementation of *The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* when

²⁵ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2006). *CEDAW and Security Council Resolution 1325: A Quick Guide*. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2006/1/cedaw-and-security-council-resolution-1325-a-quick-guide>.

²⁶ Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. (1999). Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPCEDAW.aspx>.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. Status of Ratification Interactive Dashboard. (2014). [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://indicators.ohchr.org/>.

²⁹ United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. Status of Ratification Interactive Dashboard. (2014). [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://indicators.ohchr.org/>.

³⁰ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (1995). *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action - Beijing+5 Political Declaration and Outcome*. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from https://beijing20.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/pfa_e_final_web.pdf.

providing reports on the status of *CEDAW*.³¹ In addition to being referenced by the CEDAW committee, SC resolution 1325 (2000), specifically draws attention to *The Beijing Declaration Platform for Action*.³²

The resolution contains 18 operative clauses requesting action regarding gender perspectives in all phases of the peace process such as peace negotiation and DDR strategies.³³ Since adopting SC resolution 1325, the following resolutions have also been adopted by the Security Council with each addressing the topic of Women, Peace, and Security: SC resolution 1820 (2008); SC resolution 1888 (2009); SC resolution 1889 (2009); SC resolution 1960 (2010); SC resolution 2106 (2013); SC resolution 2122 (2013); SC resolution 2242 (2015); and SC resolution 2467 (2019).³⁴

The international community recognizes that identifying and understanding the experiences of women and incorporating them into the political, legal, and social decisions of peacebuilding is critical for the stability and effectiveness.

Efforts by the Peacebuilding Commission

The PBC adheres to the calls for action in *CEDAW*, SC resolution 1325 (2000), and *The Beijing Platform for Action* to integrate women into the peacebuilding and recovery strategies in post-conflict societies. PBC believes that, women are crucial partners in solidifying the three pillars of lasting peace: economic recovery, social cohesion and political legitimacy.³⁵ As part its commitment to CEDAW and SC resolution 1325 (2000), the PBC has a gender strategy, which focuses on utilizing existing knowledge and practices and lessons learned to be built upon.³⁶ The Commission prioritizes the need for gender-sensitive language as a part of gender mainstreaming and the development of partnerships with organizations to increase women's participation in the peacebuilding and recovery in post-conflict societies. Though it is critical to the peace process, this is not currently being incorporated into the process. According to data from UN Women, between 1990 to 2018, only 19.7% of agreements have provisions addressing women, girls, or gender.³⁷ In partnership with UN Women, PBC has been focusing on all its documentation for

³¹ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2006). *CEDAW and Security Council Resolution 1325: A Quick Guide*. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2006/1/cedaw-and-security-council-resolution-1325-a-quick-guide>.

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. Global norms and standards: Peace and Security. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/global-norms-and-standards>.

³⁵ United Nations Peacebuilding. Women and Peacebuilding. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/policy-issues-and-partnerships/policy/women>.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ UN Security Council (2019). *Report of the Secretary-General on Women Peace and Security (S/2019/800)*. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/facts-and-figures#_Notes

initiatives such as the Peacebuilding Priority Plans to analyze the language used for women and gender to measure the level gender was being mainstreamed at global and country level.³⁸

The work of the PBC would not be feasible without funding mechanism such as UN Peacebuilding Fund (“PBF”). The PBF is the financial mechanisms of first resort to sustain peace in countries and areas at risk or impacted by conflict.³⁹ The fund may be utilized for UN entities, governments, regional and sub-regional organizations, multilateral banks, national multi-donor trust funds or civil society organizations.⁴⁰ In 2006 to 2017, the PBF has distributed \$772 million to 41 countries.⁴¹ Currently, it is supporting more than 200 projects in over 20 countries.⁴² Countries that are on the agenda of the PBC receive funding.

Conclusion and Questions to Consider

The need to incorporate women into peacebuilding and recovery strategies in Post-Conflict Societies is critical for the legitimacy and sustainability of the strategies. In 2018, 72% of all decisions adopted by the SC made references to women, peace, and security.⁴³ The international framework and commitments from the international community exist, but there is still much work to be done. There are social, political, and economic barriers that prevent women from engaging with these processes. Moreover, women are being invited to hold meaningful position within these processes to allow for their voices to be heard and their unique experiences to be accounted for. This is a vast topic with multiple avenues. Delegates should consider the following questions:

1. Has the Member State being represented signed and/or ratified CEDAW?
2. How has the Member State being represented complied with the calls for action by the international framework?
3. How and why are women impacted by conflict?
4. What barriers prevent women from engaging in the peacebuilding and recovery process?

³⁸ United Nations Peacebuilding. Women and Peacebuilding. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/policy-issues-and-partnerships/policy/women>.

³⁹ United Nations Peacebuilding. United Nations Peacebuilding Fund. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/fund>.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office. The Peacebuilding Fund. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/PB000>.

⁴³ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2019). Facts and Figures: Peace and Security. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/facts-and-figures>.

References

Amnesty International (2005). *A Fact Sheet on CEDAW: Treaty for the Rights of Women*. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from https://www.amnestyusa.org/files/pdfs/cedaw_fact_sheet.pdf.

Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office. The Peacebuilding Fund. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/PB000>.

Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. (1999). Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPCEDAW.aspx>.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2006). *CEDAW and Security Council Resolution 1325: A Quick Guide*. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2006/1/cedaw-and-security-council-resolution-1325-a-quick-guide>.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2013). *In Brief Peace and Security*. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2013/12/un%20women%20briefthematicpsuswebrev3%20pdf.pdf?la=en>.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2019). *Conflict Prevention and Resolution*. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/conflict-prevention-and-resolution>.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2019). *Facts and Figures: Peace and Security*. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/facts-and-figures>.

United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. *Status of Ratification Interactive Dashboard*. (2014). [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://indicators.ohchr.org/>.

United Nations. *Peace and Security*. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/peace-and-security/>.

United Nations Peacebuilding Commission. (2016). *Peacebuilding Commission's Gender Strategy*. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/07092016-_pbc_gender_strategy_final_1.pdf.

United Nations Peacebuilding. Mandate. [Website] Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/commission/mandate>.

United Nations Peacebuilding. Membership. [Website] Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/commission/membership>.

United Nations Peacebuilding. United Nations Peacebuilding Fund. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/fund>.

United Nations Peacebuilding. United Nations Peacebuilding Commission. [Website] Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/commission>.

United Nations Peacebuilding. Women and Peacebuilding. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/policy-issues-and-partnerships/policy/women>.

UN Security Council (2019). *Report of the Secretary-General on Women Peace and Security (S/2019/800)*. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/facts-and-figures#_Notes

II. The Situation in Syria

“Syria is the biggest humanitarian and refugee crisis of our time, a continuing cause of suffering for millions which should be garnering a groundswell of support around the world.” - Filippo Grandi, Commissioner of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.⁴⁴



Map of Syria.⁴⁵

In March 2011, several boys in Deraa, Syria sprayed painted an anti-government message onto a wall.⁴⁶ In response, the Government arrested and tortured the boys, sparking demonstrations against the government. As the protestors clashed with security forces, the protests began to spread calling for a regime change, greater freedoms, end of corruption, and the release of political prisoners.⁴⁷ As the protests spread, the methods used by the government increased in the use of force.

⁴⁴ UN Refugee Agency. (2019). Syria Emergency. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/syria-emergency.html>.

⁴⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2017). Syrian Refugees.[Website]. 11 November 2019 Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/immigrantrefugeehealth/profiles/syrian/background/index.html>

⁴⁶ O’Bagy, Elizabeth. (2012). Middle East Security Report 4 Syria’s Political Opposition. *Institute for the Study of War*. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from http://www.scpss.org/libs/spaw/uploads/files/Reports/Syrias_Political_Opposition.pdf.

⁴⁷ O’Bagy, Elizabeth. (2012). Middle East Security Report 4 Syria’s Political Opposition. *Institute for the Study of War*. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from http://www.scpss.org/libs/spaw/uploads/files/Reports/Syrias_Political_Opposition.pdf.

The Syrian army used deadly force against unarmed civilians, utilized mass arrest campaigns, and the use of torture and extrajudicial executions at detention centers according to some human rights groups.⁴⁸ The use of tanks, airstrikes, and other methods has devastated the civilian population. 5.6 million people have fled Syria to escape the conflict. Many Refugees are seeking refuge in the surrounding territories and beyond.⁴⁹ Even though away from the conflict, Refugees are living below the poverty line, living in camps, or scattered throughout urban environments.⁵⁰ For those unable to flee Syria, 6.6 million are internally displaced persons.⁵¹ The situation in Syria is a long going conflict that continues to be fueled by the complexity of internal and external forces with millions fleeing to neighboring countries or being displaced within Syria.

Humanitarian Crisis

As the international community works tirelessly to provide humanitarian relief, it is difficult to do with a lack of infrastructure and the current conflict preventing humanitarian workers to provide services to those in need.⁵² Civilians are under siege in forced containment and unable to reach the services they need.⁵³ Understanding the need to address the humanitarian crisis within Syria and ability for organizations to conduct humanitarian work, the UN Security Council has adopted Security Council resolutions 2165 (2014), and subsequent renewals: SC resolution 2191 (2014), SC resolution 2258 (2015), SC resolution 2332 (2016), SC resolution 2393 (2017) and SC resolution 2449 (2018) until 10 January 2020.⁵⁴ These resolutions authorize UN agencies and partners to cross conflict lines and the border crossings at Bab al-Salam, Bab al-Hawa, Al-Ramtha and Al Yarubiyah in addition to those already in use to support the movement of humanitarian aid efforts and goods.⁵⁵ Notification is provided to the Syrian government in advance of each shipment.⁵⁶

The conflict has caused extreme damage to critical infrastructures such as health and water and sanitation treatment facilities. These critical infrastructures are being directly and indirectly impacted. Health institutions and those that work within them are subject to bombing, looting,

⁴⁸ O'Bagy, Elizabeth. (2012). Middle East Security Report 4 Syria's Political Opposition. *Institute for the Study of War*. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from

http://www.scpss.org/libs/spaw/uploads/files/Reports/Syrias_Political_Opposition.pdf

⁴⁹ UN Refugee Agency. (2019). Syria Emergency. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/syria-emergency.html>.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² World Health Organization. (2018). Syrian Arab Republic Annual Report 2017. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.who.int/emergencies/crises/syr/syria-who-annualreport2017.pdf?ua=1>

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Reliefweb. (2019). Syrian Arab Republic: United Nations Cross-Border Operations Under UN SC Resolution. [Website] Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syrian-arab-republic-united-nations-cross-border-operations-under-28>

⁵⁵ Ibid.

⁵⁶ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Aid. (2017). Millions of Syrians Benefit from Cross-Border Operations. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.unocha.org/fr/story/millions-syrians-benefit-cross-border-operations>

robbery, hijacking, shooting, forced closure or take over, and abduction of workers.⁵⁷ The World Health Organization (“WHO”) has taken a comprehensive approach to try and address and support rebuilding infrastructure. WHO has focused on developing partnerships with organizations to address water and sanitation, mental health, and ship medicine, medical supplies, and equipment to over one thousand hospitals and healthcare centers.⁵⁸

The deterioration of water, sanitation and hygiene systems leads to a cascading effect of issues. Water scarcity prevents people from being able to conduct hygienic practices which assists in diseases being spread. Hospitals are also unable to properly sanitize medical equipment and instruments. Without access to clean water, people will collect water from lakes, rivers, or other bodies of water that are contaminated which increases risk for waterborne diseases.⁵⁹ In conjunction with UN Children’s Fund, the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, and other organizations, there has been a focus on combating disease and the spread of diseases.⁶⁰ Each campaign has a goal and focus population with WHO training the vaccination teams and proper data collection methods.

According to data from WHO, 1 in 30 people in Syria are suffering from a mental health condition.⁶¹ Both children and adults are experiencing the trauma of the war. The mental health initiative, the Mental Health Gap Action Programme, created by WHO trained over 200 health professionals. This training focused on detection and managing mental health conditions and being able to provide psychology first-aid.⁶² The WHO is not alone in its efforts to support. The United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot (“UNHRD”) has also been providing logistical support and supply chain solutions as well. UNHRD is a network of depots that store and manage relief goods on behalf of the humanitarian organizations.⁶³ Since 2012, UNHDR has completed 2,125 MT of cargo dispatched, \$11.93 million USD in value dispatched, 137 shipments, and served 11 partnerships in Syria.⁶⁴ To support all those displaced within Syria, the continued efforts of humanitarian aid organizations must continue to prevent the humanitarian crisis from worsening.

Conclusion and Questions to Consider

The conflict that started years ago, continues to rage on and the count of displaced persons and refugees continues to rise. The current situation in Syria is dire as food shortages, water scarcity, and a lack of access to health services continue to plague the population. Civilians are trapped between the airstrikes and the on-ground fighting as they are unable to move and the resources, they desperately need are unable to reach them in turn. External forces are turning Syria into a

⁵⁷ World Health Organization. (2018). Syrian Arab Republic Annual Report 2017. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.who.int/emergencies/crises/syr/syria-who-annualreport2017.pdf?ua=1>

⁵⁸ [Ibid.](#)

⁵⁹ [Ibid.](#)

⁶⁰ [Ibid.](#)

⁶¹ [Ibid.](#)

⁶² [Ibid.](#)

⁶³ Reliefweb. (2019). Syrian Arab Republic: United Nations Cross-Border Operations Under UN SC Resolution. [Website] Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syrian-arab-republic-united-nations-cross-border-operations-under-28>

⁶⁴ [Ibid.](#)

proxy war by funneling in money and weapon and internal forces continue fighting for land and power. Though the situation is complicated, the SC is charged with international peace and security and as such must continue to address the situation in Syria by utilizing its resources and partnerships with other UN bodies. This is a vast topic with long and on-going background for delegates to understand. Delegates should consider the following questions:

1. What entities are involved with the conflict in Syria?
2. How has the Security Council addressed the situation in Syria?
3. How can the root causes of the conflict be addressed?
4. What resources or relevant stakeholders should be collaborated with to address the humanitarian crisis in Syria?
5. What peacebuilding initiatives would prevent the recurrence of violence?
6. How can the international community enhance protection and access to aid for displaced persons?
7. What are critical institutions? How can they be rebuilt?

References

Laub, Zachary. (2019). Syria's Civil War: The Descent into Horror. *Council on Foreign Relations*. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.cfr.org/article/syrias-civil-war>.

O'Bagy, Elizabeth. (2012). Middle East Security Report 4 Syria's Political Opposition. *Institute for the Study of War*. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from http://www.scpsc.org/libs/spaw/uploads/files/Reports/Syrias_Political_Opposition.pdf.

Reliefweb. (2019). Syrian Arab Republic: United Nations Cross-Border Operations Under UN SC Resolution. [Website] Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syrian-arab-republic-united-nations-cross-border-operations-under-28>

UN Refugee Agency. (2019). Syria Emergency. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.unhcr.org/en-us/syria-emergency.html>.

United Nations Humanitarian Response Depot. (2017). Support of Current Humanitarian Crises. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/unhrd_car_south_sudan_syria_02022017.pdf

World Health Organization. (2018). Syrian Arab Republic Annual Report 2017. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.who.int/emergencies/crises/syr/syria-who-annualreport2017.pdf?ua=1>.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Aid. (2017). Millions of Syrians Benefit from Cross-Border Operations. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.unocha.org/fr/story/millions-syrians-benefit-cross-border-operations>

World Health Organization. (2018). Syrian Arab Republic Annual Report 2017. [Website]. Retrieved 11 November 2019 from <https://www.who.int/emergencies/crises/syr/syria-who-annualreport2017.pdf?ua=1>