



# MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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# **DIRECTORS WELCOME LETTER:**



Dear Delegates and Faculty Advisors,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the American University of Sharjah Model United Nations (AUSMUN) 2020. This conference has been the home of fruitful debate, practical resolutions, dedicated moderators, spectacular delegates, and diligent advisory and executive boards for the past twelve years and is continuing to do so for its thirteenth year. With 1000 delegates registered from more than 45 national and international educational institutions, this conference will be the biggest one yet!

This year's theme 'Embracing Diversity, Shaping the Future' has been designed to capture the essence of issues that surround our globalized society. Even though we have come this far in time, there has been little to no improvement in accepting diversity as portrayed by the latest atrocities in several countries around the world. However, the future can be successfully shaped for us, the youth, only by embracing diversity in every sector of life and we hope to draw attention to this.

This background guide has been formulated by our hard-working chairs and the research team to provide delegates with the starting point of their preparation for this three-day conference. 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 by highlighting important events, terms, history, and global implications. 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 action that has been taken and latest development in terms of the last actions taken with regards to the issue. At the end of each issue, delegates will find sections of Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address and Suggestions for Further Research that aim to streamline the process of delegate's research. However, in order to grab a better understanding of the topic and be able to position yourself better to participate during the conference, it is advised to go beyond the background guide since this guide does not encapsulate enough information to be sufficient for every country and is only a brief introduction to the issues at hand. It is highly encouraged for delegates to view the 'Delegate Handbook' on the AUSMUN website and the 'How to Research' video on YouTube created by AUSMUN.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to all the contributors to this background guide. It is the collaborative work of the Moderators, AUSMUN Research Team, and the AUSMUN Media Team. On behalf of them all, I truly hope that this guide will be of great help to you.

All the very best for the conference and if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [research@ausmun.com](mailto:research@ausmun.com).

Sincerely,  
Manaswi Madichetty  
Director of Research  
AUSMUN 2020

# **MODERATORS WELCOME LETTER:**



**Majed Wardeh**

**Abdulla Nidal**

**Ahmed Rayyan**

**Mariam Abdullah**

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 compliant balance between the finer points of a conference, including the development of soft skills, together with those of critical analysis, evaluation and networking.

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC), or GA1, was formed in 1945, after the Second World War. It meets in annual sessions at the UN headquarters in New York and can reconvene for emergency sessions any time during the year. The committee considers all issues of global security within the parameters of the UN charter and the function of any of its organs. It is also an advisory committee to the Security Council and can recommend resolutions on matters of budgets, peace and security. Additionally, the admission, expulsion, election and suspension of members is done by a two-thirds majority of those present and voting while simple questions are decided by a straightforward majority.

We highly recommend you get a head-start on your research! Our main advice to you is that you focus your energies towards the ongoing debate. Whether it is your first conference or hundredth: Socialize and make friends! Lastly, at AUSMUN, we need you to remember two points: Every country can make an enormous contribution to the committee, and second, we're all here to learn and grow as individuals. For any information or questions, feel free to contact us at [b00084640@aus.edu](mailto:b00084640@aus.edu). We wish you the best of luck for the conference and look forward to seeing you!

Sincerely,  
DISEC Chairs.



**DISEC**

**Disarmament and International Security Committee**

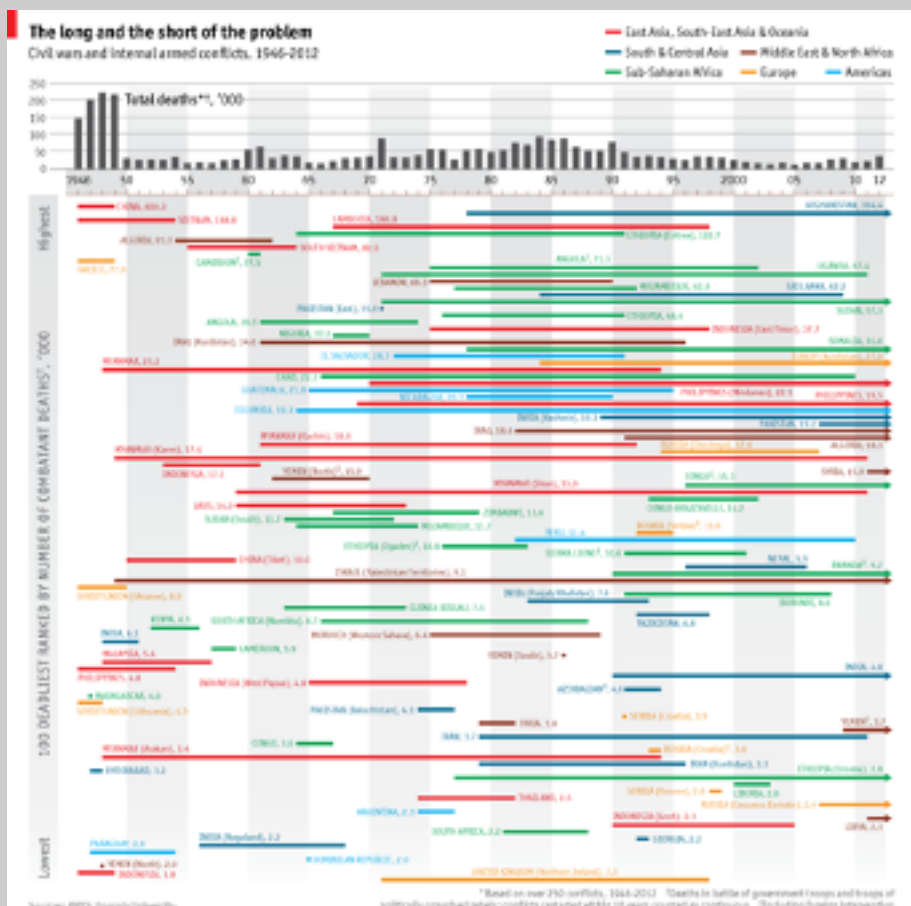
# Topic I

## Foreign intervention in Civil Wars

### 1. Summary & History

Civil wars have tragically become daily-routine, as opposed to extraordinary occasions over the most recent couple of decades. A civil war is a war between various systematized groups within the same state or, less commonly, between two countries created from a formerly single state. It is a high-intensity conflict, typically involving regular military forces, which causes it to be organized and large-scale.

Civil wars are recognized from civil conflicts on different grounds. Above all, the fundamentally bigger death toll is described by equipped battle between members, one of whom must be a known organization. The instigators, as a general rule, are outfitted gatherings with broad hierarchical structures and loathe against the state on grounds relating to ethnicity, religion, imbalance of standards, demeaning of voice and portrayal, widespread unemployment and so forth. Foreign inclusion in a Civil War alludes to political, military, strategic and operational help to parties associated with the war from remote nations. There is a division between foreign interventions mediations, which alludes to explicit nation's activities and international interventions refers to global governing bodies, similar to the UN, to participate in existing clashes.



## **2. Discourse on the Issue**

The issue of foreign intervention in civil war sparks major legal questions. As mentioned in article 2(4) of the UN charter, "All members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations." This was recently violated by Turkey in its military invasion of northern Syria, with the reasoning of creating a "Security Belt" in northern Syria on the Turkish border. Foreign nations can only intervene in civil war either at the permission of the United Nations or at the permission of the local government hosting the war. The Russian intervention in the Syrian civil war was deemed legal, on the basis that the Syrian government invited Russia and its military. Foreign nations could not intervene to support the rebels, because the UN had not called for war on Syria, which would make any intervention supporting the rebels illegal. This leaves the First General Assembly responsible to draft resolutions concerning foreign intervention; the issue usually impacts civilians of a nation the most. According to the Syrian Observatory of Human Rights, the U.S. led coalition airstrikes in Syria have killed 4,036 civilians in the period between 22 September 2014 and 23 August 2019 (SOHR, 2019).

Furthermore, Somalia is a nation that has seen a lot of civil war, which boosted the need for foreign assistance to maintain security. Recently, UN security council resolution 2124 (2013) extended the stay of foreign forces in Somalia, most notably the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM). The resolution also noted the critical role of AMISOM in improving security in Somalia through its military, which shows a good side to foreign intervention in civil wars.

## **3. Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments**

The west has been at the front line of military strategy. They have been pro-intervention inside the UN previously, in the General Assembly and the Security Council. The US is considered as the most significant country in these issues, since it has exhibited very interventionist inclinations, with Afghanistan and Iraq among its latest activities. It is one of only a handful barely any countries with the military to mediate viably on a worldwide scale, and the nation has the political eagerness to do as such.

The Arab Spring ed. that the contentions in the Middle East ought to be illuminated without outside powers intervening. Nevertheless, they have been an assortment of remote and military mediation. The United Nations has various peacekeeping missions in the Middle East. The aid they get from the United Nations is an essential aspect to those deprived in these nations. Bloc positions can be isolated among North-South lines. Individuals from NATO, just as Major non-NATO partners of the US bolster the mediation. In general peacekeeping activities, it is these countries that supply the greater part of the funds for the operation. Russia has always expressed suspicion towards UN mediations. Lastly, Middle Eastern Nations and China are incredibly against of UN intercessions. The African Union, however, can be found to surely have a significant job in clashes within Africa.

## **4. Questions the Discussions and Resolutions Should Address**

- In what capacity can the UN best serve countries that need assistance during an internal conflict?
- When is the UN allowed to mediate in a conflict, and when is it an obligation?
- What are the limitations to UN intervention of a contention?
- Do single countries reserve the privilege to intercede in another sovereign country's contentions? Why or why not?



- What should be the maximum threshold that allows foreign nations to intervene in other nations' civil wars?

### **5. *Suggestions for Further Research***

- UN intervention in civil wars.
- UN peacekeeping missions in civil wars.
- American interventions in foreign civil wars.
- Possible solutions to prevent future civil wars.
- Impacts of civil war aftermath on civilians.

# Topic II

## Preventing the usage of children in armed conflict

### 1. Summary & History

In the 21st century, armed conflicts around the world grow increasingly common as different ideologies, goals and motives vie for superiority. In many cases, due to a shortage of manpower or in an effort to submerge opposition with the same, children take direct part in armed conflict. The means for children to be associated with armed groups and other forces is variant. At times, children are abducted and abused into submission, and they are taught to fear consequences in case of not following orders. In other cases, children join to defend their communities or escape low economic lifestyles out of revenge or other similar reasons. But in no matter can they be blamed for the submission of their will due to their physical and emotional immaturity.

However, their use in armed groups is not limited to fighting. Countless young boys and girls are utilized as supporting functions where the risk is no less. These roles are variant from cooks, messengers, spies and even more disturbingly, sex slaves. Per annum, the UN has and continues to receive information about children as young as 8-9 years old being used by armed groups. Nevertheless, disregarding their age or role, children in these areas and associations witness acute levels of extreme situations not limited to violence which leads to their injury leaving lasting mental horrors and disabilities. In other cases, primarily for girls, it results in sexual violence, pregnancy related complications leaving upon them a stigma and rejection by families and communities.

The emergence of children as instruments in conflicts comes from antiquity. In olden times, they were used as aides and arm bearers to adult warriors and servants. Since then, their roles have had little evolution and center around the same ideology, making this an imperative issue, ongoing for centuries and in dire need of attention. The exploitation of children in previous armed conflicts (WW1 and WW2) could have been attributed to a lack of definition of a child.

However, the United Nations then introduced the UN Convention on the Rights of a Child in 1989, and the age limit of children being set as anyone below the age of 18 since 2002 under the 'Optional Protocol to the convention on the rights of the child'. Yet, in 2017, the UN published a report and a list of 14 nations (UN 'list of shame'), where armed paramilitary groups which included Yemen, Syria, Sudan and Afghanistan. In other cases, powerful nations refuse to include names of countries that do use child soldiers due to alliances. Terrorist organizations such as ISIS, Boko Haram and the Taliban recruit children, sending them to camps for training and using them on the front lines as human shields. Many children have lost their lives on the frontline, while others are captured but dealt with, with suspicion and mistrust or are too distraught and affected by experiences they have encountered.

### 2. Discourse on the Issue

There are thousands of children around the world who fall asleep every night with a gun clutched in their hands, fighting to forget the horrors they witnessed that day.

Children are forced to fight in the frontlines, participate in suicide missions and act as spies, messengers, or lookouts. Girls may be forced into sexual slavery. Often, these recruitments leave severe physical and psychological scars in these children that usually last even after the conflict has ended ("Ending the Use of," 2017). In addition to the psychological issues, children forced

into warfare almost exclusively have no access to any form of formal education, and tend to earn one third less than their non-forced peers according to the Survey of War Affected Youth (Blattman, 2007).

Moreover, endangering and scarring the lives of children in such an immediate and prolonged manner violates several of the UN's human rights acts, including principals laid out in the Geneva Conventions (1949) and their Additional Protocols (1977), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) and its Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict (2000), and the Rome Statute (1998) of the International Criminal Court ("Child Protection Information Sheet," 2006). According to the Human Rights Watch ("Child Soldiers Worldwide," 2015), children are recruited by rebel and terrorist groups like Taliban in Afghanistan, Maoist "Naxalite" rebels in Chhattisgarh, India, and Al-Qaeda in Iraq. In other cases, however, children are actively recruited by the government to join the official country's armed forces despite the UN's best efforts to prevent them. This can be seen in Colombia, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Chad, Yemen, and Sudan, who are just a few of the major offenders. It is clear the UN needs to be more aggressive in its efforts to address the matter in order to look out for the wellbeing of children around the world.

### **3. Past IO Actions and The Latest Developments**

The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) has played a major role in aiding the release and rehabilitation of child soldiers around the world. The organization supports a variety of recovery services such as physical and mental health, education and skills training (Project, 2018). It is estimated that since 1998, the organization has helped more than 100,000 children that were associated with armed groups. There are some educational facilities that provides support of a similar nature such as War Child, a Canadian-based organization, and Child Soldiers International, a London-based organization, both of which support children of warfare by providing access to education, opportunity and justice. In addition to these IO's efforts to support children of war, the UN Security Council has mandated several Action Plans aimed at ending and preventing the recruitment and use of children in conflict.

These action plans are "a written, signed commitment between the United Nations and those parties who are listed as having committed grave violations against children in the Secretary-General's Annual Report on Children and Armed Conflict" (United Nations, 2019). There are currently 16 action plans under implementation with several countries, including Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Syria and Yemen. Furthermore, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and UNICEF recently launched a campaign in 2014 titled 'Children, Not Soldiers'. It aimed to bring about global consensus that children should not be used as soldiers; the campaign received immediate support from member states, as well as the UN and NGO partners (United Nations, 2017). The campaign ran until 2016 and focus on Afghanistan, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen. The campaign resulted in the release of thousands of child soldiers, as well as their reintegration into society with the assistance of UNICEF.

### **4. Questions The Discussions and The Resolutions Should Address**

- What measures can your country implement to stop child soldier recruitments?
- How effective were previous resolutions regarding this issue and if ineffective, how can they be made more effective?
- Should children be tried and convicted for war crimes?
- Can economic development be a factor to combat the issue?
- Is the use of children inevitable without resolutions to conflicts?

## **5. *Suggestions For Further Research***

- NGO reports about the use of children in conflicts
- Economic forecasts for nations and areas where children are utilized in armed conflicts.
- Previous case studies and court cases on the said topic
- Where did past action fail and what new measures should or can be implemented?

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