

United Nations Security Council

Welcome

Dear Delegates,

I am Briana McGeough, your chairperson for Security Council, and I enthusiastically welcome you to BUSUN 2010. I am a junior at Brown University and an Iowa native. This is my third year working with BUSUN and my sixth year participating in Model United Nations. I am very excited for this year's conference!

I am a Sociology concentrator and have gotten involved in a long-term research project in the Sociology Department. In addition to working with BUSUN, I am very involved with Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) issues on campus and have facilitated a number of support and discussion groups on these topics. I also work with an organization called SAPE (Sexual Assault Peer Education) which is dedicated to reducing sexual assault by promoting proactive intervention strategies.

I am also a peer advisor for first year students and very much enjoy answering questions about transitioning to college and the college experience. If you have any questions about Brown or college in general, feel free to ask! I look forward to a terrific committee session and a wonderful BUSUN 2010!

Cheers,
Briana McGeough
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Committee History

The Security Council is one of the core organizations of the United Nations, which was founded in 1945, after World War II. Unlike the General Assembly, which includes all members

of the United Nations, the Security Council consists of a select 15 powers. These include five permanent members with veto power (the United States, Russia, China, the United Kingdom and France), as well as ten non-permanent members elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms. The current non-permanent powers on the Security Council are Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Gabon, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico, Nigeria, Turkey and Uganda.

The UN Charter charges the Security Council with maintaining international peace and security. It has several avenues of power that it can use to fulfill this mission. When a dispute arises, the Security Council may recommend negotiations for the parties to peacefully reach an agreement and may set out principles for a peaceful settlement. It can also engage in investigation and mediation in a conflict, appointing representatives to fulfill these duties or asking the Secretary General to act as a representative.

If a dispute escalates violently, the Security Council may issue cease-fire directives or deploy peacekeeping forces in the region. As stipulated in Article VII of the UN Charter, once the SC has determined the existence of a threat, actions that it orders are binding on the UN General Assembly. The SC may also recommend the suspension of rights or the expulsion of a member of the United Nations by the General Assembly.

Topic 1: Rebel Groups in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Background

Belgium had established its interests in the Congo region by the mid 19th century and King Leopold's claim to the region was officially

recognized by other European powers in the 1880s. Belgium maintained control of the area until the mid 20th century when nationalist riots loosened its grip on the region. In 1960, the future Democratic of the Congo (DRC) became independent from Belgium and was known as Zaire (so named by President Mobutu) until 1997 when it officially became the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Zaire, under Mobutu, was rife with human rights abuses.

The conflict in Rwanda in the 1990s deeply affected the DRC and eventually resulted in an invasion of Zaire by Tutsi-led Rwandan-Ugandan forces. In 1997 Mobutu fled and Kabila entered the country, renaming it the Democratic Republic of the Congo and himself its president. He lost favor, however, with Rwandan forces that were eager to control the new country and a new Tutsi-led militia group called Rassemblement Congolais pour la Democratie (RCD) developed along with a Ugandan rebel movement called Movement for the Liberation of Congo (MLC). These movements started a new war with the DRC in 1998 that eventually involved several other African Nations.

Current Situation

In 2001, Kabila Jr. brokered a peace deal and UN peacekeepers were deployed. In 2002, the fighting began again and in 2003, a new peace deal was agreed upon in which Kabila Jr. shared power with rebel leaders. Elections were held in 2006 and Kabila Jr. was named president. Rebel conflicts, however, still plague the country; RCD, supported by Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), continues to launch rebel offensives in the Kivu Conflict. Several rebel groups are involved in the Ituri conflict and the DRC government struggles, often ineffectively, to keep things under control.

In 2009, Kabila Jr. granted amnesty to rebel groups in the hopes of quelling fighting in the east. Months later, Germany arrested two possible FDRL leaders and the UN began steps towards withdrawal of its peacekeeping forces, extending their mandate for only five months. Most recently, the DRC has been pressuring the UN to leave before the 2011 elections but UN humanitarian official John Holmes warns that a premature departure could lead to continued chaos and violence.

Bloc Positions:

Resolution 1906, which was adopted on December 23, 2009 and extended the peacekeeping mandate until May 31 2010, was adopted unanimously.

Questions to Consider

What is the relationship between the international responsibility to protect and sovereignty rights?

Should the UN respect the DRC's desire to have it gone before the 2011 elections at the risk of increased violence? What are the implications/precedents set by leaving? By staying?

Where has your country stood historically on matters of sovereignty vs. responsibility to protect? Where does it stand now?

Helpful Resources

BBC DRC Timeline:
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1072684.stm

BBC DRC Country Profile:
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1076399.stm

Time Article on Conflict:
<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,1855735,00.html>

UN Security Council website:
<http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/>

Topic 2: Conflict in the GUAM Area

Background

GUAM Organization for Democracy and Development is a regional organization including Georgia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan and Moldova. It was created in 2001 for the purpose of post-Soviet development. The US has been interested in using this organization as a counter to Russia, but the organization publicly denies that it participates in such action.

GUAM is particularly concerned with “frozen conflicts” in which member countries and other countries in the region claim technical sovereignty but are still subject to Russian authority at least in some regions. Georgia in particular, has dealt with two frozen conflicts in Abkhazia and South Ossetia.

Current Situation

On August 7, 2008, these conflicts brought global attention to the GUAM area when Georgia attacked South Ossetia in the hopes of regaining control of the ethnically Russian region, technically part of its territory but effectively controlled by Russia since the late 1990s. This was countered by Russian troops in South Ossetia along with bombing and raids throughout Georgia.

The EU (European Union) president was able to negotiate a preliminary peace deal on August 12th and on August 26th Russia officially recognized the independence of South Ossetia and Abkhazia, though Georgia claims that it lost

control of some areas previously part of its territory in the course of the conflict.

In 2010, however, tension in the region remains high between Russia and the GUAM countries and between the governments of these countries and the ethnic groups within them.

Bloc Positions

Resolutions 1808 and 1839, extending the UN monitoring mandate in Georgia, were adopted unanimously. Consider that Russia, the US and all European countries have high historical stakes in this region. Research not only your country’s position on this issue, but also its role in the Cold War.

Questions to Consider

What are the roots of this conflict? How were borders determined after the collapse of the Soviet Union?

What is the overall relationship between the concerns of ethnic communities and state sovereignty? What should the UN’s role be in this relationship?

Is Russia to be worked with or merely appeased on this issue? Are ethnic communities to be recognized in plans for long-term stability?

Helpful Resources

GUAM Website:
<http://guam-organization.org/en>

GlobalSecurity.Org Article:
<http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/news/2006/09/mil-060927-rferl02.htm>

Open Democracy Article:
<http://www.opendemocracy.net/article/the-georgia-russia-conflict-lost-territory-found->

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still not achieved their end goal.

Topic 3: Cyprus

Bloc Positions

Background

UN Resolution 1818 extending the peacekeeping mandate in Cyprus was adopted unanimously.

The Republic of Cyprus is an independent island nation south of Turkey with a long history of occupation by foreign powers. Roughly half of the island's population is ethnically Greek; the other half is ethnically Turkish. In 1960, Cyprus became independent from its colonizer Great Britain as the result of a treaty signed by the United Kingdom, Greece, Turkey, and one Greek Cypriot and one Turkish Cypriot. The treaty provided for a certain government breakdown intended to balance power between the two communities, but which still reflects the numerical Greek majority.

This issue is extremely important for the EU at this point, especially in light of the recent speculated fragility of the EU. Also consider the importance to Turkey, a current Security Council member.

Helpful Resources

BBC Cyprus Timeline:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/1021835.stm>

Flashpoints briefing:
http://www.flashpoints.info/countries-conflicts/Cyprus-web/Cyprus_briefing.html

BBC News:
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/1761585.stm>

Time article:
<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,712008,00.html>

In 1963, changes were proposed to the constitutional balance of power that led to international violence and the UN sent peacekeepers to the island. In 1974, Turkey invaded and occupied the island in response to a Greece-backed coup and the Turkish Cypriots declared themselves independent as the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Continued peace talks have been attempted but tension has continued to mount along the UN maintained buffer zone between the islands two ethnic regions.

Current Situation

In 1998, there was some talk of Cyprus joining the EU, but Turkey threatened to annex the north if this occurred, saying it was against the constitutional agreement. UN Secretary General Annan proposed a peace agreement in 2002 and in 2003, the first crossings of the buffer zone were reported. In 2008 Cyprus adopted the euro and formal reunification talks began, but as of April 2010, these talks have