

MUN

SC HS BACKGROUND GUIDE

AUSMUN 2021



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF SHARJAH

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH WELCOME LETTER



Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my utmost pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2021. As an organization led by the students of AUS, AUSMUN has had the privilege of hosting some of the biggest and most diverse MUN conferences in this region. Our 2020 conference saw over 1000 delegate registrations from more than 45 national and international institutions!

Adapting to a New Normal, Promoting Resilience: given the turbulent year of 2020, there was no other theme which could have fit our present conditions better. A small outbreak in Wuhan exactly a year back has now trickled down into a global catastrophe which has two million dead, leaving a trail of broken lives in its wake. Looking at the severely distorted life that has become our 'new normal', some may question whether it could all have been avoided. Whether we could have been better prepared. And the broader goal of our conference is to do exactly that: teach the upcoming generation to question current policies in the hopes of preventing another similar global catastrophe.

This background guide has been formulated by your chairs along with the research team to provide you with a concise overview of the topics chosen.

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH WELCOME LETTER

The guide is initially divided into two sections based on the two topics and is further split into logical components. Firstly, the Summary and History section acts as an introduction to the issue. Secondly, the Discourse on the Issue section establishes a link between the issue, its implications, significance, and the United Nations Charter. Lastly, the Past International Organization (IO) Actions and Latest Developments section elaborates on the previous actions that have been taken, which can be used by delegates as a stepping stone to come up with their own solutions to the issues. At the end of each topic, delegates will find sections of questions and suggestions that aim to guide the process of research.

Delegates are greatly encouraged to expand beyond the guide and research about their country and topics in order to construct well founded arguments during debate. The delegate handbook contains a number of tips on how to research and addresses a vast array of common concerns. Finally, let me use this opportunity to extend my gratitude to all those who have helped create the document you are reading right now: Your wonderful moderators, the AUSMUN Research Team, and not to mention the AUSMUN Media team who have done an incredible job in designing and formatting the Background Guides.

I wish you the very best in preparing for the conference. If you have any queries at all, or need any specific help in researching for your topics, do not hesitate to contact research@ausmun.com

Sincerely,
Julia Jose
Director of Research
AUSMUN 2021

MODERATORS



Fatima Mahroos

Rayyan Abbassi

Suha Hasan

Assem Ahmed

WELCOME DELEGATES!

We are in unprecedented times, and AUSMUN is something that brings us a sense of normalcy.

Welcome delegates!

It brings us immense joy to greet you all and we truly are honored that you have decided to spend your time researching, debating, and finding solutions to our world's pressing issues. We are excited for you to be a part of this life-changing opportunity. AUSMUN provides a complacent balance between the finer points of a conference including the development of soft skills together with those of critical analysis, evaluation, and networking.

We highly recommend you get a head-start on your research. Our main advice to you is that you focus your energies on attaining a thorough rapport with the material and the ongoing debate. The delegations of each nation have the opportunity to construct a meaningful solution to the issues at hand through research, dialogue and self-actualisation. For any information or questions, feel free to contact us at *****@gmail.com. We wish you the best of luck with the conference and look forward to seeing you!

FATHIMA, RAYYAN
AUTHORS OF THE BACKGROUND GUIDE

OVERVIEW OF THE COMMITTEE

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was established on October 24th, 1945. The council was founded shortly after the Second World War on September 2nd, 1945, in order to address the failures of the League of Nations.

The main role of the UNSC is to maintain international peace and security. Hence, common topics discussed in the Security Council include issues of armed conflict and terrorist organizations. Given the nature of the topics debated in the UNSC, it is the sole committee authorized to respond to threats to international peace with violence and may convene any time there is a threat to international peace. Under the UN Charter, member states are obliged to carry out the decisions made by the Security Council. The Security Council consists of 15 member states: P5 nations: These are the 5 permanent members of the UNSC, and they are; UK, USA, France, China, and Russia.

The P5 nations are the only member states given the right to veto a resolution; a veto from any one of the P5 nations against a resolution causes that resolution to fail. Note that a veto can only prevent a resolution from being passed; it cannot prevent a resolution from being debated on. E10 nations: These are 10 non-permanent members, elected by the General Assembly to serve 2-year terms.

Summary and History of issue

For over a generation, tensions in the Korean peninsula have remained a characteristic of the region. The area was divided after the surrender of their colonists, Imperial Japan at the end of the second world war at the 38th parallel axis (Similar to the division of Nazi Germany into East and West). The USSR would administer the northern region, with the United States doing the same for the South. This is where the difference in ideologies of the two neighbors birthed whereby in 1948, the South administered its elections influenced into a capitalist government by the US resulting in the election of Syngman Rhee as President. Meanwhile, Kim Il Sung established the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on Communist ideals. Both leaders attempted to reunify the nation as one. These attempts were punctuated by conflicts based on fundamental differences in the system of government to be used that failed to mitigate. By 1950, they led to the beginning of the Korean war. Three years later, an armistice was signed.

Since then, the nations have witnessed highs such as the South Korean 'Sunshine policy' invigorating trade and relations between them and lows including the withdrawal of the DPRK from the Nuclear proliferation treaty and subsequent development of nuclear warheads. Often tested and used as threats against the west and South Korea.

Over the decades, relations between the North and South have also directly been related to the respective countries' relationships with the United States. The US maintains a sizable number of its military in South Korea, offering protection and a base for its interests.

The North has always remained wary of this, and for most of its foreign policy, has demonized the US and its officials. Nevertheless, the DPRK led by Chairman Kim has attempted to shift perceptions and create economic opportunities while aiming for a removal of sanctions from the global community for its actions domestically and abroad. The product of this was three meetings between US President Trump and Chairman Kim with South Korean President Moon Jae In. Held from 2018 onwards, they have proved to be historical but of much less consequence than anticipated. Traditionally hostile, the countries attempted to work together with the Trump administration, but as of 2020 not much headway has been made (Disruptions by COVID-19 are a factor too) The stalemate stagnantly revolves around US intentions to see denuclearization by the North and the DPRK's view that sanctions should be uplifted before such actions are discussed.

The most recent development was the accusation by the North Korean foreign ministry that the summits held were for the self-interests of the United States and did not bring anything for the DPRK to the table. Following this, the North demolished a four-story joint liaison office they held with the South.

Discourse on the issue

It is imperative to study this chart and understand the economic implications of continued tensions in the Korean Peninsula. South Korea has emerged as one of the foremost economies, admittedly somewhat capitalistic, but with a high GDP and standard of living. The North meanwhile has remained what experts term 'the hermit kingdom' solely relying on the People's Republic of China as its primary trade partner along with assistance and aid from the Russian Federation and at multiple occasions in the past, from South Korea. In layman's terms, it does not possess strong trade relations with any nations except the ones mentioned above. They in turn maintain these in order to ensure their respective agendas are met. Therefore, the population of the DPRK suffers from afflictions factored by poverty.

Human Rights violations are often alleged by the worldwide community but refused by the North. Nevertheless, defectors have chronicled the abuses and given outsiders a look inside.

Additionally, the issues hamper the attainment of a majority of the UN Sustainable Development goals. North Koreans face famine and food shortages such as recently with the coronavirus pandemic. There is no equal opportunity and the fundamental concept of cooperation and partnerships are overlooked.

Some primary stakeholders to the issues in the Peninsula include of course both Koreas. The South aims to hold more cordial ties with its northern neighbor for peace and security while the North stands to benefit from the de-escalation of tensions in terms of economic relief and general floatation for the economy. China does not advocate strongly for either side's arguments but does hold a legally binding mutual benefits treaty with the DPRK, often assisting them. The Russian Federation is effectively neutral too, but is one of the rare nations with cordial relations with the South, holding meetings between their leaders. Meanwhile. Regionally Japan supports the presence of the US military in the South, predominantly because of its tensions with China.

Past Actions by UN, International Organizations (IO) and NGOs

The UNSC has passed multiple resolutions relative to the DPRK, holding them accountable behind the leadership of the US for tensions in the region. Some of them include:

Resolution 1695 (July 15, 2006)

In this resolution, the Security Council explicitly condemns the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) nuclear weapons program. Such a resolution was the first to be passed by the security council then since 1993, a subtext underlining the gravity of the situation.

While calling for a diplomatic solution to the situation, the Council demands that the DPRK cuts back its missile launches, which jeopardize peace and security in the region. In addition, Resolution 1695 bans all member states from transactions with North Korea involving material, technology or financial resources transfer connected to DPRK's missiles or weapons of mass destruction programs.

Resolution 1685 (July 15, 2006)

The UNSC condemned the DPRK's nuclear weapons program. They called for a diplomatic solution and that all member states were disallowed from any transactions with the North involving material, technology, or financial resources associated with the DPRK weapons program.

Resolution 1874 (June 12, 2009)

This was passed under Chapter VII, Article 41 of the UN charter, imposing further sanctions on the DPRK. The resolution held harsher wording as well as more substantial actions, allowing member states to inspect and dispose of North Korean cargo suspected of being linked to their nuclear program. It disallowed financial assistance except for humanitarian purposes and only permitted the export and import of small arms with DPRK. Additionally, states had to notify the Security Council five days prior to any sales. Finally, it also required nations to notify the security council of the steps taken in following the resolution within 45 days of its passing.

Questions and suggestions for further research

1. Can a new type of sunshine policy better relations between the north and south in the current climate?
2. Should the gradual removal of sanctions be considered?
3. Can the DPRK improve foreign relations with a combination of denuclearization and upliftment of sanctions?
4. Is it possible to consider the German model for reunification for the Korean Peninsula?
5. Can the Iran Nuclear Deal with the USA be used as a model for further deliberations with the DPRK?

Suggestions for further research

1. The demands of the DPRK and their view based on the UN charter
2. The reasons behind the North Koreans leaving the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty
3. Common instances between periods of relative peace between the North, South, and USA
4. Flexible notions of debate for both parties

Summary and History of issue

The political instability in Afghanistan is traced back to 1994. After the withdrawal of Soviet forces, the Taliban rose, calling for improved security and decreased corruption in the country. Initially, their presence was most prominent in religious schools, where they promoted their radical interpretation of Sharia (Islamic law). By 1996, the Taliban had seized control of Afghanistan. The Taliban implemented numerous austere laws and sheltered militants from al-Qaeda. This led to them becoming an immediate target for US, Afghan and international attacks after the events of 9/11.

The main reasons for the continuation of the political instability in Afghanistan include increased violence resulting from the presence of the Islamic State in Afghanistan and significant Taliban resistance. Furthermore, the issue remains unsolved due to the limitations of Afghan forces. US forces have previously managed to drive Taliban militants further South in Afghanistan. However, Taliban forces have since managed to regroup. Moreover, the Afghan government is unstable due to the tribal divisions, making it increasingly difficult to address the political crisis in the country.

In an attempt to end the 18-year conflict in Afghanistan, the US and the Taliban signed the Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan on February 29, 2020. Under this agreement, the US and NATO allies will withdraw their forces from Afghanistan, provided the Taliban uphold their end of the agreement and end their ties with al-Qaeda. Taliban political chief Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar states he “hope[s] that with the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Afghanistan the Afghan nation under an Islamic regime will take its relief and embark on a new prosperous life” (BBC News, 2020).

On the other hand, Activist Zahra Husseini voices her concern over this agreement, stating “as I was watching the deal being signed, I had this bad feeling that it would result in their return rather than in peace” (BBC News, 2020). Following this agreement, increased peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban are expected. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), the Security Council, and NATO allies further advocate for intra-Afghan negotiations.

The significance of the conflict in Afghanistan lies within the threat it poses to international security; political instability in the country has resulted in increased threats of violence, particularly to neighboring countries. Additionally, the notable humanitarian issues arising from the conflict are not to be forgotten; car, truck, and suicide bombings traced back to rebel groups have seen an increase in Afghanistan since 2016, all of which resulted in mass casualties. Civilians in major cities have become somewhat accustomed to the daily sights of violence that interfere with their daily life, and are experiencing a dramatically decreased sense of security and access to services.

Discourse on the issue

The conflict in Afghanistan has become unpredictable, highlighting the threat of the situation to international security. Article 39 of the UN Charter states that:

“The Security Council shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of peace, or act of aggression and shall make recommendations, or decide what measures shall be taken in accordance with Article 41 and 42, to maintain or restore international peace and security” (United Nations, n.d.).

Given the increased threats to national and international peace caused by the political crisis in Afghanistan, the Security Council, under Article 39 of the UN Charter, gave the US authorization to overthrow the Taliban in late 2001. The Council further authorized the US and NATO to establish the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in order to provide additional military support for the mission.

Additionally, the UN set up UNAMA to provide humanitarian aid to Afghan civilians. While the situation in Afghanistan causes a great threat to international security, it further sets back the United Nation's ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically goal 16, which calls for promoting just, peaceful and inclusive societies. Being unable to achieve goal 16 further delays achieving the remaining SDGs in the country; politicians and country leaders are more concerned with achieving peace in the country. Before this is achieved, Afghanistan would remain incapable of achieving the remaining goals.

Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan have suffered some consequences resulting from the political crisis in Afghanistan. The ineffective border control between Afghanistan and these neighboring countries has caused increased civilian concerns, especially in Pakistan. The main areas for concern in this regard are violence and armed conflict, drug activity, and economic impacts. Additionally, given their proximity, Pakistan has seen a great surge of Afghan refugees in the last two decades. Pakistan is currently home to over 1.5 million registered Afghan refugees, and around 1 million unregistered refugees (Amnesty International, 2019).

Past Actions by UN, International Organizations (IO) and NGOs

After a request from the Afghan government, the UN Security Council launched the UNAMA political mission in March 2002, as was established through Security Council resolution 1401. The Mission calls for bringing peace to Afghanistan and its neighbors and ensuring the human rights of civilians in the country. In an effort to achieve this vision, the Mission has prepared and supported peace efforts between the Afghan government and the Taliban.

Furthermore, in an effort to provide a framework for increased peace negotiations between the Afghan government and the Taliban, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) launched the Resolute Support Mission (RSM) in January 2015 (NATO, 2020). The Mission's primary focus was on training and assisting Afghan security forces to ensure a more effective government response to acts of terrorism in the country.

Under this Mission, NATO Allies call upon the Afghan government and armed groups to work towards operative peace agreements and have arranged to adjust their troop presence in Afghanistan to support such peace talks.

The Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief & Development (ACBAR) was assembled in August 1988. Initially, it began as an organization to address the needs of Afghan refugees in Pakistan. The national NGO has since become a platform for national and international NGOs in Afghanistan. Today, ACBAR consists of 154 member NGOs, 72 of which are international NGOs.

Questions and suggestions for further research

1. What is the role of the mosque in helping relieve the political crisis in Afghanistan?
2. What are the implications of the Afghan situation on international security?
3. How effective have International Organizations been in Afghanistan
4. Within your state's scope, what peaceful measures can be enforced to help relieve the political crisis in Afghanistan?
5. How does the situation in Afghanistan impact neighboring countries and the international community?

Suggestions for Further Research

1. Effects of COVID-19 on the political crisis in Afghanistan
2. Implications of the increased political uncertainty resulting from the recent elections in Afghanistan
3. Action was taken after the US-Taliban deal, known as the Agreement for Bringing Peace to Afghanistan
4. Role of NATO allied forces in promoting peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban

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