

Razi School 4th Annual Model United Nations Conference

Topics:



Should the Regime in the Syrian Arab Republic fall, is it in the United Nations Member Nations' interest to work with the Arab League, and the United States, to bring about a stable democratic Government that will conduct elections in reasonable amount of time?



Should the United Nations insist on specific rules and regulations regarding exploration, colonization, and occupation of other planets in our solar system and beyond?

BACKGROUND GUIDE FOR SECURITY COUNCIL (SC).

The Dias:

- **Lead Chair: Mohammed Harb**
- **Director: Ezzeldin Enan**
- **Rapporteur: Zammer Khan**

Dear Delegates,

We welcome you to the 2014 Razi School 4th annual Model United Nation Conference and the Security Council (SC). We are excited to serve as the staff for this committee: Lead Chair Mohammed Harb, and the Director Ezzeldin Enan including Mr Zameer Khan, the Rapporteur.

The 1st topic for the Security Council is:

- **Should The Regime in the Syrian Arab Republic fall, is it in the United Nations Member Nations' interest to work with the Arab League, and the United States, to bring about a stable democratic Government that will conduct elections in reasonable amount of time?**

The Security Council is the main UN body charged with maintaining international peace and security. As a means to accomplish this goal, the Council is uniquely empowered to impose economic sanctions, arms embargoes, financial sanctions, and travel bans, as well as orchestrate collective military actions. The Council is the only UN body, which adopts legally binding resolutions and is responsive to emerging crises.

As an introduction to your research; however, we strongly encourage you to advance the ideas given in the guide and further deepen your knowledge on the topics, especially regarding the perspectives of your assigned countries. The bibliography can be helpful as a starting point, but please consult a range of other materials for an understanding of each issue.

All Delegates Must submit a Position Paper on the 14th of November, not later, which will be corrected by the Lead Chair person and/or Judges.

Each committee topic should be addressed in a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned country, Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), or expert role. You should identify and address international and regional conventions, treaties, declarations, resolutions, and programs of action that are relevant to the policy of your country or NGO. You should also include recommendations for actions to be taken by your committee. A delegate's role as a Member State, Observer State, or NGO should display as much as possible the true nature of that specific country chosen.

All papers must be typed and formatted according to the standards below:

- ❖ **One and a half to two pages, maximum.**
- ❖ **Margins must be set at 1 inch or 2.54 cm. for the whole paper**
- ❖ **Font must be Times New Roman size 12 pt.**

Please note that position papers must be comprised of entirely original writing with no plagiarism whatsoever. The Razi School Model United Nations Conference will not tolerate plagiarism, including copying from Committee Background Guides. Violation of this policy may result in dismissal from the conference.

Since Syria is an Arab country with more than 22 million people and it borders major political players in the Middle East (such as Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Turkey, and Palestine among others) and is roughly the size of North Dakota, it is rather unstable at the moment. The illegal occupation of the Golan Heights by Israel since 1967, in the Arab-Israeli war, negotiations

between the two countries have been minimal in recent years. Like many countries in the region, Syria's main export is oil however the countries of Saudi Arabia or Iran's oil reserves dwarf the Syria's oil reserves. While Syria ranks 33rd in the world for its oil reserves and furthermore, it is home to a host of various ethnic minorities and religions: Kurds, Christians, Sunnis, Alawites, and Druze. The capital of Syria is Damascus, which is a bustling metropolis (some scholars have listed this as one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the World today) but it is not the site of the country's most significant protests (though rebels captured parts of the city in late January). Another city of importance is Hama, the country's fourth-largest, with fewer than 1 million occupants.

– The Situation

Ever since March 2011, Syrians, especially those in the country's central region, have protested the iron-fist government of Bashar al-Assad, the son of the previous dictator, Hafez Al Assad. During the first week of August the Syrian army began a brutal campaign to control Hama, using tanks and troop assaults to kill citizens in a seemingly indiscriminate manner. The situation has continued to escalate in 2012. In late January, rebels known as the Free Syrian Army (FSA) reportedly took control of a portion of Damascus' suburbs. On January 31st, Syrian government forces, according to Reuters, "reasserted control" of the Damascus suburbs. Elsewhere, in Homs, a central-Syrian town with more than a million people, Syrian government forces killed nearly 100 people—activists say 55 civilians were killed—on January 31st. The FSA has fought on, asserting that "half of the country" is now effectively in their hands. Since November, at least 3,000 Syrians reportedly have been killed.

– Who's The Leader?

Bashar Al Assad has ruled Syria since 2000. His father, Hafez al-Assad, a member of the Baath Party (Communist Party), came to power in 1970 after leading a bloodless coup. Thirty years ago, Assad launched one of the most massacres in the modern history of the Middle East: His troops killed

nearly 50,000 people in the city of Hama and Haleb. In 2000, Hafez Assad died, and Bashar took over.

– **The Arab League**

Founded in March 1945, the League of Arab States (or Arab League) is a loose “confederation of twenty-two Arab nations, including Palestine, whose broad mission is to improve coordination among its members on matters of common interest while preserving the sovereignty of its individual states.” The League was chartered in response to concerns about postwar colonial divisions of Arab territories. It has long been criticized for being ineffective, creating disunity and poor governance rather than uniting the Middle East. Critics also say it has traditionally been more representative of its various autocratic regimes than of Arab masses indeed, it is the contention of the ARAB SPRING that a wave of democracy would influence the Middle East and turn it into a beacon of hope as the European Community has become for Europe with a common currency, no trade restrictions, and all its people working for peace and stability in the region.

According to its charter, the founding members of the Arab League (Egypt, Syria, Transjordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, and Yemen) agreed to seek "close cooperation" on matters of economics, communication, culture, nationality, social welfare, and health among others. They renounced violence for the settlement of conflicts among member states but see no end in the Syrian conflict and have appealed to the United States for assistance.

The charter established Arab League headquarters in Cairo, created a permanent General Secretariat (a position traditionally appointed to an Egyptian [AP]), and scheduled sessions to meet biannually, or at the request of two members in extraordinary circumstances or crisis situations. A formal commitment to international human rights law, it only entered League conventions in 2004 (ratified in 2008) when some members adopted the Arab Charter on Human Rights.

– **What the rest of the world is doing about the situation?**

On January 31st, the United Nations Security Council considered a resolution introduced by Morocco, urging Assad to resign. With such a perambulatory term used, the Arab League, with the backing of Saudi Arabia now realizes that operative clauses are needed to implement actions against Syria. The prior weekend, the Arab League pulled its observers out of Syria due to the continued violence and instability.

According to the United States Secretary of State, Hillary Clinton, "The United States urges the Security Council to back the Arab League's demand that the Syrian Government immediately stop all attacks against civilians and guarantee the freedom of peaceful demonstrations."

Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jabr Al-Thani, Qatar's foreign minister, told the UN that Syria, "did not fully and immediately met (sic, meet) its commitments to the Arab League" and that the Syrian "killing machine is still at work."

Nabil Elaraby, the Secretary General of the Arab League, urged the council to adopt the sanctions, imploring, "Do not let the Syrian people down in its plight." Russia and China, considering their own interests on the global chessboard, are likely to veto the measure. Until now, Turkey, the European Union, and the United States have all enforced strict sanctions against the Syrian government. Regardless, Russia, according to the BBC, has contracts worth an estimated \$1.5 billion for weapons sales to the Syrian government. As of late January, the US has begun preparations to close its embassy in Damascus.

Should the United Nations insist on specific rules and regulations regarding exploration, colonization, and occupation of other planets in our solar system and beyond?

It is the contention that for many years, space should be used for peaceful purposes, and for the benefit of all humankind. Proper space use includes weather monitoring, assistance in search and rescue, assistance in potential natural disaster detection, coordinating efforts on detecting and dealing with issues of space debris and minimizing harmful impacts on Earth, research in sciences, health, and the list goes on.

- United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)**

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) is the United Nations office responsible for promoting international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space, as per the mandate of this office. UNOOSA serves as the Secretariat for the General Assembly's only committee dealing exclusively with international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space: the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS).

UNOOSA is also responsible for implementing the Secretary-General's responsibilities under international space law and maintaining the United Nations Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space in the preservation of our Universe.

Through the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, UNOOSA conducts international workshops, training courses and pilot projects including remote sensing, satellite navigation, satellite meteorology, tele-education and basic space sciences for the benefit of United Nations member nations. It also maintains a 24-hour hotline as the United Nations focal point for satellite imagery requests during disasters and manages the United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER).

Furthermore, it should be noted that UNOOSA is the current secretariat of the International Committee on Global Navigation Satellite Systems (ICG).

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– The Outer Space Treaty

The United Nations (U.N.) Outer Space Treaty provides the basic framework on international space law, and in fact, on October 1967, it highlighted the peaceful use of space for humankind's interests.

– Militarization Of Space For Economic Superiority

Most wars throughout history have had trade and resources at their core indeed the military superiority of past and present nations have been to defend or expand such “national interests.” The militarization of space by the USA, even when there has been an international agreement to use space for peaceful purposes is totally unacceptable. While the answer from US authorities is usually along the lines of “defensive purposes” this only further the creation of the necessity by other nations of the militarization of space, let alone planets in its possession.

– International Space Law

While the Action Plan endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/122, provides information and advice, upon request, to governments, non-governmental organizations and the general public on space law, promoting understanding, acceptance and implementation of the international space law agreements; it is the rest of the United Nations which MUST be charged with the duties to implement policies and Security Council actions to prevent the militarization of Space and the potential for an arms race in space itself.



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References and Websites that will help with your Research:

- ❖ <http://www.unausa.org/global-classrooms-model-un/how-to-participate/model-un-preparation/research>
- ❖ www.cia.org
- ❖ www.cnn.org
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