

# Background Guide

## 15th Annual AUSMUN



## Fourth General Assembly (GA4)

# 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



# Welcome Letter from the Dais

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to AUSMUN 2022! It is with honor and the greatest pleasure that we welcome you all to the fifteenth annual American University of Sharjah Model United Nations Conference (AUSMUN) and specifically to our committee, The Special Political, and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL), also known as the Fourth General Assembly. We, as your chairs, are looking forward to meeting you all and hopefully making the most out of this experience by interacting, communicating, and cooperating efficiently. During this three-day conference we will be discussing the following topics: “Improving Democratic Governance and Democratic Institutions” and “Assessing the Effectiveness of Peacekeeping Operations”. We advise that you expand beyond the background guide and conduct your own thorough research regarding both topics, your allocated countries’ stance, and capabilities in order to generate fruitful debate during this conference. We truly hope, and believe, that this year’s conference will be a memorable one for both parties. We wish you the best of luck with your preparations and we look forward to meeting you all at AUSMUN 2022. If you have any inquiries please contact us via email ([ga4ausmun2022@gmail.com](mailto:ga4ausmun2022@gmail.com)), please send your position papers to the same email address as well.

Best Regards,  
Malak Mostafa, Maryam Kilani, and Rama Hamarsheh, Chairs  
Fatema Shams, Research Assistant

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## Overview of the Committee

### History

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL), also known as the Fourth General Assembly (GA4), is one of the core six main committees that are part of the United Nations General Assembly. When the committee was first founded, the goal was to address trusteeship and decolonization-related matters during the second half of the twentieth century (Special Political and Decolonization, UN, 2021). However, following the dismantling of the trusteeship system and the granting of independence to all UN trust territories, the fourth committee's workload decreased and was consequently merged with the Special Political Committee (Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations, 2017). Today, the fourth committee deals with the ultimate goal of maintaining international peace and security, in addition to dealing with decolonization-related matters, Palestinian refugees and human rights, the effects of atomic radiation, uses of outer space, and questions related to special political missions and peacekeeping operations (Special Political and Decolonization, UN, 2021). It is important to note that issues of decolonization and the matters related to the Middle East take up most of the committee's time. As such, GA4 covers both the issue of decolonization in addition to other political matters not directly dealt with by the mandates of the other UN General Assembly committees. The committee then considers agenda items allocated by the General Assembly and proposes recommendations and resolutions.

### Relevance

Currently, The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL) can be viewed as an entrance door to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) as the questions raised by the council are typically assessed by the GA4 earlier. This is because the Fourth Committee has a broader approach in terms of international security in addition to the fact that it allows all UN member states to be heard before the issue reaches other UN organs. As such, the committee's resolutions reflect the opinion of the majority of the countries regarding substantive matters. The seven subsidiary bodies that report to the Fourth Committee are: The Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (C-34), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for State of Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) (Special Political and Decolonization, UN, 2021).



# Overview of the Committee

## Structure and Functions

The General Assembly handbook (2017) states that “membership in the United Nations is open to all peace-loving States that accept the obligations contained in the United Nations Charter and, in the judgment of the Organization, are able to carry out these obligations.” However, civil society organizations are not permitted to participate in the Fourth Committee with the exception of: “Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.”

Regarding the debate and discussion, at the Special Political and Decolonization Committee, the discussion does not begin with a general debate, and all matters related to decolonization are discussed jointly. As a general rule, the representatives of the subsidiary bodies introduce the report where the author departments of SG reports are also invited to do so as well (Special Political and Decolonization, UN, 2021). According to the General Assembly handbook (2017), following the presentations, the civil society representatives in addition to other stakeholders are permitted to address the Committee on the proposed decolonization issues. The mandate of the General Assembly (GA) states that it may discuss and consider issues as per the Charter but is unable to make decisions on international matters or disputes being considered by the Security Council (SC). The General Committee shall then make recommendations to the GA and assist in drawing up the agenda for each meeting, in addition to determining the priority of the proposed items and coordinating the proceedings of the committees. However, it shall not decide on any political questions.

As the Fourth Committee is a General Assembly committee, it is to be noted that all resolutions are non-binding: this means that operative clause language which identifies the actions or recommendations made in a resolution (e.g. condemns or demands) should not be used but rather, non-binding language should be used instead (e.g. urges, recommends). As such, any peacekeeping operations or punitive measures (e.g. economic sanctions) are not authorized by the fourth committee directly but rather actions are recommended to the Security Council in a stipulated manner (Special Political and Decolonization, UN, 2021). However, if a resolution was previously passed by other non-General Assembly committees then they can be referred to in the perambulatory clauses.

## Substantive Voting

In the GA4 committee, each member of the General Assembly shall have one vote (UN Rules of Procedure, n.d.). All important questions, such as but not limited to monetary concerns, introduction and suspension of new member states, global peace and security matters are passed with a two-thirds majority vote by members present and voting. Decisions made by the General Assembly on amendments to proposals and on sections of the proposals are put to the vote separately and also require a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting. However, decisions of the GA on questions other than the mentioned beforehand require a simple majority vote where just over half of the members have to be in favor of a question. When an amendment is moved to a proposal, it shall be voted on first. However, when two or more amendments are moved to a proposal the GA shall vote on the amendment furthest removed in substance from the original proposal and so on. As such, if the adoption of one amendment suggests the rejection of another, the latter is automatically removed from the list and shall not be voted on by the members of the committee. It is important to note that the phrase “members present and voting” means members casting an affirmative or negative vote. Whereas, members who choose to abstain from voting are considered non-voting members of the committee..

# MUN

## Overview of the Committee

### Funding

The General Assembly has two direct funding sources, the first being a regular budget of the office of the PGA and the second being the trust fund in support of the Office of the PGA (GA handbook, 2017). In 1998, Member States approved the establishment of a yearly budget dedicated to the PGA which covers hospitality, official travel, and other PGA official responsibilities. In 2010, the Trust Fund was established where the Member States and others may contribute. The Trust Fund mainly covers staff costs, office travel, and thematic debates.

# Topic I: Improving Democratic Governance and Institutions

## Summary and History of the Issue

Democratic systems have undergone many changes since the conception of the idea of democracy. The term 'democracy' originates from two root Greek words "demos" (the people) and "kratia" (power or authority). Athens is among the first recorded systems of democracy and this early Greek governance has been termed as direct democracy, a system in which citizens meet to debate all policy, and then make decisions by the rule of the majority. Over time, as wealth inequalities and socio-economic divides grew, so too did authoritarian and hierarchical structures develop within many communities. This empowered the elites within such systems to monopolize power, making it harder to revert back to the structure of direct democracies. The larger dimensions and variety present in communities within modern states also make it difficult to implement direct democracy. Today, in many countries and political theories, these principles have been attached to and absorbed by the more focused notion of representative democracy which places a focus on delegation of decision-making power to represent individuals and pushing broader issue agendas for a public vote. Democratic institutions and governance regardless of type, therefore, play a crucial role in making the voice of the people heard.

The implementation of any democratic system means ensuring delicate checks and balances of power remain between all parties involved. The role of governance lies mainly in meditating and regulating various issues brought up by the public through 'horizontal' coordination. Democratic governance, however, differs in its focus on the fulfillment of human rights at the center of governance practice. This is done via democratic processes and institutions that are inclusive and responsive, which protect the rights of minorities, provide separation of powers and ensure public accountability. Some existing democratic institutions which ensure democratic governance include:

1. Holding free and fair elections.
2. Allowing free and independent media.
3. Separating power amongst branches of government.

Other mechanisms at an international level include United Nations human rights covenants and conventions, and at a regional level, human rights treaties and courts in Africa, the Americas, and Europe. (UNDP, 2009, p.2)

Another tenet of democratic governance is civic engagement or civic participation. The most prominent of these parties present in modern-day democracies include civil society organizations (CSOs). CSOs can play many roles to ensure democratic governance is observed as seen in the table below. (UNDP, 2009, p.69)

**Horizontal coordination:** When those at the same hierarchical level but with different areas of expertise establish a working relationship aimed towards accomplishing a particular goal.

**Human right:** A right which every human being is entitled to which cannot be taken away such as the right to education etc.

# Topic I: Improving Democratic Governance and Institutions

Another tenet of democratic governance is civic engagement or civic participation. The most prominent of these parties present in modern-day democracies include civil society organizations (CSOs). CSOs can play many roles to ensure democratic governance is observed as seen in the table below. (UNDP, 2009, p.69)

Role	Example
Providing services	Legal aid, health services, water supply
Identifying and addressing community needs	Training, education, livelihood support
Mediating between citizens and the state	Lobbying, reviewing budgets
Defending citizen's rights and articulating interests	Watchdog functions, advocacy, media campaigns

CSOs include religious, media, relief or rehabilitation-based organizations, grassroots, or community-based organizations, etc. (UNDP, 2009, p.68). A strong relationship amidst the trinity of government, civil society, and human rights form the basis for a truly democratic system of governance.

**Civil society organizations (CSOs):** Non- state actors whose aims are neither to generate profits nor to seek governing power but rather to come together to advance shared goals and interests. (UNDP, 2009, p. 68)

# Topic I: Improving Democratic Governance and Institutions

## Key Issues

### Corruption in Democratic Governments

Corruption undermines democracy in a vicious cycle, wearing away until its institutions become weak and incapable of handling corruption. It hampers the provision of public services and the poor's access to them, leads to violations of human rights, distorts markets, erodes the quality of life, and allows organized crime, terrorism, and other threats to human security to flourish. Democracies may experience corruption when they lack transparency in political and campaign financing, have outdated laws on freedom of information, provide insufficient protection to whistle-blowers, or have unreliable media. In countries that recently transitioned to democratic governance, effective anti-corruption and integrity mechanisms have not been developed, and now they become stuck in a cycle of high corruption and low-performing democratic institutions.

According to published research by political scientists, it was found that as countries become more democratic, levels of corruption first decrease, then increase, then decrease again. However, it is not democracy in general, but rather specific political institutions and processes that have an anti-corruption effect by serving as checks and balances, such as the role played by different political parties. Furthermore, there are various types of democratic systems, from liberal democracy to democratic socialism as well as direct and indirect democracy, each of which experiences different forms and levels of corruption. Democratic institutions are plagued through the misuse of public power, or office for private benefit through bribery, extortion, influence-peddling, nepotism, or embezzlement.

- More than US\$1 trillion are paid in bribes every year, just over 3% of world income in 2002.
- Approximately US\$148 billion leaves Africa every year because of corruption.

The rural middle class is affected by corruption much more directly than the urban group, because the denial of services—the badly built road, the dry well, the dispensary without medicine, could be even a matter of life and death. What is an irritant for the middle class and a theoretical debate for the affluent, cuts at the roots of survival for the poor. In addition, corruption can undercut government efforts to collect revenue and compromise the ability of the state to provide essential public services like health and education. It can contribute to reducing the quality of the civil service through nepotism and discretionary promotion practices, undermining the legitimacy of the state. More importantly, corruption is a human rights issue; a corrupt judiciary prevents access to justice and undermines the right to equality before the law and to a fair trial; corruption in the delivery of public services threatens the rights to health and education; it also overthrows the principle of non-discrimination and political rights, through, for example, the alteration of election results.

# Topic I: Improving Democratic Governance and Institutions

## Minorities and Gender Inequality in Democratic Governments

The fulfillment of all human rights, whether civil, political, cultural, social, or economic, requires democratic institutions that are inclusive and responsive, and which protect the rights of minorities, provide separation of powers and ensure public accountability. Not all forms of governance aspire to fulfill all human rights. However even democracy in the 'majority rule' sense can legitimize the exclusion of minorities. Democratic institutions can forbid human rights by holding unfair elections, which contributes to confinement of expression, thought and conscience; denying free and independent media, concentrating powers among limited branches of government, which neglects civil and political rights.

Governments often disregard the participation of minorities and women, which is a prerequisite for a truly democratic ruling. There is an apparent gap between the numbers of women and men represented in the political arena such as a parliamentary assembly or a government. Governments neglect gender mainstreaming which refers to the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies, or programs, in all areas and at all levels. Gender inequality aggravates poverty by; contributing to insecurity; diminishing opportunities for empowerment; decreasing the productivity of labor, and restricting economic growth and poverty reduction efforts. Even though women are progressively active at the community level, there is a prevalence of gender disparities in public positions at the local, regional, and global levels. In 2021, women constituted 25.5 percent of parliamentarians worldwide, with large variation among countries and regions. In countries like the Vatican City, Saudi Arabia, and Uganda, women are barely granted the right to vote and may be prevented by a male family member. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995) built on previous foundations recognized that 'without the active participation of women and the incorporation of women's perspective at all levels of decision-making, the goals of equality, development, and peace cannot be achieved. In most countries, there is national machinery responsible for initiating, coordinating, implementing, and monitoring interventions to promote gender equality. However, such machinery is often under-resourced.

In recent years, the establishment of a gender focal point system focusing on key line ministries has gained popularity. However, the persistently insufficient level of priority, authority, and capacity of the focal points is an obstacle. For example, although methodologies for gender analysis exist, government staff often do not have the knowledge to apply them due to a lack of commitment at the decision-making levels.

# Topic I: Improving Democratic Governance and Institutions

## Lack of Education and Access to Information

Empirical research offers different explanations for voters' ignorance, apathy, and decisions not to actively vote out a corrupt politician or party. These explanations include lack of citizens' political awareness, deficiency of transparency and information about wrongdoings, as well as weak institutions, voters' inability to effectively monitor and question politicians' actions, and the emerging problems of information overload.

When voters lack information about a candidate's involvement in corruption, they often support corrupt politicians. Over the past several decades, more than 60% of the members of the United States Congress who have been involved in a corruption scandal have been re-elected. In addition, voters do not only consider candidates but that the party for which the candidates are running might be the more important consideration for their voting decision.

In order for these groups to have a greater say, there is an urgent need to improve their capacity to understand, analyze and act on information. Public hearings, meetings, participatory planning committees, roundtables, focus groups, lobbying, negotiation, and mediation are all examples of mechanisms that help people access and understand information and communicate their views. Such processes help poor people to develop a voice and to make demands on the government for relevant information, e.g., regarding health and education services or employment opportunities.

Implementation of the rights to freedom of expression and to access to information are requirements for ensuring the voice and participation necessary for a democratic society. Factors that contribute to uninformed citizens include a weak legal and regulatory environment for freedom of information, insufficient awareness on rights to official information, and lack of mechanisms to provide and access information, especially within vulnerable groups, as well as widespread dependent and totalitarian media.

# Topic I: Improving Democratic Governance and Institutions

## Elections

The holding of regular elections is a defining feature of democracy. However, examples of election rigging, the holding of so-called 'facade elections' with little or no choice of representation or possibility for free expression of opinion, or the holding of democratic elections where the rest of the political system is highly undemocratic, have all proved that elections by themselves do not promise democratic participation. Rather, elections depend on the legitimacy, transparency, effectiveness, and fairness of their wider institutional context. Several factors influence the representative nature of the parliament, including the electoral system, women's participation, representation of minorities and marginalized communities, parliamentary procedures; and capabilities of parliamentarians to undertake constituency outreach. Electoral management, regardless of the model used, should be independent, impartial, and transparent. Institutions at all levels should include minorities of different gender, backgrounds, and economic classes and there should be a clear policy on improving the electoral participation of underprivileged groups.

Everyone has the right to participate in the government of their country, this shall be conveyed in regular and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by anonymous and free voting procedures.

The credibility of the electoral event very much depends on how results verification is conducted and perceived. Some of the main threats to transparency and credibility of election results are poor technical management of results (e.g. technology failure, administrative errors); lack of understanding of the electoral system and results aggregation system; unrealistic expectations from stakeholders of new technology; fraud and manipulation of result organization; and biased, unclear or inadequate complaints and appeals procedures.

# Topic I: Improving Democratic Governance and Institutions

## Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Improving the democratic practices of governance is a topic of constant discourse and effort within every democracy in the world. The creation of the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GLOBE) is a step by the United Nations to curb corruption. This is done by enabling law enforcement authorities across countries to navigate legal processes through informal cooperation across borders, helping to build trust and bring those guilty of corruption to justice. This is a means to track corruption whilst complementing existing frameworks. Increasing the role of women and minorities in political leadership via political internships and apprenticeships is a measure that has been taken up by some governments to improve the participation of these groups in democratic governance. The Swiss government launched a successful grassroots mentoring program called “From woman to woman” which evolved to a national level in just 5 years and has contributed to the long-term jump in women’s representation and participation in high-level political positions and to the narrowing of Switzerland’s gender gap. Similarly improving the quality of education at all levels is important to cultivate informed members of a democracy. The Global Education Coalition launched by United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) “is a platform for collaboration and exchange to protect the human right to education during the unprecedented disruption [of the COVID-19 pandemic to systems of governance worldwide] and beyond” (UNESCO, 2020, para.2). Prioritizing educational recovery amidst crises to avoid a generational catastrophe is the main goal of this initiative. Elections are a vital democratic institution that encourages the people’s participation. The government of India, which is the world’s largest democracy has implemented various measures to control election fraud such as vulnerability mapping, where election officers identify areas prone to malpractices and patrol these areas more carefully with the help of law enforcement.

# Topic I: Improving Democratic Governance and Institutions

## Questions a Resolution Should Address

1. How is democratic governance more common in the form of representative democracies over direct democracies?
2. Does a CSO's presence ever become insignificant to a country's governance? If so, in what scenario does this occur and why?
3. Is democratic governance the same as good governance?
4. There exists a common assumption that democratic governance equates to high corruption rates within the governing institutions. Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.
5. How is the democratic nature of institutions affected by corruption?
6. What role does result verification in proving the credibility of an electoral event?

## Recommended Sources for Further Research

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# Topic II: Assessing the Effectiveness of Peacekeeping Operations

## Summary and History of the Issue

The United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (PKO) were issued in 1948, with its main aims being to maintain international peace and security, and to allow transitions from conflict to peace in unstable territories. During the 70+ years of its operation, over 1 million peacekeepers have participated in the missions, with 121 countries contributing to the 71 operations the UN has carried out to date. The groups of people supporting PKOs claim that this has helped to keep peace in countries with unstable governments and defense. However, critics also think that it causes unnecessary deaths and destruction as the soldiers have the ability to control the firepower in those countries, as well as the operations being expensive.

Peacekeeping Operations were proposed to be the solution to the wars and destruction the world faces. Their statistics showed trends showing a gradual decrease in the severity of wars after the deployment of peacekeeping missions, as they bring stability to an otherwise unstable and fragile situation. According to extensive research done by PRIO, PKOs have led to a reduction in the violence and severity of the conflict, along with extended longevity of peace in the region. These operations are used for purposes ranging from prevention of conflict, management of conflict, or post-conflict management which consists of bringing peace back to the region. This is the reason why different missions have different mandates which usually are without the use of force but allow for force in cases of self-defense.

On the other hand, onlookers worry about the harm done to citizens, and the undermining of a country's government due to the control the UN has on these "fragile" countries. The deployment of peacekeepers has also seen a hidden increase in civilian casualties, riots, and distress in the country. Furthermore, an important aspect of these missions is their cost. In order to maintain an effective standard of results, the UN would have to budget at least \$17 billion a year, which is twice as much as the expense in 2012. These figures are a substantial amount, but researchers predict that the cost would be worth it in the long run as major conflicts would nearly be halved.

# Topic II: Assessing the Effectiveness of Peacekeeping Operations

## Key Issues

The UN peacekeeping forces operate within the bounds of three characteristics. First, the peacekeeping forces must be neutral, as peacekeepers are intended to mitigate the process of peace, whether that includes peace treaties, demilitarization, or providing buffer zones. Second, the peacekeeping force must be consented to by the government. Finally, peacekeepers use force only in instances of self-defense. As with any non-procedural decision taken by the UNSC, peacekeeping operations need nine votes to commence, with the requirement that all of the permanent five members (China, Russia, the US, France, and the UK) must vote either for the resolution or abstain.

## Measuring the Success of Peacekeeping Operations

Measuring the success of peacekeeping operations (PKOs) can be done in a multitude of ways. The dilemma primarily comes from the variety of factors that are included in the peace-making process, for example, the extent to which factors outside the control of peacekeeping forces should be considered, as well as the differences between interstate and intrastate operations. Naturally, many external forces aside from the peacekeeping operation itself will have an effect on the outcome of a conflict, and this should be considered when assessing the effectiveness of PKOs (Hegre et al., 2017).

There are two main criteria for measuring the success of PKOs. The first is by assessing the extent to which the PKO has fulfilled its given mandate. Success in implementing the mandate is a reasonable expectation to which the UN can be held, as it pertains to fulfilling the goal the UN has set out to reach. It is important to note that the question of whether or not the resolutions the UN implements are sufficient, instead, the success of the mandate, regardless of whether it is a good mandate or not, should be evaluated. The second is by assessing whether or not the PKO has increased prospects for peace after the conflict. This is a much broader assessment, which takes into account that while the UN may often fulfill the mandate, this does not mean the conflict has ended in a positive peace (Howard, 2007).

## Effectiveness of Peacekeeping Operations

### Protection of Civilians

Peacekeeping operations contribute to civilian protection. The primary means through which this is achieved is by de-escalation. When PKOs de-escalate the intensity of the fighting in a conflict, the civilian population thus faces less violence. By reducing the scope of armed conflicts, civilians are protected from violence indirectly. A more active means through which PKOs protect civilians is through enforcement missions that allow peacekeepers to interfere directly with armed actors to protect civilians (Williams, 2013). Unlike in PKOs, peace enforcement operations allow peacekeepers to act more forcefully, therefore allowing them to have a direct role in the protection of civilians during an armed conflict. This, however, requires very robust resolutions and mandates, and the difficulty of producing such mandates will be explored in a later section of this guide. Protecting civilians, either directly or indirectly, is a crucial aspect of PKOs, and its successes are highly relevant in an assessment of PKOs' successes (Hegre et al., 2017).

# Topic II: Assessing the Effectiveness of Peacekeeping Operations

## Ineffectiveness of Peacekeeping Operations

### Lack of Political Will Between Warring Parties

Spirals of fear and uncertainty are very common in armed conflicts, and there is a high possibility that a party will renege on a deal (or a proposed deal) if they believe they have the upper hand. For example, if one party had initially believed their opponent had a stronger military than them, but during the demilitarization process realized this is untrue, this creates a massive incentive to continue fighting, as they now realize they have the upper hand. Additionally, warring parties have inherent mistrust towards each other, which means that there is a high likelihood that they do not trust the other to accept a proposed deal. Again, this increases the incentive for violence because it decreases the perceived cost of war if one party believes they have an advantage, whether material or other. Peacekeeping operations can overcome such obstacles by primarily increasing the cost of war. This is typically done through conditioning aid on compliance, as well as monitoring each party in order to decrease the probability of a surprise attack. Furthermore, peacekeeping operations can attempt to disrupt spirals of uncertainty and prevent one party from reneging on an agreement by facilitating communication and monitoring compliance (Tardy, 2017).

### Lack of Political Will in the UN

The political will of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) itself must also be considered. First, the premise that members of the United Nations (UN) must provide the manpower for peacekeeping operations is not one that is easy to maintain. Failed operations that may result in casualties may bring strong backlash from the general public of a state, forcing the said state to push for withdrawal or the reduction of the peacekeeping force. Additionally, the consensus and level of interest of the UNSC, particularly the Permanent Five (P5) in the matter, is a very crucial limitation of peacekeeping operations, because it dictates the ability of the UN to make a comprehensive decision that will ultimately lead to a successful mandate. The first aspect, consensus, allows the Security Council (SC) to pass resolutions more smoothly as a lack of consensus will prevent a resolution from passing. The intensity of their interest however has a more interesting effect, as both too much or too little interest will decrease the likelihood of a decision. Too much interest infers that several members of the P5 may have vested interests in the crisis, which means it is likely that there will not be a consensus as each state will be attempting to push its agenda. A historic example of this is the use of the UN during the Cold War, wherein the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) both used the UN to advance their ideological goals using tools such as vetoes as well as peacekeeper deployment. On the other side of the spectrum, too little interest will mean that decisions may not be prioritized and may not be provided with many resources as a result (Howard, 2007).

# Topic II: Assessing the Effectiveness of Peacekeeping Operations

## Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

The question of peacekeeping has been in the international discourse quite frequently, due to the number of countries and stakeholders involved. The most recent resolution, S/RES/2594, adopted by the UN on September 9th 2021 addressed a range of policies and steps the UN should consider in order to improve the facilitation of Peacekeeping Operations. One of the points the resolution emphasized was prioritizing civilian protection, and reinstating that missions can be a much higher risk for vulnerable groups such as children, women, and the elderly. Furthermore, it emphasized the need for PKO to acknowledge the importance of reduced poverty, increased gender equality, and the monitoring of human rights in the regions. It recalled previous resolutions 1325 (2000), 1265 (1999), 1261 (1999), and 2475 (2019) to reaffirm the UN's responsibility to attend to the peace and security of youth, women, and communities impacted by armed forces. Moreover, there was a strong emphasis on the adaptation of sustainable political policies and practices, along with improved communication with the UN contributing countries, considering economical, humanitarian, and political factors.

Additionally, the unanimously adopted resolution S/PRST/2021/17 of 18th August 2021 stressed the importance of technology usage in peacekeeping operations, as it would create positive impacts in various areas. Firstly, it would contribute to greater efficiency in the decision-making processes undertaken by the hierarchies in the operations. This is a paramount need as the decisions are taken at strategic, operational, and tactical levels, which could lead to significant time and communication conflicts. Furthermore, it would increase the UN's capability to serve to the greater safety of peacekeepers together with better protection of civilians. Having advanced technology at their disposal would lead to better data collection and logging, accompanied by safer storage and transmission of sensitive information across intricate data channels.

# Topic II: Assessing the Effectiveness of Peacekeeping Operations

## Questions a Resolution Should Address

1. What factors determine the effectiveness of Peacekeeping Operations?
2. What other political realities prevent the UNSC from creating comprehensive, potentially successful mandates?
3. What is a good measurement of success for peacekeeping operations?
4. What external factors could affect the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations?
5. Does the success of peacekeeping operations differ between inter and intrastate conflicts?
6. How can the mechanism for peacekeeping operation deployment be developed to allow for an increase in the success of peacekeeping operations?

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