Valdosta State Model United Nations Conference
Security Council Background Guide

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

Welcome to Valdosta State University's Model United Nations Conference of 2020. Thank you for participating in the Security Council. My name is Hannah Watkins. I am a senior political science major with a focus on international relations here at Valdosta State University. I hope in the future to work for an organization dealing with United States and Israeli relations. This will be my third time participating in the high school conference. I have participated in Model United Nations since my freshman year of high school and it is one of my favorite things that I have ever done. I have been able to learn so much about world politics and work with amazing students with the same passion for politics as I do. I hope you all enjoy participating in this conference.

The two topics of the Security Council Are:
  I.   Addressing the Refugee Crisis as a Threat to International Peace and Security
  II. Safeguards of Cyber Security

This background guide was put together to offer insight on each of the two topics at hand and to learn the history of the committee. This background guide only holds an information overview of the committee and its topics. Delegates should do research prior to their attendance to this conference to get a better understanding of not only the topics but the country they are representing views on the topic.

Furthermore, a position paper, no longer than two pages, should be typed up in single space 10-point font on each countries views and stances on the topics at hand. Each topic in the position paper should be around the same length with the same amount of research devoted to each topic at hand. If you have any questions regarding the position paper or Valdosta State Model United Nations conference please refer to the teacher's manual.

We look forward to you attending the conference in March and wish you the best of luck in committee!

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History of the Security Council

Established in 1945, along with the rest of the U.N. main bodies, the Security Council plays a vital role in sustaining world peace. Originally consisting of 11 members, with 5 being permanent members and the rest consisting of non-permanent elected members through the U.N. General Assembly for two-year terms. Later in 1965, it was amended to 10 non-permanent members. Every member has no more than one vote on the Security Council procedural matters. The five permanent members consisting of France, United Kingdom, Russia, United States of America, and China all hold life-long seats as well as having veto power to block any matter they deem unworthy. Any state even if it is not a member of the UN is permitted to bring a dispute at which it is a party of, to the attention of the Security Council. The Security Council looks for peaceful resolutions to disruptive conflicts around the world; said conflicts include Wars and Genocides. In instances of such things, the S.C. usually tries to apply political and economic pressure through sanctions such as with Iran or North Korea, both of which who are heavily sanctioned by the Security Council. The S.C whilst not always successful in its mission does everything within its power to prevent further escalation of any conflict and works in resolving these conflicts as diplomatically as possible.

Following World War 2 the Security Council was set up to prevent another World War. Since its first meeting, the Security Council has taken permanent residence at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. It also travelled to many cities, holding sessions in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 1972, in Panama City, Panama, and in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1990. The U.N. and particularly the Security Council became a Cold War battle ground; since the U.S. and U.S.S.R. both held veto powers during that time it limited the power of the SC. Such was the case in 1948 when fighting erupted between Arabs and Jews after the United Nations created the state of Israel. After communist North Korea attacked South Korea in June 1950, the Security Council granted President Truman authority to send American troops to defend South Korea. This happened due to a fluke of history. The Soviet Union was boycotting the Security Council because the permanent seat held by China was then occupied by the anti-communist government on Taiwan rather than the communist mainland government. As a result, the Soviet Union failed to exercise its veto. Although about 15 United Nation Member States participated with the United States in the Korean War, American troops did most of the fighting. During this volatile time period the United Nation's Security Council played an insignificant role in major conflicts of the time due to the fact that their hands were tied as the P5 had veto power. These conflicts include the Cuban missile crisis and the Vietnam War both of which the Security Council played little to no role in.

In 1989, the communist world started crumbling with the fall of the Berlin Wall, soon communist governments began toppling like dominos: Romania, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Hungary all being satellite states that were reborn into modern day democracies. It seemed the Security Council could now act decisively. When Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, the Security Council passed a dozen strong resolutions against Saddam Hussein's violation of the peace. They included an ultimatum to Iraq to either withdraw its troops or face an overwhelming multinational military force authorized by the United Nations and led by the United States. The United States and the Soviet Union voted together on this key resolution along with Britain and France. This was the start of inter-superpower cooperation which

kickstarted a much stronger Security Council into action compared to the one during the Cold War era. Today there is an agreement to mutually try to not veto everything that passes through the Security Council, so that there could be a constant sense of diplomacy and cooperation based on the founding beliefs of the United Nations. However, this has not always been the case in recent years as S/2019/756 which was a draft on the humanitarian situation in Syria was vetoed by Russia and China. Additionally, the United States vetoed draft S/2018/516 which discussed the occupation of West Bank and Gaza Strip.

I. Addressing the Refugee Crisis as a Threat to International Peace and Security

Background Information

A refugee is defined as someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. A refugee has a well-founded fear of persecution for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they cannot return home or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries. With 70.8 million people being displaced due to conflict or persecution globally, nearly 30 million of them being refugees, this is a pressing crisis.

The first refugee crisis that the United Nations ever addressed was in 1950 after World War II, but refugees have been around long before then. The first use of the word refugee goes all the way back to the year 1685. This date marks the first refugees due to religious persecution in France. In the 18th century, the definition of a refugee changed slightly to include not only people fleeing religious persecution, but also those fleeing war and violence. The first few cases of refugees came from European countries. After World War II and the Holocaust, the world saw it's first major refugee crisis as there was tens of thousands of individuals displaced by the war and the atrocities of the Nazi regime. When European nations started the decolonization of many African countries, there was a large number of displaced individuals due to the artificial borders the colonizers placed within the continent. Present day, the majority of refugees are coming from the Middle East, Africa, and Asia. The refugees from the Middle East are fleeing in response to the Syrian Civil War which has led to over a million people being displaced. In Africa, the South Sudanese War has displaced over a million people in the region as well.

In Europe there has been a recent influx of people looking to find refuge. Despite many European countries taking in groups of refugees, there has been push back from other countries. With fear of threats to peace and security, countries have refused to allow refugees and have expressed concern of European Union members allowing refugees into their countries. A major concern of many EU countries that once refugees are let into one EU country, it is easy for them to travel to any other EU country due to the Schengen Agreement. Not all EU members support allowing refugees into EU countries, because they view this as a major security threat.

UN Actions to Date

The United Nations has formed a committee (UNHCR) with the sole purpose of solving refugee crises as they occur globally. The office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

(UNHCR) was formed after World War II in order to help aid Europeans that had to flee their countries to seek asylum. The committee was originally only meant to be in place for only three years, but shortly after, the Hungarian Revolution proved that the permanence of the committee was needed. With many Hungarians being displaced, the UNHCR led efforts to resettle them. This event and the UNHCR's actions helped to outline the way humanitarian organizations would solve refugee issues for years to come. The UNHCR has now helped in the efforts to solve refugee issues in 134 countries in Africa, Asia, South America, and the Middle East. The UNHCR has successfully helped more than 50 million refugees. In addition to refugee issues, the UNHCR also has helped many groups of people displaced within their own country. There are currently eleven situations that the UNHCR is working on, ten of which are classified as emergency situations. Emergency situations are when populations are people are forced out of their homes or must flee overnight, these are situations that must have a response within seventy-two hours.

The General Assembly has passed A/RES/70/290 and A/RES/48/113, both of which address the current increase in the number of refugees and the issues that this creates. During the year of 2019, the Security Council addressed the refugee crisis in Syria in S/2019/674 stating that the violations to human rights within Syria are causing refugees to flee in the thousands to neighboring countries. In regard to the South Sudan, the Security Council passed S/RES/2459 which expresses that all individuals within South Sudan deserve sovereignty. Additionally, the Security Council passed S/RES/2405 expanding the mandate of the United Nation's assistance mission in Afghanistan in hopes to help aid refugees and other vulnerable individuals within Afghanistan's borders.

Current Situation

Currently, there are 30 million refugees in the world and the majority of these refugees come from three main countries: Syria, Afghanistan and South Sudan. The most pressing of these crises is that of the Syrian Refugee Crisis, which can be traced to the protest against President Assad's regime in 2011, which sparked the Syrian Civil War. This civil war has caused the largest refugee crisis to date with 5.6 million people crossing borders to seek asylum from war. The majority of Syrian refugees find safety in countries such as Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and some European countries. The immense numbers of refugees have caused a strain on the aforementioned countries, and some European countries such as Hungary and Italy have attempted to reject the refugees. Afghanistan currently has 2.5 million registered refugees and makes up the second largest refugee population. Most Afghan refugees seek refuge in neighboring countries such as Iran and Pakistan, but many also travel to Turkey for refuge. South Sudan follows closely behind the former two countries with over 2.3 million refugees, unique characteristic of the South Sudan refugee crisis is that 63% of those fleeing are children, many of who are travelling alone. The majority of these refugees are currently living in nearby countries such as Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia, Kenya and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Committee Directives and Questions to Consider

The formation of the UNHCR has been crucial to the UN's ability to mitigate refugee crises; however, preoccupations concerning large quantities of people moving across borders should be treated as a relevant concern. Delegates should keep the following questions in mind: What is

their countries perspective on refugee crises? What preemptive measures can be taken to ensure fewer refugees? How can the international community ensure that no one country is overwhelmed by the new waves of refugees? Lastly, how can the safe return of refugees be assured?

II. Safeguards of Cyber Security

Introduction

Since the creation of the Internet in 1989 and the advancements made in the field of technology, the role of cyber security as a form of national security has become increasingly more important. Within the Internet, any one person, entity, institution, government, or group can pose a threat to national, or even international security. We have entered an era where safeguards must be taken to protect and prevent harm, damage, and terrorism conducted through the Internet and technology. Cyber security, often referred to as information technology security, are the techniques of protecting computers, networks, programs and data from unauthorized access or attacks that are aimed for exploitation.

Current Situation

In an increasingly interconnected world, the Internet, digitally enabled services, devices and new emerging technology are becoming an integral part in economies and governments worldwide. Therefore, effective cybersecurity plays a critical role on both the national and international levels. Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI) is a trusted reference that measures the commitment of countries to cyber security at a global level. Its goal is to raise awareness of the importance and different dimensions of the issue. Cyber security has a broad field of application – cutting across many industries and various sectors. There are four major areas of cyber security: application security, information security, disaster recovery, and network security. Application security is the measures or counter measures taken during the development life cycle to protect applications from threats that can come through flaws in the application design, development, deployment, upgrade or maintenance. Information security aims to protect information from unauthorized access to avoid identity theft and to protect privacy. Disaster recovery is the planning process for performing risk assessment, establishing priorities, developing recovery strategies in case of a disaster. Network security includes activities to protect the usability, reliability, integrity and safety of the network. Network security targets a variety of threats and stops them from entering or spreading on the network.

Based on a multi-stakeholder approach and initiative, the GCI leverages the capacity and expertise of different organizations, with the objectives of improving the quality of the survey, promoting international cooperation, and expanding knowledge exchanged on this topic. Cyber security is of the utmost importance for defense and security, because it can be used as a tool for terrorism and cause cyber warfare among nations. In addition to preventing cyber warfare, part of maintaining cyber security is through gaining an understanding and control over cyber arms. Digital attacks are the new form of spreading fear and causing destruction and disturbances; therefore, it is a threat to international peace and security. The purpose of developing cyber security is to provide protection from digital attacks; and it is designed to protect networks, electronic systems, and data from malicious attacks.

Cyber Warfare

Cyber warfare involves the actions by a nation-state or international organization to attack and attempt to damage another nation's computers or information networks through, for example, computer viruses or denial-of-service attacks. Cyber warfare is the use of technology to launch attacks on nations, governments, and citizens. The damage caused by cyber warfare is comparable to that of actual warfare involving weaponry. A lack in cyber security allows for foreign threats and transnational interference in governments' operations. It causes disruption to countries' infrastructure and is considered a serious offense. There are different actors in cyber warfare which can vary from individual citizens to governments. The use of social media has made the spreading of fake news and misinformation easier. Users have been urged to beware of fake news, and to understand the difference between information that affirms and information that informs. Digital attacks can be targeted based selected groups' geographic location, consumer spending patterns, and socioeconomic status. Also, attackers can send messages based on political, ethnic, religious, or demographic characteristics of people's browsing history.

While mitigating the fears posed by technological advancements, we must also consider the issues of governance, security, and sovereignty. Cyber security is a complex transnational issue that requires global cooperation for ensuring a safe internet. Threats to cyberspace have increased dramatically in the past year, affecting 431 million adult victims globally, or 1 million cybercrime victims every day. Cybercrime is now a lucrative business, since there is no accurate way of determining who is at fault. Cybercrime exceeds a trillion dollars a year in online fraud, identity theft, and lost intellectual property. People, businesses, and governments are most affected by the criminal activity in cyberspace. Another security issue is the problem of hacking and cyber ransom. Hacking can be done single-handedly by individual, as well as large groups, governments, and government contractors. Ransomware is a type of malware from crypto virology that threatens to publish the victim's data or perpetually block access to it. It is designed to deny access to a computer system or data until a ransom is paid. The use of ransomware in cybercrime started around 2012 and has grown internationally since. Cybercrime highlights the importance of bitcoin and other e-currency in the world today, and how it cannot be easily traced back to the culprit.

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) refers to technologies that provide access to information through telecommunications. It focuses primarily on communication technologies, which includes the Internet, wireless networks, cell phones, and other communication mediums. With growing use and dependency on ICTs, so too grows the risks. This means responding to constantly evolving challenges and cyber threats – which require that all stakeholders be aware of risk factors, have the necessary capabilities and take appropriate action to prevent or address them. To ensure a safe, resilient and secure digital realm – from which all citizens can benefit – countries have to navigate the complex, cross-cutting field of cybersecurity – which involves strategy, technical, legal, policy, and security matters, as well as multi-sector and international collaboration.

Cyber Arms Control

Cyber arms control is another rising issue, because arms control can be inapplicable to cyberspace, since virtual weapons are difficult to control and count. The emergence of a

militarized cyber domain has created unstable conditions that could lead to inadvertent conflict among nations. The multifaceted issues surrounding cyber arms control include difficulty measuring the relative strength of states in cyberspace; uncertainty regarding the military effects of cyber technology; challenges of monitoring compliance; and difficulty with enforcement. Unlike military weapons, nukes, and equipment, cyber arms are difficult to count, cannot be indefinitely destroyed, can be regenerated, and are continuously evolving. Countries such as Russia, China, the United States, Israel, and France have been developing cyber weapons and defense methods to protect them from breaches, but there is no definite way of determining if they have used their cyber weapons or how many they have on hand.

Cyber arms control agreements run the risk of being outdated, intrusive, or restrictive, which makes it difficult to gain state compliance and support for agreements. There is no efficient and accurate way to count virtual weapons, which means there is no accurate way to perform inspections, since malicious software can be developed anywhere and at any time. Distrust in governments has led to "cyber espionage", or the collection of information about another state's internal networks, where different parties can penetrate other states' networks. Since cyber espionage is usually indistinguishable from routine espionage activity for the purposes of monitoring compliance, there is an inability to perceive intent, and the targeted state could respond in an escalatory fashion. Cyber space is already an unstable environment; therefore, attempts to develop cyber arms control agreements could cause instability and distrust between states.

Security Council Action and Committee Directives

The UN is still working diligently to develop a strategy for creating and implementing better cyber legislation to fit today's technologically advanced world. There are no cyber arms agreements in place currently due to the issues addressed above. The Security Council has not passed any directives regarding cyber security specifically; however, the General Assembly resolutions *A/RES/55/63, A/RES/57/239, A/RES/58/199, A/RES/64/211,* and *A/RES/56/121* emphasize the concern of technological advancements, the need for cyber security measures, the new avenues for criminal activity, and how we can combat the criminal misuse of information technologies.

Questions to Consider

Since there are no cyber arms control agreements, what can Member States do to develop some agreements? How will Member States react to new and improved cyber legislation? Think about the importance of cyber security and the ramifications of cyber warfare. How can we resolve this global issue?

History of the Security Council

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