

JBCN Chembur Middle School Model United Nations 2026
Delegate Study Guide

Disarmament and International Security Committee

Agenda: Assessing the Implications of
the Sudanese Civil War

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LETTER FROM THE EB

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the Executive Board, it is our honor and pleasure to welcome you to the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC).

DISEC is not just about guns, weapons and nukes it is about choices. Choices that decide whether conflicts are escalated or resolved, if lives are protected or lost and whether our future is built on co-operation or fear.

Many of you may be participating in DISEC, or even an MUN for the first time. We as the executive board promise to guide you to the path to more successful MUNS and becoming a better delegate. Whether it is your 1st time or 10th time, be rest assured that you belong here.

What sets delegates apart is not prior experience but your preparation, curiosity and the courage to engage in the committee. As young delegates, you will be tasked with addressing some of the most complex problems this globe faces. Do not hesitate to speak, do not fear making mistakes. The strongest delegates are not those who arrive knowing everything, they are the ones who are willing to learn, adapt and grow throughout the committee. The executive board is here to support you, to challenge your thinking, to refine your diplomacy and help you leave the committee better and more confident than when u entered.

We look forward to witnessing thoughtful debates and innovative solutions.

Welcome to DISEC.

Warm Regards,

Chair, Orhan Khan

Co-Chair, Dhriyaan Rajesh.

INTRODUCTION TO DISEC

The Disarmament and International Security Committee is the 1st of the UNGA. It is responsible for dealing with issues related to global peace and international security.

DISEC focuses on preventing conflict by addressing the root causes, which includes the proliferation of nuclear weapons, arms control, terrorism, cyber threats and emerging military technologies. Unlike the United Nations Security Council, DISEC cannot authorise military action or impose sanctions. It can also not override state sovereignty or enforce decisions or resolutions.

As a delegate of DISEC, you are expected to properly represent your country's security interests, while engaging in lobbying. Keep in mind your foreign policy.

AGENDA OVERVIEW

The ongoing civil war in Sudan represents one of the most severe threats to regional and international security in recent years, what began as a power struggle between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has evolved into a nationwide conflict, resulting in the deaths of thousands of people. The conflict has resulted in mass displacement and cross-border refugee flows, which has severely disrupted food access and essential services. This has additionally intensified ethnic violence, especially in places like Darfur. At the same time, the extensive use of heavy weaponry in urban and rural areas, and the constant proliferation of weapons has raised several concerns in Sudan. There have been persistent reports of attacks on civilians sexual violence and the obstruction of humanitarian access.

Beyond their borders, the Sudanese civil war has disrupted neighbouring regions through severe arms trafficking and population movements. The Sudanese Civil war is not only a domestic crisis but a significant threat to regional and international peace and security. In Sudan approximately 25 million individuals are in need of humanitarian assistance. Tens of thousands of people have been killed while the collapse of healthcare systems with over 70% of medical facilities non functional in conflict affected areas, has left millions without access to basic services.

KEY TERMS

1. Sudan – A country in Africa facing a civil war.
2. Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) – Sudan’s official army.
3. Rapid Support Forces (RSF) – A powerful armed group fighting the army.
4. Civil War – Fighting within a country.
5. Internal Conflict – War inside a state, not between countries.
6. Paramilitary Group – An armed force that is not the regular army.
7. Civilians – People who are not soldiers.
8. Displacement – People forced to leave their homes.
9. Refugees – People who flee to another country for safety.
10. International Humanitarian Law (IHL) – Rules to protect civilians during war.
11. Arms Proliferation – Weapons spreading to many groups.
12. State Collapse – When a government stops functioning properly.
13. Humanitarian Crisis – Large-scale suffering due to conflict.
14. Ceasefire – An agreement to stop fighting.
15. Regional Instability – Conflict affecting nearby countries.

ORIGIN AND CURRENT CONFLICT

The roots of the conflict in Sudan lie in decades of military rule, weak civilian governance and the used of armed groups/militias to maintain power. In the early 2000's the Sudanese government relied on militias to suppress rebellions, especially in Darfur, which lead to the rise of a powerful paramilitary force. Over time these militias became stronger and more independent. After the removal of former president Omar al-Bashir in 2019, Sudan entered a fragile transition in which the military retained significant control.

In April of 2023 fighting broke out between the SAF and RSF due to numerous disagreements over leadership, military aggression and power. This quickly escalated across the country especially in Khartoum and Darfur, leading to widespread violence, civilian deaths and mass displacement. What originally began as a power struggle between two armed forces has now turned into a nationwide civil war with serious humanitarian consequences.

TIMELINE

1955–1972 - First Civil War – Fighting between north and south over power and exclusion.

1972 -Addis Ababa Agreement – Gave the south limited autonomy and paused conflict.

1983–2005- Second Civil War – War restarted after autonomy was removed and power was centralised.

2003 - Darfur Conflict – Government-backed militias fought rebels, causing mass civilian violence.

2011 - South Sudan Independence – South Sudan became a separate country after a referendum.

2019 - Fall of al-Bashir – Protests removed Sudan's long-time military ruler.

2021 - Military Coup – Army took back control, weakening civilian rule.

2023-Present | Current Civil War – Sudanese Armed Forces and Rapid Support Forces began nationwide fighting.

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER(QARMA)

1. How can a long-lasting ceasefire between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) be achieved?
2. What rewards or pressures can be used to encourage both sides to join peace talks?
3. What role should the United Nations and regional groups play in helping both sides negotiate peace?
4. How can the international community follow the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principle to protect civilians in Sudan?
5. What steps can be taken to track and prevent war crimes and human rights abuses?
6. How can civilians be protected from violence, especially in cities and conflict zones?

7. What can be done to ensure refugees and displaced people are safe and receive basic services?
8. Should peacekeeping forces be sent to Sudan, and what limits should be placed on their actions?
9. How can the flow of weapons into Sudan be reduced?
10. How can arms embargoes and sanctions be enforced more effectively?
11. Should foreign groups or companies supplying weapons be held responsible, and how?
12. What plans can help fighters disarm, leave armed groups, and return to civilian life (DDR)?
13. How can humanitarian aid reach civilians without being blocked by armed groups?
14. How can Sudan rebuild its security systems after the conflict to prevent future violence?
15. What long-term solutions can address the root causes of conflict in Sudan?
16. How can the international community continue supporting Sudan even after the fighting ends?

KEY ACTORS IN THE SUDANESE CIVIL WAR

Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF)

The Sudanese Armed Forces (also known as SAF) are Sudan's official national military, and have been historically dominating the country's political landscape for years. The SAF controls substantial parts of eastern and northern Sudan. Its leadership seeks to maintain territorial integrity and maintain centralized authority. However, decades of military rule and political interference have exhausted civilian trust in the SAF.

Rapid Support Forces (RSF)

The Rapid Support Forces (RSF) is an influential paramilitary group that has evolved from government-backed militias used during the Darfur conflict. Over time, the RSF developed independent command structures, financial networks and territorial influence. The group currently controls significant areas in western Sudan and parts of Khartoum. The RSF's autonomy and military strength have made it a direct rival to the SAF.

Civilian Groups and Resistance Committees

Grassroots civilian organizations, professional unions and youth-led resistance committees played a crucial role in opposing military rule after 2019. These groups continue to demand democratic governance and civilian leadership but are largely excluded from formal peace negotiations, weakening the legitimacy of political settlements.

Humanitarian Organizations

International humanitarian agencies such as the United Nations, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) provide life-saving aid. Their operations are frequently obstructed by insecurity, access restrictions and attacks on aid workers.

ROLE OF REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACTORS

African Union (AU)

The African Union is an important diplomatic player which has been at the forefront in the restoration of the peace and constitution in the Sudan. It suspended Sudan in its activities when the conflict started and has since called for an immediate ceasefire. During the conflict, the African Union has emphasized the importance of “African lead solutions to African problems.”

The AU has encouraged mediation frameworks, as well as other initiatives to co-coordinate with other regional blocs. However, it has been weakened by a lack of effective powers of enforcement as well as a divergent decision among its members on a common policy on sanctions or intervention as policy tools within the AU. This is to say that despite its importance as a diplomacy platform, it is to a great extent weakened by a lack of effectiveness of its efforts, which are otherwise important.

Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)

It is an interregional organization of Eastern African countries, playing the major role in bringing the warring groups of Sudan together in hope for a peaceful settlement of the Sudan crisis. IGAD has served as a platform for negotiations between the groups, going further than that by suggesting ways of implementing a cease-fire agreement between the warring groups of Sudan. The warring groups may include military groups and civil groups.

However, there are still some challenges faced by IGAD. This is because, on one side, the Sudan Armed Forces and RSF have been consistently breaching the ceasefires, whereas, on the other side, they have not demonstrated a high level of flexibility during the negotiations. Moreover, a lack of trust among some member states of IGAD, in IGAD as a mediator during a conflict, has been created. IGAD remains an important regional actor in establishing intervention in Sudan, as it is closer to the regional radius.

United Nations

There are several functions that the United Nations performs within the republic of Sudan. United Nations has some agencies that display intentions of intervening in the supply of aid to the innocent people who number in their millions within the said region. The interventions include food and medical care. Other than this, there are agencies that protect the Normal Peoples of Sudan in cases involving war crimes.

On the political side, there are encouraging measures on mediation by the UN, and there is co-operation between UN and this regional actor. However, despite the fact that there are powers of using force by means of sanction, peacekeeping troops, and bans on use of weapons on the UN Security Council, some divided memberships in UN exist.

In the General Assembly, the role of DISEC is quite significant because it deals with the topic of weapon proliferation as well as the development of disarmament proposals. Although the decision made by DISEC is not binding, the resolutions adopted by this body are responsible for creating global consensus on certain topics.

Neighbouring States

The immediate neighbors of Sudan, the conflict affects and, at the same time shapes the regional dynamics one way or another.

Cairo thus has strong historic and security links with the Sudanese military and is worried about instability on its southern border. It is a state stability-first country that has largely supported formal military institutions.

Chad has received large numbers of refugees fleeing violence in Darfur. The fighting also threatens to spill over into neighbors and inflame cross-border ethnic tensions, destabilizing parts of an already fragile region.

The economy of South Sudan needs stability in Sudan, as most of the critical oil export routes rely on Sudan. Continued fighting could shatter energy infrastructure and peace processes within South Sudan.

Border security and refugees affect Ethiopia, especially areas where there has been internal conflict. The more regional instability there is, the more complicated are the security challenges facing Ethiopia.

These states also often balance humanitarian considerations with national security interests, where the weight of national interest is usually dictating their positions and levels of involvement in the mediation effort.

HUMANITARIAN IMPACT OF THE CONFLICT

Displacement and Refugee Crisis

This conflict has resulted in the displacement of millions of citizens inside the boundaries of Sudan while millions of others are forced to seek refuge in countries like Chad, South Sudan, Egypt, and Ethiopia. Displaced persons are mainly living in packed refugee camps without access to clean water, toilets, and shelter.

The countries hosting these refugees, which perhaps were already facing economic and political instabilities, are trying to cope with the demands of the refugees as well. The unexpected displacement currents mean that there is a larger number of people competing for necessities, threats along the boundaries due to this displacement, and a possibility of stability in the region. The refugees are left with fewer options for education, employment, and health.

Food and Risk of Famine

The conflict has severely disrupted Sudan's agricultural sector, which employs a significant portion of the population. Fighting in rural areas has prevented farmers from planting or harvesting crops, while the destruction of infrastructure has disrupted food supply chains. Markets have collapsed in several regions, leading to extreme food shortages and rising prices.

Armed groups have also blocked humanitarian food deliveries, using starvation as a tactic of war in some areas. As a result, millions of people face acute food insecurity, with children and the elderly at the highest risk of malnutrition and starvation. Prolonged hunger threatens long-term developmental damage and increases the likelihood of disease outbreaks.

Collapse of the Healthcare System

The medical sectors in Sudan have been greatly affected by the conflict as well. Most of the country's hospitals and clinics have been affected, either by being looted or being destroyed. Regardless of whether they have been destroyed or not, these medical facilities have either been looted or have been forced to surrender to rebel groups. Moreover, in most conflict zones, less than 70% of medical facilities have been shut down.

Healthcare providers fear intimidation and physical violence, as well as the absence of medicines and health facilities. This leads to the halt in the usual health services such as immunization and the treatment of chronic illnesses and mother health. Lack of healthcare access also results in the spread of contagious diseases.

Impact on Women & Children

Women and children are also greatly represented in the humanitarian response. Cases of sexual and gender-based violence in the form of rape and forced marriage have been recorded in some areas of Darfur. In most of these cases, the women involved in conflict do not have access to health care and psychological services.

The children get massive shocks from their schooling, with their thousand subordinate schools being closed down and destroyed right before their very eyes. The children also suffer traumas, displacement, and conscription by armed groups.

The disruption in education and stability presages a "lost generation" with pessimistic views on life. Children, in some areas, have had their thousand subordinate schools closed down and destroyed right before their very eyes while they had been left.

International Law and Accountability

International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

Rules of International Humanitarian Law regulate the parties' behavior during an armed conflict, having as a target the safeguarding of civilians and persons who no longer take part in the conflict. Based on the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols, a distinction between civilians and combatants must be made by all parties involved in the conflict in Sudan, including the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

IHL prohibits:

- Direct or indiscriminate attack on civilians
- Attacks on hospitals, schools, and humanitarian facilities
- Employment of starvation of civilians as a means of war
- Attacking humanitarian workers and relief convoys

There have been several reports of these being violated, including the firing at populated neighborhoods, the occupation of medical facilities by armed groups and their interference with the passage of humanitarian aid. Such violations not only occur under IHL, but they can also affect peace and reconciliation efforts.

War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity

Many of such crimes can be considered war crimes and crimes against humanity. These crimes include large-scale killings, civilian attacks, sexual assaults, displacement, as well as the use of child soldiers. Such crimes have been perpetrated over the years due to the civil wars being experienced in the countries.

Crimes against humanity are distinguished by their comprehensiveness and do not need a situation of an armed conflict. OH

Indications of the possibility of crimes against humanity taking place, as evidenced by the case of Darfur, also come directly from countries where the conflict was raged. One of the most prominent institutions utilized to ensure accountability is the International

Criminal Court. Sudan had previously been investigated by the International Criminal Court due to previous conflicts; however, it is not entirely cooperative as a country, along with others, relative to ensuring that this order is upheld, particularly concerning the arrest of culprits during conflict.

Responsibility to Protect (R2P)

Responsibility to Protect – an international obligation of states in respect of the protection of their population against the threat of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity. If states fail in this respect, then the international community should take responsibility for taking action in this matter.

In the case of Sudan, the extent of harm caused to civilians is a serious matter related to the application of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P). But the differences of opinion among international communities and the matter of state sovereignty have impeded the intervention of the international community.

Evidence Collection and Documentation

In order for effective accountability to take place, there is a need for credible evidence to be collected. This has not been the case for Sudan because of the conflict as well as the lack of security resulting from the conflict.

Testimony can be deterred by threats, fear of retaliation, and lack of legal protection for witnesses and survivors. Destruction of documents, mass graves, and digital blackouts can also hinder documentation.

Nevertheless, despite all this, international efforts are being employed utilizing satellite images and witness testimony as well as open-source research with a view to preserving evidence that could be useful in trials that are yet to come.

