

SSPMUN 4.0

Background Guide



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Congo War Cabinet

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Letter from the Executive Board

It gives us immense pleasure to welcome you all to the fourth edition of the Sainik School Purulia Model United Nations, 2023. The Congo War Cabinet was established in order to tackle issues with the Congo Crisis.

This guide is prepared to provide you with a brief overview of the agenda and help you get started with your research. However, we encourage all delegates to do more research beyond this guide to have a better grasp of understanding about the topic. The agenda of this committee is 'Countering the Congo Crisis of 1960-1965'.

The Executing Board looks forward to prepared and well researched delegates with a debating tendency for their own personalities. We expect all delegates to be well prepared about the topic and agenda along with the knowledge of their fellow personalities, this would help in the better procession of the committee.

Documentation would play a fatal role in the procession of the committee. Delegates are expected to indulge in analysis and focus on argumentation. Delegates must think profusely in order to solve and answer the issues.

We would now like to give you our best wishes, and we expect you all to learn something new during the conference.

Warm Regards,

The Executive Board

CONGO WAR CABINET

Swapnil Mondal

Sudip Chakraborty

(Chairperson)

(Rapporteur)

Introduction to the Agenda

The Congo Crisis was a period of upheaval and conflict between 1960 and 1965 in the Republic of the Congo. The crisis began almost immediately after the Congo became independent from Belgium and ended, unofficially, with the entire country under the rule of Joseph-Desire Mobutu. Constituting a series of civil wars, the Congo Crisis was also a proxy conflict in the Cold War. Around 100,000 people are believed to have been killed during the crisis.

United Nations contributed in the form of **The United Nations Operation in Congo**. This was a United Nations peacekeeping force deployed in the Republic of the Congo in 1960 in response to the **Congo Crisis**. ONUC was the UN's first peacekeeping mission with significant military capabilities and remains one of the largest UN operations in size and scope.

Current Situation

Wracked by decades of conflict, the Democratic Republic of the Congo is the most complex and long standing humanitarian crisis in Africa and the fourth largest IDP crisis in the world. The humanitarian situation continues to deteriorate, with violent intersecting conflicts forcing people to flee their homes and preventing their return. More than 5 million people are displaced within the country and more than 1 million Congolese have sought asylum, mostly within Africa. The situation is exacerbated by disease outbreaks and natural disasters. At the same time, the DRC hosts half a million refugees from neighbouring countries, three quarters of whom live outside refugee camps and settlements.

GLOBAL REPORT

2021 Year-end population figures

- Refugees and asylum seekers: 853,000, 50% women and 51% children
- IDPs due to conflict: 5.4 million
- IDP returns: 1.04 million
- Refugees and asylum seekers in the DRC: 526,000

A Brief History

Colonial rule in the Congo began in the late 19th century. King Leopold II of Belgium, frustrated by Belgium's lack of international power and prestige, attempted to persuade the Belgian government to support colonial expansion around the then-largely unexplored Congo Basin. The Belgian government's ambivalence about the idea led Leopold to eventually create the colony on his own account. With support from a number of Western countries, who viewed Leopold as a useful buffer between rival colonial powers, Leopold achieved international recognition for a personal colony, the Congo Free State, in 1885. By the turn of the century, however, the violence of Free State officials against indigenous Congolese and the ruthless system of economic extraction had led to intense diplomatic pressure on Belgium to take official control of the country, which it did in 1908, creating the Belgian Congo. An African nationalist movement developed in the Belgian Congo during the 1950s, primarily among the évolués. The movement was divided into a number of parties and groups which were broadly divided on ethnic and geographical lines and opposed to one another. The largest, the *Mouvement National Congolais* (MNC), was a united front organisation dedicated to achieving independence "within a reasonable" time. It was created around a charter which was signed by, among others, Patrice Lumumba, Cyrille Adoula and Joseph Iléo, but others accused the party of being too moderate. Lumumba became a leading figure within the MNC, and by the end of 1959, the party claimed to have 58,000 members.

The MNC's main rival was the *Alliance des Bakongo* (ABAKO), led by Joseph Kasa-Vubu, who advocated a more radical ideology than the MNC, based around calls for immediate independence and the promotion of regional identity. ABAKO's stance was more ethnic nationalist than the MNC's; it argued that an independent Congo should be run by the Bakongo as inheritors of the pre-colonial Kingdom of the Kongo. The *Confédération des Associations Tribales du Katanga* (CONAKAT), a localist party led by Moïse Tshombe, was the third major organisation; it advocated federalism and primarily represented the southern province of Katanga. These were joined by a number of smaller parties which emerged as the nationalist movement developed, including the radical *Parti Solidaire Africain* (PSA), and factions representing the interests of minor ethnic groups like the *Alliance des Bayanzi* (ABAZI).



Congo Crisis 1961

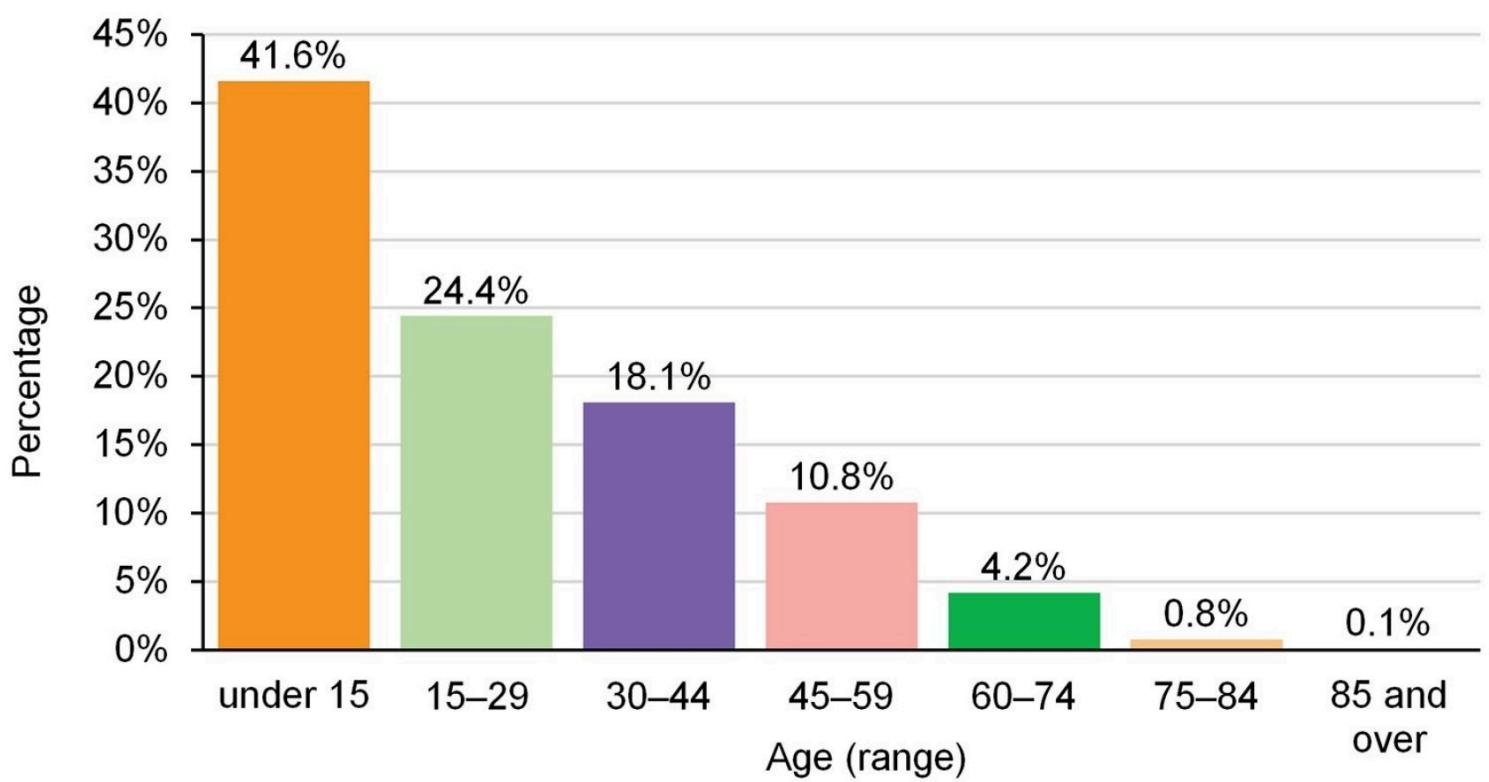
○ Size of government controlled areas in colored areas.
diamond areas in colored frames.

Although it was the largest of the African nationalist parties, the MNC had many different factions within it that took differing stances on a number of issues. It was increasingly polarised between moderate *évolués* and the more radical mass membership. A radical faction headed by Iléo and Albert Kalonji split away in July 1959, but failed to induce mass defections by other MNC members. The dissident faction became known as the MNC-Kalonji (MNC-K), while the majority group became the MNC-Lumumba (MNC-L). The split divided the party's support base into those who remained with Lumumba, chiefly in the Stanleyville region in the north-east, and those who backed the MNC-K, which became most popular around the southern city of Elisabethville and...

Major riots broke out in Léopoldville, the Congolese capital, on 4 January 1959 after a political demonstration turned violent. The Force Publique, the colonial gendarmerie, used force against the rioters—at least 49 people were killed, and total casualties may have been as high as 500. The nationalist parties' influence expanded outside the major cities for the first time, and nationalist demonstrations and riots became a regular occurrence over the next year, bringing large numbers of black people from outside the *évolué* class into the independence movement. Many blacks began to test the boundaries of the colonial system by refusing to pay taxes or abide by minor colonial regulations. The bulk of the ABAKO leadership was arrested, leaving the MNC in an advantageous position.

These developments led to the white community also becoming increasing radicalised. Some whites planned to attempt a coup d'état if a black majority government took power. As law and order began to break down, white civilians formed militia groups known as *Corps de Volontaires Européens* ("European Volunteer Corps") to police their neighbourhoods. These militias frequently attacked the black population.

Congo, Republic of the age breakdown (2020)



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About the Conference

The general act of the Conference declared Congo river basin neutral in contrast to the Congo Crisis, guaranteed freedom for trade and shipping for all states in the basin. The conference has spent decades in the grip of violent conflict and economic unrest. Security has severely deteriorated since 2017, displacing over 5 million people and leaving 19.6 million in need of humanitarian assistance. Congo was also confronted with several Ebola outbreaks in recent years and now grapples with the IRC's help of vulnerable Congolese to provide support to rebuild these communities.

Position Paper Policy

What is a Position Paper?

A position paper is a brief overview of a country's stance on the topics being discussed by a particular committee. Though there is no specific format that the position paper must follow, it should include a description of the position your country holds on the issues on the agenda, relevant actions that your country has taken, and potential solutions that your country would support.

Purpose:

Keep in mind the recent decisions taken by your own country and major events that have taken place after the war and your foreign policy regarding the same. The Position papers should include the following details:

- The delegate's preliminary understanding of the topic and what it entails
- Allocation of the delegate and your stance on this agenda
- Your proposed plan of action and effective solutions
- Any information regarding your portfolio that you think that the Executive Board members should know
- Furthermore, your expectations as to how this committee should progress and what are your expectations from the debate.

Each position paper should not exceed two pages, and should all be combined into a single PDF format per delegate (other formats will not be accepted.)

Formatting

Position papers should include the name of the delegate, his/her country, and the committee, along with the agenda —

- Be in a standard font (e.g. Times New Roman) with 12-point font size and 1- inch document margins.

Due Dates and Submission Procedure

Position papers for this committee must be submitted by midnight of July 25, 2023. Once your position paper is complete, please save the file as your country and position paper and send it as an attachment in an email to your committee's email address, with the subject heading as your country name and position paper. (File should be saved as a country position paper) The subject of the mail should be: Country Name - Position Paper. Each position paper will be manually reviewed.

Documentation

Chits

Chits are a way of indirect communication amongst the delegates as well as the Executive Board and the delegates. These are primarily of four types:

Substantive chits - These are chits that are sent by delegates directly to the Executive Board. They contain substantive information that the delegate feels is relevant to the agenda and the Executive Board should be made aware of. Substantive chits can also include speeches that the delegate is unable to speak in committee.

Points of Information - Point of Information chits are used when a delegate wishes to ask another delegate a question but is unable to do so verbally. Such chits may be sent after a speech or at any point in the committee. POIs can be sent directly to a delegate or can be sent via the Executive Board if the delegate wants their question to be noted by the Chair.

Replies to Points of Information - When a delegate receives a Point of Information, they are expected to respond to the same verbally, if not, then, via a chit which may be sent directly to the delegate or via the Executive Board. Whilst it is not necessary to respond to all POIs, delegates are recommended to respond to them in order to clarify their foreign policy and proposed solutions.

Chits used for Lobbying - In committee, delegates may utilize chits as a mode of lobbying with other delegates. Through these, they may undertake various tasks such as forming blocs, clarification of speeches, and communicating informally with other delegates presenting the committee. These chits are sent directly to the recipient and not marked by the Executive Board.

Substantive Chits: Kindly note that you are free to include as many points as you wish to, however, ensure that the chit is concise, and all the important words/points are underlined.

Working Paper

A working paper, in its most elementary sense, refers to a list of solutions prepared by a group of delegates working together (hereinafter referred to as a bloc). A working paper essentially serves as a precursor to a Draft Resolution and allows delegates to frame their solutions in a formal manner.

Delegates are requested to note the following points with reference to working papers;

A working paper has no prescribed format. However, delegates are highly recommended to write it in the same format as a Draft Resolution, which is explained later in this guide.

In order for a working paper to be accepted by the Executive Board, it needs to have at least 1/3rd of the committee's total strength as signatories.

Discussion of working papers is preferred through an unmoderated caucus, with a defined number of speakers and the total speaking time.

The Executive Board will not be accepting working papers that are plagiarized, pre-written, or submitted by an individual delegate.

Draft Resolution Guidelines

The three days of debate are ultimately directed towards reaching a consensus and forming a solution, known as the Draft Resolution (DR), that delineates how the Member States must tackle the various issues of the agenda. A good Draft Resolution requires a well-rounded approach to the agenda and must be supported with a realistic framework for implementation.

The perambulatory clauses of a Draft Resolution state the purpose of addressing the agenda at hand and highlight past international action on the issue. Each clause begins with a present participle, called a perambulatory phrase which is italicized, and the clause always ends with a comma. These clauses can include references to the UN charter, citations of past UN resolutions or treaties on the agenda etc.

Key Terminology

Clause: one section of a resolution, containing one argument or one action

Phrase: Phrases are the first word(s) of a clause. They introduce the clause and define the nature of its recommendations.

Perambulatory Clause: The perambulatory clauses (also called preambles) of a resolution state the reasons for addressing the topic. Preambles can reference the UN charter and past international actions. Each clause begins with a perambulatory phrase and ends with a comma.

Amendment: An amendment is a change that a delegate would like to introduce to the resolution once it has already been submitted to the chair.

Sponsorship and signatories

Sponsors are delegates who have participated consistently in the writing of the Draft Resolution, and who will be presenting the document to the committee and answering questions asked by other members of the committee. A delegate may be a sponsor to only one Draft Resolution.

Signatories are delegates who want to see the Draft Resolution discussed in committee, regardless of whether or not they agree with it. There is no limit to the number of Draft Resolutions that a delegate may be a signatory to. A Draft Resolution must meet a Specified minimum of Sponsors and Signatories in order to be submitted to the Executive Board.

Amendments

Amendments serve as a way for delegates to make changes to a Draft Resolution which has been discussed in committee. The following points must be kept in mind for amendments:

Amendments must be sent in the prescribed format, otherwise, they will not be accepted by the Executive Board.

Sponsors cannot send amendments to their own DR.

Note: The purpose of this background guide is to brief you about the agenda and it should only act as a starting point in your research. The background guide cannot be used as evidence for any claims in the committee.