

NWMMUN 2009



The Premier Model United Nations Conference in the Northwest

Background Guide:
General Assembly Fourth Committee



Northwest Model United Nations | November 13-15 | Grand Hyatt Seattle

August 25, 2009

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2009 Northwest Model United Nations (NWMUN) Conference and the General Assembly Fourth Committee. My name is Galen Stocking and I will be serving as President this year, along with Janie Sacco as Assistant Director and Sarah Chambers as your Chair. We are very excited to work with you in November and appreciate the hard work and research you are undertaking in preparation for what we are confident will be a great conference!

The topics for this year's General Assembly Fourth Committee are:

- I. Humanitarian and Economic Assistance to Palestinian Refugees
- II. Comprehensive Review of the Whole Question of Peacekeeping Operations
- III. Security Council Elections

Every participating delegation is required to submit a position paper prior to attending the conference. NWMUN will accept position papers by **Sunday, November 8th at 11:59 pm. Please submit all position papers to dg@nwmun.org**. Please refer to the sample position paper on the NWMUN website or in the Delegate Preparation Guide for paper requirements and restrictions. Delegates' adherence to these guidelines is crucial, because it not only ensures a well-prepared committee, but is also a key component of the awards process.

We wish each of you the best as you prepare for this conference and committee. We urge you to move beyond the background guide as you learn more about both the Member State you will represent and the topics we will be discussing. Please do not hesitate to direct any questions or concerns toward your Director or the Director General. We look forward to meeting you at the conference!

Sincerely,

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Committee History & Background

The United Nations General Assembly (GA) functions as one of the primary bodies within the United Nations (UN). The Assembly is a forum for discussion and policy-making between all 192 Member States.¹ Decisions are made when the majority of members consent, with most of their resolutions passing by consensus rather than through a formal vote.² The General Assembly is divided into six main committees, and each act as a forum for the complete discussion of a specific international topic.³ Together their scope is nearly infinite, covering any and all international issues that fall under the UN Charter, however these recommendations are not binding for any state and only bear as much weight as the consensus behind it.⁴

The General Assembly Fourth Committee originally worked towards the peaceful decolonization of all states, and in n 1998, their job was considered nearly complete, prompting a merging with the GA Seventh Committee, Special Political, to create the Fourth Committee as it stands today.⁵ The Fourth Committee acts as a spillover for the First Committee on Disarmament and International Security Committee, and covers any issue that doesn't fit into the more specific topics of the First Committee, which focuses more on disarmament and security matters.⁶ They reach out as far as discussing peaceful uses for space, and as near as questions relating to the transfer of the information we use every day.

As the name suggests, the Fourth Committee still spends a significant amount of time focusing on the decolonization question. Issues surrounding Non-Self-Governing Territories (NSGTs) are discussed thoroughly at each committee session, particularly in regards to economic and political matters within NSGTs.⁷ The committee has, *inter alia*, discussed the situation in West Sahara, Samoa and Bermuda, all of which are still currently unresolved, and are slated for discussion in the 64th session.⁸ Other significant topics discussed in detail at each session include the effects of nuclear radiation and the implementation and applications of previous UN declarations.⁹ They have many subsidiary bodies to assist in their work, including the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, which was formed in 1965 and is composed of 144 states with the mandate to thoroughly review the question of peacekeeping.¹⁰ In addition, the Committee receives reports from the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), and the Special Committee on Decolonization and the Committee on Information (COI).¹¹

¹ "Functions and Powers of the General Assembly." United Nations. <http://www.un.org/ga/about/background.shtml>

² Lawrence Ziring, et al. The United Nations: International Organization and World Politics. 3rd Edition. Singapore: Thomson Learning. 2000, p. 38.

³ "UN General Assembly- Main Committees." United Nations. <http://www.un.org/ga/maincommittees.shtml>

⁴ Lawrence Ziring, et al. The United Nations: International Organization and World Politics. 3rd Edition. Singapore: Thomson Learning. 2000, pp. 38-45.

⁵ A/RES/47/233. *Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly*. United Nations General Assembly.

⁶ "Fourth Committee- Special Political and Decolonization." United Nations. <http://www.un.org/ga/fourth/index.shtml>

⁷ See organization of work documents for 54th to 63rd sessions. Example:

A/C.4/60/L.1. *Sixtieth Session: Organization of Work*. United Nations General Assembly.

⁸ A/RES/63/105. *Question of Western Sahara*. United Nations General Assembly.

A/RES/63/108A-B. *Questions of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands*. United Nations General Assembly.

⁹ See organization of work documents for 54th to 63rd sessions. Example:

A/C.4/60/L.1. *Sixtieth Session: Organization of Work*. United Nations General Assembly.

¹⁰ "General Assembly and Peacekeeping." United Nations. <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/ctte/CTTEE.htm>

¹¹ "UN General Assembly-Fourth Committee: Related Links." United Nations, General Assembly. <http://www.un.org/ga/fourth/links.shtml>

Current Programme of Work

The 63rd session of the Fourth Committee concluded November 7th, 2008, having approved 23 draft resolutions and four draft decisions over the course of 24 formal meetings.¹² Most notable, and relevant to our sessions, were the decisions on the situation of Palestinian refugees. With resolution A/RES/63/92, the Fourth Committee reaffirmed the right of all Palestinian refugees to return to their homes in the territory occupied by Israel since 1967.¹³ The committee also affirmed that the Geneva Convention applied to the situation of Palestinian refugees and urged Israel to afford refugees the rights they are entitled to within the following resolutions: A/RES/63/96, A/RES/63/95, A/RES/63/98). The committee also heard several issues regarding the Comprehensive Review of Peacekeeping Operations, which were discussed thoroughly at the next session of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations in February 2009. The Fourth Committee also met in May 2009 to approve a draft resolution that stated the General Assembly would endorse the conclusions made in document A/63/19, adopted by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations in their most recent session. This report will be further discussed in the upcoming session.¹⁴

The 64th session of the General Assembly will open on September 15, 2009 with Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser from Qatar as the chair of the Fourth Committee, who was elected on June 10th.¹⁵

Membership

The Fourth Committee presents all recommendations and findings to the General Assembly in a plenary meeting. The General Assembly spends a significant amount of time fulfilling its role as the ‘guardian of Charter principles’ and the ‘conscience of mankind’ calling, among other things, on the Security Council members to use their veto wisely, and for all states to ‘accept the maxim of peaceful coexistence.’¹⁶

All UN Member States have a seat in the General Assembly Fourth Committee.

¹² “Concluding Session, Fourth Committee Approves 23 Draft Resolutions, 4 Decisions, including 9 today by Recorded Vote on Middle East, UN Refugee Relief Agency.” General Assembly, Fourth Committee. November 7, 2008. <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2008/gaspd418.doc.htm>

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ A/RES/63/280. *Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects*. United Nations General Assembly.

¹⁵ “By Acclamation, General Assembly elects Veteran Libyan Diplomat to Preside over its Sixty-Fourth Session.” General Assembly. June 10, 2009. <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2009/ga10831.doc.htm>

¹⁶ Lawrence Ziring, et al. *The United Nations: International Organization and World Politics*. 3rd Edition. Singapore: Thomson Learning. 2000, pp. 41-44.

I. Humanitarian and Economic Assistance to Palestinian Refugees

Introduction

As the primary General Assembly body tasked with overseeing the ramifications of decolonization, the General Assembly Fourth Committee has taken an active role in helping work toward a resolution of the question of Palestinian refugees. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), established under *GA resolution 302 (IV)* of December 1949, is tasked with administering aid to Palestinian refugees.¹⁷ In recent years, the Fourth Committee has addressed political issues relating to UNRWA's aid administration.

History of Palestinian Refugees

The 1948 Arab-Israeli War established Israel as a state, but caused 750,000 Palestinian refugees to flee the conflict area by 1950 (1950 estimate).¹⁸ Despite the fact that UNGA resolution 194, passed following the end of hostilities, called for the return of all Palestinian refugees, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians are still displaced.¹⁹ Instead of returning to the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OpT), refugees settled in the areas now called the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, as well as neighboring countries, such as Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, and Egypt. These populations grew such that the UNRWA had registered almost 1.3 million refugees by 1965.²⁰ The 1967 War, during which Israel occupied the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, displaced an estimated 350,000 additional Palestinians; approximately one third of those refugees were previously displaced during previous hostilities.²¹



Forty years later, in 2008, UNRWA had registered and was delivering aid to 4.6 million refugees, the majority of which are located in Jordan, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank.²² These refugees rarely integrate into the society at large, instead remaining in camps. Integration efforts are stymied by local laws; until 2005, Lebanon, for example, barred Palestinians from employment in over 50 jobs, including professional jobs like accounting and engineering and blue collar jobs like auto repair and cooking.²³ 53% of Lebanon-based refugees live in camps, as do 46% of Gaza-based and 27% of Syria-based

¹⁷ General Assembly. *GA/302(IV). Assistance to Palestinian refugees*. 8 December 1949.

¹⁸ United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). *A/63/13. Report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East*. 31 July 2008, p. 1.

¹⁹ General Assembly. *GA/194(III). Palestine – Progress Report of the UN Monitor*. 11 December 1948.

²⁰ UNRWA. *Number of registered refugees*.

²¹ General Assembly. *GA/6797. Report of the Secretary General under General Assembly resolution 2252 (ES-V) and Security Council resolution 237 (1967)*. 15 September 1967.

²² UNRWA. *UNRWA in Figures*. 31 December 2008. <http://www.un.org/unrwa/publications/pdf/uif-dec08.pdf>

²³ Amnesty International. *Exiled and Suffering: Palestinian refugees in Lebanon*. 17 October 2007. <http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/info/MDE18/010/2007>

refugees.²⁴ Some of these camps are densely packed; the Jabaliya camp in Gaza contains 90,000 residents in a scant 3 square km.²⁵

Current Situation

Palestinian refugees face a number of obstacles, including several challenges that hamper social and economic development. Although literacy rates in the West Bank and Gaza exceed 90%, indicating a highly educated population (due largely in part to UNRWA schools), most people of working age are employed in service industry jobs, rather than the professional jobs they may have trained for.²⁶ Indeed, the unemployment rate was 41% in the Gaza Strip in June 2008, with over 80% below the poverty line.²⁷ As a result, GDP per capita was only USD \$2,900 in 2008, ranking in the bottom third of countries.²⁸ Moreover, GDP per capita had fallen 30% from its peak in 1999.²⁹

Much of this poverty can be directly tied to the continuing hostilities in the region. The Second Intifada, which occurred in the early part of this decade, saw Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip protesting Israeli rule both violently and non-violently, and resulted in a number of economic restrictions.³⁰ Violence and bombings led the Israeli government to close a number of routes between the OpT and Israel as well as within the Territories themselves. A 2001 study found that, for example, of the three main crossings between Gaza and Israel, one was closed the entire year and one was closed 65% of the time, though the other was rarely closed.³¹ Up until this time, much of the Palestinian economy, particularly among refugees in the OpT, depended upon Palestinian labor in Israel and the flow of goods; with these closures, between USD 2.4B to 3.2B in losses (not counting direct losses from the violence) were felt.³²

As violence continued, the economic impact deepened, particularly in the Gaza Strip. In 2006, HAMAS, a Sunni Islamic group affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood that is listed on the U.S. State Department's Foreign Terrorist Organization List for its violence against Israel, won a Parliamentary election against Fatah, the previously ruling faction of the Palestinian Authority (PA).³³ Wrangling over power led to violence between HAMAS and Fatah by 2007. HAMAS effectively seized control of the Gaza Strip, with Fatah remaining in control of the West Bank.³⁴ In 2006, with HAMAS and Fatah wrestling for governmental control, Israel, beset by rocket fire from Gaza, conducted military operations in Gaza, resulting in the death of 450 Palestinians and the destruction of Gaza's main power plant,

²⁴ Ibid.

²⁵ United Nations Development Programme. *The Gaza Strip – Facts, Figures and UNDP's Response to the Ongoing Crisis*. <http://www.undp.ps/en/newsroom/publications/pdf/other/fastfactgazaen08.pdf>

²⁶ U.S. Government. *World Factbook: Gaza Strip*. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/GZ.html>

U.S. Government. *World Factbook: West Bank*. <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/WE.html>

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ World Bank. *Palestinian Economic Prospects: Aid, Access, and Reform*. 22 September 2008.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWESTBANKGAZA/Resources/AHLReportSept.08final.pdf>

³⁰ BBC News. *Al-Aqsa Intifada Timeline*. 29 September 2004. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/3677206.stm

³¹ UN Special Coordinator Office for the Middle East Peace Process. *The Impact on the Palestinian Economy of Confrontation, Border Closures and Mobility Restrictions*. 30 September 2001.

[http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/181c4bf00c44e5fd85256cef0073c426/590a0502e7ecc12085256b4b006ca41e/\\$FILE/UNSCO_1.10.00_30.09.01.pdf](http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/181c4bf00c44e5fd85256cef0073c426/590a0502e7ecc12085256b4b006ca41e/$FILE/UNSCO_1.10.00_30.09.01.pdf)

³² Ibid p. 7.

³³ Wilson, Scott. *Hamas Sweeps Palestinian Elections, Complicating Peace Efforts in Mideast*. Washington Post. 27 January 2006. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/01/26/AR2006012600372.html>

U.S. Department of State. *Foreign Terrorist Organizations*. 7 July 2009.

<http://www.state.gov/s/ct/rls/other/des/123085.htm>

³⁴ Erlanger, Steven. *Hamas Seizes Broad Control in Gaza Strip*. New York Times: 14 June 2007.

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/06/14/world/middleeast/14mideast.html?_r=1

constraining the electrical supply.³⁵ The fighting immediately forced UNRWA to close 60% of its food distribution centers and nearly half its health clinics – which are undeniably crucial in conflict areas.³⁶ This violence, however, paled in comparison to the December 28, 2008 Israeli incursion into Gaza, which resulted in the deaths of 1,434 Palestinians and led to the displacement of 51,000 other Palestinians.³⁷ During this fighting, which was sparked by renewed rocket fire into Israel, the Israeli military refused to allow more than a trickle of Palestinians to flee the warzone, keeping in place a blockade Israel had placed around Gaza since 2007.³⁸ War-torn refugees were not limited to Gaza, however; the war between Israel and Hezbollah in Southern Lebanon in 2006 resulted in the displacement of nearly 20,000 Lebanon-based Palestinians.³⁹

Poverty and violence have led to declining health in refugee camps, despite the efforts of the UNRWA. Anemia, for instance, is considered a severe health risk in the OpT, with a prevalence rate over 57% among children 3 years of age and under in Gaza.⁴⁰ Post-traumatic stress disorder has also become a recurring problem in refugee camps.⁴¹ The one bright spot has been in response to communicable diseases, which UNRWA has been able to control with an aggressive vaccination program.⁴²

Role of the United Nations System

The UNRWA reports primarily to the Fourth Committee, which approves UNRWA's mandate, oversees its budget and operations, and conducts additional field reports as needed. In its 63rd session, for instance, the Fourth Committee re-affirmed the essential nature of UNRWA operations, appointed members to UNRWA's Advisory Commission, supported the investigations of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices in the Occupied Territories, and re-iterated its support for the Palestinian Right of Return.⁴³ The latter issue deserves special attention both due to its importance and as an illustration of the role of the Fourth Committee.

GA/RES/194, passed at the end of 1948, after Israel had declared statehood, called for the right of all refugees to return to their homes.⁴⁴ The General Assembly re-iterated this right after the 1967 war with *resolutions 2252 (ES-V)*, *2341 B (XXII)*, and a number of subsequent resolutions.⁴⁵ Israel, concerned about the impact of 1 million new residents on the economy and character of the state, has rejected the

³⁵ General Assembly. A/62/13. *Report of the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East, 1 January – 31 December 2006*. 17 June 2007.
<http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/361eeaa1cc08301c485256cf600606959/d40c170cf80735ec8525734e006e2302?OpenDocument>

³⁶ UNRWA. *Violence Jeopardizes Humanitarian Options in Gaza*. 12 June 2007.
<http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/fd807e46661e3689852570d00069e918/6437fe3d147d17b5852572f900528ba1?OpenDocument>

³⁷ Human Rights Council. A/HRC/10/20. *Human Rights Situation in Palestine and Other Occupied Arab Territories*. 17 March 2009.

³⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁹ *Supra*, note 16.

⁴⁰ UNRWA. *Health conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory, including east Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan*. 14 May 2009.

<http://unispal.un.org/unispal.nsf/eed216406b50bf6485256ce10072f637/35187dd2bd49f597852575bc004d1c88?OpenDocument>

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

⁴² *Ibid.*

⁴³ General Assembly. GA/SPD/418. *Concluding Session, Fourth Committee Approves 23 Draft Resolutions, 4 Decisions, Including 9 Today By Recorded Vote on Middle East, UN Relief Agency*. 7 November 2008.
<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2008/gaspd418.doc.htm>

⁴⁴ General Assembly. GA/RES/194 (III). 11 December 1948.

⁴⁵ General Assembly. GA/RES/2252 (ES-V). 4 July 1967.

General Assembly. GA/RES/2341 B (XXII). 19 December 1967.

right of return, whereas Palestinian authorities view it as a crucial component to the peace process.⁴⁶ Indeed, resolution of the Right of Return was a key component of the Road Map for Peace, an influential peace proposal sponsored by the United States, Russia, the European Union, and the United Nations (known as the Quartet).⁴⁷ The Right of Return was also crucial to the Arab Peace Initiative and a number of other proposals.⁴⁸ It remains unresolved.

In the 63rd session, the Fourth Committee passed two resolutions relating to the right of return: *A/C.4/63/L.12*, which reaffirms support for the issue, and *A/C.4/63/L.14*, which deals with issues relating to refugee property rights.⁴⁹ These resolutions, once passed, were forwarded to the General Assembly Plenary for consideration, which debated and voted on them in December. They became *A/RES/63/92* and *A/RES/63/94*.⁵⁰ A similar process applies to other Palestinian refugee-related issues the Fourth Committee considers.

Economic and Humanitarian Assistance and Initiatives

The Palestinian Authority (PA) receives considerable economic assistance from the international community; in 2008, this aid equaled 30% of GDP.⁵¹ Nonetheless, this has been insufficient for the PA to continue to invest in social services, which has resulted in a significant degradation in public investments as the PA tries to cover operating costs and salaries.⁵² Similarly, private investments have dropped precipitously.⁵³

A number of programs attempt to address the structural issues that contribute to this situation. The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, for example, is engaging in a number of infrastructure initiatives, such as water system and electrical grid upgrades, as well as government reform assistance.⁵⁴ Government reform is indeed a key initiative of the Palestinian Authority. As part of the Palestinian Reform and Development Plan, the PA has reduced the percentage of government spending on wages, previously the largest spending category, by limiting salaries and reducing the hiring rate.⁵⁵ Similarly, the PA is shifting its spending toward more transparency, a greater percentage of the budget spent on development, and implemented cost control programs in the energy sector, a traditionally high-cost sector.⁵⁶ Despite these efforts, the PA has continuously relied on lending and appeals for more aid to bridge budget shortfalls; after the December 2008 Israeli incursion into Gaza, the United Nations issued a 'Flash Appeal' for \$874 million in donations.⁵⁷

A considerable amount of the funds donated by the international community go to fund UNRWA-administered humanitarian assistance programs. In 2008, 52% of UNRWA's budget went to education

⁴⁶ Ross, Dennis. *The Missing Peace*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux. 2004. P. 805.

⁴⁷ Quartet. *A Performance based Roadmap to a Permanent Two-State Solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict*. 20 December 2002. <http://www.un.org/media/main/roadmap122002.html>

⁴⁸ Arab League. *The Arab Peace Initiative*. 2002. <http://www.al-bab.com/arab/docs/league/peace02.htm>

⁴⁹ General Assembly. *A/C.4/63/L.12. Persons displaced as a result of the June 1967 and subsequent hostilities*. 3 November 2008.

General Assembly. *A/C.4/63/L.14. Palestine refugees' properties and their revenues*. 3 November 2008.

⁵⁰ General Assembly. *63rd Session: Resolutions*. n.d. <http://www.un.org/ga/63/resolutions.shtml>

⁵¹ World Bank. *Palestinian Economic Prospects: Gaza Recovery and West Bank Revival*. 8 June 2009.

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTWESTBANKGAZA/Resources/AHLCJune09Reportfinal.pdf>

⁵² International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. *Interim Strategy for West Bank and Gaza for the Period FY08-FY10 And Request for the Replenishment of the Trust Fund for Gaza and West Bank*. p. 7.

<http://www.imf.org/external/np/wbg/2009/pdf/022509.pdf>

⁵³ *Ibid.*, p. 7.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 25.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 12.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 11.

⁵⁷ United Nations. *Occupied Palestinian Territory: Gaza Flash Appeal*. 2 February 2009.

<http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/db900SID/LSGZ-7NVKGX?OpenDocument>

related initiatives and expenses, including administration of educational facilities, teacher salaries, and books and other supplies.⁵⁸ Spending on healthcare in 2008 was the second largest expenditure category at 19%, indicating the relative importance UNRWA places on education as a long term development strategy.⁵⁹ In keeping with the cost reductions required by the international donor community, humanitarian assistance like educational programs are augmented by standardization programs and rigorous quality assurance programs.⁶⁰ This emphasis on education and healthcare are in contrast to the programs directly funded by the 2009 Flash Appeal, which focus on short-term direct relief like food assistance, initial stages of livelihood recovery, and basic infrastructure repairs.⁶¹ These programs are conducted in coordination with a variety of agencies, including FAO, UNRWA, WFP, and UNICEF.⁶²

Conclusion

This guide has given a very brief overview of the situation Palestinian refugees face everyday. It has focused primarily on refugees in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, due to the fact that the majority of Palestinian refugees reside in those territories. Particularly in Gaza, refugees are subject to a nearly continuous cycle of violence, extreme poverty, and volatile politics. Refugees live outside the Occupied Palestinian Territories, however, and are subject to the whims of the politics of those states and are forced to remain in a “limbo” without citizenship or nationality. Moreover, the number of refugees has grown as time has passed, leading to generations entrenched in the politics of the displaced person. UNRWA, under the guidance of the Fourth Committee, has administered educational and health aid to refugees, but the Agency has had to suspend that aid during periods of violence. Palestinian refugees are stuck in their status; the Right of Return, endorsed by much of the international community, continues to be a stumbling block in peace negotiations.

Questions to Consider

As you continue your research, bear in mind your country’s stance on refugees in general as well as their position on the Israeli-Palestine conflict. Does your government help fund relief efforts? What kind of speeches have they made on the floor of the General Assembly 4th on this issue? Do they have economic ties to Israel or to any of the Arab States currently hosting refugees? Is there a large concentration of Palestinian ex-patriots in your country?

Finally, think about resolutions. This issue has remained unresolved for 60 years. What needs to change in order to resolve it? Or, at the very least, alleviate the suffering of refugees? Does your country support the right of return? Is there another option?

⁵⁸ UNRWA. *UNRWA Programme Budget 2008-2009*. <http://www.un.org/unrwa/finances/pdf/ProgBudget08-09.pdf>

⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, p 13

⁶⁰ UNRWA. *Interim Programme Strategy for 2008-2009*. <http://huwu.org/unrwa/organization/od/InterimProgStrategy08-09.pdf>

⁶¹ *Supra*, note 41, p. 23.

⁶² *Ibid.*

II. Comprehensive Review of the Whole Question of Peacekeeping Operations

Introduction

Peacekeeping has always been a core function of the United Nations, and thus a topic high on the organization's agenda. The United Nations Charter does not define what the term peacekeeping means, allowing a broad range for its use.⁶³ The concept of peacekeeping can be found within the UN Charter in Chapter VI, which deals with resolving disputes peacefully, and Chapter VII which calls for forceful action in conflict zones and other disputes.⁶⁴ Due to the fact that peacekeeping cannot be easily defined, UN Member States often encounter multiple challenges developing a course of action in a peacekeeping operation.⁶⁵ There are several other topics that fall under peacekeeping operations, three of which are: developing multi-dimensional and integrated peacekeeping operations, strengthening the UN's relationship with troop-contributing countries, and transitioning from peacekeeping to peace building.

United Nations Peacekeeping Operations

There are currently 17 UN peacekeeping operations occurring in five regions of the world. The largest number of operations can be found in Africa, with eight, followed by three operations in the Middle East, three operations in Asia, two operations in Europe and one operation in Central America.⁶⁶ The current peacekeeping operations in Africa are: UN Office in Angola (UNOA), UN Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA), UN Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), UN Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE), UN Peace-building Support Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOCGBIS), Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL), UN Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), and UN Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS).⁶⁷ The current peacekeeping operations in Asia are: International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), UN Tajikistan Office of Peace-building (UNTOP), and UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET).⁶⁸ The current peacekeeping operations in Europe are: UN Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) and UN Mission of Observers in Prevlaka (UNMOP).⁶⁹ The current peacekeeping operation in Central America is the UN Civilian support Mission in Haiti (MICAH).⁷⁰

Of the current peacekeeping operations, the largest is the Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC).⁷¹ The Democratic Republic of Congo has faced a civil war for the past five decades (1960-2009), and the situation remains unresolved, leaving thousands of in country refugees.⁷² At the height of the civil war there were over 50,000 rebel troops.⁷³ The main parties involved in the conflict are: the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Rally of Congolese Democracy (RCD), and the Movement for the Liberation of Congo (MLC).⁷⁴ Adding to the chaos is the wavering support from neighboring countries with Uganda supporting the MLC, Rwanda supporting the RCD, and Angola, Zimbabwe, Namibia, and Chad support the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo.⁷⁵ Burundi

⁶³ "United Nations Peacekeeping" <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/index.asp>

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ "Department of Peacekeeping Operations" <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/currentops.shtml#africa>

⁶⁷ Encyclopedia of The United Nations p. 87

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

⁷⁰ Ibid.

⁷¹ "Department of Peacekeeping Operations" <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/missions/monuc/>

⁷² "MONUC" www.bbc.co.uk

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

⁷⁵ Ibid.

also had government troops in the country to suppress the Hutu.⁷⁶ The mission to end the conflict was enacted since November 30, 1999.⁷⁷ Its mission is to bring just and democratic elections to the Democratic Republic of Congo. MONUC's mandate, as established during its reauthorization in Security Council resolution 1856 (2008), includes both military and civilian components, but the primary goal is to enact and monitor a cease fire agreement between the parties, as well as release prisoners of war and military captives.⁷⁸ The main goal of the MONUC operations is to enable elections through supporting a cease-fire between all parties.⁷⁹ MONUC currently has 16,626 military personnel, including 681 military observers, 969 international civilian personnel, 2, 154 local civilian staff, 606 United Nations volunteers and 1,074 police personnel, as peacekeeping forces as of May 31, 2009. Of the military personnel, 49 countries contributed troops, including Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Nepal, and Jordan. Of the police personnel, 22 countries contributed troops, including Jordan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and Senegal.⁸⁰ MONUC is also focused on humanitarian objectives, including facilitating humanitarian assistance and human rights monitoring.⁸¹ Resolution 1856 also emphasized the importance of paying particular attention to vulnerable groups, including women, children, and demobilized child soldiers, as this was originally highlighted by MONUC.⁸²

The UN must keep in mind the sovereignty of the State when composing the troops for any peacekeeping operation.⁸³ There are currently 93,841 personnel participating in peacekeeping operations, including 80,223 military troops, 10,921 police, and 2,337 military observers.⁸⁴ The number of UN military troops greatly outweighs the amount of police involved in peacekeeping missions. Incorporating police into peacekeeping missions is a difficult task, as few countries in conflict zones have surplus police officers to contribute and existing missions are not able to recruit suitable staff.⁸⁵ Nonetheless, 117 member states have contributed personnel to UN peacekeeping operations.⁸⁶ The UN continues to expand its resources for peacekeeping operations, and as its resources expand the need for training of peacekeeping troops expands with it.

There are two departments in the UN that work closely with peacekeeping operations: the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Department of Political Affairs (DPA).⁸⁷ The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) is the central department within the UN Secretariat that provides both political and operational direction for many UN peacekeeping operations.⁸⁸ The department is dedicated to maintaining international peace and security by assisting Member States and the Secretary-General. DPKO works to assist with political and executive directions of peacekeeping. It works to see that the mandates of each mission are achieved and protect peacekeepers in the field.⁸⁹

DPKO works closely with the Security Council by adhering to Security Council mandates and by managing each operation.⁹⁰ In addition, DPKO outlines several specific functions missions can have

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ Ibid.

⁷⁸ Ibid.

⁷⁹ Ibid.

⁸⁰ "MONUC" <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/missions/monuc/mandate.html>

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ "United Nations Peacekeeping" <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/index.asp>

⁸⁴ "Background Notes" <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/bnote.htm>

⁸⁵ "Peacekeeping Operations"

http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/site/c.glKWLeMTIsG/b.2056585/k.A1E/Special_Research_Report_No_5_8_September_2006.htm

⁸⁶ "Background Notes" <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/bnote.htm>

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ "Department of Peacekeeping Operations" <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/info/page3.htm>

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ "Mission Statement of DPKO" <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/info/page3.htm>

depending on the situation. The missions of the DPKO vary widely based on the mandates of their authorizing Security Council resolutions. Peacekeeping missions may be required to deploy peacekeeping troops in order to prevent the outbreak of conflict or the spill-over of conflict across borders.⁹¹ They may also be required to stabilize conflict situations after a cease fire, to create an environment for the parties to reach a lasting peace agreement; assist in implementing comprehensive peace agreements; or lead states or territories through a transition to stable government, based on democratic principles, good governance and economic development.⁹²

Though each peacekeeping operation has specific objectives, all have common goals: to alleviate human suffering and to create conditions and build institutions for self-sustaining peace.⁹³ The DPKO provides political and executive direction to UN peacekeeping operations by maintaining contact with the Security Council, troop and financial contributors, and parties to the conflict in the implementation of Security Council mandates. The DPKO also integrates the efforts of UN, governmental, and non-governmental entities in the bounds of these peacekeeping operations.⁹⁴

The Department of Political Affairs (DPA) provides the Security Council with substantive and Secretariat support in order to help the SC carry out its responsibilities under the UN Charter by providing advice, background documents, procedural briefs, drafts of key documents such as the Security Council's Annual Report to the General Assembly, and operational support in terms of processing all SC documents.⁹⁵ The DPA assists with the substantive efforts of peacekeeping operations by providing tactical analysis of the situation to the Security Council and General Assembly and advising both bodies on the appropriate courses of action.⁹⁶

Furthermore, the DPA plays a central role in peacekeeping efforts by monitoring and assessing global political developments and advising the UN Secretary-General on actions that could advance the cause of peace.⁹⁷ The DPA also supports political missions in the field by providing support and guidance to UN peace envoys as well as serving Member States directly through electoral assistance.⁹⁸ With regards to decolonization, the DPA advises the UN Special Committee on Decolonization by assessing the progress in decolonization of the remaining 16 non-self-governing territories (NSGTs) and by making recommendations to the General Assembly on ways to eliminate all remaining vestiges of colonialism.⁹⁹

The United Nations General Assembly and Peacekeeping

Since 1993, peacekeeping-related agenda items have been assigned to the General Assembly Fourth Committee. The General Assembly continuously looks at the question of peacekeeping to ensure that the actions of the UN adhere to the UN Charter and the mandate of the mission itself.¹⁰⁰ The objective of the Fourth Committee is to consider agenda items on the review of peacekeeping operations and propose action related to those items to the General Assembly Plenary.¹⁰¹ All financial specifics of peacekeeping operations are delegated by the Plenary to the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly. In review, the Fourth Committee defines what peacekeeping is with regards to peacekeeping mission at hand, and uses this to advise the Security Council and General Assembly Plenary of what they view as appropriate

⁹¹ "Department of Peacekeeping Operations" <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/info/page3.htm>

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ Ibid.

⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ "Department of Political Affairs" <http://www.un.org/depts/dpa/scaffairs>

⁹⁶ Ibid.

⁹⁷ Ibid.

⁹⁸ Ibid.

⁹⁹ "Department of Political Affairs" <http://www.un.org/depts/dpa/decolonization.html>

¹⁰⁰ "Department of Political Affairs" <http://www.un.org/depts/dpa/intro.html>

¹⁰¹ Ibid.

action. The Security Council addresses specific conflicts and enacts peacekeeping missions with respect to the policy laid out by the General Assembly and the UN Charter.

The Special Committee on Peacekeeping is a subcommittee of the General Assembly Fourth Committee which discusses topics that relate closely to peacekeeping policy. Most recently the Special Committee on Peacekeeping held its sixty-third session, at which it discussed topics including the financing of current peacekeeping operations, rates of reimbursement to troop contributing countries, the Peace-building fund, and strengthening the DPA. Other topics recently discussed by the Special Committee on Peacekeeping include the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine in Near East (UNRWA), Investigating Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories, and the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.¹⁰²

Gender and Peacekeeping Operations

The role of gender in peacekeeping, both in terms of how peacekeeping missions work with women and the integration of women within the missions themselves, has become an important issue in the international community. In 2000, the Security Council passed resolution 1325 on “Women, Peace, and Security”, which speaks directly to issue of gender and peacekeeping.¹⁰³ The United Nations

The integration of women into peacekeeping missions is a challenge to the United Nations as well as Troop Contributing Countries. As of March 31, 2008, women represented 1.98% of the military contingents donated by countries and designated as military resources.¹⁰⁴ Military resources and financial resources are contributed by outside countries, and these contributions have continued to rise; however, since these resources are contributed by countries, the UN is not able to control contributions by gender.¹⁰⁵

From 1948 to 2008, only seven women have held the position of Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG), which serves an important role in peacekeeping missions.¹⁰⁶ Currently, there are three women appointed to the SRSG position: Ellen Margethe LOJ of Denmark is the SRSG for the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL);¹⁰⁷ Leila Zerrougui of Algeria is the SRSG for the UN Mission in the Congo (MONUC);¹⁰⁸ and Karen Landgren is the SRSG for the UN Mission in Nepal (UNMIN).¹⁰⁹

Sexual exploitation and Abuse of Women by Peacekeeping Troops

The issue of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) of women by UN personnel was first raised in 2001, following persistent and serious allegations of abuse by humanitarian workers of refugees in West Africa with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOS). In reaction, the Security Council included a reference to sexual abuse and exploitation within the peacekeeping mandate of the mission in Sierra Leone in contained within S/RES/1400.¹¹⁰

¹⁰² “General Assembly Resolutions” <http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N05/608/45/PDF/N0560845.pdf?OpenElement>

¹⁰³ “Gender and Peacekeeping” <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/gender/p2.pdf>

¹⁰⁴ “Gender and Peacekeeping” <http://www.peacewomen.org/resources/Peacekeeping/peacekeepingindex.html>

¹⁰⁵ “Peacekeeping Resources” <http://www.peacewomen.org/resources/Peacekeeping/RESDAL%20Brochure.pdf>

¹⁰⁶ “WIIS Report” <http://www.peacewomen.org/resources/Peacekeeping/WIISreport.pdf>

¹⁰⁷ Ibid.

¹⁰⁸ Ibid.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰ “Update Report No. 3: Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Peacekeeping Personnel.” Security Council Report. 20 February 2006.

http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/site/c.glKWLeMTIsG/b.1429245/k.E83E/update_report_no_3BRsexual_exploitation_and_abuse_by_UN_peacekeeping_personnelBR20_february_2006.htm

Following up on this, the Secretary-General issued a bulletin, the *Secretary-General's Bulletin on Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse*, which defines acts of sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as classified them as “serious misconduct for all UN staff, including UN agencies, and stressed that these rules should also apply to entities and individuals working in cooperative arrangements with the UN.”¹¹¹ Despite these actions, allegations of sexual abuse by peacekeeping troops within the UN Mission to the Congo (MONUC) in 2003, initiated a review within the UN system of policies and practices within the UN system. A 2004 report stated that “sexual exploitation and abuse damages the image and credibility of a peacekeeping operation and damages its impartiality in the eyes of the local population, which in turn may well impede the implementation of its mandate.”¹¹² SEA includes acts such as sex with minors, the bartering of food and protection for sex, and sex with prostitutes.¹¹³ Following the situation in the DRC, then Secretary General Kofi Annan appointed Prince Zeid R’ad Zeid al-Husseini as the first Adviser on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by UN Peacekeepers, which resulted in the 2005 *Comprehensive Strategy to Eliminate Future Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (A/59/710)* known as the “Zeid Report.” The recommendations contained within this report initiated widespread reforms such as, mandatory pre-deployment training on UN codes of conduct and SEA, in-country public information campaigns to counter it, conduct and discipline teams in 11 of the 17 current peacekeeping operations (as well as all three political missions supported by DPKO).¹¹⁴ In addition, the report also resulted in the establishment of a headquarters-based Conduct and Discipline Unit in New York, which has led to, “more consistent, reliable record keeping, as well as reporting of allegations and of the status of investigations.”¹¹⁵

Despite the reports written by the UN and actions taken, which include recently revising the *Standard Memorandum of Understanding* between Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs)/Police Contributing Countries (PCC) and the DPKO, the UN often does not have the opportunity to respond. For example, in situations where a “well established allegation of SEA is levied against a member of a UN peacekeeping missions,” civilian staff are fired and repatriated, and uniformed staff are sent home and barred from future service in UN missions.¹¹⁶ In the case of military peacekeepers, who are not employed by the UN but rather by their home country, jurisdiction is retained by the TCC/PCC.¹¹⁷

Developing Multi-dimensional and integrated peacekeeping operations

The aims of peacekeeping operations have changed in the last three decades, as the missions authorized by the Security Council have increasingly multi-dimensional purposes.¹¹⁸ The complex ranges of instruments for peacekeeping that are employed require not only individual implementation, but integration with each other if lasting peace is to be established in the areas they are deployed to.¹¹⁹

¹¹¹ Ibid.

¹¹² A/59/710. *Report of the Secretary-General: A comprehensive strategy to eliminate future sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations*. United Nations. 24 March 2005.
[http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900sid/LKAU-6B6G4D/\\$file/Zeid%20report%20_A-59-710_%20English.pdf?openelement](http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/lib.nsf/db900sid/LKAU-6B6G4D/$file/Zeid%20report%20_A-59-710_%20English.pdf?openelement)

¹¹³ “UN Peacekeeping: Responding to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.” Refugees International. November 1, 2007.
<http://www.refintl.org/policy/field-report/un-peacekeeping-responding-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse>

¹¹⁴ A/59/710. *Comprehensive Strategy to Eliminate Future Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in United Nations Peacekeeping Operations*. United Nations. 24 March 2005.
<http://daccessdds.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N05/247/90/PDF/N0524790.pdf?OpenElement>

¹¹⁵ “UN Peacekeeping: Responding to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.” Refugees International. November 1, 2007.
<http://www.refintl.org/policy/field-report/un-peacekeeping-responding-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse>

¹¹⁶ Ibid.

¹¹⁷ Ibid.

¹¹⁸ “Integrated Missions” <http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/ud/selected-topics/un/integratedmissions.html?id=465886>

¹¹⁹ Ibid.

However, challenges to improving the integration of multilateral and bilateral efforts in regions affected by conflict still remain.¹²⁰

In 2009, the Norwegian government initiated a seminar project in response to a report by the United Nations Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs to discuss multidimensional peacekeeping operations.¹²¹ The main themes of the discussion are how to reconcile mandates/efforts to improve the coherence and impact of the UN response in conflicts; how to better support the peace processes by linking the peacemaking efforts with the conception, planning and implementation of a multidimensional and integrated peace operation; how to improve the alignment of mandates, resources and practices; how integrated peace operations can enhance effective protection of civilians, while safeguarding the independence and impartiality of humanitarian efforts; and how integrated peace operations can augment a demographically and gender-sensitive approach.¹²²

Strengthening the UN's relationship with troop contributing countries

It is vital for the United Nations to maintain a strong relationship with troop contributing countries. It is also vital for the UN to expand the number of troop contributing countries, for reasons of both stability and equity. Currently, the twenty top contributors of uniformed personnel to the UN are: Bangladesh (10,126), Pakistan (9,797), India (9,290), Nepal (3,510), Jordan (2,798), Ethiopia (2,771), Uruguay (2,598), Ghana (2,592), Nigeria (2,412), South Africa (2,094), Senegal (1,885), China (1,648), Morocco (1,548), Kenya (1,352), Benin (1,288), Brazil (1,257), Sri Lanka (1,011), Egypt (931), Argentina (893), and Poland (717).¹²³

Many of the Western TCCs have pressure on their military because of participation in non-UN peace operations.¹²⁴ There is also concern with the deterioration of current peace processes within countries currently supplying peacekeeping troops, resulting in a greater need for troops from countries prone to conflict to remain within their own country, rather than serve within UN Peacekeeping Missions.¹²⁵ In order to alleviate some of this stress, the UN is attempting to reach out to countries who do not currently contribute troops. Potential TCCs go through a lengthy process both internally and externally before making the decision to contribute. These countries often have to address significant public and political concerns about the safety issues of peacekeeping missions. Another factor for potential TCCs is that some host States attempt to pressure the UN by imposing restrictions on UN personnel.¹²⁶ The issue remains on how to continue both troop and monetary funding for peacekeeping without putting strains on TCCs.

Transitioning from peacekeeping to peace-building

The Security Council, in reviewing peacekeeping operations worldwide, identified as one of its key priorities the transition of missions from peacekeeping to peace-building.¹²⁷ Along with the General Assembly, the Security Council requested of the Secretary-General the establishment of a Peace-building Fund (PBF) to fund longer-term engagement in support of countries as they emerge from conflict.¹²⁸ The PBF was created in 2008 and was designed to contribute to post-conflict stabilization and the

¹²⁰ Ibid.

¹²¹ Ibid.

¹²² Ibid.

¹²³ "Peacekeeping Troops"

http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/site/c.glKWLeMTIsG/b.4912001/k.CA03/Update_Report_No_2BRUN_Peacekeeping_OperationsBR16_January_2009.htm

¹²⁴ Ibid.

¹²⁵ Ibid.

¹²⁶ Ibid.

¹²⁷ Ibid.

¹²⁸ "Peace building" <http://www.unpbf.org/mission.shtml>

strengthening of government institutions and capacity; this creation was done concurrently with the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), which works with the General Assembly and Security Council on long-term goals of peacekeeping operations.¹²⁹ The PBF is currently being used in Sierra Leone, Burundi, Central African Republic, Comoros, Liberia, Nepal, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, and Cote d'Ivoire.¹³⁰

Conclusion

The international community needs to consider and improve upon various aspects of peacekeeping operations in order to make peacekeeping more efficient and ensure that peacekeeping is in compliance with the values and principles of the United Nations. Peacekeeping still does not have an organization-consensus definition, though it draws from both Chapter 6 and Chapter 7 of the United Nations Charter.¹³¹ The UN devotes much of its resources towards peacekeeping efforts, as emphasized by the Security Council, GA 4th Committee, DPA, and DPKO.¹³² Over the years, UN peacekeeping has evolved to meet the demands of different conflicts and a changing political landscape.¹³³ The United Nations faces a significant challenge in modernizing peacekeeping while leaving the structures and institutions related to peacekeeping flexible enough to adapt to future changes in the nature of international conflict areas.

Questions to Consider

As a delegate there are many questions to consider when addressing peacekeeping. It is important for delegates to focus on the issue of gender in peacekeeping operations. Look to your nation's involvement with peacekeeping and what role women play. How can we better incorporate women in peacekeeping operations as well as assist women in conflict zones?

The United Nations must also deploy only well-informed troops to areas of conflict. Not only must they know the appropriate protocol, but also be well versed in the situation taking place and cultural sensitivities of the area. In what ways can the UN better train its peacekeeping troops?

It is also important to recognize how your State operates within the peacekeeping system. Does your country contribute military or financial resources to peacekeeping operations? Does your country benefit from peacekeeping and how does it value current peacekeeping operations in the world?

What steps can the Fourth Committee take to better assess the implementation of troops in conflict zones? Is there a better way to decide which troops participate in specific operations to ensure neutrality in operations? The Fourth Committee must also make sure that its subcommittees are effective in their actions and work well together to accomplish the same goal. How can we better solidify the definition of peacekeeping with respect to the UN Charter, DPA, and DPKO?

¹²⁹ "Peace building" <http://www.un.org/peace/peacebuilding/docsandres.shtml>

¹³⁰ Ibid.

¹³¹ Ibid.

¹³² Department of Peacekeeping; <http://www.un.org/Depts/dpko/dpko/index.asp>

¹³³ Ibid.

III. Security Council Elections

Introduction

In contrast to the General Assembly, in which all Member States hold equal voting rights and membership, the Security Council is a much smaller institution governed by five permanent members and a set of ten rotating seats allocated by geography and elected by direct vote.¹³⁴ In the 2009 NWMUN simulation of the General Assembly Fourth Committee, Member States will participate in a Security Council election under a simulated session of the General Assembly Plenary.

Election Rules and Process

The Security Council was established with the United States, United Kingdom, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.), France and China (originally represented by the Republic of China) serving as permanent members.¹³⁵ Each has retained their membership, with the Russian Federation replacing the U.S.S.R. upon the latter's dissolution and the People's Republic of China winning membership over the Republic of China (Taiwan) with *GA/RES/2758* of 1971.¹³⁶ Permanent members, known as the P5, each have veto rights over any resolutions placed before the body.¹³⁷

Non-permanent member positions are allocated by geography. *GA/RES/1991* determined that five member states are to come from Africa and Asia, one from Eastern Europe, two from Latin America and the Caribbean, and two from Western Europe.¹³⁸ Since that time, Africa and Asia's seats have been distributed such that Africa holds three seats and Asia two.¹³⁹

Interested, eligible Member States must submit their intent to the General Assembly for election to the Council. Members are elected from each region through a formal ballot cast by the General Assembly body, though often a consensus will be reached within the region before the election, allowing a single State to submit their application for membership without competition.¹⁴⁰ A 2/3 majority is required for the seat.¹⁴¹ Contentious elections accordingly can require several rounds of voting to produce a clear winner, which may be an alternate, compromise candidate; this occurred during the 1979 election of a Latin American Member, which went to 155 rounds before Mexico was elected as a compromise candidate.¹⁴² Non-permanent members are elected to two-year terms; these terms are staggered so that only half the seats are elected each year.¹⁴³ Some groupings have special agreements regarding these elections.

Africa

¹³⁴ United Nations Security Council. Membership in 2009. <http://www.un.org/sc/members.asp>

¹³⁵ United Nations. Charter of the United Nations. 26 June 1945. Chapter V. Link

¹³⁶ Lewis, Paul. End of the Soviet Union; 3 Western Powers Favor Russian Takeover of Soviet U.N. Seat. New York Times. 24 December 1991. <http://www.nytimes.com/1991/12/24/world/end-soviet-union-3-western-powers-favor-russian-takeover-soviet-un-seat.html>

General Assembly. *GA/2758* (XXVI). Restoration of the lawful rights of the People's Republic of China in the United Nations. 15 October 1971. Link

¹³⁷ Supra, note 2.

¹³⁸ General Assembly. *GA/1991* (XVIII). Question of Equitable Representation on the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council. 17 December 1963. Link

¹³⁹ Supra, note 1.

¹⁴⁰ UN Elections.org. Security Council. <http://www.unelections.org/?q=node/33>

¹⁴¹ Ibid.

¹⁴² Security Council Report. Special Research Report No. 2: UN Security Council Elections 2008. 29 August 2008. http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/site/c.gIKWLeMTIsG/b.4464545/k.3006/Special_Research_Report_No_2brUN_Security_Council_Elections_2008br29_August_2008.htm

¹⁴³ Ibid.

Africa has a detailed process for its 3 seats. Seat 1 rotates between North African States and Central African States every two years, Seat 2 is always occupied by a West African State, and Seat 3 rotates between East African and South African States every two years. As a result, if Seat 1 is held by a North African state such as Libya one term, the following term all North African States are ineligible and the seat can only be held by a Central African state.¹⁴⁴ The African Union strives toward uncontested elections with the intent of ensuring each State has the opportunity to serve on the Council.¹⁴⁵

Asia

There is no established process for electing Member States to the Asia seat. The only complication arises when ensuring that Arab states are accorded representation on the Council. In order to ensure a continuous Arab voice, Asia and Africa take turns sending an Arab State to the Council. Accordingly, during one term, an African seat will be occupied by a North African Arab state, and in the following term, Asia will elect a non-African Arab State.¹⁴⁶

Eastern Europe

There is no established process for electing Member States to the Eastern Europe seat.¹⁴⁷

Latin American and Caribbean

There is no established process for electing Member States to the Latin America seat. The Latin American group includes all Western Hemisphere States with the exception of the United States and Canada.¹⁴⁸

Western Europe and Other States

There is no established process for electing Member States to the Western Europe seat. The Western Europe seat includes Australia, New Zealand, and Canada, and initially included several British Commonwealth States until they joined their regional groupings (e.g. Africa or Asia).¹⁴⁹

2008 Election (2009-2010 Term)

On October 17, 2008, the General Assembly elected five members to the Security Council: Austria, Turkey, Japan, Uganda and Mexico.¹⁵⁰ Two regions were competitive: Western Europe and Asia.¹⁵¹ Three States ran for election in the Western Europe group: Austria, Turkey and Iceland, although Iceland's election attempt was derailed due in part to the economic crisis the State was facing.¹⁵² Japan faced Iran in the Asian election; Japan won with 158 votes to 32 for Iran.¹⁵³

¹⁴⁴ Ibid.

¹⁴⁵ Ibid.

¹⁴⁶ Ibid.

¹⁴⁷ Ibid.

¹⁴⁸ Ibid.

¹⁴⁹ Ibid.

¹⁵⁰ CBS News. Turkey, Austria Win Security Council Seats. 17 October 2008.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/10/17/world/main4528592.shtml>

¹⁵¹ Ibid.

¹⁵² Stringer, Robin and Varner, Bill. Iceland Loses Bid for UN Council Seat Amid Crisis. 17 October 2008.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601087&sid=aaUmdlYkfY4&refer=home>

¹⁵³ Ibid.