

United Nations Security Council



Background

President: Zaira América González Negrete
E-mail: 194004@salleleon.edu.mx

PANORAMA MUN 2021

United Nations Security Council



Committee

The United Nations Security Council is one of the six principal organs according to the Charter of the United Nations signed in 1945. It has 15 Member States and each one has the right to vote. Under the Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with the Council decisions.

Functions

The main function of the Security Council is to maintain the security of every country and build peace between nations.

The Council determines the existence of threats of the peace or acts of aggression and urges member states to debate in order to find solutions in a peaceful manner; respecting the stipulated principles and promoting the compliance and correct application of human rights; working hand in hand with other organs and authorities of the United Nations and participate in the election of judges for the International Court of Justice; maintaining cordial relations of friendship between nations and admitting new Members to the search of solutions; investigating any controversy that may represent a risk, and recommend solutions or conditional terms as appropriate. Occasionally, the Security Council may impose sanctions or even use force to always restore and preserve international peace and security.

United Nations Security Council



Topics

Topic A: Preventive measures against the territorial conflict in the Aegean Sea.

Topic B: Impact of COVID-19 on the peace and security of America.

Topic C: Measures to eradicate forced labor to minority Muslim groups in China.





Topic A: Preventive measures against the territorial conflict in the Aegean Sea.

The problems between Athens and Istanbul date back a century, from the beginning of the First World War, with the Lausanne treaty, which stipulated the resignation of Greece to eastern Thrace and the Dardanelles Strait, in exchange for the Turkey renounces Cyprus and some islands in the Aegean Sea. However, the conflict was not fully resolved since in 1974 and 1996 new clashes broke out that, although they did not cause major damage, aggravated the rivalry between Greece and Turkey.

Currently, Turkey has not yet signed the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea that regulates the international law of the sea since 1994. The convention stipulates in the articles 4 & 5 that the limit of the territorial sea is "the line every point of which is at a distance from the nearest point of the baseline equal to the breadth of the territorial sea" and "the normal baseline for measuring the breadth of the territorial sea is the low-water line along the coast as marked on large-scale charts officially recognized by the coastal State." So, the membership of the islands as part of a specific continental shelf has not been accepted.



Recently the presence of natural gas in the Aegean Sea has been discovered; like oil, gas is a very important natural resource that, after being processed, can be used to produce electricity and heat, which gives the producer of this resource greater value worldwide, so Greece has sought to expand the maritime extension. Given this, Turkey has warned that Greece's decision could spark a warlike conflict.

The invasions by the Turkish army of Greek airspace and multiple maritime explorations of the economic zone of Greece, or the presence of the Greek army on islands in the Aegean Sea, have sparked controversy. Despite the existence of minor damages, it is necessary to seek preventive measures in the event of a dispute that could put the security of both nations at risk.

Guiding questions:

- How could the situation between Greece and Turkey be stabilized while the territorial conflict clears up?
- How could other nations intervene to prevent a possible confrontation?
- Do you think that the use of military equipment could be involved?
- What are the resources that the delegation could offer?



Topic B: Impact of COVID-19 on the peace and security of America.

The risks are diverse. Trust in public institutions is eroding in places where people perceive that authorities have not addressed COVID-19 effectively or been transparent about its impact. As existing grievances and vulnerabilities become more entrenched, the potential for violence only grows, also highlighting an alarming spike in gender-based and domestic abuse. Urging countries to focus intently on preventing the deliberate use of diseases as weapons. Biological Weapons Convention codifies a strong and long-standing norm against such abhorrent use of disease. On the human rights front, he expressed concern over the excessive use of force around police lockdowns and curfews, as well as growing manifestations of authoritarianism: limits on the media, civic space and free expression, among them.

According to UN data, by the end of 2019, more than 800,000 people in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras had sought protection within their countries or had crossed international borders in search of asylum to escape threats such as gang violence and persecution. Beatings are happening in the markets, robberies and looting are a constant threat.



In Mexico, thousands of people took to the streets to protest against police brutality after it became known that a 30-year-old man died in police custody after being arrested for not wearing a face mask as legally required. Reported torture methods used by Mexican police are almost as feared as those employed by the drug cartels.

The nature of the pandemic also makes it very difficult to use it as an opportunity for peace. Because to seize opportunities for peace requires time, will, and money; all of which seem short at this time. Therefore, the propose of the Security Council is to bring safety back during times of COVID-19 and continue promoting peace between citizens of the American continent.

Guiding questions:

- How your country could be affected by conflicts during this time of pandemic by COVID-19?
- Has the government of your country taken actions to prevent violence that could be caused by the pandemic?
- How could the governments of the affected countries intervene?
- What factors determine the use of violence in America in times of pandemic?



Topic C: Measures to eradicate forced labor to minority Muslim groups in China.

The European Parliament has condemned China over allegations of forced labor by minority groups. The Parliament signals the Chinese government-led system of forced labor, in particular the exploitation of Uyghur, ethnic Kazakh and Kyrgyz, and other Muslim minority groups in factories within and outside internment camps in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region.

The US State Department estimates that more than one million Uyghurs, as well as members from other Muslim groups, have been detained in a sprawling network of internment camps in Xinjiang, where they are reportedly «subjected to torture, cruel and inhumane treatment such as physical and sexual abuse, forced labor, and death.» Former detainees have told CNN they experienced political indoctrination and abuse inside the camps, such as food and sleep deprivation and forced injections.

US parliament members expressed their concerns about what they described as the «increasingly oppressive regime» in Beijing. The body's statement urges China to «put an immediate end to the practice of arbitrary detention without charge, trial or conviction for criminal offenses of members of the Uyghur and other Muslim minorities». An exchange of ideas is useful and necessary to quickly find a strategic and peaceful solution to this situation.



Guiding questions:

- What do you think that are the factors that produce this problematic?
- How is affected China's population?
- What rules or laws are violated under forced labor?
- What actions can your delegation take in response to this problem?



References:

Topic A:

- BBC News. (2020, August 25). Turkey-Greece tensions escalate over Turkish Med drilling plans. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-53497741>
- International Law Can't Solve the Greco-Turkish Island Problem. (2020, October 19). Washington Post. https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/energy/international-law-cant-solve-the-greco-turkish-island-problem/2020/10/19/100d90d8-1220-11eb-a258-614acf2b906d_story.html
- Lausanne Peace Treaty. (n.d.). Republic of Turkey Ministry of Foreign Affairs. http://www.mfa.gov.tr/lausanne-peace-treaty-part-i_-political-clauses.en.mfa
- Marcus, J. (2020, August 25). The Eastern Mediterranean tinderbox: Why Greek-Turkish rivalries have expanded. BBC News. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-53906360>
- United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. (1994, November 16). United Nations. https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/unclos_e.pdf



References:

Topic B:

- Global Observatory. (2020, October 23). "The Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Peace and Conflict."
<https://theglobalobservatory.org/2020/10/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-peace-conflict/>
- Noticias ONU. (2020, December 17). "Las amenazas de muerte y la violencia de las pandillas obligan a más familias a huir de Centroamérica."
<https://news.un.org/es/story/2020/12/1485752>
- The European Journal of International Law. (2020, July 27). "Covid-19 as a threat to international peace and security: The role of the UN Security Council in addressing the pandemic".
<https://www.ejiltalk.org/covid-19-as-a-threat-to-international-peace-and-security-the-role-of-the-un-security-council-in-addressing-the-pandemic/>
- United Nations. (2020, July 02). COVID-19 'Profoundly Affecting Peace across the Globe', Says Secretary-General, in Address to Security Council.
<https://www.un.org/press/en/2020/sc14241.doc.html>



References:

Topic C:

- Against Their Will: The Situation in Xinjiang | U.S. Department of Labor. (n.d.). U.S. Department of Labor. <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ilab/against-their-will-the-situation-in-xinjiang>
- BBC News. (2020a, June 29). China forcing birth control on Uighurs to suppress population, report says. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-53220713>
- Buckley, C., & Ramzy, A. (2020, July 1). Inside China's Push to Turn Muslim Minorities Into an Army of Workers. The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/12/30/world/asia/china-xinjiang-muslims-labor.html>
- China cuts Uighur births with IUDs, abortion, sterilization. (2020, June 29). AP NEWS. <https://apnews.com/article/269b3de1af34e17c1941a514f78d764c>
- US halts imports from China's Uighur region for forced labor. (2020, September 14). AP NEWS. <https://apnews.com/article/forced-labor-global-trade-china-archive-race-and-ethnicity-0a2b64d4b2dfce8dc6be8d402a96ecbe>