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Security Council Background Guide 2023

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2023 National Model United Nations New York Conference (NMUN•NY)! We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, the Security Council (SC). The topics under discussion are:

1. Threats to International Peace and Security: Preventing and Combating the Financing of Terrorism
2. Women, Peace, and Security: Ending Cycles of Sexual Violence in Conflict

Members of our dais this year include:



Kiki Tamis-Noordman, Director, is a well-versed and broadly educated person, having studied Dutch, European, and International Law, as well as teacher's college for primary school. After having worked as an educator, she is currently employed as a legal professional in the insurance field.



Kyle Roberts, Director, is an Anti-Money Laundering Senior Associate at Grant Thornton and has a Master's in Statistics from Baruch College.

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 explore your Member State's policies in depth and use the Annotated Bibliography and Bibliography to further your knowledge on these topics. In preparation for the Conference, each delegation will submit a Position Paper by 11:59 p.m. (Eastern Time) on 1 March 2023 in accordance with the guidelines in the [Position Paper Guide](#) and the NMUN•NY [Position Papers website](#).

Two resources, available to download from the [NMUN website](#), serve as essential instruments in preparing for the Conference and as a reference during committee sessions:

1. [NMUN Delegate Preparation Guide](#) - 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 start discussion on the topics with other members of their committee until the first committee session.
2. [NMUN Rules of Procedure](#) - include 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 this committee, please contact the Peace and Security Department, Citlali Mora Catlett (Conference A) and Eileen Austin (Conference B), at usg.ps@nmun.org.

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

Kiki Tamis-Noordman, Director
Conference A

Kyle Roberts, Director
Conference B

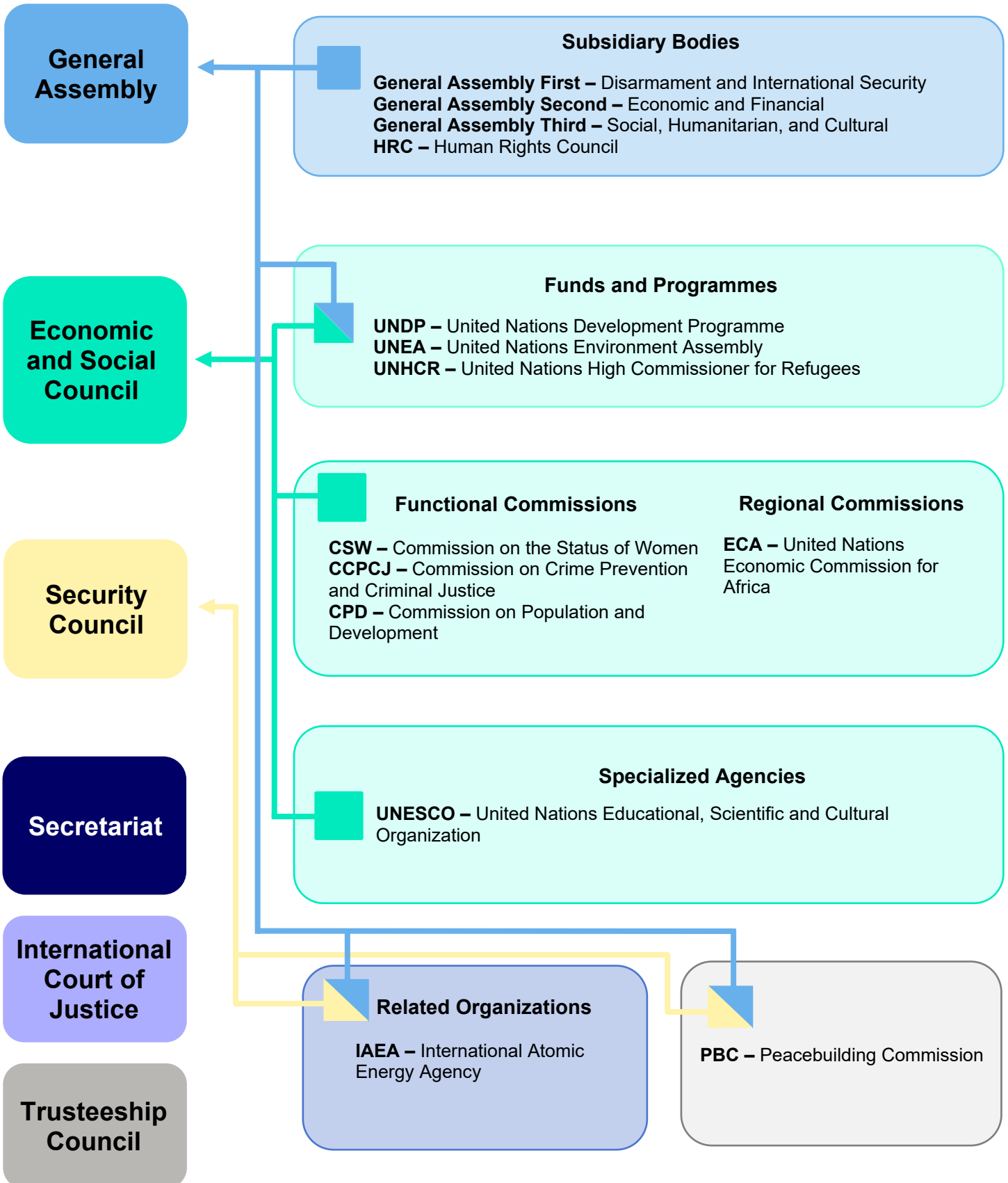


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United Nations System at NMUN•NY

This diagram illustrates the UN system simulated at NMUN•NY. It shows where each committee “sits” within the system to demonstrate the reportage and relationships between entities. Examine the diagram alongside the Committee Overview to gain a clear picture of the committee’s position, purpose, and powers within the UN system.



Committee Overview

Introduction

The Security Council is one of the six main organs of the United Nations (UN), ensuring international peace and security, and overseeing changes to the *Charter of the United Nations* (the Charter) (1945).¹ As the Security Council is the only UN body that can create legally binding decisions that all Member States are required to comply with under Chapter VII of the Charter, it has a unique and impactful mandate to set norms and govern state actions.² Traditionally, the Security Council discusses issues related to conflict, peacebuilding and peacekeeping missions, as well as the protection of human rights, disarmament, and humanitarian crises.³ With the adoption of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda) by the General Assembly in 2015, the Security Council has begun to increasingly focus on the intersection between sustainability, peace, and security.⁴

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.⁵ 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.⁶ The capabilities of the Security Council are highlighted in Chapters V–VIII.⁷ Chapter V establishes the structure, membership, functions, and powers of the Security Council.⁸ Chapters VI and VII specifically concern the range of actions that the Security Council can take when settling disputes.⁹ Chapter VI aims to settle disputes through peaceful means, such as negotiation and judicial settlement.¹⁰ Chapter VII explores further actions that can be taken regarding threats to peace, breaches of peace, and acts of aggression.¹¹ This chapter also authorizes the Security Council to implement provisional measures aimed at de-escalating conflict situations, including the deployment of peacekeeping forces.¹² Chapter VIII allows the Security Council to call upon other regional agencies or arrangements to enforce appropriate operations and intervene if necessary.¹³

Whilst the following list is not exhaustive, the mandate of the Security Council can be summarized as:

- The Security Council **will generally**: call on members to apply economic sanctions and measures not involving the use of force; call for arms embargos, enforce disarmament, and call upon international criminal mechanisms to become active; use diplomatic tools to investigate situations that might lead to aggression (between states, non-state groups, and within state territories); take military action against states or entities threatening international peace and security.¹⁴

¹ United Nations, Security Council. *What is the Security Council?* n.d.

² United Nations Conference on International Organization. *Charter of the United Nations*. 1945. ch. VII.

³ Council on Foreign Relations. *The UN Security Council*. 2021; Encyclopedia Britannica. *United Nations Security Council*. 2022.

⁴ United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015.

⁵ United Nations, Security Council. *What is the Security Council?* n.d.

⁶ United Nations Conference on International Organization. *Charter of the United Nations*. 1945. art. 1.

⁷ *Ibid.* ch. V–VIII.

⁸ *Ibid.* ch. V.

⁹ *Ibid.* ch. VI–VII.

¹⁰ *Ibid.* ch. VI.

¹¹ *Ibid.* ch. VII.

¹² *Ibid.* ch. VII.

¹³ *Ibid.* ch. VIII.

¹⁴ United Nations, Security Council. *Functions and Powers*. n.d.

- The Security Council **will not generally**: intervene in situations and enact enforcement measures unless it is determined that there has been a threat to international peace and security; furthermore, the Council will not encourage the use of force unless it considers that non-military measures, which have already been taken, are proven to be inadequate.¹⁵

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.¹⁶ The Security Council also has a variety of other tools to address issues on its agenda.¹⁷ For example, the President of the Security Council may issue press statements or presidential statements to communicate the Council's position.¹⁸ Although not legally binding, such statements are used to bring attention to important issues and to recommend solutions to ongoing conflicts.¹⁹

The Security Council was initially composed of five permanent members and six non-permanent members were part of the Council.²⁰ In 1965, the number of non-permanent members was increased to 10.²¹ However, as the body's structure has remained largely unchanged, debates over the Security Council's efficacy and authority as a mediator on issues of international security continue.²² The five permanent members of the Security Council are China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America, often colloquially referred to as the "P5."²³ Every year, the General Assembly elects five of the 10 non-permanent members for a two-year term.²⁴ Member States elected to serve on the Security Council are expected to represent the interests of their region, and they usually have influence at the international level and demonstrate leadership in specific areas of interest to their foreign policy.²⁵

Every Member State of the Security Council has one vote.²⁶ Votes on all matters require a 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 in relatively limited circumstances.³²

¹⁵ United Nations, Security Council. *Actions with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression*. n.d.

¹⁶ United Nations Conference on International Organization. *Charter of the United Nations*. 1945. art. 25; United Nations, Security Council. *What is the Security Council?* n.d.

¹⁷ Security Council Report. *The UN Security Council Handbook: A User's Guide to Practice and Procedure*. 2019. pp. 36-38.

¹⁸ Ibid. pp. 36-38.

¹⁹ Ibid. pp. 36-38.

²⁰ United Nations, Security Council. *Voting System*. n.d.

²¹ Global Policy Forum. *Background on Security Council Reform*. 2021.

²² Council on Foreign Relations. *The UN Security Council*. 2021.

²³ United Nations, Security Council. *Current Members*. n.d.

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ Global Policy Forum. *Background on Security Council Reform*. 2021.

²⁶ United Nations Conference on International Organization. *Charter of the United Nations*. 1945. art. 27.

²⁷ United Nations, Security Council. *Voting System*. n.d.

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 Ibid.

Annotated Bibliography

Security Council Report. *The UN Security Council Handbook: A User's Guide to Practice and Procedure*. 2019. Retrieved 4 August 2022 from: <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/the-un-security-council-handbook-by-scr-1.pdf>

This source outlines the key aspects of the UN Charter and how it is applied to the work of the Security Council. It describes the rules that are specific to the Security Council, how the Council votes, how the Council functions, and how the Council works with other bodies within the UN system. This source aims to be a handbook for members of the Security Council and for anyone that is trying to learn how it functions internally. Delegates will find this source useful while they are writing their Position Papers and are in committee since it is a detailed guide for how the Council functions and how to apply the rules to the topics being discussed.

United Nations Conference on International Organization. *Charter of the United Nations*. 1945. Retrieved 4 August 2022 from: <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text>

The Charter of the United Nations provides a thorough explanation of 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 to fully understand the mandate of the committee. Articles 27-32 outline the voting procedures of the committee and the structure of how the committee conducts its business. Article 23, which sets the membership structure, and Articles 23–26, which discuss basic functions and powers, are important to understand both the structure and functioning of the Security Council. 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 particularly helpful when researching the mandate of the Security Council and proposing actions and solutions.

United Nations, Security Council. *Functions and Powers*. 2022 Retrieved 4 August 2022 from: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/functions-and-powers>

This resource provides delegates with a comprehensive overview of the mandate and functions of the Security Council. Created by the Security Council itself, it provides official guidance on the powers of the Security Council and actions that can be taken through resolutions and statements. Delegates will find this resource useful when determining options available to respond to international issues or crises at hand.

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Security Council Report. *In Hindsight: The Veto*. 2013. Retrieved 4 August 2022 from: http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2013-11/in_hindsight_the_veto.php

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Security Council Report. *The UN Security Council Handbook: A User's Guide to Practice and Procedure*. 2019. Retrieved 4 August 2022 from: <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/the-un-security-council-handbook-by-scr-1.pdf>

United Nations Conference on International Organization. *Charter of the United Nations*. 1945. Retrieved 4 August 2022 from: <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text>

United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015. Retrieved 4 August 2022 from: <http://undocs.org/en/A/RES/70/1>

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United Nations, Security Council. *What is the Security Council?* n.d. Retrieved 4 August 2022 from: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/what-security-council>

1. Threats to International Peace and Security: Preventing and Combating the Financing of Terrorism

*"Pens and books are the weapons that defeat terrorism."*³³

Introduction

Terrorism, as defined by the Security Council, are criminal acts, particularly against civilians, with the intent to cause harm to compel a population, government, or international organization to do or abstain from action.³⁴ The effects of a terrorist attack are detrimental, causing lasting physical, psychological, economic, and social harm to both individuals and societies.³⁵ The financing of terrorism includes any method used to fund terrorist organizations and activities.³⁶ Notably, the source of funds can come from legitimate sources, such as charities or business profits, as well as illegitimate sources, such as money laundering or fraud.³⁷

Money laundering is described as the processing of illicit or criminal funds to disguise their illegal origin.³⁸ The techniques utilized in money laundering often overlap with strategies for terrorist financing.³⁹ Terrorist financing often requires the movement of funds across jurisdictions and, similar to money laundering, the movement of funds may be done through a variety of methods including international financial markets or unregulated funding avenues (e.g. cash mules or cryptocurrencies).⁴⁰ The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimated that around \$1.6 trillion, or 2.7% of global gross domestic product, was laundered in 2009.⁴¹ In 2015, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), a terrorist organization, approved a budget of nearly \$2 billion.⁴² While terrorist organizations having access to an enormous amount of funds is already a significant concern, the efficiency of terrorist funds is also a considerable issue.⁴³ For example, the November 2015 attack in Paris cost the French economy nearly \$2.1 billion, whereas ISIS-affiliated attackers spent approximately \$10,000 to carry out the attack.⁴⁴

Fortunately, there are some methods to combat terrorist financing, including bolstering anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism programs, freezing assets, and information sharing between governments to assist in the investigation, detection, arrest, extradition, and prosecution of individuals engaged in terrorist financing, and sanctions.⁴⁵ Sanctions are defined as restrictions authorized by an imposing body (e.g. a Member State or international authority such as the European Union or the Security Council) and can come in several forms, including economic sanctions that limit or ban trade and financial relationships between Member States, or individual sanctions that freeze a person's assets or imposes a travel ban.⁴⁶

³³ Birmingham City Council. *Library of Birmingham inauguration speech: Malala Yousafzai: Speech at the inauguration of the Library of Birmingham, Tuesday 3 September 2013*. 2013.

³⁴ United Nations, Security Council. *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (S/RES/1566 (2004))*. 2004.

³⁵ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Effects of terrorism: A trauma and victimological perspective*. n.d.

³⁶ International Monetary Fund. *Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism – Topics*. n.d.

³⁷ Ibid.; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Combating Terrorist Financing*. n.d.

³⁸ Financial Action Task Force. *Money Laundering*. n.d.

³⁹ International Monetary Fund. *Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism – Topics*. n.d.

⁴⁰ Council of Europe. *Financing of terrorism*. n.d.

⁴¹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Illicit money: how much is out there?* 2011; United Nations, Security Council, Counter-Terrorism Committee. *Our Mandate*. n.d.

⁴² Center for a New American Security. *Following the Money*. 2017.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ United Nations, Security Council, Counter-Terrorism Committee. *Our Mandate*. n.d.

⁴⁶ LexisNexis. *What are Sanctions?* n.d.; United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *UN sanctions: what they are, how they work, and who uses them*. 2016.

Because of the complexities of identifying a terrorist funding source and the many methods used to move funds intended for terrorist purposes, a 'one-size-fits-all' model cannot be used.⁴⁷ Instead, according to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), Member States, financial institutions, and international organizations must consider a flexible risk assessment methodology that considers all financial avenues that can be used to fund terrorism and move money across borders.⁴⁸ The Security Council assists Member States in bolstering their counter-terrorism and counter-financing of terrorism programs by providing expert assessments of Member States' anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism programs and aims to provide recommendations for improvement.⁴⁹

International and Regional Framework

The foundational United Nations (UN) treaty on suppressing the financing of terrorism is the *International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism* (Terrorist Financing Convention (TFC)), which was signed in 1999 and ratified by 188 Member States.⁵⁰ The TFC sets that all signatories must make the financing of terrorism, as defined in the TFC, illegal for both individuals and lawful entities.⁵¹ The TFC also states that legal entities found to be financing terrorism must be sanctioned by signatories of the treaty.⁵² It sets the administration of justice regarding persons charged with financing terrorism.⁵³ Examples of these procedures include articles seven and nine, which define how Member States determine jurisdiction and notify each other when prosecuting a person for the financing of terrorism.⁵⁴ Furthermore, the TFC also guarantees the rights of a person, such as due process, who is arrested on suspicion of financing terrorism.⁵⁵ The TFC defines the actions that financial institutions of signatories should take to suppress the financing of terrorism in article 18.⁵⁶ These actions include ensuring account holders have proof of identification, reporting large fiscal transfers, and recording financial transactions specified within the TFC.⁵⁷ Using the procedures set out in the TFC, Member States have standardized operating procedures when suppressing terrorist financing and holding persons charged with financing terrorism to account.⁵⁸

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their targets provide frameworks for institutions to strive towards suppressing terrorist financing, specifically SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions).⁵⁹ The targets within SDG 16 address the need to suppress terrorist financing, including increasing access to justice and building strong institutions.⁶⁰ For example, a person who is not marginalized or believes they have access to proper justice institutions may not resort to violence to achieve their goals.⁶¹ Target 16.4 directly relates to the suppression of the financing of terrorism.⁶² UNODC also assists Member States' work toward SDG 16.4 by providing tools to build their capacity for anti-money laundering operations.⁶³

⁴⁷ Financial Action Task Force. *Terrorist Financing Risk Assessment Guidance*. 2019. p. 20.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

⁴⁹ United Nations, Security Council, Counter-Terrorism Committee. *Assessments*. n.d.

⁵⁰ United Nations, General Assembly. *International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (A/RES/54/109)*. 1999.

⁵¹ Ibid. art. 4.

⁵² Ibid. art. 5.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ Ibid. arts. 7-9.

⁵⁵ Ibid. art. 17.

⁵⁶ Ibid. art. 18.

⁵⁷ Ibid. art. 18.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

⁵⁹ Khairil et al. *International Journal on Information. Understanding terrorism based on radicalism idea in order to avoid instability for achieving environmental peace and justice the sustainable development goals (SDGs)*. 2017. p. 50; United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *SDG 16*. n.d.

⁶⁰ Ibid. p. 50.

⁶¹ Ibid. p. 50.

⁶² United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *SDG 16*. n.d.

⁶³ Ibid.

Regional frameworks that address the financing of terrorism include *The Council of Europe Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism*, also known as the Warsaw Convention, signed in 2005.⁶⁴ The Warsaw Convention stipulates that parties to the convention must adopt the legislative measures within it, ensuring parties of the convention have a standardized legislative approach to the suppression of the financing of terrorism.⁶⁵ The Warsaw Convention highlights that investigative measures, methods of seizure, and legal remedies must be in place to suppress the financing of terrorism.⁶⁶ The Warsaw Convention differs from the TFC in requiring parties to establish a Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU).⁶⁷ Furthermore, the convention focuses on establishing FIU to ensure that all parties to the convention have a central government agency that focuses on financial crimes, including the financing of terrorism.⁶⁸

Role of the International System

There are several Security Council and General Assembly resolutions that focus on suppressing the financing of terrorism.⁶⁹ The first Security Council resolution regarding the suppression of terrorist financing is Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) on “Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.”⁷⁰ This resolution states that all Member States are to criminalize the financing of terrorism, not support terrorist groups, and increase information sharing.⁷¹ The resolution also established the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) of the Council which conducts “expert assessments of the 193 Member States” in their counter-terrorism efforts.⁷² These assessments involve visits to Member States to personally inspect the implemented efforts of counter-financing of terrorism (CFT) and facilitate technical assistance where applicable.⁷³ The CTC also cooperates with other UN bodies, including the Office of Counter-Terrorism.⁷⁴ Security Council resolution 2462 (2019) on “threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts: Preventing and combating the financing of terrorism” reaffirmed Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and urged Member States to update the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and Al-Qaida sanctions lists actively.⁷⁵

In 2006, the *UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy* was adopted.⁷⁶ The bi-annually reviewed strategy addresses the conditions that help spread terrorism and review measures to prevent terrorism.⁷⁷ In 2018, Secretary-General António Guterres signed the *UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact* which joined UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force entities to enhance a unified action approach in counter-terrorism activities.⁷⁸ The international community moved toward improving its unified approach to combating terrorism and trying to adapt to the emerging trends and threats caused by terrorism.⁷⁹ The International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) assists in the detection and identification of terrorists; the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (the assisting body to the Counter-Terrorism Committee) enhances partnerships with international organizations such as FATF

⁶⁴ Council of Europe. *Convention on Laundering, Search, Seizure and Confiscation of the Proceeds from Crime and on the Financing of Terrorism*. 2005.

⁶⁵ *Ibid.* art. 2.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.* arts. 3-8.

⁶⁷ *Ibid.* art. 12.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.* art. 12.

⁶⁹ United Nations, Security Council, Counter-Terrorism Committee. *About Us*. n.d.

⁷⁰ United Nations, Office of Counter-Terrorism. *Countering the financing of terrorism*. n.d.

⁷¹ United Nations, Security Council. *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts (S/RES/1373 (2001))*. 2001.

⁷² United Nations, Security Council, Counter-Terrorism Committee. *About Us*. n.d.

⁷³ *Ibid.*

⁷⁴ *Ibid.*

⁷⁵ United Nations, Security Council. *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts: Preventing and combating the financing of terrorism (S/RES/2462 (2019))*. 2019. sec 12.

⁷⁶ United Nations, United Nations, General Assembly. *The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/RES/60/288)*. 2006

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*

⁷⁸ United Nations Global Compact. *Who we are*. n.d.

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

and provides information to Member States and the private sector; and UNODC provides training resources for criminal and financial employees.⁸⁰ The *UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy* urges states to suppress terrorist financing via increased cooperation with international organizations like the International Monetary Fund (IMF), implementing the FATF's nine special recommendations to suppress terrorist financing, and cooperating fully with other Member States to bring terrorists and those who finance them to justice in accordance with international law.⁸¹

IMF also helps countries build their capacity to suppress terrorist financing by providing policy advice and program analysis.⁸² To prevent its own funds from financing terrorism, IMF includes anti-terrorist financing mechanisms and surveillance in its programs.⁸³ IMF provides both technical and policy development expertise to Member States that request help in strengthening their regulatory, legal, and institutional frameworks.⁸⁴

FATF is a global anti-money laundering and terrorist financing watchdog founded in 1989 by the Group of Seven (G7).⁸⁵ It is an independent international organization that publishes anti-money laundering and terrorist financing standards.⁸⁶ FATF has published 40 recommendations to combat money laundering and nine special recommendations to suppress terrorist financing.⁸⁷ The recommendations are updated regularly by FATF to reflect new developments in terrorist financing.⁸⁸ In 2018, the recommendations were updated to include virtual assets and how states can use preventive measures on virtual assets.⁸⁹ The nine special recommendations on countering terrorist financing are highlighted by General Assembly resolutions and are used by IMF.⁹⁰

While FATF is setting a major international standard for CFT efforts, many international and regional initiatives support the struggle in combating terrorism.⁹¹ The Basel Committee on Banking Supervision sets standards for bank supervision and provides a forum to share strategies; the European Union Directives on Money Laundering create a European-focused approach to combat money laundering and terrorism; the Egmont Group of Financial Intelligence Units unites financial intelligence units in anti-money laundering (AML) and CFT efforts; The Wolfsberg Group issues guidelines to their global bank members with best practices to combat money laundering and terrorist financing; and the World Bank and IMF support FATF's efforts and encourage Member States to improve their financial security.⁹²

Cybercrime and Terrorist Financing

As the world continues its transition to the digital age, so have terrorist groups' methods for financing their operations.⁹³ UNODC describes cybercrime in three separate categories: cyber-dependent offenses, cyber-enabled offenses, and cyber child exploitation.⁹⁴ Cyber-dependent offenses are crimes that require information technology to be achieved.⁹⁵ An example of cyber-dependent offenses that terrorist groups

⁸⁰ International Monetary Fund. *IMF and the Fight Against Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism*. 2021.

⁸¹ *Ibid.* pp. 2-8.

⁸² *Ibid.*

⁸³ *Ibid.*

⁸⁴ International Monetary Fund. *The Fund's involvement in AML/CFT*. n.d.

⁸⁵ Financial Action Task Force. *About*. n.d.

⁸⁶ Financial Action Task Force. *About*. n.d.

⁸⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸⁸ Financial Action Task Force. *International Standards On Combating Money Laundering And The Financing Of Terrorism & Proliferation*. 2012.

⁸⁹ *Ibid.* p. 17.

⁹⁰ International Monetary Fund. *IMF and the Fight Against Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism*. 2021.

⁹¹ Financial Action Task Force. *The World Bank Risk Assessment Methodology*. n.d.

⁹² *Ibid.*

⁹³ German Federal Ministry of Finance. *Nationale Risikoanalyse 2018 First National Risk Assessment 2018/2019*. 2019. p. 110.

⁹⁴ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Cybercrime*. n.d.

⁹⁵ *Ibid.*

can use for finances is extortion via ransomware.⁹⁶ Ransomware is a method of extortion when a malicious actor accesses a computer and encrypts its information.⁹⁷ The actor then demands payment to restore access.⁹⁸ Cyber-enabled offenses are crimes that are enhanced by the use of information technology.⁹⁹ Terrorist financing using cyber-enabled offenses can include fraud and the selling of drugs online.¹⁰⁰ Recent examples of these crimes are credit card fraud and cyberextortion such as blackmail.¹⁰¹ Terrorist groups use cybercrime to raise funds the same way criminals use cybercrime for profit.¹⁰² Criminals may use funds to expand their operations and wealth, and terrorist groups use funds from cybercrime to fund their organization at a global level and fund terror attacks.¹⁰³ For example, the terrorist group behind the 2005 London bombings partly funded the attack via funds from credit card fraud.¹⁰⁴

Historically, terrorist groups have been limited to physical fundraising operations where they are geographically based.¹⁰⁵ Through cybercrime and other cyber-finance mediums, terrorist groups are able to raise funds at the global level.¹⁰⁶ With the increased ability to raise funds, terrorist organizations can conduct attacks both across borders and domestically.¹⁰⁷ While cybercrime offers large payments, as shown in recent high-profile ransomware attacks, terrorist groups do not need large amounts of funds to carry out attacks.¹⁰⁸ Research has shown that terrorist groups prefer to use small and numerous cybercrimes to raise funds versus large crimes that attract significant attention.¹⁰⁹ For example, terrorist organizations have set up websites for legitimate or seemingly legitimate businesses, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and charities.¹¹⁰ Using legitimate or seemingly legitimate organizations, persons can unwittingly fund terrorist groups through payments or donations.¹¹¹ For example, charities tied to terrorist groups will set up websites asking for donations for humanitarian work in a region that the linked terrorist group operates.¹¹² The charities will then funnel the money to the terrorist group for its operations.¹¹³ While charities and NGOs linked to terrorist groups may be subject to legal measures such as sanctions, the websites that collect funds are difficult to shut down.¹¹⁴

Organizations that host websites linked to terrorist groups might not follow orders by authorities to take down the websites.¹¹⁵ Terrorist groups hosting sites on the 'dark web' further increase the difficulty for authorities to remove fundraising sites.¹¹⁶ The dark web is the colloquial term for websites not indexed by search engines and require specialized software to access, reducing the chance authorities will detect the sites.¹¹⁷ Dark web sites have anonymity and security built into the network, making the identity of who operates and accesses dark web terrorist sites difficult to ascertain.¹¹⁸ While the use of the dark web by

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Ransomware attacks, a growing threat that needs to be countered*. 2021.

⁹⁸ Ibid.

⁹⁹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Cybercrime*. n.d.

¹⁰⁰ Ibid.

¹⁰¹ Jacobson. *Terrorist Financing and the Internet*. 2010. p. 355.

¹⁰² Carrol et al. *Cyber as an enabler of terrorism financing, now and in the future*. 2018. p. 5.

¹⁰³ Jacobson. *Terrorist Financing and the Internet*. 2010. pp. 356-357.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid. p. 357.

¹⁰⁵ Carrol et al. *Cyber as an enabler of terrorism financing, now and in the future*. 2018. p. 5.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid. p. 6.

¹⁰⁷ Jacobson. *Terrorist Financing and the Internet*. 2010. pp. 356-357.

¹⁰⁸ Olatunji et al. *Forensic Accounting: Breaking the Nexus between Financial Cybercrime and Terrorist Financing in Nigeria*. 2020. p. 58.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid. p. 59.

¹¹⁰ Carrol et al. *Cyber as an enabler of terrorism financing, now and in the future*. 2018. p. 6.

¹¹¹ Jacobson. *Terrorist Financing and the Internet*. 2010. p. 356.

¹¹² Ibid. p. 356.

¹¹³ Ibid. p. 356.

¹¹⁴ Ibid. p. 357.

¹¹⁵ Ibid. p. 356.

¹¹⁶ Alternative Global Network Media Lab. *[I-Illuminate] Exploring the Dark Web: Where Terrorists Hide?* 2019.

¹¹⁷ Ibid.

¹¹⁸ Ibid.

terrorists to raise funds is small compared to other methods of funding through the internet, it represents an avenue that government authorities have difficulty addressing.¹¹⁹

International organizations like FATF have noted that terrorist groups have been using virtual assets to launder funds gained from cybercrime.¹²⁰ FATF defines virtual assets as “a digital representation of value that can be digitally traded, or transferred, and can be used for payment or investment purposes.”¹²¹ In other words, virtual assets are digital goods with real-world value such as virtual currencies, non-fungible tokens, and digital tokens.¹²² FATF does not consider other financial instruments (e.g. fiat currency and stocks) that can be transferred online as virtual assets.¹²³ Terrorist groups use virtual assets as they are an emerging technology and are not subject to the same regulations and tracking as traditional fiscal instruments.¹²⁴ Terrorist groups can use obfuscation methods or “privacy coins” to hide transfers of virtual assets to members of their group, who then sell the asset for currency.¹²⁵ Security Council resolution 2462 (2019) on “Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts: Preventing and combating the financing of terrorism” calls upon Member States to address the risks that virtual assets pose to the funding of terrorism.¹²⁶ Further, Member States should be considering the risks of crowdfunding and try implementing anti-terrorism regulations on virtual asset providers.¹²⁷ The resolution calls upon Member States to follow FATF recommendations on virtual assets.¹²⁸

Link Between Terrorism, Trafficking, and Corruption

In 2007, UNODC suggested that Afghanistan’s opium harvest reached \$3.1 billion and that over \$2 billion in cocaine was exported from Latin America.¹²⁹ Additionally, UNODC reports increased opium poppy cultivation and cocaine manufacturing in recent years.¹³⁰ Through the use of the internet, drug suppliers can easily interact with potential clients and may utilize mail courier services and international trade networks to traffic their products.¹³¹ Notably, online websites allow for pharmaceutical drugs to be sold without a paper prescription or with an online form typically prefilled for the benefit of the buyer.¹³²

The easy exchange of drugs and funds becomes an opportunity for obtaining criminal proceeds that can be laundered further for terrorist purposes or otherwise.¹³³ Further, traffickers quickly adapt to emerging legal restrictions by altering drug formulas to make them compliant with Member States’ regulations and by amending their advertisement process to avoid detection from law enforcement.¹³⁴ It is unclear how much funds from drug trafficking are then used for terrorist activity, however with the expected amount of funding generated from illicit drug sales, even a fraction poses a significant benefit to terrorist organizations.¹³⁵

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

¹²⁰ Financial Action Task Force. *Updated Guidance: A Risk-Based Approach To Virtual Assets And Virtual Asset Service Providers*. 2021.

¹²¹ Ibid.

¹²² Ibid.

¹²³ Ibid.

¹²⁴ German Federal Ministry of Finance. *Nationale Risikoanalyse 2018 First National Risk Assessment 2018/2019*. 2019. p. 110.

¹²⁵ Ibid. p. 110.

¹²⁶ United Nations, Security Council. *Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts: Preventing and combating the financing of terrorism (S/RES/2462 (2019))*. 2019.

¹²⁷ Ibid.

¹²⁸ Financial Action Task Force. *International Standards On Combating Money Laundering And The Financing Of Terrorism & Proliferation*. 2012.

¹²⁹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Drug Trafficking and the Financing of Terrorism*. n.d.

¹³⁰ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *World Drug Report*. 2021. pp. 51-52.

¹³¹ Ibid. p. 65.

¹³² Organization of American States. *Drugs in Cyberspace: Understanding & Investigating Diversion & Distribution of Controlled Substances via the Internet*. 2006. pp. 5-9.

¹³³ Ibid. pp. 5-9.

¹³⁴ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *World Drug Report*. 2021. p. 69.

¹³⁵ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Drug Trafficking and the Financing of Terrorism*. n.d.

Human trafficking provides another benefit to terrorist organizations by facilitating recruitment and retention of male fighters and serves as a reward for successful combatants.¹³⁶ Human trafficking destabilizes communities, increases conflict, decreases safety, and provides new avenues for terrorists to develop.¹³⁷ Economic and social development is stunted in communities affected by human trafficking.¹³⁸ Social media has also been used as a platform to recruit new trafficking victims through similar techniques utilized in traditional terrorist financing and money laundering: trust is built between a victim through a social media account or job interview.¹³⁹ After a victim trusts the account or job advertisement enough to meet in person, they can be taken.¹⁴⁰ On top of providing human resources to terrorist groups, human trafficking also generates significant funds estimated to be upwards of \$10 billion.¹⁴¹ For example, trafficked individuals may fetch a high price when sold as a slave, used for organ harvesting, extortion, or used as a gift to encourage corruption.¹⁴² It is crucial for Member States to effectively detect and investigate trafficking by enhancing information sharing mechanisms to facilitate parallel financial investigations in trafficking cases.¹⁴³

Corruption is often correlated with trafficking practices and may hinder economies reliant on overseas trade and destabilize government integrity.¹⁴⁴ Further, corruption is a common avenue for money laundering, which in turn can be used for financing terrorism.¹⁴⁵ Through corruption, not only can large amounts of funds be laundered, but it also becomes difficult to detect that money laundering is occurring as a country's judicial power may be compromised.¹⁴⁶ Due to globalization, corruption has become a "borderless crime" and may cross multiple jurisdictions, thus making investigations time-consuming and complex.¹⁴⁷ Through technology and increased financial avenues, corruption can occur in any part of the world without a culprit being physically present.¹⁴⁸ As communities become more ingrained with corruption they become hubs for hiding terrorist activities and convenient storage of terrorist funds.¹⁴⁹

Conclusion

The international community faces a difficult challenge in the dynamic landscape for the financing of terrorism.¹⁵⁰ As attempts at money laundering and the financing of terrorism evolve, the international community must similarly adapt and foster a united front in order to mitigate the efforts of criminals.¹⁵¹ With the increased usage of social media and virtual assets, it is even more difficult to limit the efforts of terrorist financing.¹⁵² International bodies such as FATF and the Security Council continue to prove to be valuable assets in disseminating best practices in combating terrorist financing and administering needed

¹³⁶ Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security. *Human Trafficking and ISIS*. 2015.

¹³⁷ Council on Foreign Relations. *The Security Implications of Human Trafficking*. 2019.

¹³⁸ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *An Introduction to Human Trafficking: Vulnerability, Impact, and Action*. 2008. p. 74.

¹³⁹ Polaris Project. *A Roadmap for Systems and Industries to Prevent and Disrupt Human Trafficking Social Media*. 2018. p. 19.

¹⁴⁰ *Ibid.* p. 19.

¹⁴¹ Financial Action Task Force. *ML TF Risks Arising from Migrant Smuggling*. 2022. p. 18.

¹⁴² United Nations, Security Council, Counter-Terrorism Committee. *Identifying And Exploring The Nexus Between Human Trafficking, Terrorism, And Terrorism Financing*. 2021. pp. 30-36.

¹⁴³ *Ibid.* p. 55.

¹⁴⁴ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *An Introduction to Human Trafficking: Vulnerability, Impact, and Action*. 2008. p. 94.

¹⁴⁵ International Monetary Fund. *Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism – Topics*. n.d.

¹⁴⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁷ International Criminal Police Organization. *Corruption*. n.d.

¹⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁹ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. *Terrorism, Corruption and The Criminal Exploitation Of Natural Resources*. 2017. p. 1

¹⁵⁰ Financial Action Task Force. *Emerging Terrorist Financing Risks*. 2015. pp. 30-36.

¹⁵¹ Financial Action Task Force. *Terrorist Financing Risk Assessment Guidance*. 2019. p. 20.

¹⁵² Financial Action Task Force. *Emerging Terrorist Financing Risks*. 2015. pp. 30-36.

consequences for identified criminal activity.¹⁵³ Further, Member States hold an even greater responsibility in improving their AML and CFT protocols to identify and report suspicious activity.¹⁵⁴

Further Research

When researching this topic, delegates should first understand other methods of financing terrorism. How can the Security Council hone in on more elusive funding methods for terrorist organizations? Consider how existing protocols can be improved to encompass newer forms of terrorist financing. Through what avenues can the Security Council limit current methods of financing terrorism?

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Financial Action Task Force. *About*. n.d. Retrieved 22 June 2022 from: <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/about/>
FATF is a principal body in maintaining international AML and CFT standards. For example, the FATF recommendations are viewed as the global basis for identifying terrorism. FATF keeps abreast with existing terrorist financing techniques, provides general overviews of maintaining an AML/CFT program, and disseminates reports and information to over 200 international bodies (countries and jurisdictions). Delegates should consider reviewing FATF recommendations and information to be aware of current efforts in counter-terrorism as it is important to understand the general guidance that the international community currently uses to try and mitigate AML and CFT practices. FATF is the global primary subject matter expert on anti-money laundering and suppressing terrorist financing. Both Member State governments and international organizations like the IMF use FATF tools for their anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist operations.

Financial Action Task Force. *International Standards On Combating Money Laundering And The Financing Of Terrorism & Proliferation*. 2012. Retrieved 22 July 2022 from: <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/media/fatf/documents/recommendations/pdfs/FATF%20Recommendations%202012.pdf>
The FATF International Standards on anti-money laundering and anti-terrorist financing are the primary source for authorities around the world when building their regulations and institutions. The FATF standards are updated on a regular basis to reflect current changes in the money laundering and terrorist financing environment. These standards act as a baseline for both national and international regulations and policy on suppressing the financing of terrorism. Delegates can use these standards as a starting point when researching current anti-terrorism efforts by the international community.

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *UN sanctions: what they are, how they work, and who uses them*. 2016. Retrieved 7 August 2022 from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2016/05/528382-un-sanctions-what-they-are-how-they-work-and-who-uses-them>
Sanctions are one of many methods utilized by the Security Council and Member States to combat the financing of terrorism. Sanctions cut off terrorist groups from established methods of obtaining illicit funding. Depending on the type of sanction utilized, people, funds, or items can be banned or frozen from individuals, businesses, or regions of the world. Delegates may find an understanding of sanctions useful as it is a powerful tool of the Security Council, and it can be mobilized in creative ways to hinder terrorist financing.

United Nations, General Assembly. *International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (A/RES/54/109)*. 1999. Retrieved 22 June 2022 from: <https://undocs.org/en/A/RES/54/109>
To understand the international legal landscape of instruments, delegates must understand the foundational UN treaty on the suppressing the financing of terrorism. The

¹⁵³ United Nations, Security Council, Counter-Terrorism Committee. *Our Mandate*. n.d.; Financial Action Task Force. *Emerging Terrorist Financing Risks*. 2015. pp. 30-36.

¹⁵⁴ Financial Action Task Force. *Emerging Terrorist Financing Risks*. 2015. pp. 30-36.

treaty sets the baseline commitment of Member States on the suppressing of terrorist financing. The treaty also provides a legal framework to use when defining illegal terrorist financing actions in international law.

United Nations, Security Council, Counter-Terrorism Committee. *About Us*. n.d. Retrieved 24 June 2022 from: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/content/about-us-0>

The CTC is a critical group in the counter-terrorism world that provides hands-on assessments to Member States and facilitates the sharing of technological resources. Per the website, many Member States consider the assessments as a “free diagnosis” to address limitations in their counter-terrorism strategies and an opportunity to develop. Working closely with the CTC is an important component for delegates to consider as it is one of the UN’s forefront groups focused on counter-terrorism initiatives. This source is important as the CTC is a prime avenue for the Security Council to research and disseminate best practices against terrorist financing to Member States.

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2. Women, Peace, and Security: Ending Cycles of Sexual Violence in Conflict

*“[Sexual violence] is unfortunately a very effective, cheap and silent weapon with a long-lasting effect on society. It is a way of demonstrating power and control. It inflicts fear on the whole community.”*¹⁵⁵

Introduction

In 2020, the United Nations (UN) confirmed 2,542 cases of sexual violence in conflict, and in 2021, 3,293 cases, representing a significant increase.¹⁵⁶ In a report of the UN Secretary-General on *Conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV)* (2019), CRSV is defined as a broad spectrum of actions including rape and forced actions such as prostitution, marriage, pregnancy, and any other form of sexual violence perpetrated against any person.¹⁵⁷ There must be a direct or indirect correlation between conflict and sexual violence for an action to qualify as CRSV.¹⁵⁸ This correlation might be clear from the perpetrator and their intentions, such as the intention to use CRSV as a tactic of warfare to control a population.¹⁵⁹ However, this link can also be evident through the identity of victims, which are often part of a minority or targeted because of their gender and sexual identity, bias, or intention of inflicting chaos.¹⁶⁰ These specifically targeted victims are also often less likely to seek (legal) justice, retribution, or assistance.¹⁶¹

Over the past 20 years, the Security Council has discussed and taken action on ending cycles of sexual violence in conflict, mainly through resolutions, peacekeeping missions, and collaboration with other UN entities.¹⁶² In 2003, the Security Council first acknowledged sexual violence in conflict as being part of the women, peace, and security (WPS) agenda; resolution 1820 (2008) on “Women and peace and security” was adopted, the first of its kind.¹⁶³ In this resolution, the Security Council iterates that when there is a lack of assistance for victims and a lack of accountability for perpetrators, cycles of CRSV arise.¹⁶⁴ In these cycles, CRSV is used as a mean to gain power and control over a person or (part of) a community.¹⁶⁵ The consequences of bias, exclusion from participation in economic, political, cultural, and social processes, as well as long-lasting physical and/or psychological consequences, continue surfacing during conflict and post-conflict situations, implicating a long-lasting burden on international peace and security.¹⁶⁶

During a high-level debate in 2021, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC) confirmed that cases of sexual violence in conflict are increasing.¹⁶⁷ The Special Representative pointed out that accountability is a main area of work and highlighted the disproportionate effect of cycles of sexual violence in conflict on women specifically.¹⁶⁸ Annual reports on CRSV, written by the Secretary-General, are broadly used within the UN system as guidance in the fight

¹⁵⁵ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *NEWSMAKER: UN advocate calls sexual violence ‘cheap and silent’ weapon of war*. 2010.

¹⁵⁶ United Nations, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. *Factsheet: 2020 report of the Secretary-General on Conflict Related Sexual Violence*. 2020; United Nations, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. *Factsheet: 2021 report of the Secretary-General on Conflict Related Sexual Violence*. 2021; United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Justice Critical to Fighting Sexual Violence in Conflict*. 2022.

¹⁵⁷ United Nations, Security Council. *Conflict Related Sexual Violence: Report of the Secretary-General (S/2019/280)*. 2019.

¹⁵⁸ *Ibid.*; United Nations, Security Council. *Conflict Related Sexual Violence: Report of the Secretary-General (S/2022/272)*. 2022.

¹⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁶¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁶² United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict. *About UN Action*. 2022.

¹⁶³ United Nations, Security Council. *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1820 (2008))*. 2008.

¹⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁶⁷ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Justice Critical to Fighting Sexual Violence in Conflict*. 2022.

¹⁶⁸ *Ibid.*

against CRSV, including the Special Representative, who uses the reports in diplomatic engagements like high-level debates.¹⁶⁹ In the 2022 report by the Secretary-General on *Sexual violence in conflict* (S/2022/272), he voiced concern about the use of sexual violence as a tactic of war and terrorism taking into consideration the fact that women are often specifically targeted.¹⁷⁰ A call for action was made to pursue accountability and justice, and to use prosecution as a form of prevention to end the cycles of sexual violence in conflict.¹⁷¹

International and Regional Framework

Under international law, the right of a person to security and prohibition of degrading or inhumane treatment is first set forth in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* of 1948.¹⁷² Human rights are inalienable rights of all members of the human family with no distinction of any kind, including sex, religion, age, or national origin.¹⁷³ The 1949 *Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War* states that women should be protected against any attack on their honor, specifically any form of indecent assault, such as rape or enforced prostitution.¹⁷⁴

Women and girls account for 97% of the 3,293 UN-confirmed cases of CRSV, which is why frameworks specifically focused on females are imperative in addressing CRSV.¹⁷⁵ In 1978, the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW) was adopted by the General Assembly.¹⁷⁶ It established that discrimination against women is an obstacle to the equal participation of women in political, social, and cultural life.¹⁷⁷ The *Declaration on the Eradication of Violence against Women* (1993) states that violence against women includes any action that leads to or may lead to sexual violence in its entirety.¹⁷⁸ This is further defined in the *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action* of 1995.¹⁷⁹ This declaration includes CRSV as a violation of the human rights of women and establishes the importance of education and inclusion of women in peacebuilding processes in the elimination of cycles of violence, including CRSV.¹⁸⁰

The *Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict* (1974) is a landmark document as it defines women and children as civilians that are granted inalienable rights.¹⁸¹ It also urges all Member States to take all necessary steps to ensure the prohibition of measures such as punitive measures and violence, specifically against women and children, in conflict situations.¹⁸²

The Security Council often bases decisions on the definitions of war crime, crimes against humanity, and genocide as written in the 1998 *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court*, which entered into force

¹⁶⁹ United Nations, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. *Our Mandate*. 2022; United Nations, Security Council. *Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: Report of the Secretary-General (S/2022/272)*. 2022.

¹⁷⁰ United Nations, Security Council. *Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: Report of the Secretary-General (S/2022/272)*. 2022.

¹⁷¹ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Justice Critical to Fighting Sexual Violence in Conflict*. 2022.

¹⁷² United Nations, General Assembly. *Universal Declaration of Human Rights (A/RES/217 A (III))*. 1948.

¹⁷³ Ibid.

¹⁷⁴ *Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (2nd part)*. 1949.

¹⁷⁵ United Nations, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. *Factsheet: 2021 report of the Secretary-General on Conflict Related Sexual Violence*. 2021.

¹⁷⁶ United Nations, General Assembly. *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/RES/34/180)*. 1979.

¹⁷⁷ Ibid.

¹⁷⁸ United Nations, General Assembly. *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (A/RES/48/104)*. 1993.

¹⁷⁹ United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women. *Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action*. 1995.

¹⁸⁰ Ibid.

¹⁸¹ United Nations, General Assembly. *Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict (A/RES/3318 (XXIX))*. 1974.

¹⁸² Ibid.

in 2002 for all states that have signed and ratified the statute.¹⁸³ Regional frameworks also recognize sexual violence in conflict as a war crime and crime against humanity, such as article one of the 2009 resolution 1670 of the Council of Europe and article 11 of the *Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa* of the African Union.¹⁸⁴

Within the UN system, the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda) (2015) and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a priority, including SDG 5 (gender equality) which includes targets such as eradicating all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking, as well as sexual and other types of exploitation.¹⁸⁵ Other targets aim to eliminate harmful practices that are included in the definition of CRSV, such as child, early, and forced marriage, and to ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunity for leadership at all levels of political, economic, and societal decision-making, which can help break the cycles of CRSV.¹⁸⁶ SDG 5 is mostly thought about when considering CRSV.¹⁸⁷ However, according to the Equality Institute, a global feminist non-governmental organization (NGO) that seeks to advance gender equality and end violence against women and girls, at least 14 of the 17 SDGs will not be achieved if violence against women is not eradicated.¹⁸⁸ For instance, when women suffer from CRSV, their behavior and movement are often controlled, meaning they have lesser opportunities to find work and may suffer from poverty leading to food insecurity, which conflicts with SDG 1 (no poverty) and SDG 2 (zero hunger).¹⁸⁹

Role of the International System

Within the UN system, cycles of sexual violence in conflict have been a continuous topic of debate and deliberation.¹⁹⁰ The importance of CRSV to the international community becomes clear in initiatives such as the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, which was established by General Assembly resolution 69/293 on "International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict" (2015).¹⁹¹ High-level debates, conferences, scheduled meetings, drafting of policies, and UN assistance against CRSV during a conflict situation are all actions being taken within the UN system.¹⁹²

In Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on "Women and Peace and Security", CRSV was recognized as a peace and security issue, specifically as part of the Security Council's WPS agenda.¹⁹³ The first binding Security Council resolution on the matter was resolution 1820 (2008) on "Women and peace and security," which established that under international law, sexual violence in conflict situations can constitute a war crime, crime against humanity, or an element of genocide.¹⁹⁴ In further landmark resolutions, the Security Council established that pre-existing patterns of gender inequality and

¹⁸³ United Nations, Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court. *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court*. 1998.

¹⁸⁴ African Union. *Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa*. 2003; Council of Europe, Parliamentary Assembly. *Sexual violence against women in conflict (Resolution 1670 (2009))*. 2009.

¹⁸⁵ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Sustainable Development Goals - Goal 5*. n.d.; United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. 2015.

¹⁸⁶ Ibid.

¹⁸⁷ The Equality Institute. *Sustainable Development Goals and Violence Against Women and Girls*. 2021.

¹⁸⁸ Ibid.

¹⁸⁹ Ibid.

¹⁹⁰ United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict. *About UN Action*. 2022.

¹⁹¹ United Nations, General Assembly. *International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict (A/RES/69/293)*. 2015.

¹⁹² United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict. *About UN Action*. 2022; United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Justice Critical to Fighting Sexual Violence in Conflict*. 2022; United Nations, Security Council. *Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: Report of the Secretary-General (S/2022/272)*. 2022.

¹⁹³ United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security (S/RES/1325 (2000))*. 2000.

¹⁹⁴ United Nations, Security Council. *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1820 (2008))*. 2008.

discrimination are risk factors for CRSV.¹⁹⁵ Women and girls are particularly targeted by the use of sexual violence in conflict, in many cases as a tactic of war to humiliate, dominate, and install fear in communities.¹⁹⁶ The Security Council also recognizes that sexual violence in conflict situations has become systematic and widespread, emphasizing the brutality of cycles of sexual violence in conflict.¹⁹⁷

The Security Council also deploys women to advise peacekeeping operations, and within its mandate of maintaining international peace and security, is a part of UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action).¹⁹⁸ UN Action comprises 21 UN entities, such as United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the Security Council, the World Health Organization, and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), and has the aim of combating CRSV by unifying UN efforts.¹⁹⁹ UN Action is mandated to act as a body for joint advocacy, knowledge gathering and spreading, and developing policies, guidance, and tools to fill gaps in knowledge and practices.²⁰⁰ As the main coordinating entity in addressing CRSV, an imperative document to guide UN efforts and discussions is the *UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict Strategic Framework 2020-2025*, putting forward the UN Action Theory of Change.²⁰¹

The Secretary-General publishes an annual report on sexual violence in conflict, which includes information such as statistics, case studies, and recommendations by the Secretary-General to the Security Council and (non-)state actors.²⁰² The 2022 report of the Secretary-General on *Conflict-related sexual violence (S/2022/272)* concludes that there is a continued recourse to military action instead of diplomatic means and that the number of UN-confirmed cases of CRSV has risen over the past years.²⁰³ The Secretary-General recommends the Security Council to call upon conflict parties to cease all forms of CRSV, ensure that sexual violence is incorporated as a stand-alone designation criterion for targeted sanctions, and consider referring to the prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in cases of sexual violence as crimes set forth in the *Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court*.²⁰⁴

The Office of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (OSRSG-SVC) was established through Security Council resolution 1888 (2009) on “Women and peace and security.”²⁰⁵ OSRSG-SVC is mandated to provide leadership, work effectively with other UN bodies, and engage in advocacy efforts with governments, all parties to a conflict, and civil society.²⁰⁶ OSRSG-SVC finds that in the area of CRSV as a tactic of war and terrorism, forced displacement, early marriage, children born out of rape, sexual violence against men and boys, and stigmatization are emerging

¹⁹⁵ United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security (S/RES/1325 (2000))*. 2000; United Nations, Security Council. *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1820 (2008))*. 2008; United Nations, Security Council. *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1888 (2009))*. 2009; United Nations, Security Council. *Women and peace and security: Sexual violence in conflict (S/RES/2467 (2019))*. 2019.

¹⁹⁶ United Nations, Security Council. *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1820 (2008))*. 2008.

¹⁹⁷ United Nations, Security Council. *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1888 (2009))*. 2009.

¹⁹⁸ United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict. *About UN Action*. 2022.

¹⁹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰⁰ United Nations, Security Council. *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1820 (2008))*. 2008; United Nations, Security Council. *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1888 (2009))*. 2009; United Nations, Security Council. *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1960 (2010))*. 2010; United Nations, Security Council. *Women Peace and Security (S/RES/2106 (2013))*. 2013; United Nations, Security Council. *Maintenance of international peace and security (S/RES/2331 (2016))*. 2016; United Nations, Security Council. *Women and peace and security: Sexual violence in conflict (S/RES/2467 (2019))*. 2019.

²⁰¹ United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict. *UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict Strategic Framework 2020-2025*. 2021.

²⁰² United Nations, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. *Secretary-General Annual Reports*. 2022.

²⁰³ United Nations, Security Council. *Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: Report of the Secretary-General (S/2022/272)*. 2022.

²⁰⁴ Ibid.

²⁰⁵ United Nations, Security Council. *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1888 (2009))*. 2009.

²⁰⁶ United Nations, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. *Our Mandate*. 2022.

concerns.²⁰⁷ OSRSG-SVC has formed frameworks of cooperation with countries and regional entities such as Sudan, Bangladesh, the League of Arab States, and the African Union.²⁰⁸ OSRSG-SVC and Member States also cooperate in active conflict, most recently evidenced by the framework of cooperation between OSRSG-SVC and Ukraine.²⁰⁹ OSRSG-SVC works in close connection with the United Nations Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, which is the only mechanism mandated by the Security Council to assist national authorities that are affected by conflict in strengthening the rule of law to ensure criminal accountability for perpetrators of CRSV.²¹⁰ The team of experts works in criminal investigations and prosecutions, military justice, legislative reform, and the protection of victims and witnesses.²¹¹

There is a significant amount of NGOs that work towards the eradication of cycles of sexual violence in conflict, such as the All Survivors Project.²¹² The All Survivors Project focuses on the disproportionate effect of CRSV on women and girls.²¹³ It also creates awareness on the stigmatization of and negative cultural and social responses towards males and people of diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, and sex characteristics (SOGIESC), who are victims of CRSV.²¹⁴ The NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security is comprised of 19 international NGOs and aims to hold the Security Council, UN leadership, and Member States accountable for their obligations under Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on “Women and Peace and Security.”²¹⁵ The working group is regularly invited to present recommendations to the Security Council on WPS, including CRSV.²¹⁶ In April 2021, the group recommended that all UN action must be survivor-centered, human rights-based, and promote justice and accountability efforts.²¹⁷ It drew specific attention to the lack of accountability in cases of sexual and reproductive rights violations and to the role that women can, and should, play in advancing peace, security, and the response to conflict-related sexual violence.²¹⁸

Cycles of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence as a Tactic of War and Terrorism

A growing trend to use sexual violence as a tactic of war has been observed since 2014, becoming apparent through the specific targeting of victims from opposing ethnic or religious groups.²¹⁹ Recent examples include the targeting of Yazidis by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and girls/women by Boko Haram.²²⁰ The nexus between trafficking, sexual violence, terrorism, and transnational organized crime has increasingly gained the attention of the Security Council.²²¹ In 2016, the Security Council adopted resolution 2331 on “Maintenance of international peace and security”, which

²⁰⁷ United Nations, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. *Current trends and emerging concerns*. 2022.

²⁰⁸ United Nations, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. *Frameworks of Cooperation*. 2022.

²⁰⁹ United Nations, Office of the Special Representative for the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence. *Framework of Cooperation between the Government of Ukraine and the United Nations Office of the Special Representative for the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict on the Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence*. 2022.

²¹⁰ United Nations, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. *UN Team of Experts on Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict*. 2022.

²¹¹ Ibid.

²¹² All Survivors Project. *About Us*. 2022.

²¹³ Ibid.

²¹⁴ Ibid.

²¹⁵ NGO Working Group on Women, Peace, and Security. *About*. 2022.

²¹⁶ Ibid.

²¹⁷ NGO Working Group on Women, Peace, and Security. *Sexual and Gender-based Violence*. 2022.

²¹⁸ Ibid.

²¹⁹ United Nations, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. *Current trends and emerging concerns*. 2022.

²²⁰ Ibid.

²²¹ United Nations, Security Council. *Maintenance of international peace and security (S/RES/2331 (2016))*. 2016.

acknowledged that CRSV is often used as a tactic of terrorism and links the issue to the global fight against terrorism.²²²

Initiatives against the trend of CRSV being used as a mean to terrorize and debilitate a state or part of society are often targeted at specific groups of victims.²²³ One example of this is the female component of the Somali National Programme for the Treatment and Handling of Disengaged Combatants, led by UN Action and IOM.²²⁴ The programme aims to strengthen women in Somalia to mitigate CRSV and prevent violent extremism by providing direct support to survivors of CRSV systematically committed by Al-Shabaab as a tactic of war.²²⁵

Furthermore, the UN system strives to ensure proper assistance during UN peacekeeping operations.²²⁶ Peacekeeping operations are overseen by United Nations Peacekeeping, a joint operation between the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Operational Support.²²⁷ Currently, there are four peacekeeping missions that have a specific Security Council mandate to address CRSV: MINUSCA in the Central African Republic, MINUSMA in Mali, MONUSCO in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and UNMISS in South Sudan.²²⁸ In 2021, MINUSCA identified 706 cases of CRSV, including 555 cases of (attempted) rape, perpetrated as part of war tactics by members of at least 15 different armed forces such as the Lord's Resistance Army.²²⁹ MONUSCO documented 1,016 cases of systematic use of CRSV, most of which were attributed to non-state armed forces.²³⁰

During these peacekeeping missions, the *Handbook for United Nations Field Missions on Preventing and Responding to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence* (2020) is consulted.²³¹ The handbook, issued by the UN Department of Peace Operations in cooperation with the UN Department of Political and Peacekeeping Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, and OSRSG-SVC, is a comprehensive resource used during peacekeeping missions and operations that exemplifies the impact of cycles of sexual violence in conflict.²³² It provides conceptual and legal information, as well as guidance on how to provide advice, protection, and education, to victims, Member States, NGOs, and other potential parties to a conflict.²³³ The “do no harm” principle and a survivor-based approach are focal points of this handbook, together with confidentiality, informed consent, and gender sensitivity.²³⁴ This translates into actions during peacekeeping missions that are centered on victims/survivors of CRSV, respecting their rights, needs, and choices, whilst not exposing them to further harm and stigmatization.²³⁵

Impunity for CRSV remains an issue and accountability is an exception due to discriminatory practices and a lack of prosecution, justice for victims, as well as implementation and enforcement of (national) legislation.²³⁶ In 2019, the first case against a commander who made his subordinates commit CRSV,

²²² Ibid.

²²³ United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict. *UN Action and IOM help empower Somali women rebuild their lives after escaping Al-Shabaab*. n.d.

²²⁴ Ibid.

²²⁵ Ibid.

²²⁶ United Nations Peacekeeping. *Conflict-Related Sexual Violence*. 2022; United Nations Peacekeeping. *About us*. 2022.

²²⁷ Ibid.

²²⁸ Ibid.

²²⁹ United Nations, Security Council. *Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: Report of the Secretary-General (S/2022/272)*. 2022.

²³⁰ Ibid.

²³¹ United Nations, Department of Peace Operations. *Handbook for United Nations Field Missions on Preventing and Responding to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence*. 2020.

²³² Ibid.

²³³ Ibid.

²³⁴ Ibid.

²³⁵ Ibid.

²³⁶ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. *Women's human rights and gender-related concerns in situations of conflict and instability*. 2022.

was successfully prosecuted.²³⁷ In the Ntaganda case, the International Criminal Court (ICC) convicted a rebel leader of 18 counts of war crimes and crimes against humanity, including rape and sexual slavery, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.²³⁸ This was the first time that a commander was held accountable for the orders he gave.²³⁹ This case serves as a precedent illustrating the current lack of accountability for CRSV when committed under the orders of someone with a higher rank, seeing as this practice has existed previously, yet remained a crime of impunity until this landmark case in 2019.²⁴⁰ Seeking judicial justice against CRSV is just one of the ways of increasing accountability; another way is strengthening the implementation and enforcement of national laws to hold perpetrators of CRSV accountable.²⁴¹ The Secretary-General, the SRSG-SVC, and the Security Council have all recommended this as a measure to all Member States in annual reports, high-level debates, and addresses to the Security Council, UN Women, and the General Assembly.²⁴²

Barriers to Combating and Preventing CRSV, Gender-Based Discrimination, and Gender Inequality

Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on “Women, Peace, and Security” specifically mentions the need to exempt gender-based crimes from any and all amnesty provisions, as far as possible.²⁴³ In resolution 2467 (2019) on “Women and peace and security: Sexual violence in conflict,” the disproportionate impact of CRSV on women and girls was linked to the underrepresentation of women in decision-making and leadership roles.²⁴⁴ This resolution has changed the narrative towards a survivor-based approach, seeking priority for the needs and rights of survivors, including those disproportionately affected due to gender, education, health status, or financial capabilities.²⁴⁵ Other main areas of concern to the Security Council and the UN system are a lack of accountability, the specific targeting of women and girls by (non-)state actors, and the heightened recourse to military means rather than diplomatic ones.²⁴⁶

In April 2022, SRSG-SVC addressed the Security Council during their meeting on strengthening accountability and shared statistics that demonstrate the increase of gender-based discrimination and gender inequality in CRSV.²⁴⁷ Females account for 97% of the 3,923 UN-confirmed cases of CRSV.²⁴⁸ In 0.37% lesbian, gay, trans, queer, or intersex (LGBTQI+) persons were targeted.²⁴⁹ These numbers are reflected in legislation, debates, and actions, as most of these are focused on CRSV against women and/or girls.²⁵⁰ There is also a barrier to access to justice due to discriminatory laws and negative social and cultural attitudes, where a victim may not be able to seek justice because of the negative consequences that it may have on their personal/professional lives.²⁵¹

²³⁷ International Criminal Court. *Situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the Case of the Prosecutor v. Bosco Ntaganda, Judgment (ICC-01/04-02/06)*. 2019; International Criminal Court. *Ntaganda case*. n.d.

²³⁸ Ibid.

²³⁹ Ibid.

²⁴⁰ Ibid.

²⁴¹ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, 19 June, Secretary-General’s Message*. 2022; United Nations, Secretary-General. *Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: Report of the Secretary-General (S/2022/272)*. 2022.

²⁴² Ibid.

²⁴³ United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security (S/RES/1325 (2000))*. 2000.

²⁴⁴ United Nations, Security Council. *Women and peace and security: Sexual violence in conflict (S/RES/2467 (2019))*. 2019.

²⁴⁵ Ibid.; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. *Women’s human rights and gender-related concerns in situations of conflict and instability*. 2022.

²⁴⁶ United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security (S/RES/1325 (2000))*. 2000; United Nations, Security Council. *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1820 (2008))*. 2008; United Nations, Secretary-General. *Conflict Related Sexual Violence: Report of the Secretary-General (S/2022/272)*. 2022.

²⁴⁷ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Justice Critical to Fighting Sexual Violence in Conflict*. 2022.

²⁴⁸ Ibid.

²⁴⁹ Ibid.

²⁵⁰ United Nations, Security Council. *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1820 (2008))*. 2008.

²⁵¹ All Survivors Project. *The Issue*. 2022; United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Justice Critical to Fighting Sexual Violence in Conflict*. 2022.

Recently, the OSRSG-SVC has established partnerships with Religions for Peace to harness the role of religious leaders in addressing sexual violence and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination on Women to advance national-level implementation of human rights standards and cooperate in researching and collecting data to ensure Member States' accountability and compliance under CEDAW and relevant Security Council resolutions.²⁵² Both partnerships aim to improve national-level implementation and break societal intolerance towards victims, which are both extremely precarious tasks and have been at the root of cycles of CRSV.²⁵³ People with a diverse SOGIESC are less likely to come forward and seek assistance, out of fear of their community's response or lack of trust that the perpetrator will be properly prosecuted.²⁵⁴ Victims often fear that justice will not be served, as CRSV remains one of the most silenced and least prosecuted crimes.²⁵⁵

Conclusion

Since 2008, the topic of sexual violence in conflict has been an increasingly discussed matter within the UN system.²⁵⁶ The topic of CRSV has evolved from being seen as a threat to international peace and security, to recognizing the systematic and widespread nature of sexual violence, making it an endless cycle used to debilitate and destroy a state or a specific group of society.²⁵⁷ Steps are being taken by Member States, NGOs, and the UN system to create awareness, promote female participation in peacekeeping, and strengthen the rule of law.²⁵⁸ The root causes of CRSV are being researched, leading to further debate on gender inequality, the use of CRSV as a tactic of war and terrorism, the lack of accountability, and a transition towards a victim-centered approach.²⁵⁹

Further Research

In their further research, delegates should question what measures could be taken to strengthen accountability and address questions such as: How can states successfully implement and enforce legal frameworks? What has the shift toward a survivor-based approach meant for the international community in the effort to eradicate CRSV? How can stigmatization and negative attitudes be tackled? How can access to justice be ensured for all victims, including those with diverse SOGIESC? What can the UN system, NGOs, and Member States further do to prevent and eradicate cycles of sexual violence in conflict while considering the needs and rights of victims/survivors?

²⁵² United Nations, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. *Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict Join Forces to Address the Root Causes of Sexual Violence*. 2018; United Nations, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. *New partnership between Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Religions for Peace to harness the role of religious leaders in addressing sexual violence*. 2022.

²⁵³ Ibid.

²⁵⁴ All Survivors Project. *The Issue*. 2022.

²⁵⁵ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Justice Critical to Fighting Sexual Violence in Conflict*. 2022.

²⁵⁶ United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict. *About UN Action*. 2022.

²⁵⁷ United Nations, Security Council. *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1820 (2008))*. 2008; United Nations, Security Council. *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1888 (2009))*. 2009; United Nations, Security Council. *Women and peace and security (S/RES/1960 (2010))*. 2010; United Nations, Security Council. *Women Peace and Security (S/RES/2106 (2013))*. 2013; United Nations, Security Council. *Maintenance of international peace and security (S/RES/2331 (2016))*. 2016; United Nations, Security Council. *Women and peace and security: Sexual violence in conflict (S/RES/2467 (2019))*. 2019.

²⁵⁸ United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, 19 June, Secretary-General's Message*. 2022.

²⁵⁹ Ibid.

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The Equality Institute. *Sustainable Development Goals and Violence Against Women and Girls*. 2021. Retrieved 16 October 2022 from: https://www.equalityinstitute.org/media/pages/resources/sustainable-development-goals-and-violence-against-women-and-girls/5767bafccd-1632292646/sdgs-and-vawg_eqi.pdf

This document, created by the Equality Institute, an NGO, states that at least 14 of the 17 SDGs will not be reached if violence against women is not eradicated. It explains with statistics and examples how each SDG is influenced by violence against women, including sexual violence. This will give delegates a better understanding of the scope of the issue of cycles of sexual violence in conflict and of how these cycles affect one of the main priorities of the United Nations: the Sustainable Development Goals. The resource illustrates the extent of how deep CRSV runs, and its impact on international peace and security.

United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict. *UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict Strategic Framework 2020-2025*. 2021. Retrieved 26 June 2022 from: <https://stoprapenow.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/UN-Action-Strategic-Framework-2020-2025-2021.pdf>

Being the main coordinating UN entity on CRSV, this strategic framework from UN Action is the most current framework on the issue of CRSV. It explains the Theory of Change that the UN has embraced over the past years, focusing more on a survivor-centered approach. The Security Council is part of the United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action). Therefore, it is important to understand UN Action's strategy and plans. This document puts forward the main goals for the UN system in a visually attractive manner and provides baselines, targets, and measuring tools. These include outcomes such as addressing immediate risks and the root causes of CRSV, but also supporting and protecting survivors and people at risk, among other goals and objectives.

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Justice Critical to Fighting Sexual Violence in Conflict*. 2022. Retrieved 25 June 2022 from: <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/04/1116192>

This news article provides information on the stance of the SRSG/SVC and victims of CRSV as it pertains to accountability and the current impunity of CRSV. This provides delegates with important statistics, but also an idea of where the current gaps and issues lie. This can prove useful in their further research towards deliberation on the actions the Security Council can, and may, take regarding CRSV.

United Nations, Department of Peace Operations. *Handbook for United Nations Field Missions on Preventing and Responding to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence*. 2020. Retrieved 11 September 2022 from: https://peacemaker.un.org/UN_CRSV_Handbook

This handbook provides information on how United Nations field missions and peacekeeping operations deal with the issue of CRSV. It provides statistics, best practices, case studies, definitions, and legal frameworks. Furthermore, it explains how sexual violence becomes conflict-related and how it is used as a tactic of war and terrorism. It relays common assumptions about CRSV, shows the most current challenges to preventing and ending cycles of CRSV, and overall can help delegates gain a better understanding of conflict-related sexual violence.

United Nations, Office of the Special Representative for the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence. *Framework of Cooperation between the Government of Ukraine and the United Nations Office of the Special Representative for the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict on the Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence*. 2022. Retrieved 23 June 2022 from: https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/sites/www.humanitarianresponse.info/files/documents/files/20220503_framework_of_cooperation_ukraine-un_on_crsv.pdf

This source shows recent and relevant examples of cooperation between the United Nations and Member States, specifically the OSRSG/SVC and Ukraine. Both signed this framework of cooperation to address sexual violence in the Ukraine conflict. This source

can be used by delegates to gain knowledge on how this type of cooperation can work in an active conflict, and what ideas for potential solutions/actions might be.

United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security (S/RES/1820 (2008))*. 2008. Retrieved 12 September 2022 from: [https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/1820\(2008\)](https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/1820(2008))

This is the first binding resolution that the Security Council issued on the topic of CRSV, which categorized sexual violence as a tactic of war. The resolution calls for an end to widespread CRSV. Not only does it call for accountability of all actors to ensure the end of impunity for these crimes, but it also asks the UN and its Member States to create and implement appropriate mechanisms to combat CRSV and protect civilians against these crimes. This resolution, while being one of many the Security Council has issued on the topic, should be seen as a landmark resolution on the topic. It provides delegates with a good starting point when researching the actions that the Security Council has taken against CRSV.

United Nations, Security Council. *Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: Report of the Secretary-General (S/2022/272)*. 2022. Retrieved 23 June 2022 from: <https://undocs.org/en/S/2022/272>

This report, written in 2021, is the most recent annual report by the Secretary-General. It discusses trends and concerns such as the use of sexual violence as a tactic of war and terrorism. In this report, the Secretary-General also included direct recommendations for the Security Council, Member States, and other organizations, which can be used as a starting point for further research by delegates.

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