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Preparation Paper/Study Guide:

Security Council (SC)

“The Situation in South Sudan”

Welcome

Honorable Delegates of the Security Council!

A very warm welcome to the beginning of your preparations for Vienna International Model United Nations 2017! It is truly admirable that you will be convening along with the rest of the Security Council for what promises to be...no, needs to be a constructive session this August.

The United Nations Security Council is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations and has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It is the most powerful body of the United Nations with the ability to pass binding resolutions. The Security Council consists of 5 permanent members (China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and the United States) and 10 non-permanent members, elected on a 5 regional basis to serve two-year terms.

Your Security Council Presidency



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1) Introduction to the Committee

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations and is charged with the maintenance of international peace and security. Its establishment and nature is enshrined in Chapter V of the United Nations Charter. Its powers include the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the establishment of international sanctions, and the authorization of military action through Security Council resolutions; it is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions to member states.

The Security Council held its first session on 17 January 1946. It consists of fifteen members. The great powers that were the victors of World War II - Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States - along with France and China, serve as the body's five permanent members. These permanent members can veto any substantive Security Council resolution, including those on the admission of new member states or candidates for Secretary-General. The Security Council also has 10 non-permanent members, elected on a 5 regional basis to serve two-year terms. The body's presidency rotates monthly between its members.

The UNSC was designed to address some of the flaws of the UN's spiritual predecessor, the League of Nations, which was often paralyzed as complete unanimity among its members was required in order to be able to act. The Security Council was designed to act as a quasi-executive for the UN, and to be able to respond rapidly to international crises as and when they arose. This was actually not too dissimilar from the former League of Nations, which like the modern United Nations, had as its principal organs; a General Assembly of all members, an International (permanent) Court of Justice, and an Executive Council. However, unlike the League's Council, the United Nations Security Council has a far larger set of powers, and enjoys a more comprehensive membership than the League's Executive Council. With the addition of the United States and the former Soviet Union as permanent members, the UNSC not only had unprecedented legal powers, but also effectively controlled the balance of power in the world, with the 'hard power' and political will to act. The United Nations Security Council is, in many ways, a unique institution. It exercises legislative, judicial and executive powers; operates with few legally binding checks and balances and has even been described as being 'unbound by law'.

The Council has broad powers to maintain international peace and security, most notably under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, and its decisions are binding on UN members. There are two systems of voting in the Security Council. On procedural matters the affirmative vote of any nine members is necessary, but on substantive matters the nine affirmative votes required must include those of the five permanent members. This requirement of Big Five unanimity embodies the so-called veto. In practice the council has, on most substantive matters, not treated an abstention by a permanent member as a veto. In two situations, however, those of recommending applicants for UN membership and of approving proposed amendments to the charter, the actual concurrence of all permanent members has been required. The veto has prevented much substantive action by the UN, but it embodies the reality that resolution of major crises requires agreement of the major powers.

Under the charter the council may take measures on any danger to world peace. It may act upon complaint of a member or of a non-member, on notification by the Secretary-General or by the General Assembly, or of its own volition. In general the Council considers matters of two sorts. The first is "disputes" (or situations that may give rise to them) that might endanger peace. Here the council is limited to making recommendations to the parties after it has exhausted other methods of reaching a solution. In the case of more serious matters, such as "threats to the peace," "breaches of the peace," and "acts of aggression," the council may take enforcement measures. These may range from full or partial rupture of economic or diplomatic relations to military operations of any scope deemed necessary. By the terms of the charter, the UN was forbidden to intervene in matters "which are essentially... domestic," but this limitation was not intended to hinder Security Council measures to prevent threats to peace. The charter was intentionally ambiguous regarding domestic issues that could also be construed as threats to peace and left a potential opening for intervention in domestic issues that threaten to have dangerous international repercussions. The five permanent members, France, Great Britain, the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation, as well as the United States and ten elected, non-permanent members, together form the United Nations Security Council.

Elected members hold their place on the Council for a two-year term, with half of these places being contested each year. To ensure geographical continuity, a certain number of members is allocated to each of the five UN regional groupings.

2) South Sudan and its Development Until 2015

2011 marked the birth of South Sudan but its tortured history does not take its beginnings here. Instead we begin with Sudan, Britain and Egypt.

2.1. Sudan, Occupation, Liberation and Independence

From 1898 to 1955, Sudan was occupied jointly by Britain and Egypt. While under occupation, it had separate administrations for the north and south, setting up what was to come. After liberation in 1955, Sudan was racked by conflict and war that raged on almost unceasingly until 2005.

The Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) of 2005 granted partial autonomy to southerners and paved the way for a referendum on independence in 2011. With an overwhelming majority voting for independence, the Republic of South Sudan was born on 09 July 2011.¹

2.2. Beginning of the Recent Conflict

While the CPA ended the longest-running civil war in Africa, war was going to haunt the population of South Sudan again. In 2013, the state plunged into crisis when President Salva Kiir Mayardit sacked his deputy, Riek Machar. Taking up arms against the government, rebels, most notably the South Sudan Liberation Army, have clashed with government forces. Thousands are dead, more than 2 million people are displaced and more than 2,5 million people face severe food insecurity. Furthermore, the conflict is escalating with the rate of ethnic political and tribal clashes growing. Meanwhile, the production of South Sudan's major source of revenue, oil, fell drastically. The two sides signed several peace deals in 2014 that, despite an UN mission in the country, have not led to the cessation of hostilities.² Perhaps most worryingly, aid groups and UN troops are unable to work safely in the region, citing attacks on camps and even unarmed aid workers.³

In August 2015, President Salva Kiir and opposition leader Riek Machar signed a peace agreement, agreeing amongst others to power sharing and criminal accountability. While the previous ceasefire agreements were often violated this peace agreement, in the words of Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, is "a critical and necessary step towards ending the 20 month-long conflict (...)"⁴ In a September press release, Mr. Ban promised that the UN would continue to stand by the people of South Sudan and called on the international community to provide economic assistance to South Sudan.⁵ While these hopes still live, recent abductions of UN personnel in South Sudan have underscored the danger and difficulty of working in the area and put the willingness of parties in South Sudan to cooperate in doubt.⁶

South Sudan by the Facts⁷

Size	644.329 sq km
Population	11.562.695
Ethnic Groups	Dinka 35.8%, Nuer 15.6%, Shilluk, Azande, Bari, Kakwa and others
Literacy	27%
GDP	\$23,31 billion
GDP per capita	\$2.000
Food insecurity	More than 2.500.000 people
Malnourishment	230.000 children annually

¹ <http://ss.one.un.org/country-info.html>

² <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-14069082> and <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50865#.VY1XPmAxFE5>

³ <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=51179#.VY1XLmAxFE5> and http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/23/world/africa/as-south-sudan-crisis-worsens-there-is-no-more-country.html?_r=0

⁴ <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=51733#.VjVI3bxltE4>

⁵ <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52035#.VjVmxrXltE4>

⁶ <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=52420#.VjVlJxltE4>

⁷ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/od.html> and <http://ss.one.un.org/country-info.html>

2.3. The United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan

Resolution 1996 of 08 July 2011 established the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan. Originally conceived as a temporary measure, its mandate was to support the government in peace consolidation, assist the government in preventing conflict and protecting civilians and help the authorities develop national capacities such as rule of law. The mission was also authorized with a sizable commitment of forces.

Following the crisis of 2013, resolution 2132, by recommendation of the Secretary General, increased the troop level to 12.500, almost doubling the prior figure.

In resolution 2155 of 27 May 2014, the Security Council spells out the force's tasks:

- a. Protection of civilians
- b. Monitoring and investigating human rights
- c. Creating the conditions for delivery of humanitarian assistance
- d. Supporting the implementation of the cessation of hostilities agreement (most recent peace deal)⁸

On 28 May 2015, the Security Council extended UNMISS' mandate for another half year until 30 November 2015.⁹

3) Recent Developments

It will be the main task for delegates, who decided for the VIMUN SC Committee to do their own research on the developments in Sudan (North, South) during 2016 and 2017.

4) How to Get Prepared in General?

You probably cannot wait until it is the end of July and VIMUN is about to start - at least we cannot!

However, before the conference starts, there is still some work to be done.

You are the ones that fill the conference with life, that lead interesting discussions and fruitful debates and make innovative resolutions reality. This requires some preparation on your side. **While conducting research, try to keep in mind that your primary goal is to represent your country as realistically as possible.**

In advance to the conference we expect all delegates to research your state's position and become experts for the given agenda topic, to familiarize yourself with the rules of procedure (which you can find on our VIMUN homepage) and to practice your debating and writing skills.

Here are some useful hints on how to get prepared for the VIMUN conference:

Do Some Research

The first step after you have been assigned your state and committee will be to do some research in order to prepare for the conference. These are areas you should look into:

- The structure and history of the UN
- Your assigned member state
- Research your committee
- Your member state's role in the committee
- Your agenda topics

Central Questions that Should Guide your Research

- What sort of government does your country have?
- What types of ideologies (political, religious or other) influence your country's government?
- Which domestic issues might influence your country's foreign policy?

⁸ <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/unmiss/mandate.shtml>

⁹ <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=50999#.VY1XLmAxFE6>

- What are some major events in your country's history? Why are they important?
- Which ethnicities, religions and languages can be found in your country?
- Where is your country located and how does its geography affect its political relationships?
- Which countries share a border with your country?
- Which countries are considered allies of your country?
- Which countries are considered enemies of your country?
- What are the characteristics of your country's economy?
- What is your country's gross domestic product (GDP)? How does this compare to other countries in the world?
- When did your country become a member of the UN?
- Does your country belong to any intergovernmental organizations outside the UN system such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) or the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)?
- Does your country belong to any regional organizations such as the European Union (EU), the African Union (AU) or the Organization of American States (OAS)?
- Does your country belong to any trade organizations or agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) or the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)?
- What are the key issues of your agenda topics?
- Why are these issues important?
- What are possible solutions?
- What is hindering those solutions?
- What has the UN (or other international agencies) done so far, in order to solve these problems?
- What should be done from the perspective of your state to resolve the issues?
- Which other states share your view, which are opposed to your position?

For further research apart from reading the study guide we greatly recommend:

- The UN homepage
- NGO (particularly those accredited by the UN)
- Country reports and data published by international or regional organizations such as the World Bank, WHO, OECD, APEC, etc.
- General socio-economic data: e.g. CIA World Factbook has served delegates in previous years in gaining a first overview of a particular member state
- Your country's government website
- Search for speeches made by your country on the topic
- Search for important resolutions regarding your topic

How to Write a Position Paper

Writing a position paper might appear to be a daunting task, especially for new delegates. But with enough research, you will find that writing a position paper will be easy and useful.

Position papers are usually one to one-and-a-half pages in length. Your position paper should include a brief introduction followed by a comprehensive breakdown of your country's position on the topics that are being discussed by the committee. A good position paper will not only provide facts but also make proposals for resolutions.

Many conferences will ask for specific details in a position paper, so be sure to include all the required information. Most conferences will provide delegates a background guide to the issue. Usually, the background guide will contain questions to consider. Make sure that your position paper answers these questions.

A good position paper will include:

- A brief introduction to your country and its history concerning the topic and committee;

- How the issue affects your country;
- Your country's policies with respect to the issue and your country's justification for these policies;
- Quotes from your country's leaders about the issue;
- Statistics to back up your country's position on the issue;
- Actions taken by your government with regard to the issue;
- Conventions and resolutions that your country has signed or ratified;
- UN actions that your country supported or opposed;
- What your country believes should be done to address the issue;
- What your country would like to accomplish in the committee's resolution; and
- How the positions of other countries affect your country's position.

Position Paper Tips

- **Keep it simple.** To communicate strongly and effectively, avoid flowery wording and stick to uncomplicated language and sentence structure.
- **Make it official.** Try to use the seal of your country or create an "official" letterhead for your position paper. The more realistic it looks, the more others will want to read it.
- **Get organized.** Give each separate idea or proposal its own paragraph. Make sure each paragraph starts with a topic sentence.
- **Cite your sources.** Use footnotes or endnotes to show where you found your facts and statistics. If you are unfamiliar with bibliographic form, look up the Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines at your school's library.
- **Read and reread.** Leave time to edit your position paper. Ask yourself if the organization of the paper makes sense and double-check your spelling and grammar.
- **Speech! Speech!** Do you plan to make an opening statement at your conference? A good position paper makes a great introductory speech. During debate, a good position paper will also help you to stick to your country's policies.
- **Let the bullets fly.** Try not to let your proposals become lost in a sea of information. For speechmaking, create a bulleted list of your proposals along with your most important facts and statistics so that you will not lose time looking for them during debate.

Sample Position Paper

Delegation of the **Republic of India**

Represented by **XXX**

Topic: Primary Education

The Republic of India acknowledges and has responded to the call of the United Nations for a universalization of primary education with fierce engagement and enthusiasm over the past 10 years. India firmly believes that the challenge of guaranteeing every child the opportunity to primary education can and shall be overcome by raising greater awareness among the public and by public involvement through respectful regional cooperation, e.g. the cooperation with Village Education Committees and Local Government substate Bodies. Furthermore it is crucial not only to focus on the quantity of students, but on the quality of the education they receive.

The Republic of India recognizes the need and urgency to address universal primary education. Primary Education is of crucial importance to India. Although India is still facing difficulties in its efforts to guarantee every child the education it deserves, the Indian country will not succumb, but face the challenge with effective policies which have shown immersive and lasting effects in the past.

In 2010 The Right of Free and Compulsory Education Act was ratified, making the fundamental Right To Education Act the first of its kind in the world, which puts the responsibility of ensuring enrollment, attendance and completion of primary education to the government. To enforce implementation of this act, India strongly supports its governmental organizations, which have brought positive long-term effects, e.g. "The Education for All"- Movement, which has as a main objective the universalization of elementary

education, making education free and compulsory for children between 6-14 years. In addition to this program, India launched the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in 1995, revised and improved it over the last ten years. Mid-Day Meal Scheme, as the world's largest school feeding program, reaches 1.2 million children across the country.

Furthermore a stronger emphasis is put on unprivileged and disadvantaged sections of the Indian society. As a result to the 10th five year plan of India the joined forces to tackle illiteracy, the number of elementary schools has increased by 216.054, the number of enrolment in the lower and upper primary school classes has increased about 30 million students, only in the period between 2000 and 2006.

In the 11th five year plan of the Republic of India, the focus is set on achieving an 80%- literacy rate, on reducing the gender gap in literacy rate to 10%, to reduce dropout rates of children at the elementary level from 52, 2% in 2003-04 to 20% by 2011-12, and to support low literacy States, disadvantaged groups, minorities and to reduce regional, social and gender disparities and on granting the quality of the given education.

However, universal education cannot be established in isolation, therefore the Indian government has successfully joined hands with the UN on this matter, as extensive cooperation within the United Nations Development Program prove. Together we can bring the MDGs in achievable and reachable range. Therefore the issue of primary education should be discussed realistically and on a basis, where not only providing quantity, but quality plays an immense and even more important role. Due to India's ideals which are Socialism, Democracy, Justice, Equality, Fraternity the Indian Republic believes that the question on how to provide and ensure qualitative education with well-equipped and modern schools and on the basic training of teachers should be raised.

In conclusion, India is striving to guarantee its pupils the universal access to education, regardless of their gender. Moreover it is of the main concerns to support tribal States, rural areas, disadvantaged groups, religious/ethnic minorities and to extinguish any kind of disparities which influence the access to education. These main concerns remain to be: access, equity, quality, relevance, resources, planning and management of educational programmes.

Therefore the Republic of India highly approves of all expenditures which were made to tackle the problem of primary education and warmly welcomes every effort made on capacity building, modern education programmes, teacher training programmes and progressive use of instructional materials.

Sources

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How to Make an Opening Speech

- First, you should thank the presiding official by saying "Thank you Mr./ Madame/ Honorable Chair/ President..."
- Then begin by providing a brief history on the issue as it relates to your country.
- Speak about how the issue is currently affecting your country.

- your country's position on the issue. Include an explanation for your country's stance, such as economic or security concerns or political or religious ideology.
- You may choose to give an explanation of how your country's position relates to the positions of other member states such as the major powers or countries in your regional bloc.
- You should discuss some of the past actions taken by the UN, member states and NGOs to address the issue.
- Present ideas for a resolution, stressing your country's objectives for the resolution.
- Talk about the role that NGOs or regional organizations have to play in addressing the issue.
- Indicate to the committee members whether your country is willing to negotiate.

Vocabulary: Sample Preambulatory Phrases

Accept	Notes Proclaims	Designates
Affirms	Reaffirms	Draws the attention
Approves	Recommends	Emphasizes
Authorizes	Regrets	Encourages
Calls	Reminds	Endorses
Calls upon	Requests Solemnly affirms	Expresses its appreciation
Condemns	Strongly condemns Supports	Expresses its hope
Confirms	Takes note of Transmits Trusts	Further invites
Congratulates	Encourages	Further proclaims
Considers	Endorses	Further reminds
Declares accordingly	Expresses its appreciation	Further resolves
Deplores	Expresses its hope	Has resolved
Designates	Further invites	Further recommends
Draws the attention	Deplores	Further requests
Emphasizes		