

OFFICIAL WELCOME

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Invitational Model United Nations (IMUN) conference and to the Security Council. During the conference, you will represent your Member States in the most important international security organization in the world. While representing the interests of your nation, you will also have to balance those interests with the collective security obligation that comes from the United Nations Charter.

Today, the United Nations stands at a critical crossroads in its history. While our Security Council still takes on the original form decided by the five victors of the Second World War, you should be cognizant that the balance of power in the world has shifted to actors outside the original permanent five members. Understanding the rise of certain Member States as powerful actors in international security will help make your work in the Council more successful.

This Research Guide has been provided as a resource for your preparation for IMUN '10. In it you will find helpful links which will help you to prepare for the pressing dilemmas you will face as a delegate in the Security Council. You will also be expected to conduct a considerable amount of individual research on your country and of the current security issues facing the world community. Apart from that, you should also stay abreast with the current global events by reading periodicals from all over the world such as Time magazine, The Guardian (UK), Agence France-Presse, BBC, Reuters, The Economist, and others. While it is important that you stay within the spirit of your state's policy, the committee staff will also want to see creative, unique and realistic solutions emanating from the collective work of delegates.

HISTORY

Under the *UN Charter*, the Security Council has the responsibility of maintaining international peace and security, and, as such, is the most powerful body of the United Nations. The Council was founded by the five victors of the Second World War who enjoy permanent membership. Until 1965, apart from the five permanent members there were six rotating elected members. Thereafter, amendments to articles 23 and 27 of the UN Charter came into effect and the number of elected members increased from six to ten. Therefore, today the Security Council is made up of 15 Member States: five are permanent members and the remaining 10 seats rotate every two years among the Member States in the General Assembly. The five permanent members are the People's Republic of China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States. Each of these nations has a "veto power," which means that whenever any one of these countries votes "no" on a resolution, that resolution automatically fails. In order for a resolution to pass, no permanent member can cast a vote in opposition.

TOPIC #1: The Situation in Kyrgyzstan

- What are the underlying causes of ethnic riots between Kyrgyz and Uzbeks? What influence should Russia, China, the United States and United Nations have? How best can the Security Council prevent future governments from nepotism, corruption and growing authoritarianism?

Kyrgyzstan, an impoverished former Soviet republic, was engulfed by the worst ethnic conflict the country has seen in two decades. In April 2010, a series of riots and demonstrations ultimately led to the ousting of President Kurmanbek Bakiyev. Many believed the demonstrations occurred because of growing anger against the Bakiyev administration, a sluggish economy and the government's closure of several media outlets. Weeks after the public revolt, clashes arose in the city of Osh, which quickly spiraled into battles between groups of young men, leading to pillaging of local businesses and homes. Fighting between the Kyrgyz and ethnic Uzbeks left hundreds of people dead and hundreds of thousands fleeing their homes.

At the height of the crisis, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported there were about 300,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Kyrgyzstan as a result of the clashes. The situation in Kyrgyzstan remains urgent and unpredictable, and tensions remain high despite most IDPs have returned home from neighboring Uzbekistan. In the post-riot investigations, former President Bakiyev has been blamed for deliberately attempting to destabilize the interim government. Other factions have offered competing explanations. As delegates, it is your role to examine what lies at the root of the ethnic tensions? How has the government responded to the violence? What is the political backdrop to the crisis? How can the international community assure that such ethnic clashes don't arise again?

TOPIC #2: Political Reconciliation in the Middle East

- What are the major obstacles to a lasting settlement between the Israelis and Palestinians? What practical steps can be taken to create a climate which is conducive to peace? What are the regional dynamics which contribute to the current security situation in the Middle East?

Since Israel's January 2008 'Operation Cast Lead' in the Gaza Strip, the international community once again finds itself seized of a matter of which a solution has alluded diplomats for decades. The situation in the Levant is as politically volatile today as it has ever been over the past sixty years. Over the past year, the state of Israel has experienced a political transformation and the Palestinians have struggled to form a government which provides space for all political ideologies. While the humanitarian situation in Gaza has dramatically worsened over this time, some argue the security situation in the West Bank has improved as a result of American and Jordanian sponsored Palestinian security forces. While the new Israeli government has been reluctant to support a two-state solution, seen for so long as the consensus solution to the conflict, Palestinian factions have been equally unwilling to meet the demands of the international quartet.

Rockets continue to fly from Gaza into Israel; munitions once again flow through underground crossings into the Gaza Strip; Palestinians still move at the whim of a system of Israeli checkpoints put in place after the Al-Aqsa Intifada; the West Bank is still segmented by a security fence, from the Israeli perspective, or an apartheid wall, from the Palestinian; and Israeli settlements are still constructed. These “on the ground realities” fuel many to declare the death of the two-state solution and the peace process as a whole, but as delegates in the Security Council it is your role to examine the conflict from the perspectives of your member states and to work together to craft solutions consistent with the charter's stated role for the Council as the primary advocate for international peace and security.

ANNOTATED BIBOLIGRAPHY

The Situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian Question

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. (December 2003). *Palestine and Israeli: Time for Plan B*. By Nathan Brown. Retrieved July 15, 2010 from <http://carnegieendowment.org/events/?fa=eventDetail&id=1271>

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace is a global think tank which provides expert policy analysis on the world's most pressing issue. This report is authored by Nathan Brown , a professor of political science and international affairs at George Washington University and an expert in Arab politics.

The Council on Foreign Relations. (2009). *Crisis Guide: The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. Retrieved July 15, 2010 from

http://www.cfr.org/publication/13850/crisis_guide.html?breadcrumb=%2F

The Council on Foreign Relations promotes understanding of foreign policy and America's role in the world. This crisis guide provides a rich background on the history and contemporary developments of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The International Crisis Group. (April 2009). Arab-Israeli Conflict. Retrieved July 15, 2010, from <http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=1271&l=1>

The International Crisis Group is one of the leading independent, non-partisan organizations providing analysis and advice to governments and intergovernmental bodies on the prevention and resolution of deadly conflict. The International Crisis Group's Arab-Israeli conflict page provides briefings based on field assessments which should assist delegates in their introductory understanding of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

United Nations Security Council. (1967). Resolution S/RES/242. Retrieved July 20, 2010 from

<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/240/94/IMG/NR024094.pdf?OpenElement>

This is a document that was adopted by the Council following the end of the 1967 Six Day War. It is perhaps the most widely cited Council resolution on the Israeli-Palestinian issue. Delegates should review this Resolution and its different interpretations, as well as the Resolution's most important features – the “land for peace” formula.

The Situation in Kyrgyzstan

International Crisis Group. (June 2010). *Kyrgyz Provincial Government Must Intensify Stabilisation Efforts in the South*. Retrieved July 10, 2010 from <http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/publication-type/media-releases/2010/asia/kyrgyz-provisional-government-must-intensify-stabilisation-efforts-in-south.aspx>

As the situation in southern Kyrgyzstan remains unpredictable and volatile, the International Crisis Group examines how the Provincial Government is handling the situation and urges the government to focus its attention on security concerns and achieving a long-term solution to the many social and humanitarian issues.

CBC News. (June 2010). *Why is This Happening Now?* Retrieved July 17, 2010 from <http://www.cbc.ca/world/story/2010/06/14/f-kyrgyzstan-violence-interview-huskey.html>

Jennifer Clibbon of CBC News examines why one of the poorest countries in Central Asia was convulsed by violence in June 2010. This Q&A article provides insightful views on what sparked the current conflict and evidence that the ethnic violence was a well-orchestrated and well-financed effort by armed groups to provoke conflict between Kyrgyz and Uzbeks.

UN News Centre. (July 2010). *Better Conditions Needed in Kyrgyzstan to Help 75,000 People Still Uprooted*. Retrieved July 19, 2009 from

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=35438&Cr=kyrgyz&Cr1=>

This article looks into what the United Nations needs to do in the aftermath of the ethnic violence that plagued Kyrgyzstan in June 2010. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported instances of detention and harassment in the city of Osh and IDPs having difficulties in accessing basic medical services. Delegates will have access to related stories on the situation in Kyrgyzstan including how the local government can bolster their security forces to stop human rights violations.