

Ontario Model United Nations III



United Nations Security Council, Background Guide

April 7th to April 8th, 2018
omun.ca

Letter from the Chair

Dear delegates,

Welcome to OMUN III! My name is Adam Sayani and I will be your chair for the United Nations Security Council committee this year. I am currently a Grade 12 student at UCC and I have had the privilege of being a member of the UCC Model UN team for the past two years, travelling to McGill, Harvard, Berkeley and Columbia to compete in their prestigious conferences. Having started my Model UN experience at OMUN I, I am excited to help facilitate an exciting weekend of debate with all of you delegates at UCC. I hope that you will all enjoy OMUN as much as I have enjoyed all of my Model UN experiences, and I look forward to getting to know all of you.

Your vice-chair for this committee will be Katarina Lalovic. Katarina is a Grade 12 student at BSS who is very interested in global financial affairs and is excited to help facilitate your debate at OMUN III. She has had significant MUN experience, having travelled to McGill in Montreal to compete at SSUNS and is also very excited to join you all for the Security Council committee at OMUN.

The UNSC is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security as well as accepting new members to the United Nations and approving any changes to its United Nations Charter. Its powers include the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the establishment of international sanctions, and the authorization of military action through Security Council resolutions; it is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions to member states. Our two topics of debate, Korean reunification and the Israel-Palestine conflict are two of the most contentious and polarizing issues in our world today. I am extremely excited to see how all of you work collaboratively to come up with comprehensive solutions to address these pressing issues.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you all that position papers are due at the start of our first committee session on Saturday, April 7th, in order to be eligible for committee awards. Position papers would preferably be submitted by email to unsc@omun.ca, but can also be handed in as a hard copy at the first committee session.

If you have any questions or concerns about the conference, don't hesitate to reach out. Best of luck to all of you, and I am excited to get started on what promises to be a great weekend!

Adam Sayani, Chair
Katarina Lalovic, Vice-Chair

Topic 1: Reunification of Korea

Current Situation

Currently, Korea remains to be the only divided nation-state in the world. An offspring of a politically polarized Cold War, the divided Korean peninsula has been the center of global political tension created between the communist and capitalist superpowers for the past seventy years. It is still considered to be one of the most probable places a war will break out.

After the division, the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea have gradually moved away from each other economically, politically and socially. With open market policies and guidance from western developed nations, South Korea has evolved to become the thirteenth largest economy in the world, while North Korea, in its extreme isolation, lingers at one hundred and twelfth; South Korea remains to be one of the most important allies of the USA and the democratic world while North Korea stays hostile towards the west; South Koreans pursue a liberal, and capitalistic society while the North Koreans live a communist one.

Unfortunately, in the midst of rapid developments after the end of the Cold War, both Koreas and the world seem to have forgotten that the two countries were meant to be one. Somehow, the international community has moved on. Frankly, many of the world's most powerful countries do not have any incentive to see the two Koreas merge to create a bigger, more unified nation with nuclear capabilities. More than a few benefits from the regional instability by selling arms and providing security.

However, the United Nations Security Council, whose host member nations originally split the Korean peninsula, has a strong moral duty to the Korean families who were separated and banished from their hometowns by the division. The elders and the working-class generations of both countries can still recall the pain of the nation when it was split in half. In addition, it is undeniable that a world without the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is a safer one. Even if complete reunification is impossible, by proactively working towards a reunification and opening negotiations between the two Koreas, the hostility of the DPRK will be mitigated indirectly.

For some member nations, this Security Council session is about mending the scars of the Cold War and providing justice to the Korean families. For others, it's about finding creative resolutions to nullify North Korean aggression and bring the world one step closer to peace. In either case, this topic prompts an invaluable discussion for the council.

Case Study: Reunification of Germany

Many look to the reunification of Germany as an ideal model for Korea to follow. Therefore, it is necessary to examine the case of German reunification extensively. Following the Second World War, Germany was divided into the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany), occupied by France, the United Kingdom and the USA, and the German Democratic Republic (East Germany), occupied by the Soviet Union. The East German Regime started to falter in 1989, with the Soviet Union going through massive reforms known as glasnost and perestroika under the rule of Gorbachev. Through the Peaceful Revolution, a series of protests by the East Germans, East Germany held their first free elections in 1990 and cultivated the Unification Treaty with West Germany. Further negotiations between the two Germanys and the four occupying powers led to the “Two Plus Four Treaty” recognizing a unified Germany as a state. This agreement was followed by twenty years of social, economic and political integration between the two countries. Although technically a “unification”, practically speaking the West absorbed its Eastern counterpart; the West German constitution was preserved to apply to the unified Germany, and the West paid large sums of money in the form of the Solidaritätszuschlag (Solidarity Surcharge) in order to compensate for the lack of infrastructure in the East. The unified Germany automatically remained memberships in international organizations West Germany was a part of, such as NATO and the EU, while leaving the Warsaw Pact.

Since the talks of a possible reunification shortly after the Korean War and during the era of the Sunshine Policy, the two Koreas have drifted further and further from such a concept. Currently, there is little to no development on reunification from either side. The little relations that existed between the two have been obliterated by North Korea’s continuous pursuit of its nuclear program. Therefore, the United Nations Security Council is burdened with initiating such a process rather than building upon an already-existing momentum. Before doing so, it is imperative to analyze the current political, economic and social disparities as the two countries stand today.

Political Considerations

Politically, the two countries could not be more incompatible. North Korea, to this day, is one of the most radically communist states in the world, while South Korea has grown to be one of the world’s leading democracies and a trusted ally of the USA. It is reasonable to believe that the United Nations will only accept a united Korea that is democratic (although maybe less capitalistic), and so the question lies in whether the communist regime of the North will either concede or collapse.

Kim Jong-Un

The most definitive fact about the North Korean Supreme Leader is that very little is known about him. Born in 1982, 1983, or 1984 as the second son of Kim Jong-Il’s second mistress, Kim attended two schools in Switzerland before returning to North Korea and attending Kim Il-Sung

University, a prestigious officer training school in Pyongyang. From the time he assumed power in December 2011, he has been very interested in consolidating his power; all the pallbearers, who carried Kim Jong-Il's coffin (aka the strongest loyalists of the elder Kim) have disappeared mysteriously or indiscreetly eliminated; Kim is racing to progress the country's long-range ballistic capabilities; he has summoned the first Worker's Party Congress since 1980. Kim seems to be engaged in what is known as the "provocation cycle": ramping up provocative behavior, such as launching missiles or conducting nuclear tests, followed by charm offensives and offers to begin a dialogue. His vision of reunification has reportedly been very one-sided towards his own favor, and his offers of bilateral talks have been rejected by South Korea due to his continuous nuclear threats

Park Geun-Hye

As the first female president of the country and a daughter of a formerly assassinated president, Park has made one thing very clear in her political platform: Korean unification is her upmost priority. This vision however has been overshadowed by Kim Jong-Un's continuous nuclear tests, which have forced her to freeze ties with the North. Many Koreans criticize her lack of communication to the public and actual action to back up her initial campaign promises. In the Korean Parliamentary election of 2016, her right-wing political party lost the majority to its left-wing rivals, making it likely that when her term ends in 2018, a left-wing candidate from the Minjoo Party of Korea will be elected as president.

Economic Considerations

South Korea's economy is the fourth largest in Asia. Its economic growth, which transformed the country from being one of the poorest to a high-income country in just one generation, is often shown as a role model for the African countries. Without a doubt, South Korea will have a great financial burden in the case of reunification, similar to how West Germany needed to pay for a lot of what was lacking in the East. But as Chung Chong-Wook, South Korea's former ambassador to China points out, "The more we do before reunification actually arrives ... the less expensive the reunification will be."

North Korea's economic infrastructure is heavily concentrated in urban centers like Pyongyang. Therefore, the loyalists who have the privilege of living in cities suffer less from crisis like famine than the rural population does. Under Kim Jong-Un, two important economic reforms occurred. Firstly, Kim has set up economic regions inside his country and started to approve money as an incentive for people to achieve prosperity, rather than ideological purity. This means that citizens can now buy their way into nicer neighborhoods and own bigger property, whereas before, the only way to do so was through the approval of the regime. Secondly, Kim has allowed farmers to keep between 40-60% of the crops they farm. The farmland is still owned by the state; however, a farming family as a "production team" can now be sharecroppers and not slaves.

Social Considerations

The young generation of South Koreans is living through an age of increased social liberalization and social justice movements. It is only recently that discourse on sexual education has reached the mainstream media through means such as TV programs, and LGBTQ rights are getting slowly absorbed by the population. Most are still oblivious to the conditions of the North Korean society, as many are taught in school to simply alienate the North as an impoverished, starving nation.

North Korean society is extremely conservative compared to the rest of the world. Although it seems like all North Koreans are brainwashed into believing incredible fables about their leader, the loyalists inhabiting around Pyongyang are the main ones educated in such a manifesto; many living in poorer rural areas, are skeptical and disloyal, but fearful of the regime.

Past UN / International Involvement

The United Nations has stayed largely uninvolved in the work towards Korean reunification. In 2007, when an inter-Korea summit was arranged for the second time, the UN General Assembly strongly advocated this occasion, passing resolution (A/RES/62/5) to show support for economic and political cooperation between the two countries. The secretary general of the United Nations, Ban Ki-Moon, a South Korean himself, voiced optimism that the inter-Korean peace process will contribute to peace and security, not just on the Peninsula, but in the region and beyond. Unfortunately, the General Assembly has not had an occasion to congratulate the two Koreas ever since.

Other than encouraging the talks between the North and the South, the UNSC has passed seven resolutions in the past five years on the topic of non-proliferation of the DPRK.³² Most of these documents were proven to be ineffective, as the DPRK seemed not bothered by various condemnations and sanctions given by the United Nations. This is why it's especially important for the UNSC to practically get involved in the situation and start a discussion on the steps towards reunification and nullifying North Korean aggression. With some of its pro-DPRK permanent members slowly changing their stances, there is renewed hope of what the UNSC can accomplish.

Possible Solutions and Controversies

1: Another Nuclear Deal

One of the main obstacles stopping South Korea and the international community from engaging with North Korea on any diplomatic level is North Korea's continued nuclear development. Therefore, the UNSC could create a goal and a timeline to establish a nuclear deal, similar to the one with Iran, with North Korea. There are two important things to consider in this case. Firstly, the USA and the international community need to stop antagonizing North Korea as an "axis of evil". This is shown to be possible when looking at the miraculous

improvement of relations between Iran and the USA. Secondly, it is important to note that the DPRK is not harmed as much from the imposed sanctions as was Iran, due to its lack of export resources and industries. Therefore, it may be wise to consider giving some positive aid as part of the deal rather than simply lifting the sanctions.

2: Furthering sanctions and “strategic patience”.

It is undeniable that the DPRK is an unstable and unsustainable country. With Kim Jong Un politically alienating Russia, and China showing weakened enthusiasm for the DPRK’s radical actions, it is possible that the country is almost at its breaking point. There are two desirable outcomes to which supporters of continued political and economic pressure point: Kim Jong-Un, fearing a collapse of his regime, may give in to the pressure and open up the country economically and make political concessions, or the already impoverished population of the country may rise up against the government, unable to survive under complete economic isolation.

3: Removal of international presence from the region.

The one of the biggest propaganda that Kim’s regime use to antagonize the South is by labeling them as the “puppet of the USA”. It is possible that the DPRK’s dislike towards the South may be much less than its dislike towards the USA. It is also possible that the North’s continued investment in the nuclear technology is only because it feels threatened by the presence of superpowers near its land. If all the occupying powers, who happen to be members of the UNSC, agree to step out of the peninsula, that has been for so long a battleground of a proxy war, the DPRK may be more willing to talk to the South.

Discussion Questions

1. Does the UNSC, as a committee that includes nations that have originally separated the peninsula, have a moral obligation to reunify Korea?
2. Does your country align itself more with the principles behind the Sunshine Policy or Strategic Patience when dealing with the DPRK? Is there a better alternative?
3. How does the situation in Korea differ from other countries like Germany that have succeeded at reunifying?
4. What incentive does your country have to support the reunification of Korea? Even if it doesn’t, what are some important things your country cannot give up on when constructing the unified Korea?

Topic 2: Israel and Palestine Conflict

History

The situation concerning Israel and Palestine has been a key focal point of conflict, controversy and dispute since 1946. After World War II, the geographic region of Palestine, in Western Asia between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River, was relinquished to the United Nations by the British. In response to the question of Jewish refugees from the Holocaust, the UN subsequently created “The United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine,” a proposal which recommended a partition consisting of an Arab state, a Jewish state, and with Jerusalem independent from both under special administration and governance by the UN. On 29 November 1947, the U.N. General Assembly adopted a resolution recommending the adoption and implementation of the Plan as Resolution 181. Although accepted by the Jewish public and the Jewish Agency for Palestine, Resolution 181 was rejected by the Arab Higher Committee. Tensions between the Jews and the Arabs greatly increased, which culminated in the 1948 Palestine War, the Six-Day War and the Yom Kippur War. As a result of these wars, Israel took 60% of the area allocated to the proposed Arab state, the Gaza Strip, the Sinai Peninsula, the West Bank and the Golan Heights. No Arab Palestinian state was created or officially recognized due to the Israeli victories and currently, Palestinians live either in Israel or in the Palestinian National Authority, a state with disputed legal status as of today. The State of Israel has a population of approximately 8,134,100 inhabitants as of 2013. 75.1% of them are Jewish (6,102,900), 20.7% are Arabs (1,683,200), while the remaining 4.3% (348,100) are defined as “others”.¹⁴ In comparison, the territories of the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, which are considered part of the Palestinian National Authority, have a combined population of 4,418,510 as of 2010. According to the Palestinian Authority, around 83% of Palestinians living in the West Bank are Arab whilst 17% are Jewish, whereas an estimated 99% of Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip are considered to be Arab. The situation in Israel and Palestine is extremely complex due to the deep rooted nature of the conflict. Resentment between the many players comes from more than just religious differences— it encompasses economic, political and social factors. Although there has been brief periods of peace between Arabs and Jews alike since 1946, none of these has proven to be stable or long-lasting. Animosity between these groups have always led to clashes, mostly escalating towards violence and terrorism.

Present Situation

In some respects, the tension and conflict in this region has escalated in late 2014, becoming another hotspot as a result of religious, ethnic and national clashes. Indeed, there has been a series of escalations, notably in July 2014. Three Israeli teenagers were kidnapped and killed in June by Hamas, a leading Palestinian militant organisation, with a revenge killing of a Palestinian teenager shortly after in July. This culminated in increased rocket fire from militants in Gaza and air strikes by Israel. However, in August, both sides agreed to a ceasefire. History

has shown that ceasefires have not been successful in preserving the peace for long periods of time. In October, the killing of a prominent right-wing Jewish activist prompted the Israeli government to close down the al-Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount, a key religious site to both Jews and Arabs. This action led to violence from Palestinian radicals as well as Hamas in late October and early November. In retaliation, the Israeli government has ordered the homes of the Palestinian Jerusalem attackers to be demolished.²⁰ In December 2014, a prominent Palestinian minister was killed during a West Bank protest against Israel.

Potential Future Conflict

The question of Israel/Palestine remains one with great potential for future conflict if the international community does not arrive at a solution which is acceptable towards both sides. The Palestinian Arab minority continues to feel persecuted and vulnerable following the instability in the summer of 2014, feelings which appear to be reciprocated by the Jewish majority in Israel given the various Islamic states which surround Israel. Firstly, there is a grave threat to international security and peacekeeping given the level of arms possessed by terrorists, militants and states alike surrounding Israel. Secondly, the various states around Israel have had a history of intervening in favour of the Palestinian militants, and the region could be embroiled in a war similar to the previous wars between Israel and the Arab states. This is especially problematic given the already tumultuous affairs of two of Israel's neighbours; Egypt, which is still undergoing the effects of the Arab Spring, and Syria, which is currently in a civil war. Given this, the question of Israel/Palestine is one which merits international concern and requires urgent consideration from the Security Council.

Guiding Questions

1. To what extent should the UN intervene in the situation in Israel/ Palestine?
2. If it should choose to intervene, what means/methods should it use to ensure that peace can be preserved between all parties?
3. How does the question of Israel/Palestine affect the wider Middle East situation, e.g. Syria, ISIS?

Country Stances

United States of America: On the issue of Israel/Palestine, the United States has traditionally expressed its support in favour of Israel, to the extent that it has been known to veto any resolution or decision made by the United Nations Security Council that it believes to be against the interests of Israel.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland: Although the United Kingdom once expressed favour in support of Israel in its pro-Zionist Balfour Declaration of 1917, events after have strained relations between the two countries, to the point where the British

government looks favourably on a compromise between both parties after an overwhelming vote held in 2014 in favour of recognizing the Palestinian state.

Russia: Russia has a somewhat ambiguous relationship with Israel. Whilst on one hand, Russia has traditionally been anti-Zionist and has sent aid, weapons and technology to the enemies of Israel, such as Hezbollah and Palestine, it has also increased its food imports from Israel as of 2014. Any decision from Russia will be likely to rest on negotiations with Israel concerning its own interests.

China: Israel was the first foreign country to recognize the legitimacy of the People's Republic of China as the sole government of China. China is also Israel's third largest trading partner globally and has a trade volume of over \$10 billion in 2013, with close commercial, military and strategic links. As a result, China is likely to support Israel in the UNSC.

France: Historically, France has been one of Israel's staunchest allies, with close political and military links. France was also one of Israel's main arms suppliers. However, in recent years, the relationship has been strained, in favour of France's other interests in maintaining its own relations with the Arab world given its own very significant Muslim population. On the other hand, events such as the Charlie Hebdo incident may force France to rethink its policy towards Israel.

Angola: Angola has friendly relations with Israel since Israel supported the Angolan government in the Angolan War of Independence in the 1960s. Recent cooperation between the two countries have led to an agreement signed in August 2012, involving health, agriculture, science and technology. Angola is likely to support Israel in the UNSC.

Chad: Whilst Chad recognizes Israel's legitimacy as a country in the United Nations, it currently holds no diplomatic relations with Israel, something which is partially as a result of its significant Muslim population. Chad is likely to object towards any resolution which does not aid the Palestinians.

Chile: Although Chile is a firm ally of Israel, with significant military and economic links, Chile also advocates for Palestine as a 'free, independent, and sovereign state', and has officially asked Israel and Palestine to peacefully co-exist as neighbouring countries.

Jordan: Since the peace treaty with Israel in 1994, Jordan has full diplomatic relations, and has very significant economic trade ties with Israel. On the other hand, Jordan remains insistent on peace with Palestine as a major part of its foreign policy with Israel, and has on many occasions asked Israel to negotiate with the Palestinian Authority for a peaceful settlement.

Lithuania: Relations between Lithuania and Israel are cordial, with major bi-national trade, particular with regards to tourism. Both nations have concluded an agreement on cooperation

concerning industrial research and experimental development. Though Lithuania has no official policy concerning the question of Israel-Palestine, it would likely support Israel in the UNSC.

Malaysia: Officially, Malaysia refuses to recognize Israel's right to exist as a sovereign nation. This is partially due to domestic radical-Islamic opposition and pressure from foreign nations. However, this does not affect their economic relationship, with Malaysia ranked 15th amongst Israel's major trade partners. As a result, Malaysia is likely to attempt to take Palestine's side in the issue; however, without overly damaging relations with Israel.

New Zealand: New Zealand has been one of Israel's strongest supporters in the world since the 1947 partition plan. Currently, Israel has powerful economic ties with New Zealand, and because of this, New Zealand would likely support Israel in the UNSC.

Nigeria: Nigeria currently is on friendly relations with Israel, which has historically played an important role in Nigeria's development. Given that trade and commerce has been flourishing between the two countries, Nigeria would likely support Israel in the UNSC.

Spain: Although Spain holds diplomatic relations with Israel, its sympathies traditionally lie with the Palestinians, with pro-Arab policies held by previous governments appearing to set a permanent precedent in favour of Palestine. Spain has called for a lasting, just and global solution to the Israeli-Arab conflict.

Venezuela: Initially, Venezuela was supportive of Israel, but under the presidency of Hugo Chávez and his strongly pro-Iranian policy, Venezuela broke off relations with Israel. With his successor Nicolás Maduro appearing to continue Chávez's foreign policy, Venezuela is likely to support Palestine in the UNSC.

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