

HUMBOLDTMUN 2026

XIV Edition

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

Handbook



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Welcome letter

Dear delegates,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the United Nations Security Council. We are honored to have you represent your respective nations in one of the most influential and demanding bodies of the United Nations. Throughout this committee, you will be challenged to engage in rigorous debate, thoughtful diplomacy, and decisive action on some of the most pressing global crises of our time.

This year, the Security Council will address two critical agenda items. Topic A: Measures to Stabilize Haiti Amid Escalating Gang Violence and State Collapse will require delegates to examine issues of sovereignty, international intervention, humanitarian assistance, and long-term state-building. As violence and institutional breakdown continue to threaten stability in Haiti, your task will be to balance immediate security concerns with sustainable political and social solutions.

Topic B: Mitigating Regional and Humanitarian Consequences of the Ongoing Conflict in Sudan will call upon delegates to respond to a rapidly evolving crisis with far-reaching regional implications. You will be expected to consider

ceasefire efforts, protection of civilians, humanitarian access, and the broader impact on neighboring states, while navigating complex geopolitical interests.

As members of the Security Council, your responsibility is significant. We encourage you to approach debate with professionalism, respect for diverse perspectives, and a commitment to cooperation. Strong research, adherence to diplomatic decorum, and creative yet realistic solutions will be essential to the success of this committee.

We look forward to witnessing your leadership, collaboration, and diplomatic skill over the course of the conference. Best of luck in your deliberations, and welcome once again to the Security Council.

Sincerely,

The United Nations Security Council Model United Nations Conference

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

- to take military action against an aggressor;
- to recommend the admission of new Members;
- to exercise the trusteeship functions of the United Nations in "strategic areas";
- to 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. Federative Republic of Brazil
2. People's Republic of China
3. Republic of Ecuador
4. French Republic
5. Republic of Ghana
6. Republic of Guyana
7. Republic of Haiti (Observer)
8. Japan
9. Republic of Kenya
10. United Mexican States
11. Republic of Mozambique
12. Russian Federation
13. Republic of Sierra Leone
14. Republic of Sudan (Observer)
15. Swiss Confederation
16. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
17. United States of America

Topic A: Topic A: Measures to Stabilize Haiti Amid

Escalating Gang Violence and State Collapse

Haiti is experiencing an unprecedented humanitarian, security, and human rights crisis driven by long-standing political instability, extreme poverty, and a sharp escalation in gang violence. Although armed groups have been present for years, the situation deteriorated rapidly after the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in July 2021. His death created a power vacuum that weakened already fragile state institutions and allowed criminal gangs to expand their territorial control, particularly in the capital, Port-au-Prince. By 2024, gangs controlled around 80% percent of the capital, paralyzing daily life and severely undermining public safety.

Haiti's current crisis is rooted in decades of weak governance, corruption, and interrupted democratic processes, combined with a history of foreign intervention and exploitation. Since 2019, the country has lacked a functioning parliament, and no national elections have been held since 2016. Successive governments have struggled to govern effectively, and transitional authorities have faced corruption allegations and internal instability. In 2024, a Transitional Presidential Council was formed following the resignation of Prime Minister Ariel Henry, but progress toward restoring security and organizing elections has remained limited.

Armed gangs have become the dominant force in many parts of the country, carrying out coordinated attacks on police stations, hospitals, ports, roads, schools, and prisons. These groups rely on a large supply of weapons, most of

which are smuggled from abroad, particularly from the United States, despite an official ban on civilian firearm imports. Weak border controls, corruption, and understaffed police forces have allowed gangs to operate with near impunity. As a result, killings, kidnappings, and sexual violence have increased dramatically, with more than 5,600 people killed and nearly 1,500 kidnapped in 2024 alone.

The violence has caused the collapse of essential services across the country. Electricity, water supply, sanitation, healthcare, education, and transportation systems are severely disrupted. Haiti now ranks among the world's most critical hunger hotspots, with more than half of the population facing acute food insecurity. However, the humanitarian response remains dangerously underfunded, leaving millions without assistance. Armed groups frequently block humanitarian access and attack aid workers, further worsening the crisis.

Children are among the most affected by the violence. Armed gangs recruit and use children as lookouts, couriers, and fighters, often through coercion, threats, or extreme poverty. According to the United Nations, children now make up up to 30–50 percent of active gang members. Many children have been displaced, lost access to education, or suffered physical and psychological trauma. Children with disabilities face even greater risks due to mobility challenges, lack of medical care, and insufficient support in displacement sites.

Human rights violations are widespread and largely unpunished. Sexual violence has become systematic, particularly against women and girls, while survivors have little access to healthcare or justice. The justice system is nearly nonfunctional due to insecurity, corruption, and strikes, with courts occupied by gangs and prisons severely overcrowded. Most detainees are held in inhumane conditions without trial, and deaths from malnutrition are common. Although a

few high-profile cases have moved forward, accountability for massacres, extrajudicial killings, and police abuses remains extremely limited.

In response to the crisis, the UN Security Council authorized a Kenya-led Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission to assist the Haitian police. However, the mission has been slow to deploy, remains underfunded, and lacks sufficient personnel to make a decisive impact. While some coordination improvements have been noted, international support has so far been insufficient. As a result, Haiti's transitional government has requested the transformation of the MSS into a full UN peacekeeping operation to ensure stable funding and stronger international engagement.

The ongoing violence has forced nearly 703,000 people to flee their homes, making Haiti the country with the highest number of internal displacements per capita worldwide. Many displaced families live in unsafe, overcrowded settlements controlled by criminal groups. At the same time, large numbers of Haitians have attempted to leave the country, often facing forced returns despite serious risks to their safety. These movements reflect the deep despair caused by Haiti's ongoing instability.

Questions for Discussion:

- What are the main causes of Haiti's security and humanitarian crisis, and how do political instability and weak institutions contribute to it?

- Does the situation in Haiti represent a threat to regional and international peace and security, and why should the Security Council intervene?
- How can civilians, especially children, women, and persons with disabilities, be better protected from gang violence and human rights abuses?
- What security measures are needed to weaken armed gangs while respecting human rights and strengthening the Haitian National Police?
- Should the Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission be expanded or transformed into a UN peacekeeping operation, and under what conditions?
- How can the international community effectively stop the illegal flow of weapons into Haiti and enforce existing sanctions?
- What political and humanitarian actions are essential to stabilize Haiti in the short term and support free and fair elections in the long term?

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Topic B: Mitigating Regional and Humanitarian Consequences of the Ongoing Conflict in Sudan

Since April 2023, Sudan has been in a devastating civil war that has rapidly escalated into one of the world's worst humanitarian and health crises. The conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), has caused immense civilian suffering, mass displacement, and severe regional instability. What initially began as a power struggle between former allies has evolved into a prolonged war causing widespread human rights violations, food insecurity, and the near-total collapse of essential state services.

The consequences of the Sudanese conflict extend far beyond national borders. Millions of refugees have fled into neighboring countries, pressuring already fragile regions such as Chad, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and Egypt. At the same time, foreign involvement, arms trafficking, and competition over natural resources, particularly gold, have turned Sudan into a battleground of broader geopolitical interests. As diplomatic efforts remain stalled and combatants continue to profit from the conflict, the international community faces urgent challenges in diminishing the humanitarian catastrophe and preventing further regional destabilization.

Sudan's current crisis is deeply rooted in decades of political instability, weak governance, and militarization. For over thirty years, the country was ruled by President Omar al-Bashir. His authoritarian regime relied heavily on security forces and militias to maintain power. In 2019, widespread protests led to al-Bashir's removal, raising hopes for a democratic transition.

However, these hopes were spoiled in 2021 when the Sudanese Armed Forces and the Rapid Support Forces, who were still allies at the time, staged a military coup, stopping the transition to civilian rule. Tensions between the two groups soon intensified, particularly over plans to integrate the RSF into the national army. The SAF viewed the RSF's autonomy, economic power, and control over profitable gold resources as a direct threat to their authority.

Disagreements over political reforms, economic restructuring, and the future balance of power ultimately turned into an open conflict in April 2023. Fighting quickly spread to major urban centers, including Khartoum and Darfur, where long-standing ethnic tensions and militia violence were reignited. The war has since been fueled by governance failures, competition over resources, and external actors supplying weapons and political backing to opposing sides, effectively turning Sudan into a proxy conflict within a multipolar international system.

As of 2026, the situation in Sudan has reached catastrophic levels. Over 150,000 people are estimated to have been killed, while millions have been

displaced internally or forced to flee across borders. Sudan is now facing the world's most severe food insecurity crisis, with widespread famine conditions and millions of children suffering from malnutrition. According to humanitarian organizations, severe food shortages are caused by the destruction of agricultural systems and blocked humanitarian access.

The country's health and sanitation systems have nearly collapsed. Hospitals have been destroyed or rendered non-functional, medical supplies are scarce, and disease outbreaks are spreading rapidly due to overcrowding, poor living conditions, and lack of clean water. Targeted attacks on civilians, systematic sexual violence, and the recruitment of child soldiers have been extensively recorded, especially in Darfur.

Despite the government's partial return to the capital, Khartoum remains largely in ruins, and effective governance is absent. Both the SAF and RSF continue to benefit economically from the conflict through war profiteering and gold smuggling, reducing incentives for peace. Diplomatic initiatives have stalled, while foreign actors continue to support rival factions with weapons and financial assistance, prolonging the conflict and worsening regional instability.

The ongoing war threatens not only Sudan's future but also the stability of the wider region, increasing the risk of cross-border violence, refugee crises, and long-term humanitarian dependency.

Questions for Discussion:

- What immediate measures can the international community take to reduce civilian suffering and ensure safe humanitarian access within Sudan?
- How can regional organizations and neighboring states help manage refugee flows and prevent further regional destabilization?
- How can accountability for war crimes, including sexual violence and the use of child soldiers, be pursued in the absence of a functioning judicial system?
- What long-term strategies could help address the root causes of Sudan's instability, such as governance failures, militarization, and competition over natural resources?
- What role should the United Nations Security Council play in limiting foreign involvement and the flow of weapons into Sudan?

- How can the international community protect civilians, especially women and children, from violence and human rights abuses?
- How can long-term humanitarian aid be combined with efforts to stabilize Sudan and prevent future conflict?

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