



SRMUN CHARLOTTE 2023
*Reimagining Peace, Reclaiming Human Rights, and Restoring
International Law*
March 23-25, 2023
sc_charlotte@srmun.org

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to SRMUN Charlotte 2023 and the Security Council! My name is Manu Kakani and I am thrilled to be serving as your Director for Security Council! This will be my third SRMUN conference on staff and second time on the dais for Security Council. I graduated with a degree in Computer Science in 2021 and now work in management consulting in New York City. Our Assistant Director will be Kendrick King. While this is Kendrick's first time on staff, he is no stranger to SRMUN, having participated in three conferences as a delegate. Kendrick lives in Georgia and recently graduated with a master's degree in Public Health.

The Security Council is the most powerful body within the United Nations due to the body's ability to deploy peacekeeping operations, impose sanctions, and authorize military action. The Security Council consists of 15 Member States; five of which are permanent members (P5) whose membership does not expire: France, the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. The remaining ten members are appointed by the United Nations General Assembly for a two-year term based on geographical location. Each member receives one vote, with the P5 members each having the additional power to "veto" a draft resolution put forth to the body. Resolutions passed by the SC are required to be enforced by all United Nations Member States under Article 25 of the UN Charter.

In accordance with the nature of the Security Council, this Council will work with an open agenda for SRMUN Charlotte 2023. Delegates are responsible for identifying pressing topics or situations and presenting them to the body for discussion.

The background guide and attached addendum provide an introduction to the committee and workings of the Security Council at SRMUN Charlotte 2023. As we approach the conference, general updates regarding critical situations currently threatening worldwide peace and security will be released to all Security Council delegates for their review. These updates should be utilized as a foundation for a delegate's independent research, as participants are expected to go beyond the topic updates and engage in intellectual inquiry of their own to present to the body two of the most pressing issues affecting their Member State. The Position Papers for the committee should reflect the complexity of these issues and their externalities. Delegations are expected to submit a Position Paper and be prepared for a vigorous discussion at the conference.

Position Papers should be no longer than two pages in length (single spaced) and demonstrate your Member State's position, policies, and recommendations on each of the two topics of your choosing. For more detailed information about formatting and how to write Position Papers, delegates can visit srmun.org. **All position papers MUST be submitted no later than Friday, March 3, 2023, by 11:59pm EST via the SRMUN website.**

Kendrick and I are very excited to be serving as your dais for the Security Council! We wish you all the best of luck in your conference preparation and look forward to working with you in the near future. Please feel free to contact Director General Chantel Hover, Kendrick King, or myself if you have any questions while preparing for the conference.

Manu Kakani
Director
sc_charlotte@srmun.org

Kendrick King
Assistant Director
sc_charlotte@srmun.org

Chantel Hover
Director General
dg_charlotte@srmun.org

History of the United Nations Security Council

The United Nations (UN) Security Council (SC) was established as one of the six main bodies of the UN on October 24, 1945.¹ The SC is tasked with the maintenance of international peace and security.² The SC determines what constitutes a breach in peace and security in international, inter-state, and intra-state contexts.³ The UN Charter compels Member States to accept and perform resolutions passed by the SC, making the council's decisions paramount to international security.⁴

The SC is composed of 15 Member States, each with one vote.⁵ There are five permanent seats and ten rotating positions.⁶ The five permanent (P5) Member States were the most powerful framers of the UN Charter at its creation were the Republic of China, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR), the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.⁷ In the UN's 76-year history, the P5 Member States have only changed twice. In 1971, the People's Republic of China took over the Chinese seat from the Republic of China.⁸ In 1991, the Russian Federation assumed the USSR's seat at the end of the Cold War.⁹ The ten non-permanent Member States sit on the SC for staggered two-year terms, with five seats replaced every year.¹⁰ The non-permanent Member States must be voted to the SC based on geographic regions. Five seats must be filled from Africa and Asia, one from Eastern Europe, two from Latin American and the Caribbean, and two from the Western European region.¹¹ These non-permanent Member States are submitted and voted on by the UN General Assembly.¹²

The SC holds various responsibilities within the UN outlined in Chapters V, VI, VII, and XII of the UN Charter.¹³ Chapter V defines the composition, functions, and procedures of the Council.¹⁴ Chapter VI of the UN Charter outlines the SC's duty to oversee pacific settlements of disputes.¹⁵ The SC can intervene on behalf of the international community in situations where peaceful settlements have failed.¹⁶ Per Chapter VII Articles 40-42, the SC can respond to any identified breach of international peace and security through imposing sanctions or calling on Member States to aid in military action.¹⁷ The SC historically has utilized economic sanctions in response to breaches in international peace and security, such as S/RES/1718 (2006) concerning nuclear weapons proliferation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).¹⁸ Chapter VII also includes provisions to deploy military

¹ United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, October 24, 1945, <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text>.

² United Nations Security Council. "What is the Security Council?" United Nations, <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/what-security-council>. (Accessed August 1, 2022).

³ United Nations, "Chapter VII: Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression," in *Charter of the United Nations*, October 24, 1945, <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text>. (Accessed August 1, 2022).

⁴ United Nations, "Chapter V: The Security Council," in *Charter of the United Nations*, October 24, 1945, <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text>. (Accessed August 1, 2022).

⁵ United Nations Security Council, "Security Council Members," United Nations, <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/security-council-members>. (Accessed August 1, 2022).

⁶ United Nations Security Council, "Security Council Members."

⁷ United Nations Security Council, "Current Members," United Nations, <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/security-council-members>. (Accessed August 1, 2022).

⁸ United Nations General Assembly *Resolution 2758. Restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations*, A/RES/2758 (1971), October 25, 1971.

⁹ "END OF THE SOVIET UNION; Soviet U.N. Seat Taken by Russia." *The New York Times*, December 25, 1991, sec. World. <https://www.nytimes.com/1991/12/25/world/end-of-the-soviet-union-soviet-un-seat-taken-by-russia.html>. (Accessed August 1, 2022).

¹⁰ United Nations Security Council, "Membership and Elections," FAQ, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/faq>. (Accessed August 1, 2022).

¹¹ United Nations Security Council, "Membership and Elections."

¹² United Nations Security Council, "Membership and Elections."

¹³ United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*.

¹⁴ United Nations, "Chapter V: The Security Council," in *Charter of the United Nations*.

¹⁵ United Nations, "Chapter VI: Pacific Settlement of Disputes," in *Charter of the United Nations*, October 24, 1945, <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text>. (Accessed August 1, 2022).

¹⁶ United Nations, "Chapter VI: Pacific Settlement of Disputes," in *Charter of the United Nations*.

¹⁷ United Nations, "Chapter VII: Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression," in *Charter of the United Nations*.

¹⁸ United Nations Security Council, "Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1718 (2006)," United Nations, <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sanctions/1718>. (Accessed August 1, 2022).

actions to settle disputes that cannot be resolved through sanctions or peace settlements.¹⁹ The SC resolutions invoking Chapter VII include S/RES/84 (1950), which advised Member States to aid the Republic of Korea against the breach of peace by the DPRK and authorized the Korean War.²⁰ Chapter VII Articles 42-48 outlines the progression of measures the SC can take in planning military action, including the authorization of peacekeeping missions.²¹ The SC has the sole authority to approve, extend, amend, or end peacekeeping operations by adopting a resolution.²² The SC has authorized peacekeeping missions since 1948, with the UN Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO).²³ Since then, the SC has authorized missions to India and Kashmir, the Congo, Lebanon, and other conflict-affected areas per the authority of the UN Charter.²⁴ The SC may also authorize Member States to perform military operations, such as S/RES/678 (1990) that authorized Member States to use force in Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.²⁵ The UN Charter also gives the SC the power to vote on General Assembly membership and changes to the UN Charter.²⁶ The SC most recently used this power in its 2011 recommendation to admit South Sudan to the UN.²⁷

Decisions of the SC on both procedural and substantive matters require nine affirmative votes.²⁸ For substantive decisions of the SC, all P5 Member States have the veto power, meaning all P5 Member States must vote affirmative or abstain from voting for a resolution to be adopted.²⁹ All decisions of the SC are binding: all resolutions adopted by the SC must be accepted and carried out by all UN Member States.³⁰ If at least one P5 Member State votes in opposition to a resolution in the SC, the resolution will not be adopted by the committee.³¹ The voting record for resolutions in the Security Council can be accessed through the UN Digital Library.³² The SC has the duty to provide the General Assembly with reports detailing the SC's resolutions and meeting proceedings.³³

As one of the six main organs of the UN, the SC is completely funded by the UN's regular budget.³⁴ The General Assembly's Fifth Committee, the Administrative and Budgetary Committee, has approved the UN regular budget totaling USD 3.12 Billion to fund ongoing programs and administrative expenses in 2022.³⁵ The regular budget of the UN requires Member States to contribute a minimum of 0.001 percent and no more than 22 percent of the overall budget of the United Nations.³⁶ The Fifth Committee also approves and allocates funding to peacekeeping

¹⁹ United Nations, "Chapter VII: Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression," in *Charter of the United Nations*. October 24, 1945, <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text> (Accessed August 1, 2022).

²⁰ United Nations Security Council, *Resolution 84. Complaint of aggression upon the Republic of Korea*. S/RES/84 (1950), July 7, 1950.

²¹ United Nations, "Chapter VII: Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression," in *Charter of the United Nations*.

²² United Nations Peacekeeping, "Role of Security Council." United Nations, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/role-of-security-council>. (Accessed August 1, 2022).

²³ United Nations Peacekeeping, "Our History," 2021, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/our-history>. (Accessed August 1, 2022).

²⁴ United Nations Peacekeeping, "Our History."

²⁵ United Nations Security Council, *Resolution 678 (1990) / adopted by the Security Council at its 2963rd meeting, on 29 November 1990*. S/RES/678 (1990), November 29, 1990.

²⁶ United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*, October 24, 1945.

²⁷ United Nations News, "Security Council recommends South Sudan for UN membership," July 13, 2011. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2011/07/381472>.

²⁸ United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*.

²⁹ United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*.

³⁰ United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*.

³¹ United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*.

³² United Nations Digital Library, *United Nations Digital Library System*, United Nations, <https://digitallibrary.un.org>. (Accessed August 1, 2022).

³³ United Nations, *Charter of the United Nations*.

³⁴ Council on Foreign Relations, "Funding the United Nations: What Impact Do U.S. Contributions Have on UN Agencies and Programs?," June 8, 2020, https://www.cfr.org/article/funding-united-nations-what-impact-do-us-contributions-have-un-agencies-and-programs?utm_medium=social_share&utm_source=tw. (Accessed August 15, 2022).

³⁵ United Nations, UN News. "Fifth Committee Approves Secretary-General's Proposed \$3.12 Billion Programme Budget for 2022, Concluding Main Part of Seventy-Sixth Session," United Nations, <https://press.un.org/en/2021/gaab4378.doc.htm>. (Accessed August 15, 2022).

³⁶ United Nations General Assembly, *Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations*, A/RES/73/271, January 4, 2019.

missions per the SC's mandate for the peacekeeping mission.³⁷ Funding for peacekeeping missions is separate and distinct from the UN Regular Budget.³⁸ The peacekeeping budget is funded by Member States, dictated by the contributing Member States' economic wealth through a UN-specified payment scale.³⁹ The P5 Member States are required to pay a larger amount due to their unique responsibilities in creating the peacekeeping mission mandates.⁴⁰

The SC's agenda is very important to the international community. Due to the binding nature of SC resolutions, the issues the SC addresses receive significant attention. As the UN marked its 75th anniversary, COVID-19 put forth many pressing issues as the disease infected 84 million people globally.⁴¹ Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the SC transitioned to videoconferencing to continue coordinating the essential duties of the SC, which lasted until the latter part of 2021.⁴²

³⁷ United Nations General Assembly. "Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee)." United Nations, <https://www.un.org/en/ga/fifth/index.shtml> (Accessed August 15, 2022).

³⁸ United Nations Peacekeeping. "How we are funded." United Nations, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/how-we-are-funded>. (Accessed February 7, 2021)

³⁹ United Nations Peacekeeping. "How we are funded."

⁴⁰ United Nations Peacekeeping. "How we are funded."

⁴¹ United Nations. "Security Council 2020 Round-up." SC/14407, January 11, 2021, <https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/sc14407.doc.htm>. (Accessed February 7, 2021).

⁴² United Nations. "Report of the Security Council for 2021" <https://daccess-ods.un.org/tmp/5108515.62023163.html> (Accessed August 15, 2022)

Security Council Addendum (rev. 2022)



I. Overview of Agenda

Adoption of Agenda

The United Nations (UN) Security Council (SC, or the Council) annual agenda can be generated from the following five sources: the previous year's agenda, the President of the SC, any UN Member State, the UN Secretary-General, and/or other UN bodies. Regarding the previous year's agenda, the SC may decide to keep certain items on its agenda if more discussion is deemed necessary by the body. For example, a universal yet timeless topic that reappears on the agenda nearly every year is Women, Peace, and Security.

Additionally, the Office of the SC President plays a crucial role in determining the agenda, as it has the ability to place items on the agenda. For example, in January 2000, the United States of America, which held the Office of the Presidency at the time, placed AIDS as a threat to international security on the agenda.

Furthermore, Article 35 of the UN Charter grants UN Member States the right to refer disputes to the SC. In 1948, India used this mechanism to refer the situation in Kashmir to the SC. Likewise, under Article 99, the UN Secretary-General may bring items to the attention of the SC, as seen when Former Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cueller asked the Council to investigate violations of the Geneva Convention in the Iran-Iraq war of the 1980s.

Finally, other UN bodies may refer items to the SC. The General Assembly, for instance, is afforded this right under Article 11 of the UN Charter. General Assembly Resolution 194 of 1948, for example, requested the SC discuss the demilitarization of Jerusalem.

In preparation of the formal agenda for the year, the President of the SC and the Secretary-General prepare a provisional agenda based on all sources of potential items. The provisional agenda is provided to the members of the SC, who then discuss and adopt the agenda. The SC may choose to discuss or not to discuss any agenda item referred to it by another body or Member State.

How the SRMUN Security Council Will Set the Agenda

SRMUN's SC will operate differently than other committees held at SRMUN conferences. As opposed to providing delegates with pre-selected topics to consider, the SC, in line with how the real committee operates at the UN, will have an open agenda. The Council is charged with setting the agenda based on current issues of importance to the SC by means of a majority vote. Each delegate will be responsible for presenting two potential topics within their position papers that they will later defend before the SC to be considered as agenda items. These two topics should reflect the most important issues or crisis affecting your Member State. Additionally, these topics do not need to reflect the topics presented to the delegates in the three updates that you will be provided as the conference approaches. The three updates provided prior to conference are simply tools to inspire delegates to think about current events from an international lens.

The SC will operate independently of the other organs at SRMUN due to the possibility of a crisis scenario. Therefore, other UN organs represented at SRMUN will not refer items to the SC. The Secretary-General and the President of the SC are staff members and will not impact substantive debate, except when necessary. This leaves the agenda in the hands of the SC delegates and therefore should be prepared for a range of likely topics.

At the first committee session and after roll call, the President of the SC will open discussion of the agenda. Delegates may make formal speeches and utilize caucuses to discuss potential topics and negotiate how to proceed. After some discussion and negotiation, delegates may make motions to set the agenda. An example of such a motion is:

"The Delegate from Jordan moves for a discussion of the Situation in the Middle East."

Note that the naming of the topic will affect the breadth of the topic. For instance, the issue of “Israeli practices concerning the human rights of the Palestinian people” is much narrower and more focused than “the situation in the Middle East.”

There can be multiple motions for different agenda items, but each motion can only name one potential agenda item. Motions for agenda items will be voted on in the order in which they are received. The first motion to receive nine or more affirmative votes will become the agenda item. At the conclusion of discussion of that agenda item (either through voting or adjournment of the agenda item), the SC will again move back into a discussion of setting the agenda, and the process will proceed until the next agenda item passes by nine or more votes. Delegates may choose to negotiate more than one agenda item at a time, but they can only vote on one item at a time. For example, delegates may decide amongst themselves to discuss “The Situation Regarding Iran’s Atomic Energy Program” and then “Children in Armed Conflict.” However, only one agenda item may be adopted at a time. Thus, delegates would move to set the agenda as the first topic. Once the topic regarding Iran has been discussed and resolutions have been voted on or discussion on the topic has been adjourned, then the SC will move to discuss the agenda again, and delegates would have to move to discuss “Children in Armed Conflict.”

II. Voting

The SC will adhere to the voting rules set forward in the UN Charter. All votes (both procedural and substantive) in the Security Council require a minimum of nine affirmative votes to pass, as outlined in the UN Charter. For instance, a vote of eight in favor, with zero opposed and seven abstentions would fail. Substantive votes (draft resolutions, amendments, and the second vote on division of question) additionally require the “concurring votes” of the Permanent 5 (P5) members of the SC (China, France, Russia, UK, and US). The UN interprets that an abstention by a member of the P5 does not represent a veto. Therefore, for a resolution to pass, all members of the P5 must either vote yes or abstain, and the resolution must receive a minimum of nine affirmative votes.

III. Position Papers

Due to the open agenda of the SC, delegates will be asked to write position papers that are different from all other SRMUN committees. In the place of two topics in the Background Guide, delegates will be presented with three relevant topic updates in the weeks leading up to conference. These topic updates are intended to help prepare delegates with awareness of real-world events that may impact debate in committee. Please note that topics chosen by delegates do not need to reflect those topics presented in the Committee updates.

For their position papers, delegates should identify two issues related to international peace and security that best reflect the interests of their Member State. Position Papers should present the significance of the two issues in the order in which their Member State wishes to see them addressed. For instance, the delegate for Chad may propose the following two topics in order: 1) UN Efforts to Remove Landmines; and 2) Eliminating the Small Arms trade in Africa, whereas the delegate for the United Kingdom may propose: 1) UN Participation in the Rebuilding of Iraq; and 2) Terrorism.

IV. Crisis Background

Background

The UN Charter states that the SC should be able to function continuously, and that the SC is the primary UN organ for dealing with crises that could impact international peace and security. Delegates to the SC must be prepared to handle an international crisis at any time.

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Addressing a crisis situation is often a piece of the work of the SC. If a crisis situation arises, the Secretariat will provide delegates with pertinent briefing materials and periodic updates. The Secretariat will also forward communications from the governments of SC Member States to their representatives, likely in the form of reports

and communiqués. Other committees at SRMUN may or may not become involved; however, if such a situation arises, the SC will be notified. If other SRMUN committees are not involved, then SC delegates **SHOULD NOT** interfere with the work of delegates in other committees. It is up to SC delegates to decide a course of action to attempt to resolve a crisis. The primary tools for delegates to resolve a crisis are diplomacy and negotiation. Delegates should be prepared to represent the interests of their Member State in any potential crisis.

V. Outside Parties

Background

The UN Charter gives the SC the option to invite non-Member States of the SC to participate, without vote, in discussions that affect the non-Member States.

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The resources of SRMUN are limited, so logistically, it may not be possible to honor all requests. If a potential crisis requires it, SRMUN may seek ways to accommodate such a request. To invite a non-Member State, delegates must first advise the committee Director and Assistant Director of the request. If it is cleared, a delegate should make a motion such as: “Under Article 32, the delegate from Argentina moves for the invitation of representatives from Cameroon to participate in a discussion of the agenda item under discussion.” The motion requires a vote of nine in favor to pass.

VI. The Double Veto

Background

When the UN was created, the ultimate decisions on whether a vote in the SC was procedural or substantive was left up to the SC itself. On rare occasions, P-5 members are able to question whether an item is procedural or substantive. This motion which requires nine affirmative votes and a yay or abstention from each of the P-5 members. For instance, a P-5 member may challenge the SC President’s ruling that an issue is procedural. The SC then has a substantive vote on whether the issue is procedural or not. The P-5 member can veto this vote, making the issue substantive, then veto the original motion. This is known as the double veto. The double veto is rarely used.

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The SRMUN Security Council has limited meeting time, and the desire of the committee is to maximize the available time. The SC Director has the right to limit the use of the double veto on procedural issues that have minor impacts on debate such as suspension of the meeting and setting the speaker’s time. However, procedural motions such as agenda setting or inviting a party to a dispute could be subject to a potential double veto.

To call for the double veto, a member of the P-5 should raise their placard after a motion has been made, but before a vote has been taken and make the following motion:

“The delegate from the United Kingdom moves to declare this motion a procedural motion.”

For Example:

“The Delegate from Romania moves for a discussion of the Use of Pre-Emptive Force.”

The Delegate from the United Kingdom raises their placard in their left hand and is recognized:

“The Delegate from the United Kingdom moves to declare this motion a procedural motion.”

Once the President accepts this motion, the SC moves to a substantive vote on whether or not the motion to set the agenda is procedural. A "yes" vote means that it is procedural; a "no" vote means that it is substantive. If the UK votes no, then the motion to set the agenda is considered substantive. At this point, the SC votes substantively on the motion to set the agenda. A no vote from any member of the P-5 will veto the motion.

If you have any questions about these issues or any other SC related question, please do not hesitate to consult your Director, Assistant Director, the Director-General, or Deputy Director-General.

The Double Veto

