

# MUN

## UNSC- UNI BACKGROUND GUIDE

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AUSMUN 2021



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH

# DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH WELCOME LETTER

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Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my utmost pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2021. As an organization led by the students of AUS, AUSMUN has had the privilege of hosting some of the biggest and most diverse MUN conferences in this region. Our 2020 conference saw over 1000 delegate registrations from more than 45 national and international institutions!

Adapting to a New Normal, Promoting Resilience: given the turbulent year of 2020, there was no other theme which could have fit our present conditions better. A small outbreak in Wuhan exactly a year back has now trickled down into a global catastrophe which has two million dead, leaving a trail of broken lives in its wake. Looking at the severely distorted life that has become our 'new normal', some may question whether it could all have been avoided. Whether we could have been better prepared. And the broader goal of our conference is to do exactly that: teach the upcoming generation to question current policies in the hopes of preventing another similar global catastrophe.

This background guide has been formulated by your chairs along with the research team to provide you with a concise overview of the topics chosen.

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The guide is initially divided into two sections based on the two topics and is further split into logical components. Firstly, the Summary and History section acts as an introduction to the issue. Secondly, the Discourse on the Issue section establishes a link between the issue, its implications, significance, and the United Nations Charter. Lastly, the Past International Organization (IO) Actions and Latest Developments section elaborates on the previous actions that have been taken, which can be used by delegates as a stepping stone to come up with their own solutions to the issues. At the end of each topic, delegates will find sections of questions and suggestions that aim to guide the process of research.

Delegates are greatly encouraged to expand beyond the guide and research about their country and topics in order to construct well founded arguments during debate. The delegate handbook contains a number of tips on how to research and addresses a vast array of common concerns. Finally, let me use this opportunity to extend my gratitude to all those who have helped create the document you are reading right now: Your wonderful moderators, the AUSMUN Research Team, and not to mention the AUSMUN Media team who have done an incredible job in designing and formatting the Background Guides.

I wish you the very best in preparing for the conference. If you have any queries at all, or need any specific help in researching for your topics, do not hesitate to contact [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com)

Sincerely,  
Julia Jose  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2021

# MODERATORS

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Aamir

Amaan Siddiqui

Manaaf Alsalehi

Malek Bashhir



# WELCOME DELEGATES!

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We are in unprecedented times, and AUSMUN is something that brings us a sense of normalcy.

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) at AUSMUN. Delegates have no fear, as despite this being a competition, at the end of the day what matters most is the experience, knowledge, connections and friends that you make. Bear in mind, you will find yourself in heated debates, power-play, and direct opposition with nations and interests of other delegates but we highly recommend that you keep those grudges within the committee and only among your country policies and forget all of it outside the committee room.

In the course of these three days, we wish to see constructive, logical, and versatile influx of opinions and debates. We also wish to see how you delegates bring forth the interests of your nation and stand by it firmly. While all committees at AUSMUN prompt delegates to understand their country's policy, the UNSC adds another level of realism and challenge that requires delegates to further refine their negotiation skills.

The UNSC is tasked with promoting and protecting international peace and security. To ensure that the committee runs as smoothly as possible, we hope that each and every one of you will bring unparalleled knowledge of your country's position and parliamentary procedure, as well as an understanding of the functions of the UNSC.

We advise you delegates that this background guide only serves as a starter for information and provides a direction. Being delegates of the highest forum of the UN, you are expected to carry out thorough research and hold discussions at your highest potential. Apart from what you have learnt from research, your nation's interests and so on, we wish to see innovative and original ideas, opinions and arguments on how to achieve those interests. At the end, what matters most to us is your overall learning and what you take away from the conference.

We wish you the very best for the conference and your future endeavours. Looking forward to seeing you all!

AAMIR, AMAAN SIDDIQUI  
AUTHORS OF THE BACKGROUND GUIDE



# OVERVIEW OF THE COMMITTEE

Formed in 1945, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the UN. It was formed to prevent international conflicts. In a nutshell, its primary responsibility is to ensure international peace and security.



# STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS

The UNSC is composed of fifteen member states, five of which are permanent (United States, United Kingdom, Russia, China and France) and the remaining are elected by the General Assembly every two years. However, Any party not a member of the UNSC but that is involved in the dispute being discussed may be invited, without vote, to the meetings (U.N. Charter art. 31).

Among a few of its specific functions are the formulation of plans to regulate armaments, appointment of the Secretary General and election of judges of the International Court of Justice with the General Assembly. It is also the only U.N. organ whose resolutions are binding (U.N. Charter, art. 25).

The UNSC may first enforce its decisions in any ways that do not involve the use of force such as pacific settlement, or sanctions. However, if the dispute does not resolve even then, then “demonstrations, blockade, and other operations by air, sea, or land forces of Members of the United Nations” is permitted (U.N. Charter art. 33, 41, & 42).

## Voting

Every member shall have one vote and resolutions will pass given the affirmative vote of at least 9 members. A negative vote by any P5 nations(s) counts as a veto (U.N. Charter art. 27, para. 1-2).

Nations which are directly involved in the conflict shall abstain from voting on resolutions if the powers exercised are limited to Chapter VI of the UN Charter (U.N. Charter art. 27, para. 3).



### Summary and History of issue

Foreign fighters have played an essential role in terrorist organizations, such as the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and al-Shabaab. The percentage of foreign fighters in ISIS's ranks has been estimated to be as high as 80%, although the real figure is likely to be around 50% (Schmid, 2015). An estimated 40,000 radicalized nationals have gone to fight in conflicts in the Middle East—mostly in Iraq and Syria—one-quarter of whom are women and minors (Benton, & Banulescu-Bogdan, 2019). A majority have purportedly died in combat, but the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) estimated as of February 2019 that as many as 3,000 of these foreign fighters and their dependents remained in Iraq and Syria (Benton, & Banulescu-Bogdan, 2019). The potential threat from foreign so-called jihadist fighters has become one of increasing concern due to of recent military successes against ISIS, which have reduced the organization's territorial control.

Regarding funding, no authority can classify these terrorist activities as “cheap.” Funding is the lifeblood of these destructive actors and is often the factor that gives these fighters the necessary tools to bring deadly harm. To nip this in the bud, the UNSC has attempted to confront and turn off these organizations monetary supply, primarily with the use of regulatory legislation and administrative action. At the forefront of this mission is the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), initially formed in 1989 to combat money laundering, becoming the primary group to counter-terrorist funding worldwide. However, most of these funds are obtained independently from oil smuggling, extortion, and other crimes in Iraq and Syria. As a result, the FATF has been fighting to curb this funding by significantly turning back their access to these local income sources.

## **Discourse on the issue**

In areas where there is limited presence of armed forces and surveillance, there has been an elevated level of violence among these foreign fighters which needs to be controlled by UN intervention.

### **Migration of Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) and Link to Funding and Network**

According to Europol's report (2018) on terrorist threats in the EU, one of the main threats to South-Eastern Europe (mostly Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Albania, and North Macedonia) is FTFs returning to their country of origin. Around 1000 people traveled to Iraq and Syria between late 2012 and 2017 (women and children constituted almost 35% of this group). About 300 have already returned. It is feared that terrorist organizations plan attacks in the respective countries of origin where FTFs return. This is a problem not just because of the immediate threat posed but also because it aids in the financing and networking of terrorist organizations. Returnees that remain connected to the group help expand the network allowing access to more resources and funding. However, a study undertaken by the European Parliamentary Research Service states that "very few concrete cases of 'foreign fighters' returning to conduct attacks in Europe have been observed" ("Foreign Terrorist Fighters," 2019).

### **Terrorist Financing**

During the cold war, government-funded organizations were standard. However, now, the situation is different. Criminal activities and terrorist financing go hand in hand. Thony (n.d.) believes that distinctions between the two are "useless." The primary funding modes are drug trafficking, "revolutionary taxes," ransoms and abductions, trafficking of precious stones and humans. Covert charitable organizations are also seen to play an important role.

Thony states that the international community has a threefold objective in this regard:

*"It involves simultaneously protecting the international financial system, preventing criminals from enjoying the proceeds of their crimes, and preventing them from utilizing the formidable economic power they have amassed to challenge the stability of governments."*

He concludes that the international community needs to continually review systems that seek to prevent the financing of terrorist activities as the stages of counter financing policies are still in their early stages, but the threat is continually evolving.

## **Past Actions by UN, International Organizations (IO) and NGOs**

### **The UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT)**

The UNOCT has implemented projects to increase States' ability to identify, track, and disrupt the mobility of foreign fighters through enhanced information sharing; and strengthen their internet capacities for investigations related to these actors. The office has also provided support to the member states in adopting human rights-based treatment of children associated with foreign terrorist fighters. Additionally, programs/projects on border security and management, countering terrorist financing, and cybersecurity all address the evolving and growing foreign fighters all around the world ("Foreign terrorist fighters," n.d.).

### **International Instruments to Prevent Terrorist Acts**

Since 1963, the international community has elaborated 19 international legal instruments to prevent terrorist acts.

1. Instruments Regarding Civil Aviation (7 Instruments)
2. Instruments Regarding the Protection of International Staff (2 Instruments)



3. Instruments Regarding Nuclear Material (2 Instruments)
4. Instruments Regarding Maritime Navigation (4 Instruments)
5. Instruments Regarding Explosive Materials (3 Instruments),
6. Instruments Regarding Nuclear Terrorism (1 Instrument) (“Foreign Terrorist Fighters”, 2019).

### **The Hague-Marrakech Memorandum on Good Practices for a More Effective Response to the FTF Phenomenon (2014) and its Addendum (2015)**

Launched within the framework of the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF), this initiative aims to bring together policymakers and practitioners from diverse environments to share learnings, practices, and challenges to be able to combat the FTF threat together. The recommendations in the 2015 addendum focus mostly on returning FTFs while the former focuses on FTFs in general (“Foreign Terrorist Fighters”, 2019).

### **Security Council Resolution 2178 (2014) and 2396 (2017)**

Formally defined the term “foreign terrorist fighters” as *“Individuals who travel to a State other than their States of residence or nationality for the purpose of the perpetration, planning or preparation, or participating in terrorist acts, or the providing or receiving of terrorist training, including in connection with armed conflict.”* The resolution also called upon nations to enhance criminal justice by better detecting, preventing, and criminalizing anything that aids FTFs. Additionally, mentions of possible sanctioning is also a measure of blocking funding. UNSC Resolution 2396 primarily focused on returning FTFs (“Foreign Terrorist Fighters”, 2019).

Care International works towards Adaptation, Advocacy, Gender, Ecosystems and Natural Resources, Food and Nutrition and Resilience for climate change.

### Questions and suggestions for further research

1. What are the different sources terrorist and extremist organizations acquire funds from?
2. What role do nation-states play in funding or aiding terrorist organizations and how do we prove and tackle such cases?
3. How can it be effectively discerned that certain travel or financial transactions are for aiding FTFs and terrorist organizations?
4. To what extent do proxy wars play a role in aggravating the situation, if they do?
5. Should terrorist organizations be outright fought and crushed or should the world take note of their demands and negotiate?
6. Based on your research, if not, then are there any exceptional cases where your answer would be different?

1. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/tenth-report-secretary-general-threat-posed-isil-da%E2%80%99esh-international-peace-and-security-and-range>
2. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/threats-international-peace-and-security-caused-terrorist-acts-foreign-terrorist-fighters>
3. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/addressing-growing-issue-foreign-terrorist-fighters>
4. <https://www.fatfgafi.org/publications/fatfgeneral/documents/terroristfinancing.html>
5. International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism (1999)



### Summary and History of issue

From former United States President Woodrow Wilson, the first use of the concept 'self-determination' stemmed from 1918. The fundamental idea behind self-determination was that people are sovereign, not subjects of the state. In the modern era, the right to self-determination is one of the core principles of international law. Every state's responsibility is to respect and protect this right. Its violation constitutes transnational criminal offense. However, the method of exercising self-determination differs. It is a concept different from secession and independence. Some communities' only possible outcome is full independence. While some only aspire for a degree of political, cultural, and economic autonomy and for others, it may just mean to live and manage their communities without external interference ("Self-determination," 2017).

The People's Republic of China (PRC) has many internal political conflicts. Along with those systematic conflicts, the country also allegedly entails various human rights violations. Despite this, most nations explicitly agree with China's claim over those territories- including even the most autonomous, Taiwan. It is difficult to ascertain whether the PRC holds rights over those territories. Beyond reason and logic, the Westphalian principles of a nation-state and existing international relations concepts play a bigger role in determining whether or not Chinese territories longing for independence will receive international recognition for the same (Mund, 2013).

## Timeline of Key Events

Year	Event
1951	The 14th Dalai Lama (a teenager) was forcibly made to sign accession of Tibet into the People's Republic of China
1955	Bandung (Indonesia) conference of third world countries--enforced the principle of non-interference in other countries' internal affairs to inhibit separatist movements calling upon external assistance. It is assumed that due to this Indian stand on Tibetans changed to anti-independence post 1950s.
1987	Multiple pro-independence protests in Tibet which led to the declaration of martial law in 1989. Economic and political policies that were seen to suppress non-Han cultures increased thereof.
1997	Hong Kong was given back to China by the British under the "one country, two systems" policy until 2047.
2019	A bill was proposed which allows extradition from Hong Kong to mainland China. People believe that the bill "gives more power to China over Hong Kong". This extradition would subject Hong Kong citizens to mainland authoritarianism.

To achieve realistic solutions, it is important to assess how China views secession movements abroad, how foreign nations view secession movements within China, and the impact this will have on international and regional stability before developing an opinion solely by looking at internal affairs.

## **Discourse on the Issue**

### **Implications on International Relations**

The Human Rights Council has a bloc which always opposes 'anti Chinese' resolutions. These nations have deals with China over the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). EU BRI recipients follow suit. Greece is one of the countries that receive large Chinese investments at large. In 2017 it blocked the signing of an EU joint statement in the UNHRC on Human Rights abuses in China. Hungary followed suit on a similar matter (Marques, 2019).

Westphalian principles, diplomatic ties, economic pressure, and global non-conformity towards Chinese secession movements render this issue an international security concern.

### **Artificial Demographic Shifts and Human Rights Concerns in Tibet and Xinjiang**

Beijing claims its right to sovereignty over Tibet stating that it has done so for seven centuries, contrary to popular belief. In the second Human Rights Review on October 22 2013, Chinese human rights violations against Tibetans and Uyghurs were highlighted. Cultural communities and their heritage face constant suppression by the government especially in Tibet and Xinjiang (Cooper, 2014; Dreyer, 2019).

The Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR) is a western Chinese territory accounting for 1/6th of China's land home to the Uyghurs, and are allegedly victims of concentration camps (Dreyer, 2019). The region has seen independence movements in large numbers since the 1990s and even declared independence in 1933 but were reabsorbed soon after (Bhattacharji, 2012).

According to Goldstein (1998), a program of rapid economic development was adopted in Tibet which included incentives



encouraging an influx of non-Tibetans, mostly Han Chinese, into Tibet to shift its demographic composition. The same system was applied in Xinjiang by the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC) due to which the Han Population rose from 6.7% in 1949 to 40% in 2008 in XUAR (as cited in Bajoria, 2008).

## **Past Actions by UN, International Organizations (IO) and NGOs**

### **Post 1995 EU-China Human Rights Dialogues**

The EU-China Human Rights Dialogue has been in place since the 1990s and is a confidential meeting held between the EU, China and often NGOs. This has largely been a replacement of proposing China-Specific HRC Resolutions. However, keeping meetings behind closed doors and letting China deny statements and refusing participation of critical NGOs in this dialogue in the name of 'mutually beneficial cooperation' shows weak accountability and no progress (Marques, 2019).

### **One Country, Two Systems**

The 'one country, two systems' is a Chinese national unification policy. It aimed at reintegrating Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan with mainland China while preserving their unique political and economic systems but having sovereignty over them. The system is active for Hong Kong. Taiwan on the other hand denied this system and still strives for full independence. Under the law of this policy. Beijing only maintains control over Hong Kong's diplomacy and defense (Albert, E. & Maizland, L, 2020).

## **United Nations Experts, News, and Statements**

The United Nations has not been able to take significant measures against China. However, experts at the UN and human rights offices of the UN have often expressed their disappointment with many actions of China pursuant to the agenda. Additionally, individual nation states have

often used the UN platforms to express their concerns about the human rights, political, and secessional issues of China often individually or via joint statements such as:

- October 6, 2020: Joint Statement on the Human Rights Situation in Xinjiang and the Recent Developments in Hong Kong, Delivered by Germany on Behalf of 39 Countries.
- October 29, 2019: Joint statement on human rights violations and abuses in Xinjiang, Delivered by the United Kingdom on Behalf of 23 Countries.

### **Discussion of China's New Hong Kong Security Measures at the Security Council**

In an informal UNSC meeting earlier this year, U.S. ambassador expressed his belief that Chinese actions towards Hong Kong violate local rights and international law. The latter is explicitly contested by China, which is why the UNSC could not formally convene over the agenda (Nichols, 2020).

### **Questions and suggestions for further research**

1. What are the common public's political demands in Guangxi, Tibet, Taiwan, Xinjiang, Hong Kong, and Inner Mongolia?
2. What solutions can be implemented by the UNSC which will not impede on national sovereignty and account for regional and/or international security?
3. What can the UNSC and independent nations do to prevent nations being economically and diplomatically pressured to support alleged wrongdoings at the hands of China?
4. How do these issues of secession influence international security and international relations?



5. Where do we draw the lines between the concepts of terrorism, radicalism, democratic rights, secession, separatism, and state sovereignty? How will China be made to accept these distinctions?

- <https://news.un.org/en/tags/china>
- Relation of China with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
- Inner Mongolia, Guangxi and Macau as a Chinese Autonomous Regions.
- The implications, success, failures, and politics behind the Belt and Road Initiative.
- New security legislations in Hong Kong by Beijing.



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