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**DPSRMUN**



Security Council  
United Nations

**UNSC**

Promoting Sustainable Peace And  
Security In Conflict-Affected Regions,  
With Special Emphasis On Middle East.



## Letter from Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of Muniversiti and Delhi Public School, Rau, it gives us great pleasure to welcome you to the DPSRMUN 2023 Conference. We are thrilled to be a part of this esteemed event, which provides a platform for young, dynamic minds to engage in intellectual discourse and learn more about global politics.

For many of you, this may be your first MUN conference, and we urge you to review the study guide provided as a part of the conference. We believe that understanding the issues at hand is crucial to finding solutions that are practical and implementable.

However, we also believe that there is so much more to learn beyond the study guide. The ability to research, collaborate, and present your arguments is just the beginning. The real value of this conference lies in your ability to listen, understand different viewpoints, and learn from one another.

We encourage you to approach this conference with a growth mindset. Winning is not the ultimate goal, but rather an opportunity to learn, grow, and broaden your perspectives. At Muniversiti, we strongly believe that learning is the ultimate victory, one that brings personal and collective progress and positive change.

We are confident that this conference will be a great learning experience for all of you. We look forward to having you with us, and we wish you all the best for an exciting and enlightening journey ahead.

Best wishes,  
The Muniversiti Executive Board

## About Security Council

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was established under the United Nations Charter in the year 1945 with the primary purpose of maintaining international peace and security. The formation of UNSC was deemed necessary after the world witnessed the devastating impact of the two World Wars. The UNSC is empowered to take collective measures to resolve conflicts and promote peace and security among nations. It is the most powerful body within the United Nations and holds the highest responsibility for preserving global peace and security.



The UNSC functions and powers are enshrined in the United Nations Charter, which outlines its duties and responsibilities. The UNSC is responsible for maintaining international peace and security, investigating disputes that might lead to international friction, recommending methods of settlement, formulating plans for arms control, determining the existence of a threat to peace and recommending action, imposing economic sanctions, taking military action against an aggressor, admitting new members to the United Nations, and recommending appointments of the Secretary-General and Judges of the International Court of Justice.

The UNSC comprises of 15 members, 5 of which are permanent members- China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, who hold veto power and 10 of which are elected members serving two-year terms. The veto power of the permanent members allows them to veto any substantive resolution, thus providing a significant degree of power and influence in the Council.

In terms of jurisdiction, the UNSC has the power to deal with any threat to international peace and security, including acts of aggression and the use of force by one country against another. The UNSC also has the power to enforce its decisions through a range of measures, including economic sanctions, the deployment of peacekeeping forces, and in extreme cases, the use of military force.

The UNSC operates through a decision-making process that requires the concurrence of 9 of the 15 members, including all 5 permanent members. This ensures that the decisions of the UNSC are based on the consensus of the international community and reflects the will of the majority.

## Brief to the Agenda

Enhancing sustainable peace and stability in regions suffering from conflict, particularly in the Middle East, is a crucial aspect that requires significant attention. Conflicts in the region pose a severe threat to the security and stability of not just the nations involved, but also the neighboring countries and the world at large. The United Nations has a crucial role to play in promoting peace and stability in these conflict-ridden regions. Past actions and initiatives taken by the UN have met with varying degrees of success and failure, with reasons for the failures also needing to be analyzed and addressed.



Throughout the years, the UN has been active in mediating peace negotiations, providing humanitarian assistance to those in need, and working to build the capacity of local actors to promote stability and security. The organization has also been instrumental in supporting the development of democratic institutions and promoting the rule of law in conflict-affected countries. Despite these efforts, however, progress has been slow, and in many cases, the UN has faced challenges in promoting sustainable peace and security in the region.



One of the key challenges facing the UN in its efforts to promote peace and security in the Middle East is the proliferation of non-state armed groups, such as militias and insurgent groups. These groups often operate beyond the control of central governments and can pose a significant threat to regional stability. Furthermore, many of these groups are supported by foreign powers, adding a further layer of complexity to the conflict.

Another challenge facing the UN in the region is the lack of political will among key actors to address the root causes of conflict. In some cases, governments have been reluctant to engage in peace negotiations, while in others, they have been unable to implement the agreements reached. Additionally, ongoing political and economic instability in many of the region's countries has made it difficult for the UN to promote lasting peace and security.

Despite these challenges, the UN remains committed to promoting peace and security in the Middle East. The organization continues to work closely with regional actors and the international community to support the resolution of conflicts and to promote sustainable peace and stability in the region. Through its efforts, the UN hopes to help create conditions that will allow for the development of strong, democratic institutions and a more stable and secure future for the people of the Middle East.

## **Scope of the Committee**

The United Nations Security Council, with the given agenda of promoting sustainable peace and security in the conflict-ridden Middle East, would be expected to delve into the complexities of the ongoing conflicts and threats to security in the region. The delegates of the UNSC would be tasked with exploring the root causes of the conflicts and proposing solutions aimed at achieving lasting peace. In this regard, they would have to assess the role of the United Nations in promoting peace and stability in the Middle East, and critically evaluate the previous efforts made by the organization in this direction.

Moreover, the delegates would analyze the reasons behind the successes and failures of these past endeavors and identify areas that require improvement. Through this simulated discourse, the delegates would strive to arrive at tangible recommendations to further the cause of peace and stability in the Middle East.

## Conflicts in the middle East

### Syria

The Syrian conflict is an intricate and complex situation that has been raging since 2011, beginning as demonstrations against President Bashar al-Assad's rule and escalating into a full-fledged war. The primary drivers of the conflict are the defeat of the Islamic State, the violence between the Syrian government and opposition forces, and Turkish military operations against the Syrian Kurds. The Islamic State rose to prominence in Syria in 2013 and was targeted by a coalition of countries including the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and other Arab nations, through over 11,000 air strikes. Additionally, the U.S.-led coalition and the Syrian Democratic Forces have been involved in ground operations against the Islamic State.



On the other hand, Russia, with Iran's support, has been providing air support to the Syrian government since 2015 and has played a critical role in the government's efforts to reclaim territory from opposition forces. Despite various diplomatic efforts, such as the UN-backed Geneva peace talks and Russia's peace talks in Astana, Kazakhstan, peace has yet to be achieved. The opposition continues to control limited territories in Idlib and along the Iraq-Syria border, while the Syrian government has regained control over cities including Aleppo. The use of chemical weapons by the Syrian government has led to widespread criticism and the conflict continues to be a major source of instability and violence in the region.

In December 2018, President Trump's announcement of the U.S. troop withdrawal from Syria created uncertainty regarding the role of external actors such as Iran, Israel, Russia, and Turkey, as well as the future of internal actors in the conflict. Despite this, the U.S.-led international coalition remains active in Syria, conducting military strikes against the Islamic State and providing support to the Syrian Democratic Forces.

es and internal security forces. The recent attack in Manbij in January 2019, claimed by the Islamic State, resulted in 19 deaths, including 4 Americans, emphasizing the ongoing threat in the region.

## Israel Palestine

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a long-standing and complex issue that has its roots dating back to the late 19th century. It involves political, historical, and religious aspects, making it one of the most persistent and complicated issues in modern history. The conflict stems from the competing territorial claims of Jews and Arabs over the land of Palestine.



In 1947, the United Nations passed Resolution 181, which sought to partition the British Mandate of Palestine into two separate states - one for Jews and one for Arabs. The following year, Israel declared its independence, leading to the first Arab-Israeli war and the displacement of around 750,000 Palestinians. Tensions between Israel and its neighboring Arab countries continued to escalate over the years, resulting in several wars and numerous violent incidents.

The first Intifada, a Palestinian uprising against the Israeli government, took place in 1987, and in 1993, the Oslo I Accords were signed, which aimed to establish a framework for the Palestinians to govern themselves in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and for mutual recognition between the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli government. However, the peace process stagnated and the second Intifada broke out in 2000, which further worsened the situation.

In 2002, Israel approved the construction of a barrier wall around the West Bank, which was met with international opposition. The conflict continued to escalate, with both sides launching violent attacks against each other. The most recent escalation in violence occurred in May 2021, when Israel launched a military campaign in response

to rocket attacks from Hamas and other Palestinian militant groups. The violence resulted in hundreds of casualties and the displacement of Palestinians.

In 2018, the Trump administration set achieving an Israeli-Palestinian peace deal as a foreign policy priority, but its efforts were met with opposition from the Palestinians due to its support for Israeli annexation of settlements in the West Bank and control over Jerusalem. In October 2020, a court in Israel ruled that several Palestinian families in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of East Jerusalem would be evicted, leading to widespread protests and demonstrations.

In December 2022, the most far-right and religious government in Israel's history took power, led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. The coalition government prioritizes the expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank and has faced criticism for its discriminatory policies towards LGBTQ+ people and its plans to limit the independence of the judiciary. This has the potential to exacerbate tensions with the Palestinians and challenge Israel's relationships with its Arab neighbors, the United States, and Europe.

The current state of the conflict remains highly volatile, with the most conflict-related deaths for both Israelis and Palestinians since 2015. The situation is further complicated by the involvement of multiple international actors and the deep-seated historical, political, and religious tensions that exist between the two sides. The conflict continues to be a major source of instability in the Middle East and poses a significant challenge to global peace and security.

## Yemen

The conflict in Yemen is a complex and ongoing crisis that has its roots dating back to 2014, when Houthi rebels, with ties to Iran, took over the capital city of Sana'a and demanded a new government. This led to the resignation of President Hadi and his administration, and resulted in the formation of a coalition of Gulf states led by Saudi Arabia, backed by the United States, launching economic sanctions and bombing campaigns against the Houthi rebels. UN-led peace negotiations in 2016 failed to bring about a resolution, and in 2017, the former President Saleh broke away from the Houthi alliance, which led to his death.





The conflict has escalated into a devastating humanitarian crisis, with an estimated 131,000 deaths since 2015 due to indirect causes such as food insecurity and lack of access to healthcare. The involvement of regional powers such as Iran and Saudi Arabia has added fuel to the fire, with the conflict intensifying along sectarian lines, and human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law being reported on all sides. In addition, the United States continues its counterterrorism operations in Yemen, targeting al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and militants linked to the Islamic State, resulting in approximately 130 strikes in 2017.

The humanitarian situation in Yemen is dire, with over 25 million people in need of assistance and 5 million at risk of famine. The outbreak of cholera has added to the suffering of the Yemeni people, with over 1 million people affected. The conflict shows no sign of resolution, as multiple international and regional players have complicated the situation. The ongoing violence and instability have created a dire situation for the people of Yemen, with no end in sight to their suffering.

## Iraq

The rise of the self-proclaimed Islamic State (IS) in Iraq and Syria marked a major development in the region's conflict. In 2014, the extremist group gained control of parts of Anbar province in Iraq and eventually took over Mosul, resulting in the formation of an international coalition led by the United States to counter the IS threat. The coalition joined forces with regional powers, including Iranian troops, to engage in operations aimed at reclaiming territory from the group. After several years of intense fighting, the Iraqi government declared victory over the IS in December 2017.

Despite this achievement, the conflict with the IS has only added to the complex



and ongoing tensions in Iraq, particularly the sectarian division between Sunnis and Shiites and the political disagreements between the Kurdish groups and the central government in Baghdad. These tensions pose a significant threat to the stability of the new Iraqi government as it tries to rebuild the country and prevent a resurgence of the extremist group.

The aftermath of the war against the IS has proven to be a major challenge for Iraq. Over two million people remain internally displaced, while nearly nine million still require humanitarian assistance. The reconstruction process is estimated to cost at least \$88 billion. The new government faces the daunting task of integrating liberated Sunni communities into the political system and demobilizing the powerful Shiite militias that were formed during the conflict, as well as addressing ongoing tensions with the Kurdish groups seeking greater autonomy in the north.

Despite these obstacles, the international coalition and the Iraqi government have made significant progress in the fight against the IS and in the process of rebuilding the country. The key to ensuring long-term peace and stability in Iraq will be to address the root causes of conflict in the region and maintain a delicate balance in the country's delicate political and sectarian landscape.

In April 2018, the U.S. military officially announced the end of major combat operations against the IS in Iraq and disbanded the command responsible for overseeing the fight against the group. Over 5,000 U.S. service members remain in Iraq as part of a NATO-backed train, advise, and assist mission to help train the Iraqi military and

stabilize the country. The unexpected victory of a coalition of parties led by Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr in the May 2018 parliamentary elections raised questions about Iran's influence in Baghdad and the future of U.S. troops in Iraq. In October 2018, Barham Saleh was elected as president of Iraq and appointed Adel Abdul Mahdi as prime minister. Abdul Mahdi's government faces the added challenge of addressing violent protests that broke out in the southern city of Basra, while also overseeing the massive reconstruction effort in the country.

## South Sudan

The Republic of South Sudan is the youngest country in the world, having gained independence from Sudan in 2011. Despite initial hopes for a peaceful and prosperous future, the country has been plagued by violence and instability since its inception. The most notable of these conflicts is the civil war that began in 2013, which has resulted in hundreds of thousands of deaths and the displacement of millions of people.



The civil war in South Sudan began in December 2013, following a political struggle between President Salva Kiir and his former vice president, Riek Machar. The conflict quickly devolved into violence between soldiers from the two largest ethnic groups in South Sudan, the Dinka and the Nuer. Soldiers from the Dinka group supported Kiir, while those from the Nuer group supported Machar.

In the midst of the chaos, Kiir announced that Machar had attempted a coup, and violence spread quickly throughout the country. Armed groups targeted civilians along ethnic lines, committing rape and sexual violence, destroying property and looting villages, and recruiting children into their ranks. From the outbreak of conflict, the UN Security Council authorized a rapid deployment of about 6,000 security forces, in addition to 7,600 peacekeepers already in the country, to aid in nation-building efforts.

However, the UN mission in South Sudan has faced extreme challenges due to the deterioration of the security situation and its complex relationship with the government.

Under the threat of international sanctions and following several rounds of negotiations supported by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Kiir signed a peace agreement with Machar in August 2015. Machar returned to Juba in April 2016 and was once again sworn in as vice president. However, violence broke out between government forces and opposition factions soon after his return, displacing tens of thousands of people once more. Machar eventually fled the country and was detained in South Africa.

In 2017 and 2018, a series of cease-fires were negotiated and subsequently violated between the two sides and other factions. In June 2018, Kiir and Machar participated in negotiations mediated by Uganda and Sudan. Later that month, Kiir and Machar signed the Khartoum Declaration of Agreement that included a cease-fire and a pledge to negotiate a power-sharing agreement to end the war.

Despite sporadic violations over the ensuing weeks, Kiir and Machar signed a final cease-fire and power-sharing agreement in August 2018. This agreement was followed by a peace agreement to end the civil war signed by the government and Machar's opposition party, along with several other rebel factions. The agreement included a new power-sharing structure and reinstated Machar as vice president.

In late October 2018, Machar returned to South Sudan for a nationwide peace celebration to mark the end of the civil war. However, reports of continued attacks and violations, coupled with the collapse of multiple previous peace deals, highlight concerns that the fragile peace may not hold. The UN authorized the deployment of an additional four thousand peacekeepers as part of a regional protection force in 2016, although their arrival was delayed until August 2017.

Violence has prevented farmers from planting or harvesting crops, causing food shortages nationwide. In July 2014, the UN Security Council declared South Sudan's food crisis the "worst in the world." Famine was declared in South Sudan during the first few months of 2017, with nearly five million people at risk from food insecurity. Critical food shortages have continued since then, with UN officials warning that 2021 may



be the worst year yet, with more than eight million people in need of humanitarian assistance.

## The concept of sustainable peace and security

The concept of sustainable peace and security refers to the establishment of a stable and long-lasting peace in a region that has been impacted by conflict. This type of peace is characterized by the absence of violence and the ability of individuals and communities to thrive without fear of harm or disruption.

The importance of sustainable peace and security in conflict areas cannot be overstated. In regions where violence and conflict are widespread, individuals are unable to pursue their basic needs and goals. They are also unable to engage in economic and social activities that promote growth and development. Sustainable peace and security provide the foundation for communities to recover from the impact of conflict and to build a brighter future.



In conflict areas, sustainable peace and security can play a crucial role in promoting reconciliation and reintegration. By providing a stable environment, individuals and communities are able to address the underlying causes of conflict, such as economic and political grievances. This in turn can reduce the likelihood of future violence and conflict.

The necessity for sustainable peace and security in conflict areas is also a national concern. Conflicts and violence not only have devastating impacts on individuals and communities, but they can also have far-reaching consequences for the broader national community. Conflicts can undermine the stability of national institutions and

disrupt the functioning of the state. They can also undermine the economy, making it difficult for the country to achieve its development goals.

For these reasons, the promotion of sustainable peace and security in conflict areas is a national priority. By working to address the underlying causes of conflict and promoting reconciliation and reintegration, nations can help to build a more stable and secure future for individuals and communities affected by conflict. This, in turn, can contribute to the overall stability and security of the broader national community.

## **Relationship between sustainable development and sustainable peace**

The relationship between sustainable development and sustainable peace is a topic of increasing importance in the field of international relations. Sustainable development refers to development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, while sustainable peace refers to a state of lasting peace that is based on social justice, economic development, and political stability. In this essay, I will argue that sustainable development and sustainable peace are intrinsically linked, and that achieving sustainable peace in conflict-affected regions, particularly in the Middle East, requires a holistic approach that addresses both development and peacebuilding.

There are several reasons why sustainable development and sustainable peace are interconnected. First, conflict can have devastating effects on development, both in the short and long term. During conflict, infrastructure is often destroyed, access to basic services such as healthcare and education is disrupted, and economic activity grinds to a halt. In addition, conflict can create a cycle of poverty and violence that can persist long after the conflict has ended. This can make it difficult to rebuild communities and create sustainable development opportunities. Conversely, sustainable development can be a catalyst for peace, as it can provide people with access to basic services, education, and employment opportunities that can promote stability and reduce the risk of conflict.

Another reason why sustainable development and sustainable peace are interconnected is that many of the root causes of conflict are related to development challenges. For example, poverty, inequality, and limited access to basic services can create

conditions that are conducive to conflict. In addition, competition for natural resources such as land, water, and minerals can fuel conflict. Addressing these development challenges can therefore be an important step towards achieving sustainable peace. Conversely, addressing the underlying causes of conflict can create a more conducive environment for sustainable development.

To illustrate the importance of the relationship between sustainable development and sustainable peace, it is useful to consider examples from the Middle East. The Middle East is a region that has experienced a high degree of conflict and instability in recent decades, due in part to a range of development challenges. For example, many countries in the region are highly dependent on oil exports, which can create economic vulnerabilities and inequalities. In addition, rapid population growth and urbanization have put pressure on natural resources such as water, which can lead to competition and conflict. These development challenges have contributed to conflicts such as the Syrian civil war, which has had devastating effects on the population and the economy.

One approach to promoting sustainable development and sustainable peace in the Middle East is through the use of innovative solutions such as renewable energy. Renewable energy can provide a sustainable alternative to fossil fuels, which can reduce economic vulnerabilities and promote sustainable development. In addition, renewable energy can be a catalyst for peace, as it can create employment opportunities and reduce competition for finite resources. The United Nations Development Programme has launched several initiatives to promote renewable energy in the Middle East, including the Arab Youth Climate Movement, which aims to engage young people in promoting sustainable development and sustainable peace.

Another approach to promoting sustainable development and sustainable peace in the Middle East is through the use of conflict-sensitive development. Conflict-sensitive development refers to development that takes into account the potential impacts of development activities on conflict dynamics. This can include measures such as community consultation, conflict risk assessments, and the promotion of social cohesion. By taking into account the potential impacts of development on conflict, conflict-sensitive development can help to reduce the risk of conflict and promote sustainable peace. The United Nations has launched several initiatives to promote conflict-sensitive development in the Middle East, including the Youth Peacebuilding

Challenge, which aims to support young people in promoting peace and reconciliation in conflict-affected areas.

## The need for inclusion

In recent years, the inclusion of women, youth, and marginalized communities in peacebuilding efforts has become increasingly recognized as a critical component of promoting sustainable peace and security in conflict-affected regions, particularly in the Middle East. In this essay, I will argue that promoting the participation and perspectives of these groups is essential to achieving sustainable peace in the Middle East and provide examples of how this has been done in the region.



Women play a significant role in promoting sustainable peace and security in the Middle East. Women in the region are disproportionately affected by conflict, particularly in countries like Yemen and Syria, where they experience sexual violence, forced displacement, and other forms of abuse. However, women can also bring unique perspectives and experiences to peacebuilding efforts that are often overlooked. They have played a significant role in building community resilience, engaging in grassroots initiatives to foster reconciliation and promote social cohesion. Women can also promote gender equality and the empowerment of women in post-conflict societies, contributing to long-term stability.



In the Middle East, there are examples of women's participation in peacebuilding efforts. In Yemen, for instance, the Women's Solidarity Network was established to promote women's participation in the peace process, ensuring that women's voices were heard, and their needs were addressed. Women were also included in the National Dialogue Conference, which was instrumental in resolving the Yemeni crisis.

Youth also play a significant role in promoting sustainable peace and security in the Middle East. Young people are disproportionately affected by conflict in the region, particularly in countries like Syria, where they have lost access to education and economic opportunities. However, young people can bring fresh ideas and energy to peacebuilding efforts, and their engagement is essential for promoting intergenerational dialogue and understanding.

In the Middle East, youth have played an important role in peacebuilding efforts. For instance, in Iraq, the Youth Social Cohesion Network was established to promote social cohesion among young people from different ethnic and religious backgrounds. The network brought together young people to discuss peacebuilding strategies, including promoting the inclusion of marginalized communities and the importance of interfaith dialogue.

Marginalized communities, such as ethnic and religious minorities, also play a crucial role in promoting sustainable peace and security in the Middle East. These communities are often disproportionately affected by conflict, experiencing discrimination, violence, and forced displacement. However, they can bring unique perspectives and experiences to peacebuilding efforts, and their inclusion is essential for ensuring that their voices are heard and their needs are addressed.

In the Middle East, there are examples of marginalized communities' participation in peacebuilding efforts. In Iraq, for instance, the Iraqi Minorities Network was established to promote the inclusion of ethnic and religious minorities in post-conflict governance. The network has advocated for the protection of minority rights, including the right to participate in decision-making processes and the right to access resources and services.

# The Impact of Displacement on Sustainable Peace and Security in the Middle East

Displacement is a critical issue in the Middle East, where conflict and violence have forced millions of people to flee their homes. The impact of displacement on sustainable peace and security in the region is significant, with long-lasting consequences for individuals, communities, and the broader society. In this essay, I will explore the effects of displacement on sustainable peace and security in the Middle East and provide examples of how this has impacted the region.



Displacement has a significant impact on the individuals who are forced to flee their homes. Displaced people often face immense psychological stress and trauma, leading to long-term mental health issues. They also face a range of challenges in accessing basic services, such as healthcare, education, and employment, which can lead to social and economic exclusion. This exclusion can perpetuate cycles of poverty and marginalization, leading to further instability and insecurity in the region.

Displacement can also have a significant impact on the communities left behind. When large numbers of people are displaced from a community, the social fabric of that community can be disrupted, leading to social tension and conflict. Displacement can also place additional burdens on the host communities that are already struggling with their own economic and social challenges. This can lead to resentment and hostility towards the displaced population, further exacerbating social tensions and insecurity.

In addition to the immediate impact on individuals and communities, displacement can have long-term consequences for sustainable peace and security in the region. Displaced people may become refugees, leading to further destabilization in neighboring countries. Displacement can also contribute to the breakdown of social, economic, and political structures, leading to prolonged conflict and insecurity.

There are several examples of the impact of displacement on sustainable peace and security in the Middle East. The Syrian refugee crisis, for instance, has had a significant impact on neighboring countries, including Lebanon, Turkey, and Jordan, placing immense strain on these countries' resources and leading to social and economic tensions. In addition, the displacement of millions of Syrians has contributed to the destabilization of the region, leading to ongoing conflict and insecurity.

To address the impact of displacement on sustainable peace and security in the Middle East, it is essential to ensure that the needs of displaced populations are adequately addressed. This includes providing access to basic services, such as health-care, education, and employment, as well as addressing the long-term social and economic consequences of displacement. It is also crucial to address the root causes of displacement, including conflict and violence, to prevent further displacement and promote sustainable peace and security in the region.

## **Medical Neutrality**

Medical neutrality is a principle of international humanitarian law that mandates that medical personnel, facilities, and transport must be respected and protected in times of armed conflict. The principle emphasizes the importance of medical neutrality, the impartiality of medical professionals, and the protection of medical facilities and personnel from attacks and interference during armed conflict. It is based on the recognition that all individuals have the right to receive medical assistance and the obligation of the state to provide it.

The principle of medical neutrality dates back to the Geneva Convention of 1864 and has since been reaffirmed in subsequent international humanitarian law treaties, such as the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols of 1977. In addition, the United Nations Security Council has recognized the importance of medical neutrality in its resolutions related to the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

The principle of medical neutrality is particularly relevant in conflict-affected regions where healthcare systems are already fragile and vulnerable. In these regions, medical facilities and personnel are often targeted deliberately by belligerent parties as a means of exerting control over the population. This not only endangers the lives of medical professionals and patients but also violates the fundamental principles of humanitarian law.

The UNSC has recognized the importance of protecting medical personnel and facilities in conflict-affected regions. In its resolution 2286, the UNSC condemns attacks against medical personnel and facilities in armed conflict and called on all parties to respect and protect medical personnel, facilities, and transport. The resolution also urged states to take steps to prevent attacks on medical facilities and personnel and to investigate and prosecute those responsible for such attacks.

In addition, the UNSC has taken steps to ensure that medical personnel and facilities are able to provide assistance to those in need in conflict-affected regions. The UNSC has established a framework for the delivery of humanitarian aid in conflict-affected regions, including the provision of medical assistance. The UNSC has also established mechanisms to monitor the delivery of humanitarian assistance, including medical assistance, and to ensure that aid reaches those who need it most.

However, despite the efforts of the UNSC and the international community, attacks on medical personnel and facilities continue to occur in conflict-affected regions. The UNSC and its member states must continue to work together to ensure that medical neutrality is respected and protected in all circumstances, and that medical facilities and personnel are able to provide assistance to those in need without fear of attack or interference.



# UN Actions in the Past

## UN Convoy to Syria

The United Nations (UN) has been actively working to resolve the conflict in Syria since the eruption of protests in March 2011. The UN supports the implementation of Security Council resolution 2254 (2015) and the 2012 Geneva Communiqué, with the goal of achieving an inclusive and credible political solution to the conflict, led by the Syrian people and based on equality and non-discrimination.

In 2012, the UN partnered with the League of Arab States and former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan was appointed as Joint Special Envoy, leading to the adoption of the Geneva Communiqué. The Communiqué continues to guide UN mediation efforts toward a political transition. The UN Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS) was established to monitor the implementation of Annan's six-point plan, but violence across the country led to the mission's departure beyond August 2012.

Subsequently, Lakhdar Brahimi was appointed as Joint Special Representative, followed by Staffan de Mistura, who conducted a series of intra-Syrian talks from 2016 to 2018, focusing on the drafting of a new constitution and requirements for UN-supervised elections. Currently, Geir O. Pedersen serves as the Special Envoy for Syria and leads UN efforts to fully implement resolution 2254, including the facilitation of the Syrian Constitutional Committee.

The conflict in Syria has resulted in significant destruction, displacement, and violations of international law and human rights, including the use of chemical weapons. Impunity has been a major hindrance to conflict resolution and accountability efforts, however, progress was made with the establishment of the International, Impartial, and Independent Mechanism to assist in the investigation and prosecution of the most serious crimes under international law. The UN continues to advocate for constructive international diplomacy and concrete steps to restore stability in Syria.

## Special Envoy to Yemen

In 2011, the United Nations Secretary-General appointed a Special Adviser to support the Secretary-General in the exercise of his good offices in Yemen. The United Nations supported the negotiations between the government and the opposition, which resulted in the signing of the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and its Implementation Mechanism in Riyadh on November 23, 2011. The Special Adviser was actively involved with all sides of the Yemeni conflict to facilitate and support its implementation.

In 2012, the Secretary-General established the Office of the Special Envoy to the Secretary-General on Yemen to facilitate Yemen's transition and assist in the implementation of the agreement, lead UN support for the National Dialogue Conference, coordinate international assistance, provide support for other transition steps, such as the constitutional review and new general elections, work closely with the Security Council, GCC, and other international partners, and support the Secretary-General's ongoing reporting obligations to the Security Council.

The National Dialogue Conference in January 2014, supported by the United Nations, brought together 565 delegates from all regions and political groupings of Yemen, and established the foundations for a new federal and democratic Yemen with support for good governance, the rule of law, and human rights. The Constitution Drafting Commission was created to draft a new constitution based on the National Dialogue Conference outcomes.

However, despite the progress made in the political transition, conflicts between government forces, the Houthis, and other armed groups escalated into military violence in mid-2014. Despite agreements brokered by the United Nations, the Houthis and their allies took control of Sana'a and other parts of the country in September 2014. The United Nations facilitated numerous rounds of negotiations, but these efforts were unsuccessful in halting the escalation of military confrontations that continued into early 2015.

A coalition of countries led by Saudi Arabia intervened militarily on March 26, 2015, at the request of President Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi, in support of the government of Yemen. The Security Council has requested the Secretary-General to intensify his

good office role in order to enable the resumption of a peaceful, inclusive, orderly and Yemeni-led transition. The Special Envoy has facilitated successive rounds of consultations aimed at obtaining a negotiated settlement to end the conflict and resume the political transition process, including direct talks in Switzerland in June and December 2015, and in Kuwait from April to August 2016. Despite these efforts by the United Nations, fighting continued throughout the country, including along the Saudi Arabia-Yemen border.

On February 16, 2018, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres appointed Martin Griffiths of the United Kingdom as the Special Envoy for Yemen. On December 13, 2018, the government of Yemen and the Houthis reached the Stockholm Agreement, an agreement on the Hudaydah port and city, which included a mutual re-deployment of forces, the establishment of a governorate-wide ceasefire, and an agreement on the exchange of prisoners and detainees.

The Special Envoy of the Secretary-General continues to be responsible for mediating an agreement to end the conflict and enable the resumption of the political transition process, in accordance with the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative, the outcomes of the National Dialogue, and Security Council resolutions. The United Nations remains committed to supporting the Yemeni people in their quest for peace, stability, and prosperity.

## **Middle East Envoy**

The United Nations Middle East Envoy is a role established by the United Nations Secretary-General to support peace efforts in the Middle East region. The role of the UN Middle East Envoy involves facilitating negotiations and dialogue between conflicting parties and supporting the Secretary-General in his efforts to promote peace and stability in the region.

The first UN Middle East Envoy was appointed in 1972 and since then, several envoys have held this role. Over the years, the UN Middle East Envoy has been instrumental in negotiating several peace agreements between conflicting parties in the region and promoting stability.

In 2002, Kofi Annan appointed Terje Roed-Larsen as the UN Special Coordinator for

the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority. Roed-Larsen played a key role in the implementation of the Oslo Accords and other peace agreements between Israel and the Palestinians.

In 2007, Annan appointed Robert Serry as the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process, who continued to promote peace and stability in the region. Serry was succeeded by Nikolay Mladenov in 2013, who held the role of UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and UN Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority.

In 2015, the UN Middle East Envoy, Nikolay Mladenov, was appointed by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Since his appointment, Mladenov has been actively involved in promoting peace and stability in the region. He has played a key role in mediating between conflicting parties and supporting the Secretary-General's efforts to bring an end to the conflict in Syria.

In addition to his role as the UN Middle East Envoy, Mladenov also serves as the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority.

In December 2020, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres appointed Tor Wennesland of Norway as his new Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority. In this capacity, Mr. Wennesland will be the Envoy of the Secretary-General to the Quartet.

Mr. Wennesland succeeds Nickolay Mladenov of Bulgaria to whom the Secretary-General is grateful for his important contributions and leadership of the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO).

The UN Middle East Envoy has been instrumental in promoting peace and stability in the region and supporting the Secretary-General in his efforts to bring an end to conflict and promote a lasting peace in the Middle East.

# Proposed Research Framework

## Country's position on the conflict-affected regions in the Middle East:

- What is the country's official stance on the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East, particularly in the conflict-affected regions?
- Has the country been involved in any peacekeeping or humanitarian efforts in the region?

## Country's involvement in UN peacekeeping efforts:

- What has been the country's involvement in UN peacekeeping efforts in the past?
- Is the country currently contributing troops or resources to any UN peacekeeping mission in the conflict-affected regions?

## Country's stance on promoting sustainable peace and security:

- What measures has the country taken in the past to promote sustainable peace and security in conflict-affected regions, both domestically and internationally?
- Has the country taken any initiatives or made any proposals at the UN to promote sustainable peace and security in the Middle East?

## Economic and political ties with conflict-affected regions in the Middle East:

- What are the country's economic and political ties with the conflict-affected regions in the Middle East?
- Have these ties affected the country's stance on the conflicts and its efforts to promote peace and security in the region?

## Humanitarian aid and assistance:

- Has the country provided any humanitarian aid or assistance to the conflict-affected regions in the Middle East?
- If so, what kind of aid or assistance has been provided and how effective has it been?

## Cooperation with other countries and international organizations:

- How has the country cooperated with other countries and international organizations in promoting sustainable peace and security in the Middle East?



- Has the country been involved in any multilateral efforts to address the conflicts and their underlying causes in the region?

## Possible way out

Sustainable peace and security can be achieved through a combination of approaches. One effective solution is to address root causes of conflicts, such as poverty, inequality, lack of access to resources and political representation, and discrimination. This can be done through implementing comprehensive development programs that address these issues and promote social and economic stability.

Another way to attain sustainable peace is through education and conflict resolution. Encouraging peaceful conflict resolution through education, such as teaching negotiation and mediation skills, can help prevent conflicts from escalating. It can also foster a culture of respect and non-violent communication, which is vital for building and maintaining peaceful communities.

International cooperation and partnerships are also crucial for creating a more secure and peaceful world. This includes collaboration between governments, international organizations, civil society groups, and the private sector to address global security challenges, such as terrorism and organized crime, and to promote peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

Strengthening the rule of law and good governance is also essential for sustainable peace and security. This includes promoting and protecting human rights, establishing independent judiciaries and fair legal systems, and ensuring accountability for crimes and violations of human rights.

Disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of former combatants is another important approach for ensuring long-term peace and stability. This can help prevent the resurgence of violence, by reducing the availability of weapons and encouraging former fighters to reintegrate into society.

Finally, it is vital to involve local communities and give them a voice in peace processes. This can help build trust, ensure accountability, and create buy-in for peace agreements, ultimately increasing the chances for sustainable peace.

## Rules of Procedure

Rules of procedure are utilised by most Model UN conferences to maintain order and decorum by deciding who speaks, on what and when. This is essential as delegates put forth their points of view and interact with other States on lengthy agendas. However, many Model UN simulations have evolved to follow parliamentary rules of procedure which do not accurately mirror the realities of the proceedings that take place at the UN General Assembly. In an effort to bring Model UN procedure closer to the actual functioning of the UN, this guide hopes to highlight the differences in procedure between MUNs and the UN and clearly lay down procedures to follow that are more accurately aligned with realities of UN proceedings.

An international conference is an interaction between States through the medium of the delegates, who act as representatives of States. It is through these conversations, primarily cooperative, that much of the business at the UN progresses. Rules of procedure divide these 'consultations' into two kinds of discussion:

### Formal Consultation

During formal proceedings, the rules of procedure are observed under the supervision of the committee Chairperson. Delegates, during this time, are able to make speeches, answer questions, introduce and debate resolution and amendments. The purpose of these rules is to ensure that only one delegate speaks at any given time and to allow the Chairperson to steer the negotiations in a constructive direction.

### Informal Consultation

Delegates are in consultation with each other from the moment they arrive at the MUN or UN until they leave. In addition to the order of business, their exchanges may be social or to pursue other objectives. This is the type of consultation that takes place in the form of face-to-face conversations, during which no formal rules of procedure are put into effect.

At MUN simulations in the past, the rules of procedure have figured much more prominently in the proceedings than they do at the UN. Part of the reason for this is due to the more rigid parliamentary rules of procedure employed at MUNs. Another reason

for this is that the majority of the proceedings of an MUN – motion, debate, negotiation, amendment and resolution – take place during formal consultation, highlighting the need for rules of procedure and the need to introduce motions. On the other hand, the principal mode of communication between delegates at the UN is through face-to-face informal consultations; therefore the negotiation process does not rely heavily on formal proceedings. Formal processes at the UN are mainly used to provide a context for informal consultations between delegations and to formalise agreements previously reached during these.



## Flow of Debate: Traditional MUN Model

### ROLL CALL

The Chairperson will announce each country's name. After a delegate hears their country called, they should answer either "present" or "present and voting"



### SETTING THE AGENDA

The first order of business for the committee shall be the consideration of the agenda. The only motion in order at this time will be in the form of "The nation of [country name] moves that [topic area x] be placed first on the agenda". The motion requires a second and is debatable. A provisional speakers list shall be established with two people speaking for and two people speaking against the motion; after the provisional speakers list is exhausted, the committee shall move into an immediate vote. A simple majority is required for the motion to pass.

A motion to proceed to the second topic area is in order only after the committee has voted on a resolution regarding the first topic area or tabled the topic

## DEBATE

### SPEAKERS LIST (FORMAL DEBATE)

The Chairperson will ask all of those delegates who would like to make a speech and to be on the speakers list to raise their placards. The Chairperson will then choose delegates to be placed on the speakers list. After a country has spoken, they may be added on the speakers list again by sending a note to the Chairperson saying: "the delegation of (country name) would like to be added to the speakers list".

Speaking time is set through a motion from a delegate. If no motions are made, the default time is 90 seconds. When the committee is in formal debate all rules of procedure are enforced



### END OF LIST

Once the speakers list has been exhausted, the committee will automatically move to immediate voting procedures.

## CAUCUS

### Moderated Caucus

A moderated caucus is a mixture of both formal and informal debate. When a motion for a moderated caucus is passed, the Chair calls upon delegates as they raise their placards to address the committee for a specific amount of time

### Unmoderated Caucus

An un-moderated caucus is a temporary recess. Rules of procedure are suspended during caucusing. During this time delegates can meet informally with each other and the committee staff to discuss draft resolutions and other issues.

### Working Papers and Draft Resolutions

Delegations work together to create resolutions. In addition, delegates may present amendments to these documents, which are changes to draft resolutions.

### CLOSURE OF DEBATE

Once a delegate feels that they have made their country's position clear and that there are enough draft resolutions on the floor, he or she may make a motion to proceed into voting procedure by moving for the closure of debate.

## VOTING PROCEDURES

Once a motion to close debate has been approved, the committee moves into voting procedures. Amendments are voted upon first, then resolutions. Once all of the resolutions are voted upon, the committee can move to the next topic

# Flow of Debate: UN General Assembly Model

## QUORUM

The quorum, or number of member states who need to be present for the meeting to open is one-third in the Plenary and one-fourth in the Main Committee. The Chairperson will announce each country's name, after a delegate hears their country called, they should answer "present".

## THE AGENDA

The provisional agenda shall be drawn up by the Secretary-General and communicated to all delegations prior to the start of the conference. The provisional agenda of the conference will include relevant documents and reports as well as the order in which the issues will be considered at the conference. The second topic area is considered only after the committee has dealt with a resolution regarding the first topic area or tabled the topic.

## DEBATE

### FORMAL CONSULTATIONS

The Speaker's List may be drawn up based on delegates' messages from delegates in advance of the conference. Alternatively, the Chairperson will ask all of those delegates who would like to make a speech and to be on the speakers list to raise their placards. The Chairperson will then choose delegates to be placed on the speakers list. After a country has spoken, they may be added on the speakers list again by sending a note to the Chairperson saying: "the delegation of (country name) would like to be added to the speakers list". There are no yields.

If no motions are made, the default time will be mentioned in the Programme of Work, usually set at 90 seconds. When the committee is in formal debate all rules of procedure are enforced.

### INFORMAL CONSULTATIONS:

Although 'caucus' types of meeting do occur, this parliamentary terminology is not used at the UN.

#### Formal Informal

When a motion to suspend the meeting for a formal informal is passed, the Chair calls upon delegates as they raise their placards to address the committee for a specific amount of time.

#### Informal Informal

An informal informal is a temporary recess during which rules of procedure are suspended for negotiation. Delegates can meet informally with each other and the committee staff to discuss the issue and merge resolutions. These take up a majority of committee time.



### END OF SPEAKERS' LIST

With the permission of the representatives present, the President/Chairperson may declare the list closed. The President/Chairperson may however accord the right of reply to any member if a speech delivered after the closing of the list makes this desirable.

### Draft Resolutions

Delegates divide into regional or political blocs to agree on resolution language within their group. Each group merges with another, until one resolution is on the floor.

### CLOSURE OF DEBATE

Once regional and political groupings have merged their texts into one acceptable by the whole committee, delegates may move for closure of debate to adopt the resolution by consensus. If the committee fails to reach consensus, then voting may occur.

### ADOPTION BY CONSENSUS

The Chair simply states that the resolution has been adopted by consensus, and forwards the resolution to the Plenary. In the case that consensus cannot be achieved, debate can either be tabled (No-Action) or closed (Voting). Amendments are voted upon first, then resolutions. Once the resolution is voted upon, the committee can move to the next topic on the agenda.

## Rules of Procedure

### I. OPENING THE DEBATE

#### 1. Setting The Agenda:

Rule 1: The provisional agenda for the conference shall be drawn up by the Secretary-General and communicated to all delegations at least two months before the start of the conference.

Rule 2: The provisional agenda of the conference shall include:

- a) Reports on the themes selected for each conference; and,
- b) All items which the Secretary-General deems necessary to put before the delegations;
- c) The order in which issues will be considered in the meeting.

Rule 3: At each conference, the provisional agenda shall be submitted to the meeting for approval during the opening session.

## **2. Minute of silent prayer or meditation:**

Rule 4: Immediately after the opening of the first meeting and preceding the closing of the final meeting, the President/Chairperson shall invite the representatives to observe one minute of silent prayer or meditation.

## **II. CONDUCT OF BUSINESS**

### **3. Speeches:**

Rule 5: No representative may address the meeting without having previously obtained permission of the President/Chairperson. The President/Chairperson shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their desire to speak after adding them to the Speaker's List. The President/Chairperson may call out a speaker if his or her remarks are not relevant to the subject under discussion.

### **4. Time Limit on Speeches:**

Rule 6: The meeting may limit the time to be allowed to each speaker and the number of times each representative may speak on any question. Before a decision is taken, two representatives may speak in favour of, and two against a proposal to set a time limit which will then be put to vote. When the debate is limited and a representative exceeds his or her allotted time, the President/Chairperson shall call the speaker to order without delay.

### **5. Points of Order:**

Rule 7: During the discussion of any matter, a representative may raise a 'point of order' if the delegate believes that the President/Chairperson is not following the Rules of Procedure or not being sufficiently active in ensuring that other representatives do so. The point of order shall be immediately ruled on by the President/Chairperson in

accordance with the rules of procedure. If a delegate feels that the ruling of the President/Chairperson is incorrect, they may appeal against the ruling. The appeal is put to a vote and the decision of the President/Chairperson could be overruled by a majority of the members present and voting.

- There is a widely used convention for signaling to the President/Chairman that the reason that the delegate is asking for the floor is to raise a 'point of order' rather than simply to be put on the Speaker's List, the delegate makes a 'T' with their hand and placard.

## **6. Closing of List of Speakers; Right to Reply:**

Rule 8: During the course of the debate, the President/Chairperson may announce the list of speakers and, with the permission of the representatives present, declare the list closed. The president/Chairperson may however accord the right of reply to any member if a speech delivered after the closing of the list makes this desirable. Right of reply is not used under any other circumstances.

## **III. MOTIONS**

### **7. Suspension of Meeting:**

Rule 9: The meeting may be suspended for a limited amount of time upon request by a representative or the President/Chairperson. Such matters will not be debated but will immediately be put to a vote. A suspended meeting is resumed on the same day. This motion is used to break for informal consultations, and for lunch and tea breaks.

### **8. Adjournment of Meeting:**

Rule 10: During the discussion of any matter, a representative may motion for the adjournment of the meeting. Such motions will not be debated but immediately put to a vote. Any continued consideration of an item on the agenda will take place at another meeting on another day. This motion can be used at the end of the day.

## **9. Adjournment of Debate:**

Rule 11: During the discussion of any matter, a representative may propose the motion to adjourn the debate on the item under discussion. In addition to the proposer of the motion, two representatives may speak for the motion and two representatives may speak against, after which the proposal will be put to a vote. Adjournment of debate ends parts or all of the agenda item being discussed during the conference. This can be used to block action on specific draft resolution and is known as a 'no-action motion'.

## **10. Closure of Debate:**

Rule 12: A representative may at any time motion for the closure of debate on the item under discussion, whether or not the representative has signified their wish to speak. A representative can motion for this after they feel that sufficient progress has been made on draft resolutions, and they are ready to be adopted by consensus, or to be forced to a vote. Permission to speak on the closure of the debate shall be accorded only to two speakers opposing the closure, after which the motion shall be immediately put to vote. If the meeting votes in favour of this motion, the President/Chairperson shall declare the closure of the debate.

## **11. Order of Procedural Motions:**

Rule 13: Subject to Rule 8, the motions indicated below shall have precedence in the following order over all the other procedures or motions in the meeting:

- a) To suspend the meeting;
- b) To adjourn the meeting;
- c) To adjourn debate on the item under discussion;
- d) To close debate on the item under discussion.

## IV. DRAFT RESOLUTIONS

### 12. Tabling Draft Resolution:

Rule 14: Any member state may submit a draft resolution to the Secretary for which no minimum percentage of support is required. However since resolutions are aimed to be adopted by consensus, it is advised that representatives build multilateral support before tabling draft resolutions.

### 13. Proposals and Amendments:

Rule 15: Proposals and amendments on a tabled draft resolution/decisions shall be submitted are either formally submitted in writing to Secretary, issued as 'L-documents' or proposed orally from the floor, if no member objects.

Rule 16: When an amendment is moved to a proposal, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments are moved to a proposal, the committee shall first vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom, and so on until all the amendments have been put to the vote. Where, however, the adoption of one amendment necessarily implies the rejection of another amendment, the latter amendment shall not be put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be considered or voted upon. A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of the proposal.

Rule 17: A member can request division of proposals, i.e. a separate vote on paragraphs or parts of the draft resolution or amendment before the adoption of the whole text. This applies to parts of a paragraph, an entire paragraph or several paragraphs. If the request is challenged, there will be a vote to decide whether the proposal can be divided such that the paragraph(s) can be voted on separately to the rest of the draft resolution. After two delegates each have spoken for and against the request, there will be a vote based on simple majority. If by majority, the request is passed, immediately after the voting on the paragraph, the entire draft resolution will be considered. If all operative parts of the proposal or of the amendment have been rejected, the



proposal or the amendment shall be considered to have been rejected as a whole.

#### **14. Voting on draft resolution:**

Rule 18: It is assumed that draft resolutions will be adopted by consensus and therefore shall not require voting. However, in the event that the draft resolution cannot be accepted by consensus, the meeting will go into a vote.

Rule 19: If all operative paragraphs of a draft resolution are rejected, the draft resolution will be considered rejected as a whole.

### **V. VOTING**

#### **15. Voting Rights:**

Rule 19: Each member state of the meeting shall have one vote.

#### **16. Majority Required:**

Rule 20: Decisions of the General Assembly meeting shall be made by a simple majority of the members present and voting, except on important questions including recommendations with respect to the maintenance of international peace and security, the suspension of the rights and privileges of membership, the expulsion of Members, and budgetary questions. This applies to both draft resolutions and amendments.

#### **17. Method of voting:**

Rule 22: The meeting shall normally vote by a show of hands or by standing but any representative may request a roll-call vote. The roll-call will be taken in alphabetical order, and when called, the representative shall answer “yes”, “no” or “abstention”.

#### **18. Conduct during voting:**

Rule 23: After the President/Chairperson has announced the beginning of voting, no

delegate shall interrupt the voting unless on a point of order in connection with the actual voting procedure. The President/Chairperson may permit members to explain their vote either before or after the voting. The time given for these explanations may be limited by the President/Chairperson. The President/Chairperson shall not permit the proposer of an amendment to explain his vote on his own proposal or amendment.

### **19. Equally divided votes:**

Rule 24: If a vote is equally divided on any matter, the President/Chairman shall decide if a second vote shall be taken. If the second vote also results in an equally divided situation, the proposal shall be regarded as rejected.