
SECURITY COUNCIL

BACKGROUND GUIDE



United Nations
Climate Change

UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2250 (2015)

ON YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

“ Today’s generation of youth is **THE LARGEST** the world has ever known, and... young people often form the majority of the population of **COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY ARMED CONFLICT** ”

“ Disruption of youth’s access to **EDUCATION AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES** has a dramatic impact on durable peace and reconciliation ”



“ Youth should actively be engaged in shaping lasting **PEACE** and contributing to **JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION** ”

“ A large youth population presents **A UNIQUE DEMOGRAPHIC** dividend that can contribute to lasting peace and economic prosperity if **INCLUSIVE POLICIES** are in place ”



PARTICIPATION



PROTECTION



PREVENTION



PARTNERSHIP



DISENGAGEMENT
& REINTEGRATION

UN Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015)

UNSC Resolution 1325, 2000

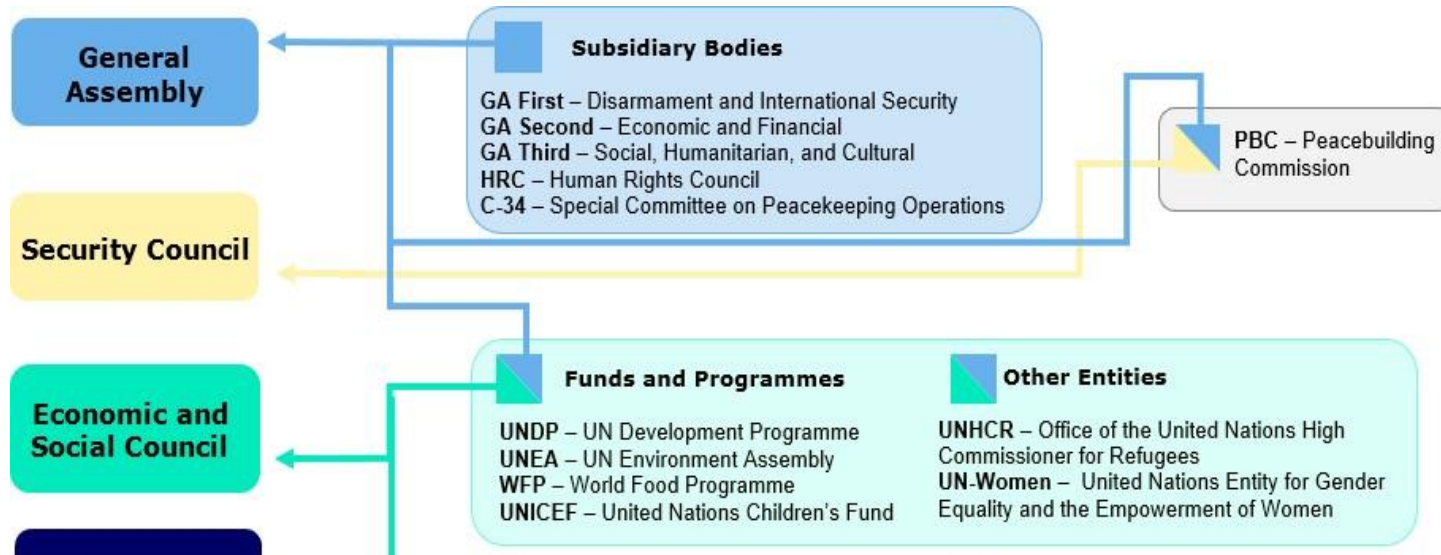
National Action Plan

UNSCR 1325 is a landmark international legal framework that addresses not only the inordinate impact of war on women, but also the pivotal role women should and do play in conflict management, conflict resolution and sustainable peace.

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United Nations System at TEXMUN

This diagram illustrates the UN system simulated at TEXMUN and demonstrates the reportage and relationships between entities. Examine the diagram alongside the Committee Overview to gain a clear picture of the committee's position, purpose, and powers within the UN system.



Committee Overview

Introduction

After the devastating effects of two world wars, the international community established the United Nations (UN) as an intergovernmental organization with the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security, creating the conditions conducive to economic and social development, and advancing universal respect for human rights.¹ The Security Council was established as one of its six principal organs and was given the primary responsibility of preserving international peace and security.²

The Security Council held its first session on 17 January 1946 at Church House in London.³ After its first meeting, the Council relocated to its permanent residence at the UN Headquarters in New York City.⁴ At that time, five permanent members and six non-permanent members comprised the membership of the Council.⁵ However, over subsequent years, discussions regarding the structure of the Council began to take place.⁶ In 1965, the number of non-permanent members increased to 10, and although membership has not changed since then, discussions regarding a change in configuration take place frequently.⁷

Traditionally, the Security Council discusses issues related to peacekeeping missions, political processes, the protection of human rights, disarmament, and humanitarian crises.⁸ However, with the adoption of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2030 Agenda) by the UN General Assembly in 2015, the Security Council began to increasingly focus on the intersection between sustainability, and peace and security.⁹ Some important cross-cutting issues the Council is currently addressing include human rights and the protection of civilians for conflict prevention and sustainable development; women, peace, and security; and the prevention of conflict and sustaining peace.¹⁰ At a meeting on 17 November 2015, members of the Security Council highlighted that the goals outlined in the post-2015 development agenda, particularly Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 on achieving peaceful and inclusive societies, cannot be attained without the promotion of peace and security.¹¹

Governance, Structure, and Membership

The Security Council is the only UN body that has the power to adopt legally binding resolutions, which places an obligation on Member States to accept and carry out the Council's decisions under Article 25 of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945).¹² The Security Council also has a variety of other tools to address issues on its agenda.¹³ For example, the President of the Security Council may issue press statements or presidential statements to communicate the Council's position.¹⁴ Although these are not

¹ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Preamble.

² UN Security Council, *What is the Security Council?*, 2018.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵ Hanhimäki, *The United Nations: A Very Short Introduction*, 2008, p. 32.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ Bourantonis, *The History and Politics of UN Security Council Reform*, 2005, p. 10.

⁸ Council on Foreign Relations, *CFR Backgrounders: The UN Security Council*, 2015; Encyclopaedia Britannica, *United Nations Security Council*, 2014.

⁹ UN General Assembly, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1)*, 2015; UN DPA, *Politically Speaking, Sustaining peace, Conflict Prevention, Human Rights and Sustainable Development High on Agenda for New Security Council Members*, 2018.

¹⁰ UN DPA, *Politically Speaking, Sustaining Peace, Conflict Prevention, Human Rights and Sustainable Development High on Agenda for New Security Council Members*, 2018.

¹¹ Lebeda, *UN Security Council Discusses Links with 2030 Agenda*, *SDG Knowledge Hub*, 2015.

¹² UN Security Council, *What is the Security Council?*, 2018; *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 25.

¹³ UN Security Council, *Functions and Powers*, 2018.

¹⁴ NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, *Mapping Women, Peace and Security in the United Nations Security Council: Report of the NGOWG Monthly Action Points, 2009-2010*, 2010, p. 11.

legally binding, such statements are used to bring attention to important issues and to recommend solutions to ongoing conflicts.¹⁵

Membership

The Security Council is comprised of five permanent members and 10 non-permanent members.¹⁶ The five permanent members of the Security Council are: China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America, often colloquially referred to as the “P5.”¹⁷ Every year, the General Assembly elects five of the 10 non-permanent members for a two-year term.¹⁸ Elections for non-permanent seats on the Council can be competitive, with states expressing interest and campaigning years in advance.¹⁹ States elected to serve on the Security Council are expected to represent the interests of their region; they usually have an influence at the international level and demonstrate leadership in specific areas of interest to their foreign policy.²⁰

Bolivia, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, the Netherlands, Peru, Poland and Sweden are the current non-permanent members for the term 2018-2019.²¹ Security Council elections are held in June, six months before the term starts.²² This change allows Member States sufficient time to prepare for their new role.²³ The 10 non-permanent members represent countries from five groups: Africa, the Asia-Pacific Group, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Eastern European Group, and Western European and Other.²⁴

Presidency

Each member of the Security Council holds the presidency of the Council for one month, rotating according to alphabetical order.²⁵ Security Council meetings can be held at any time when convened by the President, and by the request of any Member State.²⁶ Under Rule 3 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council, the President shall call a meeting if a dispute or situation requires the Council's attention.²⁷ In accordance with the mandate of the Security and the Charter of the UN, the President shall call a meeting if a dispute or situation requires the Council's attention.²⁸

Participation

Any Member State of the UN may attend the Council's sessions if the body decides to extend an invitation.²⁹ Member States are invited if the Security Council is discussing an issue that directly concerns the interests of the Member State.³⁰ Invited Member States do not have the right to vote, but are allowed to submit proposals and draft resolutions.³¹ Furthermore, invited Member States can inform the Council

¹⁵ NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, *Mapping Women, Peace and Security in the United Nations Security Council: Report of the NGOWG Monthly Action Points, 2009-2010*, 2010, p. 15.

¹⁶ UN Security Council, *Current members*, 2018.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ UN DPI, *Ahead of Security Council elections, General Assembly President explains how a country can get a non-permanent seat*, 2016.

²⁰ Bourantonis, *The History and Politics of UN Security Council Reform*, 2005, p. 6.

²¹ UN Security Council, *Current members*, 2017.

²² UN General Assembly, *Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly (A/RES/68/307)*, 2014, p. 4.

²³ UN DPI, *Ahead of Security Council elections, General Assembly President explains how a country can get a non-permanent seat*, 2016.

²⁴ UN General Assembly, *Rules of procedure*, 2017.

²⁵ UN Security Council, *Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council (S/96/Rev.7)*, 1982.

²⁶ UN Security Council, *Repertoire of the practice of the Security Council*, 2017.

²⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 31.

³¹ UN Security Council, *Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council (S/96/Rev.7)*, 1982.

about a current crisis in their region.³² However, such proposals may only be put to a vote at the request of a member of the Council.³³

Subsidiary Organs

The Security Council consists of many subsidiary bodies established under Article 29 of the Charter, including: the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, sanctions committees, and ad hoc committees, such as the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on Namibia, among others.³⁴ Aside from these subsidiary bodies, the Security Council also works with the General Assembly to oversee the work of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC).³⁵ Additionally, Security Council Member States participate in various working groups, which discuss the topics of concern of the Security Council.³⁶ These working groups consist of some or all of the Security Council Member States and focus on regional issues, as well as improving the working methods of the Security Council itself.³⁷ For example, established by Security Council resolution 1612 (2005), the Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict recommends possible measures to the Council on promoting the protection of children affected by armed conflict.³⁸ The Security Council is also responsible for determining if, when, and where a peacekeeping operation is needed.³⁹ The Security Council creates a peacekeeping operation by adopting a resolution that outlines the mandate and size of a particular mission.⁴⁰

Voting

Every Member State of the Security Council has one vote.⁴¹ Votes on all matters require a majority of nine Member States.⁴² 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.⁴³ This is known as “veto power.”⁴⁴ In the 1950s, Security Council Member States, in particular the former Soviet Union, made frequent use of their veto power, but its usage declined in the 1960s, rising again in the 1970s and 1980s.⁴⁵ In the last decades, the use of the veto power has been a comparatively rare.⁴⁶ In recent years, the Council has adopted many resolutions by consensus and has only been divided on a very limited number of issues, a prominent recent example being the case of Syria.⁴⁷

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.⁴⁸ The Council’s authority is particularly relevant with respect to the UN’s four primary purposes, as specified in the *Charter of the United Nations*: maintaining international peace and security; developing friendly relations among nations; cooperating in solving international problems; and promoting respect for human rights, as well as being a center for harmonizing

³² Ibid.

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ UN Security Council, *Structure*, 2018.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ UN Security Council, *Repertoire of the practice of the Security Council*, 2018.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ UN Security Council, *Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict*, 2018.

³⁹ UN Peacekeeping, *Role of the Security Council*.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 27.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Hanhimäki, *The United Nations: A Very Short Introduction*, 2008, p. 52.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Security Council Report, *In Hindsight: The Veto*, 2013; Security Council Report, *The Permanent Members and the Use of the Veto: An Abridged History*, 2013.

⁴⁶ Security Council Report, *The Permanent Members and the Use of the Veto: An Abridged History*, 2013.

⁴⁷ Security Council Report, *In Hindsight: Consensus in the Security Council*, 2014; Security Council Report, *In Hindsight: The Veto*, 2013.

⁴⁸ UN Security Council, *What is the Security Council?*, 2018.

the actions of nations.⁴⁹ Chapters VI and VII of the Charter specifically concern the Security Council and the range of actions that can be taken when settling disputes.⁵⁰ Chapter VI by itself aims to settle disputes through peaceful means, such as negotiation and judicial settlement. Additionally, according to Chapter VI, the role of the Security Council is to determine the severity of the dispute brought before the body and the impact of the dispute internationally.⁵¹ Chapter VII explores further actions that can be taken in regard to threats to peace, breaches of peace, and acts of aggression.⁵² This chapter also authorizes the Security Council to implement provisional measures aimed to de-escalate the situation.⁵³

The Charter also provides the Security Council with several powers to guarantee international security, which include sanctions, diplomatic tools, military action, and international and regional partnerships.⁵⁴ Under Article 41 in the Charter, the Council can call on its members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or end violence.⁵⁵ Some of these measures include arms embargos, enforcing disarmament, or calling upon international criminal mechanisms to become active.⁵⁶ Regarding diplomatic tools, the Council is mandated to investigate any dispute or situation that might lead to aggression between states, with other non-state groups, or within states' territories.⁵⁷ Aside from diplomatic instruments, the Council may also take military action against a state or other entity threatening international peace and security, and may further decide on the deployment of troops or observers.⁵⁸ Article 39 of the Charter states that the Council "shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression."⁵⁹ The Council may also decide upon the deployment of new UN peacekeeping operations to be led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO).⁶⁰ The Council also cooperates with a number of international and regional organizations as well as non-governmental organizations to implement its decisions.⁶¹ Cooperation between the Security Council and other entities, such as the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and International Atomic Energy Agency, is significant.⁶² Partnerships with independent regional organizations, such as the European Union and the African Union, are also of paramount importance for addressing a broad range of issues such as terrorism, disarmament, nuclear non-proliferation, and extreme violence from non-state actors.⁶³

Recent Sessions and Current Priorities

In 2018, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2423 (2018) to extend the mandate of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) until 30 June 2019.⁶⁴ Some priorities of MINUSMA include assisting with the implementation of the Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali; providing support for the Government of Mali to re-establish state authority; strengthening efforts to enhance coordination between civil, military and police components; and creating a secure environment for the delivery of humanitarian assistance.⁶⁵

With the aim of renewing the measures and provisions outlined in resolution 2205 (2015), which first established the South Sudan Sanctions regime, the Security Council adopted resolution 2428 (2018) on

⁴⁹ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 1.

⁵⁰ *Ibid.*

⁵¹ *Ibid.*, Art. 34.

⁵² *Ibid.*, Art. 1.

⁵³ *Ibid.*, Art. 40.

⁵⁴ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945; UN Security Council, *Functions and Powers*, 2018.

⁵⁵ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 41.

⁵⁶ Malone, *The UN Security Council: From the Cold War to the 21st Century*, 2004, p. 111.

⁵⁷ UN Security Council, *Functions and Powers*, 2018.

⁵⁸ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*

⁶⁰ UN DPKO, *Forming a New Operation*.

⁶¹ UN Security Council, *Repertoire of the practice of the Security Council*, 2018.

⁶² UN Security Council, *Structure*, 2018; UN Security Council, *Middle East (S/RES/2118(2013))*, 2013.

⁶³ *Ibid.*

⁶⁴ UN MINUSMA, *Mandate*, 2018.

⁶⁵ UN Security Council, *The situation in Mali (S/RES/2423 (2018))*, 2018, pp. 8-12.

13 July 2018.⁶⁶ This resolution calls on all Member States to enforce the arms embargo against South Sudan until 31 May 2019 by taking necessary measures to prevent the direct or indirect supply of arms and other types of weapons and military-related equipment.⁶⁷ The resolution also notes that the Council may impose targeted sanctions on any individuals or entities who directly or indirectly threaten the peace, security, or stability of South Sudan.⁶⁸

Debates on the occupied Palestinian Territory and Gaza are also ongoing in the Security Council.⁶⁹ In monthly discussions, the Security Council has discussed the fundamental right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and independence; the right of Israelis and Palestinians to coexist side by side in peace, based on a two-state solution that results from direct, peaceful dialogue between all parties involved; and the importance of a multilateral approach to the issue.⁷⁰ Further, many members of the Security Council remain concerned about the escalation of violence and the deteriorating humanitarian situation in Gaza, which may threaten stability in the region and prevent progress toward a peaceful solution to the matter.⁷¹

The Security Council also discusses cross-cutting and thematic issues, such as women, peace, and security and climate change, peace, and security; on 16 April 2018, the Security Council held a General Debate on “Preventing sexual violence in conflict through empowerment, gender equality and access to justice.”⁷² At this session, the Council stressed that prevention of sexual violence requires addressing the root causes of conflict; strengthening security services and judicial systems; promoting gender equality; and involving all stakeholders in finding solutions to conflict-related sexual violence.⁷³

On 11 July 2018, the Council convened a session to discuss the impacts of climate change on peace and security.⁷⁴ At this session, members of the Security Council recognized climate change as a cause and exacerbating factor in humanitarian crises and conflicts.⁷⁵ Despite this recognition of the seriousness of climate change and its impacts, the Security Council was unable to agree on the degree to which the Council should be involved in this issue.⁷⁶ Specifically, some members argued that the Council must address climate change as a risk to peace and security, while others worried that significant involvement may unnecessarily expand the mandate of the Council or interfere with the work of other UN entities.⁷⁷

Conclusion

The Security Council plays an important role in international affairs, especially in matters related to peace and security.⁷⁸ The Council also has a uniquely impactful mandate to set norms and govern state actions, as all Member States are required to comply with the Security Council’s legally-binding decisions.⁷⁹ Although the Security Council is first and foremost the primary UN entity responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda signaled the

⁶⁶ UN DPI, *Security Council Decides to Renew Sanctions against Officials in South Sudan by Vote of 9 in Favor, with 6 abstentions (SC/13361)*, 2018.

⁶⁷ UN Security Council, *Reports of the Secretary-General on the Sudan and South Sudan (S/RES/2428 (2018))*, 2018, p. 2.

⁶⁸ *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4.

⁶⁹ Security Council Report, *Chronology of Events: Israel/Palestine*, 2018.

⁷⁰ UN Security Council, *Summary Record of the 8167th meeting (S/PV.8167)*, 2018, p. 44.

⁷¹ UN Security Council, *Summary Record of the 8316th meeting (S/PV.8316)*, 2018.

⁷² UN DPA, *Security Council Reporting and Mandate Cycles*, 2018; Security Council Report, *Thematic and General Issues*, 2018.

⁷³ UN Security Council, *Summary Record of the 8234th meeting (S/PV. 8234)*, 2018.

⁷⁴ Mead, UN Security Council Addresses Climate Change as a Security Risk, *SDG Knowledge Hub*, 2018.

⁷⁵ UN DPI, *Addressing Security Council, Pacific Island President Calls Climate Change Defining Issue of Next Century, Calls for Special Representative on Issue (SC/13417)*, 2018.

⁷⁶ Mead, UN Security Council Addresses Climate Change as a Security Risk, *SDG Knowledge Hub*, 2018.

⁷⁷ UN DPI, *Addressing Security Council, Pacific Island President Calls Climate Change Defining Issue of Next Century, Calls for Special Representative on Issue (SC/13417)*, 2018.

⁷⁸ UN Security Council, *What is the Security Council?*, 2018.

⁷⁹ *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945, Art. 25.

increasing need to also discuss the linkages between peace, security, and issues of human security and development.⁸⁰ The Security Council also continues to address regional and country issues, as well as thematic issues, such as climate change and gender.⁸¹

Annotated Bibliography

Charter of the United Nations. (1945). Retrieved 13 September 2018 from: <http://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/index.html>

As the fundamental principles of the Security Council are written down in the Charter, this document should be the first resource for delegates to consider. Article 23, which set the membership structure, and articles 23 to 26, which discuss its basic functions and powers, are important for understanding both the structure and function of the Security Council. In addition, articles 27 to 32 explain the Council's voting procedure and its overall structure. The Charter can also be particularly helpful for delegates in understanding the powers and limitations of the body. Delegates will find Chapters VI and VII most helpful when researching the mandate of the Security Council, and proposing actions and solutions.

Hanhimäki, J. M. (2008). *The United Nations: A Very Short Introduction.* New York, New York: Oxford University Press.

While giving a brief overview of the history, structure, mandate, and perspective of the UN in general, this volume also includes a comprehensive section on the Security Council, as well as a separate chapter on peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The book offers a succinct explanation of the Council's political and operational constraints, including the veto power principle. It further provides delegates with a general overview of the importance of the Security Council for international security from its creation until now. Due to its comprehensive contents, this book may serve delegates as a first starting point for further research on the Security Council as well as on international multilateralism.

Lebada, A.M. (2015, November 25). *UN Security Council Discusses Links with 2030 Agenda.* SDG Knowledge Hub. Retrieved 13 September 2018 from: <http://sdg.iisd.org/news/un-security-council-discusses-links-with-2030-agenda/>

This news article highlights the debate held by the Security Council on 17 November 2015 on the links between the post-2015 development agenda, and peace and security. The article also provides perspectives on the links between development and the security of individual members of the Security Council. Additionally, this source will provide delegates themselves with the opportunity to think about the relationship between the post-2015 development agenda and peace and security. In particular, the source may further help delegates analyze the ways in which the cross-cutting issues that the Security Council discusses connect to goals outlined in the post-2015 development agenda.

United Nations Department of Political Affairs. (2018). *Security Council Reporting and Mandate Cycles* [Report]. Retrieved 13 September 2018 from: <http://www.un.org/en/sc/inc/pages/pdf/sccycles.pdf>

Published by the UN Department of Political Affairs, this document provides information on the work and decisions of the Security Council, including resolutions and presidential statements. The document primarily consists of tables on items that have been discussed by the Security Council, various requests by the Security Council, and mandates of different entities and operations that report to the Council. This report will help delegates by providing succinct and clear information on the recent actions taken by the Security

⁸⁰ UN DPA Politically Speaking, *Sustaining peace, Conflict Prevention, Human Rights and Sustainable Development High on Agenda for New Security Council Members*, 2018.

⁸¹ UN DPI, *Fragile countries risk being 'stuck in a cycle of conflict and climate disaster,' Security Council told*, 2018; UN DPI, *Women vital for 'new paradigm' in Africa's Sahel region, Security Council hears*, 2018.

Council on its various thematic issues. Additionally, delegates may find the tables providing the actual clauses of different Security Council resolutions particularly helpful to their research.

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2017). *Highlights of Security Council Practice 2017* [Report]. Retrieved 13 September 2018 from: https://unite.un.org/sites/unite.un.org/files/app-schighlights-2017/doc/highlights_of_security_council_practice_2017.pdf

This document provides data on the work of the Security Council for the year 2017. The report primarily consists of graphs and diagrams, which provide data on the number of meetings of the Security Council, number of Security Council missions by region, and voting records of the committee. With these graphs and diagrams, delegates will find this document easy to read and understand. Delegates will also find this document helpful as they learn about the ways in which the Security Council functions. Moreover, the data provided in the report can help delegates visualize the practice and work of the Security Council.

United Nations, Security Council. (2017). *What is the Security Council?* [Website]. Retrieved 13 September 2018 from: <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/>

This website gives an overview of the Security Council's history, its mandate, and its basic functions and powers. It should be considered one of the most important resources for delegates' further research, since it provides detailed information about how the Security Council works in practice. The website also contains the body's provisional rules of procedure and a section on frequently asked questions. The latter is particularly useful when it comes to understanding the Council's functions and powers. Delegates will find on this website detailed information about the Council's recent sessions as well as other relevant outputs, which will aid in further research.

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I. Youth, Peace and Security

Introduction

Due to the growing inter-connectedness of the world, global policymakers are recognizing the importance of youth in achieving sustainable development, peace, and security.⁸² With a population of 1.8 billion, today's generation of youth is one of the largest ever seen in history.⁸³ However, many youth are also disproportionately affected by conflict, with most fragile states having a median age that is below 25.⁸⁴ Compounded with other factors such as poverty and inequality, statistics show that young individuals, particularly youth in Africa and south and southeast Asia, tend to have a lower life expectancy due in large part to high rates of crime, violence, and civil conflict.⁸⁵ Despite being adversely affected by conflict and violence such as sexual violence, coercion, and lack of education, youth are often stigmatized in these situations.⁸⁶ Recent research suggests that youth have been traditionally viewed as “problems to be solved” rather than partners in developing solutions to pressing challenges.⁸⁷ This is shown through examples such as poor representation in governance and high youth unemployment.⁸⁸ Recent events such as the Arab Spring and the rise of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and Boko Haram, where youth are recruited into extremist groups, have perpetuated a narrative that youth are disruptive and catalysts for instability.⁸⁹ In response, the international community has been developing frameworks to help better address the role and involvement of youth on key issues, especially peace and security.⁹⁰

There is no universally agreed upon definition of youth, though various resolutions have described and characterized this group.⁹¹ In 1995, General Assembly resolution 50/81 defined youth as a group of individuals between 15 – 24 years of age.⁹² The *World Programme of Action for Youth* (1995) generally uses this definition for the sake of statistical consistency across regions, however this is done without prejudice to other definitions outlined by Member States and other definitions are used by different entities.⁹³ Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) on “Youth, Peace and Security” defines youth, within the context of the resolution, as persons between the ages of 18 – 29.⁹⁴ Through the advocacy of civil society and support from several Member States, the international community convened several meetings, such as the Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security during August of 2015, which eventually led to the adoption of Security Council resolution 2250.⁹⁵ This, among other frameworks has provided foundation to engage more productively on this topic through implementing policies that include youth in peace processes and political decision-making, tying socio-economic initiatives to the topic, and building robust partnerships.⁹⁶

International and Regional Framework

The *Declaration on the Promotion Among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and Understanding Between Peoples*, adopted by the General Assembly in 1965, contains some of the earliest principles that outline youth's role in international peace and security.⁹⁷ This declaration outlines

⁸² UN General Assembly, *World programme of action for youth for the year 2000 and beyond (A/RES/50/81)*, 1995.

⁸³ Youth4Peace, *The Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2015.

⁸⁴ UNFPA, *State of the World Population 2014*, 2014, p. 6.

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ Ibid.

⁸⁷ Search for Common Ground, *Global Youth Summit Against Violent Extremism*, 2015.

⁸⁸ UNFPA, *State of the World Population 2014*, 2014.

⁸⁹ Search for Common Ground, *Global Youth Summit Against Violent Extremism*, 2015.

⁹⁰ UNDP, *Youth Global Programme for Sustainable Development and Peace | Youth-GPS 2016 – 2020*, 2018.

⁹¹ UN DESA, *Definition of Youth*.

⁹² UN General Assembly, *World programme of action for youth for the year 2000 and beyond (A/RES/50/81)*, 1995.

⁹³ UN DESA, *Definition of Youth*.

⁹⁴ UN Security Council, *Youth, Peace and Security (S/RES/2250 (2015))*, 2015.

⁹⁵ Youth4Peace, *UNSCR 2250 | Introduction*.

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ UN General Assembly, *Declaration on the Promotion Among Youth of the Ideals of Peace, Mutual Respect and*

Understanding Between Peoples (A/RES/2037(XX)), 1965.

six principles that emphasize that youth should be raised and educated in the spirit of peace, justice, freedom, and dignity, and be provided with the facilities and capacity to take part in cultural exchanges.⁹⁸ The youth, peace, and security agenda has since developed out of various collaborative initiatives and frameworks between civil society, the United Nations, and Member States.⁹⁹ In 1995, the General Assembly adopted the *World Programme of Action for Youth* (1995), which outlined 15 policy frameworks and guidelines to help support youth on several social, economic, and political issues, such as increasing employment and educational opportunities.¹⁰⁰ The program of action highlights frameworks and guidelines on protecting youth from armed conflict, reintegrating those involved back into society, and promoting youth's active involvement in maintaining peace and security.¹⁰¹

The exact subject of youth, peace, and security was further explored in August of 2015 at the Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security in Amman, Jordan, which brought together non-governmental organizations, governments, and UN entities.¹⁰² The forum yielded the *Amman Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security* (1995), which calls for action in increasing youth participation in governance, recognizing youth-based networks and associations, reducing gender-based violence, and investing in youth socio-economic development.¹⁰³ These areas are youth participation and leadership in peace and security, youth preventing violence and building peace, gender equality, and young people's socio-economic empowerment.¹⁰⁴

Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) is the landmark resolution that helped catalyze other initiatives on this topic and advance the agenda of youth inclusion in peace and security.¹⁰⁵ The resolution identifies five areas of action: participation, protection, prevention, partnerships, and disengagement.¹⁰⁶ This is the first UN Security Council resolution that directly calls for Member States to consider establishing mechanisms that will enable youth to meaningfully contribute to peace processes.¹⁰⁷

The *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015) and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) also play an integral role in supporting the youth, peace, and security agenda.¹⁰⁸ Though the SDGs help reinforce peace and security through setting and tracking improvements in many socio-economic indicators, they also introduced the first global goal related to measuring progress in peace, justice, and strong institutions, SDG 16.¹⁰⁹ Many of the targets and indicators for SDG 16 strongly reinforce the youth, peace, and security agenda, such as strengthening inclusive participation in decision-making processes and ending exploitation of children.¹¹⁰

In July 2016, the General Assembly fully welcomed the plan of action in its fifth review of the *Global Counter Terrorism Strategy* by adopting resolution 70/291.¹¹¹ The plan outlines seven pillars to address the growth and spread of violent extremism, with one pillar specifically focusing on youth empowerment.¹¹² The resolution emphasizes that the international community must identify better tools to support young people in taking up causes of peace, especially as current methods that connect society, such as technology, are being exploited by violent extremists.¹¹³ In a similar tone to previous frameworks,

⁹⁸ Ibid.

⁹⁹ Youth4Peace, *The Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2015.

¹⁰⁰ UN General Assembly, *World programme of action for youth for the year 2000 and beyond (A/RES/50/81)*, 1995.

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

¹⁰² Youth4Peace, *The Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2015.

¹⁰³ Global Forum on Youth, Peace and Security, *Amman Youth Declaration on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2015.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid.

¹⁰⁵ Youth4Peace, *UNSCR 2250 | Introduction*.

¹⁰⁶ UN Security Council, *Youth, Peace and Security (S/RES/2250 (2015))*, 2015.

¹⁰⁷ Ibid.

¹⁰⁸ Risse, *Youth Initiatives Foster SDG Implementation, Peace and Security*, 2018.

¹⁰⁹ UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Goal 16*, 2018.

¹¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹¹ UN General Assembly, *Plan of Action to Prevent Violence Extremism (A/70/674)*, 2015.

¹¹² Ibid.

¹¹³ Ibid.

this pillar directs the international community to promote the participation of youth in discussions and decision-making processes between stakeholders, and to support activities that facilitate their empowerment.¹¹⁴

Role of the International System

The Security Council has invested resources on this topic and commissioned a study, as authorized in resolution 2250 (2015), on “Youth, Peace and Security” to help better identify areas of engagement.¹¹⁵ This study was conducted over the course of 18 months and involved the input and voices of thousands of youth actors across the globe.¹¹⁶ The report, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security* (2018), was published in October 2018 and explores the contributions of youth involvement in peace and security and highlighted key areas of focus and policy recommendations to be considered by Member States.¹¹⁷ This study has been instrumental in identifying key areas for the international community to understand and engage in the topic.¹¹⁸ It highlights key issues within the context of youth, peace, and security, specifically mentions the need to bolster the participation of youth as stakeholders and to form stronger partnerships between government, the private sector, and civil society that lend support to this issue.¹¹⁹ The report draws upon hundreds of interviews with youth representatives from various points of view, such as those from civil society groups.¹²⁰

The Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth is the primary entity responsible for streamlining the UN’s youth efforts, and it is guided by its four principles of participation, advocacy, partnerships, and harmonization.¹²¹ Under its advocacy principle, the envoy on youth gives special focus to promoting the youth, peace, and security agenda and specifically the implementation of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015).¹²² For example, the office has been involved in leading advocacy efforts to encourage UN offices to adopt policies that align with resolution 2250.¹²³

The UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD) is the UN’s principle working group on all matters related to youth development, including youth, peace, and security.¹²⁴ Consisting of over 50 entities, this working group has 15 priority areas of work, including youth participation in peacebuilding, and it supports and reviews the implementation of UN resolutions, conventions, and international goals related to youth.¹²⁵ The Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding (WG-YPB) is a working group housed in IANYD and co-chaired by the UN Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO), the United Network of Youth Peacebuilders, and Search for Common Ground.¹²⁶ The WG-YPB brings together a coalition of civil society organizations, donors, UN entities, and governmental bodies that focus on the role of youth in peacebuilding.¹²⁷ The working group focuses on building a community and culture that implements evidence-based practice for activities in youth, peace, and security.¹²⁸ Moreover, it developed the *Guiding Principles on Young People’s Participation in Peacebuilding* (2014), which defines the principles of how to meaningfully involve youth in peacebuilding activities and influenced the policy discussions that led to the adoption of resolution 2250 (2015).¹²⁹

¹¹⁴ Ibid.

¹¹⁵ UN PBSO & UNFPA, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. ii.

¹¹⁶ Ibid.

¹¹⁷ Ibid., p. 2.

¹¹⁸ Ibid., p. 3.

¹¹⁹ Ibid., p. 3.

¹²⁰ UN PBSO & UNFPA, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018.

¹²¹ UN Office of the Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth, *Envoy’s Workplan*.

¹²² Ibid.

¹²³ Ibid.

¹²⁴ UN DESA, *UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development*, 2018.

¹²⁵ Ibid.

¹²⁶ Youth4Peace, *Inter-Agency Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding*.

¹²⁷ Ibid.

¹²⁸ Ibid.

¹²⁹ Ibid.

The UN Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) is the primary UN body that deliberates peacebuilding initiatives and their implementation.¹³⁰ As the commission takes on a broader scope of work to address social and economic drivers of conflict, the PBC is positioned to play a central role to build partnerships to support ongoing peacebuilding work, including the realization of the youth, peace, and security agenda.¹³¹ The PBSO is the primary office that coordinates and supports peacebuilding efforts within the UN system; it does so by providing strategic advice and policy guidance and administering the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF).¹³² The PBF specifically delivers financial support to over 120 projects in 25 countries that aim to build peace.¹³³ The PBF also supports the youth, peace and, security agenda through its various initiatives, such as the Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative in 2018.¹³⁴ This initiative supports the empowerment of women and youth as central stakeholders within the UN's peacebuilding efforts.¹³⁵ The initiative allocates funds to support the implementation of relevant frameworks including Security Council resolution 2250.¹³⁶

Soon after the Global Forum on Youth, the Global Youth Summit Against Violent Extremism was convened in New York in September 2015.¹³⁷ This summit amplified the calls for action laid out in the Amman Declaration and focused on promoting the role of youth as change-makers and active stakeholders in countering violent extremism.¹³⁸ This emphasis was meant to counter the narrative that youth are a security problem to be solved and to instead, build a culture of inclusion that encourages youth to be part of the solution.¹³⁹ Furthermore, in 2016 the Secretary-General report on "Peacebuilding and sustaining peace" was adopted by the General Assembly and Security Council through General Assembly resolution 70/262 (2016) and Security Council resolution 2282 (2016).¹⁴⁰ The resolutions welcomed the report, which underscores the role that youth have in contributing to international peace and security efforts.¹⁴¹

Representation in Peace and Security Activities

Many existing frameworks on youth, peace, and security emphasize that having youth meaningfully participate and engage in peacebuilding activities, policy conversations, and peace mediation is crucial for the advancement of this agenda.¹⁴² However, there remains a persistent absence of youth participation in peace activities, such as negotiation and mediation processes.¹⁴³ Exclusion from peace processes and security decisions can exclude youth from decision-making processes that impact their livelihoods, risking them feeling disenfranchised; in some cases, this can lead to youth further distrusting state-led peace and security initiatives and thereby exacerbate instability.¹⁴⁴

The commissioned research report, the Missing Peace, identifies many challenges to meaningful participation of youth in key peace and decision-making processes.¹⁴⁵ One such challenge is the persistent stereotyping of youth as violent "spoilers of peace" that act as disruptive forces to stability,

¹³⁰ UN PBC, *United Nations Peacebuilding Commission*, 2018.

¹³¹ UN PBC, *Statement of the Chair*, 2018.

¹³² UN PBSO, *About*, 2018.

¹³³ UN PBF, *PBF at a Glance*, 2015.

¹³⁴ UN PBSO, *About GYPI 2018*, 2018.

¹³⁵ *Ibid.*

¹³⁶ *Ibid.*

¹³⁷ Search for Common Ground, *Global Youth Summit Against Violent Extremism*, 2015.

¹³⁸ *Ibid.*

¹³⁹ UN DPI, *Young People Powerful Agents for Resolving, Preventing Conflict, Speakers Tell Security Council Open Debate amid Calls to Change Negative Stereotypes*, 2018.

¹⁴⁰ Ponzio, *The UN's new "Sustaining Peace" Agenda: A Policy Breakthrough in the Making*, 2018.

¹⁴¹ UN General Assembly & UN Security Council, *Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: Report of the Secretary-General (A/72/707-S/2018/43)*, 2018.

¹⁴² UN PBSO & UNFPA, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. i.

¹⁴³ *Ibid.*

¹⁴⁴ Conciliation-Resources, *Youth Perspectives on Peace and Security: South Sudan, 2018*

¹⁴⁵ UN PBSO & UNFPA, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018.

further perpetuating social stigmatization.¹⁴⁶ Moreover, the study identifies that while young men were common perpetrators of violence, policies and views that reinforced this narrative only strengthened negative perceptions of young men.¹⁴⁷ The study highlights that harmful narratives are used to justify harsh and oppressive security measures such as harsh criminal penalties and counter-terrorism operations.¹⁴⁸ Such security measures have also been used as a means to exclude youth from taking part in policymaking discussions and activities related to security at the local and national level.¹⁴⁹ This is especially harmful when the conflict in question has a strong youth element, such as the widespread use of child soldiers and the recruitment and radicalization of young men.¹⁵⁰

Effective approaches to better include youth in governance and decision-making require platforms to engage in local and national issues to educate and empower youth.¹⁵¹ The Missing Peace emphasizes that protecting the rights of youth is crucial to helping them realize their rights and ability to positively engage in political and economic activities within their communities.¹⁵² Such activities can range from preserving the rule of law institutions, especially post-conflict or fragile states in transition, to setting up frameworks for safe spaces that promote dialogue in communities.¹⁵³ One example is Conciliation-Resources, a UK-based global peacebuilding NGO, that set up youth “peace platforms” that created spaces for youth to engage on issues related to their community without fear of violence or reprisal.¹⁵⁴

Societal Inclusion and Prevention

Many states that have large youth populations and experience violence and fragility also suffer from conditions that reinforce poor societal cohesion.¹⁵⁵ The World Bank Group’s recent report, *Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violence*, suggests that policies that promote social and economic inclusion can help reduce violence.¹⁵⁶ One of the main pillars of Security Council resolution 2250 is prevention, which focuses on building societal conditions that strengthen youth resilience and prevent violence and conflict.¹⁵⁷ This effort aims to ensure that youth are an integral part of building societal cohesion, especially in pursuing economic opportunities and education.¹⁵⁸

The UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs reported that less than 2% of parliamentarians around the world are in their 20s, showing that under-representation of youth in decision-making is still a widespread issue.¹⁵⁹ Corruption and patronage systems have been identified as a key barrier in preventing youth from meaningfully partaking in civic activities, such as running for political office.¹⁶⁰ This has created a strong demand to voice concerns and needs, but youth are often shut out from normal outlets of civic participation, such as running for office.¹⁶¹ Economic inclusion and opportunity is also

¹⁴⁶ Ibid., p. x.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid., p. 16.

¹⁴⁸ Ibid.

¹⁴⁹ UNDP, *Guiding Principles for Young People’s Participation in Peacebuilding*.

¹⁵⁰ Global Partnership for Children and Youth in Peacebuilding, *Evaluation of Child and Youth Participation in Peacebuilding: Nepal, Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, Colombia*, 2015.

¹⁵¹ UN PBSO & UNFPA, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. 25.

¹⁵² Ibid., p. 25.

¹⁵³ Ibid., p. 25.

¹⁵⁴ Conciliation-Resources, *Creating safe spaces for youth to build peace*, 2018.

¹⁵⁵ UNDP, *Guiding Principles for Young People’s Participation in Peacebuilding*.

¹⁵⁶ Global Partnership for Children and Youth in Peacebuilding, *Evaluation of Child and Youth Participation in Peacebuilding: Nepal, Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, Colombia*, 2015.

¹⁵⁷ World Bank Group, *As Conflicts Surge Across the World, New Approaches to Prevention Can Save Lives and Money – Up to \$70 Billion Per Year*, 2018.

¹⁵⁸ UN Security Council, *Youth, Peace and Security (S/RES/2250 (2015))*, 2015.

¹⁵⁹ United Network of Young Peacebuilders, *Security Council Resolution 2250: Annotated and Explained*, p. 14.

¹⁶⁰ UNDP & UN DESA, *Youth, Political Participation and Decision-Making*.

¹⁶¹ UN PBSO & UNFPA, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. 64.

¹⁶¹ Ibid., p. 64.

critical to youth, peace and, security, as it is integral to societal inclusion and well-being.¹⁶² *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security* (2018) acknowledged that violence and instability disrupts economic opportunities, often forcing youth to take up work in the informal economy, which can lead to involvement in illicit activities, including the trafficking of drugs, humans, and weapons; these can in turn be used to support terrorism, armed militants, and transnational criminal groups.¹⁶³

Gender mainstreaming is another important cross-cutting issue in building resiliency and cohesion.¹⁶⁴ For instance, conflict adversely impacts young women through sexual violence, forced migration, and deprivation of education and economic opportunities.¹⁶⁵ Harmful narratives also characterize young women as passive victims, instead of stakeholders meant to take part in solution-building.¹⁶⁶ New research suggests that increased opportunities need to be coupled with increased avenues for civic engagement.¹⁶⁷ The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women suggests that governments should aim to find synergies between Security Council resolutions 2250 (2015) and 1325 (2000) to enhance efforts for the inclusion for young women in national peace and security decisions.¹⁶⁸ Further, Security Council resolution 2419 (2018) calls for the Secretary-General's special envoys to take special consideration in including young women in the participation of decision-making processes and for Member States to do more in combating stereotypes that perpetuate violence against young women.¹⁶⁹

Partnerships for Youth, Peace and Security

To help catalyze action on youth, peace, and security, the Missing Peace recommends that robust steps be taken to help build effective partnerships that would draw more resources and awareness.¹⁷⁰ One of the key recommended areas for facilitating effective partnerships is in opening more avenues for dialogue and accountability for the youth, peace, and security agenda, especially within the UN and Security Council.¹⁷¹ This is an especially important step in holding actors accountable to the general principles of the initiative, especially as not many concrete steps have been taken to implement policies in the youth, peace, and security agenda.¹⁷² More robust mechanisms are needed in order to create a culture that would hold actors accountable to these frameworks and to encourage stakeholders to take concrete steps to support implementation.¹⁷³

In order to broaden the participation of youth within the UN system, the progress report encourages the UN Secretariat to build synergies to address youth-related issues between its different offices and envoys.¹⁷⁴ Facilitating such partnerships through the UN system helps streamline policies and action at the international, regional, and local levels.¹⁷⁵ The study recommends the creation of an informal expert group to provide policy advice, to streamlining Security Council resolution 2250 in peacekeeping and peacebuilding mandates, and to ensure that such mandates encompass an approach tailored toward youth issues.¹⁷⁶ Actions can include appointing a lead youth adviser to key UN offices and agencies,

¹⁶² Ibid., p. 92.

¹⁶³ Ibid., p. 92.

¹⁶⁴ UNDP, *Guiding Principles for Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding*, 2016.

¹⁶⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶⁶ UN-Women, *Young Women in Peace and Security: At the Intersection of the YPS and WPS Agenda*, 2018.

¹⁶⁷ UN Department of Public Information, *Young People Powerful Agents for Resolving, Preventing Conflict, Speakers Tell Security Council Open Debate amid Calls to Change Negative Stereotypes*, 2018.

¹⁶⁸ UN-Women, *Young Women in Peace and Security: At the Intersection of the YPS and WPS Agenda*, 2018.

¹⁶⁹ UN Security Council, *Maintenance of International Peace and Security (S/RES/2419 (2018))*, 2018.

¹⁷⁰ UN PBSO & UNFPA, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2018, p. 54.

¹⁷¹ Ibid., p. 127.

¹⁷² Ibid., p. 54.

¹⁷³ Ibid., p. 54.

¹⁷⁴ Ibid., p. 127.

¹⁷⁵ Ibid., p. 127.

¹⁷⁶ Ibid., p. 127.

similar to what was done under the women, peace and security initiative, and developing a system-wide roadmap to better help coordinate activities and monitor progress between all entities that conduct work in this area.¹⁷⁷

Another priority in partnerships is to support data collection and gathering evidence of impact when implementing these policy frameworks.¹⁷⁸ The progress study identified that insufficient data has prevented efforts to fully understand the situation faced by youth nationally.¹⁷⁹ Strong partnerships are needed in this area to encourage actors to implement and streamline data-collecting practices.¹⁸⁰ Supporting these efforts is Sustainable Development Goal (Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)) 17 on partnerships, which has a specific emphasis on data, monitoring, and accountability.¹⁸¹ Moreover, the SDG 16 Data Initiative, which is led by a consortium of various civil society and academic organizations, serves as another strong example on the importance of forming partnerships for data collection and highlights existing mechanisms that can serve as a foundation for expanding these services.¹⁸²

Conclusion

The rise of global security threats in the past decade has led to security policies and frameworks that view youth as an issue to be solved, rather than a potential partner in building peace.¹⁸³ This is especially true given that many extremists, militias, and criminal groups have targeted youth.¹⁸⁴ Consequently, many governments have chosen policies that perpetuate the perception that youth are to be addressed as a problem, rather than part of the solution.¹⁸⁵ The international community, particularly with support from civil society, have aimed to take a more inclusive approach that addresses youth's role in peace and security.¹⁸⁶ The youth, peace, and security agenda saw initial progress through the adoption of Security Council resolution 2250, but still requires greater recognition, understanding, and awareness from the international community.¹⁸⁷ With more resources and support, champions of the agenda can better promote its implementation at the international, regional, national, and local levels.¹⁸⁸ Moving forward, the agenda will need the assistance of robust international partnerships to help raise awareness, pool resources, and advocate for its implementation.¹⁸⁹

Further Research

Delegates are encouraged to expand their research to encompass more sources beyond this background guide. The following questions can help guide delegates in furthering their knowledge on this topic: Has your state taken on any initiative to meaningfully include youth into peace and security frameworks? What are examples of best practices or success stories for meaningful youth inclusion? How can different frameworks related to youth, peace, and security reinforce each other? How do current international development frameworks, such as the SDGs, reinforce the youth, peace, and security agenda? What lessons can be drawn from Security Council resolution 1325 and the women, peace, and security agenda and implemented to support youth, peace, and security?

¹⁷⁷ Ibid., p. 127.

¹⁷⁸ Ibid., p. 66.

¹⁷⁹ Ibid., p. 66.

¹⁸⁰ UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Goal 17, 2018*.

¹⁸¹ Ibid.

¹⁸² SDG 16 Data Initiative, *About Us, 2018*.

¹⁸³ Search for Common Ground, *Global Youth Summit Against Violent Extremism, 2015*.

¹⁸⁴ UN PBSO & UNFPA, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security, 2018*.

¹⁸⁵ Search for Common Ground, *Global Youth Summit Against Violent Extremism, 2015*.

¹⁸⁶ Youth4Peace, *Inter-Agency Working Group on Youth and Peacebuilding*.

¹⁸⁷ UN Security Council, *Youth, Peace and Security (S/RES/2250 (2015)), 2015*.

¹⁸⁸ UN General Assembly & UN Security Council, *Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: Report of the Secretary-General (A/72/707-S/2018/43), 2018*.

¹⁸⁹ UN PBSO & UNFPA, *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security, 2018*.

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Search for Common Ground. (2014). *Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding*. Retrieved 13 August 2018 from: https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/Guiding-Principles_EN.pdf

The Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding was one of the main documents that helped establish the youth, peace, and security agenda. Coordinated between UN entities and civil society, the principles, which promote socio-political and sociocultural approaches, are still used today in implementing frameworks used by UN agencies. This resource by Search for Common Ground, one of the civil society leads on this guide, provides a helpful chart that can easily be used to understand each principle and how it can be applied to policy and programming settings. This perspective is useful for delegates when formulating how to practically apply youth, peace, and security frameworks to different initiatives.

United Nations, Department of Social and Economic Affairs. (2018). *Resources on Youth, Peace and Security* [Website]. Retrieved 9 July 2018 from: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/international-youth-day-2017/resources-on-youth-peace-and-security.html>

This website by the UN Department of Social and Economic Affairs provides an extensive list of resources related to youth, peace, and security. This resource is useful for expanding one's knowledge about the role of the international system in relationship to youth, peace, and security, especially the role of specific UN bodies and agencies. The webpage highlights the different working groups that address this topic and the roles of several UN offices, among other entities. Moreover, it provides key frameworks and reports and explains the involvement UN entities in producing them. This website is important for delegates to understand the historic framing of the topic and highlights actual work conducted by entities outlined in the role of the international system section in the background guide.

United Nations Development Programme. (2018). *Youth Global Programme for Sustainable Development and Peace | Youth-GPS 2016 – 2020* [Report]. Retrieved 9 July 2018 from: <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/Youth-GPS.html>

The youth, peace, and security agenda intersects with numerous broader development frameworks, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The United Nations Development Programme is one of the principle UN bodies that works in this area, taking on various aspects of the youth, peace, and security agenda and applying it to its work. This report highlights its planned and ongoing work in its areas related to peacebuilding, development, and youth. This report provides useful context for delegates aiming to better understand the link between youth, peace, and security and development.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-second session & United Nations, Security Council. (2018). *Peacebuilding and sustaining peace: Report of the Secretary-General (A/72/707-S/2018/43)*. Retrieved 9 July 2018 from: <http://undocs.org/a/72/707>

This report by Secretary-General Guterres outlines the UN's current progress toward sustaining peace and adopting a more comprehensive approach to peacebuilding that encompasses all stages of conflict. This report updates the status of how the sustaining peace framework is being implemented throughout the UN system. It heavily discusses the role of youth, peace, and security in various sections, showcasing the topic's prominent role in the discussion about improving peacebuilding activities within the UN. This source will give delegates a sound idea of how peace and security agenda is developing in the UN system and how youth, peace, and security is impacting other large frameworks in the UN system.

United Nations, Peacebuilding Support Office & United Nations Population Fund. (2018). *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security* [Report]. Retrieved 18 October 2018 from: <https://www.youth4peace.info/system/files/2018-10/youth-web-english.pdf>

The Independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security was conducted by Graeme Simpson, a researcher appointed by former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in 2016. This crucial report aggregates data, interviews, and other sources of information to bring a comprehensive perspective on how youth in all regions of the world view their role in peace and security. The report provides common perspectives about how to further advance youth involvement in peace and security, including numerous recommendations laid out near the end of the report. Specifically, the report gives a strong impression of the social contract between youth and their governments and identifies strategic areas where the international community can engage in and advance this issue. Moreover, the report's findings aim to debunk assumptions, such as viewing youth as a security threat based on the evidence it gathered, providing fresh perspectives to the topic that may not be noted in Security Council resolution 2250 (2015).

United Nations, Office of Counter-Terrorism. (n.d.). *Plan of Action to Prevent Radical Extremism* [Report]. Retrieved 10 August 2018 from:

https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism.ctitf/files/plan_action.pdf

The UN Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism is an excellent source that highlights one of the most recent and comprehensive frameworks surrounding peace and security in the UN system. Most importantly, it has its own pillar on youth empowerment, which emphasizes the inclusion of youth into decision-making processes at the local and national level. It comprehensively outlines the UN's current approach toward youth in the context of violent extremism. Delegates will find this resource useful in assessing what actions the UN is prioritizing in promoting the inclusion of youth into peace and security frameworks.

United Nations, Security Council, 7573rd meeting. (2015). *Youth, Peace and Security (S/RES/2250 (2015))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 9 July 2018 from: [http://undocs.org/S/RES/2250\(2015\)](http://undocs.org/S/RES/2250(2015))

Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) is a cornerstone document that outlines the key priorities for addressing Youth, Peace and Security. This resolution highlights key precedents that led to the adoption of the resolution itself and provides a breakdown of how the Security Council originally put the topic into focus. The provisions lend focus to five areas of action: participation, protection, prevention, partnerships and disengagement. Delegates should read this source as this resolution remains crucial in understanding how the topic was framed and has been molded over the course of time.

United Nations, Security Council, 8277th meeting. (2018). *Maintenance of International Peace and Security (S/RES/2419 (2018))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 9 July 2018 from:

[http://undocs.org/S/RES/2419\(2018\)](http://undocs.org/S/RES/2419(2018))

This recent Security Council resolution is the latest document from the body that substantively covers the youth, peace, and security agenda. It highlights updates on the topic since the body was presented with the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security. More importantly, this resolution outlines actions and deliverables expected of the UN system, such as the report by the Secretary-General on the progress of implementing resolution 2250 (2015) by 2020. Delegates will find this resolution to be useful in understanding recent deliberations taken by the Security Council since the adoption of resolution 2250 (2015).

United Nations, Security Council, 8241st meeting. (2018, April 23). *Summary record of the 8241st meeting of the Security Council (S/PV.8241)* [Meeting Record]. Retrieved 9 July 2018 from:

<https://undocs.org/S/PV.8241>

The summary of the 8241st meeting of the Security Council provides substantive content about recent deliberations related to the youth, peace, and security agenda. This meeting took place prior to the commencement of the High-Level Meeting on Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace at the United Nations, which prompted informative speeches about how this initiative intersects with youth, peace, and security. Examples of priorities and topics of the meeting include preventing violent extremism, linkages to youth, security

and development, and addressing the topic more broadly with peacebuilding. This source is useful for delegates to understand how Member States deliberate and take policy stances on youth, peace, and security.

Youth4Peace. (2015). *UNSCR 2250 | Implementation*. Retrieved 9 July 2018 from:

<https://www.youth4peace.info/UNSCR2250/Implementation>

One of the highest priorities identified by policymakers and civil society on this topic is the implementation of Security Council resolution 2250 (2015). This resource serves as an excellent reference for understanding how Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) is being implemented through a quantitative approach over a course of time. Moreover, it marks specific milestones and targets, including committed funds for this initiative, that can be used as measurements to compare progress over time. Most of all, this resource can provide delegates with action ideas in how Security Council resolution 2250 (2015) has been implemented by the UN system and in collaboration with civil society.

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II. The Impact of Climate-Related Disasters on International Peace and Security

Introduction

Climate-related disasters are increasing in frequency and severity.¹⁶⁹ These disasters include flooding, storms, droughts, and heat waves, which affect human security and can disrupt peace and security at the regional and international levels, especially by displacing large populations or causing a breakdown in social order.¹⁷⁰ Climate-related disasters can also cause resource scarcity, which can strain resources and worsen conflict, especially food insecurity, which disasters worsened for over 39 million people in 23 different countries in 2017 conflict.¹⁷¹ Disasters compound socioeconomic exclusion that degrades ongoing conflict, disrupts fragile peace processes, and is being increasingly viewed as a threat multiplier by the international community.¹⁷²

Findings from a report from the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) presented at a Security Council debate concluded that climate change, extreme weather, natural disasters, and water crises were the top four global existential threats.¹⁷³ The Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Rosemary DiCarlo, cited climate-related effects as a reason for the prolonged instability in Haiti and in the Latin American/Caribbean region.¹⁷⁴ The Security Council held another debate in January 2019, during which many in attendance acknowledged that climate change is a threat to international security.¹⁷⁵ The Security Council has also addressed climate-related issues by recognizing that climate change can impact the stability of a region in resolutions addressing specific conflict situations including the Lake Chad Basin, Somalia, West Africa and the Sahel, Mali, and Darfur.¹⁷⁶ The Security Council has held several formal debates on the extent of the impacts climate-related disasters and climate change have on the environment, and acknowledged that climate change and climate-related disasters can exacerbate conflict and threaten global peace and security.¹⁷⁷

International and Regional Framework

Climate change has been a major priority in the United Nations (UN) for the past few decades and the 1992 *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change* (UNFCCC) was the first international framework to systematically address the issue of climate change.¹⁷⁸ UNFCCC established a commitment, from all parties who are signatories to the Convention, to work together to prevent, mitigate, and minimize the effects of climate change.¹⁷⁹ The Conference of Parties (COP) is the governing body of UNFCCC, which meets regularly to discuss progress on the goals of UNFCCC and propose proactive measures the international community can take to confront climate change and lower greenhouse gas emissions.¹⁸⁰ As

¹⁶⁹ World Meteorological Society, *Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate, and Water Extremes*, 2014; Thomas & Lopez, *Global Increase in Climate-Related Disasters*, 2015.

¹⁷⁰ Thomas & Lopez, *Global Increase in Climate-Related Disasters*, 2015.

¹⁷¹ World Economic Forum, *Global Risks Report 14th Edition*, 2019, p. 15.

¹⁷² *Ibid.*

¹⁷³ UN, Department of Global Communications, *Massive Displacement, Greater Competition for Scarce Resources Cited as Major Risks in Security Council Debate on Climate-Related Threats*, 2019.

¹⁷⁴ *Ibid.*; UN Security Council, *Concept note for the Security Council open debate on the theme, "Addressing the impacts of climate-related disasters on international peace and security", to be held on 25 January 2019*, 2019.

¹⁷⁵ UN, Department of Global Communications, *Massive Displacement, Greater Competition for Scarce Resources Cited as Major Risks in Security Council Debate on Climate-Related Threats*, 2019.

¹⁷⁶ UN Security Council, *Concept note for the Security Council open debate on the theme, "Addressing the impacts of climate-related disasters on international peace and security", to be held on 25 January 2019*, 2019, p. 3.

¹⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 2; UN Department of Global Communications, *Massive Displacement, Greater Competition for Scarce Resources Cited as Major Risks in Security Council Debate on Climate-Related Threats*, 2019; Schaller & Pohl, *Security Council Debates how Climate Disasters Threaten International Peace and Security*, 2019.

¹⁷⁸ UN Security Council, *Concept note for the Security Council open debate on the theme, "Addressing the impacts of climate-related disasters on international peace and security", to be held on 25 January 2019*, 2019, p. 2.

¹⁷⁹ UNFCCC, *What is the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change?*, 2019.

¹⁸⁰ *Ibid.*; UNFCCC, *Climate-related risks and extreme events*, 2019.

the associated security risks to climate change became more recognized, the UN Secretary-General released a report entitled “Climate change and its possible security implications” in 2009.¹⁸¹ The report specifically elaborates on how climate change affects security through five channels that are outlined as vulnerability, development, coping, statelessness, and international conflict.¹⁸²

The 2015 *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*, under the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, outlined measures to mitigate disaster risk and aiding affected people and communities.¹⁸³ The 21st session of COP established the *Paris Agreement* on 12 December 2015.¹⁸⁴ One of the main goals of the *Paris Agreement* is to prohibit global temperature rise exceeding 2 degrees Celsius with an additional goal of preventing global temperature rising more than 1.5 degrees Celsius.¹⁸⁵ This is a globally recognized threshold for global temperature rise before climate change causes severe effects that could impact food supplies.¹⁸⁶ Food scarcity and insecurity can cause instability in food pricing, which can lead, and has led, to violent conflicts including war.¹⁸⁷ Shortly after the adoption of the *Paris Agreement*, UN Member States, climate experts, and civil society, convened in The Hague for the third annual Planetary Security Conference, which produced *The Hague Declaration on Planetary Security* (2019).¹⁸⁸ The declaration outlined an agenda for action to address risks and current implications associated with climate change and security.¹⁸⁹

Role of the International System

In 2007, the Security Council first discussed the role of climate change and its impacts on international peace and security.¹⁹⁰ The meeting presented a range of perspectives on the ways in which climate change affects international peace and security and how, and whether, the Security Council has an active role in mitigating it.¹⁹¹ Some remarks noted that “climate change exacerbates a multitude of non-military threats” and described resource scarcity and increased migration as a result of climate change.¹⁹² In July 2011, the Security Council again discussed the impacts of climate change.¹⁹³ This meeting recognized climate-related disasters and the resulting environmental degradation occurring in the Asian, African, and Central Asian regions.¹⁹⁴ Security Council resolution 2349 (2017) established that climate change and ecological change affect regional stability and impact the recognized factors of food insecurity, water scarcity, desertification, depletion of land, and drought.¹⁹⁵ The resolution also highlights humanitarian crises due to depleted natural resources, such as terrorist recruitment and migration.¹⁹⁶ In December of 2017, the UN Secretary-General briefed the Security Council on the role of natural resources as a root

¹⁸¹ UN General Assembly, *Climate change and its possible security implications: Report of the Secretary-General (A/64/350)*, 2009.

¹⁸² *Ibid.*

¹⁸³ UN, OCHA, *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*, 2015.

¹⁸⁴ UNFCCC, *The Paris Agreement*, 2019; UNFCCC, *What is the Paris Agreement?*, 2019.

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁶ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁷ FAO, *Food Security and Conflict: Empirical challenges and future opportunities for research and policy making on food security and conflict*, 2018.

¹⁸⁸ Planetary Security Initiative, *The Hague Declaration on Planetary Security*, 2018.

¹⁸⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁰ UN Security Council, *Summary of the 5663rd meeting (S/PV.5663)*, 2007; UN Global Communications Department, *Security Council holds first-ever debate on impact of Climate Change on Peace, Security, Hearing over 50 speakers*, 2007.

¹⁹¹ UN Department of Global Communications, *Security Council holds first-ever debate on impact of Climate Change on Peace, Security, Hearing over 50 speakers*, 2007.

¹⁹² UN Security Council, *Summary of the 5663rd meeting (S/PV.5663)*, 2007, pp. 2 & 5.

¹⁹³ UN Security Council, *Summary of the 6587th meeting (S/PV.6587)*, 2011.

¹⁹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁵ UN Security Council, *Resolution 2349 (2017) (S/RES/2349 (2017))*, 2017, p. 7; Schaller & Pohl, *Security Council Debates how Climate Disasters Threaten International Peace and Security*, 2019.

¹⁹⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 1.

cause of conflict, and emphasized the UN needed to strengthen its own capacities against climate-related security risks.¹⁹⁷

In July 2018, the Security Council held another debate on “understanding and addressing climate-related risks” and also held an Arria-formula meeting on water, peace and security in October of 2018.¹⁹⁸ It was in the Arria-formula meeting that council members further stressed the need to monitor climate-related security risks, especially in terms of water-stressed areas that are fragile and prone to conflict.¹⁹⁹ At the initiative of the Federal Republic of Germany, 27 UN Member States joined together to form the Group of Friends on Climate and Security which aims “to develop solutions for the impact of climate change on security policy, raise public awareness and boost the involvement of the UN in this area.”²⁰⁰ In response to the rising concern of climate change and security, the UN established a pilot initiative in 2019 called the Climate Security Mechanism housed in the Department for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs.²⁰¹ With technical input from the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Environment, the mechanism provides “integrated climate risk assessments to the Security Council and other UN bodies through synthesizing first-hand insight from different UN agencies and external experts.”²⁰²

The Security Council collaborates with other UN agencies, such as the UNDP, to combat climate-related disasters and the security risks they exacerbate.²⁰³ UNDP collects data, including carbon emission reports, and shares it with UN bodies, including the Security Council, so that action plans and humanitarian efforts can be developed in regions facing conflict.²⁰⁴ In 2019, UNDP proposed a three-part plan to the Security Council, which included Member States taking a more ambitious approach when pledging to combat economic, social, and political turmoil; better ways to promote reducing emissions; and more investment for people at risk.²⁰⁵ Another UN actor that addresses this issue is UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), which is an entity that helps with natural disaster responses and monitors the threat they pose to international peace and security.²⁰⁶

The Effects of Climate-Related Disasters on Conflict Prone Areas

The Security Council works on climate-related disasters in the context of international peace and security.²⁰⁷ In January 2019, the Council held an annual debate discussing climate change and the effects it has on disasters.²⁰⁸ The Council recognized that climate-related disasters, such as hurricanes and earthquakes, lead to drought, as they tend to deplete the water supply in the regions they strike.²⁰⁹ In 2017, over 18 million displaced persons had to migrate due to hurricanes, heat waves, flooding, and drought, as climate-related disasters affect natural resources which then impact people.²¹⁰ Areas under consideration by the Council for climate-related disasters include Somalia, Darfur, Mali, the Central African Republic, Japan, and the Lake Chad Basin.²¹¹ According to the Security Council and other UN

¹⁹⁷ Security Council Report, *The Role of Natural Resources as a Root Cause of Conflict Briefing*, 2018.

¹⁹⁸ UN DPI, *Climate change recognized as ‘threat multiplier’, UN Security Council debates its impact on peace*, 2019; Security Council Report, *Water, Peace and Security Arria-formula meeting*, (2018).

¹⁹⁹ Security Council Report, *Water, Peace and Security Arria-formula meeting*, (2018).

²⁰⁰ Federal Republic of Germany, Federal Foreign Office, *United Nations: Germany initiates Group of Friends on Climate and Security*, (2019).

²⁰¹ UN DPPA, *This Week in DPPA, 6 – 10 May 2019*, 2019.

²⁰² Smith, D. et al., *Climate Security: Making it #Doable*, *Netherlands Institute of International Relations*, 2019. p. 15.

²⁰³ UNDP, *UN Development Chief to Security Council: Climate change’ aggravates fragile situations, feeds insecurity and conflict*, 2019.

²⁰⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁶ UNDRR, *About UNDRR*, 2019.

²⁰⁷ Security Council Report, *Climate Change and Security*, 2018.

²⁰⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁹ UN, Security Council, *Maintenance of International Peace and Security (S/PV.8451)*, 2019.

²¹⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹¹ *Ibid.*

entities, “the risks [to] international security posed by the impacts of the climate change must become a central element of the conflict prevention agenda.”²¹²

Worsening of Instability in Conflict Prone Regions

Water scarcity is becoming a leading factor in malnutrition and the recruitment of child soldiers.²¹³ In places like Yemen and Afghanistan, water tables have lowered significantly.²¹⁴ Water scarcity often leads to migration in search of a new water source and causes open conflict.²¹⁵ The concerns surrounding international peace and security include food and water insecurity, with climate change as a threat multiplier to human security.²¹⁶ When these means are low, individuals become desperate and either migrate or do whatever is necessary to obtain these resources.²¹⁷ Alongside the Security Council, Small Island and Developing States (SIDS) have led efforts to conserve lands and natural resources that often are depleted during climate-related disasters.²¹⁸ SIDS spoke at the January 2019 UN Security Council debate on, “the need to enhance understanding about the security implications of climate change-related natural disasters ...[and] the need to determine how the Security Council, the peace operations it mandates, and the UN Country Teams can best collaborate to address such risks.”²¹⁹

Case Study: Climate-Related Disasters and The Lake Chad Basin

The Security Council has taken a special regional interest in security issues associated with climate-related disasters in the Lake Chad Basin.²²⁰ The Lake Chad Basin is in a state of crisis due to the aftermath of many disasters, including the decimation of the water and nutrients of the lake and the surrounding areas.²²¹ Considering that Lake Chad is one of Africa’s largest lakes, it is a frequently used food and water resource for cooking and fishing.²²² It is also under duress due to climate change.²²³ The Lake Chad Basin is shared with Niger, Nigeria, Chad, and Cameroon, and it extends as far as Libya and Sudan.²²⁴ Over the last 60 years, the size of Lake Chad had decreased over 90%, from 26,000 square kilometers in 1963 to about 1500 square kilometers in 2018.²²⁵ As citizens of the surrounding areas continue to pull resources from the lake, with no water source to replenish it due to drought, they deplete the main water source in the region.²²⁶ The Executive Director of UN Environment stated that, “with around 4.5 million people in the basin severely food insecure, there is a need to rigorously address [the] cause and effect relationship between the environment and human security.”²²⁷

Much of the degradation of the lake is due to climate change through rising temperatures, leading to drought.²²⁸ This degradation increased migration from West Africa to southern Africa.²²⁹ Due to high migration rates in the Lake Chad Basin, many people, including children, are at increased risk of terrorist

²¹² Ibid, p. 19.

²¹³ Ibid, p. 12.

²¹⁴ Ibid.

²¹⁵ Ibid, p. 17.

²¹⁶ IISD, *Assessing the security implications of climate change for West Africa*, 2008. p. 2; UNFCCC, *Climate-related risks and extreme events*, 2019.

²¹⁷ IISD, *Assessing the security implications of climate change for West Africa*, 2008. p. 2.

²¹⁸ Climate Diplomacy, *Climate change to return to UN Security Council agenda under Dominican Republic presidency*, 2019.

²¹⁹ Ibid.

²²⁰ UN, Security Council, *Statement by the President of the Security Council (S/PRST/2018/3 (2018))*, 2018.

²²¹ UNEP, *The tale of the disappearing lake*, 2018.

²²² Ibid.

²²³ Ibid.

²²⁴ Ibid.

²²⁵ Ibid.

²²⁶ Ibid.

²²⁷ Ibid.

²²⁸ UN Department of Global Communications, *Security Council wrap up Lake Chad Basin Visit; stops in ‘epicentre’ of Boko Haram violence*, 2017.

²²⁹ Ibid.

recruitment.²³⁰ Boko Haram, alongside many other terrorist groups, target vulnerable children looking for both social and financial stability, which has steadily eroded and been exacerbated by the effects of drought in the region.²³¹ Over 14 million people have been affected by Boko Haram, and, of that 14 million, 8.5 million people were in need of humanitarian aid.²³²

In 2017, the Security Council decided to visit the area to understand what policies and humanitarian aid gaps existed in the region.²³³ The Council found there was a need for more economic opportunity for displaced persons, more educational resources, and more services for areas affected by drought due to climate change.²³⁴ The Security Council further discussed collaborative efforts with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the acting Nigerian president on more efficient ways to collect and share data on climate change and its effects on peace and security.²³⁵ Following the trip to the Lake Chad Basin, the Security Council deemed the area, as well as the effects of climate change and depleted water resources, a crisis.²³⁶ The Security Council then adopted resolution 2349, which focused on the root causes of insecurity and the development of the region.²³⁷ The resolution not only discussed the crisis of Boko Haram but also the climate-related disasters that the terrorist group is exploiting.²³⁸ The Security Council addressed the insecurities that climate-related disasters cause, such as drought, erosion, and depleting natural resources in the Basin, by calling for more risk assessments on water and water management, better ways to address the impact of water on society, and more proactive solutions focused on human security as part of international peace and security.²³⁹

Conclusion

Although the topic is a relatively recent addition to its agenda, the Security Council continues to address the detrimental impacts of climate-related disasters on international peace and security.²⁴⁰ The Council collaborates with other UN entities on the causes of international humanitarian crisis and threats to peace and security as it expands its focus on the issue.²⁴¹ The Security Council also internally considers causes of climate change and its link to peace and security, but has yet to adopt a resolution officially recognizing climate change as a direct threat to international peace and security, including climate-related disasters.²⁴²

Further Research

Delegates are encouraged to expand their knowledge on the topic beyond this background guide and consider the following questions: How does the peace and security mandate of the Security Council cover or not cover climate-related disasters? How can the Council expand its current work on the topic effectively and work with other UN entities? What role to peacekeeping and political missions have in addressing climate-related disasters and how can they be leveraged moving forward and how can they respond quickly and efficiently respond? As climate change continues to impact land and resource management, what role could UN entities, such as the DPPA, play in managing resource conflict between groups?

²³⁰ Ibid.

²³¹ Ibid.

²³² Ibid.

²³³ Ibid.

²³⁴ Ibid.

²³⁵ Ibid.

²³⁶ Security Council Report, *Lake Chad Basin Briefing*, 2018.

²³⁷ Ibid.

²³⁸ Ibid.

²³⁹ Ibid.

²⁴⁰ Schaller & Pohl, *Security Council Debates how Climate Disasters Threaten International Peace and Security*, 2019; Climate Diplomacy, *Climate change to return to UN Security Council agenda under Dominican Republic presidency*, 2019.

²⁴¹ Climate Diplomacy, *Climate change to return to UN Security Council agenda under Dominican Republic presidency*, 2019.

²⁴² Ibid.

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The following declaration provides a recent comprehensive overview and action items of how the international community, namely Member States, climate experts, and civil society, aim to alleviate climate change's impact on global security. The report provides six detailed topic areas for the international community to address that include both thematic issues, such as urban resilience and migration, and country-specific and regional issues, such as the Lake Chad Basin, Mali, and Iraq. This source is useful in practically identifying potential solutions UN actors can take in addressing climate change's impact on peace and security.

Smith, D. et al. (2019, February). *Climate Security: Making it #Doable*. Netherlands Institute of International Relations. Retrieved 23 July 2019 from: https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2019-02/climatesecurity_makingit_doable_latest.pdf.pagespeed.ce_naqctbogs7.pdf

The following report from the Netherlands Institute of International Relations provides a very recent, comprehensive, and thorough review of the state of climate change and its impacts on global security. More importantly, the source succinctly outlines the current efforts and initiatives taken by the UN in addressing this topic, outlining what specific actors are doing. Delegates will find this review useful in understanding the current state of the topic and what the Security Council has done to address it.

United Nations, Department of Global Communications. (2019). *Massive Displacement, greater Competition for Scarce Resources Cited as Major Risks in Security Council Debate on Climate-Related Threats*. [Article]. Retrieved 28 April 2019 from: <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13677.doc.htm>

This source provides a summary of the debate the Security Council had on the topic of climate change and the threats that pose a potential threat to international security. The debate discussed climate change and its effects on the economy, the social status of citizens, and the potential for war due to weakened infrastructure. The article includes testimony from other NGOs and IGOs the Security Council has collaborated with and shares the outcome of research and implementation of programs as mandated by the Council. Delegates will find this source helpful when researching the most recent actions and discussions of the Security Council on climate-related disasters.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-fourth session. (September 2009). *Climate change and its possible security implications: Report of the Secretary-General (A/64/350)*. Retrieved 22 July 2019 from: <https://undocs.org/A/64/350>

The Secretary-General's report on climate change and its possible security implications outlines key channels on how climate change can potential impact global security. Though the topic of climate change has shifted in its focus since 2009, the report still provides substance that helps conceptualize the topic. This resource is of benefit to delegates who wish to better understand how the UN and other actors view climate change as a threat to international peace and security.

United Nations, Security Council, 7911th meeting. (2017). *Resolution 2349 (2017) (S/RES/2349 (2017))*. [Resolution]. Retrieved 2 June 2019 from: [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2349\(2017\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2349(2017))

This source is the resolution adopted by the United Nations Security Council where the Council discussed climate-related disasters as a threat to international peace and security, and the links between climate change, climate-related disasters, and degradation of the environments in various regions. The resolutions details root causes of threats to international peace and security, and challenges that are facing the central

Asian, Asian, and African regions, such as terrorism recruitment, socio-economic depletion, and scarcity of water and nutrients. The resolution also mentions the efforts of collaboration between governments and local aids in the respective regions to aid those impacted by climate-related disasters and climate change.

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