

## Introduction to the Committee

The Security Council was one of the six original principal organs of the United Nations established by the UN Charter[1]. The first Security Council meeting was held in London, England on January 17th, 1946, before taking permanent residence at the United Nations headquarters in New York City[2]. The Security Council has a total of fifteen members[3]. Five of them are permanent members who have held their seats since the first meeting, and they have the power to unilaterally veto any non-procedural resolutions[4]. The remaining ten members are elected by the United Nations General Assembly to two years terms[5]. In order to maintain international peace and security, the Security Council has the ability to investigate international disputes, impose economic sanctions, and authorize the use of military force [6]

[1] "Charter of the United Nations," June 26th, 1945

[2] "What is the Security Council?" United Nations, accessed September 29th, 2021 <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/what-security-council>

[3] "Charter of the United Nations," June 26th, 1945

[4] Ibid.

[5] Ibid.

[6] "What is the Security Council?" United Nations, accessed September 29th, 2021 <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/what-security-council>

This section will highlight the history of your committee, significant achievements, where it is located and crucially the **mandate and powers** of your committee. Remember that not all delegates will know that only the Security Council can approve the use of force

### TOPIC I:

#### Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict (BE SURE TO ADD FOOTNOTES)

##### *Introduction to the Topic:*

In 2015 the United Nations released a list of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) it aimed to reach by 2030. Included among them was SDG 16 which called to "Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice

for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.”[1] One of the twelve targets included in SDG 16 is to “Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere,”[2], which is measured by several factors including the number of conflict-related deaths per 100,000 people[3]. In the 2021 report “Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals” the Secretary General of the UN states that between 2018 and 2020 there were 69,276 civilian deaths in 12 different armed conflicts, and that there were 5 civilian deaths per 100,000 people in 2020[4].

In its 2019 policy “The Protection of Civilians in United Nations Peacekeeping,” the United Nations Department of Peace Operations offers definitions for civilians as being everybody not known to be a member of an armed force, organized armed group, or otherwise directly participating in hostilities[5]. In addition it defines the UN peacekeeping mandate on protection of civilians as being “without prejudice to the primary responsibility of the host state, integrated and coordinated activities by all civilian and uniformed mission components to prevent, deter or respond to threats of physical violence against civilians within the mission’s capabilities and areas of deployment through the use of all necessary means, up to and including deadly force[6].”

The United Nations Security Council’s main method for protecting civilians is using peacekeepers to offer physical protection, monitor human rights violations, and facilitate delivery of humanitarian assistance[7]. Attempts at protecting civilians face many problems including the large size of civilian populations needing protection in relation to the amount of United Nations peacekeepers available to protect them, poor infrastructure and political instability where at-risk civilians live, and unrealistic expectations that the United Nations would be able to protect all civilians at all times.[8]

[1] “The 17 Goals | Sustainable Development,” United Nations, accessed September 29th, 2021 <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

[2] “Goal 16 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs” United Nations, accessed September 29th, 2021 <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal16>

[3] Ibid.

[4] United Nations Secretary-General “Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: report of the Secretary-General” E/2021/58 (30 April 2021) available from <https://undocs.org/en/E/2021/58>

[5] United Nations, Department of Peace Operations, “The Protection of Civilians in United Nations Peacekeeping,” (1 November 2019) available from [https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/poc\\_policy\\_2019\\_.pdf](https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/poc_policy_2019_.pdf)

[6] Ibid.

[7] “Protection of civilians mandate” United Nations Peacekeeping, accessed September 29th, 2021 <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/protection-of-civilians-mandate>

[8] Ibid.

*An introduction should be short, concise and full of information on what the major issues of the topic are. In essence, it should read as a summary of the history and discussion sections of the study guide. Introductory phrases such as “There are approximately 370 million indigenous people, living in over 70 countries” paint a vivid picture to delegates who might not have studied the topic before. Providing definitions of the topic is also incredibly useful, just keep in mind whether the definition is approved by a UN body or not, as this could result in conflicts within the committee.*

*History of the Topic: TOPIC 1*

Limiting civilian casualties as a byproduct of conflict has been a goal of the United Nations Security Council’s peacekeeping activities since the organ’s inception, but it was unprepared for the increase in attacks targeting civilians during internal conflicts in the 1990s[1], particularly in Rwanda where government forces committed ethnic cleansing against the civilian population despite a significant United Nations peacekeeper presence. In response, the Security Council formally recognized the need for Protection of Civilians (POC) as part of its agenda in resolution 1265 in 1999[2]. It included POC as a mandate for a peacekeeping mission for the first time in 1999 with the establishment of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone in resolution 1270[3]. That set the precedent for later peacekeeping missions, which routinely include POC in the mission’s mandate as well as methods for tracking and reporting on the state of violence towards civilians.

The Security Council has further affirmed the importance of protecting civilians in armed conflicts in resolutions 1296 (2000), 1674 (2006), 1894 (2009). As it believes that individual states bear the majority of responsibility in POC, the Security Council has also worked with other governmental, nongovernmental, and intergovernmental organisations to protect civilians in conflict zones. 95% of Peacekeepers currently deployed as part of United Nations missions have POC as part of the mandate they uphold[4]. More recent resolutions have focused on addressing less direct POC issues,

such as food insecurity in conflicts[5], missing persons[6], and attacks on civilian infrastructure[7].

In addition to measures meant to protect civilians, the Security Council has also taken steps to protect groups of civilians that are particularly at risk. Security Council resolution 1261, which was passed in 1999 in response to an increase in the use of children as soldiers in violation of international law, was the first resolution to condemn children being used as combatants or being targeted[8]. The Security Council further encouraged member states to approve an amendment regarding children in armed conflicts to be added to the Convention on the Rights of the Child[9].

In order to safeguard children in armed conflicts, resolution 1379 asked the Secretary-General to create a list of parties that violate the protections that the Security Council extends to children[10]. The list was further expanded to include parties that attack schools and hospitals in resolution 1998[11] and those that abduct children in resolution 2225[12]. That list has provided the legal framework for multiple sanctions the Security Council has leveled against parties that target children in armed conflicts.

The Security Council has also recognized the need to ensure protection of women and girls from gender-based violence in armed conflicts. Resolution 1325 was the first instance of this, asking the Secretary-General to increase the amount of women involved in conflict resolution and humanitarian aid and to provide Member States with training and assistance to protect women in conflict[13]. The Security Council further emphasized the need for protections from sexual violence in conflicts in resolution 1820, and requested the Secretary-General to prepare a proposal on how to strengthen those protections[14]. Based on the Secretary-General's proposals, the Security Council adopted resolution 1888 which included measures such as creating a team of experts to be rapidly deployed to situations with elevated sexual violence, giving more weight to the prevalence of sexual violence when deciding on implementing sanctions, and requesting additional relevant training for peacekeepers and national security forces[15].

These actions taken by the Security Council to protect women in conflict haven't always achieved the desired results. Resolution 2122 acknowledges the inconsistent implementation of resolution 1325[16], and resolution 2272 attempts to curtail sexual violence committed by United Nations Peacekeepers by giving the Secretary-General greater abilities to investigate and replace peacekeeping units accused of sexual violence[17].

The Security Council emphasized the need for POC to include provisions to help protect civilians with disabilities in resolution 2475[18]. It has also strengthened provisions to help protect civilians who are not engaged in hostilities but whose occupation places them in danger of being targeted during conflicts. Journalists reporting on conflicts face high rates of violence, as noted in resolution 1738[19], and the Security Council requested that information on violence towards journalists be included in reports on POC prepared by the Secretary-General and various peacekeeping missions[20].

Medical personnel and first responders are another group the Security Council has given special protections. Resolution 2286 from 2016 states that peacekeeping mandates will include ensuring secure environments for health care workers to provide medical aid[21]. Humanitarian workers have

[1] “Protecting Civilians” United Nations Peacekeeping, accessed September 29th, 2021 <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/protecting-civilians>

[2] Security Council resolution 1265, S/RES/1265 (17 September 1999), available from [https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/1265\(1999\)](https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/1265(1999))

[3] Security Council resolution 1270, S/RES/1270 (22 October 1999), available from [https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/1270\(1999\)](https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/1270(1999))

[4] “Protecting Civilians” United Nations Peacekeeping, accessed September 29th, 2021 <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/protecting-civilians>

[5] Security Council resolution 2417, S/RES/2417 (24 May 2018), available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2417\(2018\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2417(2018))

[6] Security Council resolution 2474, S/RES/2474 (11 June 2019), available from [https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2474\(2019\)](https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2474(2019))

[7] Security Council resolution 2573, S/RES/2573 (27 April 2021), available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2573\(2021\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2573(2021))

[8] Security Council resolution 1261, S/RES/1261 (30 August 1999), available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/1261\(1999\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1261(1999))

[9] Security Council resolution 1314, S/RES/1314 (11 August 2000), available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/1314\(2000\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1314(2000))

[10] Security Council resolution 1379, S/RES/1379 (20 November 2001), available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/1379\(2001\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1379(2001))

[11] Security Council resolution 1998, S/RES/1998 (12 July 2011), available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/1998\(2011\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1998(2011))

[12] Security Council resolution 2225, S/RES/2225 (18 June 2015), available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2225\(2015\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2225(2015))

- [13] Security Council resolution 1325, S/RES/1325 (31 October 2000), available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/1325\(2000\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1325(2000))
- [14] Security Council resolution 1820, S/RES/1820 (19 June 2008), available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/1820\(2008\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1820(2008))
- [15] Security Council resolution 1888, S/RES/1888 (30 September 2009), available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/1888\(2009\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1888(2009))
- [16] Security Council resolution 2122, S/RES/2122 (18 October 2013), available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2122\(2013\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2122(2013))
- [17] Security Council resolution 2272, S/RES/2272 (11 March 2016), available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2272\(2016\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2272(2016))
- [18] Security Council resolution 2475, S/RES/2475 (20 June 2019), available from [https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2475\(2019\)](https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2475(2019))
- [19] Security Council resolution 1738, S/RES/1738 (23 December 2006) available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/1738\(2006\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1738(2006))
- [20] Security Council resolution 2222, S/RES/2222 (27 May 2015), available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2222\(2015\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2222(2015))
- [21] Security Council resolution 2286, S/RES/2286 (3 May 2016), available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2286\(2016\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2286(2016))
- [22]

The history of the topic along with the discussion of the topic is the most important part of a study guide. These sections should be those which provide the most amount of information. Providing a historical context by highlighting what has occurred in the past at a UN and national level is vital in informing delegates what the issues of the topic are.

When did your problem first occur? Which actors have been involved in the past and present? Has the problem been reduced or increased over time? Are there any important UN missions and resolutions regarding your topic? These are all questions that must be answered in this section.

**TOPIC II:**  
**The Situation in Afghanistan**

*Introduction to the Topic*

The state of Afghanistan is in Southern Asia. It borders Pakistan to the southeast, Iran to the west, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan to the north, and China to the east. With an area of roughly 653,00 km<sup>2</sup>[1], it is mostly covered by the Hindu Kush mountain range with plains in the northern and southwestern portions of the country. The United Nations estimates the population to be 38,928,000[2], though an exact count is unavailable due to the lack of reliable census data in the country. The population is split into myriad ethnic groups, the largest of which are the Pashtun, followed by the Tajik, Hazara, and Uzbek.

After gaining full independence from the United Kingdom in 1919 after the Third Anglo-Afghan War, Afghanistan tried to remain neutral in international affairs. That neutrality proved untenable during the rising tension of the Cold War, and Afghanistan became a proxy for conflict between the United States and Russia in 1978 when a coup by the Soviet-aligned People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan sparked a civil war with American-backed rebel militias. The Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in December of 1979, prompting the United States and Pakistan to increase their material support for Afghan rebels. The Soviet Union withdrew from Afghanistan by February 15th of 1989, causing a string of civil wars which led to the downfall of Afghanistan's socialist government and allowed for the Islamic fundamentalist group the Taliban to take control over the majority of the country. In the aftermath of the September 11th attacks in 2001, the United States and its NATO allies invaded Afghanistan in order to capture al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, overthrowing the Taliban and installing the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in its place. After 19 years, the NATO forces reached an agreement with the Taliban to withdraw foreign troops from Afghanistan in exchange for the Taliban preventing al Qaeda from operating within the country. Following the withdrawal of NATO forces in August of 2021, the resurgent Taliban launched a military campaign to retake the country, culminating in the recapture of the Afghan capital Kabul on August 15th.

[1] "Afghanistan - Country Profile," UNdata, United Nations Statistics Division, accessed September 30th, 2021. <http://data.un.org/en/iso/af.html>

[2] Ibid.

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### *History of the Topic*

Afghanistan became a member of the United Nations on November 19th, 1946 as a result of Security Council resolution 8[1]. At the time, Afghanistan was a constitutional monarchy under King Mohammad Zahir Shah and Prime Minister Shah Mahmud Khan. The king would abdicate his throne on August 24th, 1973, after a coup launched by former Prime Minister Mohammed Daoud Khan while the king was receiving medical care outside the country, yet the country retained Abdul Rahman Pazhwak as its Permanent Representative to the United Nations[2]. He would be replaced in the aftermath of the Saur Revolution in 1978, when the Republic of Afghanistan was replaced with the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan[3].

Several members of the Security Council introduced a draft resolution in January of 1980 to condemn the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and call for a withdrawal of troops[4], but the resolution was vetoed by the Soviet Union. In response the rest of the Security Council passed resolution 462 on January 9th in order to invoke General Assembly resolution 377 A[5] which allows the General Assembly to consider matters of international peace and security in situations where disagreements between its permanent members prevents the Security Council from doing so, and allows the General Assembly to recommend “the use of armed force when necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security”[6]. As a result of Security Council resolution 462 there was an emergency session of the General Assembly held from January 10th-14th which led to the adoption of resolution ES-6/2 which echoed the vetoed Security Council resolution in its condemnation of the invasion and calls for foreign withdrawal[7].

On September 20, 1988, the Security Council passed resolution 622 to establish the United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (UNGOMAP)[8]. The



purpose of UNGOMAP, as detailed in a letter from the Secretary-General dated April 22[9], was to dispatch observers to ensure all parties upheld the provision of the Geneva Accords signed earlier that year, including a non-intervention agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan, the return of Afghan prisoners, and the withdrawal of Soviet troops.

Conflict in the country continued after the Soviet withdrawal, and the Security Council made multiple calls for peace during the civil war in the 1990s, as well as condemning attacks on international aid workers and foreign diplomats within Afghanistan. It began to levy sanctions on the Taliban, laid out in resolution 1267, targeting the finances of officials linked with supporting terrorism[10]

The Security Council began to play a more active role following the September 11th attacks and the United States invasion of Afghanistan in 2001. In resolution 1383 the Security Council endorsed the Bonn Agreement to create a provisional government to replace the Taliban regime[11], and in resolution 1386 it established the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), a multinational military mission to assist the Afghan Interim Authority (AIA) in security matters in the capital city of Kabul[12]. It further approved a proposal by the Secretary General to create the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) to safeguard human rights and foster reconciliation and rebuilding, as laid out in the report from the Secretary General dated April 18th of 2002[13].

The United Nation's role in the conflict in Afghanistan grew and adapted over the following years. Security Council resolution 1471 expanded the UNAMA mandate to include election monitoring capabilities [14]. The ISAF mandate was changed to cover the entirety of the country, rather than just the Kabul region, in resolution 1510[15], and the organization was tasked with training the Afghan National Police and other security forces in resolution 1776[16]. The Security Council adopted resolution 1817 to attempt to curtail the trafficking of narcotics and the chemicals used to manufacture narcotics in 2008[17]. The ISAF mandate was allowed to expire in December of 2014, and in resolution 2189 it welcomed the establishment of the successor organization Resolute Support Mission in its attempt to train Afghan security forces[18]. The mandate for UNAMA has been continuously extended, with the current deadline being set on March 17th, 2020[19].

When the United States and the Taliban signed a peace agreement in March of 2020, including a timeline for the withdrawal of NATO forces from Afghanistan, the Security

Council endorsed the agreement with the adoption of resolution 2513[19]. Following the Taliban's successful offensive to regain control of Afghanistan in the wake of the NATO withdrawal, the Security Council adopted resolution 2593 to emphasize human rights and humanitarian aid and demand that Afghan territory not be used to train or shelter terrorists, as well as noting the Taliban's statements to similar effects[20].

[1] Security Council resolution 8, S/RES/8 (29 August 1946), available from [https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/1265\(1999\)](https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/1265(1999))

[2] "Former Permanent Representatives," Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the United Nations, accessed October 1st, 2021, <https://afghanistan-un.org/whos-who/former-permanent-representatives/>

[3] Ibid.

[4] Security Council draft resolution 13729, S/13729 (6 January 1980), available from <https://undocs.org/en/S/13729>

[5] Security Council resolution 462, S/RES/462 (9 January 1980), available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/462\(1980\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/462(1980))

[6] General Assembly resolution 377 A, A/Res/377 (3 November 1950), available from [https://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/otherdocs/GAres377A\(v\).pdf](https://www.un.org/en/sc/repertoire/otherdocs/GAres377A(v).pdf)

[7] General Assembly - Sixth Emergency Special Session resolution 6/2, A/RES/ES-6/2 (14 January 1980), available from [https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/ES-6/2](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/ES-6/2)

[8] Security Council resolution 622, S/RES/622 (20 September 1988), available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/622\(1988\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/622(1988))

[9] de Cuéllar, Javier Pérez, "Letter Dated 88/04/22 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council" (26 April 1988), available from <https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/41127?ln=en>

[10] Security Council resolution 1267, S/RES/1267 (15 October 1999), available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/1267\(1999\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1267(1999))

[11] Security Council resolution 1383, S/RES/1383 (6 December 2001), available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/1383\(2001\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1383(2001))

[12] Security Council resolution 1386, S/RES/1386 (20 December 2001), available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/1386\(2001\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1386(2001))

[13] Annan, Kofi, "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security" (18 March 2002), available from <https://undocs.org/S/2002/278>

[14] Security Council resolution 1471, S/RES/1471 (28 March 2003), available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/1471\(2003\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1471(2003))

[15] Security Council resolution 1510, S/RES/1510 (13 October 2003), available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/1510\(2003\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1510(2003))

[16] Security Council resolution 1776, S/RES/1776 (17 September 2007), available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/1776\(2007\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1776(2007))

[17] Security Council resolution 1817, S/RES/1817 (11 June 2008), available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/1817\(2008\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/1817(2008))

[18] Security Council resolution 2189, S/RES/2189 (12 December 2014), available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2189\(2014\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2189(2014))

[19] Security Council resolution 2596, S/RES/2596 (17 September 2021), available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2596\(2021\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2596(2021))

[20] Security Council resolution 2513, S/RES/2513 (10 March 2020), available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2513\(2020\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2513(2020))

[21] Security Council resolution 2593, S/RES/2593 (30 August 2021), available from [https://undocs.org/S/RES/2593\(2021\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2593(2021))

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