

History and Introduction of the Security Council

The United Nations (UN) was established in 1949 with a number of functions and organs working together to maintain peace and provided humanitarian assistance globally. The Security Council (SC) is the primary, most powerful organ on the UN. Member States bring forth issues of international peace and security affecting their regions in order for the Council to involve actors in reaching a compromise through peace talks. In some cases, the SC will take investigative actions into circumstances involving member nations. The Security Council has a rotation of 10 non-permanent members as well as the Permanent 5 (P5)[1]. The P5 has veto power on substantial issues involving resolutions and reports. Vetoing draft resolutions means the paper has been eliminated from work and is only done in formal voting procedures. The Council has a number of powers and responsibilities set out in the UN Charter including:

- to maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations;
- to investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction;
- to recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
- to formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments;
- to determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken;
- to call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression;
- to take military action against an aggressor;
- to recommend the admission of new Members;
- to exercise the trusteeship functions of the United Nations in "strategic areas";
- To recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and, together with the Assembly, to elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice.[2]

The Security Council is a powerful body with a strong influence in international affairs. The position of the SC to handle issues and put pressure on countries to enact change is immense and is relied about to create significant resolutions to the world's most pressing issues.

Topic I: The Situation in Somalia

Introduction

The United Nations most active involvement came in 1992 with the implementation of the United Nations Operation in Somalia I (UNOSOM I). A civil war broke out following the fall of President Siad Barre in 1991. The Secretary General (SG) deployed an envoy to Somalia later that year which was supported by all factions involved, including the Organization of African Unity (OAU). A UN Arms embargo was enacted by the SC in 1992 and the deployment of UNOSOM I was a cease fire agreed on by all sides and monitored by UN observers; however the effort was hindered heavily by fighting and insecurity. The United States organized The United Task Force to protect humanitarian assistance and relief centers. The UNSC in 1992 agreed to allow UNITAF to secure a safe environment through the use of "all necessary means".[3] This allowed for the UN to transition from UNOSOM I to UNOSOM II. Resolution 814 enacted the UN Office for Peacekeeping Operations (UNDPKO) to do more in Somalia regarding the arms embargo and maintain peace.[4] International agencies called for aid in rebuilding Somalia's political and economical institutions. At this time, repatriation and rehabilitation of refugees and civil administration in Somalia were barely being heard. The SC attempted to expand on UNOSOM in

an effort to assist Somalia, however, with a lack of assistance and premeditated attacks by Somali militiamen, UNOSOM II withdrew its forces in 1995.[\[5\]](#)

In 2000 International Leaders and over 2,500 participants formed the Transitional National Government (TNG) through the Arta Agreement. While in Djibouti, the TNG was internationally recognized yet problems still persisted. In 2002, Kenyan officials attempted to bring together the TNG and leaders from the south. The collaboration failed and resulted in the collapse of the government once again.[\[6\]](#) 2002-2004 saw Kenya's organization for the National Reconciliation Conference which resulted in Transitional Federal Government. The period of 1991 through 2004 saw the need and desire for a standing government.[\[7\]](#) In 2006 major fighting broke out again between the Ethiopian backed TFG and the Islamic Courts Union[\[8\]](#) until Ethiopia began to bring heavier equipment into their arsenal. Djibouti arranged another peace agreement in 2008 after Ethiopian Forces left and parts of the country and spots of fighting in the capital.[\[9\]](#) The agreement was negotiated by the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia (ARS). Currently there is an African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISON) with a similar mission of securing peace and transition of humanitarian needs to the TFG. The Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs) who administrate different parts of Somalia are stretched thin while concurrently lacking resources to fight many security issues.

Situation

Security Council resolution 1872 lists multiple factors of the issue at hand. These issues are widespread and are expanded on by years of social tension, lack of proper development resources and implementation.[\[10\]](#) One of the current conflicts between parties is between religious groups formerly associated with the ICU and some factions which have broken off and joined with Al-Shabab, who is accused by some nations to have ties to Al-Qaeda.

Another issue that the international community is facing is a lack of international aid in Somalia. This problem is rampant across Somalia; however, it is deepened by a lack of security, and raids on various camps that resulted in their closures.[\[11\]](#) Even though there is an arms embargo and millions of dollars of aid going into Somalia, there is a persistent threat to security and need for more international cooperation on this issue. One issue with this is the borders to Somalia; Kenyan and Ugandan borders are loosely patrolled and need room for improvement in regards to administration.[\[12\]](#)

Another major issue which shows a true lack of control by Somalia's security institutions is the piracy in the Gulf of Aden. SC Resolution 1851 depicts Somalia's plea for assistance in the issue.[\[13\]](#) This issue is particularly relevant to all nations, effecting trade routes, shipping lanes, maritime security, and Somalia's peace. The International Chamber of Commerce International Maritime Bureau recently reported that piracy doubled in the first six months of 2009, and a primary cause of a recent drop in piracy is due to monsoons that will last until August.[\[14\]](#) The International Maritime Organization (IMO) creates a monthly report to publish the activities of pirates, the occurrences of violence, who reported the incident, and how the coastal state responded to the matter. In June 2009's report, the coastal state of Somalia took no action against active pirate acts. The Implementation of the Maritime Security Centre in the Horn of Africa has helped escort vessels through the Gulf of Aden without occurrences of violence and the Secretary General reported in July that piracy acts are becoming more cunning and widespread.[\[15\]](#)

Regional security organizations and nations have taken heavy action on piracy. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Australia, The Republic of Korea, Singapore, Pakistan,

the Russian Federation, China, Malaysia, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Japan have all deployed ships to the region. The European Union (EU) has expressed its gratuity in fighting piracy by donating a large amount of Euros concurrent to its current contributions.[16] This is only a part of the solution; training and expertise are heavily needed though the long term effects looks dismal without a Somali coast guard, navy, or stable institutions to hold pirates accountable. All in all, this issue shows a lack of capacity in Somalia. The Security Council is pressing insurance and shipping companies to develop avoidance, evasion and defensive strategies when going through the Gulf of Aden.[17] This problem is widespread and won't be properly dealt with until Somalia can build their own stable institutions. A number of things can be done and no one solution is best. Somalia faces horrid land conditions, lack of resources, terrorism, and to top it off, piracy. Without proper institutions Somalia cannot achieve a lasting peace. The need for institutions to be built in Somalia is exponential. Insecurities are everywhere in Somalia, which is lacking a capable government that keeps the state at a high risk for humanitarian catastrophe.

Conclusion

Somalia, with its limited governance, has recently been in a state of chaos. The nation has suffered for many years while their internal situations continue to grow. Without drastic measures being taken both internally and externally, Somalia is destined for a fate worse than its current situation. These are some questions which might prepare you for committee. Does your country support any plans for combating piracy or institution building in Somalia? How can previous examples of institution building provide helpful in committee? As noted earlier, there is almost nothing Somalia can do to fight piracy; is there anything the international community can do to make improvements internally to fight piracy? What is your states relationship with different groups which have played roles in Somalia's development up to this point? What is your countries position towards piracy? Does your country or region have particular economic interest that is being threatened because of this? What solutions could you propose to help with the Somali cause?

Topic II: Conflict in the Middle East

Introduction

The conflict facing the Middle East cannot be summed up in a small document. Centuries of violence, talks, agreements, peace-keepers, envoys and special delegations have been constantly sent to Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT). The world appears to be in a need of a change on how to address these issues. The UN began its involvement in the Middle East in 1947 with Britain relinquishing its mandate over the holy land. Following this, Israel declared independence and was invaded by a number of countries.[18] A two state solution was proposed but failed and Israel fought the invading countries back and gained territory. In 1956 with the nationalization of the Suez Canal and Sinai Peninsula, Israel, France, and Britain invaded Egypt and Syria; however, following international pressure, they were forced to withdraw troops and territory. Territory claimed by Israel in the Six Day War, the SC released resolution 242 (1967) which was adamant in ceasing hostilities and recalling Article two of the UN Charter.[19] This war is also the precursor for many border disputes between Egypt, Jordan, and Lebanon. A ceasefire was called upon in 1973 (resolution 338) after heavy violence which increased troops from Syria in Lebanon. The Camp David Accords of 1978 saw the return of most of the borders to their respective states, and an immediate return to resolution 242 demands.[20]

Following the recent accords, Israel occupied southern Lebanon due to claims of the Palestinian Liberation Organization, this lasted until 2000. [21] The 1993 Oslo Accords was one of the first times that Israel and Palestine sat down face to face and hammered out concrete details in the establishment of the envisioned two state solutions. [22] In the mid 1990s and early 2000s the 1st and 2nd Intifadas were done and numerous casualties were recognized on both sides. As this rise of violence occurred, Israel launched its War on Terrorism in the early 2000s and occupied a large part of the West Bank, creating more tension and suicide bombings. Even though Palestinian militants announced a ceasefire in 2003, Israel continued to kill militant leaders. [23] Israel then began the construction of a wall within its territories on the West Bank. This was judged by the International Court of Justice to be a breach of international law and that it should be taken down. [24] However, the wall is still in construction today. Events in 2006 saw Israel's movements against the militant group Hezbollah and a major offensive into Lebanon; this is known as the July or the Israel-Hezbollah War. Security Council Resolution 1559 (2004) was called upon when hostilities arose in Lebanon, it stresses the territorial integrity of Lebanon as well as the withdrawal of all foreign troops and a cease in militant activity. The conflict lasted 34 days.

In 2002 the Road Map for Peace was negotiated and proposed by the Quartet and faltered without achieving the first phase. The Beirut Declaration of 2002 saw an actual chance for a possible proposal to go through. Proposed by the Arab league, this plan would allow for a Two State Solution, borders would return to pre 1967 lines, Arab Nations would recognize Israel, and a "just solution for Palestinian refugees". [25]

Major Players

Hamas is a major player in the fighting coming from the OPT. It was formed in the 1st Intifada and has many states subjecting it to their terrorist organization list. The Islamic Resistance Movement was democratically elected in 2006 to the Palestinian parliament and operated in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and some parts of Israel. [26] Following their coming to Power Israel incorporated a blockade along the Gaza Strip to seal terrorist activities in June 2006. They were the primary opposition to the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) who aligned with the Fatah, another primary broker in the peace process. Even though they are labeled as a terrorist group, they supported the people there and attempted to be a functioning governing body. [27] The Fatah has been an opposition party until the 2009 election with their victory over Hamas [28]. They also held a role in Palestinian military and retaliatory activity. [29]

The International Quartet is a group of negotiating countries which are dedicated to finding a peaceful two state solutions. The UN, Russia, EU and United States are a primary group in negotiating the Road Map for Peace and recognizing the importance of a two state solution, mutual commitments to peace, incitement from terror, and a basis for previous obligations and agreements. [30] They also recognize the need for a greater cooperation in the Israel-Lebanon and Israel-Syria situation.

The Arab League is also a major player in any negotiations dealing with Gaza, Israel or the Arab-Israeli conflict. They helped to broker the Beirut Declaration, and are a heavy advocate for the Palestinian people. They held a press conference in May where they declared The Palestinian Question to be their first priority, and have sent prosecutors to the UN, Secretary General and International Criminal Court. [31]

Another Major Player is the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). The UNRWA has been acting in the OPT since December 1949. In horrific times they have provided services such as aid distribution, healthcare, and education to over 4.6 Million registered refugees in the Middle East.[32] They report on news in the area, and submit reports to the UN. The UN General Assembly has written resolutions which applaud their efforts in rebuilding but also take note of the grave financial status of the Office.[33]

Gaza Violence

In late December 2008, the faltering ceasefire took a complete hit with a full scale assault on the Gaza strip.[34] An estimated 1,300 Palestinians died while the Israelis suffered minimal losses, however it is also estimated that only 600 of the 1,300 were Hamas operatives[35]. “Operation Cast Lead”, as Israel named it, was a very strong response to the threat of the Israeli people. There is currently an investigation into claims by many sides on war crimes committed by Israel, and a report will be submitted to the Human Rights Council in September of 2009.[36] The UN recently released a report on the human status of Gaza which emphasizes that there is a lack of material necessities flow into Gaza due to the blockade built in June 2007.[37] At a press conference focusing on the humanitarian status of Palestinian refugees, Director of Operations for Gaza stated "until and unless we can get humanitarian assistance in, in an unfettered way, we can't even begin recovery and reconstruction." [38]

Conclusion

This topic is not to be dealt with lightly. With numerous peace agreements and accords, reports and resolutions spanning nearly back to the inception of the UN, delegates should take great care in preparing themselves with the history of the topic and work towards finding a plausible and realistic solution to the situation. What is your states relation to the history of the accords and resolutions which have been created, and did your state work on any of them? What is your relation with the regional players and the Quartets involvement in the situation? Does your state sponsor any particular peace deal being worked on right now? What are some of the causes in this situation which could be remedied in committee? Can you propose any new possible brokerages between these states?

[1] <http://www.un.org/sc/members.asp>

[2] http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/unsc_functions.html

[3] http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/co_mission/unsom1backgr1.html

[4] http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/co_mission/unosom2mandate.html

[5] IBID

[6] http://www.un-somalia.org/Political_Developments/index.asp

[7] http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1072592.stm

[8] IBID

[9] <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/6159735.stm>

[10] <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N09/349/46/PDF/N0934946.pdf?OpenElement>

[11] <http://www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=85366>

- [12] [http://www.somali-jna.org/downloads/Kenya-Somalia%20Menkhaus%20\(2\).pdf](http://www.somali-jna.org/downloads/Kenya-Somalia%20Menkhaus%20(2).pdf)
- [13] <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N08/655/01/PDF/N0865501.pdf?OpenElement>
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