



SRMUN Charlotte 2024
March 21-23, 2024
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Esteemed Delegates,

Welcome to SRMUN Charlotte 2024 and the Security Council. My name is Katie Reese and I have the pleasure of serving as your Director for the Security Council. This will be my second time as a staff. I have my Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Anthropology and am currently in law school with the hopes of becoming a civilian-contracted attorney in the military. Our committees Assistant Director will be Aspen Andersson. This will be Aspen's second time on staff having previously served as an Assistant Director for the Commission on the Status of Women at SRMUN Atlanta 2023. Aspen previously attended five conferences as a delegate and is currently pursuing a bachelor's degree in political science with a concentration in Pre-Law.

Established in 1945 under Chapter V of the United Nations (UN) Charter, the SC is one of the six original organs of the UN. There are 15 Member States in the SC. China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States serve as Permanent Members (P5). The remaining 10 members are appointed by the General Assembly for two year terms. The P5 hold the right to veto any draft resolution brought forth by the body, leaving the draft resolution null and void. The SC is one of the most powerful organs of the UN. Resolutions passed by the SC are required to be enforced by all UN Member States, as stated in Article 25 of the UN Charter.

In accordance with the nature of the SC, this Council will work with an open agenda for SRMUN Charlotte 2024. Delegates are responsible for identifying pressing topics or situations and presenting them to the body for discussion while keeping the theme of "Unity: Coming Together to Address a Changing World" in mind.

The background guide and attached addendum introduce the committee and workings of the Security Council at SRMUN Charlotte 2024. As we approach the conference, general updates regarding critical situations currently threatening global peace and security will be released to all SC delegates for their review. These updates should be utilized as the foundation for 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.

This background guide will serve as the foundation for delegate's research, yet it should not be the extent of the research. Each topic is prepared to help guide delegates in their initial research, and to serve as a starting place for more in-depth studies. It is expected that delegates go beyond this background guide in drafting their position papers and preparing themselves to contribute to committee in March. Each delegation is expected to submit a position paper for consideration. Position papers should be no longer than two pages in length (single spaced) and demonstrate the Member State's position, policies, and recommendations on each of the two topics. 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 1st, by 11:59pm EST via the SRMUN website to be eligible for Outstanding Position Paper Awards.**

Both Katie and I are excited for the opportunity to serve as your dais for Security Council. I wish you all the best of luck in your conference preparation and look forward to meeting and working with each of you. Should questions arise as you begin to prepare for this conference, contacting those on your dais is always encouraged.

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History of the United Nations Security Council

The Security Council (SC) is one of the six main organs of the United Nations (UN) that was established by the signing of the United Nations Charter on June 26, 1945, in San Francisco, California, USA.¹ The United Nations Charter highlights 4 chief purposes with the SC being exclusively responsible for maintaining peace and security within the international community.² Within its duties, the SC has been given authority to influence membership in the General Assembly (GA) and potential changes to the UN Charter itself.³ The council may convene at any time, whenever any perceived threat to peace emerges.⁴ During its session, the council has the power to identify what is perceived as a threat; and determine what constitutes an act of aggression in respect to international regulation and Member States sovereignty as pronounced in Chapter VII of the UN Charter.⁵ In addition, the SC is to develop diplomatic and friendly relations with Member States. The first session of SC was held on January 17, 1946, at Church House, Westminster, London, United Kingdom where it was decided that they would relocate their residence to the UN Headquarters in New York City, NY, USA.⁶

Since the 1944 Dumbarton Oaks Conference in Washington D.C, USA, the SC has consisted of five permanent Member States and rotating members.⁷ The five permanent Member States are the United States of America (USA), the Russian Federation, the Democratic People's Republic of China, the Kingdom of France, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK).⁸ During the 1945 Yalta Conference, these five permanent Member States became commonly known as the "P5" and are the only Member States within the SC to hold veto power.⁹ In preparation of this authority, the Yalta Conference also mandated that the veto power of the P5 could not be used to prevent the discussion of a resolution within committee.¹⁰ The other non-permanent seats are held by a rotating voting system conducted by the GA where selected Member States are given two-year terms on the SC.¹¹ Originally, the SC consisted of six non-permanent seats; however, it was later expanded to 10 seats in 1965.¹² These seats are allocated by the following geographic regions to ensure proper representation: three seats for the African Group, two seats each for the Latin America and Caribbean Group, Asia Pacific Group, and Western Europeans and Others Group, and one seat for the Eastern European Group.¹³ For the 2023-2024 term, these 10 non-permanent seats are held by the following Member States: Albania, Brazil, Ecuador, Gabon, Ghana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Switzerland, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).¹⁴

Traditionally, the SC has followed its mandate, as outlined in Chapter V of the UN Charter, under the principle of covering military security for issues pertaining to peacekeeping missions, political procedures, protection of human

¹ "What is the Security Council?" *United Nations Security Council*, accessed July 16, 2022.

<https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/what-security-council>

² "What is the Security Council?" *United Nations Security Council*.

³ "What is the Security Council?" *United Nations Security Council*.

⁴ "Security Council" *United Nations: Model United Nations*, accessed July 16, 2022. <https://www.un.org/en/model-United-nations/security-council>

⁵ United Nations. *Charter of the United Nations - Chapter VII: Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression*, opened for signature October 24, 1945. <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/uncharter/chapter-7>.

⁶ "Security Council" *United Nations: Model United Nations*.

⁷ "The Dumbarton Oaks Conversations, 1944" *Dumbarton Oaks*, accessed June 15, 2017.

<https://www.doaks.org/research/library-archives/dumbarton-oaks-archives/historical-records/75th-anniversary/blog/the-dumbarton-oaks-conversations-1944>.

⁸ "What is the Security Council?" *United Nations Security Council* accessed July 16, 2022,

<https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/what-security-council>

⁹ "Yalta Conference, "1945" *Office of the Historian*, accessed July 17, 2022. <https://history.state.gov/milestones/1937-1945/yaltaconf>.

¹⁰ Yalta Conference, "1945" *Office of the Historian*.

¹¹ "Current Members," *United Nations Security Council* accessed July 16, 2022,

<https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/current-members>.

¹² "Current Members," *United Nations Security Council*.

¹³ "Current Members," *United Nations Security Council*.

¹⁴ "Current Members," *United Nations Security Council*.

rights, disarmament, and other humanitarian crises.¹⁵ It is the SC's responsibility to implement the principles listed in Chapters VI, VII, VIII, and XII of the UN Charter. Under Chapter VI of the UN Charter, "Pacific Settlement of Disputes," the SC is allowed to conduct investigations on any dispute or situation that may potentially escalate to international friction and Member State conflict.¹⁶ Through its investigation, the SC can act as mediator between Member States and other parties within the international community, while also giving non-binding recommendations.¹⁷ If alternative methods fail, Articles 39-43 of Chapter VI enables the SC to intervene with the dispute through either armed or unarmed methods.¹⁸ Historically, the SC is known for exercising its authority under Article 40-42 of the UN Charter to impose sanctions and conduct armed interventions.¹⁹ With the extension of the sanctions against South Sudan's violation of human rights, under resolution S/RES/2633(2022), being a recent example.²⁰ This authority can also be seen with the adoption of resolution S/RES/1996: "United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)" on July 8, 2011, where the SC sent armed forces as a peacekeeping mission to quell the civil war disputes in South Sudan.²¹ The deployment of armed forces into a sovereign Member State can be invoked under Articles 42-48 of Chapter VII of the UN Charter.²² If a dispute results in the instability of a Member States, then Articles 42-48 authorizes peacekeeping missions to be conducted till the SC deems the threat resolved.²³

Meetings held by the SC can be convened at any time through the motion of the presiding President, which is currently held by the delegation of the United Arab Emirates.²⁴ Although the meetings can happen at any time, the time in between meetings cannot exceed 14 days.²⁵ The SC typically meets at the UN Headquarters for their sessions; however, the sessions can be held at any city.²⁶ During the sessions, the passage of any resolution must be done with a nine-vote majority, including no objections from the P-5.²⁷ Since the P-5 possesses the right to veto any resolution, any objection from them will cause the resolution to fail regardless of majority.²⁸ In 2022, the SC convened for a total of 292 sessions and passed 54 resolutions.²⁹ These sessions are recorded and are annually reported to the GA to highlight the procedural actions and topics discussed by the committee.³⁰

The SC is funded through the Regular Budget of the UN, which consists of both mandatory and voluntary donations from all 193 Member States.³¹ Under GA A/RES/73/271 resolution, Member States are required to contribute a minimum of 0.001 percent and no more than 20 percent of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) to the Regular Budget.³² This is in accordance with Article 17 of the UN Charter and the appropriation is handled by the General

¹⁵ United Nations. *Charter of the United Nations - Chapter V: The Security Council*, opened for signature October 24, 1945, <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/chapter-5>.

¹⁶ United Nations. *Charter of the United Nations - Chapter VI: Pacific Settlement of Disputes*, opened for signature October 24, 1945. <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/chapter-6>.

¹⁷ United Nations. *Charter of the United Nations - Chapter VI: Pacific Settlement of Disputes*.

¹⁸ United Nations. *Charter of the United Nations - Chapter VI: Pacific Settlement of Disputes*.

¹⁹ United Nations. *Charter of the United Nations - Chapter VII: Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression*.

²⁰ United Nations. *Charter of the United Nations - Chapter VII: Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression*.

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

²² United Nations. *Charter of the United Nations - Chapter VII: Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression*.

²³ United Nations. *Charter of the United Nations - Chapter VII: Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression*.

²⁴ "Security Council" *United Nations: Model United Nations* accessed June 20, 2023. <https://www.un.org/en/model-United-nations/security-council>

²⁵ "Security Council" *United Nations: Model United Nations*.

²⁶ "Security Council" *United Nations: Model United Nations*.

²⁷ "Voting System - Practices, Procedures, and Working Methods," United Nations Security Council, accessed June 18, 2020. <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/voting-system>.

²⁸ "Voting System - Practices, Procedures, and Working Methods," United Nations Security Council.

²⁹ "Resolutions Adopted by the Security Council in 2021" *United Nations Security Council*, accessed June 20, 2023, <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/resolutions-adopted-security-council-2022>.

³⁰ "Resolutions Adopted by the Security Council in 2021" *United Nations Security Council*.

³¹ Shendruk, Amanda, and Rosenthal, Zachary, "Funding the United Nations: What Impact Do US Contributions Have on UN Agencies and Programs?" *Council on Foreign Relations*, last modified August 22, 2023, accessed August 30, 2023. <https://www.cfr.org/article/funding-united-nations-what-impact-do-us-contributions-have-un-agencies-and-programs>.

³² United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/271. *Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United*

Assembly Fifth Committee, the Administrative and Budgetary Committee.³³ Although the General Assembly Fifth Committee is responsible for the budget allocation, the SC's mandate enables the SC to use the funds from other organs for the objective of maintaining peace and security within the international community.³⁴ From the 2021 fiscal year, the SC was appropriated 6.38 billion USD for their global budget.³⁵

The SC oversees many subsidiary bodies established under Article 29 of the UN Charter, including: the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, sanctions committees, and ad hoc committees.³⁶ In addition, under Article 29, the SC is allowed to create new subsidiary bodies under its' regulations.³⁷ The SC also works with the General Assembly to oversee the work of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) and participates in various working groups focusing on regional issues.³⁸

Nations, A/RES/73/271, (January 4, 2019). <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N18/465/54/PDF/N1846554.pdf?OpenElement>

³³ United Nations General Assembly resolution 73/271. *Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations*.

³⁴ "How Are We Funded" *United Nation Peacekeeping* accessed July 17, 2022, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/how-we-are-funded>

³⁵ "How Are We Funded," *United Nation Peacekeeping*.

³⁶ UN Security Council, Committees, *Working Groups and Ad Hoc Bodies*, accessed 2023, <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/committees-working-groups-and-ad-hoc-bodies>

³⁷ UN Security Council, Committees, *Working Groups and Ad Hoc Bodies*.

³⁸ UN Security Council, Committees, *Working Groups and Ad Hoc Bodies*.

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 re-appears 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

