NMUN•DC

Security Council
Background Guide 2023

Written by Mariana Gisela Marañón Laguna and Catherine Tomczyk

NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2023 National Model United Nations Conference in Washington, DC (NMUN•DC)! We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, the Security Council. This year's staff is: Director Mariana Marañón Laguna and Assistant Director Catherine Tomczyk. Mariana holds two Bachelors of Arts in Political Science and Psychology from New Mexico State University and a Master of Science in Integrative Neuroscience from Georgetown University. She will start medical school in Mexico City in early 2024. Catherine holds a Bachelors of Arts in International Affairs from the University of New Haven. She is currently working on her Masters in Public Administration and will graduate in Spring 2024.

The topics under discussion for the Security Council are:

1. Peace and Security in Eastern Europe and the Caucusus
2. Enhancing Maritime Security

Formed in 1946 at Church House in London, the Security Council is the United Nations' main crisis-management organ. The Security Council is made up of five permanent members and ten elected members who regularly get together to maintain international peace and security. The body is empowered to promote negotiations, impose sanctions, and authorize the use of force, including the deployment of peacekeeping missions. As of early 2023, the Security Council supervises twelve peacekeeping missions across three continents, involving ninety thousand peacekeepers. Resolutions adopted by the Security Council are the only ones that are legally-binding on Member States.

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 Christopher Duggan at usgchris.dc@nmun.org or Secretary-General Ana Williamson at secgen.dc@nmun.org.

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

Sincerely,
Mariana Marañón Laguna, Director
Catherine Tomczyk, Assistant Director

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Committee Overview

Introduction

The Security Council is one of the main bodies of the United Nations (UN) ensuring international peace and security, and oversees the admission of new members to the UN General Assembly and changes to the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945).[1] Traditionally, the Security Council discusses issues related to peacebuilding and peacekeeping missions, as well as the protection of human rights, disarmament, and humanitarian crises.[2] 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.[3]

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

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); and take military action against states or entities threatening international peace and security.[11]

- 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.[12] Furthermore, the Council will not encourage the use of force unless it

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[1] United Nations, Security Council. *What is the Security Council?* n.d.
[2] Council on Foreign Relations. *The UN Security Council.* 2021.; Encyclopedia Britannica. *United Nations Security Council.* 2022.
[3] United Nations, General Assembly. *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1).* 2015.
[4] United Nations, Security Council. *What is the Security Council?* n.d.
[5] *Charter of the United Nations.* 1945. art. 1.
[6] Ibid. ch. V-VIII.
[7] Ibid. ch. V.
[8] Ibid. ch. VI-VII.
[9] Ibid. ch. VII.
[10] Ibid. ch. VIII.
[11] United Nations, Security Council. *Functions and Powers.* n.d.
[12] United Nations, Security Council. *Actions with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression.* n.d.

considers that non-military measures, which have already been taken, are proven to be inadequate.[13]

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.[14] The Security Council also has a variety of other tools to address issues on its agenda.[15] For example, the President of the Security Council may issue press statements or presidential statements to communicate the Council's position.[16] Although not legally binding, such statements are used to bring attention to important issues and to recommend solutions to ongoing conflicts.[17]

When the Security Council was first established, it comprised of five permanent members and six non-permanent members.[18] In 1965, the number of non-permanent members was increased to 10.[19] 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."[20] Every year, the General Assembly elects five of the 10 non-permanent members for a two-year term.[21] 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.[22]

Every Member State of the Security Council has one vote.[23] Votes on all matters require a supermajority of nine Member States.[24] 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.[25] This is known as "veto power."[26] 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.[27] In the last decades, the use of the veto power has been comparatively rare.[28] In recent years, the Council has adopted many resolutions by consensus and has only been divided in a very limited number of issues.[29]

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[13] United Nations, Security Council. *Actions with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression.* n.d.
[14] *Charter of the United Nations.* 1945. Art. 25; United Nations, Security Council. *What is the Security Council?* n.d.
[15] Security Council Report. *The UN Security Council Handbook: A User's Guide to Practice and Procedure.* 2019. pp. 36-38.
[16] Security Council Report. *The UN Security Council Handbook: A User's Guide to Practice and Procedure.* 2019. pp. 36-38.
[17] Ibid.
[18] United Nations, Security Council. *Voting System.* n.d.
[19] Global Policy Forum. *Background on Security Council Reform.* 2021.
[20] United Nations, Security Council. *Current Members.* n.d.
[21] Ibid.
[22] Global Policy Forum. *Background on Security Council Reform.* 2021.
[23] *Charter of the United Nations.* 1945. art. 27.
[24] United Nations, Security Council. *Voting System.* n.d.
[25] Ibid.
[26] Ibid.
[27] Security Council Report. *In Hindsight: The Veto.* 2013.; Security Council Report. *The Permanent Members and the Use of the Veto: An Abridged History.* 2013.
[28] Ibid.
[29] Ibid.

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Charter of the United Nations. 1945. Retrieved 29 April 2023 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.*

Security Council Report. *The UN Security Council Handbook: A User's Guide to Practice and Procedure*. 2019. Retrieved 29 April 2023 from: https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-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, Security Council. *Functions and Powers*. 2022 Retrieved 29 April 2023 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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Encyclopedia Britannica. *United Nations Security Council*. 2022. Retrieved 29 April 2023 from: https://www.britannica.com/topic/United-Nations-Security-Council

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Security Council Report. *In Hindsight: The Veto.* 2013. Retrieved 29 April 2023 from: http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2013-11/in_hindsight_the_veto.php

Security Council Report. *The Permanent Members and the Use of the Veto: An Abridged History*. 2013. Retrieved 29 April 2023 from: http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/SCR-veto-insert-2.pdf

Security Council Report. *The UN Security Council Handbook: A User's Guide to Practice and Procedure*. 2019. Retrieved 29 April 2023 from: https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/the-un-security-council-handbook-by-scr-1.pdf

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United Nations, Security Council. *What is the Security Council?* n.d. Retrieved 29 April 2023 from: https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/what-security-council

1. Peace and Security in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus

Introduction

According to the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, the Eastern European states are: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and Ukraine.[1] The Caucasus, a region between the Black and Caspian Seas, consists of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Southern Russia.[2] Within the Security Council, the permanent representative of the Eastern European bloc is Russia, with Albania serving as a temporary representative until 31 December 2023.[3] Both Eastern Europe and the Caucasus are highly diverse ethnically and linguistically.[4] The Caucasus are home to over 50 ethnic groups, with Eastern Europe characterized by its multitude of ethnic groups, encompassing various communities such as Poles, Slovaks, European Jewish, Bosniaks, Romani, Croats, Serbs, and many more.[5] To date, numerous unresolved conflicts in the region put international peace and security at risk.[6]

The Situation in Ukraine

On 24 February 2022, Russian President Vladimir Putin announced a full-scale invasion of Ukraine, targeting military assets and cities across the Member State.[7] Since then, most fighting has occurred in Ukraine's East and South, with destructive effects on port cities along the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov.[8] Russia has seized several Ukrainian ports and blockaded Ukrainian food exports, worsening the global food crisis.[9] As of 23 May 2023, over 8,895 civilians have been killed, over 15,117 injured, nearly 6 million internally displaced, and over 8 million fleeing to Hungary, Poland, and Moldova.[10] In May 2023, Russia reported a surge in drone attacks.[11] Moscow has accused Kyiv and its Western supporters of being responsible for the increasing number of attacks, including those targeting the Kremlin on 3 May 2023.[12] However, Ukraine has denied any involvement.[13] On 27 May 2023, Russia carried out a series of air strikes on Kyiv overnight, making it the most significant drone attack on the city since the war began.[14] This occurred as the Ukrainian capital was preparing to celebrate its founding anniversary.[15]

The Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict

Since the 12th December 2022, Azerbaijani protesters have blocked the Lachin Corridor, which connects Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh in Azerbaijan.[16] This blockade has left approximately 120,000 ethnic Armenian residents in Nagorno-Karabakh without access to essential goods and services, including life-saving medication and healthcare.[17] The corridor is controlled by a Russian peacekeeping force, per the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh ceasefire trilateral agreement between Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Russia that

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[1] United Nations Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. *Regional Groups of Member States*. n.d.

[2] Gvozdetsky. *Caucasus*. 2023.

[3] United Nations, Security Council. *Current* Members. 2023.

[4] The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. *Caucasian Peoples*. 2023.

[5] What are You Made Of? *What is Eastern European Descent?* n.d.

[6] De Waal. Carnegie Europe *A Brief Guide to Understanding the Countries of the South Caucasus*. 2019.

[7] Center for Preventive Action. *War in Ukraine*. 2023.

[8] Ibid.

[9] Ibid.

[10] Statista. *Number Of Civilian Casualties in Ukraine During Russia's Invasion Verified by OHCHR From February 24, 2022, To May 23, 2023*. 2023; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *Ukraine Emergency*. 2023.

[11] Garanich et al. Reuters. *Russia Unleashes Largest Drone Attack on Ukrainian Capital, Crowds Mark Kyiv Day*. 2023.

[12] Ibid.

[13] Ibid.

[14] Ibid.

[15] Ibid.

[16] International Crisis Group. *Averting a New War between Armenia and Azerbaijan*. 2023.

[17] Ibid.

ended the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War.[18] The agreement also involved the return of certain territories to Azerbaijan, the establishment of the Lachin Corridor, the return of refugees and internally displaced persons, and the exchange of prisoners of war and other detainees.[19] The International Crisis Group, a non-governmental organization that works to prevent and resolve conflicts worldwide, warned on 30 January 2023 that another war in the South Caucasus could occur unless risks are reduced through the intervention of mediators such as the European Union.[20] Hence, the European Union deployed a civilian monitoring mission to the border between Armenia and Azerbaijan.[21]

Escalating Tensions in Moldova
Moldova has faced numerous challenges since Russia invaded Ukraine in February of 2022.[22] These obstacles include an exacerbated energy crisis due to Moscow's significant reduction of gas supplies, a surge in inflation rates, a general sense of unease from overpassing missiles over its territory from the neighboring Russian warzone, and a large influx of refugees fleeing the conflict in Ukraine.[23] In particular, tensions have escalated over the Russian-backed breakaway region of Transnistria.[24] Transnistria is a territory located in the Eastern region of the former Soviet Union, bordering Ukraine.[25] It broke away from Moldova following a conflict in 1992, and since then, Russia has sustained a military presence in the area.[26] In recent years, Moldova has shifted towards pro-Western policies, provoking Russia to "amp up misinformation campaigns, engineer an energy crisis in Moldova by slashing gas exports, and stoking political unrest by funneling money to Kremlin-friendly Moldovan politicians who pay protesters to call for the removal of Moldova's Western-leaning government."[27] In late February 2023, Russia claimed Ukraine was ready to attack Transnistria, which the Moldovan government rejected.[28] Moldova's President, Maia Sandu, accused Russia of planning to overthrow her government, using saboteurs disguised as anti-government demonstrators, which Russia has denied and has further strained relations between both Member States.[29]

International and Regional Framework

Article 39 of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945) addresses provisions relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, including the establishment of the Security Council and the authorization of collective measures to maintain or restore international peace and security.[30] The General Assembly adopted resolution 217A in 1948, through which it endorsed the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR), setting out the fundamental human rights and freedoms that Member States should promote and safeguard.[31] The UDHR further recognizes that the promotion of human rights is essential for the maintenance of international peace and security as the principles and values it promotes lay a strong groundwork for the development of societies that are characterized by peace and security, justice, and respect for human dignity.[32]

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[18] Ibid.

[19] Isayev et al. *An Analysis of the November 9 Ceasefire Agreement and Its Implementation.* 2022.

[20] International Crisis Group. *Averting a New War between Armenia and Azerbaijan.* 2023.

[21] Ibid.

[22] McGrath et al. Associated Press. *Moldova's New Pro-Western Government Faces 'Crises' Amid Russia's War in Ukraine.* 2023.

[23] Ibid.

[24] International Crisis Group. *Moldova.* 2023.

[25] Agence France-Presse. *Breakaway Moldova Region Transnistria Says Foiled Ukraine-Backed 'Terror' Attack.* 2023.

[26] Ibid.

[27] Ibid.

[28] Ibid.

[29] Ibid.

[30] *Charter of the United Nations.* 1945.

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

[32] Ibid.; United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Services. *Protecting Human Rights Set Out in Universal Declaration Vital for Peace and Security Within and Among States, ODIHR Director Says on Human Rights Day.* 2018.

General Assembly resolution 2625 (1970), "The Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Co-operation among States" lays out the principles of international law that govern relations between Member States.[33] Through its four principles (respect for the sovereignty; territorial integrity and political independence of all states; non-interference in the internal affairs of states; respect for the right of self-determination of peoples; and the peaceful settlement of disputes between states), the resolution recognizes the importance of maintaining peace and security internationally.[34] The Security Council has adopted many other resolutions that are foundational for the promotion of peace and security in the world.[35] Per the UN Peacemaker, one of the most important resolutions is Security Council resolution 1325 "Women, Peace and Security" (2000), which recognizes the importance of women's contributions to preventing and resolving conflict.[36] This resolution was the first formal and legal document that required warring parties to prevent violations of women's rights, support their participation in peace negotiations and post-conflict reconstruction, and protect women and girls from wartime sexual violence.[37] It was the first such document to make these requirements, and it was also the first Security Council resolution to specifically address the impact of conflict on women.[38] This document is especially relevant in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, where unresolved conflicts continue to disproportionally impact local women.[39] General Assembly resolution 70/1, "Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (2015) (2030 Agenda), outlines the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and associated targets.[40] Through its 12 targets and 23 indicators, SDG 16 (Peace, justice, and strong institutions) aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions.[41] Escalating conflict in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus not only poses an immediate and growing threat to the lives and well-being of people living the region, but also represents a setback for the attainment of SDG 16.[42]

The Security Council has adopted numerous resolutions addressing the region's peace and security.[43] The Security Council adopted resolution 2623 (2022), urging for an "emergency special session" of the General Assembly to discuss and propose collective measures regarding the situation in Ukraine.[44] It marked the first time in 40 years that the Security Council adopted a "Uniting for Peace" resolution, referring to a deadlock situation among its permanent members of the General Assembly.[45] Furthermore, on 12 October 2022, the General Assembly adopted resolution ES-11/4 (2022) on "Territorial integrity of Ukraine: defending the principles of the Charter of the United Nations" to denounce Russia's unlawful annexation attempt of the Donetsk, Kherson, Luhansk, and Zaporizhzhia regions of Ukraine, and to demand that Russia withdraw all its military forces from Ukrainian territory.[46]

Regionally, a relevant document is the UN-Azerbaijan Partnership Framework (UNAPF), signed between the United Nations (UN) and the Azerbaijani Ministry of Economy in 2016, which serves as the main

[33] United Nations, General Assembly. *Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (A/RES/2625 (XXV))*. 1970.

[34] Ibid.

[35] United Nations, Security Council. *Peace and Security*. n.d.

[36] United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security (S/RES/1325 (2000))*. 2000; United Nations Peacemaker. S/RES/1325. *Security Council Resolution on Women and Peace and Security*. 2019.

[37] United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Global Norms and Standards: Peace and Security*. n.d.

[38] Ibid.

[39] Global Network of Women Peacebuilders. *The Importance of Women's Rights in War and Peace: An Eastern Europe and South Caucasus Case Study*, 2022.

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

[41] SDG Tracker. *Sustainable Development Goal 16*. n.d.

[42] Ibid.

[43] United Nations, Security Council. *Resolutions*. n.d.

[44] United Nations, Security Council. *Resolution 2623 (2022) S/RES/2623 (2022)*. 2022.

[45] Ibid.

[46] United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Ukraine: UN General Assembly demands Russia reverse course on 'attempted illegal annexation'*. 2022.

programming framework for all UN activities in Azerbaijan.[47] The UNAPF aligns with Azerbaijan's Vision 2020 and the 2030 Agenda and is the UN's strategic response to development needs in Azerbaijan.[48] The Framework was effective from 2016 through 2020.[49] The UN Country Team and the Government of Azerbaijan entered into a new cooperation agreement called the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF) on 1 March 2021.[50] This framework is effective through 2025.[51] In relation to the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, on 9 November 2020, the leaders of Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Russia signed a trilateral statement to end the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War.[52] However, the region has not achieved comprehensive stability as the Armenian-Azerbaijani borderlands continue to experience fighting and tensions due to the parties involved not fully adhering to the conditions outlined in the 9 November statement.[53]

Role of the International System

The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) are among the main UN system agencies that actively work towards achieving peace and security in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.[54] As of 26 May 2023, in Ukraine, OCHA, alongside local non-governmental organizations, volunteers, and private donors, has provided essential aid to nearly 5.4 million people since 2022.[55] For nearly three decades, the UNDP has been actively engaged in Azerbaijan.[56] Initially, UNDP focused on providing early recovery programs to those affected by the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.[57] However, over time, UNDP's role in Azerbaijan has shifted towards long-term socio-economic development in response to Member States' evolving needs.[58] Between October 2020 and December 2021, the Resident Coordinator's Office (the body with the highest-ranking representatives of the UN Development System at the country level who lead UN Country Teams and coordinate UN support to Member States in implementing the 2030 Agenda) and the UNHCR collaborated to convene 41 operational partners for the Inter-Agency Response Plan (IARP).[59] This plan was developed to complement the efforts of the Government of Armenia and to address the needs of 90,000 people who arrived in Armenia due to the conflict in and around Nagorno-Karabakh.[60]

The European Union has actively promoted peace and security in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus since its formation, chiefly through its Neighborhood Policy (ENP) and Eastern Partnership (EaP) initiative.[61] Initiated in 2009, EaP is a forum launched as the Eastern dimension to the ENP to enhance the political and economic trade relationships between the European Union and six Post-Soviet states of strategic significance, namely Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.[62] Through

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[47] United Nations Development Programme. *About UNDP in Azerbaijan*. n.d.
[48] Ibid.
[49] Ibid.
[50] United Nations Sustainable Development Group. *Azerbaijan*. n.d.
[51] Ibid.
[52] Isayev et al. *An Analysis of the November 9 Ceasefire Agreement and Its Implementation*. 2022.
[53] Ibid.
[54] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. *Ukraine*. n.d.; United Nations Development Programme. *About UNDP in Azerbaijan*. n.d.; United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. *The United Nations Launched a Final Report on The Humanitarian Inter-Agency Response to the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict Between October 2020 and December 2021*. 2022.
[55] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. *Ukraine Humanitarian Response 2023*. 2023.
[56] United Nations Development Programme. *About UNDP in Azerbaijan*. n.d.
[57] Ibid.
[58] Ibid.
[59] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. *The United Nations Launched a Final Report on The Humanitarian Inter-Agency Response to the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict Between October 2020 and December 2021*. 2022.
[60] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Services. *The United Nations Launched a Final Report on The Humanitarian Inter-Agency Response to the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict Between October 2020 and December 2021*. 2022.
[61] European Union NeighboursEast. *EU Policy*. n.d.
[62] European Union External Action. *Eastern Partnership*. 2022.

the adoption of the resolution on 8 June 2022 on "Security in the Eastern Partnership area and the role of the common security and defense policy (2021/2199(INI))," EaP emphasizes the importance of sustainable peace and human security in the EaP region for the European Union and urges Member States to increase the budget of each Member State to bolster the defense capabilities and resilience of EaP members.[63] Further, the resolution calls on the international community to counter aggression and activities aimed at Ukraine, Georgia, and the Republic of Moldova.[64]

The Importance of Women's Rights in War and Peace

Women are often excluded from peace negotiations, making it more difficult to achieve lasting and sustainable peace.[65] In addition to the immediate impact on women's lives, violating women's rights during conflict and post-conflict periods can have broader societal consequences.[66] For example, when women are excluded from decision-making processes, their perspectives and needs are not taken into account, which can make it more difficult to build a peaceful and just society.[67] Failure to protect women's rights during wartime interferes with the attainment of SDG 3 (Good health and well-being), SDG 5 (Gender equality), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities), and SDG 16.[68]

Per Medica Mondiale, up to 50,000 women and girls in Bosnia and Herzegovina have endured sexualized violence during wartime.[69] In Kosovo, the number is approximately 20,000, while in Croatia, it is around 3,000.[70] Women belonging to ethnic minorities, including Roma, Balkan Egyptians, and Ashkali, have been particularly targeted by such violence.[71] These women often face poverty, challenging social conditions, and limited access to healthcare and education, further highlighting the importance of protecting women's rights in war and peace.[72]

International and national non-governmental organizations and women's groups have tried to promote women's rights in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus.[73] For example, IDP Women Association "Consent" (IDPWA Consent) has been active in Georgia since 1995 to achieve a democratic and peaceful society with equal opportunities for internally displaced persons (IDPs), in particular, displaced women.[74] Since 1996, IDPWA Consent has promoted peace through its Peace Camps project, which brought together hundreds of Georgian IDPs, Abkhaz, Ossetian, Armenian, and Azerbaijani children.[75] The project is aimed at increasing the social, economic, and civil status of women via training seminars, handicraft courses, adult education, small business support, and advocacy group creation.[76] Through this same initiative, IDPWA peace clubs for children and youth across the South Caucasus give them tools and opportunities to help them escape the vicious cycle of internal displacement.[77] In addition, during the 2008 Georgia-Russia War, IDPWA Consent provided humanitarian aid to conflict-affected populations and has since continued to work with displaced populations and residents of villages adjacent to the

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[63] European Parliament Delegations. *Security in the Eastern Partnership Area and the Role of the Common Security and Defence Policy, 8 June 2022*. 2022.

[64] Ibid.

[65] Global Network of Women Peacebuilders. *The Importance of Women's Rights in War and Peace: An Eastern Europe and South Caucasus Case Study*, 2022.

[66] Ibid.

[67] Ibid.

[68] United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. *Women and Sustainable Development Goals*. n.d.

[69] Medica Mondiale. *Where We Empower Women: Southeastern Europe*. 2022.

[70] Ibid.

[71] Ibid.

[72] Ibid.

[73] Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung. *Armenia's Peace and Security: Women's Participation and Feminist Perspectives*. 2022; Peace Direct. *IDP Women Association "Consent"*. 2017.

[74] Peace Direct. *IDP Women Association "Consent"*. 2017.

[75] Ibid.

[76] Ibid.

[77] Ibid.

Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia in Georgia.[78] Since 2016, IDPWA Consent has been participating in the Planning Committee of the Women's Regional Platform for Peace.[79] The group is comprised of peace activists from 12 Member States in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus, and Central Asia.[80] Its goal is to strengthen the capacity of women to contribute to conflict prevention and peaceful conflict resolution through cooperation, as well as experience and knowledge transfer.[81] Despite these initiatives and international legal frameworks to protect women's rights, such as Security Council resolution 1325, there is a need for better implementation of laws and policies aimed at promoting and protecting women's rights during wartime.[82]

Climate Change, Hydropolitics, and Security

While there is no universally agreed-upon definition of "hydropolitics," the term alludes to the systematic examination of conflicts and collaborations among nations regarding water resources that extend beyond national boundaries.[83] As over 50 percent of the Earth's land area comprises river basins shared by multiple Member States, the competition for water resources has always carried the risk of sparking conflicts.[84] Additionally, increasing populations and escalating demands for freshwater are intensifying the strain on already limited water resources.[85]

Climate change is a threat multiplier that exacerbates existing threats to security and is becoming an increasingly important security issue in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus region.[86] Although conflict can intensify the impacts of climate change, climate change can also indirectly fuel conflict in several ways, including competition over natural resources, extreme weather events, food insecurity, energy production and transmission disruptions, water scarcity, and governance challenges, including but not limited to corruption, human rights violations, and power centralization.[87] These risks can lead to political instability, migration, illegal activities, civil unrest, and even violent conflict, highlighting the need for effective dispute-resolution mechanisms and adaptation measures to address such security challenges.[88]

All Member States of Eastern Europe and the Caucasus are committed to diminishing the impact of climate change on their territories, as testified by their adoption of the 2030 Agenda and the *Paris Agreement* (2015).[89] Nevertheless, there are remaining challenges and further opportunities to curb the effects of climate change on security, including conflicts over resources, chiefly water, and the potential destabilization of the region due to a lack of coordination on how to mitigate the effects of climate change.[90] The competition for access to water resources, particularly in transboundary river basins, has led to tensions between neighboring Member States.[91] This is exemplified by the disputes between Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia over the management and allocation of water resources in the Kura-Araks basin.[92]

Climate change is expected to make water even more scarce in this region through disrupted weather patterns that cause extreme weather events and changes in water cycle patterns, which increase the

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[78] Peace Direct. *IDP Women Association "Consent"*. 2017.
[79] Ibid.
[80] Ibid.
[81] Ibid.
[82] Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung. *Armenia's Peace and Security: Women's Participation and Feminist Perspectives*. 2022.
[83] Elhance. *Hydropolitics in the Third World*. 1999.
[84] Ibid.
[85] Ibid.
[86] Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Secretariat. *Climate Change and Security in Eastern Europe. Central Asia and the Southern Caucasus. n.d.*
[87] United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. *Conflict and Climate*. 2022.
[88] Ibid.
[89] Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. *Green Economy Transition in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia*. n.d.
[90] United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. *Conflict and Climate*. 2022.
[91] ICE Case Studies. *Kura-Araks Basin: Diplomatic Degradation and the Compounding Impact of Climate Change*. 2013.
[92] Ibid.

likelihood of increased conflict.[93] The World Bank has issued a warning regarding the precarious water situation in Armenia and Azerbaijan due to climate change, anticipating that by 2040, Armenia's rainfall will drop by 52%, while Azerbaijan's limited water resources could result in a 77% decrease in crop production — the worst in the region.[94] Azerbaijan's reliance on water has previously caused tensions with Armenia both before and after the Second Nagorno-Karabakh War.[95] In 2016, Azerbaijani officials accused Nagorno-Karabakh's de facto authorities of purposely withholding water from Azerbaijan by controlling upstream water resources.[96] The previous summer in 2015, Azerbaijan faced severe water shortages, which officials attributed to Armenia and Georgia.[97]

The political situations in Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia are estimated to further affect regional water problems.[98] On 27 June 2014, Georgia ratified an Association Agreement with the European Union, which entails collaborating on various sectoral policies, including measures to adapt to climate change.[99] However, the Eurasian Economic Union, of which Armenia is a member, primarily focuses on the economic integration of Member States, providing a framework for common transport, agricultural, and energy policies but not necessarily addressing the cooperation aspects of these policies in relation to climate change.[100] The economies of the South Caucasus countries are still fragile, and external donors have mainly supported climate change adaptation activities so far.[101] Azerbaijan's government has invested in flood prevention, rehabilitation, and reforestation efforts, but much remains to be done at the state level.[102] With the right amount of political determination and anticipation of future risks, it's possible to mitigate some of the expected consequences of climate change and build a sustainable and peaceful future for all.[103]

Conclusion

Eastern Europe and the Caucasus are highly diverse and face numerous unresolved conflicts that threaten international peace and security.[104] While the war in Ukraine has gained the most notoriety in recent years, Member States such as Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Moldova, among others, are dealing with increased tensions that, should they remain unresolved, put in peril not only the peace and security of the region but of the world.[105] The Security Council, along with other UN agencies, has adopted numerous resolutions that address peace and security in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus and

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[93] ICE Case Studies. *Kura-Araks Basin: Diplomatic Degradation and the Compounding Impact of Climate Change* 2013; The United Nations Children's Fund. *Water and the global climate crisis: 10 things you should know.* 2023.

[94] The World Bank. *Building Resilience to Climate Change in South Caucasus Agriculture.* 2014.

[95] Ibid.

[96] Ibid.

[97] Ibid.

[98] Chitadze. Italian Institute for International Political Studies. *Can Climate Change Trigger Cooperation in the South Caucasus?* 2021.

[99] Ibid.

[100] Ibid.

[101] Ibid.

[102] Ibid.

[103] United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. *Conflict and Climate.* 2022.

[104] De Waal. Carnegie Europe. *A Brief Guide to Understanding the Countries of the South Caucasus.* 2019.

[105] Statista. *Number Of Civilian Casualties in Ukraine During Russia's Invasion Verified by OHCHR From February 24, 2022, To May 23, 2023.* 2023; Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. *Ukraine Emergency.* 2023; International Crisis Group. *Averting a New War between Armenia and Azerbaijan.* 2023; Agence France-Presse. *Breakaway Moldova Region Transnistria Says Foiled Ukraine-Backed 'Terror' Attack.* 2023.

that aim to de-escalate conflict in both regions.[106] However, much remains to be done to prevent further disputes and climate change from exacerbating existing tensions.[107]

Further Research

As delegates prepare for the conference, some key questions that can guide their research are: What measures can the Security Council and the UN system take to address peace and security in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus? What role can the international community play in resolving the conflicts in the region? What are the challenges and opportunities for international cooperation in this context? What steps can the international community take to ensure women are included in peacemaking? How can failure to protect women's rights during wartime interfere with attaining the 2030 Agenda?

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> *Delegates will find this source useful as it presents a case study that examines the situation of women in conflict-affected areas in Eastern Europe and the South Caucasus regions. The case studies offer an in-depth analysis of the challenges faced by women in these contexts, which delegates can use to understand better the real-life impact of war on women's rights. Furthermore, the source provides policy recommendations for addressing women's challenges in conflict-affected areas.*

Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung. *Armenia's Peace and Security: Women's Participation and Feminist Perspectives*. 2022. Retrieved 17 March 2023 from: https://ge.boell.org/en/2022/12/18/armenias-peace-and-security-womens-participation-and-feminist-perspectives
> *Delegates may find this source valuable as it provides insights into the role of women in promoting peace and security in Armenia. The source explores the historical context of women's participation in peacebuilding efforts in Armenia, as well as the current challenges they face and why including women is paramount for peace negotiations and decision-making, and the need for feminist perspectives in addressing the root causes of conflict. Delegates will also find this source helpful to understand the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and women better.*

International Crisis Group. *Averting a New War between Armenia and Azerbaijan*. 2023. Retrieved 19 March 2023 from: https://www.crisisgroup.org/europe-central-asia/caucasus/nagorno-karabakh-conflict/266-averting-new-war-between-armenia-and-azerbaijan
> *This source provides valuable insights into the complex dynamics of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the challenges involved in finding a peaceful resolution. The analysis and recommendations presented in the source can help delegates develop a deeper understanding of the conflict and its impact on the region. By consulting this source, delegates will further comprehend what the European Union and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe have proposed to avert a new war between Armenia and Azerbaijan.*

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. *Conflict and Climate*. 2022. Retrieved 17 March 2023 from: https://unfccc.int/blog/conflict-and-climate

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[106] United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. *Ukraine*. n.d.; United Nations Development Programme. *About UNDP in Azerbaijan*. n.d.; United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Services. *The United Nations Launched a Final Report on The Humanitarian Inter-Agency Response to the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict Between October 2020 and December 2021*. 2022.

[107] United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. *Conflict and Climate*. 2022; Global Network of Women Peacebuilders. *The Importance of Women's Rights in War and Peace: An Eastern Europe and South Caucasus Case Study*. 2022.

Delegates will find this source insightful as it examines the relationship between climate change and conflict, highlighting how climate change can exacerbate existing tensions and lead to new conflicts. It also provides examples of conflicts linked to climate change, such as resource conflicts and displacement. Through Conflict and Climate, delegates will be able to answer questions such as "how does climate change create conflict?" "How does climate change affect more vulnerable regions?" and "which regions will be affected the most by climate change?" among others.

United Nations, Security Council. *Women and Peace and Security (S/RES/1325 (2000))*. 2000. Retrieved 30 April 2023 from: http://undocs.org/S/RES/1325(2000)
This Security Council resolution is perhaps one of the most important documents to understand how the international community has involved women in peace and security over the last two decades. It plays a key part in setting norms within peace and security discussions and the role of women in those discussions. To better formulate gender-sensitive solutions, delegates should consult this source as it provides essential policy guidance on integrating gender perspectives into all peace and security efforts, including conflict prevention, peacekeeping, and post-conflict reconstruction.

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2. Enhancing Maritime Security

Introduction

According to the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea (DOALOS), there is no universal legal definition of maritime security.[1] However, maritime security incorporates threats to international peace and security, territorial integrity, resource security, and security of seafarers and fishers.[2] The Security Council is committed to combatting the ongoing threats to maritime security that piracy, armed robbery at sea, terrorists' travel, and use of the sea to conduct crimes and acts against shipping, offshore installation, critical infrastructure, and other maritime interest cause.[3] In 2022, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) reported 131 incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships, 81% of which were in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore alone.[4] The IMO has reported a decrease in piracy and armed robbery against vessels but has seen an increase in cyber-attacks on the maritime industry, specifically regarding cargo ships.[5] Threats to maritime security also threaten international trade, energy security, and the global economy, which furthers the need to mitigate these hazards to safeguard the legitimate uses of the oceans and the lives of people at sea.[6] Threats to maritime security, such as armed robbery against ships, piracy, and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing (IUU), also pose a threat to the use of an international blue economy.[7] The World Bank defines the blue economy as the sustainable use of the ocean and its resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and ocean ecosystem health.[8] The blue economy is unable to properly function when there are threats to maritime security because they impede the use of maritime transportation, fisheries, and marine tourism.[9]

International and Regional Framework

The "United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea" (UNCLOS) (1982), created a legal framework for using and protecting the sea and established clear guidelines for Member States' navigational rights, maritime zones, and economic jurisdiction, which currently remain in place.[10] The IMO Code of Practice for the Investigation of the Crimes of Piracy, and Armed Robbery Against Ships (2010) defines armed robbery against ships as any illegal act or threat of violence committed for private means against a ship, persons, or property onboard a ship within a Member State's territorial waters.[11] In 2020, the Global Enhancement of Maritime Security Programme, part of the IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme, aimed to ensure the implementation of the *International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea* (SOLAS) chapter XI-2 and the *International Ship and Port Facility Security* (ISPS).[12] This program provided online training courses, virtual workshops for officials, and risk management training to ensure proper implementation.[13] SOLAS, initially adopted in 1974 but not fully implemented until 1980, has since been adjusted over the years to include updated procedures and tactics, with one of these changes being the addition of chapter XI-2.[14] This addition created the ISPS Code and provided guidance on complying

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[1] Ameri et al.. *Maritime Security and Safety*. 2007.

[2] Ibid.

[3] United Nations, Security Council. *Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2021/15 (2021))*. 2021. p.1.

[4] International Maritime Organization. *Reports on Acts of Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships Annual Report – 2022*. 2022. p.3.

[5] Ibid.

[6] United Nations, Security Council. *Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2021/15 (2021))* 2021. p.2.

[7] World Bank. *What is the Blue Economy?*. 2017.

[8] Ibid.

[9] Ibid.

[10] National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. *Law of the sea Convention*. 2023.

[11] United Nations, International Maritime Organization. *Code of Practice for the Investigation of Crimes of Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships (A 26/ Res.1025 (2010))*. 2010. p.4.

[12] International Maritime Organization, Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme. *The Global Enhancement of Maritime Security Programme 2020 Annual Report*. 2020. p.9.

[13] Ibid.

[14] International Maritime Organization. *International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), 1974*. 2019.

with the mandatory requirements for life-saving appliances, safety measures for high-speed crafts, and ship identification number schemes.[15] The 2004 ISPS Code provides a framework for ships and port facilities to work together to deter threats to maritime security through collecting and exchanging security information, providing a methodology for assessing security, and ensuring that proper security measures are in place.[16] In 2010, the IMO adopted Resolution A.1025 (26), "Code of Practice for the Investigation of Crimes of Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships," providing a basic framework for Member States to use when investigating acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships under their jurisdiction.[17] The code also grants the basis for reporting such crimes to the IMO.[18]

General Assembly resolution 77/248, "Oceans and the law of the sea," stresses the importance of working towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015), specifically regarding Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 (Life below water). [19] The IMO Secretariat has since created specific indicators for maritime security on SDGs 5 (gender equality), 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure), 13 (climate action), and 14 (life below water), which works to combine the implementation of the SDGs with maritime security.[20] In 1977, the IMO established the Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP), which works with regional programs to help developing Member States implement these maritime rules and standards through security, facilitation, marine environment protection, and education, all while working towards achieving the SDGs.[21]

At the regional level, the African Union adopted the *African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa* (Lomé Charter) in 2016, welcoming the implementation of International Maritime Law in the Gulf of Guinea region.[22] Threats to maritime security hinder the peaceful and sustainable use of the seas for commerce, food, and energy, which the Lomé Charter emphasizes.[23] The European Union (EU) is also working to enhance maritime security through its maritime security strategy (EUMSS), which works to protect EU interests at sea, protect the marine environment, uphold UNCLOS, and react accordingly to growing threats.[24] This strategy was updated in March 2023 to account for more recent threats to maritime security, such as geopolitical competition, climate change, and cyber-attacks through developing more coastguard operations in European sea basins, cooperating with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and increased monitoring of critical maritime infrastructure.[25] In 2022, NATO strengthened its maritime posture through increased international cooperation to deter growing threats to maritime security.[26]

In 2021, Ghada Waly, the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), addressed the Security Council on maritime security, calling for increased international cooperation to combat piracy and armed robbery at sea.[27] The UNODC's Global Maritime Crime Programme (GMCP) published its annual report for 2022, which included a partnership with the Security Council focusing on deterring sanction violations at sea.[28] Specifically, the GMCP supported flag registries, vessel monitoring, and information exchange platforms to comply with Security Council resolutions and sanctions.[29]

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[15] Ibid.

[16] Lloyd's Register. *ISPS Code.* 2023.

[17] International Maritime Organization. Code of Practice for the Investigation of Crimes of Piracy and Armed Robbery Against Ships (A 26/Res.1025). 2010.

[18] Ibid., p.2.

[19] United Nations, General Assembly. *Oceans and the law of the sea (A/RES/77/248).* 2023. p.3.

[20] United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *International Maritime Organization (IMO).* 2019.

[21] Ibid.

[22] African Union. *African Charter on Maritime Security and Safety and Development in Africa (Lomé Charter).* 2016. p.6.

[23] Ibid.

[24] European Commission. *Maritime security strategy.* 2023.

[25] European Commission. *Maritime Security: EU updates Strategy to safeguard maritime domain against new threats.* 2023.

[26] North Atlantic Treaty Organization. *NATO Allies and Partners discuss maritime security.* 2022.

[27] Waly. *United Nations Security Council High Level Virtual Open Debate "Enhancing Maritime Security: A case for international cooperation."* 2021.

[28] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Global Maritime Crime Programme Briefing Package.* 2022. p.68.

[29] Ibid.

Role of the International System

Since 1982, UNCLOS has worked to establish international laws concerning shared water resources internationally.[30] NCLOS has established freedom of navigation rights, set territorial sea boundaries of 12 miles offshore, created exclusive economic zones up to 200 miles offshore, and created the International Seabed Authority (ISA) in 1994.[31] Since 1914, the IMO has provided support, assistance, and guidance to Member States regarding maritime security.[32] IMO's sub-division for Maritime Security and Facilitation (MSF) and the Maritime Safety Division (MSD) work closely with UN agencies, regional organizations, and Member States to suppress piracy, armed robbery against ships, and other illegal maritime activities.[33] The ISA's mandate aligns with UNCLOS and is committed to a results-based approach as outlined in its Strategic Plan 2019-2023.[34] The ISA's Strategic Plan 2019-2023 stresses the need to adopt rules, regulations, and procedures that promote equitable sharing of economic benefits from marine activities to protect the marine environment and mitigate threats to maritime security.[35] In 2018, the General Assembly expanded UNCLOS to include the conservation of marine biological diversity in resolution 72/249, "International legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction."[36] This resolution created the Intergovernmental Conference, which has met annually since 2018 and most recently adopted General Assembly resolution 77/248, "Oceans and the law of the sea."[37] This conference addressed the sustainable use of marine resources, the implementation of marine protected areas, and environmental impact assessments.[38]

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) adopted the "Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries" in 1995, which created international standards for responsible fishing practices to ensure effective marine management.[39] One of the principles in this code is for fishing operations to prevent IUU through proper documentation regarding fishing, halting destructive fishing practices, and ensuring adequate health and safety standards aboard all fishing vessels.[40] Correctly implementing and maintaining the principles in the code will promote more responsible behavior in the marine sector.[41]

In 2016 Rafael Ramirez, the President of the Security Council at the time, expressed deep concern over the increasing threat of piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea and highlighted the importance of regional cooperation.[42] Ramirez also called for Member States in the Gulf of Guinea to create a regional framework for preventing and repressing piracy and armed robbery at sea.[43] In addition, the Security Council adopted resolution 2634 (2022), urging Member States in the Gulf of Guinea region to criminalize piracy and armed robbery at sea under their domestic laws and adequately investigate and prosecute those responsible.[44] This resolution also encouraged bilateral and multilateral cooperation at the regional level between organizations like the African Union, the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and the Economic Community of West African States to mitigate threats to maritime security, specifically in this region.[45] Ultimately, this aims to ensure necessary measures are

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[30] United Nations. *Oceans and the Law of the Sea*. n.d.

[31] Ibid.

[32] Ibid.

[33] Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies. *Guide to Maritime Security*. 2022.

[34] International Seabed Authority. *Strategic Plan*. 2023.

[35] Ibid.

[36] United Nations, General Assembly. I*nternational legally binding instrument under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction (A/RES/72/249)*. 2018. p.1.

[37] United Nations, General Assembly. *Oceans and the law of the sea (A/RES/77/248)*. 2023. p.1.

[38] International Maritime Organization. *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*. 2019.

[39] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*. 2023.

[40] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*. 1995. pp. 16-19.

[41] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) fishing*. 2023.

[42] United Nations, Security Council. *Statement by the President of the Security Council (A/PRST/2016/4)*. 2016. p.3.

[43] Ibid.

[44] United Nations, Security Council. *Resolution 2634 (2022)(S/RES/2634 (2022))*. 2022. p.3.

[45] Ibid. p.4.

taken to prevent revenue generated by piracy, armed robbery at sea, and other maritime security threats from contributing to terrorism in this region.[46]

Threats Posed by Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated Fishing

11-26 million tons of fish are lost to IUU fishing activities, per the FAO, which poses a threat to sustainable aquaculture systems and maritime.[47] The FAO defines aquaculture as the aquatic equivalent of agriculture on land, covering the farming of animals and plants in freshwater and seawater areas. Aquaculture, guided by rules and regulations, aims to ensure sustainability and minimize harm to the marine environment while producing the best outcome for human use.[48] The United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) estimates that IUU costs the global economy between USD 10 billion and 23.5 in annual losses.[49] There is also a connection between forced labor and IUU fishing, with about 14-26% of vessels at high risk for forced labor.[50] The International Labour Organization (ILO) defines forced labor as any work performed involuntarily and under threat of any penalty or violence.[51] The ILO has also seen a recent trend of forced labor in the fisheries sector, employing low-cost migrant workers who lack training and whose workplaces fail to enforce safety and labor standards.[52] The FAO defines a fishery as "a unit raising and/or harvesting fish for consumption."[53] Fisheries crime refers to a range of illegal activities in the fisheries sector, such as IUU fishing, according to the UNODC.[54] Fisheries crime usually incorporates other organized criminal activities such as wildlife crime, corruption, and money laundering conducted by transnational groups.[55] According to the UNODC, in West Africa alone, fisheries crime causes a loss of $1.3 billion a year, harming coastal communities and the safety of those that live within these communities.[56] Exclusive economic zones (EEZs) can be implemented to help mitigate fisheries crime and IUU fishing; however, the criminal penalties for violations within these zones vary between Member States.[57] According to The United States Coastguard, 27 million tons of fish annually are caught illegally due to increased IUU fishing within EEZs.[58] One way to decrease the number of illegal fishing is to increase the monitoring of EEZs, as found in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Guidelines for Preventing the Entry of Fish and Fishery Products from IUU Fishing Activities into the Supply Chain.[59] However, there is still a need to incorporate broader maritime governance into fisheries management to ensure safer seas.[60] Such measures can be done through the ILO's "Global Action Programme against forced labour and trafficking of fishers at sea" (GAPfish), which aims to develop sustainable solutions to prevent labor rights violations of fishers, the enhancement of compliance with international maritime laws to prevent forced labor, and an increase of capacity in port states to respond to instances of forced labor.[61]

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[46] United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Adopted Resolution 2634 (2022), Security Council Calls on Gulf of Guinea Countries to Criminalize Piracy, Armed Robbery at Sea under Domestic Laws.* 2022.

[47] United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *International Day for the Fight against Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing 5 June.* n.d.

[48] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Fisheries and Aquaculture.* n.d.

[49] United Nations Environmental Programme. *Risk Assessment and Control of Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing for the Marine Insurance Industry.* 2019.

[50] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Fisheries and Aquaculture.* n.d. International Labour Organization. *What is forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking?.* 2023.

[51] International Labour Organization. *What is forced labour, modern slavery and human trafficking?.* 2023.International Labour Organization. *Forced labour and human trafficking in fisheries.* 2023.

[52] Ibid.

[53] Marine Stewardship Council. *What is a fishery?.* 2023.

[54] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Fisheries Crime.* n.d.

[55] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *UNODC Approach to Crimes in the Fisheries Sector.* 2022. p.5.

[56] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Fisheries Crime.* n.d.

[57] Ibid.

[58] Insitu. *Success Story.* 2023.

[59] Malik. *IUU Fishing as an Evolving Threat to Southeast Asia's Maritime Security.* 2022.

[60] Schaeffer and Fajardo Vargas. *Enforcement of Fisheries Rules Will Enhance Maritime Governance and Security.* 2023.

[61] International Labour Organization. *Forced labour and human trafficking in fisheries.* 2023.

Economic Threats to Maritime Security

Within the global economy lies the blue economy, which includes all economic activities relating to oceans, seas, and coasts.[62] The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs estimates that fisheries and aquaculture contribute 100 billion USD and about 260 million jobs to the global economy annually.[63] However, acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea threaten it.[64] According to the World Bank, the blue economy is worth US $1.5 trillion annually and can be used sustainably to manage marine resources.[65] The blue economy is a significant source of sustainable income and employment in Small Island Developing States (SIDS).[66] SIDs, like Mauritius and Samoa, have worked with the Association of Small Island States (AOSIS) to mitigate threats to maritime security and sustainability in SIDS.[67] Activities in the blue economy ensure sustainable income and food security for SIDS.[68] Still, they are at risk due to the threats to maritime security, such as piracy and armed robbery at sea.[69] Maritime transport is a lifeline for imports, exports, and the economic performance of SIDS and can be halted due to threats or acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships.[70] SIDS may also lack the ability to financially recover from acts of piracy and armed robbery against ships due to their developing economies, furthering the cycle of poverty.[71] At the Conference of Parties (COP) 27 in 2022, delegates from SIDS argued for better integration and protection of the blue economy in the upcoming round of nationally determined contributions (NDC), including funding to mitigate threats to maritime security.[72] The revisions to NDCs also highlight the importance of adopting regional approaches to supporting and improving the blue economy.[73]

Threats to maritime security can have lasting social and economic effects, particularly when it comes to poverty and decreasing standard of living.[74] Those who live in poverty live with an income of less than US $2 per day, which includes nearly half of the world's population.[75] Those living in poverty also lack access to proper nutrition, which aquaculture could have supplied.[76] The aquaculture sector's economic impact can aid in achieving SDG 1 (no poverty).[77] Since 2018, global aquaculture production has increased by 228%, making it a viable business opportunity for impoverished people and their surrounding communities.[78] This can be done by following the FAO's Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries, which strives for proper aquaculture management to promote economic well-being for all.[79] Many terrorist groups and organized crime groups frequently recruit in areas of extreme poverty, making fishermen in these areas highly vulnerable.[80] These organized crime groups participate in drug trafficking, human

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[62] United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. *Everything You Wanted to Know About the Blue Economy (but were afraid to ask)*. 2021.
[63] Ibid.
[64] United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. *Exploring the potential of the blue economy*. n.d.
[65] United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. *Everything You Wanted to Know About the Blue Economy (but were afraid to ask)*. 2021.
[66] World Bank. *Global SIDS: The Blue Economy and Climate Resilience*. 2023.
[67] Garcia Ruiz. *Small Island Developing States: A Key Opportunity For Cooperation In Maritime Security?*. 2021.
[68] World Bank. *Global SIDS: The Blue Economy and Climate Resilience*. 2023.
[69] Ibid.
[70] United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. *Small island developing states: Maritime transport in the era of a disruptive pandemic- empower states to fend against disruptions to maritime transportation systems, their lifeline to the world*. n.d.
[71] Ibid.
[72] World Bank. *Global SIDS: The Blue Economy and Climate Resilience*. 2023.
[73] Ibid.
[74] United Nations, Department of Global Communications. *Addressing Poverty*. n.d.
[75] Ibid.
[76] Ibid.
[77] Eit Food. *Can sustainable aquaculture help to achieve the UN SDGs?*. 2021.
[78] Ibid.
[79] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. *Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries*. 1995. p.1.
[80] Desai and Shambaugh. *Measuring the global impact of destructive and illegal fishing on maritime piracy: A spatial analysis*. 2021.

trafficking, and IUU fishing, which deter improvements for the economy in these areas.[81] To combat this, the UNODC recommends strengthening criminal penalties for those involved and creating jobs to curb involvement in organized crime groups.[82]

Conclusion

Enhancing maritime security poses excellent social, economic, and environmental advantages globally.[83] Threats to maritime security, such as piracy, armed robbery against ships, and IUU fishing, can all cause significant financial harm and slow down the sustainable development of many Member States, specifically SIDS.[84] Member States should all strive to ensure the proper implementation of UNCLOS for protecting marine biodiversity and conserving maritime security.[85] Threats to maritime security also further poverty rates, which can cause citizens to turn to organized crime, further harming the economy in these Member States.[86] The Security Council is actively working to mitigate threats to maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, but threats to maritime security stretch farther than just this region and require international cooperation to ensure the maintenance of peace and security.[87]

Further Research

To further the discussion of this topic, delegates should consider the following questions as they research: How can Member States work to mitigate threats to maritime security at the international level? What kind of impact will IUU have on the blue economy? How can the aquaculture industry work to mitigate threats to maritime security? How can the blue economy mitigate threats to maritime security?

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> *This code of practice defines piracy and armed robbery against ships, which are some of the major ongoing threats to maritime security. Delegates will see these discussed throughout the background guide and when researching this topic. This code also outlines how Member States should investigate and prosecute these crimes.*

Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies. *Guide to Maritime* Security. 2022. Retrieved 2 February 2023 from: https://www.mitags.org/security-guide/
> *This source provides a more recent definition and examples of maritime security and its strengths and weaknesses. This guide also gives straightforward explanations of piracy, armed robbery at sea, trespassing, and other threats to maritime security delegates should understand. Delegates may have an understanding of what these crimes entail on land, but they should be aware of the different definitions and criminal procedures at sea.*

United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea. Third Session. *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea*. 1982. Retrieved 2 February 2023 from: https://www.un.org/depths/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/unclos_e.pdf
> *This convention is critical to understanding the entire topic. The convention sets a precedent for international law of the sea, which is still in place today. Delegates should be aware of the basic guidelines for marine zones and the protection of these zones.*

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[81] United Nations, Security Council. *High Seas Crime Becoming More Sophisticated Endangering Lives, International Security, Speakers Tell Security Council (SC/13691)*. 2019.
[82] Ibid.
[83] Ameri et al. *Maritime Security and Safety*. 2007.
[84] World Bank. *Global SIDS: The Blue Economy and Climate Resilience*. 2023.
[85] National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. *Law of the sea Convention*. 2023.
[86] United Nations, Security Council. *High Seas Crime Becoming More Sophisticated Endangering Lives, International Security, Speakers Tell Security Council (SC/13691)*. 2019.
[87] United Nations, Security Council. *Resolution 2634 (2022) (S/RES/2634 (2022))*. 2022. p.3.

Understanding the policies and international law will help the delegates better assess threats to maritime security.

United Nations, General Assembly, seventieth session. (2015). *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*. Retrieved 4 February 2023 from: https://www.undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2FRES%2F70%2F1&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False

> *This essential resolution outlines the seventeen SDGs at the forefront of what the UN and the Security Council do. Delegates should all be aware of these goals, but more specifically, SDGs 8 (Decent work and economic growth), 13 (Climate action), 14 (Life below water), and 17 (Partnerships for the goals), regarding the topic at hand. For example, SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth) promotes sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, which can be done by integrating the blue economy.*

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. *Global Maritime Crime Programme Briefing Package*. 2022. Retrieved 5 March 2023 from: https://www.unodc.org/documents/Maritime_crime/UNODC_GMCP_Briefing_Package_2022_EN.pdf

> *This annual briefing package provides recent and up-to-date information on the most prevalent maritime crimes and in what areas. The package also offers possible solutions to mitigate the effects and rates of these crimes. Delegates can refer to this package to better understand what crimes are relevant to their Member State and region.*

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