



Washington, DC USA

6-8 November 2020

nmun.org/conferences/washington-dc.html



Security Council Background Guide 2020

Written by: Zachary Parker, Director;
Alexis Evans, Assistant Director; Lisa N. Huynh, Assistant Director-IS



NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS



Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2020 National Model United Nations Conference in Washington, DC (NMUN•DC)! We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, the Security Council (SC). This year's staff is: Director Zachary Parker and Assistant Director Alexis Evans. Zachary holds a Bachelor of Commerce Degree in Supply Chain Management, and works as a Supply Chain Planner for a major international machine and equipment distributor. Alexis is a Senior at the University of California, Berkeley, where she is pursuing her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science.

The topics under discussion for the SC are:

- I. Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict
- II. Addressing Security Challenges in Northern Africa and the Sahel

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 or the conference itself, please contact the Under-Secretary-General Adam Wolf at usgadam.dc@nmun.org or Secretary-General Daniel Sweeney at secgen.dc@nmun.org.

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

Sincerely,

Zachary Parker, Director
Alexis Evans, Assistant Director



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Committee Overview.....	1
Introduction	1
Governance, Structure, and Membership.....	1
Mandate, Functions, and Powers	3
Recent Sessions and Current Priorities.....	4
Conclusion	6
Annotated Bibliography.....	6
Bibliography	7
I. Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict	11
Introduction	11
International and Regional Framework.....	11
Role of the International System.....	13
R2P and the Protection of Civilians	14
Protection of Vulnerable Groups.....	14
Conclusion	16
Further Research.....	16
Annotated Bibliography.....	16
Bibliography	17
II. Addressing Security Challenges in Northern Africa and the Sahel	21
Introduction	21
International and Regional Framework.....	21
Role of the International System.....	23
Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime	24
Case Study: Mali.....	25
Conclusion	26
Further Research.....	26
Annotated Bibliography.....	27
Bibliography	28

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.¹ The Security Council became one of the six principal organs of the UN and was given the primary responsibility of preserving international peace and security.²

The Security Council held its first session on 17 January 1946 at Church House in London.³ After its first meeting, the Council relocated to its permanent residence at the UN Headquarters in New York City.⁴ At that time, five permanent members and six non-permanent members were part of the Council.⁵ In 1965, the number of non-permanent members increased to 10 and discussions regarding a change in configuration took place frequently.⁶ As the body's structure has remained largely unchanged, debate has arisen over the Security Council's efficacy and authority as a mediator on issues of international security.⁷ Matters such as the Syrian Civil War, Russia's annexation of Crimea, and The Democratic People's Republic of Korea's nuclear weapons program have posed particular challenges to the Security Council.⁸

Traditionally, the Security Council discusses issues related to peacekeeping missions, political processes, as well as the protection of human rights, disarmament, and humanitarian crises.⁹ However, with the adoption of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* by the UN General Assembly in 2015, the Security Council has begun to increasingly focus on the intersection between sustainability, peace, and security.¹⁰ Some important crosscutting 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.¹¹

Governance, Structure, and Membership

The Security Council is the only UN body that has the power to adopt legally binding resolutions, which place 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).¹² The Security Council also has a variety of other tools to address issues on its agenda.¹³ For example, the President of the Security Council may issue press statements or presidential statements to communicate the Council's position.¹⁴ Although these are not legally binding, such statements are used to bring attention to important issues and to recommend solutions to ongoing conflicts.¹⁵

¹ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

² UN Security Council, *What is the Security Council?*, 2019.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ UN Security Council, *Voting System*, 2020.

⁶ Global Policy Forum, *Background on Security Council Reform*, 2020.

⁷ Council on Foreign Relations, *The UN Security Council*, 2018.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid; Encyclopedia Britannica, *United Nations Security Council*, 2014.

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid; Ibid.

¹³ UN Security Council, *Functions and Powers*, 2020.

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ Ibid.

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.”¹⁶ Every year, the General Assembly elects five of the 10 non-permanent members for a two-year term.¹⁷ Elections for non-permanent seats on the Council can be competitive, with states expressing interest and campaigning years in advance.¹⁸ 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.¹⁹ Each member of the Security Council has the ability to be represented at all meetings.²⁰ In the Provisional Rules of Procedure, Rule 13 allows for Members to be represented by an “accredited representative,” such as a Head of Government.²¹

Belgium, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Germany, Indonesia, Niger, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, South Africa, Tunisia, and Vietnam are the current non-permanent members for the 2020-2021 term.²² Security Council elections are held six months before the term starts in June.²³ This change allows Member States sufficient time to prepare for their new role.²⁴ 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.²⁵

Every Member State of the Security Council has one vote.²⁶ Votes on all matters require supermajority of nine Member States.²⁷ 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.²⁸ This is known as “veto power.”²⁹ In the 1950s, Security Council Member States made frequent use of their veto power, but its usage declined in the 1960s—rising again in the 1970s and 1980s.³⁰ In the last decades, the use of the veto power has been comparatively rare.³¹ In recent years, the Council has adopted many resolutions by consensus and has only been divided on a very limited number of issues.³²

The issue of reform arose in a debate on 2018 November 20, during which members of the UN General Assembly suggested the Security Council must adapt, reform, and expand its membership to include underrepresented regions to meet emerging challenges in the continually-changing and complex international peace and security architecture.³³ Delegates called for expanding the number of permanent members and abolishing the permanent member’s use of veto power.³⁴

Each member of the Security Council holds the presidency of the Council for one month, rotating according to alphabetical order.³⁵ Security Council meetings can be held at any time when convened by

¹⁶ Ibid, p. 15.

¹⁷ Ibid, p. 15.

¹⁸ UN DGC, *Ahead of Security Council elections, General Assembly President explains how a country can get a non-permanent seat*, 2016.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ UN Security Council, *Highlights of Security Council Practice*, 2019.

²² UN Security Council, *Current Members*, 2020.

²³ UN General Assembly, *Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (A/RES/68/307)*, 2014, p. 4.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ UN General Assembly, *Rules of procedure*, 2017.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Security Council Report, *In Hindsight: The Veto*, 2013; Security Council Report, *The Permanent Members and the Use of the Veto: An Abridged History*, 2013.

³¹ Ibid.

³² Security Council Report, *In Hindsight: Consensus in the Security Council*, 2014; Ibid.

³³ Nastranis, *UN Security Council Reform Back on the Table Again*, 2019.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ UN Security Council, *Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council (S/96/Rev.7)*, 1982.

the President and by the request of any Member State.³⁶ 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.³⁷ Due to this, the Security Council meets regularly throughout the year in the UN Conference Building.³⁸ However, in 2020, due to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the Security Council have resorted to meeting online through video conferences.³⁹ Any Member State may attend the Council's sessions if the body decides to extend an invitation.⁴⁰ Member States are invited if the Security Council is discussing an issue that directly concerns the interests of the Member State.⁴¹ Invited Member States do not have the right to vote but are allowed to submit proposals and draft resolutions.⁴² Furthermore, invited Member States can inform the Council about a current crisis in their region.⁴³ However, such proposals may only be put to a vote at the request of a member of the Council.⁴⁴

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.⁴⁵ The Security Council also works with the General Assembly to oversee the work of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC).⁴⁶ Additionally, Security Council Member States participate in various working groups, which 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 Council itself.⁴⁷

Cooperation between the Security Council and other entities, such as the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is significant.⁴⁸ Partnerships with independent regional organizations, such as the European Union (EU) and the African Union (AU) 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.⁴⁹

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.⁵⁰ The Council's authority is particularly relevant with respect to the UN's four primary purposes, as specified in the Charter: maintaining international peace and security; developing friendly relations among nations; cooperating in solving international problems; and promoting respect for human rights.⁵¹ The capabilities of the Security Council are highlighted in Chapters V–VIII.⁵² Chapter V establishes the structure, membership, functions, and powers of the Security Council.⁵³ Chapters VI and VII of the Charter specifically concern the Security Council and the range of actions that can be taken when settling disputes.⁵⁴ Chapter VI of the Charter by itself aims to settle disputes through peaceful means, such as negotiation and judicial settlement.⁵⁵ Chapter VII

³⁶ UN Security Council, *Repertoire of the practice of the Security Council*, 2019.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Lynch, *U.N. Agencies Struggle to Carry on Remotely*, 2020.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ UN Security Council, *Committees, Working Groups and Ad Hoc Bodies*, 2019.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Ibid; UN Security Council, *Resolution 2118 (2013) (S/RES/2349) (2013)*, 2013.

⁴⁹ Ibid; Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² Ibid.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵ Ibid.

explores further actions that can be taken in regard to threats to peace, branches of peace, and acts of aggression.⁵⁶ This chapter also authorizes the Security Council to implement provisional measures aimed to de-escalate the situation.⁵⁷ Chapter VIII of the Charter allows the Security Council to call upon other regional agencies or arrangements to enforce appropriate operations and intervene if necessary.⁵⁸

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.⁵⁹ Some of these measures include arms embargos, enforcing disarmament, or calling upon international criminal mechanisms to become active.⁶⁰ 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.⁶¹ 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.⁶² The Council may also decide upon the deployment of new UN peacekeeping operations to be led by the Department of Peace Operations (DPO).⁶³ The Security Council creates a peacekeeping operation by adopting a resolution that outlines the mandate and size of a particular mission, and UN peacekeepers are assigned to appropriate regions to address conflicts.⁶⁴ The Council also cooperates with a number of international and regional organizations as well as non-governmental organizations to implement its decisions.⁶⁵

Recent Sessions and Current Priorities

In 2019, the Security Council held 285 meetings, issued 15 presidential statements, and adopted 26 resolutions.⁶⁶ The Security Council has focused efforts to consider the country and region specific situations in its agenda.⁶⁷ With a particular focus on the Middle East region, the Council has drafted several resolutions to address the situation in Mali, Yemen, and Syria.⁶⁸

Mali has been struggling with issues of safety of its citizens, ineffective governance, and economic and political instability, which has been exacerbated by nepotism and corruption in government.⁶⁹ In 2019, the Security Council adopted resolution 2480, which urges the Malian government to accelerate the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali within a realistic and binding timeline.⁷⁰ The Council also adopted resolution 2478 on 26 June 2019, renewing its sanctions regime against individuals and entities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo until 1 July 2020.⁷¹

Yemen is the poorest country in the Middle East and suffers from corruption, poverty and unrest from Houthi militia.⁷² To address the ongoing conflict in Yemen, the Security Council adopted resolution 2481 on 15 July 2019 to extend the mandate of the UN Mission to support the Hodeidah Agreement (UNMHA)

⁵⁶ Ibid.

⁵⁷ Ibid.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁰ Ibid.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ UN Peacekeeping, *Forming a New Operation*.

⁶⁴ UN Peacekeeping, *Role of the Security Council*.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ UN DGC, *Highlights of Security Council Practice 2018, 2017*.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ UN DGC, *Mali, 2020*.

⁷⁰ UN Security Council, *The Situation in Mali (S/RES/2480 (2019))*, 2019.

⁷¹ UN Security Council, *The Situation Concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/RES/2478 (2019))*, 2019.

⁷² UN Security Council, *Permanent Mission of Republic of Yemen to the United Nations, 2020*.

until 15 January 2020.⁷³ However, since mid-January, the bouts of violence and instability continue to persist throughout the region.⁷⁴

The conflict in Syria has led to over 5.6 million refugees and 6.1 internally displaced people.⁷⁵ Security Council resolution 2477 on the situation in the Middle East, adopted 26 June 2019, calls on all parties in Syria to cooperate with and support the operations of the UN Disengagement Observer Forces (UNDOF) and urges parties to exercise restraint and prevent breaches of ceasefires in the region.⁷⁶ The Council encouraged all parties to comply to a ceasefire and have started joint patrols from Russian and Turkish officials to enforce any opposition from Syrian rebels.⁷⁷

In addition to state and region-specific issues, the Security Council has discussed cross-cutting and thematic issues, such as threats to international peace and security, the financing of terrorism, and climate change, peace, and security.⁷⁸ In 2019, the Security Council adopted resolution 2482 (2019) on “threats to international peace and security caused by international terrorism and organized crime” and 2462 (2019) which outlined measures to suppress the financing of terrorism.⁷⁹ Resolution 2482 called upon Member States to enhance coordination towards a global response to international terrorism and organized crime.⁸⁰ The resolution also urges Member States to investigate and dismantle organized crime networks involved in trafficking, and to review and implement legislation on issues such as sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict by ensuring that domestic laws and regulations are in line with Member States’ obligations under international law.⁸¹ Resolution 2462 calls for the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) to play a leading role in identifying ways to suppress terrorist financing through expanding its focus and working closely with the Financial Action Task Force, an inter-governmental body that sets standards for combating money laundering and terrorist financing.⁸² The Secretary-General, in his tenth report (S/2020/95), provided updates about the threats posed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL or Da’esh) in February 2020 to urge Member States to assist in efforts to counter the threat to international security and peace.⁸³

The Security Council also urges the importance of addressing the safety and protection of civilians in armed conflict.⁸⁴ The Council passed resolution 2474 (2019) on “protection of civilians in armed conflict - missing persons in armed conflict,” and resolution 2475 (2019), on “protections of persons with disabilities in armed conflict.”⁸⁵ Resolution 2467 (2019) also added a measure to combat sexual violence in armed conflict.⁸⁶

In 2020, the Council stressed the importance of protecting children impacted by armed conflicts.⁸⁷ The Security Council also urged for a conflict prevention strategy to target the younger population and called upon other Member States to incorporate additional provisions in peace negotiations and agreements to

⁷³ UN Security Council, *The Situation in the Middle East (S/RES/2481 (2019))*, 2019.

⁷⁴ UN Security Council Report, *Yemen*, 2020.

⁷⁵ UN DGC, *Syria*, 2020.

⁷⁶ UN Security Council, *The Situation in the Middle East (S/RES/2477 (2019))*, 2019.

⁷⁷ UN Security Council Report, *Syria*, 2020.

⁷⁸ UN DPA, *Security Council Reporting and Mandate Cycles*, 2018; Security Council Report, *Thematic and General Issues*, 2018.

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

⁸⁰ UN Security Council, *Threats to International Peace and Security (S/RES/2482 (2019))*, 2019.

⁸¹ *Ibid.*

⁸² UN Security Council, *Threats to International Peace and Security Caused by Terrorist Acts: Preventing and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (S/RES/2462 (2019))*, 2019.

⁸³ UN Security Council, *Tenth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da’esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat (S/2020/95)*, 2020.

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

⁸⁶ *Ibid.*

⁸⁷ UN Security Council, *Resolution 2250 (2015) (S/Res/2250 (2015))*, 2015.

protect the children.⁸⁸ Resolution 2419 (2018) outlines the role of youth in conflict prevention.⁸⁹ Security Council resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security in 2015, which highlights specific instances where youth participation and inclusion can occur, such as in civil and political engagement, humanitarian assistance, and civil society.⁹⁰ This will help integrate and enable young individuals in decision processes and promote international peace and security.⁹¹

Conclusion

The Security Council is one of the main bodies of the UN that ensures international peace and security, overseeing the admission of new members to the UN General Assembly, and changes to the UN Charter.⁹² 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, the only UN body to have legally-binding decisions.⁹³ The Council is the only UN body that has the ability to create legally binding decisions.⁹⁴ 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 post-2015 development agenda signaled the increasing need to also discuss the linkages between peace and security, and issues of human security and development.⁹⁵ The Council has begun looking at the intersection between the SDGs and international peace and security, namely through discussion and debates on climate change.⁹⁶ The Security Council also continues to address regional and country issues, as well as thematic issues, such as climate change, terrorism, and gender.⁹⁷

Annotated Bibliography

Charter of the United Nations. (1945). Retrieved 25 February 2020 from: <http://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/index.html>

The Charter of the United Nations provides a thorough explanation on the powers, and functions authorized to the Security Council. For instance, the Charter outlines where the use of force is acceptable and how the council is structured to combat threats to international peace and security. 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 27-32 of the Charter outlines the voting procedures of the committee and structure of how the committee conducts its business. Article 23, which sets the membership structure, and articles 23–26, which discuss its basic functions and powers, are important for understanding both the structure and function of the Security Council. In addition, articles 27–32 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.

United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. (2018). *Security Council Reporting and Mandate Cycles.* Retrieved 25 April 2020 from: https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sites/www.un.org.securitycouncil/files/general/reportingandmandatecycles_122018.pdf

Published by the UN Department of Political Affairs, this document provides information on the work and decisions of the Security Council, including resolutions and presidential

⁸⁸ Ibid.

⁸⁹ UN Security Council, *Resolution 2419 (2018) (S/RES/2419 (2018))*, 2018.

⁹⁰ Ibid.

⁹¹ Ibid.

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

⁹⁶ Mead, *UN Security Council Addresses Climate Change as a Security Risk*, 2019.

⁹⁷ UN DGC, *Fragile countries risk being 'stuck in a cycle of conflict and climate disaster,' Security Council told*, 2018.

statements. The document primarily consists of tables on items that have been discussed by the Security Council, various requests by the Security Council, and mandates of different entities and operations that report to the Council. This report will help delegates by providing succinct and clear information on the recent actions taken by the Security Council on its various thematic issues. Additionally, delegates may find the tables providing the actual clauses of different Security Council resolutions particularly helpful to their research.

United Nations, Security Council. (2019). *Highlights of Security Council Practice*. Retrieved on 27 February 2020 from: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/highlights-2019>

This article reviews the activities and resolutions passed of the Security Council during the last year. This is a useful recap of all the issues that the Security Council has addressed or currently still needs to resolve. The Security Council highlights for the previous years are also available. For a more detailed report, the Security Council also reports monthly updates. There are many charts and graphics depicting the activity of the Council within 2019, even detailing number of meetings, regional focuses, and decisions by geographical regions.

Bibliography

Charter of the United Nations. (1945). Retrieved 25 February 2020 from: <http://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/index.html>

Council on Foreign Relations. (2015). *The UN Security Council*. Retrieved 25 April 2020 from: <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/un-security-council>

Encyclopedia Britannica. (2014). *United Nations Security Council*. Retrieved 5 May 2020 from: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/United-Nations-Security-Council>

Global Policy Forum. (2020). *Background on Security Council Reform*. Retrieved 20 May 2020 from: <https://www.globalpolicy.org/security-council/security-council-reform/49885.html?itemid=1321>

Lynch, C. (2020). *U.N. Agencies Struggle to Carry On Remotely*. Retrieved 4 April 2020 from: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/04/03/united-nations-coronavirus-pandemic-human-rights-council-work-remotely/>

Mead, L. (2018). UN Security Council Addresses Climate Change as a Security Risk. *SDG Knowledge Hub*. Retrieved 5 May 2020 from: <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/un-security-council-addresses-climate-change-as-a-security-risk/>

Nastranis, J. (2019). *UN Security Council Reform Back on the Table*. SDGs for All. Retrieved 25 April 2020 from: <https://www.sdgforall.net/index.php/goal-16/876-un-security-council-reform-back-on-the-table-again>

NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security. (2010). *Mapping Women, Peace and Security in the UN Security Council: Report of the NGOWG Monthly Action Points, 2009-2010*. Retrieved 5 May 2020 from: http://peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/NGOWG%20Report_Mapping%201325_October%202010.pdf

Security Council Report. (2013). *In Hindsight: The Veto*. Retrieved 5 May 2020 from: http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2013-11/in_hindsight_the_veto.php

Security Council Report. (2013). *The Permanent Members and the Use of the Veto: An Abridged History*. Retrieved 2 May 2020 from: <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/SCR-veto-insert-2.pdf>

Security Council Report. (2014). *In Hindsight: Consensus in the Security Council*. Retrieved 5 May 2020 from: http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2014-01/in_hindsight_consensus_in_the_security_council.php

Security Council Report. (2018). *Thematic and General Issues*. Retrieved 25 August 2019 from: <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/thematic-general-issues.php>

Security Council Report. (2019). *Syria*. Retrieved 6 April 2020 from: <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2019-08/syria-10.php>

Security Council Report. (2020). *Syria*. Retrieved 2 April 2020 from: <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2020-04/syria-18.php>

Security Council Report. (2020). *Yemen*. Retrieved 1 April 2020 from: <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2020-04/yemen-17.php>

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. (2016, June 27). *Ahead of Security Council elections, General Assembly President explains how a country can get a non-permanent seat*. Retrieved 5 May 2020 from: <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=54339&Kw1>

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. (2017). *Highlights of Security Council Practice 2018*. Retrieved 5 May 2020 from: <https://unite.un.org/sites/unite.un.org/files/app-schighlights-2018/index.html>

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. (2018, July 11). *Fragile countries risk being 'stuck in a cycle of conflict and climate disaster,' Security Council told*. Retrieved 5 May 2020 from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/07/1014411>

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. (2020). *Mali*. Retrieved 24 April 2020 from: <https://news.un.org/en/focus/mali>

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. (2020). *Syria*. Retrieved 24 April 2020 from: <https://news.un.org/en/focus/syria>

United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. (2018). *Security Council Reporting and Mandate Cycles*. Retrieved 29 April 2020 from: https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sites/www.un.org.securitycouncil/files/general/reportingandmandatecycles_122018.pdf

United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Politically Speaking. (2018, June 27). *Sustaining Peace, Conflict Prevention, Human Rights and Sustainable Development High on Agenda for New Security Council Members*. Retrieved 5 May 2020 from: <https://dppa-ps.atavist.com/sustaining-peace-conflict-prevention-human-rights-and-sustainable-development-high-on-agenda-for-new-security-council-members>

United Nations, General Assembly. (2019). *Rules of procedure*. Retrieved 5 May 2020 from: <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/ropga/elect.shtml>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2014). *Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (A/RES/68/307)*. Adopted without reference to a Main Committee (A/68/951). Retrieved 5 May 2020 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/68/307>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. Adopted without reference to a Main Committee (A/70/L.1). Retrieved 25 August 2019 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/1>

- United Nations Peacekeeping. (n.d.). *Forming a new operation*. Retrieved 25 April 2020 from: <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/forming-new-operation>
- United Nations Peacekeeping. (n.d.). *Role of the Security Council*. Retrieved 5 May 2020 from: <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/role-of-security-council>
- United Nations, Security Council. (1982). *Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council (S/96/Rev.7)*. Retrieved 5 May 2020 from: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/provisional-rules-procedure>
- United Nations, Security Council. (2019). *Committees, Working Groups and Ad Hoc Bodies*. Retrieved 5 May 2020 from: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/committees-working-groups-and-ad-hoc-bodies>
- United Nations, Security Council. (2019). *Highlights of Security Council Practice*. Retrieved on 27 February 2020 from: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/highlights-2019>
- United Nations, Security Council. (2019). *Repertoire of the practice of the Security Council*. Retrieved 5 May 2020 from: http://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/subsidiary_organ/working_groups.shtml
- United Nations, Security Council. (2019). *Sanctions*. Retrieved 5 May 2020 from: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sanctions/information>
- United Nations, Security Council. (2020). *Current Members*. Retrieved 22 February 2020 from: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/current-members>
- United Nations, Security Council. (2020). *Functions and Powers*. Retrieved 25 February 2020 from: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/functions-and-powers>
- United Nations, Security Council. (2020). *Permanent Mission of the Republic of Yemen to the United Nations*. Retrieved 1 May 2020 from: <https://www.un.int/yemen/about>
- United Nations, Security Council. (2020). *Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2020/2)*. Retrieved 25 March 2020 from: <https://undocs.org/en/S/PRST/2020/2>
- United Nations, Security Council. (2020). *Tenth report of the Secretary-General on the threat posed by ISIL (Da'esh) to international peace and security and the range of United Nations efforts in support of Member States in countering the threat (S/2020/95)*. Retrieved 30 March 2020 from: <https://www.undocs.org/S/2020/95>
- United Nations, Security Council. (2020). *What is the Security Council?*. Retrieved 23 February 2020 from: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/what-security-council>
- United Nations, Security Council. (2020). *Voting System*. Retrieved 23 February 2020 from: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/voting-system>
- United Nations, Security Council, 7038th meeting. (2013, September 27). *Resolution 2118 (2013) (S/RES/2349) (2013)*. Retrieved 4 June 2019 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2118\(2013\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2118(2013))
- United Nations, Security Council, 7573rd meeting. (2015, December 9). *Resolution 2250 (2015) (S/Res/2250 (2015))*. Retrieved 30 March 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2250\(2015\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2250(2015))
- United Nations, Security Council, 8277th meeting. (2018, June 8). *Resolution 2419 (2018) (S/RES/2419 (2018))*. Retrieved 30 March 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2419\(2018\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2419(2018))



United Nations, Security Council, 8496th meeting. (2019, March 28). *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts: Preventing and combating the financing of terrorism (S/RES/2462 (2019))*. Retrieved 5 May 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2462\(2019\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2462(2019))

United Nations, Security Council, 8562nd meeting. (2019, June 26). *The Situation in the Middle East (S/RES/2477 (2019))*. Retrieved 5 May 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2477\(2019\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2477(2019))

United Nations, Security Council, 8563rd meeting. (2019, June 26). *The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/RES/2478 (2019))*. Retrieved 5 May 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2478\(2019\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2478(2019))

United Nations, Security Council, 8568th meeting. (2019, June 28). *The situation in Mali (S/RES/2480 (2019))*. Retrieved 5 May 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2480\(2019\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2480(2019))

United Nations, Security Council, 8572nd meeting. (2019, July 15). *The Situation in the Middle East (S/RES/2481 (2019))*. Retrieved 5 May 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2481\(2019\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2481(2019))

United Nations, Security Council, 8582nd meeting. (2019, July 19). *Threats to International Peace and Security (S/RES/2482 (2019))*. Retrieved 5 May 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2482\(2019\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2482(2019))

I. Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict

Introduction

Armed conflict continues to be a pressing issue which impacts livelihoods, and because of the severe lack of regard for International Humanitarian Law (IHL), civilians continue to be most affected by armed conflicts.⁹⁸ In 2018, the International Committee of the Red Cross identified that 2 billion people worldwide were affected by armed conflict.⁹⁹ As outlined in the Secretary-General's 2019 report on "Protection of Civilians Affected by Armed Conflict", some of the challenges of armed conflict include environmental protection, forced migration, and food security.¹⁰⁰ Among addressing these challenges, United Nations (UN) Secretary-General António Guterres mentioned the need to promote accountability for not protecting civilians in areas of armed conflict.¹⁰¹ The *Fourth Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (1949)*, defines the protection of civilians as "persons taking no active part in the hostilities" and calls for prohibiting of: violence, the use of hostages, impacts to personal dignity, or improper persecution."¹⁰²

The Security Council works to maintain international peace and security, which includes reviewing threats to peace, disputes that may lead to hostilities, or other challenges in maintaining international security.¹⁰³ Measures the Security Council can use for protection measures include the review and recommendation of dispute resolution, the use of sanctions against countries who fail to prevent violence that impacts civilians, or the ability to call for military action in order to reduce the threat of an aggressor.¹⁰⁴ The protection of civilians in armed conflict remains a relevant and essential aspect of this mandate.¹⁰⁵ Armed conflicts contribute to disproportionate impacts on civilians, especially those vulnerable groups such as persons with disabilities, youth, and women, and may impact their human rights, and have physical, emotional, and psychological effects.¹⁰⁶ The gaps in fully enforcing protection of civilians include lack of a streamlined protection strategy, leadership, resources, and information.¹⁰⁷ One challenge that the Security Council faces in this matter is that often their response is acute and typically only to immediate threats, rather than through the development of a long term strategy, either in reducing the number of conflicts, or in terms of protecting civilians.¹⁰⁸ In recent years, topics pertaining to the role of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) and protections of vulnerable persons continue to play a key role in better reducing the impact of armed conflict on civilians.¹⁰⁹

International and Regional Framework

The Security Council began detailed discussion on the protection of civilians in armed conflict in 1994, and through resolution 918 on "The expansion of the mandate of the UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda and imposition of an arms embargo on Rwanda," in which sanctions were imposed against Rwanda for widespread violence, including the condemnation of killings against innocent civilians.¹¹⁰ In 1996, Security

⁹⁸ UN DPI, Civilian Experiences, Needs in Conflict Critical to Creating Protection, Accountability Frameworks, Speakers Tell Security Council, *United Nations, Security Council, 8534th Meeting*, 2019.

⁹⁹ International Committee of the Red Cross, *Global Trends of War and Their Humanitarian Impacts*, 2018.

¹⁰⁰ UN Security Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (S/2019/373)*, 2019.

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

¹⁰² *Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Times of War (2nd part)*, 1949.

¹⁰³ UN DPI, *What is the Security Council?*, 2020.

¹⁰⁴ UN DPI, *Functions and Powers*, 2020.

¹⁰⁵ Ibid.

¹⁰⁶ UN Security Council, *Resolution 2475 (S/RES/2475)*, 2019.

¹⁰⁷ UN DPO and UN OCHA, *Protecting Civilians in the Context of UN Peacekeeping Operations Successes, Setbacks and Remaining Challenges*, 2009, pp. 8-9.

¹⁰⁸ Center for Civilians in Conflict, *POC20: Twenty Years of the Protection of Civilians Challenges, Progress, and Priorities for the Future*, 2019.

¹⁰⁹ Global Center for the Responsibility to Protect, *What is R2P?*, 2020; UN Security Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (S/2020/366)*, 2020.

¹¹⁰ UN Security Council, *Resolution 918 (S/RES/918)*, 1994.

Council resolution 1080 on “The situation in the Great Lakes region” also called for states to increase their efforts to improve the situation for humanitarian organizations to operate and provide aid to persons affected by armed conflict, specifically vulnerable groups including “displaced persons, refugees and civilians at risk” in Zaire.¹¹¹ In 1999, Security Council resolution 1265 on “The protection of civilians in armed conflict” strongly condemned the intentional targeting of civilians, including the importance for states to resolve potential conflicts, including “genocide, crimes against humanity, and serious violations of international humanitarian law.”¹¹² The resolution also emphasized the importance of protection measures for humanitarian personnel, the importance of peacebuilding and peacekeeping, and the impacts of conflict on children.¹¹³ Security Council resolution 1502 (2003) on “Protection of United Nations personnel, associated personnel and humanitarian personnel in conflict zones” further elaborates on how Member States can protect civilians and humanitarian personnel trying to assist them.¹¹⁴ Adopted as part of the proceedings of the 2005 World Summit, R2P was identified to address the concept that states have a responsibility to protect both its own and other citizens during times of conflict, genocide, or other crimes against humanity as outlined in chapters VI and VIII of the Charter of the United Nations. Security Council resolution 2150 (2014) on “Threats to international peace and security” identified the importance of the role of states in preventing genocide, and other offences to international law, including R2P.¹¹⁵

With pressures to increase protection of health and medical workers impacted by armed conflict, the Security Council adopted resolution 2286 in 2016 on “Protection of civilians in armed conflict,” which called upon states to ensure they have adequate armed forces to protect these groups, increased investigations into these violations of IHL, and need to develop adequate protection measures for these groups.¹¹⁶ In 2018, due to rising food insecurity and its impacts on stability, another Security Council resolution 2417 on “Protection of civilians in armed conflict” was adopted and identified the link between armed conflict and food security, including the disruptions to food supply chains, and denial of food related to humanitarian operations.¹¹⁷ Most recently in 2019, the Security Council adopted two resolutions pertaining to the protection of civilians; resolution 2474 talked about the impacts of armed conflict and resulting missing persons, while resolution 2475 spoke about the inherent challenges for the protection of persons with disabilities during armed conflict.¹¹⁸ Current issues that remain under discussion for the Security Council include compliance with IHL, protection of vulnerable persons such as women, and the protection of health workers and associated facilities.¹¹⁹

Regionally, the Organization for American States (OAS) has adopted a number of conventions pertaining to protection, including the *American Convention on Human Rights “Pact of San Jose, Costa Rica”* (1969) which outlined a number of human rights, including the right to protection, right to life, and right to humane treatment.¹²⁰ OAS also adopted the *Convention to Prevent and Punish the Acts of Terrorism Taking the Forms of Crimes Against Persons and Related Extortion that are of International Significance* (1971) that outlines states should take adequate measures to ensure the protection of persons from various crimes.¹²¹ Recently, the African Union has taken measures to develop better regional cooperation through the adoption of *Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want* (2013).¹²² Specifically, Article 39 of agenda

¹¹¹ UN Security Council, *Resolution 1080 (S/RES/1080)*, 1996.

¹¹² UN Security Council, *Resolution 1265 (S/RES/1265)*, 1999.

¹¹³ Ibid.

¹¹⁴ UN Security Council, *Resolution 1502 (S/RES/1502)*, 2003.

¹¹⁵ UN Security Council, *Resolution 2150 (S/RES/2150)*, 2014.

¹¹⁶ UN Security Council, *Resolution 2286 (S/RES/2286)*, 2016, p. 4.

¹¹⁷ UN Security Council, *Resolution 2417 (S/RES/2417)*, 2018, p. 3.

¹¹⁸ UN Security Council, *Resolution 2474 (S/RES/2474)*, 2019; Ibid.

¹¹⁹ Security Council Report, *May 2020 Monthly Forecast Protection of Civilians*, 2020.

¹²⁰ Organization of American States, *American Convention on Human Rights “Pact of San Jose, Costa Rica” (B-32)*, 1969.

¹²¹ Organization of American States, *Convention to Prevent and Punish the Acts of Terrorism Taking the Forms of Crimes Against Persons and Related Extortion that are of International Significance (A-49)*, 1971.

¹²² African Union, *Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want*, 2013.

2063 focuses on developing the capacity for the African region to develop measures to improve peace and security, and ensure the protection of citizens.¹²³

Role of the International System

The protection of civilians in armed conflict remains a relevant and essential aspect of the Security Council's mandate.¹²⁴ In the case of dispute resolution, chapter VI of the *Charter of the United Nations* outlines disputes and allows the Security Council to address disputes that are likely to put international peace and security at risk.¹²⁵ While the Security Council addresses issues related to protection of civilians in a number of ways, a key aspect that they use to discuss is through Arria-Formula Meetings – informal meetings of members of the Security Council used in cases where not all members agree to meet, may include confidential discussion, or to hear from others involved in pressing security related matters.¹²⁶

The UN Department of Peace Operations (DPO) plays a key role in the tactical protection of civilians, with more than 95% of peacekeepers mandated with the protection of civilians.¹²⁷ In the 1999 Security Council resolution 1265 on “Protection of civilians in armed conflict” identified the role and mandate for peacekeeping operations for the protection of civilians was defined, and was first used through Security Council resolution 1270 in relationship to the mission to Sierra Leone.¹²⁸ UN peace missions fall under three support areas: protection through political process; providing protection from physical violence; and establishing a protective environment.¹²⁹ In partnership with UN DPO, the UN Police also play a key role in order to meet aforementioned areas for peace operations, working in areas of prevention, pre-emption, response, and consolidation for the protection of civilians.¹³⁰ UN Police also work with local police forces in areas of identifying and creating core protection policies, strengthening the role of local police in liaising with local communities, and ensuring the adherence to the rule of law; this work also must comply with UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP).¹³¹

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) plays a key role in ensuring inter-agency policy development on protection, and streamlining protection initiatives to align with all United Nations work.¹³² UN OCHA also works on a global level to support policy development, capacity building, the effective cooperation of UN peacekeeping missions, and at the country level to ensure protections are being met for all peoples, including the needs of IDPs.¹³³ Created by the General Assembly in 1991, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) also works towards the protection of civilians through improving the coordination of humanitarian response within the UN system.¹³⁴ Their work includes discussion around creating definitions related to protection, address varying intersectional topics on protection, data collection, and situation evaluation.¹³⁵ The NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security also plays a key role in advocating for the Security Council to take into consideration the many ways women are impacted by armed conflict.¹³⁶

¹²³ Ibid.

¹²⁴ Ibid.

¹²⁵ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Ch. VI.

¹²⁶ Security Council Report, *Arria-Formula Meetings*, 2020.

¹²⁷ UN DPO, *Protecting Civilians*, 2020.

¹²⁸ UN DPO, *The Protection of Civilians in United Nations Peacekeeping*, 2019.

¹²⁹ UN DPO, *Civil Affairs Handbook*, 2012.

¹³⁰ UN Police, *Protection of Civilians*, 2020.

¹³¹ Ibid.

¹³² UN OCHA, *Protection*, 2020.

¹³³ Ibid.

¹³⁴ UN General Assembly, *Strengthening of the Coordination of Humanitarian Emergency Assistance of the United Nations (A/RES/46/182)*, 1991.

¹³⁵ Inter-Agency Standing Committee, *Protection in Humanitarian Action*, 2016.

¹³⁶ NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, *Protection of Civilians*, 2020.

R2P and the Protection of Civilians

R2P has been addressed in a number of conflicts including the Central African Republic, Libya, Yemen, Mali, Syria, and most recently in regards to the situation in South Sudan.¹³⁷ Security Council resolution 1973 (2011) on “The situation in Libya” provides a strong example of the use of R2P in regards to the council’s response in the Libya Civil War against Muammar Gaddafi’s regime.¹³⁸ The resolution authorized Member States to, excluding occupation, use all means necessary to protect civilians who were impacted by the ongoing conflict and also established a “no fly zone,” which effectively banned most flights in Libya’s airspace.¹³⁹ With use of force authorized, a NATO-led coalition was formed with the objective to police the arms embargo, enforce a no-fly zone, and protect civilians.¹⁴⁰ Throughout the course several months, the coalition targeted Libyan regime forces, perceiving their advancements and actions as threats to civilians.¹⁴¹ This crippled the regime, and eventually led to the rebel groups defeating Gaddafi’s forces and with Gaddafi himself being captured and killed.¹⁴² This has led to considerable debate amongst Member States about the legitimacy of R2P, and if authorizing the use of force violates state sovereignty and Article 2.1 of the *Charter of the United Nations*.¹⁴³

Another argument as to why R2P has not been as successful as intended is it often is only used where the wider international community must take action, sometimes through the use of military intervention.¹⁴⁴ This means addressing additional pillars of R2P, which includes prevention and ensuring crimes against humanity do not occur, but also to help societies rebuild following the fallout of a conflict.¹⁴⁵ In 2019, the use of R2P was identified as a strong policy tool to allow for the reduction of crimes and has a strong link to the protection of civilians.¹⁴⁶ It has been argued that the role of R2P has been less impactful in recent years as its scope has narrowed.¹⁴⁷ This narrowing has been done in order to increase the potential use in other applications and increase international support for the concept, however even with the reduced scope, there has not been much growth in its utilization or acceptability.¹⁴⁸ A more robust relationship between the Security Council and Human Rights Council could lead to increased understanding of potential security challenges, and lead to the actual prevention of crimes against humanity, rather than acutely responded to security issues once they have already escalated.¹⁴⁹

Protection of Vulnerable Groups

Many civilians who experience conflict are prone to increased risks that can enhance certain inherent vulnerabilities in groups such as women, children, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).¹⁵⁰ Some of their inherent vulnerabilities can affect their entire way of life, and increase their risk of violence and lack of access to basic needs.¹⁵¹ Women and girls are particularly at risk due to increased sexual violence, often as a result of being away from home, forced displacement, reduced access to basic needs, and often having to become primary caretakers of their

¹³⁷ Ibid; UN Security Council, *Resolution 2514 (S/RES/2514)*, 2020, p. 4; Global Center for Responsibility to Protect, *R2P Monitor Issue 59*, 2020.

¹³⁸ UN Security Council, *Resolution 1973 (S/RES/1973)*, 2011, p. 3.

¹³⁹ Ibid, p. 3.

¹⁴⁰ Lopez, *Responsibility to Protect at a Crossroads: The Crisis in Libya*, 2015.

¹⁴¹ Ibid.

¹⁴² Ibid.

¹⁴³ Ibid.

¹⁴⁴ Sarkin, *Why Security Council Reform is Essential for the Responsibility to Protect to Actually Impact the Global Level of Atrocity Crimes*, 2018.

¹⁴⁵ Ibid; Ibid.

¹⁴⁶ UN General Assembly, *The Responsibility to Protect and the Prevention of Genocide, War Crimes, Ethnic Cleansing and Crimes Against Humanity (A/73/PV.93)*, 2019.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid; Ibid.

¹⁴⁸ Ibid; Ibid.

¹⁴⁹ Ibid; Ibid.

¹⁵⁰ International Committee of the Red Cross, *Enhancing Protection for Civilians in Armed Conflict and Other Situations of Violence*, 2008.

¹⁵¹ Ibid.

family.¹⁵² In December 2018, the number of IDPs due to conflict was 41.4 million people, many of whom have been displaced for numerous years.¹⁵³ Internal displacement due to armed conflict increases an individual's vulnerability, often impacting their human rights, access to basic needs, and access to social support networks.¹⁵⁴ Some of these needs can include access to education, basic health services, and access to employment.¹⁵⁵ This impact of reduced access to basic needs is particularly challenging for PWDs often due to the lack of financial support to access these services.¹⁵⁶ This vulnerability often makes people more susceptible to higher mortality rates, physical attacks, and sexual violence.¹⁵⁷ IHL including the Fourth Geneva Conventions are still applicable to these groups, including additional protection such as the protection from forced attacks, prohibition of starvation, or collective punishment, among others.¹⁵⁸ Peace operations have also played a strong role in protecting IDPs, specifically through strong adherence to IHL and refugee protections.¹⁵⁹ Since 1999 with the UN Mission to Sierra Leone, the protection of civilians has continued to be a priority of missions, and a focus on developing tools and frameworks to keep civilians safe has allowed for peace missions to be more successful.¹⁶⁰

Women and girls are also exposed to much higher levels of violence and mistreatment during armed conflict.¹⁶¹ These levels of violence are also exponentially greater as you fall into multiple categories of vulnerability, which can typically include disability, sexual orientation, or age.¹⁶² In 2018, the IASC implemented a new version of *The Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Action*.¹⁶³ The guide identified four areas for integrating a gender perspective into humanitarian efforts, which included, protection, improving assistance, and the promotion of change.¹⁶⁴ While women experience more vulnerabilities and disproportionate impacts due to armed conflict, the Security Council has identified the importance that women play in the prevention and resolution of conflict.¹⁶⁵ In recent years, Security Council resolution 2493 (2019) on "Women, peace, and security" identified that women are still disproportionately impacted by conflict in security related matters, have continued vulnerabilities, and that there is still a need to increase funding and support to women who are involved in conflict situations.¹⁶⁶

While there has been some significant work accomplished over the last year, the reality of armed conflict continues to persist throughout the world, specifically for women and children who accounted for 42% of those persons affected by armed conflict.¹⁶⁷ The 2019 report of the Secretary-General on "Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict" outlines some review of how women and other vulnerable groups can better be protected, as well as calls upon the accountability of states to provide protections for these groups.¹⁶⁸ The report gives three recommendations on advancing protection, which include accountability, compliance by non-state armed perpetrators, and the development of national frameworks for protections of persons affected by armed conflict.¹⁶⁹ In the 2019 report *Mapping Women, Peace and Security in the UN Security Council 2018*, the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security identified a number of general recommendations for women in Security Council work, such as inclusion of women in

¹⁵² Ibid, p. 20.

¹⁵³ HRC, *Internal Displacement and the Role of National Human Rights Institutions*, 2019.

¹⁵⁴ International Committee of the Red Cross, *Addressing Internal Displacement in Times of Armed Conflict and Other Violence*, 2018.

¹⁵⁵ Ibid.

¹⁵⁶ Ibid.

¹⁵⁷ OHCHR, *Questions and Answers About IDPs*, 2020.

¹⁵⁸ Ibid; Ibid.

¹⁵⁹ UN Security Council, *Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (S/2019/373)*, 2019.

¹⁶⁰ Ibid.

¹⁶¹ Kristjansdottir, *The Impact of Conflict on Women and Girls*, 2019.

¹⁶² Ibid.

¹⁶³ Ibid; Inter-Agency Standing Committee, *The Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Actions*, 2018.

¹⁶⁴ Ibid.

¹⁶⁵ UN Security Council, *Resolution 1325 (S/RES/1325)*, 2000.

¹⁶⁶ UN Security Council, *Resolution 2493 (S/RES/2493)*, 2019.

¹⁶⁷ Ibid.

¹⁶⁸ Ibid.

¹⁶⁹ Ibid.

negotiations, removal of barriers for the inclusion of women in peace and security discussions, and explicit inclusion of women in outcome documents of the Security Council.¹⁷⁰

Conclusion

A number of challenges continue to exist for persons affected by armed conflict.¹⁷¹ Some of the challenges to address protecting civilians from conflict will include the facilitation and access to humanitarian aid, preventing and responding to forced displacement, the protection of children, the protection of women and the reduction of sexual violence, and continued respect for IHL.¹⁷² While armed conflicts continue to impact civilians, it is important that appropriate measures continue to take place in order to reduce both conflict and the adverse effects of these conflicts.¹⁷³ There are a number of additional measures that can be taken in order to protect the most vulnerable persons, improve the role of peace operations, and increase the use of specific measures aimed to reduce the number of violations.¹⁷⁴ With more people being affected by conflict and for a longer time period, the impact of armed conflict continue to create adverse effects on billions of people globally.¹⁷⁵

Further Research

What additional measures should the Security Council put in place to better protect civilians affected by armed conflict? How can or should R2P be expanded to include additional protection measures? How can further protections be applied to the protection of vulnerable groups such as women, youth, and children? How can Security Council or UN reform be used to give a better focus to protection of civilians affected by armed conflict? How can the role of peacekeeping be used to better support the prevention of armed conflict, before impacting civilians? What role do women and other vulnerable groups play in the prevention of armed conflict, and what role do they play in ensuring adequate protections are established for these vulnerable groups?

Annotated Bibliography

Global R2P. (2020). *R2P Monitor Issue 59*. Retrieved 28 March 2020 from: https://www.globalr2p.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/R2P_Monitor_JAN2020_Final.pdf

Understanding the practicalities and use of R2P in the context of current ongoing armed conflicts will be important in determining how R2P can better be used in the current UN Security Council system. This will also allow delegates to understand the different types of armed conflicts, provide some statistics on the impacts on civilians, and a history on some of the systemic issues with armed conflict. Delegates will also find this resource to provide some recommendations on how R2P can be used to improve current armed conflicts.

United Nations, Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2009). *Protecting Civilians in the Context of UN Peacekeeping Operations Successes, Setbacks and Remaining Challenges*. Retrieved 15 February 2020 from:

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/B752FF2063E282B08525767100751B90-unochoa_protecting_nov2009.pdf

Understanding the role peacekeepers have in achieving the protection of civilians in areas affected by armed conflict will provide delegates with a sound understanding of what actions they can take, and how their work leads to the better protection of civilians. This document looks into the role the Security Council plays, its mandate and relationship

¹⁷⁰ NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, *Mapping Women, Peace and Security in the UN Security Council 2018*, 2019.

¹⁷¹ UN OHCA, *Building a Culture of Protection: 20 Years of Security Council Engagement on the Protection of Civilians*, 2019.

¹⁷² Ibid.

¹⁷³ Ibid; Ibid.

¹⁷⁴ Ibid; Ibid.

¹⁷⁵ Ibid.

to peacekeeping, and provides some additional recommendations. This document also provides a number of examples of peacekeeping operations and protection of civilians.

United Nations, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2019). *Building a Culture of Protection: 20 Years of Security Council Engagement on the Protection of Civilians*. Retrieved 15 February 2020 from:

<https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/Building%20a%20culture%20of%20protection.pdf>

Providing a comprehensive overview of the protection of civilians in the context of the Security Council, this document will allow delegates to better understand what has been done, as well as what has or has not been successful. The report begins with a historical overview of how protection has evolved, and then talks about some of the challenges beyond 2019. The report provides a detailed account of some of the most pressing challenges like forced displacement and protection of vulnerable groups. The report also provides a sound understanding of the challenges in enforcing accountability, the use of peacekeeping operations, and some additional recommendations on enhancing protection measures.

United Nations, Security Council, 7155th meeting. (2014). *Resolution 2150 (S/RES/2150)*. Retrieved 3 May 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/s/res/2150\(2014\)](https://undocs.org/s/res/2150(2014))

This resolution called for the prevention of all forms of grave violence including genocide, as a reminder of the Rwandan Genocide in 1994. This resolution also highlighted the importance that all states have the responsibility to protect civilians in all forms of conflict. The resolution called on states to reaffirm their commitment to the Responsibility to Protect as outlines in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document, condemn any and all forms of genocide, as well as calling for increased collaboration to understand potential forms of future genocide. Delegates will find this document useful in understanding some of the key actions that the Security Council needs to take, as well as develop a better understanding of R2P.

United Nations, Security Council. (2020). *Report of the Secretary-General on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (S/2020/366)*. Retrieved 30 May 2020 from: <https://undocs.org/s/2020/366>

In the recent report of the Secretary-General, he identified a number of challenges for protection of civilians affected by armed conflict, including identifying an overarching challenge of accountability and respect for IHL. The report will outline the current state of protection of civilians and highlight some of the key challenges that are faced globally. In his report, he also highlights the disproportionate impacts of PWDs, missing persons, and hunger related to armed conflict. The report also highlights some new challenges including advanced weapons technologies, digital technology, and peace missions. Delegates will find this report useful as it outlines the current state of the topic and provides practical opportunities for delegates to work to address the topic.

Bibliography

African Union. (2013). *Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want*. Retrieved 30 May 2020 from:

https://au.int/Agenda2063/popular_version

Center for Civilians in Conflict. (2019). *POC20: Twenty Years of the Protection of Civilians Challenges, Progress, and Priorities for the Future*. Retrieved 2 May 2020 from:

https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Final_POC20-Report_CIVIC_September2019.pdf

Charter of the United Nations. (1945). Retrieved 28 March 2020 from: <https://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/index.html>

Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (2nd part). (1949). Retrieved 16 February 2019 from:

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ProtectionOfCivilianPersons.aspx>

- Global Center for the Responsibility to Protect. (2020). *R2P Monitor Issue 59*. Retrieved 28 March 2020 from: https://www.globalr2p.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/R2P_Monitor_JAN2020_Final.pdf
- Global Center for the Responsibility to Protect. (2020). *What is R2P?*. Retrieved 2 May 2020 from: <https://www.globalr2p.org/what-is-r2p/>
- Inter-Agency Standing Committee. (2016). *Protection in Humanitarian Action*. Retrieved 2 May 2020 from: https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/iasc_policy_on_protection_in_humanitarian_action.pdf
- Inter-Agency Standing Committee. (2018). *The Gender Handbook for Humanitarian Actions*. Retrieved 28 March 2020 from: https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/2018-iasc_gender_handbook_for_humanitarian_action_eng_0.pdf
- International Committee of the Red Cross. (2008). *Enhancing Protection for Civilians in Armed Conflict and Other Situations of Violence*. Retrieved 3 May 2020 from: <https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/assets/files/other/icrc-002-0956.pdf>
- International Committee of the Red Cross. (2018). *Addressing Internal Displacement in Times of Armed Conflict and Other Violence*. Retrieved 28 March 2020 from: <https://www.icrc.org/en/publication/0867-internally-displaced-humanitarian-response-internally-displaced-people-armed>
- International Committee of the Red Cross. (2018). *Global Trends of War and their Humanitarian Impacts*. Retrieved 31 May 2020 from: <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/global-trends-war-and-their-humanitarian-impacts-0>
- Kristjansdottir, I. (2019, June 27). *The Impact of Conflict on Women and Girls*. Retrieved 28 March 2020 from: <http://turkishpolicy.com/article/960/the-impact-of-conflict-on-women-and-girls>
- Lopez, G. (2015). *Responsibility to Protect at a Crossroads: The Crisis in Libya*. Humanity in Action. Retrieved 31 May 2020 from: https://www.humanityinaction.org/knowledge_detail/responsibility-to-protect-at-a-crossroads-the-crisis-in-libya/
- NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security. (2019). *Mapping Women, Peace and Security in the UN Security Council 2018*. Retrieved 3 May 2020 from: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/mapping-women-peace-and-security-un-security-council-2018>
- NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security. (2020). *Protection of Civilians*. Retrieved 2 May 2020 from: <https://www.womenpeacesecurity.org/issue/protection-of-civilians/>
- Organization of American States. (1969). *American Convention on Human Rights "Pact of San Jose, Costa Rica" (B-32)*. Retrieved 30 May 2020 from: https://www.oas.org/dil/treaties_B-32_American_Convention_on_Human_Rights.htm
- Organization of American States. (1971). *Convention to Prevent and Punish the Acts of Terrorism Taking the Form of Crimes Against Persons and Related Extortion that are of International Significance (A-49)*. Retrieved 30 May 2020 from: <https://www.oas.org/juridico/english/treaties/a-49.html>
- Sarkin, J. (2018). Why Security Council Reform is Essential for the Responsibility to Protect to Actually Impact the Global Level of Atrocity Crimes. *Canadian Journal on the Responsibility to Protect*. Volume 1 (2019): 62-76. Retrieved June 15 2020 from: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/333001177_Jeremy_Sarkin_Why_Security_Council_Reform_is_Essential_for_the_Responsibility_to_Protect_to_Actually_Impact_the_Global_Level_of_Atrocity_Crimes_Canadian_Journal_on_the_Responsibility_to_Protect_CJR2P



Security Council Report. (2020). *Arria-Formula Meetings*. Retrieved 28 March 2020 from: <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-security-council-working-methods/arria-formula-meetings.php>

Security Council Report. (2020). *May 2020 Monthly Forecast Protection of Civilians*. Retrieved 2 May 2020 from: <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2020-05/protection-of-civilians-2.php>

United Nations, Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2009). *Protecting Civilians in the Context of UN Peacekeeping Operations Successes, Setbacks and Remaining Challenges*. Retrieved 15 February 2020 from: https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/B752FF2063E282B08525767100751B90-unocha_protecting_nov2009.pdf

United Nations, Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support. (2012). *Civil Affairs Handbook*. Retrieved 28 March 2020 from: https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/civil_affairs_handbook.pdf

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2019, May 23). *Civilian Experiences, Needs in Conflict Critical to Creating Protection, Accountability Frameworks, Speakers Tell Security Council*. *United Nations Security Council, 8534th Meeting (SC/13822)*. Retrieved 3 May 2020 from: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13822.doc.htm>

United Nations, Department of Peace Operations. (2019). *The Protection of Civilians in United Nations Peacekeeping*. Retrieved 28 March 2020 from: <https://www.globalprotectioncluster.org/wp-content/uploads/DPO-Policy-on-The-Protection-of-Civilians-in-United-Nations-Peacekeeping.pdf>

United Nations, Department of Peace Operations. (2020). *Protecting Civilians*. Retrieved 15 February 2020 from: <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/protecting-civilians>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2020). *Functions and Powers*. Retrieved 2 May 2020 from: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/functions-and-powers>

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2020). *What is the Security Council?*. Retrieved 15 February 2020 from: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/what-security-council>

United Nations, General Assembly, Forty-sixth session. (1991). *Strengthening of the Coordination of Humanitarian Emergency Assistance of the United Nations (A/RES/46/182)*. Retrieved 28 March 2020 from: <https://undocs.org/A/RES/46/182>

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-third session. (2019). *The Responsibility to Protect and the Prevention of Genocide, War Crimes, Ethnic Cleansing and Crimes against Humanity (A/73/PV.93)*. Retrieved 28 March 2020 from: <https://undocs.org/A/73/PV.93>

United Nations, Human Rights Council. (2019). *Internal Displacement and the Role of National Human Rights Institutions*. Retrieved 28 March 2020 from: <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/41/40>

United Nations, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2019). *Building a Culture of Protection: 20 Years of Security Council Engagement on the Protection of Civilians*. Retrieved 15 February 2020 from: <https://www.unocha.org/sites/unocha/files/Building%20a%20culture%20of%20protection.pdf>

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. (2020). *Protection*. Retrieved 16 February 2020 from: <https://www.unocha.org/themes/protection>

United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. (2020). *Questions and Answers about IDPs*. Retrieved 28 March 2020 from: <https://ohchr.org/EN/Issues/IDPersons/Pages/Issues.aspx>



United Nations Police. (2020). *Protection of Civilians*. Retrieved 28 March 2020 from: <https://police.un.org/en/protection-of-civilians>

United Nations, Security Council. (2019). *Report of the Secretary-General on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (S/2019/373)*. Retrieved 15 February 2020 from: <https://undocs.org/S/2019/373>

United Nations, Security Council. (2020). *Report of the Secretary-General on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (S/2020/366)*. Retrieved 30 May 2020 from: <https://undocs.org/s/2020/366>

United Nations, Security Council, 3377th meeting. (1994). *Resolution 918 (S/RES/918)*. Retrieved 28 March 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/918\(1994\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/918(1994))

United Nations, Security Council, 3713th meeting. (1996). *Resolution 1080 (S/RES/1080)*. Retrieved 28 March 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/1080\(1996\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1080(1996))

United Nations, Security Council, 4046th meeting. (1999). *Resolution 1265 (S/RES/1265)*. Retrieved 15 February 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/1265\(1999\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1265(1999))

United Nations, Security Council, 4213th meeting. (2000). *Resolution 1325 (S/RES/1325)*. Retrieved 31 May 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/1325\(2000\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1325(2000))

United Nations, Security Council, 4814th meeting. (2003). *Resolution 1502 (S/RES/1502)*. Retrieved 28 March 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/1502\(2003\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1502(2003))

United Nations, Security Council, 4814th meeting. (2003). *Resolution 1973 (S/RES/1973)*. Retrieved 28 March 2020 from: [https://www.undocs.org/S/RES/1973%20\(2011\)](https://www.undocs.org/S/RES/1973%20(2011))

United Nations, Security Council, 7155th meeting. (2014). *Resolution 2150 (S/RES/2150)*. Retrieved 3 May 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2150\(2014\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2150(2014))

United Nations, Security Council, 7685th meeting. (2016). *Resolution 2286 (S/RES/2286)*. Retrieved 15 February 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2286\(2016\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2286(2016))

United Nations, Security Council, 8267th meeting. (2018). *Resolution 2417 (S/RES/2417)*. Retrieved 2 May 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2417\(2018\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2417(2018))

United Nations, Security Council, 8543rd meeting. (2019). *Resolution 2474 (S/RES/2474)*. Retrieved 2 May 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2474\(2019\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2474(2019))

United Nations, Security Council, 8556th meeting. (2019). *Resolution 2475 (S/RES/2475)*. Retrieved 15 February 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2475\(2019\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2475(2019))

United Nations, Security Council, 8649th meeting. (2019). *Resolution 2493 (S/RES/2493)*. Retrieved 28 March 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2492\(2019\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2492(2019))

United Nations, Security Council, 8744th meeting. (2020). *Resolution 2514 (S/RES/2514)*. Retrieved 2 May 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES2514\(2020\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES2514(2020))

II. Addressing Security Challenges in Northern Africa and the Sahel

Introduction

The Northern Africa and the Sahel regions currently face numerous security challenges that pose a significant threat to international peace and security.¹⁷⁶ The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa considers Northern Africa as those countries consisting of Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, and Western Sahara.¹⁷⁷ The Sahel encompasses Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, and Senegal.¹⁷⁸ Weak governance, insufficient border management, political instability, and corruption have allowed several security challenges including transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking, and terrorism to thrive in both regions.¹⁷⁹ According to the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), escalating violence and insecurity resulting from terrorism and intercommunity conflicts in the Sahel has left 5.1 million people in the region vulnerable and in need of humanitarian assistance.¹⁸⁰

Foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs), are individuals who travel to another state “for the purpose of the perpetration, planning, or preparation of, or participation in, terrorist acts or the providing or receiving of terrorist training”, and constitute a grave, growing threat to states in Northern Africa and the Sahel.¹⁸¹ Weak governance and border security in these regions often allow FTFs to easily move between states to carry out attacks.¹⁸² The same weaknesses also contribute to the survival of transnational criminal organizations, which often fund terrorist activities.¹⁸³ As such, terrorist groups such as Boko Haram and al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) continue to perpetrate attacks throughout the Sahel, which has led to an increase in casualties in Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger.¹⁸⁴ This resulted in 770 deaths in 2016 and increased to 4000 deaths in 2019.¹⁸⁵ The Security Council, along with other regional and international organizations, have attempted to address illicit trafficking, terrorism, and transnational organized crime by addressing both the conditions conducive to such activities and the direct results.¹⁸⁶ Some notable actions include the creation of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), the adoption of Security Council resolutions 2178 (2014) and 2482 (2019), both entitled “Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.”¹⁸⁷ These address terrorist financing and border management, the establishment of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel (UNOWAS), and the deployment of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).¹⁸⁸

International and Regional Framework

In 2001, the Security Council adopted resolution 1373 on “Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts,” which aimed to hinder the abilities of terrorist groups by calling upon Member States to suppress the financing of terrorist activities, encouraging cooperation and information sharing, and establishing the CTC to monitor state compliance with the resolution.¹⁸⁹ Under Security Council

¹⁷⁶ UNOWAS, *West Africa and the Sahel, Between Security Challenges and the Need to Consolidate Peace*, 2019.

¹⁷⁷ UN ECA, *About the Office: United Nations Economic Commission for Africa*, 2020.

¹⁷⁸ UN Africa Renewal Information Programme, *UN Support Plan for the Sahel: Working Together for a Prosperous and Peaceful Sahel*, 2018, p. 5.

¹⁷⁹ UN Security Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in the Sahel Region (S/2013/354 (2013))*, 2013, p. 2.

¹⁸⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁸¹ UN Security Council CTED, *Implementation of Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014) by States Affected by Foreign Terrorist Fighters*, 2015, p. 15.

¹⁸² UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, *What We Do: Border Security and Management*, 2020.

¹⁸³ UN Security Council CTC, *Terrorism Financing*, 2020.

¹⁸⁴ Campbell, *Jihadi Violence and Terror Surging in West Africa*, 2019.

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁶ *Ibid.*; UN DPO, *Where We Operate*, 2020.

¹⁸⁷ UN Security Council, *Resolution 1373 (S/RES/1373 (2001))*, 2001; UN Security Council, *Resolution 2178 (S/RES/2178 (2014))*, 2014; UN Security Council, *Resolution 2482 (S/RES/2482 (2019))*, 2019.

¹⁸⁸ UNOWAS, *Background*, 2020; MINUSMA, *Mandate*, 2020.

¹⁸⁹ *Ibid.*

resolution 1535 (2004), also labeled “Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts,” the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) was formed to assist the CTC in monitoring and implementing resolution 1373, specifically in areas related to terrorist financing, border control, arms trafficking, law enforcement, and human rights aspects of counter-terrorism.¹⁹⁰ Additionally, Security Council resolution 1624 (2005), on “Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts,” called on Member States to take further measures to combat terrorism, including strengthening the security of international borders, denying protection to suspected terrorists, and enhancing dialogue between countries.¹⁹¹ Moreover, Security Council resolution 2178 (2014) acknowledged the security threat posed by FTFs and advised Member States to increase preventative measures such as effective border control and disrupting financial support.¹⁹² Recognizing how organized crime can help finance terrorism, the Security Council subsequently adopted resolution 2482 (2019) which urged Member States to engage in enhanced coordination, strengthen border management, and implement legislation to criminalize the trafficking of arms, humans, and drugs.¹⁹³

The General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Crime through resolution 55/25 (2001), which calls upon states to adopt and enforce legislation to criminalize participation in an organized crime group, laundering of criminal proceeds, and corruption.¹⁹⁴ Moreover, the resolution acknowledged the negative effect of transnational organized crime on human rights, especially in terms of human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants, and noted the connection between transnational organized crime and terrorism.¹⁹⁵ In 2006, the General Assembly adopted resolution 60/288 on “The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy,” in which a plan of action was developed to address preventing and combating terrorism, conditions conducive to terrorism, building states’ capacity to prevent and combat terrorism, and ensuring the adherence to human rights.¹⁹⁶ However, the most recent review of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy, conducted in 2018, expressed concern regarding terrorists benefiting financially from transnational organized crime.¹⁹⁷ The review also revealed that the threat of FTFs continues to grow due to a lack of information sharing and weak border management, and reemphasized the need for international cooperation in order to effectively combat terrorism.¹⁹⁸

Outside of the UN, the African Union (AU) developed the *Strategy for the Sahel Region* in 2014, which addresses issues related to security, governance, and development in the Sahel region.¹⁹⁹ The strategy recognized the need for the promotion of regional security cooperation, participation in security sector reform programs, and cooperation with partners in the field of security.²⁰⁰ The Strategy recommends that both the AU and Sahelian states engage in information sharing, promote confidence building measures, facilitate the operationalization and strengthening of regional cooperation structures, engage in partnership with relevant regional organizations and the UNODC, raise awareness on good military governance, and contribute efforts aimed at ensuring the involvement of civil society in the management of security issues, all in an attempt to combat insecurity in the Sahel region.²⁰¹ In April of 2019, the AU's Peace and Security Council (PSC) adopted the *Communique of the 845th PSC meeting on Organized Transnational Crime, Peace, and Security in Africa*, in which concern was expressed regarding the growing threat posed by organized transnational crime and the ability of terrorist organizations to finance their activities through criminal actions.²⁰² The communique also underlined the need for information

¹⁹⁰ UN Security Council CTC, *About the Counter-Terrorism Committee*, 2020.

¹⁹¹ UN Security Council, *Resolution 1624 (S/RES/1624 (2005))*, 2005.

¹⁹² *Ibid.*

¹⁹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁴ UN General Assembly, *United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (A/RES/55/25)*, 2001.

¹⁹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁶ UN General Assembly, *The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288)*, 2006.

¹⁹⁷ UN General Assembly, *The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review (A/RES/72/284)*, 2018.

¹⁹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁹ African Union Peace and Security Department, *The African Union Strategy for the Sahel Region*, 2014.

²⁰⁰ *Ibid.*

²⁰¹ *Ibid.*

²⁰² African Union Peace and Security Department, *Communique of the 845th PSC meeting on Organized Transnational Crime, Peace, and Security in Africa*, 2019.

sharing, enhanced collaboration, collective security approaches to terrorism and transnational organized crime, strengthening of national security and national justice system capacities, and investment in effective border control and surveillance technologies.²⁰³

Role of the International System

In response to the security situation in the Sahel, the Security Council established the Office of the Special Envoy for the Sahel (OSES) in 2012.²⁰⁴ The role of the OSES was to coordinate the implementation of the *United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel* (UNISS), which aimed to enhance effective governance by helping State's attain legitimacy, establish security mechanisms capable of addressing cross-border threats, and build long-term resilience.²⁰⁵ Following the merger of the OSES and the United Nations Office for West Africa in 2016, the resulting entity, UNOWAS, continued to lead implementation of the UNISS as well as support regional solutions to security threats and assist in the promotion of good governance.²⁰⁶ However, according to the Office of the Secretary-General, as of 2018 the UNISS had failed to produce favorable outcomes regarding the reduction of violence, conflict, and terrorism in the region.²⁰⁷ This perceived failure was mainly due to the multiplicity of actors and initiatives in the Sahel, including 19 different regional strategies that impeded coordination and weakened coherence.²⁰⁸ As a result, the UN Support Plan for the Sahel was developed in 2018.²⁰⁹ The goal of the Support Plan is to improve coordination and strengthen collaboration with all partners in the Sahel in order to deliver better results under the UNISS, including the prevention of conflict and building sustainable peace.²¹⁰

The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched the Contribution to the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel in 2013, with the goal of strengthening stability and security in the Sahel and neighboring countries by addressing terrorism, corruption, illicit trafficking, and organized crime.²¹¹ The UNODC's most recent Sahel Programme Progress Report reported positive results at a national level in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, and Niger, including adoption of counter-terrorism legislation and reinforcement of counter-terrorism measures, dismantling of criminal networks, and seizures of firearms.²¹² Moreover, the UN Department of Peace Operations (DPO) helps combat security threats in North Africa and the Sahel through several peacekeeping operations, including those in Libya, Mali, Sudan, and Western Sahara.²¹³ Currently, there are three ongoing peacekeeping operations in North Africa and the Sahel: the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), MINUSMA, and the United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).²¹⁴ Each of these missions' main priorities are to protect civilians and maintain, monitor, or facilitate peace.²¹⁵

Beyond the UN system, the G5 Sahel, consisting of Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger, was created in 2014 as an intergovernmental cooperation framework with the goal of fighting insecurity in the region.²¹⁶ In 2017, the G5 Sahel leaders launched the Cross-Border Joint Force, a military alliance tasked

²⁰³ Ibid.

²⁰⁴ UN Security Council, *Resolution 2071 (S/RES/2071 (2012))*, 2012.

²⁰⁵ Ibid; Ibid.

²⁰⁶ Ibid; UN Security Council, *Letter Dated 28 January 2016 from the President of the Security Council addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2016/89)*, 2016.

²⁰⁷ UN Office of the Secretary-General, *Deputy Secretary-General's Remarks at Strategic Consultative Meeting on the Sahel Nouakchott, 28 March 2018 [as Prepared for Delivery]*, 2018.

²⁰⁸ Ibid; Ibid, p. 9.

²⁰⁹ Ibid, 2018.

²¹⁰ Ibid, p. 5.

²¹¹ UNODC, *The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Contribution to the United Nations Integrated Regional Strategy for the Sahel*, 2013, pp. 1-3.

²¹² UNODC, *Results and Activities: Sahel Programme Progress Report June 2017*, 2017, pp. 4-5.

²¹³ UN DPO, *List of Peacekeeping Operations 1948-2019*, 2019.

²¹⁴ Ibid.

²¹⁵ UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, *Mandate*, 2020; Ibid; UN African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur, *UNAMID Mandate*, 2020.

²¹⁶ France Diplomatie Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, *G5 Sahel Joint Force and the Sahel Alliance*, 2019.

with combatting terrorism, cross-border organized crime, and human trafficking.²¹⁷ The Security Council welcomed the deployment of the G5 Sahel Joint Force and adopted resolution 2391 (2017) on “Peace and security in Africa” in which they agreed to provide support to the G5 Sahel through MINUSMA in an attempt to offset the activities of terrorist and criminal groups.²¹⁸ Despite support from MINUSMA, the G5 Sahel Joint Force is limited by the geographical restrictions of MINUSMA and a lack of equipment necessary to achieve full operational capacity.²¹⁹ Although the Security Council has recognized recent successes by the G5 Sahel Cross-Border Joint Force in arresting some terrorists and dismantling their criminal capabilities, because of the limited capacity of the Joint Force, the region’s security situation continues to deteriorate.²²⁰

Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime

Terrorism also presents a security challenge in Northern Africa and the Sahel, as groups like Boko Haram and AQIM continue to carry out attacks and kill thousands of innocent people in the regions.²²¹ Boko Haram, AQIM, and other terrorist organizations within Northern Africa and the Sahel have committed acts of terrorism, violated human rights, increased the flow of arms, and engaged in both human and drug trafficking.²²² The Sahel’s vast, porous borders that are the result of the remoteness of locations, limited State presence and capacities, and ethnic homogeneity of cross-border communities, are difficult to monitor and control.²²³ These permeable conditions allow terrorist groups to lay claim to one area and slowly infiltrate the wider region using FTFs, as was the case with jihadists residing in Mali carrying out attacks on neighboring states Mauritania, Niger, and Algeria.²²⁴ Effective border security is key in the implementation of counter-terrorism measures according to the Office of Counter-Terrorism, as better border management helps to prevent and counter the cross-border flow of suspected terrorists and FTFs.²²⁵ The Security Council and the CTC have recommended that states implement measures regarding the issuance of identity papers and travel documents, more effective use of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) database, and coordinated border management strategies to facilitate more effective border management and hinder the ability of FTFs to travel between states.²²⁶ However, weak governance, a lack of financial and human resources, and a shortage of cooperation between states across North Africa and the Sahel disallows the application of such border management.²²⁷ Secretary-General António Guterres has also proposed joint border security initiatives and information sharing between national defense forces as a way to overcome these challenges, but states have yet to take any action.²²⁸

Like terrorist groups, transnational criminal organizations across North Africa and the Sahel commit human rights abuses and engage in trafficking of arms, drugs, and humans.²²⁹ Lack of economic opportunities, limited regional cooperation, weak security and defense sectors, and porous borders across the region allow for such illicit activities to take place.²³⁰ Transnational organized crime is also aided by corruption and the absence of rule of law seen in some areas of Northern African and the

²¹⁷ Ibid.

²¹⁸ UN Security Council, *Resolution 2391 (S/RES/2391 (2017))*, 2017, p. 4.

²¹⁹ UN DGC, *Experts Urge Security Council Support for Efforts to Make G5 Sahel Joint Force Fully Operational amid Rising Terrorist Attacks, Intercommunal Violence*, 2019.

²²⁰ UN DGC, *Security Council Press Statement on Group of Five for Sahel Joint Force*, 2019.

²²¹ Gberie, *Terrorism Overshadows Internal Conflicts*, 2016.

²²² Ibid, p. 2.

²²³ UNDP, *Border Management and Border Communities in the Sahel*, 2015.

²²⁴ Ibid, pp. 2-3; Ibid.

²²⁵ Ibid.

²²⁶ UN Security Council CTC, *Border Management*, 2020; Ibid.

²²⁷ Ibid; Ibid, p. 2.

²²⁸ UN DGC, *Better Control of Borders, Private Security Firms Key to Stopping ‘Guns for Hire’, Speakers Say at Security Council Debate on Mercenary Activities in Africa*, 2019.

²²⁹ Ibid, p. 2.

²³⁰ Ibid, p. 3.

Sahel.²³¹ Moreover, to the detriment of human rights and security, transnational crime organizations sometimes adopt terrorist tactics in order to achieve their goals and to deter the state or other transnational crime organizations.²³² In addition to constituting a security threat in itself, transnational organized crime also helps fund terrorist groups.²³³ Terrorist groups may be directly or indirectly linked to criminal organizations, using the funds gained from trafficking, extortion, and kidnapping for ransom, to finance terrorist activities.²³⁴ In order to effectively counter terrorist groups benefitting from organized crime, the Security Council recommended in resolution 2482 (2019) that Member States enhance coordination efforts, strengthen the capacity of criminal justice systems, and engage relevant local communities and non-governmental actors in developing strategies in order to reduce violent extremism.²³⁵ The resolution also recognized the importance of good governance and the need to fight corruption in order to combat transnational organized crime.²³⁶ Still, insufficient border security, corruption, and often the absence of rule of law, continue to add to the insecurity in Northern Africa and the Sahel, as they create an environment conducive to illicit activities.²³⁷

Case Study: Mali

Mali provides an example of the culmination of two major threats to security in Northern Africa and the Sahel: terrorism and organized crime.²³⁸ Armed separatist rebellions and political instability have been a source of recurring violence in Mali since its independence.²³⁹ The violence only escalated when separatists captured northern Mali in 2012.²⁴⁰ Since then, a lack of territorial control, corruption, insufficient law enforcement, and ethnic tensions have allowed terrorist groups such as AQIM and organized crime groups to flourish.²⁴¹ Criminal networks that operate within Mali also provide opportunities for AQIM to finance their jihadist pursuits through trafficking drugs, weapons, humans, and legitimate goods such as oil, medicine, and food.²⁴² Additionally, AQIM and other terrorist groups contributed to the 2012 uprising that caused Mali to lose control over half of its territory to the National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad (MNLA).²⁴³ Illicit trafficking also contributed to the loss of state control by magnifying existing corruption and providing sources of funding to terrorist groups.²⁴⁴ MNLA and terrorist control of the territory has led to numerous violations of human rights including arbitrary killings, disappearances, and kidnappings.²⁴⁵

In July of 2012, the Security Council determined that the situation in Mali constituted a threat to international peace and security, and subsequently adopted resolution 2056 (2012) on “Peace and security in Africa,” demanding the immediate cessation of hostilities and urging Member States within the Sahel to enhance international cooperation to combat AQIM.²⁴⁶ The following month, former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon reported a rise in extremism, criminal activity, and human rights violations in Mali.²⁴⁷ In response, the Security Council adopted resolution 2017 (2012) in which it threatened to impose

²³¹ UN Security Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking in West Africa and the Sahel Region (S/2013/359 (2013))*, 2013, p. 4.

²³² Lindell & Mattsson, *Transnational Threats to Peace and Security in the Sahel: Consequences in Mali*, 2014, p. 28.

²³³ *Ibid.*, p. 26.

²³⁴ *Ibid.*

²³⁵ *Ibid.*

²³⁶ *Ibid.*

²³⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 2.

²³⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 15.

²³⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 15.

²⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, pp. 16-17; Ighobor, *Work in Progress for Africa’s Remaining Conflict Hotspots*, 2019.

²⁴¹ *Ibid.*, p. 19.

²⁴² *Ibid.*, pp. 20-24.

²⁴³ *Ibid.*, p. 21.

²⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 25.

²⁴⁵ U.S. Department of State, *2019 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Mali*, 2019.

²⁴⁶ UN Security Council, *Resolution 2056 (S/RES/2056 (2012))*, 2012.

²⁴⁷ UN DGC, *Secretary-General Urges Security Council to Consider Imposing Sanctions on Those Fanning Crisis in Northern Mali*, 2012.

targeted sanctions on rebel groups who refused to cut ties with terrorist organizations.²⁴⁸ Continued terrorist attacks and the worsening humanitarian situation led the Security Council to establish MINUSMA through resolution 2100 (2013) on “Mali,” with a mandate to support transitional authorities in Mali.²⁴⁹ MINUSMA’s mandate was expanded with the adoption of Security Council resolution 2164 (2014), to ensure security, stabilization, and protection of civilians, as well as rebuilding the security sector and the promotion and protection of human rights.²⁵⁰ The actors involved in Mali came together to sign the *Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation* in Mali on 20 June 2015, agreeing to respect the national unity, recognize and promote cultural diversity, reject violence, maintain respect for human rights, fight against corruption and impunity, and fight against terrorism, drug trafficking, and all other forms of international organized crime.²⁵¹ However, violations of the ceasefire were observed soon after the peace agreement was signed.²⁵² Currently, the situation in Mali is still of great concern, as peacekeepers, national and international security forces, and civilians continue to be the targets of terrorist attacks.²⁵³ Still, Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations Jean-Pierre Lacroix believes that “the rapid and thorough implementation of the peace agreement remains the only viable path for the stabilization of Mali.”²⁵⁴

Conclusion

Northern Africa and the Sahel represent complex issues in combatting security challenges such as transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking, and terrorism.²⁵⁵ The international community has attempted to combat these issues, as well as understand and address the underlying causes.²⁵⁶ Within the UN, the Security Council has adopted several resolutions and established committees or offices that aim to address terrorist financing, illicit trafficking of arms, drugs, and humans, deficient border security, and lack of international cooperation.²⁵⁷ On a regional level, the G5 Sahel and the AU have also developed action plans to mitigate harm in the region’s most negatively affected by security threats.²⁵⁸ Still, Northern Africa and the Sahel continue to see an increase in violence, as terrorist groups capture more territory and perpetrate successful attacks.²⁵⁹ As weak governance, insufficient border management, and corruption continue to allow the growth of the aforementioned threats to security, the international community is tasked with providing assistance to states in the regions, in order to build the necessary governing and military capacity to combat security challenges and reinforce stability.²⁶⁰

Further Research

When researching this topic, delegates should consider conditions that may be conducive to both the mentioned security challenges as well as their underlying causes. Some questions to consider are: How can the Security Council enhance cooperation in the region in order to defeat terrorist organizations such as Boko Haram and AQIM? Would an increase or enhanced mandate of peacekeeping missions be beneficial to combatting security challenges? How can the Security Council prevent the rise in radicalization and terrorist groups in Northern Africa and the Sahel? What does the case of Mali teach us about security in the Sahel?

²⁴⁸ Ibid.

²⁴⁹ UN Security Council, *Resolution 2100 (S/RES/2100 (2013))*, 2013; Ibid.

²⁵⁰ Ibid.

²⁵¹ *Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali Resulting from the Algiers Process*, 2015.

²⁵² UN Security Council, *Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in Mali (S/2015/732 (2015))*, 2015.

²⁵³ UN Security Council, *Situation in Mali (S/2020/223 (2020))*, 2020.

²⁵⁴ UN DGC, *Implementing Peace Deal Only Path for Stabilization in Mali: UN Peacekeeping Chief*, 2020.

²⁵⁵ Ibid, p. 2.

²⁵⁶ Ibid.

²⁵⁷ Ibid; Ibid.

²⁵⁸ Ibid.

²⁵⁹ UN DGC, *Amid Increased Terrorist Activity in Sahel Region, Speakers Tell Security Council Greater Commitment Needed for Joint Force*, 2019.

²⁶⁰ Ibid.

Annotated Bibliography

African Union, Peace and Security Department. (2019, May 22). *Communique of the 845th PSC meeting on Organized Transnational Crime, Peace, and Security in Africa*. Retrieved 16 May 2020 from: <http://www.peaceau.org/en/article/communique-of-the-845th-psc-meeting-on-organized-transnational-crime-peace-and-security-in-africa>

Adopted by the AU's Peace and Security Council, this communique provides a response to the growing threat to peace and security posed by organized transnational crime and terrorism. In the document, the AU recognizes weaknesses in the capacities of State security agencies, the lack of international cooperation and coordination, and ineffective border control. Therefore, Member States are encouraged to take the necessary steps to combat organized transnational crime and terrorism by addressing these issues. Delegates may find this source useful in developing a regional understanding of the issues at hand.

Lindell, M. & K. Mattsson. (2014). *Transnational Threats to Peace and Security in the Sahel: Consequences in Mali*. Retrieved 23 March 2020 from: <https://www.foi.se/rest-api/report/FOI-R--3881--SE>

This report looks closely at security challenges within the Sahel through the lens of Mali. The case study focuses on three main threats: separatism, armed Islamism, and organized crime, as well as the links between each of the transnational threats. This source will be helpful for delegates to better understand how these security issues affect individual states within the regions and how some threats may be conducive to others.

United Nations, Africa Renewal Information Programme. (2018). *UN Support Plan for the Sahel: Working Together for a Prosperous and Peaceful Sahel*. Retrieved 12 February 2020 from: https://www.un.org/africarenewal/sites/www.un.org.africarenewal/files/English%20Summary%20Report_0.pdf

The UN Support Plan for the Sahel acts as an instrument to foster coordination and strengthen collaboration between Sahelian states for greater results under the UNISS framework. The plan surrounds six priority areas including: cross-border cooperation, prevention and sustaining peace, inclusive growth, climate action, renewable energy, and women and youth empowerment. Using this resource may help delegates develop recommendations to address the root causes of violent extremism and conflict.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixtieth session. (2006). *The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288)*. Retrieved 21 April 2020 from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/60/288>

The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is a comprehensive action plan aimed at preventing and combating terrorism through international cooperation. The strategy names four central measures: addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, preventing and combating terrorism, building States' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism, and ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law. Using this resource may help delegates understand the underlying issues related to terrorism and gain a full understanding of the UN's mission in this regard.

United Nations, Security Council, 4385th meeting. (2001). *Resolution 1373 (S/RES/1373 (2001))*. Retrieved 10 March 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/1373\(2001\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1373(2001))

As a foundational resolution discussing international peace and security and terrorism, it laid the groundwork for future resolutions regarding counter-terrorism initiatives. It required all Member States to implement measures to enhance their ability to prevent and counter terrorist activities such as suppressing financing of terrorism, recognizing the connection between transnational organized crime and terrorism, sharing operational information, and establishing the Counter Terrorism Committee. This document points to policy areas that hinder terrorist activities, which delegates may find useful in developing solutions.

United Nations, Security Council, 6979th meeting. (2013). *Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in the Sahel region (S/2013/354 (2013))*. Retrieved 9 February 2020 from: <https://undocs.org/S/2013/354>

This report provides background information on security threats within the Sahel such as terrorism and transnational organized crime, laying out the problems with weak governance along with development and humanitarian challenges which may affect regional security. It also references existing initiatives to address said challenges in the Sahel, including the UN Special Envoy for the Sahel, and includes the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS). The document may be useful in providing base level knowledge on the issue and information helpful for making recommendations.

United Nations, Security Council. (2020). *Situation in Mali (S/2020/223 (2020))*. Retrieved 22 May 2020 from: <https://undocs.org/S/2020/223>

The 2020 report of the Secretary-General provides recent information regarding the situation in Mali. It covers major political and security developments in addition to the protection of civilians, the human rights, humanitarian, and economic situations, the capacities of MINUSMA, and observations from Mali as of March 2020. This source will be useful to delegates in gaining a better understanding of the current situation in Mali as well as contextualizing their major challenges.

Bibliography

African Union, Peace and Security Department. (2014, August 12). *The African Union Strategy for the Sahel Region*. Retrieved 16 May 2020 from: <http://www.peaceau.org/en/article/the-african-union-strategy-for-the-sahel-region>

African Union, Peace and Security Department. (2019, May 22). *Communique of the 845th PSC meeting on Organized Transnational Crime, Peace, and Security in Africa*. Retrieved 16 May 2020 from: <http://www.peaceau.org/en/article/communique-of-the-845th-psc-meeting-on-organized-transnational-crime-peace-and-security-in-africa>

Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation in Mali Resulting from the Algiers Process. (2015). Retrieved 23 May 2020 from: https://www.un.org/en/pdfs/EN-ML_150620_Accord-pour-la-paix-et-la-reconciliation-au-Mali_Issu-du-Processus-d'Alger.pdf

Campbell, J. (2020, January 9). *Jihadi Violence and Terror Surging in West Africa*. Retrieved 6 March 2020 from: <https://www.cfr.org/blog/jihadi-violence-and-terror-surging-west-africa>

France Diplomatie, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs. (2019). *G5 Sahel Joint Force and the Sahel Alliance*. Retrieved 12 February 2020 from: <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/french-foreign-policy/security-disarmament-and-non-proliferation/crises-and-conflicts/g5-sahel-joint-force-and-the-sahel-alliance/>

Gberie, L. (2016, April). *Terrorism Overshadows Internal Conflicts*. Retrieved 6 June 2020 from: <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/april-2016/terrorism-overshadows-internal-conflicts>

Ighobor, K. (2019, December 23). *Work in Progress for Africa's Remaining Conflict Hotspots*. Retrieved 6 June 2020 from: <https://www.un.org/africarenewal/magazine/december-2019-march-2020/work-progress-africa%E2%80%99s-remaining-conflict-hotspots>

Lindell, M. & K. Mattsson. (2014). *Transnational Threats to Peace and Security in the Sahel: Consequences in Mali*. Retrieved 23 March 2020 from: <https://www.foi.se/rest-api/report/FOI-R--3881--SE>

United Nations, Africa Renewal Information Programme. (2018). *UN Support Plan for the Sahel: Working Together for a Prosperous and Peaceful Sahel*. Retrieved 12 February 2020 from:

https://www.un.org/africarenewal/sites/www.un.org.africarenewal/files/English%20Summary%20Report_0.pdf

United Nations, African Union Hybrid Operation in Darfur. (2020). *UNAMID Mandate*. Retrieved 18 March 2020 from: <https://unamid.unmissions.org/unamid-mandate>

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. (2012, August 8). *Secretary-General Urges Security Council to Consider Imposing Sanctions on Those Fanning Crisis in Northern Mali*. Retrieved 22 May 2020 from: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2012/sc10737.doc.htm>

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. (2019, February 4). *Better Control of Borders, Private Security Firms Key to Stopping 'Guns for Hire', Speakers Say at Security Council Debate on Mercenary Activities in Africa*. Retrieved 24 April 2020 from: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13688.doc.htm>

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. (2019, May 16). *Experts Urge Security Council Support for Efforts to Make G5 Sahel Joint Force Fully Operational amid Rising Terrorist Attacks, Intercommunal Violence*. Retrieved 20 May 2020 from: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13810.doc.htm>

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. (2019, November 20). *Amid Increased Terrorist Activity in Sahel Region, Speakers Tell Security Council Greater Commitment Needed for Joint Force*. Retrieved 15 March 2020 from: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc14027.doc.htm>

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. (2019, November 21) *Security Council Press Statement on Group of Five for Sahel Joint Force*. Retrieved 21 March 2020 from: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc14029.doc.htm>

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. (2020, January 15). *Implementing Peace Deal Only Path for Stabilization in Mali: UN Peacekeeping Chief*. Retrieved 23 May 2020 from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/01/1055362>

United Nations, Department of Peace Operations. (2019). *List of Peacekeeping Operations 1948-2019*. Retrieved 13 February 2020 from: https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/unpeacekeeping-operationlist_3_1_0.pdf

United Nations, Department of Peace Operations. (2020). *Where We Operate*. Retrieved 13 February 2020 from: <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/where-we-operate>

United Nations Development Programme. (2015). *Border Management and Border Communities in the Sahel*. Retrieved 20 May 2020 from: <https://info.undp.org/docs/pdc/Documents/MRT/Border%20and%20communities%20Management%20Sahel.pdf>

United Nations Economic Commission for Africa. (2020). *About the Office: United Nations Economic Commission for Africa*. Retrieved 15 February 2020 from: <https://www.uneca.org/sro-na/pages/about-office>

United Nations, General Assembly, Fifty-fifth session. (2001). *United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime (A/RES/55/25)*. Retrieved 26 April 2020 from: <https://undocs.org/A/RES/55/25>

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixtieth session. (2006). *The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288)*. Retrieved 21 April 2020 from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/60/288>



United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-second session. (2018). *The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review (A/RES/72/284)*. Retrieved 26 April 2020 from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/72/284>

United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara. (2020). *Mandate*. Retrieved 18 March 2020 from: <https://minurso.unmissions.org/mandate>

United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. (2020). *Mandate*. Retrieved 18 March 2020 from: <https://minusma.unmissions.org/en/mandate-0>

United Nations, Office for West Africa and the Sahel. (2019). *West Africa and the Sahel, Between Security Challenges and the Need to Consolidate Peace*. Retrieved 10 February 2020 from: <https://unowas.unmissions.org/west-africa-and-sahel-between-security-challenges-and-need-consolidate-peace>

United Nations, Office for West Africa and the Sahel. (2020). *Background*. Retrieved 12 February 2020 from: <https://unowas.unmissions.org/background>

United Nations, Office of Counter-Terrorism. (2020). *What We Do: Border Security and Management*. Retrieved 27 April 2020 from: <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/border-security-management>

United Nations, Office of the Secretary-General. (2018, March 28). *Deputy Secretary-General's Remarks at Strategic Consultative Meeting on the Sahel Nouakchott, 28 March 2018 [as prepared for delivery]*. Retrieved 15 February 2020 from: <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/dsg/statement/2018-03-28/deputy-secretary-generals-remarks-strategic-consultative-meeting>

United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. (2013). *The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Contribution to the United Nations Integrated Regional Strategy for the Sahel*. Retrieved 20 March 2020 from: https://www.unodc.org/documents/westandcentralafrica/UNODC_contribution_to_the_UN_Sahel_strategy_English.pdf

United Nations, Office on Drugs and Crime. (2017). *Results and Activities: Sahel Programme Progress Report June 2017*. Retrieved 20 March 2020 from: https://www.unodc.org/documents/westandcentralafrica/UNODC_Sahel_Programme_Results_and_Activities_-_June_2017.pdf

United Nation, Security Council. (2016). *Letter Dated 28 January 2016 from the President of the Security Council Addressed to the Secretary-General (S/2016/89)*. Retrieved 3 June 2020 from: <https://undocs.org/S/2016/89>

United Nations, Security Council. (2020). *Situation in Mali (S/2020/223 (2020))*. Retrieved 22 May 2020 from: <https://undocs.org/S/2020/223>

United Nations, Security Council, 4385th meeting. (2001). *Resolution 1373 (S/RES/1373 (2001))*. Retrieved 10 March 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/1373\(2001\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1373(2001))

United Nations, Security Council, 5261st meeting. (2005). *Resolution 1624 (S/RES/1624 (2005))*. Retrieved 17 May 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/s/res/1624\(2005\)](https://undocs.org/s/res/1624(2005))

United Nations, Security Council, 6798th meeting. (2012). *Resolution 2056 (S/RES/2056 (2012))*. Retrieved 18 May 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2056\(2012\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2056(2012))

United Nations, Security Council, 6846th meeting. (2012). *Resolution 2071 (S/RES/2071 (2012))*. Retrieved 9 February 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2071\(2012\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2071(2012))



United Nations, Security Council, 6952nd meeting. (2013). *Resolution 2100 (S/RES/2100 (2013))*. Retrieved 22 May 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2100\(2013\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2100(2013))

United Nations, Security Council, 6979th meeting. (2013). *Report of the Secretary-General on the Situation in the Sahel Region (S/2013/354 (2013))*. Retrieved 9 February 2020 from: <https://undocs.org/S/2013/354>

United Nations, Security Council, 6980th meeting. (2013). *Report of the Secretary-General on Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking in West Africa and the Sahel Region (S/2013/359 (2013))*. Retrieved 21 May 2020 from: <https://undocs.org/S/2013/359>

United Nations, Security Council, 7272nd meeting. (2014). *Resolution 2178 (S/RES/2178 (2014))*. Retrieved 24 April 2020 from: [https://www.undocs.org/S/RES/2178%20\(2014\)](https://www.undocs.org/S/RES/2178%20(2014))

United Nations, Security Council, 7529th meeting. (2015). *Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Mali (S/2015/732 (2015))*. Retrieved 22 May 2020 from: <https://undocs.org/S/2015/732>

United Nations, Security Council, 8129th meeting. (2017). *Resolution 2391 (S/RES/2391 (2017))*. Retrieved 12 February 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2391\(2017\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2391(2017))

United Nations, Security Council, 8582nd meeting. (2019). *Resolution 2482 (S/RES/2482 (2019))*. Retrieved 10 March 2020 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2482\(2019\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2482(2019))

United Nations, Security Council, Counter-Terrorism Committee. (2020). *About the Counter-Terrorism Committee*. Retrieved 16 May 2020 from: <https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/about-us/>

United Nations, Security Council, Counter-Terrorism Committee. (2020). *Border Management*. Retrieved 24 March 2020 from: <https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/focus-areas/border-control/>

United Nations, Security Council, Counter-Terrorism Committee. (2020). *Terrorism Financing*. Retrieved 24 March 2020 from: <https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/focus-areas/financing-of-terrorism/>

United Nations, Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate. (2015). *Implementation of Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014) by States Affected by Foreign Terrorist Fighters*. Retrieved 23 March 2020 from: https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/FTF-Report-1-3_English.pdf

U.S. Department of State. (2019). *2019 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Mali*. Retrieved 29 April 2020 from: <https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/mali/>