



ACADEMY MODEL UNITED NATIONS
THE NINETEENTH SESSION

United Nations Security Council

Topic Bulletin

Academy Model United Nations

February 1 - February 2, 2018

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the UN Security Council! My name is Ryan Leung and I will be one of your chairs at AMUN 2018. I am a junior in the Academy of Business and Finance at Bergen County Academies and have participated in Model UN since the beginning of my freshman year. MUN is one of my favorite activities because I think that it is so important to be aware of global issues and to come up with potential solutions for them. Some of my other interests include soccer, distance-running, and politics. I look forward to meeting all of you in committee! Don't forget to have fun!

Sincerely,

Ryan Leung, Chair, UN Security Council

ryaleu19@bergen.org

Dear Delegates,

My name is Edward Li, and I'll be another one of your chairs in the UN Security Council at AMUN 2018! I'm a junior in the Academy for the Advancement of Science and Technology here at BCA. I've been doing MUN for 3 years, and I've actually competed in AMUN during years past. I think MUN is great not only because of the new ideas and problems that you deal with, but also the people that you meet and the new experiences that you have. When I'm not doing MUN, I participate in FRC, a robotics competition, do some bio research, and enjoy making stuff.

Looking forward to seeing you all in committee soon! As our school says, "Embrace the Journey"!

Sincerely,

Edward Li, Chair, UN Security Council

edwli19@bergen.org

SECRETARIAT

Christian Rodríguez
Secretary General

Grace Huang
Chargé d' Affairs

Simas Chacar-Palubinskas
Director of Operations

Alex Blumenfeld
Emily Mayo
Directors of External Relations

Lucy Choi
Director of Internal Relations

Lily Ge
Director of Business

Franchesca Inay
Director of Administration

June Hong
Moritz Reichert
Directors of Crisis

FACULTY ADVISORS

Andrea Buccino
Mark Kramer



TOPIC A: STABILITY IN THE NORTHERN TRIANGLE

Overview

The United Nations Security Council was established in 1945 with the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. There are 15 members, each of whom has one vote. Five nations are permanent members of the Security Council: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Permanent members all have veto power on any Security Council resolutions. The other 10 non-permanent members serve two-year terms and are elected on a regional basis.

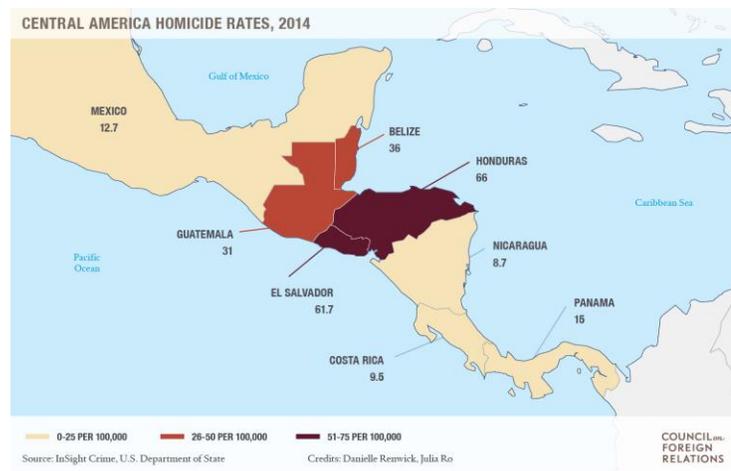
The Security Council urges parties to settle disputes through peaceful means and can recommend terms of settlement. It also has the option of impose sanctions or authorizing the use of force to maintain or restore peace and security. Since its creation, the Security Council has played a significant role in several major global conflicts and peacekeeping missions. It has intervened in the Congo Crisis and Korean War. The actions of the Security Council are aimed towards achieving its goal of preserving and promoting world peace and security.

Topic History

The Northern Triangle is composed of three countries: El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. Originally, the name was created for commercial purposes, not for many of the violence issues we see today. The Northern Triangle was officially recognized on May 12, 1992 after the signing of the Declaration of Tuxtla Gutiérrez in 1991. This declaration paved the way for a framework between Central American countries, specifically those in the Northern Triangle, and Mexico. In 1996, a second summit was held in San José to reaffirm the commitment of countries towards the creation of a free trade zone and bilateral free trade negotiations. Finally, the Northern Triangle gained much of its popularity after the Mexico-Northern Triangle Free Trade Agreement, in 2000 and began enforcement in 2001, between March and June.

The situation remained relatively static until May 2011, when dozens of gunmen murdered and decapitated 27 people in Guatemala's Petén region. This act of violence was blamed on the Zetas, a Mexican drug trafficking cartel that started to become increasingly active in Guatemala and other parts of the

Northern Triangle. This massacre was indicative of a problem growing in the Northern Triangle, the vulnerability of the civilian population in an area where drug and human trafficking are extremely



common, forcing the Guatemalan government to declare a state of siege.

Statistics in the Northern Triangle do not look good either. In mid-2010, it was reported that the Northern Triangle had the highest rates of youth violence in the world, where homicides are double that of Africa and 36 times that of developed countries. The Northern Triangle cumulatively had 15,328 homicides in just 2013. Spain, with a similar population, only reported 336 homicides in one year. This absurd proportion of homicides in the Northern Triangle has prompted a wave of asylum seekers and undocumented immigrants, particularly unaccompanied teens and children, to surrounding countries like the United States.

Incidents such as these began to demonstrate the serious threat that organized crime began to play in multiple factors of Northern Triangle life, including democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, inspiring the international community to focus on the Northern Triangle more than it had ever before.

Some efforts have already been made on addressing the problem in the Northern Triangle. Northern Triangle government initially attempted to counteract the problem through a series of “heavy hand” policies that enacted harsher punishments for gang members, but were ineffective. Already overcrowded prisons began to be stressed, and gang membership was actually able to increase through recruitment in prisons. Some success was found in 2012, when Salvadoran President Mauricio Funes helped broker a truce between MS-13 and M-18, causing homicides to fall by more than 40% that year alone.

In the summer of 2014, Barack Obama met with the presidents of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras to discuss and identify potential paths to

proceed on in this situation, particularly regarding the influx of unaccompanied children. Through this meeting, the “Plan of the Alliance for Prosperity in the Northern Triangle” in cooperation with the Inter American Development Bank (IDB) was launched. This plan aimed to channel resources to create conditions favorable to development in Central America through four methods: stimulating the productive sector for economic opportunities, investments in human capital, improving legal access, and strengthening public trust. The plan called for countries to promote projects that focus particularly on territories where major migration flows were identified. In addition, the Obama administration has requested \$1B from Congress for 2016 to focus on security, governance, and economic development in the Northern Triangle through the U.S. Strategy for Engagement in Central America. However, with the introduction of the Trump Administration and through 2017, US aid for Central America has been reduced by \$95 million.

Current Situation

The current situation in the Northern Triangle appears bleak. The violence continues to be drawn out due to multiple reasons. First, governmental institutions remain corrupt, weak, and underfunded. All three countries in the Northern Triangle are ranked extremely low on Transparency International’s corruption perception index. Any attempt made to address gang violence and extortion has been rendered ineffective by the lack of institutional power.

Additionally, tax revenues per GDP are among the lowest in the Northern Triangle when compared to the rest of Latin America, further straining public

services and widening the wealth gap. This strain is not helpful, especially after a 2009 coup in Honduras that ousted President Manuel Zelaya, further destabilizing the region.

Consequently, up to 95% of crimes go unpunished in some areas, decreasing public trust in police and other security forces. In fact, the police were even accused of widespread human rights abuses during El Salvador and Guatemala's civil wars. Current efforts to reform and professionalize police forces were termed incomplete by the Wilson Center's Latin America program, concluding that outside help was needed in the situation.

The impact of violence in the Northern Triangle has resulted in continuous outflows of people. Over the course of the conflict, the US and Mexico have apprehended more than one million Northern Triangle migrants, containing many unaccompanied children or teens. Other Central American countries such as Belize, Nicaragua, and Panama have also reported steep increases in asylum seekers from the Northern Triangle.

Finally, Northern Triangle gang violence is also beginning to spread to the US and Mexico. The US Treasury estimates that 8,000 MS-13 gang members are present in the United States. Mexico's government has voiced concerns on growing connections between Mexican and Central American criminal groups, with up to 70 Central American organized crime rings operating in Mexico.

Possible Solutions

Any solution aiming to bring back stability to the Northern Triangle must address all features of the problem at hand, from the source of the violence to the

reaction to the violence. In addition, solutions must take into account the shortcomings of previous attempted solutions to this problem, including the lack of enforceability of previous treaties.

Primarily, a solution must deal with multiple causes of organized violence in the Northern Triangle, stemming from the growth of gangs, the use of the Northern Triangle as a shipment point for narcotics on their way to the US, and the lack of punishment and consequences to negative actions must be addressed. Solutions must tackle problems central to the formation and sustainability of gangs, drug trafficking routes, and enforceability and existence of laws.

Such a solution cannot exist without addressing the rampant corruption in Northern Triangle countries. First, the funding of governmental institutions must be tackled to ensure that police forces and other governmental services are able to run and gain back the public trust. In addition, delegates should consider solutions that contain some type of outside assistance in the Northern Triangle area, as a solution has been proven unlikely to reach with only Northern Triangle countries involved. However, outside assistance should not only be limited to unilateral funding of the Northern Triangle.

Finally, the people of the Northern Triangle must also be kept safe through means such as a security force. However, considerations must be made in order to ensure that security forces are trusted by the public as well as reputable.

Bloc Positions

Many of the countries in the Americas, particularly the US, Mexico, and other Central American countries, have been receiving an influx of asylum seekers. It is in their interest to keep the number of asylum seekers at bay.

Generally, European countries are also supportive of humanitarian aid to Northern Triangle nations, although they have little influx of refugees.

Finally, Northern Triangle nations must be willing to show political will towards solving the problems of violence and crime.

Questions to Consider

- How will refugees and asylum seekers be taken care of while stability is reached?
- How will corruption be curtailed in Northern Triangle countries?
- What role can your country play/want to play in this conflict?
- How can human and narcotics trafficking be addressed?
- How can the citizens of of the Northern Triangle be protected throughout this conflict?
- What policies does your country have regarding asylum seekers from the Northern Triangle?
- How can both the private and the public sector be leveraged throughout the conflict, especially at the local level?

References

1. <http://www.un.org/en/sc/>
2. <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/foreign-policy/225443-pursuing-prosperity-and-stability-in-the-northern-triangle>
3. <https://www.cfr.org/background/central-americas-violent-northern-triangle>
4. <http://www.insightcrime.org/news-analysis/the-northern-triangle-the-countries-that-dont-cry-for-their-dead>

5. http://www.sice.oas.org/TPD/Mex_Norte/MEX_Norte_e.asp
6. <https://www.wilsoncenter.org/sites/default/files/Organized%20Crime%20in%20Central%20America%20The%20Northern%20Triangle%2C%20Report%20on%20the%20Americas%20%2329%20DRAFT.PDF>

TOPIC B: NORTH KOREA AND NUCLEAR NON- PROLIFERATION

Topic History

Nuclear weapons were first introduced at the end of World War II by the United States. The two atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were the first and only nuclear weapons to be used to date. However those events facilitated the process of nuclear proliferation, or the spread of nuclear weapons. Throughout the decades following World War II, several countries attempted to arm themselves with nuclear missiles.

During the Cold War, both the United States and the USSR stockpiled nuclear weapons. Both nations feared one another, leading to an intense arms race. The United States employed a strategy called “nuclear deterrence”, which is the policy of trying to prevent an attack by a nuclear weapon from another country by threatening nuclear retaliation. Nuclear deterrence is one of the main reasons why there has not been a nuclear attack since 1945.

Numerous countries possess nuclear weapons as a result of political tension. For example, Pakistan acquired nuclear weapons in the late 1990’s to achieve parity with its rival, India. Ever since, Pakistan has used its nuclear weapons as a safeguard against its more economically and militarily inclined neighbor. Other countries that have nuclear weapons include France, Great Britain, Russia, China, and North Korea.

Many non-proliferation efforts have been made in the past by the United States Government as well as international bodies like the United Nations. In

1946, the Truman administration proposed the Baruch Plan, which proposed the verifiable dismantlement and destruction of the U.S. nuclear arsenal. There were two conditions to the Baruch Plan: (1) the establishment of an "international atomic development authority," which would actually own and control all military-applicable nuclear materials and activities, and (2) the creation of a system of automatic sanctions, which not even the U.N. Security Council could veto, and which would proportionately punish states attempting to acquire the capability to make nuclear weapons. The Baruch Plan failed to be implemented on an international level because the Soviet Union planned to veto it in the Security Council. The UN founded the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in 1957 to promote the peaceful use of nuclear technology. The IAEA now operates a safeguards system as specified under Article III of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) of 1968. The NPT aims to ensure that civil stocks of uranium, plutonium, as well as facilities and technologies associated with these nuclear materials, are used only for peaceful purposes and do not contribute in any way to proliferation or nuclear weapons programs.

Since its establishment after World War II, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), or North Korea, has been under the rule of the Kim dynasty. Kim Il-sung was the first supreme leader of the North Korea, followed by his son Kim Jong-il, and his grandson Kim Jong-un. For nearly all of its history, North Korea has isolated itself from the rest of the world. Its citizens have not been able to leave the country, while much of the population suffers from malnourishment and poor living conditions. The Kim family has remained in power for multiple decades by resorting to whatever means necessary. North Korea has

become known for its prison camps that hold political prisoners as well as its outrageous propaganda glorifying its supreme leader.

North Korea has not been a party of the NPT since 2003. The nation began conducting nuclear tests in 2006 and have since come under harsh international sanctions. North Korea has made significant progress in its nuclear program over the last decade, most notably within the last year.

Current Situation

Kim Jong-un and his regime constantly claim that they have successfully developed a variety of weapons of mass destruction. In 2015, Kim Jong-un suggested that the country had the ability to launch a hydrogen bomb. Many nations met this statement with doubt and skepticism. However when seismic activity was detected in North Korea in January of 2016, the country claimed to have tested another hydrogen bomb. These claims have yet to be proven, however they reveal the potential threat North Korea poses. The North Korean government also has released videos of Kim Jong-un visiting missile factories and testing sites.

In September of last year, the nation claimed that it had been able to mount a nuclear warhead onto one of its missiles, which could potentially make them significantly more dangerous. In response, China announced that it would suspending imports of coal from North Korea. This was aimed at stopping the country's nuclear weapons and ballistic-missile program. In April of this year, President Trump of the United States threatened that North Korea "will be met with fire and fury like the world has never seen". This statement further increased

tensions between North Korea and the United States and its allies. North Korea's current military strength and weapons arsenal is well within range of South Korea, China, and Japan. Several of their missiles can also reach US territories like Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands. This has made the region very tense over the last few years and has caused major concern.

Later that month, Kim Jong-un held a military parade in his grandfather's honor. The parade showcased two new intercontinental ballistic missile-sized canisters as well as submarine-launched ballistic missiles and a land-based version of the same. The biggest development came on July 4th when North Korea launched the Hwasong-14 missile into the Sea of Japan. The Hwasong-14 was an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). ICBMs have much longer range than traditional missiles, which poses a major threat to the United States. Experts estimate that within a year, North Korea will have a reliable ICBM that can reach the United States mainland.

Possible Solutions

Member states of the United Nations are currently in a very difficult and delicate situation. There are many theories as to how to deal with North Korea's nuclear program, but each has its own drawbacks.

An invasion of North Korea would likely put an end to the Kim regime, but at a significant cost. Before the regime falls, it would have enough time to launch missiles and other weapons at South Korea and Japan. Millions of lives on both sides could be lost in the process.

The most common response to this situation has been to increase sanctions on North Korea. The idea is to cut off North Korea's economy from the rest of the world so that it would suffer in isolation. Kim Jong-un, however, would have enough resources to keep himself and his political allies well-off while the rest of the people suffer. He will essentially hold his nation's population hostage. If the situation gets too dire and people start to revolt, he can always fall back on the nuclear weapons.

Bombarding North Korea with nuclear weapons is another idea, however this would start an all-out nuclear war. Again, millions of lives would be lost, many of which might be American lives.

Many have suggested that the world just waits the situation out. In the meantime, however, North Korea will stockpile more weapons and the problem will only get worse if it comes to conflict later on. North Koreans will also continue to suffer from starvation and disease if no action is taken.

Bloc Positions

The United States and its allies (Japan, South Korea, and others) are all extremely concerned about the most recent developments regarding North Korea's nuclear program. Their ideal solution is one that is peaceful and maintains stability in the region.

China has been political allies with North Korea for a long time. It also does not want violence and is feeling international pressure to take a leading role in this issue. However, the Chinese government has been a little reluctant at times to be as harsh as possible on North Korea.

Nearly all other nations in the world have some sort of stake in this issue. Not only is the UNSC dealing with North Korea, but also with nuclear non-proliferation as a whole. What happens with North Korea will set a precedent for the rest of the world.

Questions to Consider

- To what extent does North Korea's nuclear weapons present a threat to your nation?
- Does your nation support nuclear non-proliferation?
- What is the desired outcome of the North Korea situation for your nation?
- What type of solution (forceful, peaceful, or otherwise) do you think is most beneficial for your nation and for the world?
- How can the United Nations regulate nuclear weapons now as well as in the future?

References

1. <http://www.nti.org/learn/countries/pakistan/nuclear/>
2. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-11813699>
3. <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt/>
4. <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/us-test-icbm-tensions-rise-north-korea-n788481>
5. <http://www.cnn.com/2017/08/08/politics/north-korea-missile-ready-nuclear-weapons/index.html>
6. <http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/the-united-states-presents-the-baruch-plan>
7. <http://www.history.com/news/what-you-need-to-know-about-north-korea>
8. <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/china-north-korea-relationship>