



# UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

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## Dear Delegates,

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Hey y'all! My name is Zoya Bajwa and I am this year's Centennial MUN Secretary General and your Security Council chair. I am currently a senior in high school and I plan on majoring in International Affairs and Public Health in college! I have been in Model UN since 7th grade and have participated in this very conference TWICE when I was part of my middle school's team. Outside of Model UN, I am involved in environmental club, debate club, quiz bowl team, and have been in several musicals here at Centennial. In my free time, I love to draw, watch t.v, and spend time with my adorable dog Phoebe (who I am obsessed with), and my cats Cheese and Moon. I hope this conference inspires you just like it did me 6 years ago.

Hi, I'm Andrew Miles, your Security Council co-chair. I'm a senior and am on the logistics team of the Centennial MUN team and have been a part of Model UN for almost four years. I plan to major in Computer Science in college, and really want to go to school out of state. When I'm not at Centennial you can usually find me at Taco Bell or McDonald's. This is my first time chairing MiniMUN, but I have participated as an admin last year, and I'm very excited to meet you all and look forward to a great MiniMUN!

**Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions at all!**

Zoya Bajwa [zoyabaj320@gmail.com](mailto:zoyabaj320@gmail.com)

Andrew Miles [andrewmiles0406@gmail.com](mailto:andrewmiles0406@gmail.com)

## Research and Preparation

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Research and preparation are essential to the success of any Model UN delegate. Though we have provided you with this background guide, you are expected to research your topic and country on your own through reputable sources (not Wikipedia). When preparing for this conference it is expected that all delegates will have extensive knowledge and can demonstrate constant, substantive, engagement throughout the duration of the conference.

We also encourage you to print all of your compiled research that you believe may be helpful before the conference. Centennial's MiniMUN is **NOT** a tech conference, meaning delegates may not use technology of any kind during committee sessions. Any unpermitted use of technology will be considered when chairs are determining awards.

To accurately represent a country, delegates must be able to articulate its policies. Accordingly, each delegation is **required** to write a position paper for the topic on the committee's agenda. Any delegation that has not submitted a paper will become **automatically ineligible for an award**. Each paper will be run through an AI-checker upon submission, any delegate suspected of using ChatGPT or any other generative AI will be reported to their sponsor and will become automatically ineligible for an award. More information regarding papers can be found on the CHS MiniMUN website, but each paper should consist of the following:

- I. **Topic History** - In the first part of your paper you are expected to give a rundown on the topic as well as any and all relevant information that you think is essential to address before committee. Delegates do not need to give an exhaustive account of the topic, but rather focus on the details that are most important to the delegation's policy and proposed solutions.
- II. **Country Policy** - In the next part of your paper delegates are expected to detail their country's policies/ past actions (if any) regarding the topic. Make sure to demonstrate why and how your country is relevant to the topic at hand. It is in this paragraph that you are establishing your country's credentials. Why does your opinion matter at this conference, why should other delegations consider what you have to say?
- III. **Proposed Solution** - Here, delegates must outline their proposed solutions to address the topic. Solutions should be well thought out and applicable considering the limitations of the committee. However, it must be noted that pre-written working papers are **against MiniMUN** rules and will not be considered during committee.

## Security Council

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The Security Council is different from any other body in the UN. In this committee, it is of the utmost importance that you have a firm grasp on your nation's foreign policy as crisis topics can occur at any point during committee and you need to be prepared to quickly develop resolutions to these issues while still adhering to country policy.

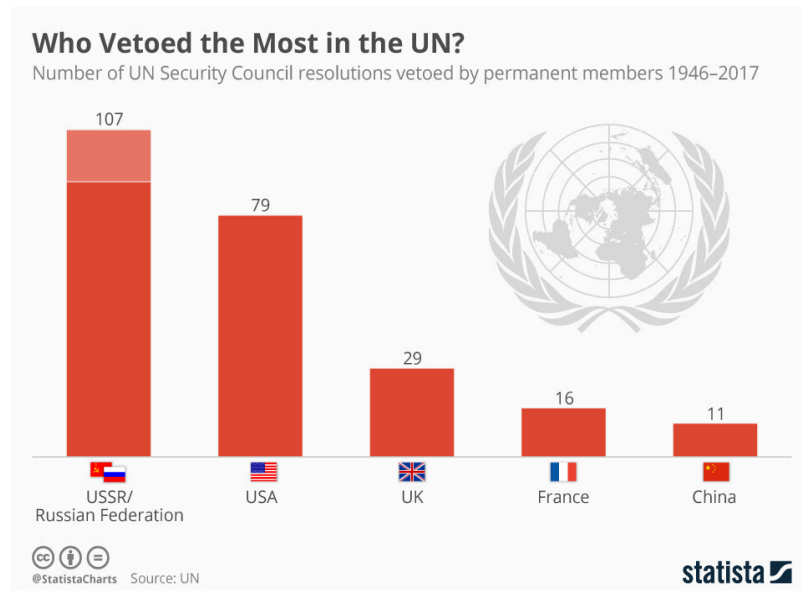
It is important to me that everyone enters this committee on equal footing, therefore the first 20 mins of our committee session will be spent reviewing the structure and rules of debate in the Security Council.

Linked below are some resources to help prepare you for the flow of committee and the general rules you all should be following when conducting your research.

1. <https://www.munom.eu/security-council-instructional-guide.htm>
2. <https://youtu.be/fuM1aEUB32c?si=opc9AwnhCGOa2x9P>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJoxVQTe32w&pp=ygUnaG93IHRvIHByZXBhc mUgZm9yIG11biBzZWN1cml0eSBjb3VuY2ls>
4. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KLoktLNfXRo&pp=ygUnaG93IHRvIHByZXBhc mUgZm9yIG11biBzZWN1cml0eSBjb3VuY2ls> (Resolution Paper Tips)
5. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8EMzhw9o5wU&pp=ygUnaG93IHRvIHByZXBhc mUgZm9yIG11biBzZWN1cml0eSBjb3VuY2ls> (Crisis notes and directives)

## Committee Background

The Security Council was created in 1945 as one of the six bodies of the United Nations. Its main functions include maintaining international peace and security, investigating disputes that can lead to international tension, and taking military action



against an aggressor, amongst many others. The Security Council consists of 15 members, 5 of which are permanent. These members are known as the Power Five, and consist of China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, and the United States of America. These nations possess the power of the veto, which prevents the passing of any legislation, regardless of other votes. The veto is meant to be used to defend a country's interests.

The other 10 nations include Guyana, Japan, Malta, Mozambique, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, and Switzerland. The Security Council also has a president, which is currently France.

The non-permanent members are chosen every year in elections of 5 states. These seats are chosen based on region to ensure equal representation across the world. The African group are given 3 seats, the Asia-Pacific group are given 2 seats, the Latin American and Caribbean Group have two seats, and the Western European and Other Groups have the final 2.

The Security Council is the only body of the United Nations that can pass binding resolutions, giving it great power. As of July 2020, the Security Council has passed 2537 resolutions. To pass these resolutions, a  $\frac{2}{3}$  (9 member states) majority must be won. It also has the ability to conduct peacekeeping missions, impose economic sanctions on countries, form international agreements, along with other powers. Representing a country within the Security Council gives delegates great power, so it is of utmost importance for delegates to conduct themselves with respect and diplomacy.

## Addressing the Disputes in the South China Sea



At the end of the Second World War, ownership of the Spratly Islands came into question. It was believed that this group of hundreds of small islands had outstanding fishing, drillable oil, and natural gas reserves. As such, China sought to reclaim the whole of the islands from Japan, which occupied them during the War. With the assistance of the United States and in accordance with the Cairo and Potsdam Declarations, China established military stations and redrew maps to show the islands within their territory. The United States also made an effort to ensure the Philippines did not enter the conflict because the Spratly Islands were not a part of the original agreement between Spain and the United States.

When the nationalists were driven from China by the People's Liberation Army (PLA), they withdrew from the militant stations established on the Spratly Islands to Taiwan. The North Vietnamese government formally accepted that the islands were historically Chinese territory, and the PLA established a new Chinese military formation on the islands. At the same time, South Vietnam reopened an abandoned French military base on the islands and claimed both the Spratly and the Paracel archipelago as annexed territories.

Vietnam disputed the claim by China for sovereignty over the islands and since the 1970s has been building structures that have brought about conflict between the two countries. The Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Indonesia would all later claim certain parts of the islands as well.

The 1970s brought about further involvement by the Philippines. While the Philippines maintained a policy of not claiming the islands, President Ferdinand Marcos announced claims over adjacent islands when Taiwanese troops engaged with a Philippine fishing boat. Further, China would go to war with South Vietnam in the Battle of the Paracel Islands, leading to South Vietnam being ousted from the Crescent Group the the Islands. North Vietnam would later reverse their policy of defending China's territorial claims to the



islands by outlining their own claims to the islands.

In the late 1980s, China once again defeated the Vietnamese during the Johnson South Reef Skirmish. UNESCO commissioned the Chinese to establish an observation post on the islands claimed by Vietnam. At this point, Deng Xiaoping saw only two tracks to establish peace in the island chain. The first, “to use force to get the islands back,” the second was to “co-develop the place.”

In 1997, China officially reaffirmed the entire South China Sea as their own. The Philippines and Malaysia then challenged Chinese sovereignty, and Taiwan issued a statement saying that the Spratly Islands were Taiwanese territory. Taiwan and China cooperate with each other during international negotiation as they both claim the same islands. To further complicate matters, the Philippine Navy landed a ship on a Chinese claimed shoal and has maintained occupation of the shoal since 1999.

At the turn of the century, the United States found itself more involved in the island dispute. The Hainan Island Incident caused a diplomatic conflict over the cause of a collision between a Chinese jet aircraft and an American surveillance plane. The Pentagon later reported that five Chinese ships aggressively maneuvered around and followed the USNS Impeccable, a surveillance ship running “routine operations in international waters.”

In the past decade, the Philippines, Cambodia, China, Malaysia, Vietnam, Taiwan, the United States, and even India were all involved in various diplomatic, military, and press conflicts over the islands. The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea has become a defining piece of legislation has become a more defining piece of how each country interprets its claims over the islands. For example, when China turns reefs into artificial islands, the United States will not recognize that island as an extension of Chinese international waters.

## Guiding Questions

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1. Who deserves claim of the South China Sea? (China, Philippines, Beirut, Vietnam, no one, or someone else?)
2. How should militarization of the South China Sea be handled?
3. Should there be outside intervention regarding the situation in the South China Sea?
4. How has the construction of artificial islands in the South China Sea impacted regional tensions and maritime security?
5. How do economic interests, such as fishing and natural resource exploration, contribute to tensions in the South China Sea?

## Words to Know

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**South China Sea:** Sea located South of China, between several different countries. This sea and its islands are highly disputed.

**Spratly Islands:** Disputed archipelago in the South China Sea, believed to be rich in specific resources

**Paracel Islands:** Disputed archipelago in the South China Sea

**Declaration of Cairo:** Forced surrender of Japan, freeing Korea and granting China Manchuria, Formosa, and Pescadores

**Battle of the Paracel Islands:** Military engagement between China and South Vietnam (1974). Attempt to expel China from these islands

**The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea:** Lays law and order in the ocean, establishing rules relating to the ocean/its resources