

Background Guide

15th Annual AUSMUN



**United Nations Security Council
University / Highschool
(UNSC-Uni/HS)**

Welcome Letter from the Director of Research



Greetings fellow delegates,

It's a pleasure to see you attending the American University of Sharjah's 2022 Model United Nations Convention (AUSMUN 2022). As the age-old adage goes, "with great power comes great responsibility," as delegates of nations at the world's largest international forum, you have a heightened degree of power and responsibility. Not only do you have a say in shaping solutions for the world, and bringing glory to your country, but also the pressure of ensuring that those solutions are pragmatic, feasible, and effective in solving the issues you have set to resolve. Not only do you have a space at the international platform, but also the responsibility to ensure that you set an apt example of your nation for the world to see.

With that being said, I wish you all the best for your preparations and I am really excited to see what your wonderful minds and enthusiastic selves come up with in the committee rooms. Finally, also remember that your responsibilities include having fun and making the best of your time at AUSMUN 2022!

Best Regards,
Mohammad Amaan Siddiqui
Director of Research - AUSMUN 2022

The logo features the letters 'MUN' in a large, serif font. A laurel wreath is superimposed over the 'U', with a globe in the center. Below the globe, the letters 'AUS' are written in a smaller, sans-serif font.

Welcome Letter from the Dais

Distinguished Delegates,

It is with great honor and eagerness that we extend the warmest welcome to you all to the American University of Sharjah's Model United Nations' fifteenth annual conference in 2022. As chairs of the Security Council, we are excited to meet you all and see you debating and discussing the topics during the three days of the conference.

The United Nations Security Council is a committee that is entrusted with upholding and guarding international security and peace. To guarantee that the committee runs as smoothly as possible, we hope that each and every delegate thoroughly researches and familiarizes themselves with incomparable and unparalleled knowledge of their country's position, parliamentary procedures, and the functions of the security council.

We are well aware of the rush of emotions that comes with being a delegate but the experience and knowledge gained is one that will not be found elsewhere. A stimulating and inspiring future awaits you so believe in yourself and put yourself out there. We hope that you will give this conference your all and that you enjoy it as well as grow and learn from it.

We look forward to seeing you all bring the committee to life with your knowledge and passion. If at any point you face any issues or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at unscasmun2022@gmail.com!

Best Regards,
Zahraa Jaber, Dhana Alnoaman, and Hind Alhalyan, Chairs
Harsh Surana, Research Assistant.



Overview of the Committee

After the end of World War II in 1945, and the failure of the League of Nations, the United Nations (UN, n.d.) was formed in its wake. The UN Charter was drafted in April of 1945 and the UN began its operations in October of that same year. The UN Charter establishes the 6 principal bodies of the UN: the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Committee, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, the UN Secretariat, and finally, the Security Council (UN, n.d.) The Security Council was formally established on the 24th of October, 1945 and held its first session on the 17th of January, 1946 at Church House, Westminster, London, UK.. Its main role is to ensure international peace and security, whenever the need may arise (United Nations Security Council, n.d.)

Initially, the Security Council had 11 members - 5 permanent members (China, France, Soviet Union, USA and the UK) and 6 non-permanent members elected by the General Assembly for 2 year terms. In 1965, the UN Charter was amended to allow 15 member states at a time, the 5 permanent members - now The People's Republic of China (1971), France, the Russian Federation (1991), USA and the UK and an additional 10 non-permanent members. The elected members are chosen in a way that ensures equal representation of the geographic regions, with 2 members representing the Latin American region, 5 representing Asia or Africa, 1 member representing the Eastern European nations and 2 representing Western Europe and the other areas. The G-4 countries (Brazil, Germany, India and Japan) have previously proposed that the council's membership be increased to 25 states, with a seat for each of them, an additional 2 permanent members, and 2 seats for Africa. The council's presidency rotates around its members on a monthly basis. Currently, the council meets at the UN Headquarters in New York City, USA, where representatives of each member state must always be present as the council may need to meet at a moment's notice (United Nations Security Council, n.d.)

The primary role of the Security Council, as defined by the UN Charter, is to maintain international peace and ensure the security of the UN member states. Its powers also include imposing international sanctions, the deployment of Peacekeeping forces - military forces provided voluntarily by the member states, and the authorization of military action if necessary. Furthermore, the Security Council is responsible for the investigation and, if need be, the settlement of international disputes. It is also the only UN body that is capable of holding its member states to binding resolutions. The Security Council also recommends the new Secretary-General to the General Assembly and recommends the membership of new states for the UN (United Nations Security Council, n.d.)

Voting

The voting procedures of the Security Council are established under Article 27 of the UN Charter. Each member state has 1 vote. For any resolution to be passed, 9 out of 15 member states must vote in favor of it, with the permanent states all voting in favor. Moreover, the permanent states possess veto power which means that if any one of these states votes against the draft resolution on the floor, it automatically fails (United Nations Security Council, n.d.) |

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Overview of the Committee

Funding

The Security Council is funded via a complex assessment formula that was developed by the member states themselves, and it is required that each member does contribute, under Article 17 of the UN Charter. The amount that each nation contributes is dependent on the nation's relative economic strength, among other factors, so the 5 permanent members - China, France, Russia, UK, USA - account for a larger contribution as compared to the remaining 10 (United Nations Peacekeeping, n.d.)

The UN Charter - Chapter V

The UN Security Council consists of 15 members, of which there are 5 permanent members: France, Russia, China, The United Kingdom, and The United States of America. The remaining 10 members are selected by the General Assembly for an initial period of two years, based on their contributions to UN international peacekeeping operations and geographical placement. Each member will have one representative and no retiring member will be eligible for immediate re-election, as per Article 23

Furthermore, the UN Security council is primarily responsible for maintaining international peace and security, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN, and the specific powers granted to the Security Council, as laid down in Chapters VI, VII, VIII, and XIII, as noted in Article 24.

Additionally, according to Article 28, the Security Council is intended to function continuously, so it is required that one representative for each member be present at all times in the seat of the organization, and at the periodic meetings, which may be organized in a location that is optimum for the nature of the work to be carried out

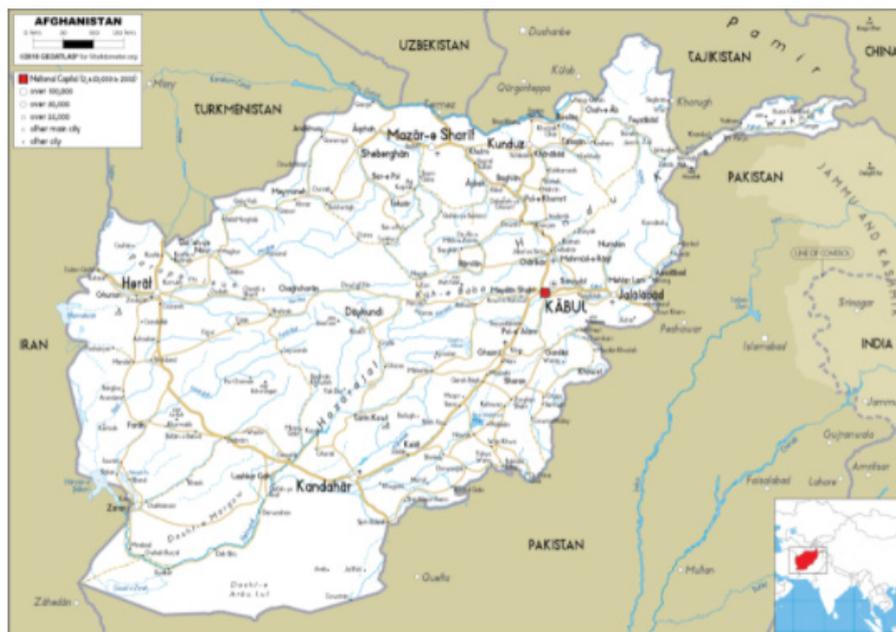
Finally, any United Nations, non Security council, member may participate in the discussion, without a vote, given that any of the issues brought forth concern said member. Additionally, under the specific guidelines laid out by the Security Council, non UN members may also participate in the discussion, without a vote, given that the concerned party is deemed to have a dispute under consideration by the Security Council, as per Articles 31 and 32 (United Nations, n.d.).

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Topic I: The Question of Afghanistan

Summary and History of the Issue

Afghanistan is a landlocked multiethnic country in the heart of central Asia, with a long and turbulent history. Its position along important trade routes connecting central Asia to the Middle East and some parts of the European continent has made it a desirable stronghold for empires throughout history. In more recent history, Afghanistan has been plagued by civil unrest. With the fall of the Kingdom of Afghanistan and the establishment of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan in the late 1900s, the region was troubled with internal conflicts due to the repressive nature of the new government (Office of the Historian, United States Department of State, 2021). In 1978, the Communist Party staged a coup igniting the Afghan-Soviet War against the Mujahideen Freedom Fighters. In 1992, civil war broke out between the rebel groups and the political militias over the formation of the new Afghani government. By early 1995, one particular group, known as the Taliban, emerged as a competitive power (Human Rights Watch, n.d.). In September, 2001, the extremist group al-Qaeda, under the leadership of Osama bin Laden, launched an attack against the US, the September 11 attacks. In retaliation, the US and the UK invaded Afghanistan in December, 2001. Following a 20 year war which came to an end in 2021, US President Biden ordered the withdrawal of all American troops from Afghanistan (Council on Foreign Relations, 2021) The Taliban quickly mounted an offensive resulting in the fall of Kabul, paving the way for the Taliban regime to rise again (Zucchini, 2021). The situation in Afghanistan plays a major role not only in the “War on Terrorism” and geopolitics but also, in the life of the Afghan people. The nation has been through numerous wars and invasions which resulted in civilian casualties, an economic crisis, and widespread poverty. These troubles have also resulted in many refugees and orphans. In addition, the Taliban regime’s law has severely affected the people of the country, especially women and young girls, primarily in education (Watson Institute International & Public Affairs, 2021).





Topic I: The Question of Afghanistan

Key Issues

US Interference

The U.S interference in Afghanistan known as “Operation Cyclone ” began in 1979 and ended in 1989 (Tuffaha, 2021). During the Cold War, the USSR had control over Afghanistan. It was considered an Afghan- Soviet Union proxy. The U.S intervention was to eliminate any further influence of the USSR in the region. Operation Cyclone was based on supporting insurgent guerrillas “The Mujahideen” by endorsing them militarily and monetarily. The Mujahideen were anti-communists Muslim fighters. However, England contributed to endorsing the Mujahideen groups. Both the CIA and MI6 were controlling the endorsement strategies in Afghanistan.

The intervention resulted in the Soviet Union withdrawing from Afghanistan in 1989. The U.S withdrew from Afghanistan in 1989 which led to a civil war erupting. The Civil War involved the resistance groups that fought off the USSR and were endorsed by the U.S. The civil war resulted in the emergence of the Taliban and Afghanistan being declared as a failed state (Ghufran, 2001).

By 1996, the Taliban regime had full control over the majority of the Afghanistan territory. However, the Clinton administration refused to recognize the Taliban as the legitimate government of Afghanistan. The Taliban regime could not gain international support because of their deployment of strict rules and regulation that clearly violates human rights and women rights. According to Katzman (2010), women did not have access to education or work, and were subjected to punishments and execution for acts like adultery or not wearing black long veils.

In 2001, prior to 9/11, the Bush administration was applying political and economic pressure on the Taliban regime, however there were no military or monetary endorsements involved. After the 9/11 in 2001, the United State declared its “War on Terror.” The war on terror was an international coalition led by the U.S to exterminate the terrorist groups known as “Al Qaeda.” Al Qaeda was a terrorist group led by Osama Bin Laden; the group was mobilized in Afghanistan after the USSR-Afghanistan war. Osama bin laden was responsible for the 9/11 attacks and was harbored in Afghanistan. The Taliban regime refused to deliver Osama Bin Laden to the U.S, proceeded to harbor him and Al Qaeda. By the end of September 2001, the U.S began its air strikes on Afghanistan territory. However, the Taliban offered to deliver Osama Bin Laden but the U.S declined their offer. The war had three motives and aims, first to eliminate Al-Qaeda, second to overthrow the Taliban regime, and third to create a successful democratic government. (Renfro, 2015). The U.S wanted to gain access to Afghanistan dominantly due to its critical geographical location. Afghanistan is located between Iran, Russia, Pakistan, and China, which provides the U.S with a critical scope into its competitive countries. By the time, the Taliban were overthrown and exiled to the U.S and the international coalition focused on “Nation Building” Afghanistan, to prevent the return of the Taliban and Al-Qaeda. By 2004, the election for the president and the parliament began. The election resulted in Hamid Karzai declared as president of Afghanistan, and the parliament consisted of the Northern Alliance and United Front. Throughout the years, the U.S and the international coalition continued to endorse Afghanistan economically and politically, creating ANP, Afghanistan National Police and supporting the Afghan military force. The UNAMA, was established in 2010, to maintain communication between high representative officials of Afghanistan and to improve the election process.

Topic I: The Question of Afghanistan

The Rise of the Taliban

The rise of the Taliban after the war on terror was because of multiple factors from corruption to U.S interference itself. The corruption in Afghanistan increased because of the usage of war lords to reconstruct and implement peace by the Afghanistan Government and U.S troops (Katzman, 2010). By 2011, the U.S announced Osama Bin Laden was dead. Therefore, the amount of economic, military support decreased in Afghanistan. This resulted in reemergence of the Taliban in the rural areas by 2013. During the Ashraf Ghani presidency, corruption proceeded to increase, and the lack of reconstruction policies made it difficult for Afghanistan to rebuild itself. The shift in U.S administration had severe consequences on Afghanistan. Previous president Donald Trump and current president Joe Biden began to completely withdraw U.S forces from Afghanistan and Iraq (Felbab-Brown, 2017). This resulted in the Taliban regaining full control of rural and depopulated areas surrounding Kabul. By 2021, the Taliban took full control of Afghanistan.

Effects on the People

The effects of decades of internal conflicts, civil war, the U.S invasion and the rule of the Taliban are evident on the Afghan people. The invasion by armed U.S forces in 2001 has resulted in numerous civilian casualties. As of April 2021, there have been 241,000 civilians killed as a direct result of the war (Watson Institute International & Public Affairs, 2021.) Countless airstrikes and military offensives have also resulted in collateral damage. As recently as August, 2021, the U.S launched an airstrike that killed 10 Afghan civilians, 5 of which were children, the youngest of which was a 2 year old girl (Sidhu et al., 2021.) In another incident in 2017, 11 civilians were left dead due to an airstrike in Kabul (Abed, 2017.) The remainder of the casualties resulting directly from the war are due to improvised explosive devices (IEDs), targeted military operations, and suicide attacks. Indirectly, the decreased standard of living, poverty, and lack of access to advanced medicine has also claimed the lives of many Afghani people (Greenberg Research Inc, n.d.). Furthermore, the war has caused an increase in the number of displaced people and refugees. Roughly 2.2 million Afghans have been made refugees, mostly settling in Pakistan and Iran. Another 3 million Afghans have been internally displaced. The latest bout of violence has caused over 600,000 to either become internally or externally displaced, as of January 2021 (USA for UNHCR, 2021).

The rule of the Taliban also has its own effects, where Afghan women are one of the most affected groups. Prior to 2001, the Taliban had prohibited young girls from attending school and they banned women from leaving their dwellings without a male escort, usually a family member. When the Taliban seized power in 2021, these prior restrictions were brought back into effect, with women being afraid to leave their dwellings and seeking jobs and an education for fear of persecution (Barr, 2021).

Moreover, children have also suffered acutely under these harsh conditions. It is estimated that 50% of all children under the age of 5 are severely malnourished. Also, families living in encampments due to internal displacement have no reliable access to clean water, which predisposes many conditions including dehydration and the spread of cholera. Furthermore, with the COVID-19 pandemic, adequate nutrition and access to medicine and sanitation services have become vital. It is estimated that there are approximately 2,000 new cases everyday (UN News, 2021).



Topic I: The Question of Afghanistan

Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

United Nations Attempts

Bonn Conference 2001, focused on the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan. The conference emphasized on the importance of reasserting national reconciliation, stability, and the acknowledgment of national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan. It also approved the mandate of the ISAF mission in Afghanistan.

Security Council Previous Attempts

In 2002, the Security Council announced the establishment of UNAMA through the resolution S/RES/1401(2002) Afghanistan. UNAMA stands for the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. It is a political mission aimed to assist the state and the people of Afghanistan in laying out the foundation for sustainable peace and development.

In 2021, the Security Council passed resolution 2593 concerning the current situation in Afghanistan. The resolution extends the UNAMA till 2022, and requests the cooperation of all Afghan political parties with UNAMA.



Topic I: The Question of Afghanistan

Questions a Resolution Should Address

- How can we best guarantee the safety of civilians on the ground?
- Now that the U.S has withdrawn its troops, who will protect the Afghan people?
- What is the status of the current government of Afghanistan?
- What will happen to Afghanistan after the Taliban is recognized internationally as its government ?
- Will the political agenda set by the Taliban become the new inspiration for insurgent and terrorist groups globally?

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Topic II: Addressing the issue of the political uprisings in China

Summary and History of the Issue

The People's Republic of China is located in North-East Asia, and is the world's most populous country. Additionally, China is also the world's fastest growing economy and the largest manufacturer and exporter of goods. However, despite their numerous accolades, China's long standing conflicts with neighboring states, coupled with their history of alleged human rights violations have prompted numerous political uprisings from within the country.

In 1842, China surrendered Hong Kong to Britain following the first Opium War, shortly after which Japanese occupation resulted in major civil unrest in the state. In 1951, the 14th Dalai Lama inadvertently handed over Tibet to China, soon after which a non-interference law was passed at the Bandung conference of third world countries, which restricted external involvement in the internal affairs of other countries. Then, in 1989, pro-independence protests in Tibet resulted in the declaration of martial law that introduced more policies that disadvantaged non-Han cultures. Meanwhile, in 1997 - about 40 years following the the end of the Sino-Japanese war - Hong Kong was returned to the Chinese rule under the "One nation, Two systems" system, wherein Hong Kong would be part of the communist led China, but still governed by a semi-democratic system with a capitalist economy. Soon after Britain's handover of Hong Kong, the Chinese government swiftly began tightening its grip by enforcing that Beijing's approval is necessary for any changes to their election laws, allowing for vetoes towards any increasingly democratic laws. About a decade later, in 2014, pro-democratic protests started gaining mainstream traction as years of Hong Kong's attempts to shift towards a more democratic legislative system were continuously opposed and/or shut down by the larger communist Chinese government. These protests continued well into the decade and were even further fueled by Chinese president Xi Jinping's 2017 visit to Hong Kong, wherein he clarified his intention to remain influential in the region, and warned against any anti-Chinese demonstrations. What followed was a series of increasingly tense anti-government protests, with the latest being a violent demonstration that involved clashes with the police in 2019, with protestors opposing the law allowing for the extradition of Hong Kong citizens to mainland China, and the affiliated authoritarianism.

Topic II: Addressing the issue of the political uprisings in China

Key Issues

Tibet's Occupation

Ever since the 14th Dalai Lama unwittingly gave up Tibet to China, Tibet has seen a rise in Chinese occupancy and pro-Han policies. Recently, through the illicit use of force and power, Chinese security forces, in Tibet, have been increasingly restricting religious expression, freedom of speech, movement, assembly, etc. Additionally, Chinese president Xi Jinping has introduced assimilationist policies that increasingly disadvantage Tibetans, to encourage Chinese nationalism and migration from China, such as the phasing out of the traditional Tibetan schooling system in favor of a more Chinese nationalistic curriculum, to guarantee the next generation's loyalty. In November of 2019, in protest against the Chinese regime, Yonten, of the Ngawa Tibetan region of Sichuan, became the 156th Tibetan to set himself on fire, since 2009.

In order to mask their involvement in Tibet, China has released numerous reports nitpicking and highlighting the positive indications that coincided with China's involvement in Tibet, such as "Tibet since 1951: Liberation, Development and Prosperity"(2020), which was built on other white papers such as "Democratic reforms in Tibet - 60 years on"(2019) and "Ecological Progress on the Qinghai Tibet Plateau," which was partly released to address international concerns regarding ecological disparage in the region.

However, the now increasingly informed Tibetan demographic is beginning to see through China's facade, and with the backing of the United States, through the 'Tibet Policy and Support Act,' the people of Tibet are rallying against Chinese occupation. Historically, Beijing's grasp over Tibet has been stronger than Hong Kong, Macau, Xinjiang, etc, however, in light of the recently surfaced human right violation allegations against China, the increasing support from outside nations, in addition to their political foes, such as India and the United States, threatens to equip the Tibetan population with the necessary assistance to lead some sort of revolution and gain increase independence from Beijing's authority.

Topic II: Addressing the issue of the political uprisings in China

The Uyghur Crisis

Reportedly, more than a million Muslims in Uyghur have been detained in reduction camps by the Chinese government since 2018. Uyghur is a northwestern region in Xinjiang where most citizens are part of an ethnic group that is predominantly Turkic (Maizland, 2021). The oppression of Turkic Muslims in Uyghur is not a new phenomenon exhibited by the Chinese government, however, in recent years, it has reached unparalleled levels. These reduction camps include prisons, “political education” camps, and pretrial detention centers (Ryan et al., 2018). The harassment and prejudice towards Turkic Muslims remains even outside the detention facilities they are being forced into. The Chinese government enforces on Turkic Muslims an inescapable and pervading system of mass observation and surveillance, erratic and unpredictable arrests, religious erasure, and separation from their families (Peter, 2021). The Muslim minorities are subjected to torture, sexual abuse, and the forceful intake of pork and alcohol in order for them to renounce Islam (Shepp, 2021). Despite the growing spotlight put on the Chinese government due to the allegations regarding the Uyghur crisis, the specifics of the conflict itself remain largely vague to the public.

However, many revelations have emerged due to satellite images and reports from detainees who have successfully fled the inhumane facilities. In the past year, it has been found that the Chinese government have gone to the extreme of imposing Uyghur detainees with the intake of birth control, forcing abortions and sterilizations in order to cut birth rates amongst the Muslim minorities in Xinjiang (Shepp, 2021). As a result of these abusive policies, the birth rates of Uyghur citizens have dropped by more than 60 percent between the years of 2015 and 2018.

With all of these allegations, China remains defensive by claiming that the policies they have implemented in Xinjiang are reasonable seeing as they have been created to eradicate Islamic extremism and separatist violence (Shepp, 2021). Furthermore, the Chinese government denied any existence of the reduction camps, however, when satellite images emerged, the government claimed that these camps are counter-extremist “reeducation” camps.

The universal and global response to the atrocities the Chinese government executed on the Muslim minorities in Uyghur has been progressively and growingly critical. The United Nations, as well as some governments such as the United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada and the European Union have shown their disapproval by imposing Chinese government officials and companies that are implicated in the human rights violations (Zenz, 2019). However, while the world has been reluctant to go any further than just reproachful of the Chinese government’s actions, in April 2021, the Human Rights Watch allotted a sizeable and considerable report on the crisis in Uyghur, Xinjiang by claiming a case that China is perpetrating abominable crimes against humanity (Shepp, 2021).

Topic II: Addressing the issue of the political uprisings in China

Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

One Country, Two Systems Governing Solution

The 'one country, two systems' approach is employed in China, with the intention of integrating Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Macau into the greater Chinese mainland, allowing China to maintain its communist policies, while preserving significant control over the aforementioned states' distinctly different economic and political systems, which tend towards more democratic structures. This system is prominent in Hong Kong, but yet remains unapplied in Taiwan, the people of which still strive for independence.

United Nations Statements

Numerous nations have expressed concerns, via the United Nations' platform, regarding recent Chinese operations and alleged crimes:

- On the 6th of October, 2020, Germany delivered a joint statement on the behalf of 39 countries, expressing their concern regarding the human rights situation in Xinjiang and their iron-fisted governing of Hong Kong.
- On the 29th of October, 2019, the United Kingdom delivered a statement on the behalf of 23 countries condemning China's human rights violations in Xinjiang.

Security Council Address

In an informal, 2020, UNSC meeting, the United States expressed their concern regarding China's activities in Hong Kong, and this was forthrightly denied by Chinese representatives which prevented the Security Council from taking immediate action.

Topic II: Addressing the issue of the political uprisings in China

Questions a Resolution Should Address

1. How do the Chinese government's policies and regulations influence international relations as well as affect international peace?
2. How can the Chinese government accept the distinctions between Islam, terrorism, and Islamic rights?
3. What solutions can be instigated by the United Nations Security Council in order to combat these issues whilst maintaining national sovereignty?

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