

HUMBOLDTMUN 2025

XIII Edition

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

Handbook



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Welcome letter

Dear delegates,

We are very pleased to welcome you, firstly, to the 13th edition of the Humboldt MUN, and secondly, to our committee: The Security Council. It will be an honour to share the next few days of debate with you. We look forward to the alliances you will form, the discussions you will lead and the resolutions you will formulate. Both possible topics are situations of critical urgency and have left an indelible mark on the modern geopolitical landscape.

The ongoing conflict between Ukraine and Russia has reshaped international relations, raising pressing concerns over sovereignty, territorial integrity and the role of multilateral organizations in conflict resolution. Meanwhile, the review of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Iran's nuclear programme remains a pivotal issue in non-proliferation efforts, requiring careful negotiation to balance security and diplomatic interests.

We expect that you, as members of this committee, will seek to reach comprehensive agreements and solutions that address the quintessence of the conflicts presented, understanding the complexities of multinational relations.

In the same spirit, we invite you to maintain an open stance towards dialogue and cooperation, which are fundamental to reaching consensus that reflects the United Nations commitment to peace and diplomacy, despite a growing international divide.

Finally, we deeply hope that this will be an enriching experience that helps you to develop in many ways. We want you to mature your argumentative and collaborative skills, critical thinking, public speaking and other competences that can help you in future debates or situations that require teamwork and decision making. But above all we hope that, regardless of the technical skills needed to debate, you will take away with you a deeper understanding of the global issues that affect us all. May this experience motivate you to become actively involved in the search for solutions to global challenges. May it help you develop empathy for those in the most unfortunate situations. And may it help you understand the variety of realities that make up our world.

Sincerely,

Chair of the Security Council of the United Nations

Committee information

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC), alongside the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice (ICJ), and the UN Secretariat, is one of the six main organs of the United Nations. Its central role is to maintain international peace and security, while aligning its actions with the objectives, principles, philosophy and spirit of the United Nations.

The Security Council was created on the 26th of 1945 after the signature of the Charter of the United Nations to maintain international peace and security after the League of Nations failed to deescalate tensions that lead to the 2nd World War.

During the Cold War the UNSC was often deadlocked due to US-Soviet tensions but still authorized key interventions, such as in the Korean War. After the Cold War, it became more active, approving actions in Iraq, Yugoslavia, and Africa, though criticisms over its structure and effectiveness grew.

The Council has 15 members, of which 5 are permanent, whilst the remaining 10 are periodically rotated. The P5 (Permanent 5) is composed by China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States, and each member has the right of veto. This means that for a resolution to be adopted, it must be unanimously agreed on by all permanent members.

The 10 non- permanent members are elected in periods of two years by the General Assembly, though 60 United Nations members have never been a member of the council. Currently (February 2025) the elected countries are Algeria (2025), Denmark (2026), Greece (2026), Guyana (2025), Pakistan (2026), Panama (2026), Republic of Korea (2025), Sierra Leone (2025), Slovenia (2025) and Somalia (2026).

Non-member States are allowed to take part in the discussion sessions without the right to vote, if the council considers their interests are being compromised or affected.

The Functions and Powers of the UNSCO are to:

- maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations;
- investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction;
- recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
- formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments;
- determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken;
- call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression;
- take military action against an aggressor;

- recommend the admission of new Members;
- exercise the trusteeship functions of the United Nations in "strategic areas";
- recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and, together with the Assembly, to elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice.”

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Members list

1. Canada
2. Commonwealth of Australia
3. Federative Republic of Brazil
4. Federal Republic of Germany
5. French Republic
6. Islamic Republic of Iran
7. Islamic Republic of Pakistan
8. Japan
9. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
10. People's Republic of China
11. Republic of India
12. Republic of South Africa
13. Republic of Türkiye
14. Russian Federation
15. State of Israel
16. Ukraine
17. United Arab Emirates
18. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
19. United States of America

Topic A: Revision of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Iran's nuclear program.

Introduction

Iran's nuclear project has recently become a major source of geopolitical tension; raising concerns over regional security and nuclear proliferation. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was created to address these risks by



creating a framework for monitoring and limiting Iran's nuclear activities. Since its adoption, the JCPOA has been through quite a number of serious challenges, including disagreements over enforcement, regional security concerns, and conflicting national interests among important governments. The effectiveness of the deal has been questioned as Iran continues to advance its nuclear capabilities, while international powers struggle to negotiate a sustainable solution.

Given the current state of Iran's nuclear program, discussions on whether to revise, strengthen or replacing the JCPOA are more important than ever. The results of these negotiations will not just affect Iran, but also global security and non-proliferation efforts.

Current situation

As of 2025, Iran's nuclear program has advanced significantly. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) tells us that Iran has enriched uranium to 60% purity, approaching the 90% purity which would be needed for weapons-grade material. With this in mind, the international community has increasingly assumed that Iran may be able to build nuclear weapons in a very short amount of

time. It's reports state that Iran's nuclear plans are entirely peaceful, and is open to proposals and negotiations. But the international community is still worrying about the outcome of this negotiation, especially with some JCPOA commitments expiring soon and the geopolitical shifts in the region.

Historical context

Iran's nuclear program started in the 1950s with the assistance of the U.S. under the initiatives of the Atoms for Peace initiative, aimed to develop civilian nuclear energy. However, after the 1979 Iranian Revolution, nuclear cooperation with the West ended, and Iran proceeded continue with its program independently. By the 2000s, the unearthing of secret facilities in Natanz and Arak raised concerns that indicated Iran was in process of developing nuclear weapons, leadint to UN sanctions and diplomatic attempt to limit its activities.



The year 2015 saw the final agreement between Iran, the P5+1 Nations and the European Union on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action(JCPOA). Under the agreement, Iran agreed to:

- Limit uranium enrichment to 3.67% and restrict its stockpile.
- Reduce centrifuges and halt heavy-water reactor development.
- Allow strict inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

In return, the sanctions were lifted, boosting Iran's economical gain. However, in 2018, the U.S. left the program under Donald Trump, and sanctions returned. In response, Iran gradually violated JCPOA limits, enriching uranium over the agreed levels.

Diplomatic efforts to restore the deal have since been stalled, and in 2025, Iran's uranium enrichment is approaching 90% weapons-grade levels, raising fears of a nuclear crisis and making a revision of the JCPOA urgent.

Questions for Discussion:

- What were the primary objectives of the JCPOA, and has it been successful in achieving them?
- Should the JCPOA include stricter restrictions on Iran's nuclear activities to prevent future violations?
- Does revising the JCPOA risk Iran withdrawing completely and accelerating its nuclear program?
- Does the current JCPOA provide enough verification mechanisms to ensure compliance from Iran?
- If Iran has already breached aspects of the JCPOA, why would they agree to a revised deal with more limitations?

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Topic B: Measures to address Sovereignty Implications, International Law and Global Stability issues in the Russia-Ukraine conflict

Introduction:

The conflict in eastern Ukraine began in 2014 when Russia took control of Crimea after protests in Kyiv against Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich's decision to reject closer ties with the

European Union. Following this, Russian-supported separatists in Donetsk and Luhansk declared independence,

leading to armed clashes with Ukrainian



forces. Attempts were made to resolve the conflict through the Minsk Accords, but these efforts were unsuccessful. The situation escalated in 2022 when Russia invaded Ukraine, claiming the goal was to “demilitarize and denazify” the country. This invasion led to severe sanctions against Russia, widespread international condemnation, and military support for Ukraine. Russian forces initially attacked Kyiv but withdrew after failing to capture it. The fighting then concentrated in eastern and southern Ukraine, causing widespread destruction, civilian deaths, and severe damage to infrastructure.

Russia's blockade of Ukrainian ports worsened a global food crisis, though some grain exports were allowed under temporary agreements. The

Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant raised fears of nuclear disasters as a consequence of fighting near it. While Russia annexed four regions in 2022, prompting international condemnation, Ukraine recovered territory in counter offensives as well as parts of Kharkiv and Kherson. This armed conflict has caused accusations of war crimes, massive destruction and nuclear threats, affecting global security, energy and food supplies.

Historical context

The root of the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine initiated since the two nations shared a heritage dating back over a thousand years to Kyivan Rus, the first Slavic state, centered in Kyiv. This shared past includes the adoption of Orthodox Christianity in A.D. 988 by Volodymyr the Great, an event seen by some, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, which united them.

However, Ukraine's history has been marked by repeated foreign domination. The Mongols, Poles, Lithuanians, and Russians all carved up its territory over centuries. By 1793, most of Ukraine was under Russian control, and policies of Russification suppressed Ukrainian language and culture.

In the 20th century, Ukraine endured profound suffering under Soviet rule. After joining the Soviet Union in 1922, the country faced the Holodomor, a man-made famine orchestrated by Joseph Stalin, which killed millions. Stalin

later repopulated eastern Ukraine with Russians and others, deepening cultural divisions. This long and turbulent history caused today's conflict.

Current situation

On Sunday, February 2, according to Ukrainian officials, Russia carried out a massive attack using drones and missiles on Ukraine, resulting in the deaths of 15 people. The assault also injured at least 16 others, including four children, and caused extensive damage to residential buildings and energy infrastructure nationwide.



Recent encounters between Russia and Ukraine resulted in multiple casualties and attacks. Two civilians were killed in Russia's Belgorod region after Ukrainian drone strikes. Russia launched 123 drones and over 40 missiles at Ukraine, with Ukrainian forces intercepting many. Russia claimed to have shot down Ukrainian drones, a HIMARS system, and targeted Ukraine's energy infrastructure. Both countries blamed each other for a missile attack on a school dormitory in Russia's Kursk region, killing four. Additionally, an explosion at a Ukrainian army recruitment center in Rivne left one dead and six injured.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine must lead to significant repercussions, including ongoing diplomatic isolation until its forces completely withdraw, including from Crimea. Russian leaders should face legal prosecution for war crimes, though this will likely require Russia's defeat and a change in leadership. The global community must maintain strong condemnation of Russian aggression, dismissing Putin's claims rooted in nationalism or security threats. Media campaigns should clearly convey to the Russian population that international actions are directed at their government, not against them personally.

To counter Russia, NATO's (North Atlantic Treaty Organizations) collective security efforts, combined with increased military aid to Ukraine, are crucial. Disrupting Russian supply lines, employing psychological operations, and encouraging defections can undermine Russia's military strength. A wide-ranging coalition, not limited to NATO members, should establish secure operational bases to support Ukraine. Additionally, sanctions, diplomatic pressure, and economic measures targeting Russia's energy sector are essential. The U.S. should enhance its energy production and invest in nuclear power to decrease dependence on Russian energy, thereby weakening Russia's war economy and its leverage over Europe.

Questions for Discussion:

- What measures can be implemented to prevent the violation of territorial integrity in sovereign states, particularly in cases of military intervention or annexation?
- What legal precedents could be set by the UNSC's response to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, and how might these influence future conflicts around the world?
- How has the Russia-Ukraine conflict impacted global stability, particularly in terms of energy security, food supply chains, and the risk of regional spillovers?
- What role can peacekeeping operations or observer missions play in addressing the conflict, and under what conditions would their deployment be effective and feasible?
- What role should regional organizations (e.g., OSCE, EU, NATO) play in supporting the sovereignty of Ukraine, and how can their involvement align with the principles of the UN Charter?

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