

# UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

STUDY GUIDE



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## ***Letter from the Dias:***

Honored delegates,

It is with great pleasure that we extend a warm welcome to Mitini MUN, a prestigious conference where the brightest minds come together. We, the members of the Executive Board of the UNSC, are proud to be here and hope to create an experience that each of you will never forget. It is admirable that you have chosen to represent powerful countries and diplomats while tackling the most critical global issues of our time. Only issues that are considered threats to the global order are discussed inside the prestigious UN Security Council, where we zealously uphold the principles of justice, equity, and democracy. However, to protect your vested interests, you must engage in passionate discussion as diplomats and representatives of powerful nations.

Let's make sure that every interaction is governed by the revered halls of diplomacy and professionalism, even though spirited debates may lead to tensions and push boundaries. A thorough preparation is essential to navigate this extraordinary committee. You will represent your country's interests with persuasive arguments, motivating other delegates to achieve greater things. Rest assured that quick thinking will be necessary to respond skillfully to your peers and the discerning eye of the dais on this sophisticated and exacting committee. As your devoted Executive Board, we are prepared to provide advice and constructive criticism as needed. Keep in mind that although this brief diplomatic meeting will only last for a short time, the connections made there could last a lifetime or even an era.

Accept this historical moment, where the passion for justice and the bounds of patriotism meet.

Set out on this journey with passion, upholding the honorable cause of righteousness and extending beyond the narrow confines of national borders.

I wish you the best luck possible, distinguished delegates!

With regards,

Chair and Vice Chair of the UNSC,

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## ***Introduction to the Committee:***

Maintaining global peace and security necessitates the involvement of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), the most potent institution in the world. Established in 1945 in the aftermath of World War II it is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations. The principal objective of the United Nations Security Council is to prevent and counteract threats to international peace and security. In the process of finding peaceful solutions, it acts as a mediator in disputes promoting dialogue and compromise between the involved parties.

When necessary the UN uses council approval to deploy forces to monitor and stabilize unstable regions. Under more severe circumstances the UNSC may impose military or economic sanctions against a nation deemed to be a threat to international peace. The UNSC meets regularly throughout the year and calls extra sessions when necessary to deal with pressing issues. Resolutions are normally used to make decisions that require the approval of nine members and cannot be vetoed by permanent members. Although this special arrangement permits swift action it also raises the possibility of an impasse if strong nations cannot agree. All UN bodies lack the power to adopt resolutions that have binding legal force among their members except for the UN Security Council.

Its authority is broad and includes the ability to establish peacekeeping operations, sanction nations and approve the use of force in dire situations. Its ability to handle challenging international issues and the cooperation of its members are what make the council effective in influencing the nature of global security. Both praise and criticism have been directed towards the UNSC. Its supporters emphasize how it helps keep major conflicts at bay and promotes stability in areas devastated by violence. Its critics cite cases in which the veto power of permanent members has immobilized the council and prevented it from responding to crises in an efficient manner. The UN Security Council is still an essential organization in the international community in spite of these difficulties because it provides a vital forum for discussing threats to international security and advocating for world peace.

## ***Introduction to the Agenda:***

For over a decade, the Syrian civil war has cast a dark shadow on the region. The conflict, sparked by a yearning for democratic reform in 2011, has morphed into a complex web of violence. Millions have been displaced, countless lives lost, and a nation left in ruins. The international community has watched with growing concern as the Syrian people endure unimaginable hardship.

Today, the United Nations Security Council steps forward to address this protracted crisis. We gather with a renewed sense of urgency, recognizing the critical need to resolve the underlying political tensions that have fueled the conflict and pave the way for a lasting peace in Syria.

This agenda item is a call to action. We bring together key stakeholders: representatives from the Syrian government, opposition groups, regional actors with vested interests, and international organizations with a vital humanitarian role. Through constructive dialogue and a shared commitment to peace, we embark on a collaborative effort.

We must delve into the root causes of the conflict, examining political grievances, human rights concerns, and the social and economic disparities that ignited the flames of dissent. Understanding these issues is paramount to building a future where such divisions no longer have fertile ground.

Our aim is to facilitate a political transition process that is inclusive, credible, and transparent. This process must represent the voices of all Syrians and pave the way for a stable and representative government that enjoys the trust of its people. A comprehensive ceasefire is essential. We must work towards a cessation of hostilities that ensures the safety and security of civilians, allowing them to rebuild their lives and communities.

The humanitarian crisis in Syria demands unwavering international cooperation. We must address the dire needs of millions of displaced persons and refugees, while also laying the groundwork for reconstruction efforts to restore vital infrastructure and basic services. The Syrian people have endured immense suffering. They deserve a future free from the suffocating grip of violence and fear. This is a pivotal moment. The decisions made today hold the power to shape the course of Syria for generations to come. Let us work together with an unwavering commitment to diplomacy, justice, and the well-being of the Syrian people. Let us chart a path toward a peaceful and prosperous future for Syria, a future where the echoes of war are replaced by the promise of a new dawn.

## **Overview:**

The Syrian Civil War, which began in 2011 with demonstrations has evolved into a tragic conflict marked by violence and despair. Initially sparked by Syrians protesting against President Bashar al Assads rule and advocating for democracy, the government's harsh crackdown on their calls for change led to a rebellion. Subsequently, a faction comprising defected soldiers and civilians formed the Free Syrian Army to topple the regime.

Following this uprising, a complex web of violence emerged rapidly as various regional powers such as Saudi Arabia and Iran exploited Syria as a battleground to advance their interests by backing opposing factions. The emergence of ISIS added a dimension to the conflict establishing a reign of terror across Syria and Iraq.

In 2015 Russia's significant military intervention proved to be a moment that shifted the balance in favor of the Assad government. Today while pockets of resistance persist the majority of Syria is under the control of the government supported by Russia. This prolonged conflict has left millions displaced from their homes either seeking refuge within Syria or fleeing as refugees to neighboring nations. The Syrian economy lies in ruins with infrastructure severely damaged due to years of fighting.

The effects of the Syrian Civil War go beyond national boundaries. It has caused instability throughout the entire region, a major refugee crisis and the rise of extremism. Global tensions have increased due to the involvement of major powers especially between Russia and the West. The Syrian people are still suffering the most as the war moves into its second decade. The international community must overcome this formidable obstacle in order to put an end to this terrible conflict and create the conditions necessary for Syria to eventually experience peace and stability.

## **Timeline:**

### *A Timeline of the Syrian Civil War*

#### **Seeds of Discontent (2000-2010):**

2000-2010: Long before the flames of war erupted, Syria simmered with discontent. President Bashar al-Assad's authoritarian rule, dominated by the Alawite minority, fostered economic stagnation and political repression, particularly among the Sunni Muslim majority. A severe drought from 2006 to 2010 further exacerbated social and economic tensions.

### ***The Spark Ignites (March-July 2011):***

March 15, 2011: Inspired by the Arab Spring uprisings sweeping the region, peaceful protests erupted in Daraa, a southern Syrian city, demanding democratic reforms and an end to corruption. Security forces brutally crackdown, sparking outrage and igniting nationwide demonstrations.

April-May 2011: Protests escalate across Syria, met with increasingly violent repression. The government makes token concessions, but the momentum for change continues to grow.

July 2011: Defections from the Syrian army mark a turning point. Disgruntled soldiers form the Free Syrian Army (FSA), an armed opposition group committed to ousting Assad. The civil war has begun.

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### ***Escalation and Internationalization (2012-2015):***

- July 2012: The International Committee of the Red Cross declares the situation in Syria a full-blown civil war. The FSA captures swathes of territory, particularly in northern Syria.
- 2012-2013: The conflict intensifies with brutal battles for control of major cities like Aleppo and Damascus. Regional powers enter the fray, with Iran and Hezbollah backing Assad, and Sunni-majority states like Saudi Arabia and Qatar supporting the rebels.
- August 2013: A chemical weapons attack by the Assad regime on the Damascus suburb of Ghouta leaves hundreds dead, drawing international condemnation and near intervention by the US.
- 2014: The rise of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) throws another wrench into the already complex situation. ISIS captures significant territory in both Syria and Iraq, declaring a caliphate and committing horrifying atrocities against civilians.
- September 2015: Russia launches a major military intervention in Syria in support of Assad, marking a significant turning point in the war. Russian airstrikes bolster the regime and significantly impact the battlefield dynamics.

### ***Stalemate and Shifting Alliances (2016-2020):***

- 2016: Backed by Russian airpower and Iranian militias, the Syrian government regains

- **2018-2019:** The war enters a period of stalemate with various factions, including the Assad regime, Kurdish groups, rebels, and ISIS remnants, controlling different territories. Turkey launches military operations against Kurdish forces in northern Syria, further complicating the situation.
- **2020:** The death of ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi weakens the group, but it continues to carry out guerilla attacks. The humanitarian crisis remains dire, with millions of Syrians displaced internally and as refugees.

### ***Continued Conflict and Uncertain Future (2021-Present):***

- 2021: The UN estimates that over 300,000 civilians have been killed in the war, and the true number could be even higher. The infrastructure lies in ruins, and the Syrian economy is shattered.
- 2022: The Assad regime, with Russian support, continues offensives against remaining opposition pockets in Idlib province. Peace talks remain stalled, with no clear path to a lasting political solution.
- May 2023: The Arab League readmits Syria, a move seen by some as a potential step towards normalization of relations, but criticized by others who believe it legitimizes the Assad regime.
- Present: The Syrian Civil War tragically continues with no clear end in sight. Reconstruction efforts are slow and hampered by the ongoing conflict. The humanitarian crisis demands continued international attention, as millions of Syrians face an uncertain future

### ***1.6 Current Status Quo of Events:***

The Syrian Civil War, a conflict that ravaged the nation for over a decade, has reached a state of uneasy stalemate as of May 2024. While the intense fighting that once dominated headlines has subsided, the scars of war remain deeply etched.

On the battlefield, a delicate balance of power has emerged. The Assad regime, with unwavering support from Russia and Iran, has managed to reclaim control over most of Syrian territory. However, pockets of resistance persist. Opposition groups, primarily concentrated in Idlib province, and Kurdish forces in the north hold onto their remaining strongholds. While large-scale offensives are less frequent, occasional skirmishes and flare-ups serve as a grim reminder of the underlying tensions.

The human cost of the war has been immense. Millions of Syrians have been displaced from their homes, seeking refuge within the country or fleeing as refugees to neighboring nations. Rebuilding shattered infrastructure and reviving the ravaged economy are monumental tasks. Many Syrians struggle to meet basic needs, their lives uprooted by the conflict.

Politically, the situation remains deadlocked. Peace talks between the Assad government and opposition groups have yielded little progress. Critical issues like a potential political transition, accountability for war crimes, and the future of Assad's rule remain unresolved. These unresolved issues act as tinderboxes, with the potential to reignite violence at any moment.

The Syrian Civil War has become a focal point for international tensions. Major powers like Russia, Iran, Turkey, and the US continue to exert their influence on the conflict, their agendas often conflicting. The ongoing tension between Russia and the West further hinders international cooperation in finding a sustainable solution.

Despite the fragile stability, the situation in Syria remains precarious. The potential for renewed violence or escalation due to unresolved issues hangs heavy. The path toward a lasting political solution and a stable future for Syria remains unclear. Continued international cooperation and pressure on all parties involved are crucial for achieving peace and reconstruction. The international community also faces the pressing responsibility to address the dire humanitarian crisis, supporting refugees and internally displaced persons as they attempt to rebuild their lives. The Syrian Civil War may be in a state of stalemate, but the journey towards a just and peaceful resolution will be long and arduous.

### ***1.7 Total Loss and Aids Provided:***

The Syrian Civil War, a conflict that has raged for over a decade, has inflicted a devastating toll on the nation. Here's a look at the staggering losses and the immense challenges of rebuilding:

#### **The Unrelenting Grip of Loss:**

- **Loss of Life:** Estimates suggest over 300,000 civilians have been killed in the war, with the true number potentially even higher. Countless combatants have also perished, leaving families shattered and communities mourning. The war has stolen fathers, mothers, sons, and daughters, leaving a gaping hole in the fabric of Syrian society.
- **Displacement and Refugee Crisis:** Millions of Syrians have been displaced from their homes, becoming internally displaced persons (IDPs) or refugees in neighboring countries like Turkey, Jordan, and Lebanon. This mass exodus has placed immense strain on these host nations' resources. Families have been torn apart, with children separated from parents and siblings scattered across different countries. The war has created a generation of lost youth, their education disrupted and their futures uncertain.

#### **Shattered Infrastructure and a Ravaged Economy:**

- Widespread Devastation: Homes, hospitals, schools, and essential infrastructure lie in ruins across Syria. The war has caused widespread damage to power grids, water treatment plants, and transportation networks. Entire cities bear the scars of heavy fighting, with buildings reduced to rubble. Rebuilding this infrastructure is crucial for restoring basic services like clean water, electricity, and healthcare. Without these necessities, Syrians struggle to survive, let alone rebuild their lives.
- Economic Devastation: The Syrian economy is in tatters. Businesses have been destroyed, livelihoods lost, and unemployment is rampant. Factories and agricultural lands lie fallow, unable to contribute to the nation's recovery. The war has disrupted trade and investment, further hindering economic growth. Reconstruction efforts require significant financial investment, and the long-term economic impact of the war will be felt for generations to come.

### **Beyond the Infrastructure: A Broken Society:**

- Loss of Cultural Heritage: Syria, a land with a rich history and ancient cultural heritage, has seen countless historical sites and artifacts destroyed during the conflict. Museums have been looted, libraries burned, and irreplaceable pieces of history lost forever. This cultural destruction erases a vital part of Syrian identity and leaves a gaping hole in the world's cultural tapestry.
- Erosion of Social Fabric: The war has fractured Syrian society along sectarian and political lines. Communities that once co-existed peacefully are now divided by suspicion and mistrust. Rebuilding social cohesion will be a long and difficult process, requiring dialogue, reconciliation efforts, and a commitment to building a more inclusive future.
- Brain Drain: Many educated Syrians have fled the country seeking safety and opportunity elsewhere. This "brain drain" deprives Syria of skilled professionals needed for reconstruction and development. The war has effectively stunted a generation's potential, further hindering the nation's recovery.

### **Aiding Recovery: A Global Effort with Uncertain Outcomes:**

- Humanitarian Assistance: The international community has provided vital humanitarian assistance to Syrians affected by the war. Organizations like the United Nations and NGOs have delivered food, medical supplies, and shelter to millions in need. However, the scale of the crisis continues to outpace available resources, leaving many struggling to meet basic needs.

- Reconstruction Efforts: Reconstruction efforts are underway, but progress is slow due to the ongoing conflict and the sheer scale of destruction. International donors have pledged billions of dollars, but funding remains a major challenge. The allocation and distribution of these funds further complicates the process, with concerns about corruption and ensuring aid reaches those who need it most.

### **Beyond the Numbers:**

The true cost of the Syrian Civil War cannot be quantified solely in lives lost and infrastructure destroyed. The war has inflicted deep social and psychological wounds on the nation. Generations of Syrians have known nothing but violence and displacement. Mental health support is crucial to help them heal from the trauma and rebuild their lives.

The Syrian Civil War serves as a stark reminder of the devastating human cost of conflict. As the nation grapples with rebuilding, the international community's role is critical in providing aid, advocating for peace, and ensuring that the needs of the Syrian people are not forgotten. The path to recovery will be long and arduous, with the hope for a brighter future hanging in the balance.

### ***1.8 Stakeholders and their involvement:***

The Syrian Civil War, a conflict that erupted in 2011, has its roots in a clash between the established Syrian government and a diverse opposition movement. Understanding the motivations and actions of both sides is crucial to grasping the complexities of this devastating war.

#### **The Syrian Government:**

Led by President Bashar al-Assad, the Syrian government faced a wave of protests in 2011 demanding democratic reforms and an end to their authoritarian rule. The Alawite minority, to which Assad belongs, had dominated the Syrian political landscape for decades. Fearing a loss of power, the government responded with brutal force against peaceful protestors. Security forces and loyalist militias cracked down on dissent, leading to widespread bloodshed and a hardening of the opposition's resolve. The Assad regime further resorted to extreme tactics, including the use of chemical weapons against civilians. This brutality drew international condemnation but also secured critical support from Russia, Iran, and Hezbollah, a Lebanese Shia militant group. These allies provided crucial military and financial backing, allowing the government to weather the initial storm of rebellion.

#### **Opposition:**

The Syrian opposition began as a diverse movement fueled by a yearning for democracy. Peaceful protestors took to the streets, demanding change. However, the government's violent response pushed some towards armed resistance. The Free Syrian Army (FSA), a group consisting of defected soldiers and civilians, emerged as a major force challenging the regime's control. The opposition was far from a unified front. Islamist groups like Jabhat al-Nusra (later known as Hayat Tahrir al-Sham) also joined the fight, complicating the movement's goals. Their presence alienated potential international supporters wary of extremist ideology. Regional powers like Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and Qatar initially provided varying levels of backing to the opposition, hoping to weaken Assad and advance their own agendas in the region. However, these external supports dwindled over time due to internal divisions within the opposition and the rise of ISIS, a brutal extremist group that declared a caliphate in parts of Syria and Iraq.

The Syrian Civil War wasn't solely a domestic conflict. Regional powers saw an opportunity to advance their agendas, transforming Syria into a battleground for their rivalries. Here's a look at some key regional stakeholders and their motivations:

**Turkey:** Initially supporting moderate rebels to oust Assad, Turkey later shifted focus to containing Kurdish aspirations for autonomy in northern Syria. They provided training, weapons, and safe havens for moderate rebels before launching military operations against Kurdish forces and establishing buffer zones along the border.

**Saudi Arabia and Qatar:** Both Sunni-majority nations viewed Assad's Alawite-dominated regime as a threat and an ally of their regional rival, Iran. They offered financial and military support to Sunni Islamist rebel factions, but their support dwindled due to internal rivalries and the rise of ISIS.

**Iran:** Iran, viewing Assad's regime as a key regional ally, particularly in maintaining a corridor of influence stretching from Iran to Lebanon, provided unwavering military and financial support to the Syrian government, deploying advisors and militia fighters to bolster Assad's forces.

**Russia:** Seeking to maintain its influence in the Middle East, counter US dominance, and protect its naval base in Tartus, Syria, Russia launched a major military intervention in 2015, turning the tide in favor of the Assad regime. They provided airpower, military support, and advisors to Syrian forces.

**The United States:** The US led a coalition against ISIS but remained hesitant to directly intervene in the conflict between Assad and rebels. Their primary focus was on combating the rise of ISIS and preventing further regional instability.

Kurdish Forces: Primarily the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), carved out semi-autonomous territory in northern Syria with US backing. Their aim was to secure Kurdish self-determination, which clashed with Turkish ambitions in the region.

Israel: Israel, wary of a strengthened Iran on its border and the potential for Iranian weapons transfers to Hezbollah, conducted airstrikes against Iranian targets in Syria. Their primary concern was maintaining their own security and preventing Iran from establishing a strong foothold in Syria.

#### ***1.8.1 Effect of Stakeholders' Involvement:***

- Increased Weaponry: Regional powers like Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Turkey poured weapons into Syria to support their preferred factions. This influx of arms, from small arms to sophisticated anti-tank missiles, significantly increased the lethality of the conflict and prolonged fighting.
- Proxy War Dynamics: The Syrian Civil War became a proxy war, with regional powers like Iran and Russia backing the Assad regime, and Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Turkey supporting the rebels. This dynamic intensified the fighting, as regional powers saw the conflict as a way to weaken their rivals without directly engaging them militarily.

Data on Weaponry:

- A 2018 report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) estimated that Russia delivered over \$13 billion worth of arms to Syria between 2011 and 2017.
- Turkey also emerged as a major arms supplier to Syrian rebel groups, with estimates suggesting billions of dollars in weapons transfers.

Hindering Peace Efforts:

- Competing Interests: The regional stakeholders had vastly different goals for Syria's future. While some, like Iran, sought to maintain the Assad regime, others, like Saudi Arabia, desired a regime change. This made it difficult to find common ground for peace talks and diplomatic solutions.
- External Leverage: Regional powers used their military and financial support as leverage to influence the actions of the Syrian government and opposition groups, often dictating their demands and hindering efforts to forge a unified opposition front.

## Case Study: The Rise and Fall of Moderate Rebels:

- Initially, moderate rebel groups like the Free Syrian Army (FSA) received backing from regional powers like Turkey and Qatar. However, these supporters prioritized weakening the Assad regime over establishing a truly democratic Syria. This shift in focus, combined with the rise of extremist groups like ISIS, led to a decline in support for moderate rebels. Many moderate fighters defected to extremist groups, or were sidelined as the conflict became more radicalized.

### Shifting Alliances:

- The regional landscape in the Syrian Civil War was not static. As the conflict progressed, alliances shifted to accommodate changing circumstances. For example, the US initially supported moderate rebels but later focused on combating the rise of ISIS. Additionally, tensions between Turkey and Kurdish forces, despite their shared opposition to Assad, led to clashes between them, further complicating the battlefield.

### Examples of Shifting Alliances:

- In 2017, the US, seeking to avoid a direct confrontation with Russia, scaled back its support for Syrian rebels, prioritizing the fight against ISIS.
- Turkey, initially backing moderate rebels, shifted its focus towards containing Kurdish aspirations for autonomy in northern Syria, leading to clashes with US-backed Kurdish forces.

### ***1.8.2 Consequences:***

The Syrian Civil War, fueled by the competing interests of regional powers, has inflicted a devastating toll on the nation. Here's a deeper look at the human cost, widespread destruction, and long-term economic repercussions of this conflict:

#### **Loss of Life and a Fractured Society:**

- **Staggering Human Cost:** Over 300,000 civilians have perished in the war, with the true number potentially much higher. Countless combatants have also lost their lives, leaving a gaping hole in Syrian society. Orphaned children, widowed spouses, and grieving families bear the brunt of this immense loss.
- **Generational Trauma:** The war has stolen the childhood innocence of millions of Syrian children. Exposed to violence and displacement, they grapple with psychological trauma that will have long-term consequences.
- **Fragmentation and Sectarian Divisions:** The conflict has exacerbated existing sectarian and ethnic tensions. Communities that once co-existed peacefully are now divided by suspicion and mistrust. Rebuilding a cohesive society requires a long and arduous process of reconciliation and dialogue.

#### **Widespread Destruction and a Crippled Infrastructure:**

- **Reduced to Rubble:** Homes, hospitals, schools, and essential infrastructure lie in ruins across Syria. Entire cities bear the scars of heavy fighting, with buildings destroyed by shelling and airstrikes. The lack of basic necessities like clean water, electricity, and healthcare threatens the very survival of the Syrian people.
- **Disrupted Transportation Networks:** Bridges, roads, and transportation systems have been severely damaged, hindering the flow of vital supplies and hampering efforts to reach people in need.
- **Environmental Damage:** The war has also inflicted damage on the environment. Oil spills, damage to water treatment facilities, and the destruction of natural habitats contribute to long-term environmental problems.

#### **Economic Devastation and a Bleak Future:**

- **Shattered Economy:** Businesses have been destroyed, livelihoods lost, and unemployment is rampant. The Syrian economy is in tatters, with vital industries like agriculture and tourism severely disrupted.
- **Brain Drain:** Educated Syrians have fled the conflict, depriving the nation of skilled professionals needed for reconstruction and development. This "brain drain" creates a long-term obstacle to economic recovery.

## Beyond the Numbers:

The devastating consequences of the Syrian Civil War extend far beyond statistics and economic indicators. The war has inflicted a deep psychological toll on the Syrian people. Millions suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, and depression. Rebuilding the mental health infrastructure is crucial to support the psychological well-being of the nation and foster a sense of hope for the future.

A generation of Syrian youth has known nothing but violence and displacement. Their education has been disrupted, and their opportunities for a secure and prosperous future are uncertain. Addressing these challenges requires a multifaceted approach that focuses on physical reconstruction, mental health support, and education initiatives to equip the younger generation with the skills needed to rebuild their lives and their nation.

The Syrian Civil War serves as a stark reminder of the devastating consequences of unchecked regional rivalries. As the nation grapples with the long road to recovery, the international community must work together to ensure that the needs of the Syrian people are met and that a lasting peace is finally achieved.

## **1.9 Negotiations and Treaties:**

The Syrian Civil War, a conflict that has raged for over a decade, has seen numerous attempts to find a peaceful resolution. Here's a breakdown of some key treaties and negotiations, highlighting their limitations and the challenges that remain:

### **Early Efforts (2011-2012):**

- **Arab League Initiatives (2011):** In late 2011, the Arab League proposed a peace plan that called for an end to violence and political reforms. However, the Assad regime's refusal to step down and continued violence on the ground rendered these efforts unsuccessful.
- **Kofi Annan Plan (2012):** Former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan brokered a ceasefire agreement in April 2012, but the deal quickly collapsed due to ongoing government attacks on opposition strongholds.

### **Shifting Strategies (2013-2016):**

- **Geneva I and II Conferences (2014):** Held in Geneva, Switzerland, these conferences aimed to bring together Syrian government and opposition representatives. However, the talks failed to achieve any significant breakthroughs due to deep-seated disagreements over Assad's future and the structure of a transitional government.
- **Moscow Talks (2015-2016):** Russia, a key ally of Assad, hosted talks involving the Syrian government and some opposition groups. These talks focused primarily on establishing local ceasefires and humanitarian access to besieged areas.

### **The Rise of Diplomacy (2016-Present):**

- **Astana Process (2017-Present):** Initiated by Russia, Iran, and Turkey, the Astana Process aimed to complement the UN-led Geneva process by focusing on de-escalation zones and confidence-building measures. This process has achieved some success in reducing violence in specific areas but hasn't addressed the core political issues.
- **Sochi Congress (2018):** Held in Russia, this congress aimed to bring together Syrian factions for discussions on a post-war constitution. However, the legitimacy of the Syrian opposition groups invited was contested, casting doubt on the outcome.
- **Idlib Agreement (2018):** A deal brokered by Russia and Turkey aimed to establish a demilitarized zone in the Idlib province, a stronghold of rebel groups. However, violations and sporadic fighting continue to plague the region.

**Syrian Constitutional Committee (2019-Present):** Formed under the auspices of the UN, this committee is tasked with drafting a new Syrian constitution. Progress has been slow, hampered by disagreements on the composition of the committee and the power-sharing structure of a future Syrian government.

## **2.0 Questions the council must address:**

How can the Security Council facilitate a meaningful dialogue between the Syrian government and opposition groups, especially regarding President Assad's future and a potential transitional government?

- 1. Inclusive Peace:** How can the Council ensure all Syrian communities and stakeholders, including women and minorities, have a voice in the peace process?
- 2. Accountability:** What mechanisms can be established to hold all parties accountable for war crimes committed during the conflict, ensuring justice for victims?
- 3. Regional Interference:** How can the Security Council encourage regional powers with vested interests to prioritize peace and stability in Syria, and cease actions undermining negotiations?
- 4. Safe Return and Reconstruction:** What steps can be taken to facilitate the safe return of refugees and internally displaced persons, and the reconstruction of war-torn infrastructure?
- 5. Humanitarian Access:** How can the Council guarantee unhindered humanitarian access to all parts of Syria, particularly besieged areas, to deliver life-saving aid to civilians?
- 6. Mental Health Crisis:** How can the Security Council address the mental health crisis triggered by the war and ensure access to psychosocial support for the Syrian people?
- 7. Education for All:** How can the Council support the education of Syrian children who have lost years of schooling due to displacement and conflict?
- 8. Investigation Mechanisms:** What kind of mechanisms can be established for a credible and impartial investigation into war crimes committed by all parties in the conflict?
- 9. Accountability for Leaders:** How can the Security Council ensure accountability for perpetrators of war crimes, including high-level officials, to deter future human rights abuses?
- 10. Transitional Justice:** How can the Council support transitional justice mechanisms to promote healing, reconciliation, and a sense of closure for victims of the conflict?
- 11. Resource Mobilization:** How can the Security Council mobilize international resources for the reconstruction of war-torn Syrian infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, and housing?
- 12. Economic Recovery:** How can the Council address the economic devastation caused by the war and create conditions for sustainable economic recovery in Syria?
- 13. Fair Distribution:** How can the Security Council ensure the fair distribution of resources and prevent corruption during the reconstruction process?
- 14. Disarmament and Reintegration:** How can the Security Council facilitate the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) of armed groups in Syria to prevent a resurgence of violence?

- How can the Security Council address the threat posed by remaining jihadist groups in Syria and prevent them from destabilizing the region?
- How can the Security Council ensure the long-term security of Syria and prevent the conflict from spilling over into neighboring countries?
- How can the Security Council foster greater cooperation among regional and international actors with a stake in the conflict, such as Russia, Iran, Turkey, the US, and the EU?
- How can the Security Council encourage regional powers to prioritize a peaceful resolution over their own strategic interests in Syria?
- What role can neighboring countries play in facilitating a political solution and supporting the reconstruction of Syria?

## ***2.1 Possible solutions:***

1. Ceasefire: Both sides: American-backed rebels and the Russian-backed Syrian army need to sign a long-lasting ceasefire agreement, without any compromises. A ceasefire agreement would finally allow Syrian civilians who have been facing heavy bombings since the war began to recover and recuperate.
2. Anti-terrorism campaigns under the UN flag: Nations will be unable to intrude on Syria's national interests in the fight against terror. Backing from an internationally legitimate organ like the UN would likely prompt nations to take the initiative seriously. This would also motivate non-aligned military parties like India who have till now been reluctant to join any of the international coalitions to assume an active role.
3. Dismantling any kind of arsenal of WMDs present in Syria: Reports claimed that the Syrian rebels used chemical weapons against the Syrian civilians. To prevent any such happenings in the future, a proper UN investigation team must be set up which is given full freedom to carry out its analysis and report where the arsenals of chemical weapons lie to rid Syria of them.
4. Power-sharing agreement: An agreement on how power will be shared in a future Syrian government is likely necessary for measures to rebuild infrastructure and the economy.
5. Addressing humanitarian crisis: Millions of Syrians are displaced or living with limited access to basic necessities. Humanitarian aid is essential to allow Syrian civilians and refugees to recover their homes and re-establish themselves as a functioning nation, distant from any war and conflict.
6. Accounting for all losses: Two of the UN's top aid officials focused on the uncovered suffering the Syrian people have faced since the inception of the war, including loss of life, livelihood, home, and hope. "Syria remains one of the world's most complex humanitarian and protection emergencies with 15.3 million people across the country assessed to be in need of humanitarian assistance this year - the highest number of people in need since the onset of the conflict."

7. The aftermath: After the Syrian crisis has been resolved, a free and fair referendum under UN supervision without any external intervention can be held. Syrians should be given an opportunity to choose their leader. The will and the rights of the civilians must be allowed to prosper.

8. Addressing child health and rights: The ongoing war and the earthquakes have left millions of young Syrians at heightened risk of malnutrition, the UN Children's Fund. Close to 13,000 boys and girls have been killed since the conflict began. UNICEF estimated that over 609,000 Syrian children under the age of five are stunted, and the number of young children suffering from severe acute malnutrition has also increased by nearly 50 percent from 2021 to 2022 which drives this to be an increasingly crucial problem to be solved.

## ***2.2 Paperwork Samples:***

### ***2.2.1 Position Paper Sample:***

#### *Basic Requirements :*

Committee name, agenda, allocation, school name, and delegate names must be present.

1. The delegation's coat of arms must be included.
2. The following format must be followed:
  - a. Statement of Problem
  - b. Foreign Policy
  - c. Solutions
  - d. Conclusion
  - e. Citations
3. The font used must be New Times Roman with font size 11.
4. Citations are mandatory and they must be done in MLA8 Format. (A 3rd-party website can be used.)
5. The position paper should be at least 2 pages long and must prioritize solutions.

## **Sample Position Paper**

Committee: Historic Security Council, 1991

Agenda: Indonesian invasion of East Timor

Allocation: Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

School: - ABC School

Delegate(s): Mohit Shrestha

### **STATEMENT OF PROBLEM:**

in complete political power and unison, East Timor, or Timor-Leste was declared to be an independent state on 28th November 1975. It was invaded 9 days later by the Republic of Indonesia on 7th December 1975 as an extensive military operation; “Operation Lotus” where simultaneous naval attacks and land attacks were launched. Its main justification was the claim of FRETILIN to be part of anti-communist and anti-colonialism actions which the USSR believes to be planned propaganda, fallacious, and largely questionable.

USSR intelligence suggests that in the meeting between President Ford and President Suharto, the US president gave a “go-ahead” for Operation Lotus. The United States, President Suharto’s main backer in this conflict, supplied 90 percent of Indonesia’s arms. Moreover, the Soviet Union believes that the Ford administration wasn’t worried whether US weapons would be used defensively but instead cared more about whether the act would be viewed as such by the world.

Australian interests were also vested in the island of East Timor for the acquisition of natural gas and oil reserves that lay in the Timor Sea with the main focus on “the greater sunrise fields” estimated to be worth at least \$40 billion by Soviet estimates. The USSR believes the Commonwealth of Australia suppressed media coverage (domestic and international). These nations acted selfishly to one-sidedly dominate East Timor with no consideration of right or wrong simply because they wanted a capitalistic state that would pertain to the incentives of the Western bloc in East Asia and Oceania.

### **\*FOREIGN POLICY:**

The USSR itself has remained neutral for the last 15 years due to the circumstances of the Cold War. Even though The USSR has always pursued national independence and humanitarian aid internationally, the USSR has not provided any military, economic, or diplomatic aid to the East Timorese resistance movement against Indonesia. Firstly, this is due to the diplomatic pressure and the strategic geo-political relations that prompted the nation to prioritize maintaining good relations with China, Indonesia, and the US over intervening in East Timor to prevent further escalations like the Cuban missile crisis). Secondly, economic stagnation and political turmoil are troubling the Union making us unable to extend our friendly helping hands to the victimized Timor.