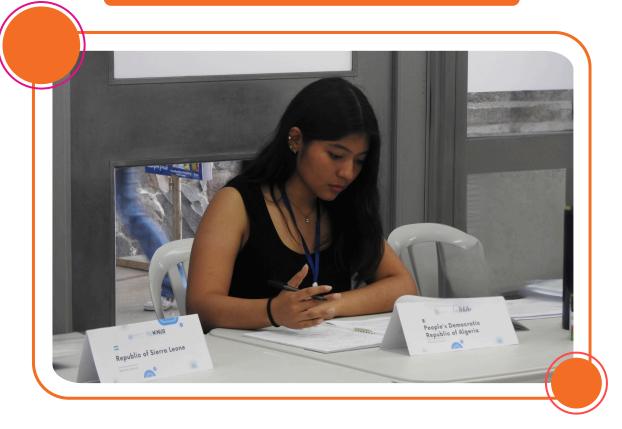


## **Background Guide:**

# **Security Council**

"LET'S BE THE CHANGE WE WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD"



2026
SEVENTH EDITION



## TABLE OF **CONTENTS**

Presentation	2
Committee Overview	4
Historical background	4
Mandate, Function and Powers	5
Committee Structure	6
Relevance in International Relations	7
Member and Observer States	8
Tonic 1: The role of regional mediation in Middle Eastern	
Topic 1: The role of regional mediation in Middle Eastern	
conflicts	9
conflicts	9
conflicts	9 10
International and Regional Framework	9 10 10
Introduction	9 10 10
Introduction	9 10 10
Introduction	



Topic 2: Collaborative efforts to curb the recruitment of	
children in armed conflicts in Central Africa	14
Introduction	14
International and Regional Framework	15
The consequences of war	15
Community and Family Sensitisation	16
Integrated Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration.	17
Application of the SDGs to the Topic	17
Questions for Consideration	18
Key Challenges	19
References	20



# **PRESENTATION**

Distinguished Delegates,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the seventh edition of the Modelo Interuniversitario de Naciones Unidas de Guatemala (MINUG). We extend our heartfelt congratulations to each of you for your decision to participate in the prestigious Security Council. Your presence is deeply valued, and your contributions are essential to our shared goal of promoting global peace and security. As delegates, your knowledge and commitment are key to tackling the urgent international challenges before us. Your diverse viewpoints and thoughtful insights will be instrumental in shaping meaningful solutions for our world. During this simulation, you will engage in rich discussions and negotiations on two critical topics:

- 1. The role of regional mediation in Middle Eastern conflicts
- 2. Collaborative efforts to curb the recruitment of children in armed conflicts in Central Africa

These conversations are the lifeblood of the Security Council, fostering dynamic exchanges that lead to impactful outcomes. We encourage you to embrace the diversity of thought within this forum. By listening actively and working toward consensus, you will help forge innovative and effective responses to global issues.

Please remember that you are not alone in this endeavor. Our team is here to support and guide you throughout the simulation. Whether you need advice, assistance, or simply someone to talk to, we are always available to help you succeed. Once again, welcome to the Security Council. Let us move forward together, united in our dedication to peace, security, and a brighter future for all.



The children, due to the needs of their physical and mental development requires particular care with regards to health, moral and social development and requires legal protection in conditions of freedom, dignity and security and taking the virtues of the cultural heritage of African civilization which should inspire and characterize their reflection on the concept of the rights and welfare of the child.

In recent years, however, the children living in conflict situations experienced an unprecedented increase in violence and violations of their rights. The United Nations reported 32,990 verified grave violations against children, including killing and maiming, recruitment and use, rape and other forms of sexual violence, abduction, attacks against schools and hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access.

Understanding the conditions that lead to this situation requires addressing the broader conflicts that endanger them, such as conflicts in the Middle East.

To understand the regional violence, first, we need the cultural understandings and a lack of procedural mechanisms to foster mediation in local proceedings have generally resulted in parties in the region being uncomfortable mediating their disputes. A key driver of this has been the question of whether mediation discussions are confidential.

However, there is reason to believe this culture is changing. Recently, a number of jurisdictions and institutions in the Middle East have taken steps to introduce formalised mediation frameworks which we anticipate will result in a rise in mediation across the region. The security council, now more than ever, needs to lead these efforts for mediation in the region.

Sincerely,

Dais, Security Council Modelo Interuniversitario de Naciones Unidas de Guatemala



# **COMMITTEE**OVERVIEW

### Historical background

The Security Council is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN) defined by the Charter of the United Nations (Charter, Chapter 5, 1945). The Security Council seeks to maintain international peace and security and oversees changes to the United Nations Charter. As the Security Council is the only United Nations body that can create legally-binding decisions for all Member States under Chapter VII of the Charter, it has a unique and impactful mandate to set norms and govern state actions.

Traditionally, the Security Council discusses issues related to conflict, peacebuilding and peacekeeping missions, the protection of human rights, disarmament, and humanitarian crises. Over the recent years, it has been adapting their agenda to address emerging global challenges, recognizing that the threats to peace come in many ways and are not limited by traditional warfare, but also come in resource scarcity, climate change and political stability.

With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) by the General Assembly in 2015, the Security Council has begun to increasingly focus on the intersection between sustainability, peace, and security. This change reflects a growing understanding that lasting peace cannot be achieved without addressing economic and social issues around the globe.

The Security Council ultimate responsibility for resolving disputes and conflicts lies with the parties themselves and that peacekeeping operations aimed at helping to implement a peace accord can succeed only to the extent that there is a genuine and lasting commitment to peace by all parties concerned

The Security Council calls upon all States to intensify efforts to secure a world free of the scourge of war.



#### Mandate, Function and Powers

It emerged as the main body responsible for maintaining international peace and security. The Security Council can recommend the most appropriate procedures in the event of disputes that threaten peace. Chapter VII grants the Security Council its strongest powers, as it empowers it to determine the existence of threats to peace, breaches of peace, or acts of aggression, and to take measures ranging from economic and diplomatic sanctions to authorizing the use of military force.

The mandate of the Security Council is to maintain international peace and security and to take action whenever peace and security are threatened.

The Security Council has the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security, and they recognize that the Security Council acts on behalf of the member states in performing the functions that this responsibility imposes on it.

The council's authority is particularly relevant with respect to the UN's four primary purposes, as specified in the Charter of the United Nations: maintaining international peace and security; developing friendly relations among nations; cooperating in solving international problems; and promoting respect for human rights. The capabilities of the Security Council are highlighted in Chapters V-VIII of the Charter.

Chapter V establishes the structure, membership, functions, and powers of the Security Council. Chapters VI and VII specifically address the range of actions that the Security Council can take when settling disputes. Chapter VI aims to settle disputes through peaceful means, such as negotiation and judicial settlement. Chapter VII explores further actions that can be taken regarding threats to peace, breaches of peace, and acts of aggression. This chapter also authorizes the Security Council to implement provisional measures aimed at de-escalating conflict situations, including the deployment of peacekeeping forces and sanctions. Chapter VIII allows the Security Council to call upon other regional agencies or arrangements to enforce appropriate operations and intervene if necessary.



Despite the extensive power of the security council, their authority is not unlimited, the security council cannot interfere when it comes to the domestic jurisdiction of any state, unless it's a threat to international peace and security. Furthermore the security council cannot act unilaterally without the consent of its members, requiring for any action to be taken to have nine votes in favor, including all five permanent members of the security council.

#### **Committee Structure**

The Security Council is composed of five permanent members and 10 nonpermanent members. The five permanent members of the Security Council are: China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. Every year, the General Assembly elects five of the 10 non-permanent members for a two-year term. Elections for non-permanent seats on the Council can be competitive, with states expressing interest and campaigning years in advance. States elected to serve on the Security Council are expected to represent the interests of their region; they usually have an influence at the international level and demonstrate leadership in specific areas of interest to their foreign policy. Each member of the Security Council has the ability to be represented at all meetings. In the Provisional Rules and Procedure, Rule 13 allows for Members to be represented by an 'accredited representative', such as a Head of Government.

The Security Council is a principal organ of the UN and is therefore not subordinate to any other organ. However, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations (Articles 24 and 15), the Council must report to the General Assembly on its annual work and, if necessary, on specific issues.



#### Relevance in International Relations

The organisation has, in terms of participation, been a huge success and its involvement in international affairs does carry significant weight. According to the Charter, the United Nations has four purposes:

- 1.to maintain international peace and security;
- 2.to develop friendly relations among nations;
- 3.to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights;
- 4. and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.

Out of these four purposes, two are the responsibilities of The Security Council, as they have shown to serve as a center for harmonizing the efforts of nations in achieving these common purposes. The Security Council is one of the most relevant actors in international relations.



## **MEMBER AND OBSERVER STATES**

The Security Council consists of 15 members:

#### Five permanent members:

The French Republic The People's Republic of China The Russian Federation The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland The United States of America

#### 10 non-permanent members (indicating the year in which their term ends):

Democratic Republic of the Congo (2027) Federal Republic of Somalia (2026) Hellenic Republic (2026) Islamic Republic of Pakistan (2026) Kingdom of Bahrain (2027) Kingdom of Denmark (2026) Republic of Colombia (2027) Republic of Latvia (2027) Republic of Liberia (2027) Republic of Panama (2026)



# Topic 1

### The role of regional mediation in Middle Eastern conflicts

#### Introduction

The Middle East is one of the most turbulent regions on the globe: it has a history of constant internal socio-political fractures and external interventions, and foreign interests and international power balances have played a role in shaping its map. Thus, the regional balance of power fluctuates between geopolitical vicissitudes that exploit ethnic, religious, and political diversity, overlapping to recreate a scenario of constant friction.

Amidst the conflicts and regional restructuring that the Middle East has been undergoing since October 2023, right now, different states are aiming the region toward a more stable, peaceful, and sustainable political and social reality. However, the ability of many terrorist organizations to force change through brute military force, the collapse of the self-styled Axis of Resistance following the fall of many stable governments in the region, and the heavy blows dealt to the terrorist organizations cannot be equated with the promise of a "new Middle East" in which conflict has been eradicated, the dynamics of the balance of power have been definitively altered.



#### International and Regional Framework

In accordance with Article 33 and Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, regional organizations such as the League of Arab States, the Gulf Cooperation Council, and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation are legally empowered to mediate conflicts among their member states, prioritizing peaceful settlement and respect for sovereignty. These organizations operate under their respective charters, which establish mechanisms for mediation, arbitration, and conciliation, and are recognized by the Security Council as essential partners in conflict resolution. Security Council resolutions and statements particularly those addressing Syria, Yemen, and Lebanon have repeatedly affirmed the importance of regional mediation, encouraged coordination between the United Nations and regional bodies, and highlighted the principle of subsidiarity, whereby local and regional actors leverage their contextual expertise to facilitate dialogue and de-escalation. While regional mediation efforts must align with the purposes and principles of the United Nations and remain subject to Security Council oversight, they play a critical role in advancing durable solutions to Middle Eastern conflicts through culturally informed, consensus-based approaches.

#### The Middle East and plans for reconfiguration

The Middle East is a subsystem of great strategic importance for the rest of the world. Its geostrategic relevance to world politics is evident, as it lies at the center of three continents and, in this sense, dominates the north and east coast of the Mediterranean. For centuries, it has been considered important by the great powers of the time and, of course, by local and regional states. Whoever creates an important platform of political, economic, and military power in the region, can influence not only the Middle East but also adjacent areas. In addition to its strategic importance, the cultural magnetism of the Middle East has attracted extra-regional great powers to the area for centuries. Prestige and status have been associated with extending protectionand influence over the "cradle of civilization," as well as the source and meeting place of the world's great religions.



In general, the lack of common institutions, ideologies, and interests has imposed structural limitations on the development and the effectiveness of different organizations in terms of mobilizing its economic and political resources. The absence of a single benign driving force has led to both confrontation and competition among the relatively strong member states.

#### The intervention of the West in Middle East conflicts

Over the past few decades, the intervention of external Western powers in Middle Eastern conflicts has played a decisive role in shaping the region's political and security landscape. These interventions have often been guided by a combination of strategic, ideological, and economic interests, wrapped up in discourses on democratization, stability, and peace. However, the results have highlighted the limitations of externally imposed models and the complex dynamics that arise when local realities and external agendas collide.

In recent years, the Middle East has become a great ally to the western countries, with their diplomatic engagement and growing economy, their peacebuilding efforts have been growing stronger than ever. The Middle East will continue its process of reconfiguration and will become more agitated than ever. This means that the viability of proposals should be prioritized and observed very carefully.

#### The different challenges and cautious hopes in the Middle East

Despite moments of ceasefire or mediation, enduring conflicts, proxy warfare, and militarization remain central challenges. The Middle East has long been dominated by uncertainty and conflict. External intervention, interstate war, political upheaval and interethnic violence are compounded by the vagaries of oil prices and the claims of military, nationalist and religious movements.



The two simplest ways to try to reassert control, of course, are to say that the activity in question is either in contradiction with tradition, variously interpreted in religious and national idioms, or a result of external interference, or, of course, both. Seen in this light, as an enduring, if reshaped, 'non-state' force, the question posed by transnationalism may not be where the power of the state ends, but where it begins. Despite the brief historic interlude of the modern state, when this institution arrived to dominate society, the pertinence of the reverse has more often been the case. In so far as the very imperfect statistics allow judgement at all, it would seem that the record of this impact of modernity on the Middle East was, however, not one of unrelenting or general decline.

The Middle East region is expected to grow modestly in 2025, returning to the low growth that prevailed in the decade before the pandemic. In addition to examining the macroeconomic outlook of the region, the 2025 edition of the semi-annual MENA Economic Update, titled Conflict and Debt in the Middle East and North Africa, includes two special sections. The first focuses specifically on the economic impacts of the conflict in the Middle East, as well as the economies of the region and beyond. The second examines the burden of rising debt levels in MENA, highlighting the challenges facing oil importing and oil exporting economies.

Moving forward requires sustained collaboration with government agencies, international partners, and civil society. These combined efforts will ensure that the region can build sustainable peace.



#### Application of the SDGs to the Topic

Regional mediation plays a fundamental role in resolving conflicts in the Middle East and is directly linked to several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). Through mechanisms of dialogue, negotiation, and institution building, regional organizations such as the Arab League or the Gulf Cooperation Council contribute to the prevention and peaceful resolution of disputes, the promotion of transparency and accountability in governance, and the strengthening of international cooperation. Moreover, the inclusion of women in these mediation processes advances SDG 5 (Gender Equality), as it fosters female participation in peacebuilding and decision making, crucial aspects for achieving more durable agreements and just societies.

#### **Questions for Consideration**

- What differences exist among the states when it comes to conflict mediation?
- How do they view other mediators in the region?
- What kind of future awaits the states in the region?

#### **Suggestions**

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# Topic 2

Collaborative efforts to curb the recruitment of children in armed conflicts in Central Africa

#### Introduction

The forced recruitment of children as combatants is one of the worst forms of child labor in the world today. In over 30 countries across the globe, more than 300,000 children under the age of 18 are fighting as soldiers with government armed forces or with rebel movements. In Central Africa, in particular, thousands of children, many young girls have been abducted or recruited to fight or assist in protracted military conflicts. Children, as young as 8 or 10 years old, are not only forced to carry rifles and serve on the front lines, but many are also forced to participate by serving as either sex slaves, porters, decoys or spies.

The horrific situation in Central Africa and everywhere else where child soldiers are used and exploited is totally unacceptable. The exploitation of children in armed conflicts irrevocably brutalizes them, destroys families, demeans society, and diminishes the future for all of us. If the security council is to prevent one of the worst forms of abusive child labor today, the use of children as combatants, the council must take action.



#### International and Regional Framework

The international legal framework addressing the recruitment of children in armed conflicts in Central Africa is comprehensive and multi-layered. It is primarily based on United Nations Security Council resolutions, especially Resolution 1261 and its successors, which explicitly condemn the recruitment and use of child soldiers. These resolutions established the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM), enabling the United Nations and its partners to systematically track violations, develop action plans, and recommend targeted sanctions for persistent violators. The Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OPAC) prohibits the forced recruitment and direct participation in hostilities of anyone under 18. It requires states to criminalize recruitment, demobilize affected children, and report on progress. The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) classifies the recruitment or use of children under 15 in hostilities as a war crime, enabling prosecution of individuals responsible when national systems fail. Regionally, the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child strictly prohibits the recruitment and use of children under 18 in armed conflicts and mandates member states to adopt legislative and practical measures to prevent such practices. The African Union also encourages the integration of child protection into peacekeeping and reintegration programs. National laws in Central African countries often reflect these international commitments, criminalizing child recruitment and cooperating with the United Nations in demobilization and reintegration efforts.

#### The consequences of war

A combination of ideological discourse and rumours create conditions that instigate them to take arms. Everything contributes to them becoming easy prey for the recruiters of the different armed groups that are confronting each other. The presence of arms generates violence everywhere. The war takes place not just on the front line but even within homes. Children are the first witnesses of atrocities committed on their loved ones.



Groups confront each other for political, economic or ethnic reasons. In order to justify their combat and win people over to their side, these groups launch propaganda campaigns targeting the population. They paint a terrifying picture of the danger the enemy represents, calling for resistance and the need to protect one's kin. Enrolment in the armed group becomes a moral duty to one's community and those that refuse to take up arms are easily labelled as traitors. It becomes extremely difficult not to enrol when subjected to such intense social pressure.

Even more than the statistics, many families have run away from their homes and their land to escape the conflict. In refugee camps, for instance, the rhythm of life and the occupations of every member of the family are different to what they are used to: no fields to cultivate, no work for the adults, no school for the children. As a result of this rupture with the normal family environment, relations between parents and children become strained and the testimonies indicate a loss of parental authority.

#### Community and Family Sensitisation

Children will receive different levels of community and family support upon their return. While some will be welcomed back into support networks, others will be resented and face rejection. For some children, the initial acceptance that they experienced may decrease over time, including in situations where children do not receive extra relief items that could benefit their families, children may also face considerable barriers to reintegration in their communities.

Community and familial sensitisation should also include awareness programmes that address mental health and psychosocial symptoms and their effects on children. Any such programme should include information on access to care, inclusive of providers that can provide age-appropriate and gendersensitive care.



In some situations, children will be reintegrating into communities that remain heavily militarised or controlled by armed groups. Depending on the best interests of the child and the need to prioritise family reunification, it may be difficult in these scenarios to separate children from armed groups and there may be barriers to their reintegration.

#### Integrated Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration

Not all children will choose to participate in formal release processes due to several factors, such as concerns for their safety. Some children will instead choose to informally exit an armed force or armed group. It is therefore important not to limit the provision of reintegration support solely to those children who have participated in a release process, which can itself further stigmatise children formerly associated with armed forces or armed groups by visibly identifying their former association.

The release and reintegration of children need not occur in the context of disarmament, demobilisation, or reintegration for adults, although they may be part of such processes. If release and reintegration are part of formal processes, then child-specific provisions must be developed to ensure the best interests of the child are upheld and provide for safe and accessible handover to child protection actors. The Security Council has provided a mandate for peace operations, as well as in non-mission settings.

#### Application of the SDGs to the Topic

Collaborative initiatives to prevent and eradicate the recruitment of children in armed conflicts in Central Africa are deeply aligned with SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). Actions led by organizations such as UNICEF, the African Union, and various NGOs aim to ensure that children have access to education, are reintegrated into civilian life, and receive psychosocial support, keeping them away from violence and abuse. At the same time, these efforts strengthen legislation and child protection systems, contributing to more peaceful and just societies.



By addressing child labor and exploitation, these initiatives also support target SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), which promotes the eradication of child labor in all its forms.

Both regional mediation in the Middle East and collaborative child protection efforts in Central Africa are deeply connected to the Sustainable Development Goals. Regional mediation advances gender equality, peace, and partnerships, while child protection initiatives foster education, justice, and the eradication of child labor. Achieving the SDGs in conflict-affected regions requires sustained commitment, inclusive approaches, and robust partnerships at all levels. For sustainable peace and development, integrating SDG principles into conflict resolution and child protection strategies is not just essential.

#### **Questions for Consideration**

- Why can the use of children in armed conflicts be considered a conflict of international scope?
- What steps should be taken to stop the conflicts in Central Africa?
- Is this not a humanitarian emergency, given the urgent need for assistance?

#### **Suggestions**

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## **KEY CHALLENGES**

#### 1. THE ROLE OF REGIONAL MEDIATION IN MIDDLE EASTERN CONFLICTS

KEY CHALLENGES	UN ACTIONS	IMPORTANT POINTS
Persistent armed conflicts fueled by political, religious and economic interests.	The UN security council has supported regional mediation and different organizations that work with the United Nations to achieve peace.	How regional actors have supported UN efforts for peacebuilding.
External interference that complicates peace efforts.	The UN promotes regional mediation and inclusive framework.	How to balance the international agenda with regional interests.
Limited resources for different mechanisms to prevent conflicts.	Ongoing UN training	Propose ways to formalize cooperation in the region.



### 2. COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TO CURB THE RECRUITMENT OF CHILDREN IN ARMED CONFLICTS IN CENTRAL AFRICA

KEY CHALLENGES	UN ACTIONS	IMPORTANT POINTS
Reintegrating children into society after they have been involved in armed conflict	The peacekeeping missions work with UNICEF and other partner organizations to ensure the children receive the support they need	Reintegration to their communities is the most critical part in this process
The impact of forced displacement on health	UNMISS, MONUSCO and MINUSCA work to address the factors that make children vulnerable to recruitment.	Children are entitled both to the full breadth of human rights afforded to adults and to specific legal protections based on their unique developmental needs and vulnerabilities.
Children being deprived of their basic rights and protection.	The United Nations supports the establishment of community-based committees to support proper management of cases and ensure adequate protection of victims.	The prevention of children becoming "a lost generation" amid the escalating humanitarian, political and economic crisis.



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#### Nueva Guatemala de la Asunción, March 2026

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