

Letter From the Director

Greetings and welcome, delegates, to the 15th Annual Florida Model United Nations Conference. My name is Ryan Hamilton and I am honored to be serving as the Director of the Security Council. I am currently pursuing my bachelor's degree at Santa Fe College and have been involved in Model United Nations for over a decade as a delegate, on staff, or training the Santa Fe College MUN team. I will be serving along with your Assistant Director, Hewad Shalamkel. Hewad is a current student at Columbia University pursuing a Bachelor's in Political Science and Economics. This will be Hewad's first conference on FMUN staff, and he and I are excited to work together to help make this Security Council a vibrant atmosphere of debate and discussion as we aim to find solutions to some of the most dire situations across the globe.

This conference is, as many events have been during this year, an unconventional conference and one that will require skills that are both familiar and new to succeed. That includes my own work as your Director, and that of your Assistant Director. We hope that this conference will provide you the opportunity to learn and test your skills in this unfamiliar conference environment and I, along with the rest of the staff, will be doing our best to facilitate a conventional Model United Nations experience for you all. I look forward to seeing what you accomplish on these topics and through this new medium.

Sincerely,

Ryan Hamilton
Director, Security Council

Introduction to the Security Council Agenda & Debate

The United Nations Security Council was established in 1945 along with the founding of the United Nations, and mandated with the “primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.”¹ It has several unique characteristics among the principal organs of the United Nations in several ways, beginning with its size. The Security Council is comprised of 15 members, including five of which - known as, among other colloquial terms, as the “P-5,” “Big Five,” or simply “the Veto Powers” - are permanent members on the council. These five Member States - the People’s Republic of China, the French Republic, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - hold veto privileges on all non-procedural matters.² The remaining ten members of the Security Council serve two-year terms based on regional voting groups established by the United Nations and are elected by the General Assembly, with five replaced each year. Member States are not eligible for re-election immediately following the expiration of their term.³

The other fundamental way in which the Security Council differs is that it is the only organ of the United Nations to have both compulsory power and authority to authorize military force in the pursuit of peace and stability. For the former, that is to say that Member States, under Article 25 of the United Nations Charter, “agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the present Charter.”⁴ The power to utilize these and other powers, such as authorizing sanctions, requires any non-procedural motion to carry an affirmative vote of nine members and all of the permanent members of the council in order to succeed.⁵

In this conference, delegates will come to the Security Council with two topics on the agenda, but it will be up to the delegates to decide which to pursue first, and what fundamental questions need to be answered in the quest for peace and cooperation. Therefore, each topic’s importance will be briefly highlighted with resource links to begin research, but how the topic should be shaped and what focuses lie within it will be entirely left up to the Members of the Security Council. This style is intended as a step towards learning how to approach “Open Debate” Security Council committees, often found at larger national and international conferences.

¹ United Nations, Charter of the United Nations, October 24, 1945

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

Topic I: Addressing the Situation in Kashmir

The territory of Kashmir spans roughly 138 square kilometers (86,000 square miles) in the Himalayan region, and though host to a number of land disputes throughout the centuries, has been engaged in unremitting conflict since 1947, with the emergent independence of India and Pakistan. The area remains a point of territorial contention between India, Pakistan, and China, and heavily influences not only the foreign policy of the aforementioned Member States but all Member States within the region, and, to only a slightly lesser degree due to the adversarial governments' nuclear capabilities, all Member States across the world.

1. UN Documents for Jammu and Kashmir. (n.d.). <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/jammu-and-kashmir/>
2. Ruiz Estrada, Mario Arturo and Koutronas, Evangelos and Khan, Alam and Angathevar, Baskaran, Economic Dynamics of Territorial Military Conflicts: The Case of Kashmir (January 15, 2018). Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3102745> or <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3102745>
3. Lyon, Peter. *Conflict between India and Pakistan: an Encyclopedia*. ABC-CLIO, 2008.
4. "The Latest Kashmir Conflict Explained." *United States Institute of Peace*, 28 Aug. 2019, www.usip.org/publications/2019/08/latest-kashmir-conflict-explained.
5. "Conflict Between India and Pakistan | Global Conflict Tracker." *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/conflict-between-india-and-pakistan.

Topic II: Addressing the Situation in the Central African Republic

The Central African Republic is a landlocked country in Central Africa and a former French colony in an oft-exploited region of the continent. The six decades since achieving independence have been characterized by military coups and the resulting governments, tenuous periods of peace and civilian rule, and continued instability leading to domestic unrest and conflict, followed by civil war. The ongoing civil war in the Central African Republic today began in 2012 and has left 2.9 million people in need of humanitarian assistance, 500,000 children without access to education, and a per capita GDP of only \$510, one of the lowest in the world.

1. *MINUSCA*, United Nations, minusca.unmissions.org/en.
2. "World Report 2019: Rights Trends in Central African Republic." *Human Rights Watch*, 17 Jan. 2019, www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/central-african-republic.
3. "Central African Republic." *UNICEF USA*, www.unicefusa.org/mission/emergencies/child-refugees-and-migrants/central-african-republic.
4. "Violence in the Central African Republic | Global Conflict Tracker." *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/violence-central-african-republic.
5. "Central African Republic: Five Years Later, More Efforts to Be Done to Get Special Criminal Court Fully Operational." *Amnesty International*, www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2020/06/central-african-republic-five-years-later-more-efforts-to-be-done-scc/.

