*Delegates*,

Welcome to the thirty-ninth annual Kennesaw State University High School Model United Nations (HSMUN) Conference. My name is Sam Brown and I will be the Director for the United Nations Security Council. For a brief introduction of myself, I am a sophomore at Kennesaw State University pursuing a degree in Informational Technologies. I have served as a Country Chair for Kennesaw State’s Model United Nations team and have gone to multiple competitions with them as well. I have many hobbies such as Dungeons and Dragons, reading, gaming, and politics/law. Some of my players in a D&D campaign I am running are the Directors for GAPlen, the Human Rights Council, and G20, which are Anna Santmier, Milo Wilson, and Ross Carman respectively.

Your Assistant Director will be Gage Larabee, a current high school senior who is taking dual enrollment courses here at KSU. They are an active member of both their highschool’s Model United Nations (MUN) team and KSU’s MUN team, having attended several conferences with both groups. Though having a major interest in politics and law, he hopes to one day become a clinical psychologist, using his experience with Model UN, drama, Scouts, and many of his other hobbies (like D&D, reading, gaming, and coding) to help others.

**The topics under discussion for Security Council are:**

1. **Addressing the Growing Amount of Greenhouse Gasses Released into the Atmosphere Annually**
2. **Ensuring the Protection of Human Rights during Times of Armed Conflicts**

The Security Council’s main objective is to ensure peace and security in the international community. It seeks to encourage communication and diplomacy amongst all Member States. Each Member State’s delegation within this committee is expected to submit a position paper presenting their ideas for both agenda topics. A position paper is a short essay describing your Member State’s history and position on the issues at hand. There are three key parts to any successful position paper: history, the current status of the issue, and possible solutions for the future. Information for properly formatting the position papers, as well as valuable advice for writing a quality paper, can be found in the Delegate Preparation section of the HSMUN webpage (http://conference.kennesaw.edu/hsmun/). Delegates are reminded that papers should be no longer than two pages in length with titles in size 12 and text in size 10-12 Times New Roman. Citations should be footnoted in Chicago-style formatting, such as those used inside this guide. Furthermore, plagiarism in an academic setting is unacceptable and will nullify any score for the paper in question. During the grading process, we will be utilizing the university’s plagiarism checker. Wikipedia is a wonderful place to begin researching, but we highly encourage the use of peer-reviewed academic articles or trusted media sources. The objective of a position paper is to present the diplomatic position of your Member State on both agenda topics as accurately as possible. ***All position papers MUST be sent to ksuhsmun2025@gmail.com by February 21st, 2025. Late papers will be accepted until February 26th, 2025 with points penalized.***

**History of the Security Council**

*“The Security Council resolutions will be enforced - the just demands of peace and security will be met - or action will be unavoidable.”* -- Colin Powell, Former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

The UNSC was established under Chapter V of the UN Charter in the aftermath of World War II. Its goal was to provide a platform for actionable diplomacy and intervention to prevent the circumstances that led to both world wars. Throughout World War II, at conferences in famous locations such as Yalta, Westminster, and Potsdam, leaders from the United States (US), the United Kingdom (UK), the Soviet Union (USSR), and China met to discuss plans to replace the defunct League of Nations.[[1]](#footnote-0) This representation, with the addition of France, eventually led to the formation of the five permanent (P-5) members of the UNSC. [[2]](#footnote-1)

The United Nations Security Council's mission was rooted in the Atlantic Charter and tempered in the fires of the Cold War. The Atlantic Charter was issued in August of 1941 by US President Franklin D. Roosevelt and UK Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who outlined their vision for a post-WWII world, emphasizing principles such as self-determination, free trade, disarmament, and collective security. Ultimately, the Charter laid the groundwork for the establishment of the United Nations and post-war international cooperation. The fifteen Member States (originally eleven) that make up the Security Council are headed by the P-5: the United States of America, the People’s Republic of China, the Republic of France, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the Russian Federation (originally the USSR).[[3]](#footnote-2) The remaining ten Member States are nominated to serve two year terms by the General Assembly.[[4]](#footnote-3) In order to pass, any matter of substance requires both a majority vote AND the affirmative (or abstention) votes of all P-5 members. Any negative vote from the P-5, referred to as a “veto,” [[5]](#footnote-4)instantly negates any resolution. The USSR/Russian Federation has used its veto power the most since the council’s[[6]](#footnote-5) formation, totaling 128 times, while the United States follows with 83 times. The current non-permanent roster of [[7]](#footnote-6) the SC is as follows: Algeria, Denmark, Greece, Guyana, Pakistan, Panama, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, and Somalia. [[8]](#footnote-7)

The mission of the UNSC is listed in Chapters VI & VII of the UN Charter. Simply put, its mission is to ensure peace. It is the only UN body with the power to act, rather than recommend. Chapter VI provides the UNSC [[9]](#footnote-8)with complete investigative powers and privileges in situations where it feels international security could be at risk under Article 34. All Member States of the UNSC also commit their military forces to enacting “Chapter VII Actions” of the UNSC when there is a breach of or threat to peace.[[10]](#footnote-9) [[11]](#footnote-10)

Issues can be brought before the Security Council by any Member State. Proposing Member States can also give an opinion and advice on the topic, but cannot vote or take part in the decision-making. Additionally, the president ofthe UNSC may call a meeting at any time to react to an emerging crisis.[[12]](#footnote-11) Therefore, Member States are required to keep a representative on call at all times.[[13]](#footnote-12) The General Assembly may also call upon the UNSC to intervene, however, as soon as a topic goes to the UNSC, the General Assembly may no longer discuss it. The UNSC is called in to resolve the world’s most pressing and potentially unsettling disputes which transcend borders and threaten devastating harm. It is the only UN body legally allowed to utilize military intervention, although each P-5 Member State has broken this accord.[[14]](#footnote-13)

The UNSC has achieved great successes on the world stage. It facilitated Namibia's independence in 1976 after its generational struggle against South Africa through the UNSC Resolution 435. In the 1980s, the UNSC played a key role in the peace process that brought an end to the war in El Salvador; and the conflict was fully resolved in 1995. UNSC involvement in Mozambique is another victory for UN operations which helped establish the UN as a major peacekeeping power in the post-Cold War era. The UN Operation in Mozambique (UNOMOZ), launched by the UNSC through Resolution 797 of December 16, 1992, was one of the most ambitious, multifaceted missions undertaken by the UN up to that time. Its mandate encompassed political, military, humanitarian, and electoral responsibilities not only for thepacification of a war-torn Member State but also for its transformation from a single-party state to a multiparty democracy.

Despite achieving much success in world peace, Member State divisions, particularly among the P-5, have created several failures for the Council. “More than any other conflict in the 1990s, the war in Bosnia and the UN’s handling of it helped shatter the optimism that characterized early debates about the likely impact of the end of the Cold War on the UN’s peace and security role.”[[15]](#footnote-14) The UNSC cannot be examined without a look at the genocide inRwanda. The motivation for intervention was humanitarian, but it was considered a gray area in UNSC authority because it was not a conflict between Member States. Thus, there was debate on whether or not the situation in Rwanda constituted a threat to “international peace and security.” Some analysts have said it was a reflection of major powers’ unwillingness to spend money and take on risks for a “trivial” matter. “By not asserting its role in the area of preventive diplomacy (Chapter VI), and by adopting a passive and contingent role in relation to security (Chapter VII), the Council failed in its promotional role in relation to the UN Charter as a whole.”[[16]](#footnote-15) The failure in Rwanda has usually been deemed the reason for the success in Sierra Leone. The success is measured through successful elections and was carried out with a 15,000-member peacekeeping force.

Today, the UNSC is involved with many ongoing disputes and potential crises. From implementing sanctions against Iran to bringing about ceasefires in Ukraine, the UNSC is acting around the world. Its mission is as essential today as it has ever been, especially with the end of the Cold War and the new power dynamic the P-5 and the other Member States must adjust to.

1. **Addressing the Growing Amount of Greenhouse Gasses Released into the Atmosphere Annually**

***Introduction***

Climate change is an existential threat to not only humanity but also to how individuals live their daily lives. Over the last several decades, the global community has been aware of this issue but the action taken to mitigate the negative effects of climate change have been underwhelming, either due to a lack of understanding on how severe those consequences would be or an unwillingness to bear the cost those changes would require. Since the 1800s, scientists have been theorizing on the effects that humans have on the environment and how the mass release of carbon dioxide (CO2) has affected weather patterns globally.[[17]](#footnote-16) It was not until the 1970s that the systematic assessment of historical samples of our climate system that the effect of humans on our climate went from a hypothesis to an accepted theory in the scientific community.[[18]](#footnote-17) Despite this, it wasn’t until nearly the start of the 21st century that international calls for action on climate change truly developed into real policies and treaties. This is in part due to other global crises at the time, particularly of note is the thinning of the Ozone Layer which provided a more pressing environmental crisis that needed solving. For its part, the UN has reacted to the growing information on climate change with increased strength and alarm over time.

***History***

In 1979, the UN held the first World Climate Conference, followed by the founding of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)[[19]](#footnote-18) nine years later, which regularly provides scientific assessments to regulators and policy makers to better shape their policies with the future and present implications in mind.[[20]](#footnote-19) In 1992, the first major step towards action against carbon-based climate change was taken with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) being signed in Rio, along with its sister resolutions the UN Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, that allowed true intergovernmental negotiations on how Member States should react to climate change with one another to begin. When the UNFCCC went into force in 1994, it required Member States to meet at a Conference of Parties to the treaty to negotiate action to be taken against climate change, and this came to a head in 1997 with the Kyoto Protocol which legally binded developed Member States to meet certain emissions reductions over time. The Kyoto Protocol is all about the reduction of greenhouse gasses being emitted by Member States party to the treaty, specifically those not regulated by the Montreal Protocol including Methane, Nitrous Oxide, Perfluorocarbons, Sulphur hexafluoride, and CO2.[[21]](#footnote-20) At the time, the Kyoto Protocol served as a beacon of progress and hope as the parties to the treaty accounted for 55 percent of the globe’s total CO2 emissions in 1990, and promoted sustainable development. Additionally it focused on real achievable environmental protection goals such as afforestation, sustainable farming, and changing of economic incentives to promote more sustainable and less destructive consumption and creation of goods.[[22]](#footnote-21) Since the Kyoto Protocol has gone into effect there has been very little serious action taken on an international level against climate change, with the majority of the international treaties and agreements being non-binding in nature and much of the reduction in greenhouse emissions by developed and developing Member States has been offset by increased emissions by certain few Member States.

This is in stark contrast to the reaction of the international community to the reduction of the Ozone Layer in which the release of certain chemicals into the atmosphere resulted in their reaction with ozone or trioxygen, depleting the natural barrier of protection it provides from the sun’s rays.[[23]](#footnote-22) Because of the more immediate danger that the thinning of the Ozone Layer presented, it was much easier for the world to agree to immediate action to prevent the worst case scenarios, being the cessation of life on Earth. On September 16th, 1987, the Montreal Protocol was signed, this was an international agreement to phase out the use of ozone-depleting substances, with many substances being banned or phased out early on and most Member States finishing to phase out hydrochlorofluorocarbons in 2020, the last of ozone depleting substances still in use.[[24]](#footnote-23) Though the last of these substances was only recently phased out, the progress in protecting the Ozone Layer has been strikingly fast in comparison to preventing climate change.

***Current Situation***

Presently the world faces a growing amount of non-renewable resources being extracted and used for energy generation annually, and consequently, a growing increase of CO2 released into the atmosphere annually. Since 2015, there has been an increase of 1.5 billion tons of coal mined each year, with a very similar increase being shown in the amount of coal burned to generate energy every year.[[25]](#footnote-24) This is in spite of the fact that most if not all Member States are in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which places action against climate change as a topic of great importance. Notably sustainable development and action against climate change is a theme of SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being, SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, SDG 13: Climate Action, SDG 14: Life Below Water, and SDG 15: Life on Land.[[26]](#footnote-25) This isn’t to say that some Member States don’t put real effort into the battle against climate change however, just that climate change is an inherently unequal issue that can be made worse by select actors such as non-governmental organizations (NGOs) if not properly incentivized.

This problem is not equally spread between Member States however, with some bearing more responsibility for the amount of CO2 released annually than others. While most Member States have generally seen a decrease in the amount of CO2 released into the atmosphere annually it is not enough, and there has been a 1.69 billion ton increase in CO2 emissions since 2015.[[27]](#footnote-26) The top two producers of CO2 emissions produce almost half of the world’s CO2 annually, with China and the US producing 16.46 billion tons of CO2 of the total 37.15 billion tons released into the atmosphere annually.[[28]](#footnote-27) Despite global agreements to reduce greenhouse gas emissions like the Paris Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol, there are Member States still lagging behind when it comes to these reductions. This is partly due to well meaning monetary incentives for NGOs like tax credits that can be abused, such as common “carbon credits” that can be bought and sold to off-set carbon emissions for tax purposes. The problem with carbon credits is that they don’t actually reduce the amount of CO2 being generated, or create new forms of carbon capture. Oftentimes, they come in the form of an NGO owning a forest and generating carbon credits from the capture the trees perform, and then selling them to an NGO that is in a carbon surplus. This allows the NGO to be considered carbon neutral, meaning it produces no extra CO2 than it absorbs, to save money on tax forms.[[29]](#footnote-28) If Carbon Credits were redesigned to be focused around real reductions in carbon emissions it would promote forms of renewable energy advantageous to transitioning away from forms of power that generate carbon emissions.

***Actions Taken by the UN***

 The UN has long since been taking steps towards fixing Climate Change, however small they may be. In 1979, the UN held the first World Climate Conference to share scientific data on human-induced climate change, leading to the creation of the World Climate Program. In 1992, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was created to help facilitate the creation of intergovernmental treaties governing climate change. In 1997 the UNFCCC helped create the Kyoto Protocol which was the first intergovernmental treaty to govern greenhouse gas emissions. In 2001, the Marrakesh Accords were founded to institute how the Kyoto Protocol would go into effect and to help develop a fund to assist development of green initiatives. In 2005, the Kyoto Protocol went into effect triggering negotiations between the members of the treaty on commitments. In 2009, the Copenhagen Protocol came into existence, being another treaty promising carbon reductions, but was non-binding in nature. This is an ongoing theme in UN resolutions and treaties in that many that are binding take significant periods of time to actually evolve into anything substantial while the problem continues to progress, where resolutions and treaties that hold a lot of promise are all non-binding in nature. The most recent and promising development in UN actions is the General Assembly asking the International Court of Justice to render an opinion on the legal obligations of Member States for their impact on climate change.

***Conclusion***

 Ultimately without definitive action from the international community as a whole, it becomes more difficult for the world to halt the course of climate change as it currently stands and prevent much of the damage currently projected were we to continue on our current course. Unfortunately, any change to more sustainable and renewable forms of energy will take time to build and reliably connect to the power grid, thus prolonging the time in which we will be releasing major amounts of greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere. We also have to deal with the issue of transportation, as nearly all forms of trade rely on transportation that presently requires the use of carbon fuels. While shipping over sea lanes and trains are highly efficient forms of travel, these methods still contribute to the carbon footprint of humanity as a whole. There is also the creation of necessary products such as plastics that require the use of crude oil to make, or the use of coal to make steel, things that we presently can’t replace. Thus it is even more imperative that Member States dedicate themselves to making this change sooner so that they can work together on finding alternatives to these products and processes, or at least make them as efficient as possible to avoid further pollution.

***Committee Directive***

 This committee should ultimately work towards a resolution that recognizes the current reliance of the world on carbon fuels and looks towards realistic strategies to move away from this reliance. Unfortunately because of the usefulness of plastics in many areas of science and medicine, a total stop of the use of oil is unlikely, but there may be manners in which Member States could discourage or regulate the use of it in such a way as to minimize its negative impact. Public support should also be accounted for by making the general public more aware of the complications that are to arise from climate change at the current rate of temperature increase annually. Finally, this committee should look towards forming a schedule in which Member States should scale down their reliance on carbon fuels and their greenhouse gas emissions.

1. **Ensuring the Protection of Human Rights during Times of Armed Conflicts**

***Introduction***

Proclaimed on December 10th, 1948,[[30]](#footnote-29) the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) has become the backbone of modern society, guiding every Member State. The UDHR has become one of the most translated documents in history, sealing its place as one of the UN’s greatest achievements.[[31]](#footnote-30) Since the body’s inception in 2006,[[32]](#footnote-31) the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has been at the forefront of this battle against human rights violations during armed conflicts–conflicts in which one group or Member State utilizes armed force against another group or Member State–by passing legislation such as the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (VDPA)[[33]](#footnote-32) as well as the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA).[[34]](#footnote-33) Both of these works truly highlight the issue at hand: overt aggression by specific groups that violate basic human dignity and rights. But these violations are not just subject to one part of the globe or to one specific community, rather violations remain a global issue on every continent. Though areas like Southeast Asia, Africa, and parts of the Americas remain in the limelight for their human rights violations, other parts of the globe such as Europe face violations every day, wrecking lives and upturning every goal the UN has ever put into place.

***History***

Written as a direct response to the atrocities committed by Adolf Hitler and his Nationalist Socialist Party (NSDAP) in World War II,[[35]](#footnote-34) the UDHR was the first comprehensive international document ever written outlining the basic rights to all humans regardless of race, sex, class, ethnicity, or religion. This document, described by Eleanor Roosevelt as humanity’s Magna Carta,[[36]](#footnote-35) has grown to represent the soul and goals of the UN; all Member States should strive to uphold the articles within every act.

Despite its adoption in 1948, UN Member States who adopted the UDHR–which includes every single Member State but eight–have struggled to uphold this document, resulting in several violations over the course of a few decades. One tragedy that still remains a sore subject in the UN chambers is the Rwandan Genocide of 1994. Rwanda was divided into two major ethnic groups–the Hutu and Tutsi–with 85 percent of the population being Hutu.[[37]](#footnote-36) On April 6, 1994, Rwandan president, Juvénal Habyarimana, and Burundian president, Cyprien Ntaryamira, both moderate Hutus, were traveling over Kigali, Rwanda one night before their plane was shot down, leaving no survivors.[[38]](#footnote-37) Although the culprit behind the deaths remains a mystery to this day, it was originally believed extremist Hutus or members of the Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF)--a group of Tutsis who had rebelled against the Hutu government in the early 1990s–had been the cause of the president's death, though evidence incriminating either of these groups remains lacking and was originally suggested by Rwandan officials who could have ulterior motives.[[39]](#footnote-38) This assassination coupled with the high tensions between the two groups in Rwanda began what would eventually become known as the Rwandan Genocide. Egged on by government propaganda, Hutu extremist groups would murder 800,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus over the course of one hundred days, as well as Prime Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana, a moderate Hutu,[[40]](#footnote-39) with the ultimate goal of dismantling the government so they could establish one that would act in their interests. The RPF responded quickly to the massacre, leading to an all-out civil war. The RPF would win this brutal war, leading more than two million Hutus to leave their homes and their Member State for fear of consequence.[[41]](#footnote-40) In 1993, just a year before the conflict, the SC had adopted the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), which led to the Member State being monitored in an attempt to dissuade any violence.[[42]](#footnote-41) This, however, ultimately failed, and any ceasefire attempts made supported by UN Peacekeepers, which are not authorized to use force, but rather aid in the transition from times of conflict to peace, also ended in failure. On April 21st, 1994, the UN motioned to reduce peacekeeping forces from 2500 to only 270.[[43]](#footnote-42) And, although this decision would be reversed just a month later, troops did not enter into the Member State until June 22. By that point in time, a majority of the damage had been done seeing as the conflict ended on July 19, 1994.[[44]](#footnote-43) The UNSC had stepped back from Rwanda in its darkest hour, leading to the lives of hundreds of thousands to be taken and for millions to be permanently displaced. Horrific acts like the Rwandan Genocide have occurred for hundreds of years and still remains a prevalent issue to this day in modern conflicts.

***Current Situation***

Upholding human rights has grown to be a primary focus of the UNSC in recent years. Despite this, however, many Member States and other organizations have committed both blatant and discrete human rights violations in the midst of conflict, destroying and disrupting the lives of their citizens. Armed conflict, either caused by citizens or a Member States government, generally leads to human rights violations. Major conflicts that, like the Russo-Ukraine War or the Israel-Palestine War, remain in the public eye can lead to major investigation and involvement from other Member States. With the Russo-Ukraine conflict, for example, many Member States in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization[[45]](#footnote-44) and European Union[[46]](#footnote-45) have supported Ukraine, while many other Member States like China or the Democratic Peoples’ Republic of Korea[[47]](#footnote-46) support Russia, though human rights violations have occurred during this conflicts.[[48]](#footnote-47) [[49]](#footnote-48) Although addressing these violations is of great importance to the UN, other Member States are also under attention for their national infringements as well; international conflicts are not the sole focus of the UN.

Since gaining independence in 1948, Myanmar has been a site for turmoil between the political factions and cultural groups.[[50]](#footnote-49) Tensions remained high for decades, only reaching a plateau and slight decline in 2010, when the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) won the presidential election by a landslide, keeping all-out civil war and chaos at bay.[[51]](#footnote-50) In 2015 the Member State went through their first truly fair election, allowing for the National League for Democracy (NLD) to take control of the presidency, beating the USDP by a landslide. The NLD limited the military's power over the citizens of Myanmar and the government itself, steadily increasing tensions. On February 1, 2021, just after another successful election for the NLD in 2020, the military staged a coup d'etat against the government, detaining members of the NLD and, by invoking several articles of the constitution,[[52]](#footnote-51) namely Articles 417 and 418, gained full control of the Member State.[[53]](#footnote-52) Citizens responded almost immediately. Both peaceful and armed protests have occurred with great opposition from the junta–a government operated by the military.[[54]](#footnote-53) The government has utilized, on numerous occasions, lethal force against protestors,[[55]](#footnote-54) with over 4,000 having been killed so far.[[56]](#footnote-55) The over 24,000 dissenters sent to prisons have been denied the right to a fair trial,[[57]](#footnote-56) with the junta creating special courts that deal specifically with political prisoners.[[58]](#footnote-57) Even further along with that, the government has specifically targeted villages inhabited by members of the Muslim group Rohingya, burning down homes and executing civilians.[[59]](#footnote-58) Nearly two million people total have been displaced within the Member State and over 94,000 having moved to neighbouring Member States like Bangladesh,[[60]](#footnote-59) which has the largest refugee camp in the world, the Cox Bazar.[[61]](#footnote-60)

***Actions Taken by the UN***

Although the Rwandan genocide is considered the UN’s greatest failure,[[62]](#footnote-61) the SC has not given up, and only increased their activity in the protection of human rights. On April 16, 2014, the SC had a meeting in recognition of the twenty years that had passed since the Rwandan Genocide.[[63]](#footnote-62) During this meeting, Security Council president at the time of the genocide, Collin Keating spoke, using the word genocide for the first time in Security Council history.[[64]](#footnote-63) He called for all Member States to prevent further atrocities such as this one and restated the ultimate goal of the UN and the SC is to protect the rights of all people across the globe. And since then, the SC has grown more active in its involvement in human rights issues across the globe.

The UNSC, in response to recent events such as COVID-19, most notably the UNs oldest peacekeeping missions ever, the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)[[65]](#footnote-64) and the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).[[66]](#footnote-65) [[67]](#footnote-66) This increase in resources allows for the SC to ensure that human rights are protected within these areas of high tension. Along with that, the SC called for a global ceasefire to all conflicts so that relief and aid could be provided to areas especially impacted by COVID-19, minimizing the spread of the virus.[[68]](#footnote-67) Although the peacekeepers are not permitted to remain in Member States where armed conflict has emerged due to the fact that there is no peace to keep, their initial presence and continued monitoring by the UN during these crises has resulted in major improvements.[[69]](#footnote-68)

In more recent years, however, peacekeeping missions focused on protecting a Member State’s citizens and providing frontlines aid like the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Missions in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) and the United Nations Mission Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) have grown more active and have had a much greater impact for their Member States. Although MINUSCA has stabilized the Central African Republic (CAR) as best it can since its inception in 2014, its work has not yet been completed. Despite this, the SC has not lost hope and unanimously renewed the MINUSCA initiative on November 14, 2024 when Resolution 2759 was passed.[[70]](#footnote-69) The SC has been working tirelessly to ensure that all members of the global population have access to the rights explained in the UDHR.

But peacekeeping missions do not serve as the only way for the SC to affect the lives of a Member State’s citizens. Many independent resolutions calling for the end of conflicts across the globe have been passed to hopefully bring about prosperity for a Member State, the people who live there, and the international community. Adopted in 2022, Resolution 2669, for example, has called for the immediate end of the Myanmar civil war .[[71]](#footnote-70) Clause four of the 11-clause resolution specifically focuses on human rights, reaffirming the UN’s stance on human rights, urging all Member States to respect the rights of citizens according to the UDHR.[[72]](#footnote-71)

***Conclusion***

 Though the SC has strived to uphold and protect human rights across the globe, it has shifted to be the top priority of the SC in recent years. With eleven active peacekeeping missions across the globe,[[73]](#footnote-72) the SC has made it a mission to ensure that human rights are upheld amidst both peace and conflicts. Even further along with that, UNSC resolutions–like Resolution 2669, which expressed concerns regarding the situation in Myanmar–have begun directly mentioning how human rights should be ensured while a Member State is experiencing conflict or restabilizing.[[74]](#footnote-73) Overall, the SC has proven to be effective in upholding basic human rights and freedoms during times of conflict, but could still grow to be even more successful.

***Committee Directive***

 The SC calls on Member States to address the current human rights issues created by conflict. Delegates must also remember and recognize the previous failures and successes by the SC and the global community as a whole. Some questions to consider include: How can the SC better support Member States and their populations during times of armed conflict? What can be done for those displaced by conflicts? What are the best means for promoting human rights in times of conflict and the immediate aftermath? How can previous plans and initiatives like peacekeeping missions be improved or expanded upon? These questions should help guide delegates as they begin to address this topic in a clear and effective manner. Of course, the situation as a whole should be addressed as opposed to focusing on one specific region of the world. Even further along with that, delegates should keep in mind the many angles and ways that this topic should be addressed, asking themselves different and new questions than the ones provided in order to give a fresh and effective solution.

**SC Rules: Addendum**

***Rule One: Voting and the Veto***

All votes (both procedural and substantive) in the SC require nine affirmative votes to pass, as outlined in the UN Charter. For instance, a vote of eight in favor, zero opposed, and seven abstentions would fail. Substantive votes (resolutions, amendments, and the second vote for division of the question) additionally require the “concurring votes” of the permanent five (P-5) members of the SC (China, France, Russia, the UK, and the US). An abstention by a member of the P-5 does NOT count as a veto. Therefore, for a resolution to pass, all members of the P-5 must either vote yes or abstain in addition to receiving nine affirmative votes. Note that the P-5 has made only limited usage of the “veto” in the past eight years. Only 13 vetoes have been cast in that time, and in 1996, 1998, and 2000, no vetoes were cast. The Republic of France and the United Kingdom have not used their veto in decades.

***Rule Two: Voting with Rights and Passing***

During a roll call vote, once the Dais calls upon a delegate, they may choose from the following options: yes, no, abstain, yes with rights, no with rights, or pass. “Yes” casts a vote in favor of a draft resolution while “no” casts a vote against it. An “abstain” vote counts as neither and can only be made if a Member State was recorded as “present” during the most recent roll call. “Yes/No with rights” allows a Member State to make a brief explanation as to why that delegate voted the way s/he did once called upon by the Dais after the voting procedure is finished. Unless otherwise specified, response time will be limited to 30 seconds. Finally, “pass” permits the delegate to be skipped in order to hear the remaining votes, after which the Dais will return to those who passed. However, Member States who pass may not abstain or vote with rights.

***Rule Three: Make the Matter Substantive***

At this conference, the Dias will recognize the right of Member States to ask for procedural matters to be placed under the rules for substantive votes — and thus affected by the “veto” power. Though this is a “motion,” it will be treated as if it was a “point.” When it comes time to vote on a procedural matter that a Member State wishes to make substantive, before the Dais calls for votes Member States should stand and say “The \_\_(Member State)\_\_ motions to make this matter substantive”. The Dias will accept, or rule the motion dilatory. If it is accepted, there will be a simple procedural majority vote of the body to make the issue substantive. If that passes, the original issue will be voted on as if it was a substantive matter. Should this motion be abused or used too frequently, the Dias reserves the right to revoke this privilege.

***Rule Four: Suspension of the Rules***

Suspension of the Rules allows for an informal presentation. This can be used for a draft resolution to be introduced, an expert to offer testimony, or a number of other actions. To motion for this, a Member State should ask for a “Suspension of the rules for the purposes of \_\_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_ minutes”. This may be passed with a simple majority.

***Rule Five: Outside Parties***

The UN Charter gives the SC the option to invite non-Member States of the SC to participate without voting in discussions that affect the non-Member States. At this conference, a formal written request should be made to the Dais asking for an expert in a specific field. If enough of the body concurs, an expert will join the committee for a finite time.

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