





DIRECTORS'
WELCOME LETTER

Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

On behalf of the organizers, the Advisory Board, and the Executive Board of AUSMUN 2019, it is my greatest pleasure to welcome you to the 12th annual AUSMUN Conference. With over 900 delegates registered from more than 40 national and international educational institutions, this conference will be the biggest one yet!

This year's background guide was diligently written to provide delegates with enough guidance for their research. It will act as a great starting point for delegates to familiarize themselves with the topics of their respective committee. After a short letter that gives the chairs a chance to welcome their delegates, a summary, a brief history, a discourse on the issue, and the latest developments of the issue will be presented. In the summary, delegates will have their first quick briefing on the issue where concerns will be defined. Followed by that, the guide delves into the root causes of the issue by identifying its history. Then, a discourse section will look into the issue with further scrutiny by presenting both sides of the topic's debate and examining some of its challenges and influences. Finally, it will aim to provide delegates with the latest activities in regards to the matter and any progressions in its respect. At the very end of the guide, delegates will find questions that will guide their thinking, some suggestions that will guide their research, and references that they can use for further relevant information. However, it is important to point out that depending solely on the guide will not be sufficient enough to prepare delegates for the conference. It is highly encouraged for delegates to look at the Delegate Handbook on the AUSMUN website and to view the "How to Research" video created by AUSMUN.

The theme of this year's conference is youth empowerment. This is very important as we are the children of tomorrow. Even if delegates are not necessarily planning on pursuing an occupation in the field of law or politics, MUN is an enriching experience to all. MUN is supposed to teach more than just details on a certain crisis, it educates them to work harder, to think on their feet, to learn from others and from themselves, to fall and to fail, and to break free from their fears. It dares them to be without hesitation. It dares them to add to the world. To Speak. To act. To know. We all understand how difficult it is to be a delegate. It requires a suspicious load of work and consumes most of one's energy. But we want delegates to give it their all and to get what they came here for.

Finally, I would like to conclude this letter by extending my gratitude to everyone who has contributed to this background guide in any way or form. It is the collaborative work of the chairs, the AUSMUN Research Team, and the AUSMUN Media Team. On behalf of them all, we truly hope that you find this background guide of great help and use.

All the best with the conference and if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at research@ausmun.com.

Nada Nassereddin
Director of Research
AUSMUN 2019



UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL



Roa Daher



Aisha Alyassi

Abdullah Malek

MODERATORS'
WELCOME LETTER

Dear Distinguished Delegates,

It is with immense pleasure that we welcome you all to the 2019 American University of Sharjah Model United Nations Conference (AUSMUN2019). As chairs of the United Nations Security Council Committee (UNSC), we look forward to meeting you all and to hearing your ideas and resolutions for solving international conflicts while promoting what this committee primarily stands for, the maintenance of international peace and security.

The United Nations (UN) is founded upon the cooperation of its 193 Member States. With the differing interests, concerns, and aims of the Member States, collaboration between the delegates is of utmost importance to achieve the objectives of this committee. Furthermore, diplomacy, proper negotiation, and communication skills are essential to maintain a smooth flow of debate and to reach meticulously drafted resolutions.

The United Nations Security Council consists of fifteen members, five of which are considered to be permanent members (P5) and those include the People's Republic of China, the French Republic, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The permanent members hold the power to veto any substantive Security Council resolution. Moreover, the UNSC is composed of ten non-permanent members which are elected on a regional basis to serve for two-year terms. UNSC resolutions are binding resolutions and sanctions can be imposed on Member States that do not comply with them.

Since its inception, AUSMUN has carried the honorable responsibility of inspiring the youth to participate and find a voice in solving international conflicts. This year, we hope to further improve and ensure that all delegates have an equal chance to express themselves within the committee rooms. Whether you are an MUN veteran or simply a newcomer, we hope you have a great memorable experience with AUSMUN 2019.

Should you have any concerns or enquiries please do not hesitate to reach us on the following email: abdullahmalek96@gmail.com.

Sincerely,
The UNSC Chairs

TOPIC 1

Reform of the United Nations Security Council

SUMMARY

As the United Nations was founded in 1945, the United Nations Security Council was comprised of eleven members, five of which were permanent members while the other six were non-permanent members. The five permanent members are the French Republic, the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The other six non-permanent members were elected by the General Assembly and remained in the UNSC for a two-year period. However, in 1963, the Charter of the UN was amended to allow ten non-permanent members in the UNSC instead of only six ("Reform of the UN Security Council", 2016). At that time, the UNSC underwent its first and only successful reformation thus far.

The question of reform is an elaborate one as it has multiple aspects that must be taken into consideration, especially the aspect of regional representation, in terms of which members are deserving of more long-term seats and veto power and the aspect of the significance of permanent and non-permanent members.

HISTORY

The United Nations Security Council is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN) created by the United Nations Charter which came into effect on October 24th, 1945. Some of its main objectives include the maintenance of international peace and security, the acceptance of new Member States to the United Nations, and the approval of any changes to the United Nations Charter. Moreover, of its powers are establishing international sanctions on violating states, authorization of military actions, and establishing peacekeeping operations. While generally compared to the General Assembly as having similar objectives, the UNSC is in fact quite more powerful; unlike the GA, resolutions issued by the UNSC are binding resolutions and are not simply recommendations.

Despite drastic geopolitical changes, the UNSC has changed relatively little since its establishment. Discussions on increasing the numbers of permanent states have been going on and countries who have made the strongest demands for permanent seats are the Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan (Global Policy Forum, 2004). These countries are some of the largest funders of the UNSC and the largest

contributors to the UN-mandated peacekeeping missions. Several proposals to become permanent member states have been raised. Other discussions involve the transparency and the working methods of the UNSC. The UNSC has also been criticized for its structure and the power of veto held by the P5 which allows them to deny resolutions that go against their countries' interests. The principal questions facing Member States are whether expansion and addition of new members should be in the permanent or the non-permanent category, and what qualifies Member States to submit proposals for permanent seats in the UNSC.

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

The different ways for reforming the UNSC can be categorized to "five key cluster areas". Those include the size of an enlarged Security Council, the categories of membership, the questions concerning regional representation, the questions regarding extending the power of the veto to additional Member States, and the working methods of the Security Council and its relationship with the General Assembly (Martinetti, 2007). Many Member States could argue that reforming the Security Council would make it more efficient and it would improve its legitimacy as being a part of an international organization. Also, it could be assumed that a reformation will make the UNSC more representative and democracy can be achieved by removing the veto power or imposing some restrictions on the usage of it.

On the other hand, for these changes to happen it requires an approval from the five permanent members of the UNSC which is believed to be impossible to happen. Many articles of the United Nations Charter can be violated during the reform of the UNSC. More specifically, the mechanism to expand or change the membership of the Security Council clearly violates the UN Charter, Article 23, Paragraph 1 (U.N. Charter art. 23, para. 1). Furthermore, re-assigning permanent members can create conflicts between the countries chosen and their neighboring countries and it can affect the current permanent members of the UNSC by possibly making them lose their power of decision making. Overall, the debate on reformation is a difficult one, where some Member States could support it while others

PAST IO ACTIONS AND THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

Ever since 1993, the topic of the UNSC reformation has created the most controversial debate in the Security Council. As previously mentioned, the only time the UNSC was reformed was in 1965 when non-permanent members were pushed up from six to ten members. Currently, the main issue with most of the states is the "permanent" veto-wielding seats that are present in the council. In 2005, the former Secretary-General Kofi Anna introduced the 2005 Anna Plan where he gave two alternatives

to implement to change the structure of the UNSC which were denoted as Plan A and Plan B. In terms of Plan A, it called for creating six new permanent members and three new non-permanent members to establish a total of 24 seats in the council. For Plan B, it encouraged the creation of eight new seats in a new class of members who would serve for four years and are subject to renewal plus one non-permanent seat, also for a total of 24 seats in the council. Both models involve the distribution of seats between four major identified regions: Africa, Asia, Pacific, Europe, and the Americas (United Nations, 2004). Furthermore, uniting for consensus was a movement of Member States that also made another proposal based on Annan's, which was that the Security Council maintains five permanent members and raises the number of non-permanent members to 20.

QUESTIONS THE DISCUSSIONS AND THE RESOLUTIONS SHOULD ADDRESS

- What are some factors that need to be taken into consideration when reforming the UNSC and why?
- Would the UNSC lose its legitimacy if the veto power was granted to more Member States?
- What are the standards that could qualify a country to become a permanent member of the UNSC?
- What qualifies your country to become a permanent state in the UNSC? What are your country's contributions to the UNSC and to the international community?
- Can UNSC reform be the reason to eliminate UN failures? In which way?

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

- Difficulty in the UNSC Reformation.
- Qualifications for Member States to Hold Veto Power.

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TOPIC 2

Rohingya Genocide in Myanmar

SUMMARY

In the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (Myanmar), formerly known as Burma, one of the several minorities residing there are the Rohingya people. As of the beginning of 2017, the Rohingya population in Myanmar were numbered at around one million. Not only do the Rohingya have their own culture and language, but they also represent the largest percentage of Muslims in Myanmar, with the majority living in the Rakhine province ('Myanmar Rohingya: What you need to know about the crisis', 2018). However, the government of Myanmar, which is a predominantly Buddhist country, refuses to acknowledge the Rohingya as a people. Therefore, they were excluded from the 2014 Myanmar Population Census, they were denied citizenship and instead, they began to be regarded as illegal immigrants from Bangladesh ('Myanmar Rohingya: What you need to know about the crisis', 2018). In the last few years prior to the crisis, many Rohingya made their ways out of Myanmar to dangerous journeys, in the hopes of escaping communal violence and abuse faced from security forces.

On the 25th of August 2017, the most recent exodus began where some Rohingya militants launched fatal attacks on more than 30 police posts as a form of response to years of persecution. Groups backed by local Buddhist mobs retaliated by burning their villages and killing civilians. In the month following the incident, at least 6,700 Rohingya, including 730 children under the age of five, were murdered; the Myanmar military also raped and abused Rohingya women and girls ('Myanmar Rohingya: What you need to know about the crisis', 2018). The genocide against the Rohingya has resulted in the "world's fastest growing refugee crisis" as thousands of Rohingya attempt to escape Myanmar and move to other countries like Indonesia, Thailand, and Bangladesh. The international community has condemned the actions of the Myanmar government, but no definitive measures, such as the imposition of sanctions, have been taken.

HISTORY

The Rohingya have existed in the Buddhist majority country, Myanmar, for centuries. It was estimated that 1.1 million lived along the Bay of Bengal in the Rakhine State of Myanmar. Myanmar was known as Burma during the period between 1824 and 1948, under the British rule. In 1945, Burma gained its independence and passed the Union Citizenship Act which listed the 135 "indigenous" ethnicities to

Myanmar. However, the Rohingya were not considered one of the official ethnic groups. The situation worsened after the 1962 coup d'état which was led by the Bamar, currently the dominant ethnic group in Myanmar. With time, people of Myanmar were required to obtain registration cards, where the Rohingya were only given foreign registration card. Moreover, the new citizenship law in 1982 also prevented them from receiving full citizenship, making most of them stateless.

Beginning in 2016, the Myanmar's armed forces and police started a major crackdown on the Rohingya people. By the end of 2017, an estimated 625,000 refugees crossed the border into Bangladesh.

However, this was not the first crackdown faced by the Rohingya people, others include crackdowns in 1978, 1991-1992, 2012, 2015, and 2017-2018. Consequently, the Rohingya have been described as one of the most persecuted minorities in the world (Amnesty International, 2017). Furthermore, the Burmese army has been accused of ethnic cleansing and genocide by several governments, by minority rights NGOs, and by several officials from different countries. Not only are the Rohingya people deprived of the right to citizenship, but they are also denied their rights of free movement, higher education, and freedom of religion. Therefore, the Rohingya population are not protected by the government against issues of discrimination due to them not being considered Burmese citizens. Also, they face obstacles and struggles to practice their religion freely. Consequently, all the Rohingya who remained in the Rakhine State continue to live under a system described as "apartheid", where the government in Myanmar discriminates against them, segregates them from the rest of the society, and

DISCOURSE ON THE ISSUE

On an international basis, the genocide is a humanitarian crisis that the government of Myanmar has been accused for. Aung San Suu Kyi, a State Counselor of Myanmar, has appeared recently in the World Economic Forum answering briefly about the issues faced by the Rohingya. She publicly responded by stating that the issue could not have been handled any "better" ("Aung San Suu Kyi on the Rohingya crisis and jailed Reuters journalists", 2018). However, the Rohingya genocide still occurs and still violates many of the articles stated in the Human Rights Declaration published by the General Assembly.

Majority of the Rohingya people fled to Bangladesh in an area with no shelter, no food, and no basic human rights. This refugee crisis has greatly affected Bangladesh as it had to accept a huge number of refugees, which eventually has led to many economic, political, and security challenges. According to the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Executive Director of Bangladesh, Said Fahima Khatun, "The Bangladesh government has estimated that \$434 million has been spent on some 80 million Rohingya till then. And 74% of that expense has been borne by the agencies, but the rest have been accumulated by our government". Furthermore, the Myanmar's military continue to launch attacks on the Rohingya

in an attempt of “ethnic cleansing”. In conclusion, this issue is critical and it is the role of delegates to determine if Member States should subscribe to the UN Charter and to the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) to ensure the safe return of the Rohingya to their ancestral land in the Rakhine state and to hold those responsible accountable for their actions.

PAST IO ACTIONS AND THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS

As of 2017, multiple global humanitarian Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have called for urgent access to Rakhine in order to provide humanitarian aid to the Rohingya as only the UN bodies, the European Commission, and the Red Cross have been given access since the start of the crisis. Some of these NGOs include the Care International, the Relief International, and the Save the Children, where they all aim to provide the persecuted population life-saving food and nutrition, medical services, and shelter. However, it is important to know that there have been instances where even UN aid agencies were refused access, in particular to northern Rakhine.

It is also important to understand how the UN has tackled the issue thus far. The UN appointed an independent international fact-finding mission to Myanmar and its findings showed that Myanmar's top military officials must be investigated and prosecuted for genocide and crimes against humanity. The UN recognizes that this is a genocide and the crimes committed were murder, rape, torture, sexual slavery, persecution, and enslavement in accordance to the fact finding organization that were deployed in Myanmar who interviewed hundreds of Rohingya refugees who fled the country. Consequently, the UN calls upon the International Criminal Court (ICC) to refer to the current situation in Myanmar. However, despite the efforts done, the UN has not been very successful in improving the conditions for the safe return of the Rohingya, as stated by António Guterres, the Secretary-General of the UN, on August 2018. During the same meeting in August, he also called for the Security Council to work on the Crisis with the government of Myanmar in order to end the “horrendous suffering” of the Rohingya (United Nations, 2018).

Since then, there have been plans by the government of Bangladesh to repatriate more than 2,200 Rohingya refugees to Myanmar, however, said refugees threatened to suicide if they are to be forced to return (United Nations, 2018). This emphasizes the terror they have been subjected to in their home country. Moreover, this also means that, now more than ever, the Security Council has to act. With that being said, it is vital to know that on the 24th of October 2018, the Security Council met and the situation in Myanmar was set as the Provisional Agenda of the meeting. However, Member States differed on their stances on whether the issue needs to be discussed or not.

QUESTIONS THE DISCUSSIONS AND THE RESOLUTIONS SHOULD ADDRESS

- Are the actions of Myanmar considered genocide, war crimes, or crimes against humanity?
- How shall the Security Council deal with the crisis? Do aforementioned crimes of Myanmar call for further humanitarian interventions, military interventions, or sanctions?
- Should the Security Council consider creating a mission, like the UNAMA, for the sole purpose of dealing with the Rohingya Crisis?
- How should the Security Council hold the government of Myanmar accountable?
- Would discussions between the government of Myanmar and the Rohingya be effective in solving the crisis? If yes, how could both parties be brought together?

SUGGESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

- The Stances of Member States of the Security Council.
- The Legal Status of the Rohingya and the People's Right to Self-Determination.
- Operation King Dragon of 1978, Operation Clean and Beautiful Country of 1991, and Operation Clearance of 2017.
- The National League for Democracy and Union Solidarity and Development Party.

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