



Security Council

SC

*Topic B: Reevaluating UN
Peacekeeping Missions in Syria*

ALEXMUN 2017

Dear delegates,

We're pleased to welcome you to the Security Council of Alexmun 2017. We're very excited to be a part of this Model of the United Nations and for you to join us. My name is Marene Méndez and I'm the president of this committee. I've had experience in models and I've learned MUN teaches all its delegates and chairs about world problems/situations that concern us all. I invite you to join us and live this enriching experience for the first time or to live it again and continue learning new things.

As the moderator of this committee we have Alejandra Bremauntz. She lived in the United States for 8 years. She is also very interested in world affairs and is very excited to be a part of this committee alongside with our next chair member, Amaro Garcia Cubas. He is the conference officer of the Security Council. He has had a lot of experience in MUNs both as delegate and as a chair. Last, but not least, we have Patricio Hernández as our political advisor. He has a lot of knowledge on the topics we'll be addressing and he is the person you can ask any question to, regarding either protocol or the topics addressed.

Every chair member of this committee is very excited for you delegates to be part of Security Council and debate about our important topics, which are:

- The Issue of North Korea's Nuclear Weapon Program
- Reevaluation UN Peacekeeping missions in Syria.

We can assure you an enriching experience and a great discussion of these topics through all the sessions we'll have in the model. We remind you this is Alexmun's most advance committee. Protocol will be strictly enforced, and we expect all delegates to live up to the most excellent academic standards. Realistic debate is expected with realistic plans, ideas and possible solutions that can be proposed, aiming for world peace. We invite you to read more about the topics that will be addressed and to contact any of the chair members of the committee. We are happy to answer any question you might have regarding the Security Council of Alexmun 2017.

You can contact us through our mails:

- Marene Méndez (President): marene.mendez@bab.edu.mx
- Alejandra Bremauntz (Moderator): alejandra.bremauntz@bab.edu.mx
- Amaro García Cubas (Conference officer): amaro.garcia@bab.edu.mx
- Patricio Hernández (Political Advisor): patricio.hernandez@bab.edu.mx

Committee's brief

As mentioned before, the Security Council's primary responsibility is the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 members, five of which are permanent members (United States, the United Kingdom, France, the Russian Federation, and China) and each member has one vote. When a threat to the peace or an act of aggression happens, it calls upon the parties to discuss whether to settle it by peaceful means or resort to imposing sanctions or even the use of force. The Council also frequently deploys peacekeeping missions that bring soldiers and police directly into conflict zones. This is an activity that causes controversies in the UN, specially when these missions apply lethal force.

The Security Council also advises the General Assembly about the Secretary General and the admission of new members to the UN; and together, with the General Assembly they elect the judges of the International Court of Justice.

The Security Council held its first session slightly after World War II on January 17, 1946 at Church House, Westminster, London. Its permanent residence since then has been the United Nations Headquarters in New York City though it has held sessions in many cities. It is necessary that a representative of each member of the Security Council stays in the UN Headquarters so that they can meet at any time as the need arises.

The current 15 members of the Security Council are the following:

- United States of America
- France
- China
- Russian Federation
- The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- Bolivia
- Egypt
- Ethiopia
- Japan
- Italy
- Kazakhstan
- Senegal
- Ukraine
- Uruguay
- Sweden

Introduction to the issue

In 2011 an ongoing multi-sided armed conflict in Syria arose between the government of President Bashar al-Assad and various forces opposing the government. What began as a social discontent escalated to an armed conflict, turning into a civil war. Along with the conflict came many massacres, the violation of human rights and a major refugee crisis. As a result, the United Nations Security Council resolution 2043 established a peacemaking mission, The United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria, that would monitor the execution of the Kofi Annan Syrian peace plan also known as the Six-point plan designed to end the raising conflict. The mission consisted of a small team of unarmed military observers, set up for an initial 90 day period, which would be in charge of monitoring the cessation of armed violence by all parties, specifically by requiring the Syrian government to immediately cease troop movements toward populated sites. The mission was fully operational on May of 2012 and on June of that same year the Security Council had already sent 278 military observer which were situated along the Damascus headquarters and in Aleppo, Deir-ez-Zor, Hama and Taratus as well as another four team sites.

The mission focused on having their staff operate in and around populated centers that would allow them to monitor civilian interactions. In order to be able to maintain and consolidate the cessation of violence, a system of transparent violation reporting was implemented where patrolling certain areas was conducted. By doing so, the mission sought to engage with both the local population who were part of the government and the opposition factions, allowing them to build a network of community contacts and national officials to try and maintain stability.

Even with the United Nations present in Syria, living conditions deteriorated and hardships among civilians were encountered raising the population's expectations that the presence of the United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria would provide total cessation of violence and complete protection to civilians. After explaining the mission's limited role, risks posed to the observers rose, raising the number of encounters with hostile crowds and incidents of firing in the team sites.

Current Issue

Since the 70's the situation in Syria is unstable and intense. In 1974 the United Nations designated an organism to investigate and come to solutions toward this problem. This organism is the Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) and it was designated by the Security Council. Since then, UNDOF has remained in this territory and has maintained a ceasefire between different armed groups, however in the last years the situation became worst.

Now Syria is begging for international peacekeeping forces. The UN needs to create a strategy to control the immigrant's displacement and to help damaged people. Defeating ISIS in Syria is crucial to end the struggle. The reason of success of the Syrian army in Palmyra can develop the great passion of the Sunnis against the regime, and that can only complicate the picture.

One of Syria's strategy is recognizing that international peacekeeping force will be needed to help peace when it finally appears.

One of the most complicated aspects of civil wars is how often it repeats itself. One of the problems in this case is the ethnic component and multiple actors that are hard to stop. Also, short term alliances between rival warrior factions contribute to failed peace efforts, and war relapses. Peace deals are not efficient, detail peace agreements with numerous stipulations work better because confidence is built among the various parties.

United Nations, or any peace organization need multiple tools at their disposal for peace to work. Economic resources, strong political leadership, and an ability to pressure the parties to comply with the deals, and military force to protect themselves and providing a presence for monitoring the stipulations of any deal. Sometimes, however, this is very hard because they need at least one peacekeeper for every fifty citizens to keep the country stable, which means in Syria they would need at least four hundred thousand peacekeepers.

In other words, Syria needs a very complex peace operation under the auspices either of the UN or the Arab league, if they want any deal to succeed. It seems that Syria's conflict is so complex that even if the war ends it would be most viable for the war to start again. Syria needs to be well protected and given supplies, and to be able to concentrate their effort in the most complex part of the country.

The size of the force depends on the nature and design of any potential settlement. The past peacekeeping missions have failed, ceasefires have been ignored, and the refugee crisis has not been addressed. The conflict in Syria is one of the most transcendental issues in the Middle East today, as it involves war, political opposition, protests, terrorist groups and general instability.

Topics to be addressed

Why did the Security Council establish the UNSMIS (United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria) the first place?

What were the advantages of establishing the UNSMIS?

Which future options did the Secretary General present to the Council? Are these options applicable now?

What solutions can help Syria now? Is another peacekeeping mission the right thing to do?

If not, what other solutions are viable to solve the Syrian Conflict?

Key Words

Armed conflict: Is a contested incompatibility which concerns government and/or territory where the use of armed force between two parties, of which at least one is the government of a state, results in at least 25 battle-related deaths.

Cessation: The fact or process of ending or being brought to an end.

Civil war: A war between citizens of the same country.

Execution: The carrying out or putting into effect of a plan, order, or course of action.

Headquarters: The premises occupied by a military commander and the commander's staff.

Human rights: Human rights are moral principles or norms that describe certain standards of human behavior, and are regularly protected as legal rights in municipal and international law. They are commonly understood as inalienable fundamental rights "to which a person is inherently entitled simply because she or he is a human being," and which are "inherent in all human beings" regardless of their nation, location, language, religion, ethnic origin or any other status.

Intermixed areas: to mix together; intermingle (different groups in one same place).

Multi-sided: Having multiple sides.

Party: A government of a state or any opposition organization or alliance of opposition organizations.

Peacekeepers: The active maintenance of a truce between nations or communities, especially by an international military force.

Violating: Break or fail to comply with (a rule or formal agreement).

Sources

<http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/>

<http://www.un.org/en/sc/>

<https://www.globalpolicy.org/security-council/32932.html>

<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/past/unsmis/background.shtml>

<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/past/unsmis/>

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/order-from-chaos/2016/04/11/get-ready-syria-will-need-peacekeepers/>