



TQO The Reform of The UN Security Council

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six organs of the United Nations. It is a body made up of 15 member states, whose main goals are to:

“Maintain international peace and security; to develop friendly relations among nations; to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights; and to be a centre for harmonising the actions of nations.”

The UNSC have the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. When an issue is presented to the Council, their first course of action is usually to encourage dialogue or peace talks between the parties involved, to solve the matter using the most peaceful means possible. However, the SC can go as far as to impose sanction, conduct peacekeeping operations or authorise the use force if needs be, in order to maintain peace.

You can read more about the functions of SC here:

<https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/functions-and-powers>

The fifteen members of the Council consist of 5 permanent members and 10 voted members. The five permanent members are also known as the “Permanent Five” or “P5”, and include:

- The United Kingdom
- The United States of America
- China
- France
- The Russian Federation

The other 10 members are elected to the council for two-year terms. Each member of the SC has one vote. However, the P5 also have the Veto Power. Being key figures in the establishment of the United Nations, it was agreed that if one of the P5 cast a negative vote in the Security Council, the decision or resolution would not be approved. The P5 must be in absolute agreement in

order to approve a decision. The Veto Power does not apply in any other body or committee.

However, there have been concerns from UN member nations regarding the efficacy of the SC as an international beacon of peace and global security.

Many nations believe that UNSC membership is too restricted, and does not allow for the equal representation of member states. Due to the unique nature of the Council, many argue that the UNSC does not operate as efficiently as it should, due to issues such as disagreements between member nations of the SC, the underrepresentation of less developed countries, or the permanency of a select number of states.

In the past, multiple UN member nations have proposed solutions. An example of this is the G4 Proposal, which suggests the expansion of the UNSC and the addition of new permanent member states. You can read more about the G4 Proposal here:

<https://www.un.org/en/ga/screform/78/pdf/2023-12-29-cochairs-letter-g4-model.pdf>

<https://www.un.org/en/ga/screform/>

A resolution on this topic should take a realistic approach, taking in to account the interests of your delegation both directly and on a larger scale. Keep in mind that if you are not a P5 nation, your aim will be to convince the P5 to vote in favour of your resolution!

TQO The Situation in the Central African Republic

For over a decade, the Central African Republic (CAR) has been caught in a cycle of instability. The conflict emerged in 2013 between the majority Muslim Séléka rebel group and the Christian dominated Anti-Balaka, when the Séléka seized

power of the capital, Bangui forcing the then President to flee. A transitional government was put in place, and the Séléka formally disbanded.

However, the country has been in a state of civil war and violence since, mainly between ex-Séléka factions and the Anti-Balaka groups. There have been devastating effects on the population of the Central African Republic and the surrounding countries. Armed groups in the CAR frequently engage in cross border conflict, and arms trafficking or smuggling, which destroys efforts to contain the violence.

As a result of the constant conflict, there is a rampant humanitarian crisis in the CAR due to disrupted agriculture and industry, and state corruption contributes to difficulty in accessing basic humanitarian needs such as clean water and healthcare. The humanitarian crisis combined with conflict has caused many to flee to surrounding countries, putting pressure on regional security and scarce resources.

Since 2014, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the CAR (MINUSCA) has had a presence in the country in an effort to provide security and maintain stability. The country is currently in control of various armed groups, who continue to clash over territorial control. Civilians often face violence or threat of violence, and unfortunately, the forced recruitment of children is not uncommon. There have been questions on MINUSCA's capacity to function, due to its limited resources. In addition, the government has been unable to maintain control of the country, due to various factors such as corruption and lack of infrastructure.

The ongoing conflict in the Central African Republic was rated one of the worlds most neglected conflicts, and it is given little media coverage and attention. Restricted access to conflict zones, attacks on aid workers, and ongoing insecurity make it difficult for organisations to operate safely and effectively. Yet the situation is dire, and the UNSC must make efforts to ease the humanitarian crisis, as well as facilitate a long lasting peace agreement.

<https://www.nrc.no/perspectives/2024/whats-happening-in-the-central-african-republic>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/06/1151566>