



Historical Security Council

MOSMUN XV

Chair:

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1. Letter from the Chair.

Greetings dear delegates, be welcomed to the Security Council. We are absolutely thrilled to see such a large group of delegates ready to engage in what promises to be a challenging, but nevertheless rewarding experience.

Let your participation in this committee be a testament to your commitment, to addressing, and understanding complex global issues. In this committee, you will be expected to represent your delegations with accuracy and dedication. Your ability to negotiate and compromise will be crucial. Remember that the strength of your arguments not only relies on your research, but also, in your ability to engage diplomatically.

We expect nothing but your utmost best in this model.

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2. Introduction to the committee.

2.1. Historical background

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was established in 1945 as one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, with the main goal of advocating for international peace and security. It was created after World War II, with the objective of preventing and finalizing widespread conflicts during the war, with the desire to have a more effective organization than the League of Nations, the “predecessor” of the United Nations. Originally, the UNSC consisted of 11 members, with five permanent members: the United States, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, France, and China with veto power (in other words, nations with an official power or right to refuse to accept or allow something), and six non-permanent members elected for two-year terms.

The Security Council is crucial nowadays since it has the authority to take key actions that help global stability, from imposing sanctions to authorizing military interventions when required. The constant peacekeeping tasks done by the commission are essential for maintaining order in conflictive scenarios and assessing security. Additionally, the UNSC is in charge of attending to emerging global threats that need immediate international responses. In this variation of the Security Council, dates and historical background are crucial, since every aspect of debate and argumentation is ruled by the past. Each delegate should focus on their country’s position, which is ruled by real historical events. It is crucial to recall that the past can not be changed, therefore it is essential to be mindful when referring to actions, resolutions, and decisions, among others.

2.2. Functions and objectives.

The Historical Security Council runs by the same rules and structures as the Security Council, besides one significant difference. The main purpose of the commission is to address certain historical issues that have already been resolved with the viewpoint centered at the time of the conflict, debating topics from a contemporary perspective, but attaching to the time period's information and context. The committee will ensure the opportunity to analyze the topic through geopolitical dynamics and international relations.

Cited from the United Nations webpage, the specific functions of the Security Council include:

- 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.

3. Topic A: Invasion of Iraq (2003)

3.1. Introduction to the topic

As delegates of the United Nations Security Council, you are convened on March 21, 2003, at a critical moment in global history. The world is on the brink of a major conflict as a U.S.-led coalition prepares to invade Iraq, citing concerns over weapons of mass destruction and Saddam Hussein's defiance of UN resolutions.

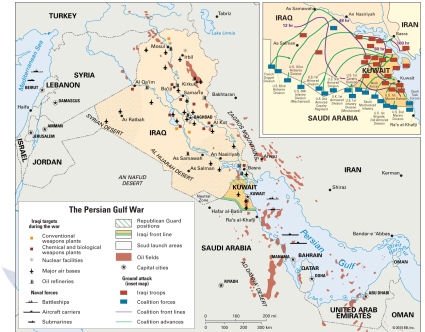
Tensions have been mounting since the Gulf War ended in 1991, with Iraq under strict sanctions and persistent accusations of developing WMDs. Despite the return of UN weapons inspectors in late 2002, no conclusive evidence of such weapons has been found. However, the U.S. and its allies argue that Iraq poses an imminent threat, leading President George W. Bush to issue an ultimatum to Saddam Hussein: leave Iraq or face military action. As the deadline expires today, you must urgently deliberate on the path forward.

Does Iraq truly warrant military intervention? What are the legal and moral implications of this decision? The world is watching, and the outcome of your discussions will have lasting impacts on international peace and security.

3.2. Historical Background

- The Gulf War (1990-1991):

The causes of the invasion can be traced back to the Persian Gulf War in 1990, when Iraq invaded Kuwait. The diplomatic response was instant, and on August 6, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 661, which imposed a ban on all trade with Iraq and called on UN member countries to protect the assets of the legitimate government of Kuwait. The U.S. coalition was called to intervene in the conflict, sending troops to defend the territory being attacked by Iraq. Following the war, the United Nations imposed sanctions on Iraq and mandated its Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) destruction through Resolution 687. However, inconsistent compliance led to ongoing tensions and military confrontations to Iraq's opposition, including airstrikes by the U.S. and UK in the late 1990s. This resulted in the decisive defeat of the Iraqi forces. Despite this, Saddam Hussein was not removed from power.



- UN Sanctions and inspections (1991-2003):

Following the Gulf War the United Nations imposed strict sanctions that were aimed at preventing the development of a possible mass destruction project in Iraq. The UN also sent inspection teams to ensure Saddam's compliance. Throughout the 90s Iraq's relation with the international community got tense, with frequent allegations that Saddam was obstructing inspectors, and continuing pursuing weapons of mass destruction (WMDs).

- ***9/11, and the War on Terror***

The infamous “9/11” attacks drastically altered U.S. foreign policy. The Bush Administration initially targeted the insurgent groups of Al Qaeda, and the Taliban in Afghanistan. This is when the Bush Administration started looking at Iraq as a possible associate of terrorist groups such as Al Qaeda, or Isis (the Islamic State). These allegations would be later used to justify the Invasion that many see as inevitable.

- ***Ultimatum, and the countdown to war (March, 2003)***

By March 2003, tensions had reached a critical point. On March 17, 2003, U.S. President George W. Bush delivered an ultimatum to Saddam Hussein and his sons, demanding they leave Iraq within 48 hours or face military action. As the deadline approached, diplomatic efforts to avert war had failed, with key members of the UN Security Council, including France, Russia, and China, opposing an invasion without further UN authorization. The Bush administration, along with the United Kingdom and a coalition of allied nations, resolved to proceed with military action, arguing that Iraq's alleged WMD programs and defiance of international mandates posed an unacceptable threat to global security. The world braced for the inevitable conflict as the deadline for the ultimatum expired.

3.3. Current situation

As of March 21, 2003, the Iraq War is fully underway, with U.S.-led coalition forces advancing swiftly into Iraqi territory following the launch of "Operation Iraqi Freedom" on March 20th. Ground troops are making significant progress, particularly in southern Iraq, while Baghdad and other strategic locations are experiencing intense aerial bombardment in a "shock and awe" campaign aimed at disabling Saddam Hussein's regime. Despite sporadic resistance from Iraqi forces, the coalition's military superiority is evident.

Saddam Hussein remains defiant, appearing on state television to rally Iraqis against the invasion, though his control over the military is increasingly uncertain. The humanitarian situation is deteriorating rapidly, with reports of civilian casualties, displacement, and a looming refugee crisis. The international community is deeply divided, with the invasion proceeding without explicit UN Security Council authorization, leading to widespread condemnation from key global powers. As the conflict escalates, the world is anxiously watching the unfolding events and their potential repercussions.

3.4. Future expectations

Every delegation faces a key position on a critical historical moment, where the urgency is to act and discuss. The unfolding situation demands swift attention, and delegates must focus

on prioritizing the safety and well-being of worldwide civilians affected by the conflict (having the immediate focus on the Iraqi citizens affected by casualties) ensuring that humanitarian aid reaches those in need, and creating proposals for ensuring the protection of people.

Delegates should center on the security challenges, such as a potential rise of insurgency, and must be addressed through diverse strategies to maintain order, including the possible deployment of peacekeeping forces to stabilize the situation and assist in reconstruction efforts, while maintaining a safe space with those affected as a priority. Debate is encouraged about the legality and ethical implications of military action without explicit UN authorization will also be the subject of intense debate, taking into account both sides of the situation and the points of view that can reveal crucial information for the understanding of the conflict and the reason for the actions of each delegation.

The long-term consequences of the invasion affecting regional stability in the Middle East and beyond cannot be overlooked. Delegates should focus on discussing relationships and repercussions on neighboring countries or nations with any social, economic, political or other implications that are influenced by the actions of the parties involved. It is crucial to debate and review the long-term commitment of the international community to advocate for the recovery of Iraq and its nation.

3.5. Previous Resolutions

Before the recent invasion, there were multiple resolutions that related (either directly or indirectly) with the March 20th conflict.

- ***Resolution 687 (1991)***

Following the Gulf War, this resolution established a ceasefire and mandated Iraq's disarmament, including; the destruction of chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons. The resolution defined Iraq's obligations regarding disarmament, and established the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) as an inspecting regime to ensure the fulfillment of Iraq's duties.

- ***Resolution 1154 (1998)***

This resolution reaffirmed the significance of Iraq's compliance with previous disarmament resolutions (such as the Resolution 687, mentioned previously) and requested Iraq to actively cooperate with the UNSCOM and their related duties for peace. This resolution generated tension between the United Nations and Iraq regarding the topic of disarmament.

- ***Resolution 1441 (November 8, 2002)***

The resolution acted as the "final opportunity" directed to Iraq to fulfill the disarmament obligations established back in 1991, and directed the return of weapon examiners to Iraq. Iraq was warned about potential serious consequences for non-compliance. The United States interpreted the situation as a reason for military action, arguing that Iraq had substantially violated the resolution, while many other nations maintained that the resolution did not authorize the use of force without the approval of the Security Council.

3.6. Questions to the delegate (QARMAS).

1. What is your delegation's position on the conflict? Does your delegation support the ideologies and actions of the coalition of the United States or the actions of the Republic of Iraq, or is it neutral? What factors influence this position?
2. What is the response of your delegation towards the conflict and what does it specifically propose to act towards the resolution of the topic in a particular aspect?
3. What collective responses does your delegation propose the United Nations should play in addressing the crisis in Iraq, and how can the Security Council effectively respond to the situation?
4. How does your delegation envision the long-term impact of the conflict and how does it impact your delegation?
5. What is your delegation's position regarding economic and sociopolitical aspects? Does it affect your delegation (either directly or indirectly) in any way? What are potential short term consequences that might impact your delegation?
6. What is your delegation's response regarding the humanitarian aspect of the conflict including the support for those affected by the conflict, and what is the delegation's opinion on the humanitarian situations in both the coalition and the Republic of Iraq?
7. What aspects (e.g., social, political, religious, historic) of the conflict does your delegation propose to examine and dissect the situation?

3.7. Delegation's position.

- United States of America:

The U.S. remains steadfast in its support for military action against Iraq. The delegation argues that Saddam Hussein's regime poses a grave threat due to its alleged possession of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) and its connections to insurgent groups. The United States maintains that the invasion is necessary to disarm Iraq, promote regional stability, and uphold international law, even without explicit United Nations Security Council authorization.

- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland:

This delegation fully supports the United States in its military campaign against Iraq. The United Kingdom asserts that Iraq's continued defiance of United Nations Security Council resolutions, particularly regarding WMDs, justifies the invasion. The U.K. believes that military action is the only viable option left to enforce compliance and remove Saddam Hussein's regime.

- French Republic:

The Delegation of the French Republic continues to oppose the invasion of Iraq, emphasizing the importance of exhausting all diplomatic avenues before resorting to military force. France insists that the United Nations weapons inspections should continue and that any military action should be explicitly authorized by the Security Council, warning that unilateral action undermines international law and global stability.

- The Russian Federation:

The Delegation of the Russian Federation strongly opposes the invasion of Iraq, advocating for continued diplomatic efforts and the work of UN weapons inspectors. Russia believes that the evidence does not justify an immediate military intervention and stresses that any action without explicit Security Council approval violates international law and sets a dangerous precedent.

- **People's Republic of China:**

The People's Republic of China reaffirms its opposition to the invasion of Iraq, calling for a peaceful resolution through diplomatic means. China supports the continuation of inspections and warns that military action without Security Council authorization is a breach of international law and threatens global peace and security.

- **Federal Republic of Germany:**

Germany opposes the military invasion of Iraq, advocating for continued diplomacy and inspections. Germany aligns with France and other nations in calling for more time to allow the UN inspection process to work and believes that military action without Security Council backing is unjustified and harmful to international relations.

- **Republic of Turkey:**

The Republic of Turkey is deeply concerned about the potential consequences of the invasion of Iraq, particularly regarding regional stability and the situation with the Kurdish population. While Turkey has allowed the U.S. to use its bases for logistical support, it remains cautious about fully endorsing the military action and calls for careful consideration of the invasion's long-term impacts.

- **Islamic Republic of Iran:**

Iran strongly opposes the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, viewing it as unjustified aggression against a neighboring state. Despite Iraq being a historical adversary, Iran is concerned about the broader regional instability that the conflict could provoke and calls for non-military solutions through diplomatic channels.

- **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia:**

The Delegation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia officially opposes the invasion of Iraq, advocating for a peaceful resolution to the crisis. While Saudi Arabia has permitted U.S. logistical operations, it emphasizes the need for Arab unity and cautions against the potential destabilizing effects of the war on the region.

- **Syrian Arab Republic:**

The Syrian Arab Republic strongly condemns the invasion of Iraq, viewing it as a violation of Iraq's sovereignty and an act of aggression against an Arab state. Syria calls for an immediate halt to military operations and urges the international community to seek a diplomatic resolution in line with international law.

- **Arab Republic of Egypt:**

The Delegation of the Arab Republic of Egypt opposes the military action against Iraq, urging for a peaceful resolution through continued diplomatic engagement. Egypt warns that the invasion risks further destabilization in the Middle East and emphasizes the importance of adhering to UN processes and international law.

3.8. Useful links

<https://www.cfr.org/timeline/iraq-war>

<https://www.georgewbushlibrary.gov/research/topic-guides/the-iraq-war>

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Iraq-War>

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/iraq-war-2003-explained>

<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/world/a-timeline-of-the-iraq-war>

<https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL31715.html>

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