



## Security Council Background Guide 2019

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# NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2019 National Model United Nations Conference in Erfurt, Germany (NMUN • Germany)! We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, the Security Council (SC). This year's staff is: Director Marielisa Figuera Saggese and Assistant Director Alexandra Bogdasarow. Marielisa has a B.A. in International Relations and Latin American Studies from the University of Texas, Austin, US. She currently works for an international luxury housing agency in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Alexandra has a B.A. in Political Science and Chinese Studies and started a M.A. in European and East Asian Governance at the University of Trier. She currently works as research assistant at the Confucius-Institute in Trier.

The topics under discussion for the Security Council are:

- I. The Situation in South Sudan
- II. Countering Violent Extremism

As one of the six main organs of the United Nations, the Security Council is mandated with the charge of maintaining international peace and security. The Security Council is made up of 15 Member States with 5 permanent members and 10 rotating members elected for 2 year memberships. It is the only body within the UN system to hold the powers of passing legally binding resolutions, the ability to impose sanctions, and deploy, or mandate the deployment of, UN Peacekeeping troops and missions. To accurately simulate the Security Council, delegates should strive to emulate the Security Council's often consensus-based decision making processes and take heed of its ultimate charge, to maintain and restore peace in the face of threats to international peace and security.

This Background Guide serves as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We encourage you to conduct additional research, explore your Member State's policies in-depth, and examine the policies of other Member States to improve your ability to negotiate and reach consensus. In preparation for the conference, each delegation will use their research to draft and submit a [position paper](#). Guidelines are available in the [NMUN Position Paper Guide](#).

The [NMUN website](#) has many additional resources, including two that are essential both in preparation for the conference and as a resource during the conference. They are:

1. The [NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide](#), which explains each step in the delegate process, from pre-Conference research to the committee debate and resolution drafting processes. Please take note of the information on plagiarism, and the prohibition on pre-written working papers and resolutions. Delegates should not discuss the topics or agenda with other members of their committee until the first committee session.
2. The [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#), which includes the long and short form of the rules as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure.

In addition, please review the mandatory [NMUN Conduct Expectations](#) on the NMUN website. They include the conference dress code and other expectations of all attendees. We want to emphasize that any instances of sexual harassment or discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated. If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee, please contact the Deputy Secretary-General Marleen Schreier at [dsg.germany@nmun.org](mailto:dsg.germany@nmun.org).

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the conference!

Sincerely,

Marielisa Figuera Saggese, Director  
Alexandra Bogdasarow, Assistant Director

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## Committee Overview

### Introduction

After the devastating effects of the two World Wars, the international community established the United Nations (UN) as an intergovernmental organization with the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security, creating the conditions conducive to economic and social development, and advancing universal respect for human rights.<sup>1</sup> The Security Council was established as one of its six principal organs and was given the primary responsibility of preserving international peace and security.<sup>2</sup>

The Security Council held its first session on 17 January 1946 at Church House in London.<sup>3</sup> After its first meeting, the Council relocated to its permanent residence at the UN Headquarters in New York City.<sup>4</sup> At that time, five permanent members and six non-permanent members comprised the membership of the Council.<sup>5</sup> However, over subsequent years, discussions regarding the structure of the Council began to take place.<sup>6</sup> In 1965, the number of non-permanent members increased to 10, and, although membership has not changed since then, discussions regarding a change in configuration take place frequently.<sup>7</sup> The Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) works to support reform initiatives from a western perspective and is actively in favor of restructuring the Security Council.<sup>8</sup> Groups like CFR have little to no influence on UN bodies in terms of advocating for reform, rather they spend time and resources developing what new systems could look like in hopes of redesigning methods for achieving peace and security.<sup>9</sup>

Traditionally, the Security Council discusses issues related to peacekeeping missions, political processes, the protection of human rights, disarmament, and humanitarian crises.<sup>10</sup> However, with the adoption of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* by the UN General Assembly in 2015, the Security Council began to increasingly focus on the intersection between sustainability and peace and security.<sup>11</sup> Some important cross-cutting issues the Council is currently addressing include human rights and the protection of civilians for conflict prevention and sustainable development; Women, Peace and Security; and the prevention of conflict and sustaining peace.<sup>12</sup> At a meeting on 17 November 2015, members of the Security Council highlighted that the goals outlined in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, particularly Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 on achieving peaceful and inclusive societies, cannot be attained without the promotion of peace and security.<sup>13</sup>

### Governance, Structure, and Membership

The Security Council is the only UN body that has the power to adopt legally binding resolutions, which places an obligation on Member States to accept and carry out the Council's decisions under Article 25 of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945).<sup>14</sup> The Security Council also has a variety of other tools to

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<sup>1</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

<sup>2</sup> UN Security Council, *What is the Security Council?*, 2018.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> Hanhimäki, *The United Nations: A Very Short Introduction*, 2008, p. 32.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> Bourantonis, *The History and Politics of UN Security Council Reform*, 2005, p. 10.

<sup>8</sup> Council on Foreign Relations, *The UN Security Council*, 2018.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>10</sup> Council on Foreign Relations, *CFR Backgrounders: The UN Security Council*, 2015; Encyclopedia Britannica, *United Nations Security Council*, 2014.

<sup>11</sup> UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015; UN DPA, *Politically Speaking, Sustaining peace, Conflict Prevention, Human Rights and Sustainable Development High on Agenda for New Security Council Members*, 2018.

<sup>12</sup> UN DPA, *Politically Speaking, Sustaining Peace, Conflict Prevention, Human Rights and Sustainable Development High on Agenda for New Security Council Members*, 2018.

<sup>13</sup> Lebeda, *UN Security Council Discusses Links with 2030 Agenda, SDG Knowledge Hub*, 2015.

<sup>14</sup> UN Security Council, *What is the Security Council?*, 2018; *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

address issues on its agenda.<sup>15</sup> For example, the President of the Security Council may issue press statements or presidential statements to communicate the Council's position.<sup>16</sup> Although these are not legally binding, such statements are used to bring attention to important issues and to recommend solutions to ongoing conflicts.<sup>17</sup>

The Security Council is comprised of five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members.<sup>18</sup> The five permanent members of the Security Council are: China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, often colloquially referred to as the "P5."<sup>19</sup> Every year, the General Assembly elects five of the 10 non-permanent members for a two-year term.<sup>20</sup> Elections for non-permanent seats on the Council can be competitive, with states expressing interest and campaigning years in advance.<sup>21</sup> States elected to serve on the Security Council are expected to represent the interests of their region; they usually have an influence at the international level and demonstrate leadership in specific areas of interest to their foreign policy.<sup>22</sup> Each member of the Security Council has the ability to be represented at all meetings.<sup>23</sup> In the Provisional Rules and Procedure, Rule 13 allows for Members to be represented by an 'accredited representative', such as a Head of Government.<sup>24</sup>

Belgium, Cote d'Ivoire, Dominican Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Germany, Indonesia, Kuwait, Peru, Poland, and South Africa are the current non-permanent members for the term 2019-2020.<sup>25</sup> Security Council elections are held in June, six months before the term starts.<sup>26</sup> This change allows Member States sufficient time to prepare for their new role.<sup>27</sup> The 10 non-permanent members represent countries from five groups: Africa, the Asia-Pacific Group, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Eastern European Group, and Western European and Other.<sup>28</sup>

Every Member State of the Security Council has one vote.<sup>29</sup> Votes on all matters require supermajority of nine Member States.<sup>30</sup> However, if one of the five permanent members of the Security Council votes "no" on a matter of substance, such as a draft resolution, it does not pass.<sup>31</sup> This is known as "veto power."<sup>32</sup> In the 1950s, Security Council Member States, in particular the former Soviet Union, made frequent use of their veto power, but its usage declined in the 1960s, rising again in the 1970s and 1980s.<sup>33</sup> In the last decades, the use of the veto power has been a comparatively rare.<sup>34</sup> In recent years, the Council has

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<sup>15</sup> UN Security Council, *Functions and Powers*, 2018.

<sup>16</sup> NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, *Mapping Women, Peace and Security in the United Nations Security Council: Report of the NGOWG Monthly Action Points, 2009-2010*, 2010, p. 11.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 15.

<sup>18</sup> UN Security Council, *Current members*, 2019.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> UN DPI, *Ahead of Security Council elections, General Assembly President explains how a country can get a non-permanent seat*, 2016.

<sup>22</sup> Bourantonis, *The History and Politics of UN Security Council Reform*, 2005, p. 6.

<sup>23</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

<sup>24</sup> UN Security Council, *Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council (S/96/Rev.7)*, 1982.

<sup>25</sup> UN Security Council, *Current Members*, 2019.

<sup>26</sup> UN General Assembly, *Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (A/RES/68/307)*, 2014, p. 4.

<sup>27</sup> UN DPI, *Ahead of Security Council elections, General Assembly President explains how a country can get a non-permanent seat*, 2016.

<sup>28</sup> UN General Assembly, *Rules of procedure*, 2017.

<sup>29</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>31</sup> Hanhimäki, *The United Nations: A Very Short Introduction*, 2008, p. 52.

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>33</sup> Security Council Report, *In Hindsight: The Veto*, 2013; Security Council Report, *The Permanent Members and the Use of the Veto: An Abridged History*, 2013.

<sup>34</sup> Security Council Report, *The Permanent Members and the Use of the Veto: An Abridged History*, 2013.

adopted many resolutions by consensus and has only been divided on a very limited number of issues, a prominent recent example being the case of Syria.<sup>35</sup>

Each member of the Security Council holds the presidency of the Council for one month, rotating according to alphabetical order.<sup>36</sup> Security Council meetings can be held at any time when convened by the President and by the request of any Member State.<sup>37</sup> Under Rule 3 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council, the President shall call a meeting if a dispute or situation requires the Council's attention.<sup>38</sup> In accordance with the mandate of the Security Council and the *Charter of the United Nations*, the President shall call a meeting if a dispute or situation requires the Council's attention.<sup>39</sup>

Any Member State may attend the Council's sessions if the body decides to extend an invitation.<sup>40</sup> Member States are invited if the Security Council is discussing an issue that directly concerns the interests of the Member State.<sup>41</sup> Invited Member States do not have the right to vote, but are allowed to submit proposals and draft resolutions.<sup>42</sup> Furthermore, invited Member States can inform the Council about a current crisis in their region.<sup>43</sup> However, such proposals may only be put to a vote at the request of a member of the Council.<sup>44</sup>

The Security Council oversees many subsidiary bodies established under Article 29 of the Charter, including: the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, sanctions committees, and ad hoc committees, such as the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on Namibia.<sup>45</sup> Aside from these subsidiary bodies, the Security Council also works with the General Assembly to oversee the work of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC).<sup>46</sup> Additionally, Security Council Member States participate in various working groups, which discuss topics of concern for the Security Council.<sup>47</sup> These working groups consist of some or all of the Security Council Member States and focus on regional issues, as well as improving the working methods of the Security Council itself.<sup>48</sup> For example, established by Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict recommends possible measures to the Council on promoting the protection of children affected by armed conflict.<sup>49</sup>

### **Mandate, Functions, and Powers**

The mandate of the Security Council is to maintain international peace and security and to take action whenever peace and security are threatened.<sup>50</sup> The Council's authority is particularly relevant with respect to the UN's four primary purposes, as specified in the *Charter of the United Nations*: maintaining international peace and security; developing friendly relations among nations; cooperating in solving international problems; and promoting respect for human rights, as well as being a center for harmonizing the actions of nations.<sup>51</sup> Chapters VI and VII of the Charter specifically concern the Security Council and

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<sup>35</sup> Security Council Report, *In Hindsight: Consensus in the Security Council*, 2014; Security Council Report, *In Hindsight: The Veto*, 2013.

<sup>36</sup> UN Security Council, *Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council (S/96/Rev.7)*, 1982.

<sup>37</sup> UN Security Council, *Repertoire of the practice of the Security Council*, 2018.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

<sup>42</sup> UN Security Council, *Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council (S/96/Rev.7)*, 1982.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> UN Security Council, *Structure*, 2018.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> UN Security Council, *Repertoire of the practice of the Security Council*, 2018.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> UN Security Council, *Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict*, 2018.

<sup>50</sup> UN Security Council, *What is the Security Council?*, 2018.

<sup>51</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

the range of actions that can be taken when settling disputes.<sup>52</sup> Chapter VI by itself aims to settle disputes through peaceful means, such as negotiation and judicial settlement. Additionally, according to Chapter VI, the role of the Security Council is to determine the severity of the dispute brought before the body and the impact of the dispute internationally.<sup>53</sup> Chapter VII explores further actions that can be taken in regard to threats to peace, branches of peace, and acts of aggression.<sup>54</sup> This chapter also authorizes the Security Council to implement provisional measures aimed to de-escalate the situation.<sup>55</sup>

The Charter also provides the Security Council with several powers to guarantee international security, which include sanctions, diplomatic tools, military action, and international and regional partnerships.<sup>56</sup> Under Article 41 in the Charter, the Council can call on its members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or end violence.<sup>57</sup> Some of these measures include arms embargos, enforcing disarmament, or calling upon international criminal mechanisms to become active.<sup>58</sup> Regarding diplomatic tools, the Council is mandated to investigate any dispute or situation that might lead to aggression between states, with other non-state groups, or within states' territories.<sup>59</sup> Aside from diplomatic instruments, the Council may also take military action against a state or other entity threatening international peace and security, and may further decide on the deployment of troops or observers.<sup>60</sup> Article 39 of the Charter states that the Council "shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression."<sup>61</sup> The Council may also decide upon the deployment of new UN peacekeeping operations to be led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO).<sup>62</sup> The Security Council is responsible for determining if, when, and where a peacekeeping operation is needed.<sup>63</sup> The Security Council creates a peacekeeping operation by adopting a resolution that outlines the mandate and size of a particular mission.<sup>64</sup> The Council also cooperates with a number of international and regional organizations as well as non-governmental organizations to implement its decisions.<sup>65</sup> Cooperation between the Security Council and other entities, such as the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapon and International Atomic Energy Agency, is significant.<sup>66</sup> Partnerships with independent regional organizations, such as the European Union and the African Union, are also of paramount importance for addressing a broad range of issues such as terrorism, disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and extreme violence from non-state actors.<sup>67</sup>

### **Recent Sessions and Current Priorities**

So far in 2019, the Security Council held 149 meetings, adopted 32 resolutions and issued five presidential statements.<sup>68</sup> It dispatched four missions to the field between February and July 2019 to West Africa (Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea-Bissau), the Sahel, Iraq and Kuwait, and Colombia.<sup>69</sup> Of the 32 resolutions, 26 addressed country-specific or regional situations and 6 thematic and other issues.<sup>70</sup> The Council adopted five resolutions alone based on Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan and determining that the situation in both countries continue to constitute a threat to

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<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>56</sup> Ibid.; UN Security Council, *Functions and Powers*, 2018.

<sup>57</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

<sup>58</sup> Malone, *The UN Security Council: From the Cold War to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, 2004, p. 111.

<sup>59</sup> UN Security Council, *Functions and Powers*, 2018.

<sup>60</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

<sup>61</sup> Ibid.

<sup>62</sup> UN DPKO, *Forming a New Operation*.

<sup>63</sup> UN Peacekeeping, *Role of the Security Council*.

<sup>64</sup> Ibid.

<sup>65</sup> UN Security Council, *Repertoire of the practice of the Security Council*, 2018.

<sup>66</sup> UN Security Council, *Structure*, 2018; UN Security Council, *Middle East (S/RES/2118(2013))*, 2013.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid.

<sup>68</sup> UN, Dag Hammarskjöld Library, *Security Council Meetings in 2019*, 2019.

<sup>69</sup> UN Security Council, *Reports of the Security Council missions*, 2019.

<sup>70</sup> UN, Dag Hammarskjöld Library, *Security Council Meetings in 2019*, 2019.

international peace and security.<sup>71</sup> In light of the dire situation in South Sudan with continuous violence and the alarming humanitarian situation as well as slow progress towards peace, the Council renewed the mandate of the UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) until March 2020 in resolution 2459(2019) to ensure the protection of civilians; enable the delivery of humanitarian assistance; monitor and investigate human rights violations; support the implementation of the Revitalised Agreement and the Peace Process.<sup>72</sup> Most recently, the mandate of the AU-UN Mission Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) was also extended until October 2019 to accompany peacekeeping efforts in the region in the Sudan.<sup>73</sup> To ensure stability between the two countries the Council also adopted resolution 2469(2019) extending the mandate of the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei in the border region until November 2019.<sup>74</sup>

Other countries under consideration which led to a resolution or Presidential statement in 2019 were twice Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, the Central African Republic, Mali, and Somalia respectively; and once, Libya, Iraq, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Afghanistan, Guinea-Bissau.<sup>75</sup> The situation in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela was discussed four times between January and April 2019 but no outcome was brought forward.<sup>76</sup> Neither of the two competing draft resolutions from the United States and the Russian Federation at the 8476<sup>th</sup> meeting in February 2019 were adopted.<sup>77</sup> The first was vetoed by Russian Federation and China while the other did not pass the simple majority.<sup>78</sup> Discussions on the Middle East are also ongoing in the Security Council with quarterly open debates, including the fundamental right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and independence and the right of Israelis and Palestinians to coexist side by side in peace, based on a two-state solution that would result from direct, peaceful dialogue between all parties involved.<sup>79</sup> However, the facts on the ground undermine the chances of a two-State solution.<sup>80</sup> The Council further received briefings on the situation in Yemen and the current fragile Hodeidah ceasefire, remaining alert over the risk of escalation into a regional conflict and a further deterioration of what is already one of the worst humanitarian crisis.<sup>81</sup> In resolution 2481(2019) the Council extended the mandate of the UN Mission to support the Hodeidah Agreement overseeing the ceasefire.<sup>82</sup>

In addition to state- and region-specific issues, the Security Council has discussed cross-cutting and thematic issues, such as women, peace and security; protection of civilians in armed conflict; and threats to international peace and security including terrorism.<sup>83</sup> The unanimously adopted resolution 2475(2019) is the first-ever resolution calling upon Member States and parties to armed conflict to protect persons with disabilities in conflict situations and to ensure they have access to justice, basic services and unimpeded humanitarian assistance equally to all civilians affected by conflict and requiring protection from violence.<sup>84</sup> The resolution 2467(2019) on sexual violence in conflict called for the prevention of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations; urged to “implement specific, time-bound commitments to combat the crime;” and “reiterated its deep concern that — despite its repeated

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<sup>71</sup> Ibid.

<sup>72</sup> UN Security Council, *Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan (S/RES/2459(2019))*, 2019.

<sup>73</sup> UN Security Council, *Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan (S/RES/2479(2019))*, 2019.

<sup>74</sup> UN Security Council, *Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan (S/RES/2469(2019))*, 2019.

<sup>75</sup> UN, Dag Hammarskjöld Library, *Security Council Meetings in 2019*, 2019.

<sup>76</sup> Ibid.

<sup>77</sup> UN DPI, *Competing United States, Russian Federation Draft Resolutions on Political, Humanitarian Situation in Venezuela Blocked in Security Council (SC/13725)*, 2019.

<sup>78</sup> Ibid.

<sup>79</sup> UN DPI, *Israeli-Palestinian Conflict ‘Locked in a Dangerous Paralysis’, Under-Secretary-General Warns Security Council, Urging Political Will, Leadership to Change Course (SC/13895)*, 2019.

<sup>80</sup> Ibid.

<sup>81</sup> UN DPI, *Hodeidah Ceasefire Holding But Faster Progress Key to Stopping Yemen from Sliding into Regional War, Deepening Humanitarian Crisis, Speakers Tell Security Council (SC/13887)*, 2019.

<sup>82</sup> UN DPI, *Security Council Extends Mandate of Mission Overseeing Yemen Ceasefire Accord for Six Months, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2481 (2019) (SC/13881)*, 2019.

<sup>83</sup> UN, Dag Hammarskjöld Library, *Security Council Meetings in 2019*, 2019.

<sup>84</sup> UN Security Council, *Protection of civilians in armed conflict (S/RES/2475(2019))*, 2019; UN DPI, *Security Council Unanimously Adopts Resolution 2475 (2019), Ground-Breaking Text on Protection of Persons with Disabilities in Conflict (SC/13851)*, 2019.



condemnation of violence against women and children in situations of armed conflict, including sexual violence — the phenomenon continues to occur, often with impunity, and in some situations has become systematic and widespread, or reached appalling levels of brutality.”<sup>85</sup> In July of 2019, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 2482(2019) over threats to international peace and security following an open debate among the Council and the wider UN system concerning the links between international terrorism and transnational organized crime as a means to finance or logistically support terrorist activities through the trafficking of arms, persons, drugs, artefacts and cultural property.<sup>86</sup>

## Conclusion

The Security Council plays an important role in international affairs, especially in matters related to peace and security.<sup>87</sup> The Council also has a unique and impactful mandate to set norms and govern state actions, as all Member States are required to comply with the Security Council’s legally-binding decisions under Chapter VII of the Charter.<sup>88</sup> The Council is the only UN body that has the ability to create legally binding decisions.<sup>89</sup> Although the Security Council is first and foremost the primary UN entity responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, the adoption of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* signaled the increasing need to also discuss the linkages between peace and security, and issues of human security and development.<sup>90</sup> The Security Council also continues to address regional and country issues, as well as thematic issues, such as climate change and gender.<sup>91</sup>

## Annotated Bibliography

*Charter of the United Nations*. (1945). Retrieved 13 September 2018 from: <http://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/index.html>

*As the fundamental principles of the Security Council are written down in the Charter, this document should be the first resource for delegates to consider. Article 23, which set the membership structure, and articles 23 to 26, which discuss its basic functions and powers, are important for understanding both the structure and function of the Security Council. In addition, articles 27 to 32 explain the Council’s voting procedure and its overall structure. The Charter can also be particularly helpful for delegates in understanding the powers and limitations of the body. Delegates will find Chapters VI and VII most helpful when researching the mandate of the Security Council, and proposing actions and solutions.*

Hanhimäki, J. M. (2008). *The United Nations: A Very Short Introduction*. New York, New York: Oxford University Press.

*While giving a brief overview of the history, structure, mandate, and perspective of the UN in general, this volume also includes a comprehensive section on the Security Council, as well as a separate chapter on peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The book offers a succinct explanation of the Council’s political and operational constraints, including the veto power principle. It further provides delegates with a general overview of the importance of the Security Council for international security from its creation until now. Due to its comprehensive contents, this book may serve delegates as a first starting*

<sup>85</sup> UN Security Council, *Women and peace and security: Sexual violence in conflict (S/RES/2467(2019))*, 2019; UN DPI, *Security Council Adopts Resolution Calling upon Belligerents Worldwide to Adopt Concrete Commitments on Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict (SC/13790)*, 2019.

<sup>86</sup> UN Security Council, *Threats to international peace and security (S/RES/2482(2019))*, 2019; UN DPI, *Security Council Expresses Concern over Links between International Terrorism, Organized Crime, Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2482 (2019) (SC/13893)*, 2019.

<sup>87</sup> UN Security Council, *What is the Security Council?*, 2018.

<sup>88</sup> *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

<sup>89</sup> Ibid.

<sup>90</sup> UN DPA Politically Speaking, *Sustaining peace, Conflict Prevention, Human Rights and Sustainable Development High on Agenda for New Security Council Members*, 2018.

<sup>91</sup> UN DPI, *Fragile countries risk being ‘stuck in a cycle of conflict and climate disaster,’ Security Council told*, 2018; UN DPI, *Women vital for ‘new paradigm’ in Africa’s Sahel region, Security Council hears*, 2018.

*point for further research on the Security Council as well as on international multilateralism.*

Lebada, A.M. (2015, November 25). *UN Security Council Discusses Links with 2030 Agenda*. SDG Knowledge Hub. Retrieved 13 September 2018 from: <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/un-security-council-discusses-links-with-2030-agenda/>

*This news article highlights the debate held by the Security Council on 17 November 2015 on the links between the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and peace and security. The article also provides perspectives on the links between development and the security of individual members of the Security Council. Additionally, this source will provide delegates themselves with the opportunity to think about the relationship between the 2030 Agenda and peace and security. In particular, the source may further help delegates analyze the ways in which the cross-cutting issues that the Security Council discusses connect to goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda.*

United Nations, Dag Hammarskjöld Library. (2019). *Security Council Meetings in 2019* [Website]. Retrieved 31 July 2019 from: <http://research.un.org/en/docs/sc/quick/meetings/2019>

*This database provides delegates with an overview of all meeting of the Security Council in 2019, as well as the respective press release to each meeting and where applicable the respective adopted resolution or presidential statement. For each adopted and not adopted resolution the vote counts are listed. This is an incredibly useful resource for delegates to research the current priorities of the Council, to see which countries and thematic issues are recurring on the agenda, and which decisions have been taken on the different matters.*

United Nations, Security Council. (2017). *What is the Security Council?* [Website]. Retrieved 13 September 2018 from: <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/>

*This website gives an overview of the Security Council's history, its mandate, and its basic functions and powers. It should be considered one of the most important resources for delegates' further research, since it provides detailed information about how the Security Council works in practice. The website also contains the body's provisional rules of procedure and a section on frequently asked questions. The latter is particularly useful when it comes to understanding the Council's functions and powers. Delegates will find on this website detailed information about the Council's recent sessions as well as other relevant outputs, which will aid in further research.*

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## I. The Situation in South Sudan

*“Efforts to build and sustain peace are necessary not only once conflict has broken out, but long beforehand through preventing conflict and addressing its root causes.  
We must work better together across the peace continuum, focusing on all the dimensions of conflict.”*<sup>92</sup>

### **Introduction**

South Sudan has been marked by political tensions, violent conflict, and instability since the 1950s.<sup>93</sup> This is caused by social, political, and cultural differences between the neighboring countries Sudan and South Sudan, as well as groups within South Sudan.<sup>94</sup> Between 1930 and 1946 the British Civil Secretary divided the north and the south of what is today known as Sudan, thereafter being governed as separate entities, due to the cultural and religious differences.<sup>95</sup> Once both regions were merged in 1946, Arabic was declared the official language and provided Northerners with positions of power in the administration.<sup>96</sup> After Sudan gained its independence on 1 January 1956, southern states were already demonstrating disagreement with the lack of autonomy they had.<sup>97</sup> For years tensions grew between the national government and provincial governments in the south and turned into violent confrontations, resulting in two civil wars over territories, control over important oil fields, and autonomy for the southern region.<sup>98</sup> The first war took place from 1962-1972 between the northern Sudanese government and the southern separatist Anya Nya movement.<sup>99</sup> The rebel group integrated into the Southern Sudan Liberation Movement in 1971, the predecessor of today’s Sudan People’s Liberation Movement (SPLM) and Sudan People’s Liberation Army (SPLA) the armed section of the movement.<sup>100</sup> The first conflict ended in the Addis Ababa Agreement giving southern Sudan a certain level of autonomy.<sup>101</sup> However, the second civil war broke out in 1983 when the Sudanese government violated the Addis Ababa Agreement.<sup>102</sup> The second civil war lasted until 2005 with continuous fighting between Sudanese government supporters and the southern rebel group SPLM and its SPLA.<sup>103</sup>

In January 2005, peace was achieved after the North/South Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed by both the Sudanese government and the SPLM.<sup>104</sup> This agreement granted the south a six-year trial period of autonomy, a share of oil revenues, and the removal of Islamic Sharia Law unless it was decided to be implemented by the region itself.<sup>105</sup> At the end of this term, a referendum would be held to determine South Sudan’s independence.<sup>106</sup> During the next six years, sporadic fighting continued between both north and south.<sup>107</sup> Clashes between groups from both regions over the oil-rich Abyei area on the north-south division were solved in arbitration court, where the major Heglig oil field was assigned to the north.<sup>108</sup> On 9 January 2011, a referendum was held in South Sudan, with 98.83% of voters in favor of independence from Sudan.<sup>109</sup> After six months of transition, South Sudan officially gained its

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<sup>92</sup> UN General Assembly & UN Security Council, *Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: Report of the Secretary-General (A/72/707) (S/2018/43)*, 2018, p. 2.

<sup>93</sup> *South Sudan profile – Timeline*, BBC, 2018.

<sup>94</sup> Human Rights Watch, *World Report: South Sudan*, 2019.

<sup>95</sup> Water for South Sudan, *A brief history of modern Sudan and South Sudan*, 2019.

<sup>96</sup> Ibid.

<sup>97</sup> *South Sudan profile – Timeline*, BBC, 2018.

<sup>98</sup> Ibid.

<sup>99</sup> Ibid.

<sup>100</sup> Zapata, Sudan: Independence through Civil Wars, 1956-2005, *Enough Project*, 2011.

<sup>101</sup> Ibid.

<sup>102</sup> Ibid.

<sup>103</sup> *South Sudan profile – Timeline*, BBC, 2018; Zapata, Sudan: Independence through Civil Wars, 1956-2005, *Enough Project*, 2011.

<sup>104</sup> *South Sudan profile – Timeline*, BBC, 2018.

<sup>105</sup> Water for South Sudan, *A brief history of modern Sudan and South Sudan*, 2019.

<sup>106</sup> Ibid.

<sup>107</sup> *South Sudan profile – Timeline*, BBC, 2018.

<sup>108</sup> Ibid.

<sup>109</sup> IOFC, *South Sudan: Facts and History*.

independence, became the 193rd Member State of the United Nations (UN), and joined the African Union.<sup>110</sup>

The current conflict began within South Sudan in December 2013 after president Salva Kiir removed everyone in his cabinet and blamed Vice-President Riek Machar of organizing a failed coup.<sup>111</sup> As a result, a new civil war began in the new sovereign country with high levels of violence and the destruction of the socio-economic and political structure.<sup>112</sup> Today, the armed conflict in South Sudan has become one of the most pressing issues for the UN and the UN Security Council.<sup>113</sup> The more than 20 years of warfare between Sudan and South Sudan as well as the civil war in South Sudan have claimed more than 1.5 million lives and displaced over 4 million people.<sup>114</sup> This situation has created a tremendous humanitarian crisis in East Africa, a region already volatile with an environment of social and cultural instability.<sup>115</sup> Around 400,000 people died since the 2013 South Sudanese civil war alone.<sup>116</sup> It has led to an international and regional humanitarian crisis with 1 in every 3 citizens requiring humanitarian aid and ever-growing development challenges in a collapsed economy.<sup>117</sup> The UN has worked through multi-stakeholder partnerships with grassroots organizations and in collaboration with other Member States to promote peacebuilding and stability in the region.<sup>118</sup> In 2007, the Secretary-General's Policy Committee defined peacebuilding as "a range of measures targeted to reduce the risk of lapsing or relapsing into conflict by strengthening national capacities at all levels for conflict management, and to lay the foundation for sustainable peace and development."<sup>119</sup>

### **International and Regional Framework**

The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR) (1948) established a series of vital human rights such as the right to life and security; freedom from torture, inhumane treatment and slavery; protection from arbitrary arrest, detention and exile; and freedom of movement.<sup>120</sup> There are other rights represented in the UDHR that are highly relevant yet currently violated within the situation of South Sudan, including the right to a fair and public hearing and the right to freedom of opinion and expression.<sup>121</sup> South Sudan is party to the four Geneva Conventions (1949) and Additional Protocol I and II, which establish the protection of fundamental rights of civilians, victims, and noncombatants as the cornerstone of international humanitarian law.<sup>122</sup> The country is also signatory to some of the core human rights treaties, such as the *International Covenant on Social, Cultural, and Economic Rights* and the *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, both adopted in 1966, as well as the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (1979), and the *Convention on the Rights of*

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<sup>110</sup> Water for South Sudan, *A brief history of modern Sudan and South Sudan*, 2019.

<sup>111</sup> *South Sudan profile – Timeline*, BBC, 2018.

<sup>112</sup> UN South Sudan, *United Nations Cooperation Framework 2019-2021: Republic of South Sudan*, 2018.

<sup>113</sup> Security Council Report, *Chronology of Events: South Sudan*, 2019.

<sup>114</sup> *South Sudan profile – Timeline*, BBC, 2018.

<sup>115</sup> Gedamu, South Sudan peace deal offers promising end to conflict. But challenges remain, *The Conversation*, 2019.

<sup>116</sup> *South Sudan president: Delay unity government formation by a year*, Al Jazeera, 2019.

<sup>117</sup> UN South Sudan, *United Nations Cooperation Framework 2019-2021: Republic of South Sudan*, 2018.

<sup>118</sup> UN PBSO, *South Sudan*, 2015.

<sup>119</sup> UN PBSO, *What is peacebuilding?*, 2019.

<sup>120</sup> UN General Assembly, *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*, 1948.

<sup>121</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>122</sup> *Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (2nd part)*, 1949; *Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War*, 1949; *Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts (Protocol 1)*, 1977; *Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and Relating to the Protection of Victims of Non-International Armed Conflicts (Protocol II)*, 1977.

*the Child* (1989).<sup>123</sup> All these documents establish human rights law and Member States' obligation to protect and respect human rights.<sup>124</sup>

The UN system has worked with both state and non-state actors throughout the years to aid and protect those who either leave their country or are internally displaced persons (IDPs) due to conflict.<sup>125</sup> There are several international frameworks that address refugees and IDPs which can be related to the situation in South Sudan, which has seen large numbers of people fleeing violence, such as the *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees* (1951), the *Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees* (1967) which the country only acceded to in October 2018, and most recently, the *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants* in 2016.<sup>126</sup>

### **Role of the International System**

The UN Security Council first discussed the situation in South Sudan in Security Council resolution 1996 (2011), where it created the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) promoting more active efforts to address the current situation in the country.<sup>127</sup> UNMISS was created as a political support mission with its headquarters in Juba, in order to investigate and monitor reports on human rights violations, and facilitate the transition to durable peace through a non-violent process in the country.<sup>128</sup> It is made up of more than 14,000 peacekeepers, police, security and civilian personnel from at least 60 different countries that work together to provide safety and humanitarian assistance to those who have suffered from the current conflict.<sup>129</sup> The UNMISS has been able to achieve major successes such as facilitating the reconciliation and peace efforts by serving as an impartial partner at various levels with political leaders, leaders of various industries as well as at grassroots with communities and individuals across the country.<sup>130</sup> The Council has adopted a number of resolutions on the situation in South Sudan since most notably establishing a sanctions regime in resolution 2206 (2015) which was continuously expanded until 2018.<sup>131</sup> In 2018, the Council adopted resolution 2428, which, for the first time, directly calls on all Member States to enforce an arms embargo against South Sudan until 31 May 2019 to prevent the direct or indirect supply of arms and other types of weapons and military-related equipment to any side of the conflict.<sup>132</sup> The resolution also notes that the Council may enforce targeted sanctions on any individuals or entities who directly or indirectly impede the peace, security, or stability of South Sudan.<sup>133</sup> The UNMISS mandate was extended by the Security Council in resolution 2459 (2019) to 15 March 2020 in an effort to continue mediating with both the South Sudanese government and opposition forces in hope of ending the conflict over political and military power and achieving a permanent ceasefire as stipulated in the 2015 Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS).<sup>134</sup>

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<sup>123</sup> OHCHR, *UN Treaty Body Database*; UNMISS, *UNMISS Welcomes Ratification of International Human Rights Covenants in South Sudan*, 2019.

<sup>124</sup> UN General Assembly, *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (A/RES/2200 (XXI))*, 1966; UN General Assembly, *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (A/RES/2200 (XXI))*, 1966; UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)*, 1979; UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Rights of the Child (A/RES/44/25)*, 1989.

<sup>125</sup> UNHCR, *History of UNHCR*, 2019.

<sup>126</sup> UN Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Status of Refugees and Stateless Persons, *Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees*, 1951; UNHCR, *Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees*, 1967; UN General Assembly, *New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (A/RES/71/1)*, 2016.

<sup>127</sup> UN Security Council, *Creation of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (S/RES/1996 (2011))*, 2011.

<sup>128</sup> UNMISS, *About UNMISS*, 2019.

<sup>129</sup> *Ibid.*; UN Peacekeeping, *UNMISS Fact Sheet*, 2019.

<sup>130</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>131</sup> Security Council Report, *Chronology of Events: South Sudan*, 2019.

<sup>132</sup> UN Security Council, *Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan (S/RES/2428 (2018))*, 2018, p. 2.

<sup>133</sup> *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4.

<sup>134</sup> UNMISS, *Mandate*, 2019; UN Security Council, *Extension of UNMISS Mandate (S/RES/2459 (2019))*, 2019.



The UN Human Rights Council (HRC) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) have addressed human rights violations perpetrated by both sides of the conflict since 2013.<sup>135</sup> HRC created a Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan for a one-year period on 23 March 2016 through resolution 31/20, although the term was extended till March 2019 based on the pressing need to investigate, determine, and report the human rights violations taking place in the country.<sup>136</sup> In the latest report from March 4-5 of 2019, the Commission presented its results to the HRC based on a working session focused among other things on addressing the prosecution of sexual and gender-based crimes in the country, providing prompt recommendations and potential solutions to these developments.<sup>137</sup>

Other UN entities that have worked to safeguard the well-being of the South Sudanese people, especially the most vulnerable including women, children, and people with disabilities, have been the UN Children's Fund, UN Development Programme, and the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.<sup>138</sup> The International Organization for Migration and the International Committee of the Red Cross have also assisted those affected by the conflict by providing adequate medical attention and proper management in the refugee camps and settlements for IDPs.<sup>139</sup>

### ***Post-Independence Conflict and Current Security Situation in South Sudan***

Although South Sudan achieved independence in 2011, the country has only enjoyed peace for almost 18 months.<sup>140</sup> The civil war first began in December 2013, as there was a struggle for power between President Kiir—former rebel who is currently head of the internationally-recognized government—and Vice-President turned opposition leader, Machar from the ruling SPLM, creating a deep division among those who previously led the struggle for independence.<sup>141</sup>

In February 2014, the Security Council was briefed on the situation in South Sudan by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of UNMISS, and received an interim report from the Human Rights Division of UNMISS.<sup>142</sup> The report was significant since it was one of the first high-level meetings after the current conflict began that addressed human right violations, such as deliberate targeting of civilians in extrajudicial and mass killings, enforced disappearances, gender-based violence, and torture, committed by forces from both sides of the conflict, causing many civilians to flee to neighboring countries.<sup>143</sup> In a briefing before the Security Council after his visit to South Sudan in May 2014, then Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon stated that “if the conflict continues, half of South Sudan’s 12 million people will either be displaced internally, refugees abroad, starving or dead by the year’s end.”<sup>144</sup>

Since the beginning of the conflict there have been various attempts to reach a peace deal and permanent ceasefire by both President Kiir’s forces and opposition rebels who support former Vice-President Machar, with the mediation and oversight of the African Union, Security Council and other Member States.<sup>145</sup> The first effort to achieve a peace agreement was in August 2015, when the South Sudanese government and opposition forces met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to discuss a power-sharing arrangement and transitional justice measures, economic development, and the reform of governance and justice sectors which entered into the ARCSS, all to be finalized through elections three years later in

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<sup>135</sup> UN, *Refugees*, 2019; UNICEF, *South Sudan*, 2019.

<sup>136</sup> UN HRC, *Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan*, 2019.

<sup>137</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>138</sup> UNDP, *Gender-based violence*, 2019.

<sup>139</sup> UN, *Refugees*, 2019; IOM, *East Africa and Horn of Africa*, 2019.

<sup>140</sup> International Crisis Group, *Report N°270: Salvaging South Sudan’s Fragile Peace Deal*, 2019.

<sup>141</sup> Vertin, *A Rope from the Sky: The Making and Unmaking of the World’s Newest State*, 2018, pp. 278-280.

<sup>142</sup> Security Council Report, *Chronology of Events: South Sudan*, 2019.

<sup>143</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>144</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>145</sup> Reid, South Sudan conflict, hunger: Facts, FAQs, and how to help, *WorldVision*, 2019.

2018.<sup>146</sup> This agreement was the result of several talks between the South Sudanese government and opposition forces in the capital of Ethiopia with the African Union as a mediator, and addressed topics related to peace and stability, transitional justice, and humanitarian assistance.<sup>147</sup> In the ARCSS both sides agreed upon allowing Kiir to remain as president, returning Machar to the position of first Vice-President, and sharing power of the capital Juba through demilitarization of the city.<sup>148</sup> The deal was broken one year later due to President Kiir's disapproval of parts of the agreement concerning power-sharing with former Vice-President Machar, despite his prior signature, and conflict began again in Juba with supporters of Machar fleeing to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).<sup>149</sup> The planned 2018 elections have since been postponed due to continuous and increasingly violent confrontations between the South Sudanese government and opposition rebels.<sup>150</sup>

The second potential peace deal between both sides took place in 2017 when the Intergovernmental Authority on Development—an eight-country trade bloc in Africa—organized the High-Level Revitalisation Forum in efforts to continue with the work that was left of the 2015 power-sharing agreement.<sup>151</sup> The talks began in October 2017 and concluded with a ceasefire.<sup>152</sup> However, negotiations on the peace treaty were hindered due to disagreements about power sharing, future security arrangements, and whether Machar could return from exile to political life in South Sudan.<sup>153</sup>

The latest peace deal, the Khartoum Declaration, was agreed upon on 27 June 2018, again in the capital of Ethiopia with the mediation of Sudan.<sup>154</sup> This agreement established a permanent ceasefire, still intact as of July 2019, and decreased the levels of violence between government and rebel forces.<sup>155</sup> It guaranteed amnesty to the rebel forces led by the reinstated Vice-President Machar; and called for the formation of a unity government by 12 May 2019, which has been delayed for a year by President Kiir and allies due to concerns over power-sharing, provoking tensions to rise again between government and opposition forces.<sup>156</sup> President Kiir claimed that the government had been unable to disarm and integrate the country's various forces yet and also criticized possible new recruiting activities by Vice-President Machar.<sup>157</sup> At the same time Machar's supporters also continued to contest the current plans for a decentralized system of governance and sporadic clashes between the pro-government and pro-Machar forces as well as "cattle raids; attacks on civilians; and intercommunal violence continued to be reported."<sup>158</sup>

### **Humanitarian Situation in South Sudan**

The number of refugees from South Sudan surpassed the one million mark in 2016.<sup>159</sup> In total, more than six million people—half of the population—currently require urgent humanitarian assistance, 2.3 million have fled their homes across borders and 1.9 million have been internally displaced.<sup>160</sup> While some South Sudanese people are considering to return amidst a more secure situation and the hope to plant crops before the dry season, others were newly displaced.<sup>161</sup> Furthermore, those returning are facing a dire situation as many do not have access to water, basic services, such as education and health care, or

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<sup>146</sup> UN South Sudan, *United Nations Cooperation Framework 2019-2021: Republic of South Sudan*, 2018, p. 4.

<sup>147</sup> IGAD, *Agreement on The Resolution of The Conflict in The Republic of South Sudan*, 2015.

<sup>148</sup> International Crisis Group, *Report N°243: South Sudan: Rearranging the Chessboard*, 2016.

<sup>149</sup> Boswell, *Spreading Fallout*, 2017.

<sup>150</sup> UN South Sudan, *United Nations Cooperation Framework 2019-2021: Republic of South Sudan*, 2018.

<sup>151</sup> International Crisis Group, *Report N°270: Salvaging South Sudan's Fragile Peace Deal*, 2019.

<sup>152</sup> Ibid.

<sup>153</sup> Ibid.

<sup>154</sup> Ibid.

<sup>155</sup> *South Sudan president signs peace deal with rebel leader*, Al Jazeera, 2018; *South Sudan president: Delay unity government formation by a year*, Al Jazeera, 2019.

<sup>156</sup> Ibid.

<sup>157</sup> *South Sudan president: Delay unity government formation by a year*, Al Jazeera, 2019.

<sup>158</sup> UN Security Council, *Situation in South Sudan – Report of the Secretary-General (S/2019/491)*, 2019, p. 2.

<sup>159</sup> UNHCR, *Refugees fleeing South Sudan pass one million mark*, 2016.

<sup>160</sup> UN Security Council, *Situation in South Sudan – Report of the Secretary-General (S/2019/491)*, 2019, p. 7.

<sup>161</sup> Ibid., p. 7.

livelihood opportunities and it is estimated that currently 57% of the population face acute food insecurity or worse.<sup>162</sup> Though improved, the humanitarian access is still hindered in some regions due to security threats towards humanitarian actors.<sup>163</sup>

UNMISS has faced criticism due to an incident in 2016, where it failed to protect the civilians residing in the Protection of Civilians site in Malakal.<sup>164</sup> An investigation conducted by a UN independent high-level board of inquiry in 2016 discovered that the incident was caused since there was confusion over command and poor coordination between various civilian and uniformed peacekeepers.<sup>165</sup> Among the findings from this investigation the board concluded that “the lack of preparedness, ineffective command and control and a risk-averse or “inward-looking” posture resulted in a loss of trust and confidence—particularly by the local population and humanitarian agencies—in the will and skill of UNMISS military, police to be proactive and show a determined posture to protect civilians under threat, including from sexual violence and human rights violations.”<sup>166</sup>

### **Conclusion**

Conflict and civil unrest have been prevalent throughout the history of South Sudan before and after its independence in 2011.<sup>167</sup> As a result, millions of citizens have been killed or displaced internally or across borders.<sup>168</sup> This current situation has created a volatile and instable environment for civilians, impeding economic development and social progress due to a delayed unity government formation, even though both President Kiir and Vice-President and rebel leader Machar have demonstrated that they are open to making amends.<sup>169</sup> As the latest attempt to achieve a permanent ceasefire and peace treaty is currently underway after negotiations took place in Addis Ababa during 2018, there are remaining challenges and tasks for the international community and the Security Council to take into consideration for the stability of South Sudan, such as the efficiency of UNMISS, the current sanctions regime and arms embargo as well as the overall humanitarian and human rights situation.<sup>170</sup>

### **Further Research**

This is a constantly developing topic as displacement continues in South Sudan, and the security and humanitarian situation in South Sudan changes every day. Moving forward, delegates should consider the following questions: What kind of mechanisms can be implemented to form a unity government? How might the Security Council improve the capacity of UNMISS to better address these challenges? Which further measures can the Security Council take adding to the current sanctions regime and arms embargo? How can institutional capacity-building be strengthened to guarantee an impartial and independent judiciary and fully investigate human rights violations? What special considerations should be taken to ensure the safety and security of the camps for refugees and IDPs?

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<sup>162</sup> UN Security Council, *Situation in South Sudan – Report of the Secretary-General (S/2019/491)*, 2019, pp. 7-8.

<sup>163</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 8.

<sup>164</sup> MSF, *Voices of the people: “Security is the most important thing”. Findings from MSF survey in the Malakal UN Protection of Civilian site*, 2016, p. 2.

<sup>165</sup> UN DPI, *South Sudan: Special investigation into Malakal violence completed, says UN*, 2016.

<sup>166</sup> UN Security Council, *Executive Summary of the Independent Special Investigation into the violence which occurred in Juba in 2016 and the response by the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) (S/2016/924)*, 2016.

<sup>167</sup> *South Sudan profile – Timeline*, BBC, 2018.

<sup>168</sup> Security Council Report, *Chronology of Events: South Sudan*, 2019.

<sup>169</sup> Gedamu, South Sudan peace deal offers promising end to conflict. But challenges remain, *The Conversation*, 2019.

<sup>170</sup> *Ibid.*

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Security Council Report. (2019). *Chronology of Events: South Sudan* [Website]. Retrieved 19 June 2019 from: <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/chronology/south-sudan.php>

*This website provides a great insight for delegates in terms of up-to-date information on what work has been done by the Security Council in terms of the crisis in South Sudan. It offers a detailed chronology of events which include all the reports, briefings and resolutions by the Council, as well as Under Secretary–Generals, the UN Secretary-General, and UNMISS related to the topic as well as updates concerning the situation regarding refugee camps and internally displaced persons, human rights violations, and violent confrontations between the different political, ethnical and social groups.*

United Nations, Human Rights Council. (2019). *Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan* [Website]. Retrieved 19 June 2019 from:

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/CoHSouthSudan/Pages/Index.aspx>

*The HRC created the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan as part of its efforts alongside other UN agencies to document, analyze and address human rights violations in South Sudan because of the conflict. This commission is formed by experts that serve voluntarily and provide their knowledge and guidance on the topic for all actors involved in the war. It reports on the state of human rights and opportunities of improvement in areas such as transnational justice, reconciliation, and capacity-building. This website is an important tool to understand the implications in terms of human rights violations present in this crisis, since it offers various resources such as press releases, statements and other documentation on the human rights side of the conflict.*

United Nations, Security Council. (2019). *Situation in South Sudan – Report of the Secretary-General (S/2019/491)*. Retrieved 22 July 2019 from: <https://undocs.org/S/2019/491>

*The most recent report of the Secretary-General on the situation of South Sudan is an essential document for delegates to read. It clearly outlines the current peace efforts undertaken by the various forums, commissions, and other ad-hoc groups that have been formed in the process of finding a peace agreement. It also gives a great overview of the current security situation detailing the latest violent incidents related to the conflict and the current humanitarian situation detailing the humanitarian needs of the Sudanese people and ongoing displacement caused by the conflict. Lastly, it looks at UNMISS implementation of its mandate and provides further recommendations to achieve lasting peace in the country.*

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*Created in order to continue and enhance the job started with the Interim Cooperation Framework 2016-2018, this document serves as a framework for the different UN agencies in South Sudan in terms of guidance and strategic objectives for the 2019-2021 period, including resilience support, capacity building and democratic governance. Among its priority areas are: (i) building peace and strengthening governance; (ii) improving food security and recovering local economies; (iii) strengthening social services; and (iv) empowering women and youth. This source will be important for delegates in understanding the most up-to-date framework that the UN has concerning the topic, as well as the most current main issues.*

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## II. Countering Violent Extremism

*“Working with reason and justice, we can rebuild a fundamental sense of loyalty and belonging throughout our societies. Discrimination should be fought and equality promoted. Equal access for all to economic, social and cultural rights will contribute to immunizing individuals and societies from violent extremism.”<sup>171</sup>*

### **Introduction**

As violent conflicts have grown in intensity and number over the past decade, the need to prevent Violent Extremism (VE) while preserving sustainable development are of primary focus.<sup>172</sup> VE is a diverse phenomenon, and there is no clear definition of what VE is.<sup>173</sup> The United Nations (UN) Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism states that VE is “neither new nor exclusive to any region, nationality or system of belief” and calls for a contextualization of VE.<sup>174</sup> The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development defines VE as: “Promoting views which foment and incite violence in furtherance of particular beliefs, and foster hatred which might lead to inter-community violence.”<sup>175</sup> UN Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) defines VE as acts that “can be conducive to terrorism, sectarian violence, and the commission of terrorist acts by foreign terrorist fighters, and demands that all foreign terrorist fighters disarm and cease all terrorist acts and participation in armed conflict.”<sup>176</sup> The Frontlines report defines VE as “beliefs and actions of people or groups who support or use violence to achieve ideological, religious or political goals, including terrorism and other forms of politically motivated and sectarian violence.”<sup>177</sup>

Acts of VE and terrorism are a threat to international peace and security and undermine human rights and sustainable development.<sup>178</sup> Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) has become essential to sustain international peace and security.<sup>179</sup> Terrorist groups like the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) (Da’esh), Al Qaida, or Boko Haram became more relevant in recent years and shaped the debate on how to CVE.<sup>180</sup> The threat of terrorist fighters can be addressed through the prevention of radicalization, recruitment, and mobilization of individuals.<sup>181</sup> Preventing violent extremism (PVE) and CVE are interlinked; important aspects in PVE are empowering youth, gender equality and empowering women, and international cooperation and capacity building.<sup>182</sup> Issues like responding to the needs of returned foreign fighters, integrating youth in prevention activities, countering terrorist ideas in online and offline spaces, and the role of women across prevention and response efforts are discussed in regards to PVE and CVE efforts.<sup>183</sup>

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<sup>171</sup> Ban Ki-moon, *Speech at the Geneva Conference on Preventing Violent Extremism*, 2016.

<sup>172</sup> UNDP, *Improving the impact of preventing violent extremism programming: a toolkit for design, monitoring and evaluation*, 2018.

<sup>173</sup> UN General Assembly, *Plan of Action to prevent Violent Extremism: Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/674)*, 2015.

<sup>174</sup> UNDP, *Improving the impact of preventing violent extremism programming: a toolkit for design, monitoring and evaluation*, 2018.

<sup>175</sup> UNODC, *‘Radicalization’ and ‘violent extremism’*.

<sup>176</sup> UN Security Council, *Addressing the growing issue of foreign terrorist fighters (S/RES/2178(2014))*, 2014.

<sup>177</sup> UNDP, *Frontlines*, 2019, p. 20.

<sup>178</sup> UN OCT, *Plan of Action to prevent Violent Extremism*; UN General Assembly, *Plan of Action to prevent Violent Extremism: Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/674)*, 2015.

<sup>179</sup> Ibid.

<sup>180</sup> UN OCT, *Plan of Action to prevent Violent Extremism*.

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<sup>182</sup> UN General Assembly, *Plan of Action to prevent Violent Extremism: Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/674)*, 2015.

<sup>183</sup> UN Women, *Women’s role vital in countering violent extremism*, 2017.

The impact of VE reaches wide.<sup>184</sup> Violent extremist groups have a big negative impact on peace and security, sustainable development, human rights and the rule of law, and humanitarian actions.<sup>185</sup> At the same time, disregard of human rights and the rule of law enhance conditions such as discrimination, injustice, and youth radicalization that lead to VE.<sup>186</sup> On the contrary, extreme measures to prevent and counter VE can also lead to human rights violations such as arbitrary arrests and the suppression of freedom of speech.<sup>187</sup> The lack of rule of law can generally be conducive for terrorism, and Member States should develop a credible approach to CVE measures.<sup>188</sup>

### ***International and Regional Framework***

In September 2006, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 60/288 on the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (UNGCTS).<sup>189</sup> UNGCTS calls on Member States to become party to existing international conventions and protocols against terrorism, to implement UN General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism, and to comply with international law, human rights, and international humanitarian law.<sup>190</sup> The strategy also contains measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, measures to prevent and combat terrorism, measures to build states' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism, measures to strengthen the role of the UN system in this regard, and measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism.<sup>191</sup>

The Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism was introduced by the UN Secretary-General in 2016.<sup>192</sup> The plan outlines the drivers of radicalization and VE which need to be addressed through setting a global framework for preventing VE and focusing on seven priority areas to take concrete action.<sup>193</sup> Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and achieving its 17 Sustainable Development Goals aligns with many recommendations of the Plan of Action, focusing for example on good governance (SDG 16), youth empowerment and education (SDG 4), gender equality (SDG 5), and skills development and employment (SDG 8).<sup>194</sup> Member States address these goals through the implementation of national plans of action for preventing violent extremism.<sup>195</sup> These plans are created with input from government and non-governmental actors.<sup>196</sup> The inclusion of various actors ensures effective, accountable, and transparent institutions.<sup>197</sup> Also regional plans of actions are important since VE is a transboundary phenomenon.<sup>198</sup>

The UN Security Council adopted numerous resolutions in the context of CVE and more specifically on terrorism.<sup>199</sup> The UN Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), adopted following the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks, aims to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts.<sup>200</sup> The resolution also

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<sup>184</sup> UN General Assembly, *Plan of Action to prevent Violent Extremism: Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/674)*, 2015.

<sup>185</sup> Ibid.

<sup>186</sup> UN HRC, *Outcome of the panel discussion on the human rights dimensions of preventing and countering violent extremism (A/HRC/33/28)*, 2016, p. 3.

<sup>187</sup> Ibid., p. 7.

<sup>188</sup> Ibid., pp. 7-9.

<sup>189</sup> UN General Assembly, *The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288)*, 2006.

<sup>190</sup> Ibid.

<sup>191</sup> Ibid.

<sup>192</sup> UN OCT, *Plan of Action to prevent Violent Extremism*.

<sup>193</sup> Ibid.

<sup>194</sup> Ibid.

<sup>195</sup> UN General Assembly, *Plan of Action to prevent Violent Extremism: Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/674)*, 2015.

<sup>196</sup> Ibid.

<sup>197</sup> Ibid.

<sup>198</sup> Ibid.

<sup>199</sup> UN Security Council, *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (S/RES/1373(2001))*, 2001.

<sup>200</sup> Ibid.

established the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee, which focuses on specific thematic areas to help Member States to prevent terrorist acts.<sup>201</sup> Security Council resolution 1624 (2005) established a Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force, which task it is to enhance coordination and integrity across all Implementation Task-Force entities.<sup>202</sup> The UN Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) addresses the growing issue of foreign terrorist fighters.<sup>203</sup> It calls upon Member States to intensify their efforts addressing the threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters through the prevention of radicalization and enhance international, regional, and sub-regional cooperation, or bilateral agreements, to prevent foreign terrorist fighters traveling from or through their territories.<sup>204</sup> In 2000, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 1325 on "Women, peace and security."<sup>205</sup> The resolution created the Women, Peace and Security Agenda to tackle gender inequality as a matter of international security and create inclusive, democratic peacemaking.<sup>206</sup> According to the Institute for Economics and Peace, 23% of the global youth population are affected by violence.<sup>207</sup> UN Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) urges Member States to increase the representation of youth in decision-making at all levels considering issues such as poverty, health, education, gender equality, employment, inequality, sustainability, and climate change.<sup>208</sup> The resolution recognizes the threat of radicalization of youth.<sup>209</sup>

### **Role of the International System**

The United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism (UN OCT) was established in 2017 through UN General Assembly resolution 71/291.<sup>210</sup> UN OCT has five main functions: provide leadership on the UN General Assembly counter-terrorism mandates, strengthen coordination and coherence across the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact Task Force, bolster counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance to Member States, improve visibility, advocacy and resource mobilization for UN counter-terrorism efforts, and guarantee that the work on PVE is firmly rooted in the Strategy.<sup>211</sup>

The Geneva Conference on Preventing Violent Extremism, which was co-hosted by the Government of Switzerland and the UN in April 2016, built upon the formal debate of the UN General Assembly in February 2016 concerning the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.<sup>212</sup> The Conference gave the international community the opportunity for an exchange of good practices and experiences to address the drivers of violent extremism.<sup>213</sup> At the Conference, Member States were encouraged to set policy frameworks, prioritize areas to take actions, and enhance the dialogue with other Member States, regional bodies, and communities in the fight against VE.<sup>214</sup>

Civil society organizations play a crucial role in countering violent extremism.<sup>215</sup> For instance, the German Violence Prevention Network works with ideologically vulnerable people that are more frequently subjected to ideological influences, deradicalizes people previously convicted for crimes motivated by extremist views, and supports them with the reintegration into the community.<sup>216</sup> The Think Peace is a Malian think tank which focuses on peace and security and the prevention of radicalization in the Sahel zone – specifically in Mali – emphasizing the participation of local actors

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<sup>201</sup> Ibid.

<sup>202</sup> UN Security Council, *Prohibition of incitement to commit terrorist acts (S/RES/1624(2005))*, 2005.

<sup>203</sup> UN Security Council, *Addressing the growing issue of foreign terrorist fighters (S/RES/2178(2014))*, 2014.

<sup>204</sup> Ibid.

<sup>205</sup> UN Security Council, *Women, peace and security (S/RES/1325(2000))*, 2000.

<sup>206</sup> Ibid.

<sup>207</sup> UN Youth, Peace, and Security, *The Missing Peace- Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. 12.

<sup>208</sup> UN Security Council, *Maintenance of international peace and security (S/RES/2250(2015))*, 2015.

<sup>209</sup> Ibid.

<sup>210</sup> UN OCT, *Home*.

<sup>211</sup> Ibid.

<sup>212</sup> UN OCT, *Plan of Action to prevent Violent Extremism*.

<sup>213</sup> Ibid.

<sup>214</sup> UN OCT, *Geneva Conference on Preventing Violent Extremism – The Way Forward*, 2016.

<sup>215</sup> UN OCT, *Plan of Action to prevent Violent Extremism*.

<sup>216</sup> Violence Prevention Network, *Annual Report 2017*, 2018.

and communities.<sup>217</sup> Hedayah is the first-ever International Center of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism, based in the United Arab Emirates, focusing on “capacity building programs, dialogue and communications, in addition to research and analysis to counter VE in all of its forms and manifestations.”<sup>218</sup>

### ***Empowering Women and Youth***

The UN focuses on women and youth in CVE efforts because they are highly affected by the dramatic rise of terrorist activities around the world.<sup>219</sup> Women’s rights and mobility, as well as, economic capacities are often jeopardized.<sup>220</sup> Women and girls are also disproportionately victims of violent attacks.<sup>221</sup> Youth is especially affected by lack of education, which can lead to radicalization.<sup>222</sup> Unemployment can play a role in the radicalization as well, as young people are pushed to join radical groups that provide basic necessities.<sup>223</sup> UN Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) on “Maintenance of international peace and security” recognizes the importance of youth empowerment in the prevention of violent extremism.<sup>224</sup> Member States with a high number of youth population that are affected by conflicts need to support the positive role young people play in PVE and provide opportunities for youth to be actively involved in CVE and PVE measures.<sup>225</sup> An effective, sustainable, long-term approach to tackling the issue of VE and radicalization of youth requires the active support of young people.<sup>226</sup> Young people are frustrated by the tendency of their governments and international actors to treat youth as a problem to be solved, instead of as partners for peace.<sup>227</sup>

There are still high obstacles for youth in the decision-making process such as a lack of political will or lacking democratic structures, a lack of financing or adequate mentors.<sup>228</sup> Bad governance and corruption result in the wrong use of already existing funds.<sup>229</sup> Therefore, the Plan of Action includes six recommendations for Member States to empower youth: (1) support and increase participation of young people in activities that prevent violent extremism, (2) integrate young people into decision-making processes at all levels (3) foster trust between decision makers and youth, (4) involve hard to reach young people from underrepresented regions, (5) establish national mentoring programs for young women and men, and (6) ensure that a portion of all funds to address violent extremism are committed to projects that address young people’s specific needs.<sup>230</sup> Gender equality and empowering women is another key area of the Plan of Action providing five concrete recommendations for Member States: (1) to mainstream gender perspectives across efforts to prevent violent extremism, (2) to invest in gender-sensitive research and data collection on women’s roles in violent extremism, (3) to include all underrepresented groups in national law enforcement and security agencies, (4) to promote women-led civil society organizations, and (5) to ensure a portion of all funds to address VE projects addresses women’s specific needs or empower women.<sup>231</sup>

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<sup>217</sup> Think Peace, *Who are we; Think Peace, Our approach*.

<sup>218</sup> Hedayah Center, *About Us - History*, 2019.

<sup>219</sup> UN Women, *Women’s role vital in countering violent extremism*, 2017.

<sup>220</sup> Ibid.

<sup>221</sup> Ibid.

<sup>222</sup> UN Youth, Peace, and Security, *The Missing Peace- Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. 1.

<sup>223</sup> UNDP, *Frontlines*, 2019, p. 30.

<sup>224</sup> UN Security Council, *Maintenance of international peace and security (S/RES/2250(2015))*, 2015.

<sup>225</sup> UNDP, *Young people’s role in preventing violent extremism*, 2018.

<sup>226</sup> Ibid.

<sup>227</sup> UN Youth, Peace, and Security, *The Missing Peace- Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. 1; UNDP, *Frontlines*, 2019, p. 30.

<sup>228</sup> UN OCT, *Plan of Action to prevent Violent Extremism*.

<sup>229</sup> UNDP, *Frontlines*, 2019, p. 58.

<sup>230</sup> UN General Assembly, *Plan of Action to prevent Violent Extremism: Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/674)*, 2015.

<sup>231</sup> Ibid.



To sustain peace and prevent the outbreak, continuation, escalation, and recurrence of violent conflict requires to expand women's engagement in formal and informal political processes and institutions.<sup>232</sup> The exclusion from meaningful civic and political participation leads to mistrust of systems, the lack of political will to address their exclusion calls for action.<sup>233</sup> Involvement of women and youth prevents frustration and potential violence, and therefore contributes to sustain peace.<sup>234</sup> UN Women's regional program on PVE focuses on women's participation and leadership within local communities.<sup>235</sup> The program takes a four-track approach: (1) To ensure that national and international CVE strategies are informed by women's experience close work with governments is needed (2) women's economic resilience should be expanded (3) women leadership and participation in CVE efforts should be expanded (4) research on women implication of extremism should develop.<sup>236</sup>

### **Capacity Building for CVE efforts**

The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its Plan of Actions is composed of four pillars: Pillar III calls for building states' capacity and strengthening the role of the UN in the fight against terrorism.<sup>237</sup> The Plan of Action therefore calls for Member States to reach out to the private sector for contributions to capacity-building programs, and to share best practices in counter-terrorism capacity building.<sup>238</sup>

International, regional, and sub-regional cooperation is of utmost importance to CVE and a means to build capacity on different levels.<sup>239</sup> Therefore, the Executive Directorate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTED) takes a number of actions for capacity building.<sup>240</sup> CTED reviews operational and legal administrative frameworks for international cooperation and makes recommendations to improve practices and implement them.<sup>241</sup> To tackle the growing issue of terrorist fighters, Member States have to strengthen their cooperation in terms of information sharing, exchanging and adopting best practices, and further understanding transnational aspects of terrorism.<sup>242</sup> In 2017, the mandate of the CTED was renewed with Security Council resolution 2395 (2017).<sup>243</sup> The resolution underlines CTED's analysis and recommendations to Member States to identify gaps in countering terrorism.<sup>244</sup> These recommendations include that Member States shall prevent the financing of terrorist acts, refrain from any kind of support to terrorists, and intensify the exchange of information on terrorist actors.<sup>245</sup>

One of CTED's tasks is also to visit Member States and analyze progress that has been made, identify trends and challenges in regard to terrorism, and provide recommendations for taking action.<sup>246</sup> These visits include experts from international and regional organizations, such as the International Civil Aviation Organization, the African Union, the European Union, the Financial Action Task Force of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, INTERPOL, the International Organization for Migration, UN OCT, the World Customs Organization, and other specialized bodies and institutions focused on counter-terrorism.<sup>247</sup> The

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<sup>232</sup> UN Youth, Peace, and Security, *The Missing Peace- Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. 64.

<sup>233</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 64.

<sup>234</sup> *Ibid.*; UN Women, *Women's role vital in countering violent extremism*, 2017.

<sup>235</sup> UN Women, *Women's role vital in countering violent extremism*, 2017.

<sup>236</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>237</sup> UN OCT, *UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy*.

<sup>238</sup> *Ibid.*; Wilson & Krentel, *Lessons from Strengthening Capacity in Countering Violent Extremism*, 2018, p. 18.

<sup>239</sup> UN Security Council CTC, *International, regional, and subregional cooperation*.

<sup>240</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>241</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>242</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>243</sup> UN Security Council CTC, *About the Counter-Terrorism Committee*; UN Security Council, *Threats to International Peace and Security, caused by terrorist acts – CTED mandate renewal (S/RES/2395(2017))*, 2017.

<sup>244</sup> UN Security Council CTC, *About the Counter-Terrorism Committee*.

<sup>245</sup> UN Security Council, *Threats to International Peace and Security, caused by terrorist acts – CTED mandate renewal (S/RES/2395(2017))*, 2017.

<sup>246</sup> UN Security Council CTC Executive Directorate, *About us*, 2019; Wilson & Krentel, *Lessons from Strengthening Capacity in Countering Violent Extremism*, 2018, p. 10.

<sup>247</sup> UN Security Council CTC Executive Directorate, *About us*, 2019.

recommendations focus on areas such as anti-terror legislation, measures against assets used for criminal purposes, effectiveness of law enforcement services, international cooperation, and territorial control.<sup>248</sup>

### **Conclusion**

CVE continues to be an urgent issue that needs to be addressed on all levels by governments, civil society, and individuals.<sup>249</sup> International, regional and subregional cooperation are key to counter violent extremism.<sup>250</sup> To address all forms of violent extremism, the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism was introduced by the Secretary-General in 2016.<sup>251</sup> The fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs, offering every person a sustainable future and participation in its creation, is part of an effective strategy to prevent radicalization and ultimately VE.<sup>252</sup> The UN Security Council has created various Committees and Task Forces to combat radicalization and terrorism and focuses on dialogue, inclusion, and promoting understanding and follows a comprehensive approach.<sup>253</sup> Empowering youth and women and girls are key areas of the Plan of Action.<sup>254</sup>

### **Further Research**

Moving forward, delegates should consider the following questions: Could a general definition of VE help to determine useful CVE measures? How can the empowerment of youth and women in CVE efforts be ensured? Which role could youth-led peacebuilding organizations play? What measures can be taken to prevent radicalization? How can Member States interact to work together on CVE efforts? How can a global framework on PVE work?

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*The Frontlines Report of the UNDP provides data from field case studies, a mapping of youth-led actions, and a global survey on youth and countering and preventing violent extremism. The source also includes examples of practices, policies, and recommendations on CVE efforts. This source is therefore especially useful to research on youth participating in the context of countering violent extremism, as well as on the participation of various actors including governmental and non-governmental actors.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism: Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/674)*. Retrieved 15 May 2019 from: <https://undocs.org/A/70/674>

*The Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism is an approach to address conditions that lead to radicalization and people to join extremist groups. The Plan contains more than 70 suggestions to Member States and the UN System to prevent the spread of violent extremism. The Plan introduces not only ongoing and essential security-based counter-terrorism measures, but also systematic preventive measures that directly*

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<sup>248</sup> UN Security Council CTC, *Framework Document for CTC visits to states in order to enhance the monitoring of the implementation of resolution 1373*, 2001.

<sup>249</sup> Wilson & Krentel, *Lessons from Strengthening Capacity in Countering Violent Extremism*, 2018, p. 2.

<sup>250</sup> UN Security Council CTC, *International, regional, and subregional cooperation*.

<sup>251</sup> UN OCT, *Plan of Action to prevent Violent Extremism*.

<sup>252</sup> UN General Assembly, *Plan of Action to prevent Violent Extremism: Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/674)*, 2015.

<sup>253</sup> UN Security Council, *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (S/RES/1373(2001))*, 2001; UN Security Council, *Prohibition of incitement to commit terrorist acts (S/RES/1624(2005))*, 2005; UN Security Council CTC Executive Directorate, *Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorist Narratives*, 2018.

<sup>254</sup> UN General Assembly, *Plan of Action to prevent Violent Extremism: Report of the Secretary-General (A/70/674)*, 2015.

*address the drivers of VE at the local, national, regional, and global levels. This source is useful to delegates to get an overview of what the UN are calling Member States to implement to tackle the issue of violent extremism.*

United Nations, Office of Counter-Terrorism. (n.d.). *Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism*. Retrieved 15 May 2019 from:

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*This document provides the reader with an overview of the Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism. The overview is divided into three sections: setting the policy framework, taking actions, and supporting Member States, regional bodies and communities through the UN. It is specifically useful to research recommendations for Member States as well as national and regional Plans of Action. Also useful is an overview of the seven key areas to take actions to prevent violent extremism.*

Violence Prevention Network. (2018). *Annual Report 2017*. Retrieved 15 May 2019 from: <https://violence-prevention-network.de/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Annual-Report-2017.pdf>

*The Violence Prevention Network is a German NGO founded in 2014 that provides services and training for deradicalization of youth. The approach of the NGO to deal with already radicalized youth and assist their families is new. The NGO also provides training for educators on deradicalization and the prevention of radicalization. This resource is helpful to see what ways of deradicalization are used by the organization and what still needs to be developed. The annual report further describes what the NGO is planning to do in the future to improve its work in the field of deradicalization.*

Wilson, L. & J. Krentel. (2018). *Lessons from Strengthening Capacity in Countering Violent Extremism*. Retrieved 15 May 2019 from: <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/sr426-lessons-from-strengthening-capacity-in-countering-violent-extremism.pdf>

*The report of the United States Institute of Peace is about an evaluation of a project to strengthen the capacity of civil society to address VE in their home communities. The evaluation suggests using effective project design, thoughtful recruitment strategies, and tailored course content that adequately covers approaches across the spectrum of preventing to countering are critical to effectively strengthening the capacity to address the drivers of violent extremism. This resource is helpful to explore possible capacity building measures on CVE as well as see difficulties that are present and call for improvement.*

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