

STUDY GUIDE



HFS²⁰²⁴ MUN

THE XIII SESSION



UNGA

United Nations General
Assembly

#hfsmun2024



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Letter from the Executive Board

As we approach the upcoming session of the UNGA Committee, it is imperative that all delegates are well-prepared to engage substantively on the dual agenda items: "Addressing the Ongoing Conflict in Yemen and its Humanitarian Impact in the MENA Region" and "UNSC Reforms." These topics require thorough research and a nuanced understanding of their complexities to facilitate meaningful discussions and propose effective solutions.

Firstly, delegates are encouraged to undertake comprehensive research using credible sources. The UNGA committee values well-researched positions backed by reliable information. Therefore, while utilising AI tools for basic assistance is permissible, it is essential to minimise their use in speech writing and research. The emphasis should be on leveraging the guidance provided and utilising resources effectively to formulate informed perspectives and proposals.

Regarding the agendas themselves, delegates have the autonomy to choose which agenda they wish to prioritise in their research and preparation. It is also permissible to maintain flexibility and decide on the agenda during the committee session, allowing for dynamic discussions and strategic planning based on the flow of deliberations. In addition, the bloc positions also remain flexible as the world remains fluid, if stringent change is undertaken the delegates need to have strong justifications behind the same.

In conclusion, we urge all delegates to engage actively in research, utilise credible sources, and prepare to contribute constructively to the committee's discussions. Your dedication and preparedness will be crucial in advancing substantive dialogue and formulating resolutions that address the pressing issues at hand.

Should you have any questions or require further guidance, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Executive Board. We look forward to productive deliberations and meaningful outcomes during the upcoming session.

Regards,
The Executive Board,
United Nations General Assembly.

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Introduction to the Committee

The General Assembly (GA) of the United Nations, founded in 1945 under the UN Charter, holds a crucial role as the foremost multilateral forum for deliberation and decision-making on global issues. Comprising all 193 Member States, the GA serves as a platform where nations come together to address a broad spectrum of challenges outlined in the UN Charter. These include peace and security, human rights, economic development, social progress, and international law. By convening annually from September to December for its main session and continuing with a resumed session from January to September as needed, the GA provides continuity in addressing ongoing global concerns.

During its sessions, the GA engages in comprehensive debates and adopts resolutions that shape international norms and actions. It makes recommendations to member states on matters within its mandate, such as promoting disarmament, advancing sustainable development goals, and addressing humanitarian crises. Notably, the GA's deliberations are guided by principles of equality and sovereignty, where each member state holds one vote, regardless of size or influence.

Efforts to revitalise the GA's effectiveness and relevance have been ongoing. This initiative was first prioritised during the 58th session and has since focused on enhancing the GA's operational efficiency. This includes refining its agenda, improving the working methods of its six Main Committees (such as the First Committee on Disarmament and the Sixth Committee on Legal Matters), and reinforcing the authority of the GA President. Moreover, the GA has established mechanisms like high-level thematic debates and interactive dialogues with Secretary-General candidates to foster transparency and inclusivity in its proceedings.

The GA also establishes subsidiary organs and regional groups to facilitate its work. These groups, including African States, Asia-Pacific States, Eastern European States, Latin American and Caribbean States, and Western European and other States, ensure regional representation and serve as forums for consultation and electoral purposes within the GA. Additionally, special and emergency special sessions can be convened outside the regular schedule to address urgent global issues, demonstrating the GA's flexibility and responsiveness to international crises.



Introduction to the Committee

In conclusion, the General Assembly stands as a cornerstone of global diplomacy, embodying the collective will and aspirations of the international community in addressing the world's most pressing challenges through dialogue, negotiation, and consensus-building. Its role remains pivotal in advancing the principles and goals of the United Nations while promoting cooperation and peace among nations worldwide.





Agendas

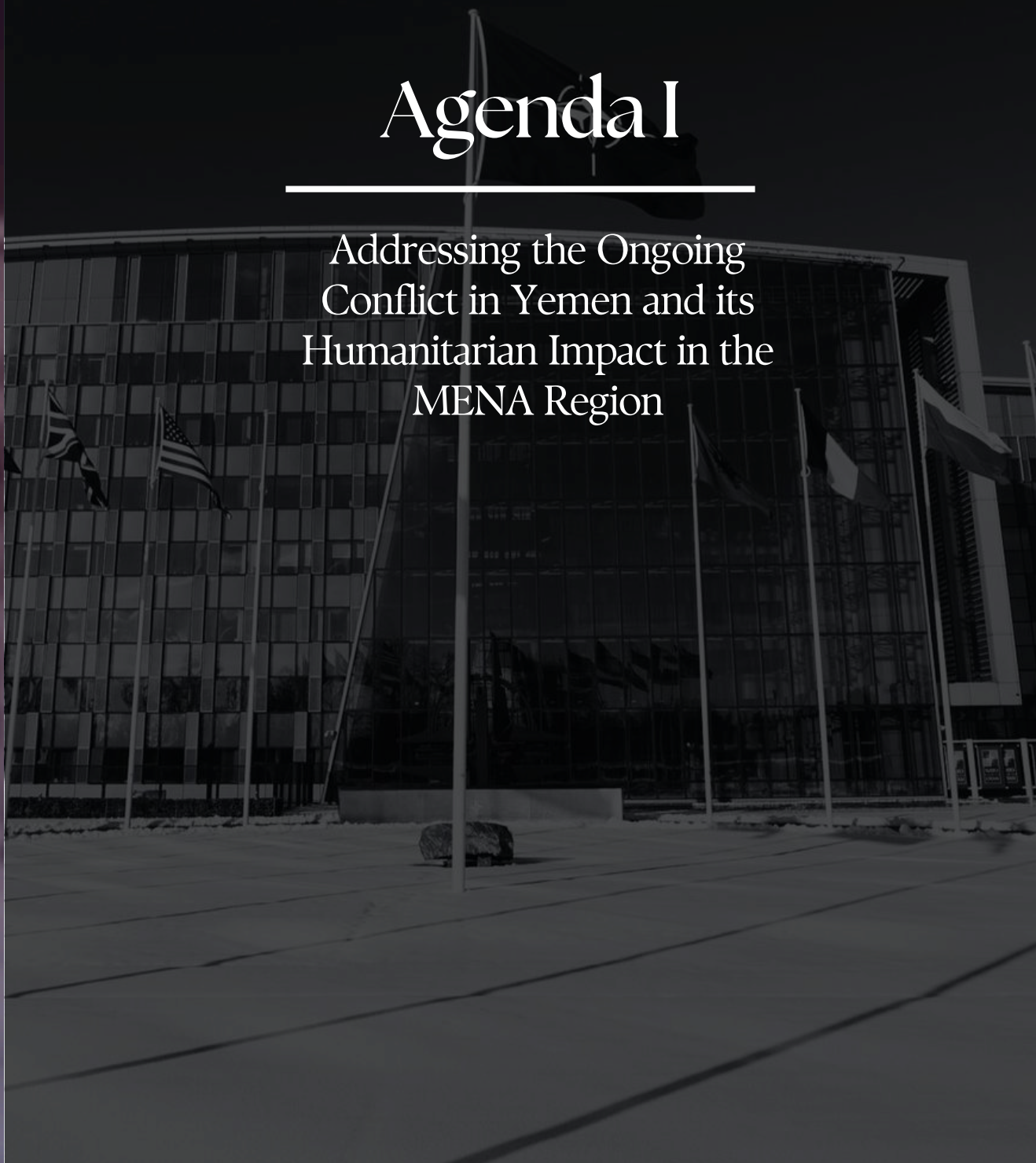
Addressing the Ongoing Conflict
in Yemen and its Humanitarian
Impact in the MENA Region

Addressing the question of
Equitable Representation of and
Increase in the Membership of the
Security Council



Agenda I

Addressing the Ongoing
Conflict in Yemen and its
Humanitarian Impact in the
MENA Region





Key Terms

1. Houthi Rebels:

A Shia-led rebel group from northern Yemen, officially known as Ansar Allah, has been fighting against the Yemeni government and coalition forces.

2. Saudi-led Coalition:

An alliance of Gulf Arab states led by Saudi Arabia, intervening in Yemen's conflict to support the internationally recognised government against the Houthi rebels.

3. Internationally Recognised Government of Yemen (IRGY):

The government led by President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi, recognised by the United Nations and supported by the Saudi-led coalition.

4. Southern Transitional Council (STC):

A separatist group based in southern Yemen, advocating for the re-establishment of an independent state in the south, often at odds with the IRGY.

5. Civil War:

The ongoing conflict in Yemen that began in 2014, involves multiple factions including the IRGY, Houthi rebels, and STC, with significant external intervention.

6. Humanitarian Crisis:

The severe and widespread human suffering in Yemen resulting from the conflict, including widespread famine, displacement, and lack of access to basic services.



Key Terms

7. Blockade:

Restrictions imposed by the Saudi-led coalition on Yemeni ports, aimed at preventing weapons from reaching the Houthis but also restricting vital supplies like food and medicine.

8. Proxy War:

A conflict where external powers support different factions, with Iran allegedly supporting the Houthis and the Saudi-led coalition backing the IRGY.

9. Ceasefire Agreement:

A temporary halt to hostilities agreed upon by conflicting parties, often brokered by international mediators, with varying degrees of success in Yemen.

10. Peace Process:

Ongoing efforts to negotiate a comprehensive and lasting resolution to the conflict, involving multiple rounds of talks and mediation by international actors.

11. Saudi-Houthi Talks:

Negotiations between Saudi Arabia and the Houthi rebels aimed at de-escalating the conflict and finding a political solution.

12. Humanitarian Aid:

Assistance provided by international organisations and countries to alleviate the suffering of Yemen's population, including food, medical supplies, and shelter.



Introduction to the Agenda

The ongoing conflict in Yemen, which began in 2014, has escalated into one of the most severe humanitarian crises in recent history. The conflict initially erupted between the Houthi rebels, who seized control of the capital, Sana'a, and the internationally recognised government of President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi. Over time, the conflict has drawn in various regional and international actors, further complicating the situation and intensifying the humanitarian toll on the Yemeni population. Yemen, already the poorest country in the Middle East, has been plunged into further chaos by this protracted conflict. The country faces widespread destruction of infrastructure, economic collapse, and severe shortages of food, clean water, and medical supplies. Millions of Yemenis are on the brink of famine, and diseases such as cholera have become rampant due to the collapse of the healthcare system.

The humanitarian impact extends beyond Yemen's borders, affecting the entire Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region. The displacement of millions of Yemenis has led to a refugee crisis, straining the resources of neighbouring countries. Furthermore, the instability in Yemen has had broader geopolitical implications, exacerbating tensions between regional powers and influencing security and economic conditions across the MENA region. The MENA region rich in resources has remained widely politically unstable and politically and socially conservative. The curse of oil continues in countries while some remain shackled with non-state actors and the remaining with ultra-conservative political authorities.

This study guide aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the conflict in Yemen, exploring its origins, key actors, and the complex dynamics that sustain it. Additionally, it will delve into the humanitarian consequences of the conflict, examining how it impacts not only Yemen but also the broader MENA region. By analysing the ongoing efforts for peace and reconstruction, this guide will highlight potential pathways to resolving one of the most pressing crises of our time.



History of the Agenda

Yemen conflict has its roots in the country's complex political landscape following unification in 1990. President Ali Abdullah Saleh's long rule was challenged by the Houthi movement, a Zaidi Shia group, leading to rebellions starting in 2004. The Arab Spring in 2011 forced Saleh to step down, with his deputy Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi taking over. However, political instability continued, and in 2014, the Houthis seized control of the capital Sanaa and much of northern Yemen. Hadi fled the country, prompting Saudi Arabia to form a coalition in March 2015 to intervene militarily against the Houthis, whom they saw as proxies for their regional rival, Iran.

The conflict escalated into a full-scale civil war, drawing in various international actors and exacerbating regional tensions. The war has created a severe humanitarian crisis, with widespread famine, disease outbreaks, and civilian casualties. Despite numerous attempts at ceasefires and peace talks, a lasting resolution has remained elusive. Recent developments include a shift in US policy under the Biden administration, progress in Saudi-Houthi negotiations, and a China-brokered détente between Saudi Arabia and Iran. However, the situation remains volatile, with Houthi attacks on shipping in the Red Sea complicating international involvement and peace efforts.

The conflict has also seen the involvement of other groups, including Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and the Southern Transitional Council (STC), further complicating the political and military landscape. As of early 2024, while there have been steps towards peace, a comprehensive resolution to the conflict remains to be achieved.

Brief timeline(1990 - 2024):

1990-2000

- Ali Abdullah Saleh rules unified Yemen, initially supporting the Houthis.

2004-2010

- Houthi rebellion against Saleh's government.

2011

- Arab Spring reaches Yemen, leading to Saleh's resignation.

2012-2014

- Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi becomes president; political transition attempts fail.

2014-2015

- Houthis take control of Sanaa and much of Yemen; Hadi flees.
- March 2015 - Saudi-led coalition begins military intervention.

2015-2019

- Ongoing conflict between Houthis, Saudi-led coalition, and various factions.

Brief timeline(1990 - 2024):

2019-2020

- UAE withdraws troops; power-sharing attempts between factions.

2021

- Biden administration changes US policy on Yemen; fighting intensifies around Marib

2022-2023

- UN-brokered ceasefires; Saudi-Iran détente; peace talks progress.

2023-2024

- Houthis attack shipping in Red Sea; international response and ongoing tensions.





UNGA Involvement

The discussion of the Yemeni conflict remains pivotal for the UNGA, as the conflict even in a subsidised form has a ripple effect in the entire MENA region. The UNGA being the democratic parliament of the world plays a wide and essential role in administering political and humanitarian stability in the region. The power of UNGA extends to both recommendation and administering actions when it comes to the issue at hand. The specific issue can be dealt with by the third committee of UNGA, which also needs the attention of the world hence calls for a deliberation in the annual summit.

The members have the privilege to take in extensive resolutions and solutions to the humanitarian and political situation in the MENA region, the delegates under the power of the UNGA further have powers to recommend policies to countries and other committees of the world government. The ambit and scope for the following agenda go hand in hand with all councils because of the multi-faceted problem at hand. The United Nations through its various organs specifically with the help of the UNGA and committees has tried to provide humanitarian aid, establish ceasefire agreements and restore political stability not just in Yemen but in the entire region.

The delegates need to enable an atmosphere which provides measures to prevent conflict, helping parties in conflict make peace, deploying peacekeepers, and creating the conditions to allow peace to hold and flourish. These activities often overlap and should reinforce one another, to be effective. The delegates also need to undertake and advise the secretary general on the way forward with **"OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ENVOY OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR YEMEN"**.



Current Situations

1. The Yemen War

Yemen is experiencing a severe and multifaceted crisis that encompasses political instability, humanitarian emergency, and developmental challenges. It has become the world's largest humanitarian crisis, with an overwhelming 80% of its population—24.1 million people—in need of humanitarian assistance and protection. The situation is particularly dire for over 14 million individuals who are in acute need, while more than 3 million have been forced to flee their homes since 2015. The country's public infrastructure has crumbled, leading to the breakdown of essential services such as healthcare, water, sanitation, and education. This collapse has only worsened an already precarious situation. Even before the current conflict, Yemen was the poorest country in the Arab region, struggling with weak human development indicators, high population growth, recurring local conflicts, chronic food insecurity, and political uncertainty. Economically, Yemen faces unprecedented challenges. The country has suffered a staggering loss of \$90 billion in economic output, and over 600,000 people have become unemployed. The depth of the crisis is further illustrated by the fact that 58% of Yemenis now live in extreme poverty.

The conflict in Yemen, now almost a decade old, involves multiple parties with distinct agendas, resulting in a highly complex situation. The primary combatants are the Iran-backed Houthi rebels, who have overthrown the Yemeni government, and a Saudi Arabia-led multinational coalition aiming to reinstate President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi's administration. The Houthis, officially known as Ansar Allah, originated in the late 1980s among the Zaydi Shiites in northern Yemen. Their rise to power was marked by capturing significant territories, including the capital, Sanaa, in late 2014, leading to Hadi's government fleeing to Saudi Arabia in 2015. Iran supports the Houthis militarily, although experts believe its influence may be limited compared to regional dynamics. Saudi Arabia's military intervention, launched in 2015, aimed to roll back the Houthi advance and restore Hadi's government. The coalition includes several Sunni-majority Arab states such as Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Qatar, Sudan, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE). The UAE has played a significant military role, particularly in Yemen's south, although it reduced its presence in 2019 after supporting the Southern Transitional Council (STC), a separatist group seeking greater autonomy for southern Yemen. This internal division among coalition partners has further complicated the conflict.



Current Situations

2. The Conflict and the MENA Region.

The effect of any war creates panic in the entire region due to the added humanitarian crisis, inflow and outflow of migrants and refugees, stoppage of trade due to barricades and sanctions, etc. The MENA region remains volatile due to stark differences in ideologies and the presence of non-state actors, amidst this civil war and the ideologically backed war only created the region hostile and economically deprived while the mass suffered due to war and famines. The part of the African region which already remains third world is further pushed in the global race to achieve sustainability and stability. The nature of the conflict concerning the various stakeholders involved is necessary to understand the impact of the conflict on the MENA region.

The conflict is complex, consisting of two interconnected wars: a civil war between the legitimate Yemeni government and Houthi insurgents supported by former President Ali Abdullah Saleh and a regional conflict involving Saudi Arabia backing the government and Iran supporting the insurgents. Despite earlier optimism about potential political agreements, progress has stalled. The conflict remains in a military stalemate, with the government and its allies controlling the south while the Houthi/Saleh forces dominate the north, including the capital, Sana'a.

The origins of the crisis can be traced back to the breakdown of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Transition Agreement of 2011. Despite initial progress, including the conclusion of the National Dialogue Conference in 2014, the Houthis and Saleh seized power in Sana'a, overthrowing President Abd Rabbo Mansour Hadi's government. This led to Saudi-led military intervention in 2015, aiming to restore the legitimate government, prevent a Houthi takeover, secure the Saudi-Yemeni border, and counter Iran's influence in the region. However, the Saudi-led coalition has struggled against the insurgency, facing challenges similar to those encountered by U.S. forces in asymmetric conflicts. The situation has benefited Iran, which has provided support to the Houthis at relatively low cost while the Saudis and their allies bear significant political and financial burdens. The conflict has also strained Saudi Arabia's relationships with key Western partners, particularly the United States and the United Kingdom.

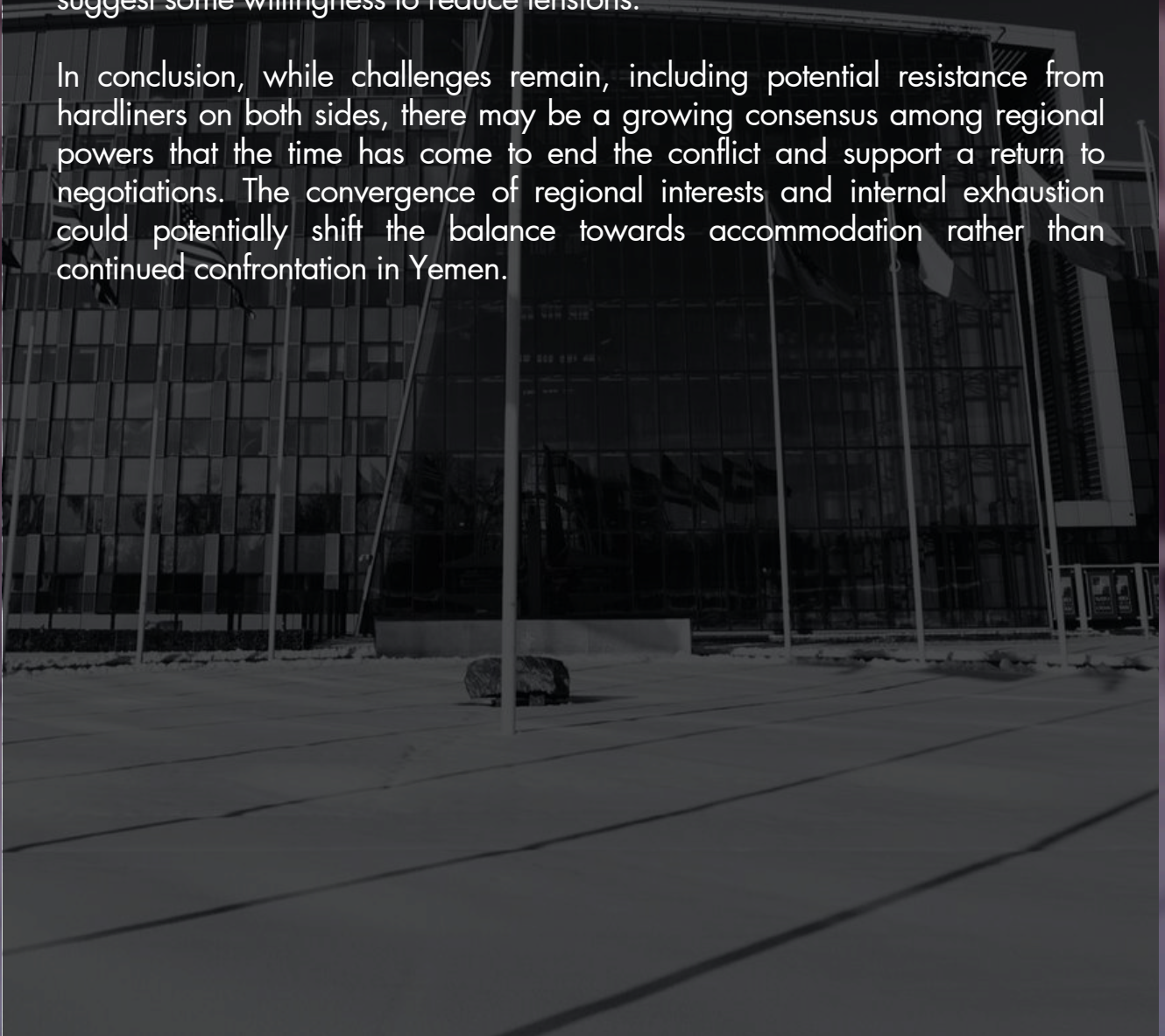


Current Situations

2. The Conflict and the MENA Region.

Resolving the conflict likely requires a political solution rather than a military one. The UN-led negotiations, managed by Special Envoy Ismail Ould Chaikh Ahmed, offer the best prospect for progress. However, regional dynamics, particularly between Saudi Arabia and Iran, significantly influence the conflict. Both countries have reasons to support an end to the fighting, and there are signs of potential de-escalation in their broader regional rivalry. For Saudi Arabia, securing its border and preventing a pro-Iran government in Yemen are key priorities. Iran, while benefiting from Saudi difficulties, may see assisting in ending the conflict as a potential bargaining chip in other regional matters. Recent diplomatic efforts, including outreach through Kuwait and Oman, and talks between Saudi Arabia and Iran over hajj arrangements, suggest some willingness to reduce tensions.

In conclusion, while challenges remain, including potential resistance from hardliners on both sides, there may be a growing consensus among regional powers that the time has come to end the conflict and support a return to negotiations. The convergence of regional interests and internal exhaustion could potentially shift the balance towards accommodation rather than continued confrontation in Yemen.





Bloc Positions

The bloc position helps us understand where the major interests of the stakeholders lie and what will be their foreign policy, the bloc position further clarifies the actions taken, objectives and aims of different parties. In the present conflict the sides can be understood as follows, on one side of the conflict lies the official government of Yemen supported by the coalition. The coalition is led by Saudi Arabia. It includes usual allies of the Saudi Arabian Kingdom - the UAE, Bahrain, Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Qatar (before the Qatari crisis in 2017), Sudan and Senegal. It is also majorly supported by the USA and the UK. The support is expressed in weapon sales, intelligence & training, as well as in the presence of military personnel on the ground in the case of the U.S.

The official government opposes the Houthis, who used to receive support, and in some sense leadership, from Saleh (the former president of Yemen) and his family. The Houthis are receiving direct support from Iran, and indirect support from Qatar and Hezbollah. The third side could be generalised as non-state actors, predominantly terroristic organisations - Al-Qaeda and ISIS.

Saudi Arabia Coalition

The Yemen-Saudi connection in the context of the ongoing conflict is multifaceted and deeply rooted in strategic interests. Saudi Arabia's prominent role as the leader of the coalition supporting Yemen's internationally recognised government is evident and easily demonstrable.

A key indicator of this relationship is the situation of President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi. Since the conflict's escalation, Hadi has been residing semi-permanently in Riyadh, the Saudi capital. Reports from Al Jazeera in 2017 suggested that his stay was akin to being "under house arrest," with multiple requests to return to Yemen initially denied. This arrangement underscores the extent of Saudi influence over Yemen's official leadership. Furthermore, Saudi Arabia's position at the helm of the military coalition intervening in Yemen is widely acknowledged. This leadership role appears to have the full backing of Yemen's internationally recognised government, indicating a strong alignment of interests between the two entities. The underlying motivation for Saudi Arabia's deep involvement in Yemen becomes clear when considering the country's strategic geography. Yemen boasts an expansive coastline of 1,906 kilometres (1,184 miles), which provides a critical link between the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean. This coastline represents one of the world's most strategically significant shipping routes. Saudi Arabia's actions suggest a strong desire to exert control over this vital maritime passage, even if such control is achieved indirectly through a government closely aligned with Saudi interests.



Bloc Positions

Saudi Arabia Coalition

This geopolitical strategy reveals the complexity of the Yemen conflict, where regional power dynamics and control over strategic assets play a crucial role alongside the internal struggle for political control. Saudi Arabia's approach demonstrates how larger regional powers can become deeply entangled in the affairs of neighbouring states when significant strategic interests are at stake.

Iran- Houthi

Iran denies any involvement with the Houthi rebels, but significant evidence challenges these denials. Reports suggest that Iran supports the Houthis through arms supply, financing, and providing intelligence. Sources indicate that Iran delivers supplies to Yemen either directly or via Somalia, circumventing coalition attempts to intercept shipments. The Houthis have been using missiles produced in Iran, not just purchased from there. This was confirmed by U.S. officials, including Nikki Haley, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, who stated that a July missile launch involved an Iranian Qiam-1, a liquid-fueled, short-range Scud missile variant.

USA and Saudi Arabia

Ties between the United States and Saudi Arabia have historically been very strong, with current leaders from both nations actively working to strengthen these connections. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is a frequent visitor to Trump's White House, and President Trump visited Saudi Arabia during the early months of his presidency. Their partnership extends beyond warfare and militarization to significant economic interests.

The United States also supports the Saudi-led coalition in various ways. This includes direct military intervention, as demonstrated by the early morning raid on January 29, 2017, when U.S. special forces targeted an Al-Qaeda outpost in southern Yemen. Although the operation was officially aimed at Al-Qaeda, local media reported that thirty civilians were killed. Additionally, the U.S. supplies weapons and provides training for the coalition, as highlighted by the use of an American-made bomb in an airstrike on a Yemeni wedding.



Bloc Positions

USA and Saudi Arabia

The hierarchy within this partnership requires further examination. While the notion of the U.S. being dominant over Saudi Arabia is partly speculative and neither side would confirm it, the U.S. currently holds the position of a hegemon. Saudi Arabia, though an important player, has yet to achieve the same status. The U.S. remains a larger and stronger military and economic power. Furthermore, the Crown Prince is likely to seek increased investment from the United States, given his political stance on progressing towards liberalisation.

Russia and Iran

The relationship between Russia and Iran has historically been characterised by strong ties, with both nations often viewed as "Imperialistic Outsiders" in opposition to NATO and Western interests. This alliance has been particularly evident in their shared challenges to US policies, including during the Trump administration. The importance of this relationship is underscored by statements from key figures on both sides. Irina Zvyagelskaya, a prominent Russian academic, emphasised Iran's significance to Russia not only in Syria but also in the Caucasus and Central Asia. Iran's Supreme Leader Khamenei expressed to Putin that their cooperation could isolate America, while Iranian-American analyst Ali Vaez highlighted Putin's commitment to not betraying Iran.

Russia's public support for the withdrawal, contrary to Iranian wishes, has the potential to strain relations between Moscow and Tehran. Interestingly, Iran has refrained from directly criticising Russia, instead attributing these developments to US and Israeli efforts to disrupt Iran-Syria ties. This reaction from Iran could be interpreted as an acknowledgement of a hierarchical relationship between Tehran and Moscow, where Iran is careful not to openly challenge Russian decisions.

The situation presents two possible interpretations of Russia's actions. One perspective suggests that Russia might be less willing to confront the USA over Yemen than initially thought, potentially invalidating earlier hypotheses about Russian intentions in the region. Alternatively, if the initial hypothesis about Russia's regional strategy remains valid, it could indicate that the hierarchical relationship between Russia and Iran is more pronounced than previously assumed, allowing Russia to act contrary to Iranian interests without significant repercussions.

This complex interplay of regional powers and their shifting allegiances highlights the intricate nature of Middle Eastern geopolitics. It demonstrates how external actors like Israel can influence seemingly stable alliances, and how countries like Russia navigate competing interests in the region. The situation remains fluid, with potential for further developments that could reshape the political landscape of the Middle East.

Bloc Positions

STC - YEMEN - UAE

The Southern Transitional Council (STC) is a prominent faction within Yemen's Southern Movement, which seeks separation from northern Yemen. Emerging from a history of conflict and grievances, the Southern Movement aims to restore the former state of South Yemen, which was unified with North Yemen in 1990. Initially a peaceful movement advocating for southern independence, the STC was established in 2017 and has since become a significant force, calling for the establishment of a sovereign independent federal state in southern Yemen. The internationally recognised government of Yemen (IRGY) rejects this proposal, leading to political and military clashes between the two entities. Despite their adversarial relationship, both the STC and IRGY are members of the Presidential Leadership Council (PLC) formed in April 2022, which suggests a pragmatic need for cooperation amid ongoing Saudi-Houthi talks. Historically, the STC has been supported by the UAE, contrasting with Saudi Arabia's backing of the IRGY, adding layers of complexity to the Yemeni conflict. While the STC continues to push for southern independence, it remains in the PLC to leverage political opportunities, aiming to secure its goals through potential future political processes. The STC's relationship with the IRGY and the broader political dynamics in Yemen reflect a fragile balance of power, driven by deep-seated historical tensions and current geopolitical interests.





Policy Framework and Actions

The United Nations has played a pivotal role and has delivered aid and assistance to the country and the neighbouring regions via its effective channels. Over 11 agencies remain operative in the country and the region assisting the stability process. The ceasefire agreement of 2022 was due to the back channel talks initiated by the United Nations. The countries over time have also negotiated amidst them via various agreements.

The UN resolutions which remain of pivotal importance stem from the Security Council and the recommendations mandated to the UNGA by UNHRC.

The essential document of the Stockholm Agreement of 2018, Following the Stockholm Agreement, reached in Sweden in December 2018, between the Government of Yemen and the Houthis under the auspices of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for Yemen, the Security Council in its resolution 2451 (2018) authorised the establishment and deployment, for an initial period of 30 days, of an advance team to begin monitoring and to support the immediate implementation of the ceasefire and redeployment of forces from the city of Hudaydah and the ports of Hudaydah, Salif and Ra's Isa. Furthermore, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2452(2019) authorising the establishment of a Special Political Mission, the United Nations Mission to support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA).

UNMHA brings together civilian, military and police personnel, to support the Yemeni parties in delivering their obligations under the Stockholm Agreement, in particular the Agreement on the City of Hudaydah and the Ports of Hudaydah, Salif and Ra's Isa (Hudaydah Agreement). Since its establishment, the Mission has focused on supporting the parties in the implementation of the Agreement and has aimed to establish an appropriate footprint in a highly challenging operational environment to ensure the discharge of its mandate.

The documents and paperwork concerning Yemen remain vast and can be found at the following [link](#). The delegates are advised to bring documents from all committees of the United Nations while discussing their implementation and practicality.

The ceasefire agreements and the harbouring of a stable government as discussed in the present scenario and background remain a part of the actions undertaken by the stakeholders. The onus is upon the delegates to present these past actions and their justifications to the committee while finding a plausible road ahead.

Points to be Discussed

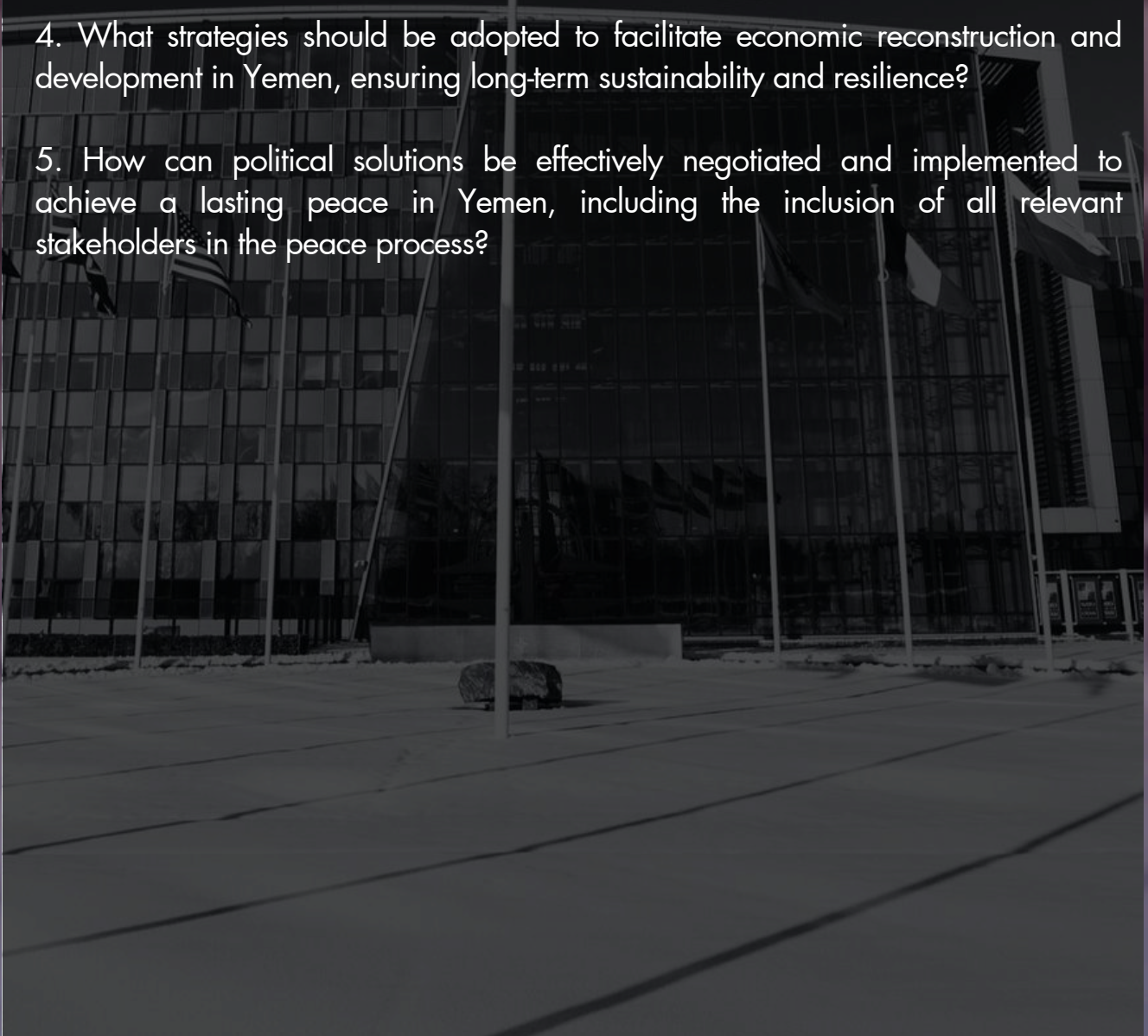
Kindly note that the following points are recommendatory, the delegates need to frame them in a motion and make them presentable. The delegates via their application of mind should alter, add or skip the following points seeing and observing their practical implications. The following points remain basic and should form the essence of the caucus taken up in the committee. They remain merely directional and should be undertaken only when the committee has broken down the agenda into subparts and has established the root causes of the issue at hand.

1. Impact on Regional Stability and Security
2. Political Solutions and Peace Negotiations
3. Humanitarian Aid Access and Distribution
4. Protection of Civilians and Human Rights
5. Economic Reconstruction and Development
6. Impact on Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)
7. Healthcare Crisis and Response
8. Education in Conflict Zones
9. International Diplomatic Efforts and Sanctions



QARMA (Questions A Resolution Must Answer)

1. How can the international community ensure the safe and efficient delivery of humanitarian aid to all affected regions in Yemen, despite ongoing conflict and blockades?
2. What measures can be implemented to protect civilians and uphold human rights in conflict zones, including accountability for violations?
3. In what ways can regional and international actors collaborate to stabilise Yemen and prevent the spillover of conflict into neighbouring countries?
4. What strategies should be adopted to facilitate economic reconstruction and development in Yemen, ensuring long-term sustainability and resilience?
5. How can political solutions be effectively negotiated and implemented to achieve a lasting peace in Yemen, including the inclusion of all relevant stakeholders in the peace process?





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Agenda II

Addressing the question of
Equitable Representation of and
Increase in the Membership of
the Security Council





Introduction to the Agenda

UNSC reform, or United Nations Security Council reform, refers to the ongoing discussions, proposals, and efforts aimed at restructuring and modernising the composition, working methods, and decision-making processes of the UN Security Council (UNSC).

Background of the UNSC

Current Structure

- **Permanent Members (P5):** China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. These members hold veto power.
- **Non-Permanent Members:** 10 members elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly, with geographical distribution as follows:
 - 5 from Africa and Asia
 - 1 from Eastern Europe
 - 2 from Latin America and the Caribbean
 - 2 from Western Europe and other regions
- **Formation:** Established in 1945 following World War II, the UNSC was designed to maintain international peace and security.

2. Need for Reform

Post-Cold War: Shift in global power dynamics with emerging powers like India, Brazil, Germany, and Japan (G4) advocating for permanent seats.

Regional Representation: Underrepresentation of Africa, Latin America, and Asia in the current structure.

Veto Power: The veto power of the P5 is seen as undemocratic and often leads to inaction on critical issues.

Representation: Lack of adequate representation for developing countries and regions like Africa and Latin America.



UNSC Reform

Need for Reform

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Arguments for and Against Reform

Arguments for Reform

- **Increased Representation:** Reform proponents argue that expanding UNSC membership would ensure that a broader range of perspectives and voices are heard in global security discussions.
- **Enhanced Legitimacy:** A more representative UNSC is seen as having greater legitimacy and credibility in addressing global security challenges.
- **Reflects Current Realities:** The world has changed significantly since the establishment of the UNSC, and reform is necessary to reflect contemporary geopolitical dynamics.

Arguments Against Reform

- **Dilution of Power:** Critics argue that adding new permanent members could dilute the influence and effectiveness of the UNSC, particularly if it leads to more frequent use of veto power.
- **Operational Efficiency:** Increasing the number of members might complicate decision-making and hinder the UNSC's ability to respond swiftly to crises.
- **Veto Complications:** Reform proposals involving changes to veto power are contentious, as P5 members are unlikely to agree to reforms that diminish their veto rights.



Current proposals for reform

1. G4 Proposal

The G4 nations (Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan) have been advocating for permanent seats on the UNSC:

- **Permanent Seats:** The G4 nations argue that their economic and political influence justifies their inclusion as permanent members of the UNSC.
- **Support for Africa:** Additionally, they propose adding two permanent seats for African countries to enhance representation from the continent.

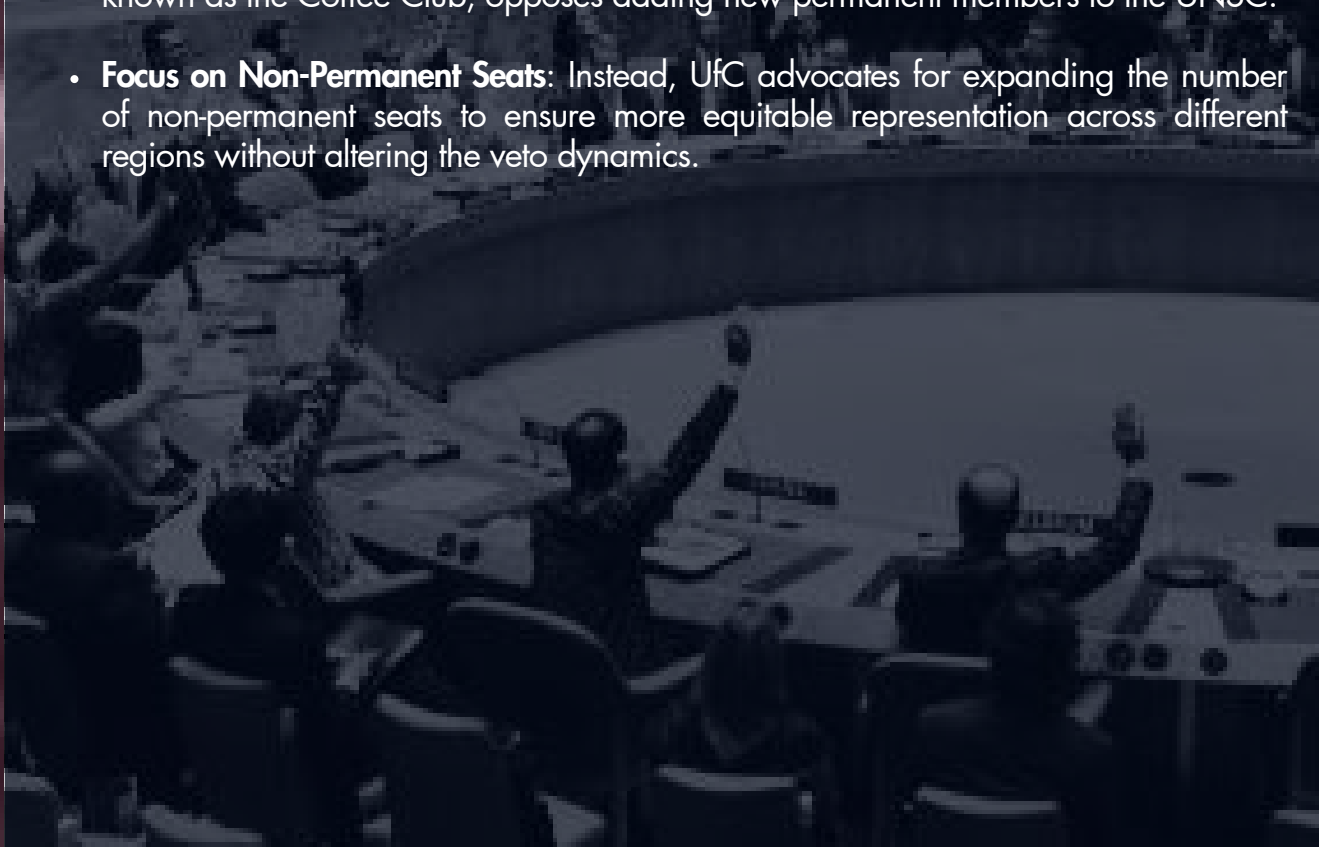
2. African Union Proposal (Ezulwini Consensus)

The African Union (AU) has put forward the Ezulwini Consensus, which calls for significant reforms in UNSC membership:

- **Permanent Seats with Veto:** The proposal seeks two permanent seats for African countries with full veto rights, along with five non-permanent seats. This reflects Africa's demand for greater representation and influence in global security matters.

3. Uniting for Consensus (UfC)

- **Opposition to New Permanent Seats:** The Uniting for Consensus (UfC) group, also known as the Coffee Club, opposes adding new permanent members to the UNSC.
- **Focus on Non-Permanent Seats:** Instead, UfC advocates for expanding the number of non-permanent seats to ensure more equitable representation across different regions without altering the veto dynamics.





Major Stakeholder

1. Permanent Members (P5)

The current permanent members of the UNSC, known as the P5 (China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States), play a crucial role in any reform discussions:

- **Mixed Reactions:** While some P5 members express openness to reform, they are generally reluctant to support changes that might dilute their influence or veto power.
- **Strategic Interests:** Each P5 member has its strategic interests and alliances that influence their stance on reform proposals.

2. G4 Nations

- **Motivations:** The G4 nations are motivated by their economic strength, global influence, and contributions to international peace and security.
- **Diplomatic Efforts:** They engage in diplomatic efforts to garner support from other member states, including both developed and developing countries.

3. African Union

- **Unity and Representation:** The African Union is unified in its demand for significant reform to rectify historical underrepresentation in the UNSC.
- **Negotiation Challenges:** Internal disagreements within the AU regarding which countries should represent Africa as permanent members pose challenges to presenting a united front in reform negotiations.

4. Uniting for Consensus (UfC)

- **Opposition to Permanent Seats:** UfC countries argue that adding more permanent members could complicate decision-making processes and exacerbate existing power imbalances.
- **Alternative Proposals:** They propose alternatives, such as increasing the number of non-permanent seats, to achieve more equitable representation without altering the current veto dynamics.



History of the Agenda

History of UNSC reform

The 1990s and 2000s

The first major attempt at UNSC reform was made in the early 1990s. In 1992, the General Assembly adopted Resolution 47/62, which called for a review of the UNSC's composition and membership. This resolution was seen as a significant step towards UNSC reform, as it acknowledged the need for a more representative and inclusive body.

In 1993, the Secretary-General presented a report to the General Assembly, which included comments from 75 Member States on the possible review of the UNSC's membership. The report highlighted the need for a more balanced and representative council, with a greater involvement of developing countries.

In 1998, the General Assembly adopted Resolution 53/30, which called for the expansion of the UNSC to include more permanent and non-permanent members. However, this resolution was not implemented due to the lack of consensus among Member States.

In the early 2000s, two groups emerged to push for UNSC reform: the G4 and the L69. The G4 consisted of Brazil, Germany, India, and Japan, which sought to become permanent members of the UNSC. The L69, on the other hand, was a group of developing countries that sought to increase their representation in the UNSC. The G4 and L69 groups presented several proposals for UNSC reform, including the creation of new categories of membership and the reform of the veto power. However, their efforts were met with resistance from the permanent members of the UNSC, who were reluctant to give up their veto power.

In 2002, the Secretary-General presented a report to the General Assembly, which outlined several options for UNSC reform. The report included proposals for the expansion of the UNSC, the creation of new categories of membership, and the reform of the veto power.



The Kofi Annan plan of 2005

The Kofi Annan Plan for the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) reform was a significant effort during Annan's tenure as UN Secretary-General (1997-2006) to make the UNSC more representative, efficient, and legitimate. The plan aimed to address the geopolitical realities of the 21st century and improve the effectiveness of the Council.

Kofi Annan's Role

- **Mandate for Reform:** As Secretary-General, Kofi Annan identified UNSC reform as a critical aspect of broader UN reform to address new global threats and challenges.
- **High-Level Panels:** Annan convened high-level panels to explore comprehensive reforms, including the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges, and Change in 2004.

Key Proposals

1. Expansion of Membership

- **Increase Permanent Members:** Add six new permanent members (without veto power initially). The suggested candidates were Germany, Japan, India, Brazil, and two African countries.
- **Increase Non-Permanent Members:** Add more non-permanent seats to ensure better geographical representation.

Models Proposed

- **Model A:** Six new permanent members and three new non-permanent members.
- **Model B:** No new permanent members but create a new category of eight four-year renewable-term seats and one additional non-permanent seat.

3. Limiting Veto Power

- Restrict the use of veto power, particularly in cases involving genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.

4. Geographical Representation

- Ensure that regions like Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean have greater representation and voice in the UNSC.

Implementation Strategy

"In Larger Freedom" Report (2005)

- Vision for Reform: Annan's report "In Larger Freedom: Towards Development, Security, and Human Rights for All" provided a comprehensive vision for UN reform, including specific proposals for the UNSC.
- Focus on Consensus: The report emphasised the need for broad consensus among member states to implement the reforms.

Support and Opposition

- Supporters: The G4 nations (Germany, Japan, India, Brazil) were strong proponents of gaining permanent seats.
- Opponents: The P5 were generally resistant to changes that would dilute their power. Additionally, regional rivals such as Pakistan (opposing India), Italy (opposing Germany), and other countries had their reservations.

Regional Proposals

- African Union (AU): Proposed two permanent seats for Africa with veto power, reflecting the continent's demand for greater representation.
- Uniting for Consensus (UfC): Advocated for more non-permanent seats rather than new permanent members, led by countries like Italy, Pakistan, and Mexico.

Reasons for Failure

1. Lack of Consensus

- No agreement on the specifics of the expansion and distribution of new seats.
- Deep divisions within regional groups and between different reform proposals.

2. Veto Power

- The reluctance of P5 members to support any reform that would dilute their veto power or overall influence.
- The complexity of altering the veto mechanism.

3. Geopolitical Rivalries

- Intense regional rivalries complicated efforts to achieve a balanced and acceptable reform package.
- Competing interests and strategic considerations among major powers.

4. Complexity and Scope

- Reform proposals required amending the UN Charter, which needed a two-thirds majority in the General Assembly and ratification by at least two-thirds of member states, including all P5 members.
- The complexity of achieving such a broad-based agreement proved insurmountable.

Amending the Charter

Process of Amending the UN charter

Amending the workings of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) involves changes to the procedures, rules, or functions of the Council. This can be done through amendments to the UN Charter or through procedural changes adopted by the Council itself. Here's a detailed description of the process:

Amendments to the UN Charter

Changes to the fundamental structure or functions of the UNSC typically require amendments to the UN Charter. This process is governed by Articles 108 and 109 of the Charter and involves the following steps:

Proposal of Amendments

- Any member state of the UN can propose an amendment.
- The proposal must be submitted to the Secretary-General.

General Assembly Approval

- The proposed amendment must be adopted by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting in the General Assembly.

Ratification by Member States

- After adoption by the General Assembly, the amendment must be ratified by two-thirds of the member states.
- Crucially, ratification must include all five permanent members of the Security Council (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States).

Entry into Force

- Once the required number of ratifications is obtained, including those of the permanent members, the amendment enters into force.
- The Secretary-General formally announces the entry into force.

Procedural Changes within the UNSC

Apart from formal amendments to the Charter, the UNSC can modify its procedures and working methods through internal decisions. These changes do not require amendments to the Charter and can be implemented more flexibly. Here's how this process typically works:

Proposing Procedural Changes

- Procedural changes can be proposed by any member of the Security Council.
- The proposal is discussed in consultations among Council members.

Adoption of Changes

- Procedural changes are usually adopted through a resolution or a presidential statement.
- Unlike substantive decisions, procedural matters require an affirmative vote of nine out of fifteen members, without the need for unanimity among the permanent members (i.e., no veto applies).

Implementation

- Once adopted, the new procedures or working methods are implemented by the UNSC.
- These changes are documented in the Council's working methods and can be reviewed or modified as necessary.

Examples of Amendments and Procedural Changes

Charter Amendments

- **1965:** The UN Charter was amended to expand the UNSC from 11 to 15 members (ten non-permanent members, up from six).
- **1971:** The representation of China changed from the Republic of China (Taiwan) to the People's Republic of China.



Procedural Changes

- The UNSC frequently updates its Provisional Rules of Procedure.
- The Council has adopted practices to enhance transparency, such as open debates and public briefings.
- Working methods have been refined to improve efficiency, such as the introduction of informal consultations and Arria-formula meetings.

Key Articles and Documents

- Articles 108 and 109 of the UN Charter: Govern the amendment process.

Article 108

"Amendments to the present Charter shall come into force for all Members of the United Nations when they have been adopted by a vote of two thirds of the members of the General Assembly and ratified in accordance with their respective constitutional processes by two thirds of the Members of the United Nations, including all the permanent members of the Security Council."

Article 109

"A General Conference of the Members of the United Nations for the purpose of reviewing the present Charter may be held at a date and place to be fixed by a two-thirds vote of the members of the General Assembly and by a vote of any nine members of the Security Council. Each Member of the United Nations shall have one vote in the conference."

Any alteration of the present Charter recommended by a two-thirds vote of the conference shall take effect when ratified in accordance with their respective constitutional processes by two thirds of the Members of the United Nations including all the permanent members of the Security Council.

If such a conference has not been held before the tenth annual session of the General Assembly following the coming into force of the present Charter, the proposal to call such a conference shall be placed on the agenda of that session of the General Assembly, and the conference shall be held if so decided by a majority vote of the members of the General Assembly and by a vote of any seven members of the Security Council."

Provisional Rules of Procedure of the UNSC: Regularly updated document outlining the Council's internal procedures.



The General Assembly & the Security Council

The relationship between the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is crucial for understanding global governance, decision-making processes, and international peace and security efforts within the UN framework. This study guide delves into the roles, interactions, dynamics, and sources that illustrate how these two principal organs of the UN collaborate and influence each other.

Roles and Functions

UN General Assembly (UNGA)

Representative Body: Composed of all 193 member states, each with equal voting rights.

1.Functions:

- **Deliberative Role:** Discusses and debates global issues affecting international peace and security.
- **Recommendatory Power:** Makes recommendations to other UN organs, including the UNSC, on matters within its purview.
- **Budgetary Authority:** Approves the UN budget and financial arrangements.

UN Security Council (UNSC)

1.Primary Responsibility: Maintaining international peace and security.

2.Functions:

- **Decision-Making:** Authorizes peacekeeping missions, imposes sanctions, and issues binding resolutions.
- **Enforcement Powers:** Can enforce decisions through measures outlined in Chapter VII of the UN Charter.



Interactions and Dynamics

UNGA's Relationship with UNSC

- **Deliberative Role:** UNGA discusses international peace and security issues, and its resolutions can influence UNSC decisions.
- **Recommendations:** The UNGA can make recommendations to the UNSC on matters related to peace and security, although UNSC resolutions are binding.
- **Budgetary Control:** UNGA approves the budget for peacekeeping operations authorized by the UNSC.

UNSC's Engagement with UNGA

- **Reporting:** UNSC provides regular reports to UNGA on its activities and decisions.
- **Consultations:** UNSC may seek UNGA's input or support for specific initiatives, especially those requiring broad international consensus.
- **Coordination:** Cooperation on peacekeeping and humanitarian operations where UNGA can provide political and financial support.

Sources of Authority and Influence

UNGA's Authority

Broad Representation: Reflects the collective voice and consensus of all UN member states.

Soft Power: UNGA resolutions and recommendations carry moral and political weight, influencing global public opinion.

UNSC's Authority

- **Binding Decisions:** UNSC resolutions are legally binding and carry enforcement measures under international law.
- **Peace and Security Mandate:** Has primary responsibility for maintaining global peace and security, with authority to take swift and decisive action.



Process of UNSC reform

UNGA's Role in UNSC Reform

- **Deliberative Platform:** UNGA serves as a forum where all 193 member states can discuss and debate proposals for UNSC reform. This includes discussions on expanding membership, altering veto powers, and improving representativeness.
- **Resolution Proposals:** UNGA can initiate resolutions calling for UNSC reform, although these resolutions are not binding on the UNSC itself. They serve more as a reflection of global consensus and pressure for change.
- **Advocacy for Reform:** UNGA resolutions and discussions often highlight issues of representation and effectiveness within the UNSC, advocating for changes that reflect contemporary global realities.

UNSC's Response and Engagement

- **Consideration of Proposals:** The UNSC considers proposals for its reform, including those put forward by the UNGA. This involves internal discussions among the P5 (permanent members) and other stakeholders.
- **Decision-Making Authority:** Ultimately, any substantive changes to the composition or working methods of the UNSC require approval from the UNSC itself and, crucially, from the P5 members who hold veto power.
- **Consultative Processes:** While the UNSC is not bound by UNGA resolutions, it may engage with UNGA discussions and take into account global sentiment when considering reforms.

Dynamics and Challenges

- **Veto Power:** Reform proposals often focus on limiting or altering the veto power of the P5 members, which is a significant barrier to achieving consensus within both the UNGA and UNSC.
- **Geopolitical Considerations:** The geopolitical interests of the P5 members often influence their positions on reform. They may be hesitant to support changes that could diminish their influence or alter the status quo.
- **Consensus Building:** Achieving consensus among all member states, particularly the P5, is challenging due to divergent national interests and historical grievances.



QARMA (Questions A Resolution Must Answer)

- What kind of procedural and other, non-membership reforms to the Security Council would your country support to create a more effective SC?
- What types of reform are likely to be supported by the P-5 and by 2/3 of General Assembly members?



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