



*Conference
Handbook*

JacoMUN 2023 CONFERENCE HANDBOOK

From a humble beginning in 2009, with the very first JacoMUN being hosted on our school premises, to the twelfth session of the conference in 2022 the St. James' School Model United Nations Conference has grown from strength to strength and JacoMUN'23 will be taking it to an all-new level. Hosted by St. James' School, Kolkata, this MUN has the distinction of being one of the premier conferences in the country.

At St. James', we value the art of re-defining ourselves with every event, and JacoMUN, over the years, has edified this spirit, which is why our MUN shall be hosted at one of the most renowned and accredited hotels of the country, the **Hotel Hindusthan International, Kolkata.**

Eight dynamic committees, the level of debate that has defined the conference in its past 12 sessions and a whole new ambience, all create a package that will ensure that JacoMUN'23 will give you the most memorable 3 days of your lives.

Each school attending the conference has been assigned one or more countries, and each country is represented by one or two delegates in each committee. In most committees, the time is divided between formal debate, caucuses, and the resolution writing process.

Non-Conference related Details

Dates

17th, 18th and 19th July, 2023.

Dress Code Policy

As a simulation of the United Nations, we at JacoMUN strive for professionalism in all aspects of the conference. Delegates are expected to follow a dress code during all committee sessions and conference events. Sandals, jeans, miniskirts and other informal articles of clothing cannot be worn. At all times, we ask that delegates and Faculty Advisors exercise good sense when interpreting the dress code. When casual attire is permitted, basic rules of propriety will still apply. Delegates who are dressed inappropriately for any event may be asked to return to change into more appropriate attire. At most times, the prevailing dress code will be western business attire, although national attire and religious attire are also permitted. The rules of Western business attire are as follows:

- Men must wear a suit or a jacket and dress pants (no jeans or cargo pants) with a dress, shirt and tie. Socks and dress shoes must be worn. No hats or caps will be allowed.
- Women must wear a dress, suit, dress slacks (no jeans) or skirt of appropriate length with a blouse or sweater. Dress shoes must be worn. No hats or caps will be allowed.

The Dress Code for each of the three days of the Conference is as follows:

Day 1: Business Formals

Day 2: Indian Formal Wear

Day 3: Business Formals

Electronic devices and Usage of the Internet

While electronic devices can be used during committee, delegates are not allowed to use the Internet during committee sessions, except during an unmoderated caucus (Under Discretion of the Executive Board). If a delegate wishes to use the Internet for any reason whatsoever, the Executive Board can ask the Delegate to leave the committee room and access the Internet.

Accommodation

Accommodation is provided to outstation schools. Further details are mentioned on the official JacoMUN website. Transportation will be provided to outstation delegations as well.

Logistics

Logistics members are there in each committee to assist delegates with any requirements. They are available for the passing of communication chits while committee is in session so as to facilitate negotiations/clarifications without disruptions. Delegates are to keep in mind that any sort of derogatory behaviour towards the logistics members will not be tolerated.

Stationery

Delegates shall be provided with stationery at the start of the conference, after registration, by our administration team. This includes a folder, a pen, a notepad, a chit pad, an ID card and a placard for each delegate.

Debate

In order to prevent misunderstandings and delays during formal committee debate, delegates must have a comprehensive understanding of the rules and their use. In the large General Assembly committees, the Speaker's List can become quite long, but yielded time, questions, moderated caucus and comments from the floor, as well as the proposal of amendments, keep the debate current flowing smoothly. Thus, knowledge of the rules is vital for airing your

views through one of these mechanisms. Committee meetings over the conference of the weekend will roughly adhere to the following pattern.

Statement by the Secretariat

At any time, any member of the Secretariat may make an oral or written statement or announcement to the committee regarding an update on their topic. Such an announcement is not questionable.

ID Cards

ID Cards will be handed out during the Conference Registration as per the Conference Schedule. These must be worn at all times.

Venue

The conference will be held on the premises of the Hotel Hindusthan International, Kolkata. The delegates shall be made cognizant of the areas allocated for the committees on the day of the conference.

Food & Beverages

Food and beverages will be served on all days of the conference. Buffet lunch will be served at Hotel Hindusthan International.

Restrictions

The following items are not allowed to be carried into or consumed on the premises of the Hotel Hindusthan International, Kolkata:

1. Any tobacco products
2. Alcohol
3. Drugs
4. Weapons
5. All acts of theft or vandalism will be immediately reported to the police.

The administration of Hotel Hindusthan International, Kolkata and the Secretariat of JacoMUN reserve the right to remove any person from the premises of the hotel at any point of time on grounds of violations of any of the aforementioned rules or regulations of the conference or for any other grave misconduct.

COVID-19 Advisory

1. All Delegates are advised to wear a mask at Hotel Hindusthan International, Kolkata (*except when feeling uncomfortable*).
2. All Delegates are advised to carry a hand sanitizer with them at all times.

*Please note that this is not a regulated compulsion**

General Powers of the Committee Staff

The CHAIRPERSON will declare the opening and closing of each meeting and may propose that committee adopt a certain procedural motion. During debate, the Chairperson shall exercise absolute control over the proceedings. Thus, in effect, he will direct the flow of formal debate, accord the right to speak, rule on points of order, announce decisions and ensure and enforce the observance of these rules. The other members of committee staff may advise individual delegates or the committee on the possible course of debate and may perform any of the functions of the chairperson as and when they are delegated to them.

The Press Corps is free to publish any **material** within the purview of the MUN. The Press enters and observes committee proceedings on the basis that the committee has no significant objections to their presence.

Appeal

Delegates are free to appeal any decision made by the Moderator or Director.

However, it is at the Chairperson's discretion to accept or reject any or all appeals. Should the appeal not be related to immediate committee proceedings but the committee as a whole, the delegates may appeal to the Secretary-General.

Quorum

The Quorum for the conference is set at one-third of the members of the committee. A quorum will be assumed to be present unless specifically challenged and shown to be absent. A roll call is not required. In case quorum fails; committee session will be suspended at the discretion of the Secretary-General.

On Debate

A guideline to the procedure followed to begin debate:

Setting the Agenda

At JacoMUN, the agenda is limited to the single topic area outlined in each committee's study guide. Thus, voting to set the agenda to the topic area is a mere formality. Since all committees (except the World Media Council) have a single topic, this is a formality. This establishes the topic that will be discussed in committee through a vote.

Once the agenda has been set, debate begins. In effect, there are two such formalities – 'the motion to open debate' and 'the motion to set agenda' respectively.

General Speaker's List

A General Speaker's List must be opened by motioning for the same. In order to speak, the delegate's name must be placed on the General Speaker's List, which remains open through the committee. This can be done either by show of placards or through chits sent to the Executive Board with the name of the delegate's allotment on it. The General Speaker's List is open throughout the discussion of the topic area.

Motions to open any other medium of debate will not close the General Speaker's List, but will only overlap it. Hence, if an allotment is in queue to speak on it and another medium of debate is opened, that allotment will remain in that position once the General Speaker's List is returned to.

Special Speakers' List

The Special Speakers' List is almost like the General Speaker's List, except that it must be motioned for. This is opened to discuss a particular topic within the topic area and is opened for a specific time period. While motioning to open it, the purpose and time limit must be specified. Speakers may only discuss the issue that the Special Speaker's List was opened to discuss. After a delegate finishes his/her speech, he/she has the option of yielding. If a delegate chooses not to yield, two 30- second comments are in order. After a speaker finishes a substantive speech (i.e., speech pertaining to the topic area within the restrictions of formal debate), two thirty- second comments pertaining to that speech may be made. The comments will be made by two speakers who '(usually by show of placards) display their intent to the Chairperson. It is at the Chairperson's discretion that a delegate may make comments. This applies to the General Speaker's List as well as any Special Speaker's List.

Yields

There are three different types of yields. Please remember, though, that yields only apply to substantive speeches, there is only one yield per speech, and yielding precludes any comments.

- To Points of Information's: With this yield, the Chairperson selects delegates who wish to ask you questions. Each delegate is allowed one question, and only your answer time is subtracted from your remaining time. Often the best kind of yield that you can make, yielding to questions lets you clear any misconceptions that delegates may have.
- To a delegate: When you yield to another delegate, he/she is given your remaining time to speak.
- To the Chair: After you make this yield, the Chairperson proceeds to the next speaker, unless there are any motions.

Moderated Caucus

The purpose of a moderated caucus is to facilitate substantive debate on a sub-part to the agenda or a crucial aspect of a crisis. Compared to the strict parliamentary order of formal debate, caucus may appear to be disorganized and hectic. A moderated caucus is also opened for a specified purpose and a specified time. Delegates must mention for how long and for what purpose they want to caucus, including the per speaker time. In a moderated Caucus, delegates should attempt to be precise and to the point. Delegates are advised to refrain from going off the immediate, specific, subtopic.

Unmoderated Caucus

It is used for negotiation that can lead to breakage of deadlock that formal debate has been unable to achieve or to formulate paperwork. An unmoderated caucus is a state of committee during which no speakers are recognized by the moderator. An unmoderated caucus temporarily suspends formal debate and allows members to discuss ideas informally in the committee room. The delegate making the motion must briefly explain the purpose of the motion and specify a time limit for the caucus. The motion will be put to a vote immediately, and a simple majority is required for passing such a motion.

How and When to Move to Caucus

When a motion for a caucus is raised, delegates must mention for how long and for what purpose they want to caucus. If you feel that discussion among delegates outside of formal debate is necessary, then move to an unmoderated caucus. Generally, delegates call for an unmoderated caucus to review ideas, or establish consensus.

A motion to caucus, since it is a non-debatable procedural motion, takes precedence over all other motions except for Parliamentary Points.

Reconsideration

A motion to reconsider is raised when an amendment or resolution has been decided upon. The Chairperson will recognize speakers for and against this motion, after which it is put to an immediate vote. A two-thirds majority of the members present and voting is required for reconsideration.

Points

1. **Point of Personal Privilege:** Whenever a delegate experiences personal discomfort that impairs his/her ability to participate in the proceedings, he/she may rise to a Point of Personal Privilege to request that the discomfort be corrected. While a Point of Personal Privilege may interrupt a speaker, delegates should use this power with the utmost discretion.
2. **Point of Order:** During the discussion of any matter, a delegate may rise to a Point of Order to indicate an instance of improper use of parliamentary procedure. The Point of Order will be immediately ruled upon by the Chairperson in accordance with these Rules of Procedure. The Chairperson may rule out of order those points that are dilatory or improper; such a decision cannot be appealed. A representative rising to a point of order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion. A point of order may only interrupt a speaker when the speech itself is not following proper parliamentary procedure. Moreover, a delegate may rise to a Point of Order to indicate a factual inaccuracy in another delegate's speech. (Note: There is a difference between opinion and a stated fact. For example: If a delegate says that he/she "believes" that Berlin is the capital of India, then a Point of Order cannot be raised since it is the other delegate's opinion being highlighted. However, if a delegate says that Berlin "is" the capital of India, then a Point of Order can be raised since Berlin is factually, the capital of Germany and not India.)
3. **Point of Parliamentary Inquiry:** When the floor is open, a delegate may rise to a Point of Parliamentary Inquiry to ask the Chairperson a question regarding the Rules of Procedure. A Point of Parliamentary Inquiry must never interrupt a speaker.

Point of Information: When a delegate has completed a speech, then the other delegates in committee can ask the delegate a Point of Information which is primarily a question on the speech given by a delegate. Every speech given in the General Speaker's List will have at least one Point of Information (subject to change) that can be asked by other delegates. The number of Points of Information (if any) on speeches by delegates in the Moderated Caucus will be determined by the Executive Board, depending on the content and nature of the speech.

4. ***Right to Reply:*** A delegate whose personal or national integrity has been impugned by another delegate may request in writing a Right of Reply. The Reply, if granted, will take the form of a thirty-second speech. Rights of Reply must be used judiciously and presented in the correct format: quoting what the offending delegate has said, the speaker's taken offence, an offense to the national integrity, and the demand for an apology.

Paperwork

Working Papers

Delegates may propose working papers for committee's consideration. The objective of a working paper is to bring to light certain solutions and to assist committee in further deliberation by attempting to solve the crisis at hand.

Format

Working Papers do not have any specific format. They can be accepted in complete resolution format, or as essays. However, care must be taken to keep the paper pertinent to the issue and the format such that the views of the makers can be appropriately articulated. The main idea behind a working paper is to ensure that solutions can be provided for a particular crisis being faced by committee.

Communiqués

Communiqués are messages from usually, an allotment or the entire committee to another country, organization, person or group of people. Communiques can be bilateral (between two countries) or multilateral. They facilitate dialogue with relevant actors in a crisis so that delegates can take action to resolve the various crises presented to them in committee. Communiqués often include negotiations, threats, and requests for aid or support but are not limited to those topics. Keep in mind that a communiqué needs to be just as well worded as a directive and needs to be realistic enough. Delegates are to keep in mind that the Executive Board has absolute discretion with regards to ratifying and reading out any Communique submitted by a delegate as an update to the committee.

Communiqués may be either private or public.

Public Communique

A Public Communique is written to declare to the world that a country or an individual has decided to implement a particular policy or take a certain action which can affect the dynamics of committees as a whole. It is only read out to the committee by the Executive Board if it is ratified or approved by the Executive Board.

Private Communique

A Private Communique is written by a delegate to an agency or individual within their own country, to conduct a certain action which is usually covert or clandestine in nature. Private Communiques provide the delegates with the opportunity to be creative and formulate realistic ideas to change the dynamics of committee. The ideas written in private communiques are only introduced by the Executive Board in the form of updates if the

Executive Board believes that the idea is realistic and are in coherence with the Executive Board's own plan for committee.

Example of a Communiqué

Dear Mr. Phillip Hammond,

It has come to our attention that British naval forces are currently forming a blockade across the mouth of the Mediterranean Sea, and blocking United States naval vessels. This is a threat to both our national security as well as economic security and we will not take it lightly. We expect full compensation for damages to trade, as well as a full reversal of the blockade. In your capacity as the United Kingdom's Secretary of State for Defence, stop this nonsense or face consequences.

Sincerely,

The United States Cabinet

Closure of Debate

When the floor is open, a delegate may move to close debate on the substantive or procedural matter under discussion.

Note: For all points of order, rights of reply, reconsideration motions, etc, delegates must quote the offending delegate / justify the motion appropriately. The Chairperson of the committee shall be the final authority on the validity of any motions / points.

Coming to Resolution

The desired product of successful negotiation is, of course, the resolution. Your solutions to the problems that the committee confronts take the form of a resolution. Resolutions represent the committee's final attempt to draw together the interests of many competing nations into a comprehensive solution that serves the interests of the collective world community. From the procedural perspective, the resolution is the formal document upon which the committee will take action via the amendment and voting processes.

Introducing Resolutions

Once a Resolution has been approved as stipulated above and has been copied and distributed, delegates may raise a motion to introduce the Resolution. This motion requires only authorization by the Executive Board and does not require a substantive vote. The dais staff, time permitting, may read out the Resolution to committee or ask an author to do so. A

Resolution will remain on the floor until debate is closed or a resolution on that topic area has been passed.

Drafting the Resolution

Every good resolution should fulfil “the Three Cs”: Comprehensive, Collaborative, and Conceivable. Virtually all the problems that the United Nations tackles are quite complex; for a resolution to be a good solution to a problem of global importance it must be comprehensive. If the Resolution is to gain enough support to be passed by the committee, then it must also be collaborative. Moreover, the Resolution must be binding by the Mandate (Set of rules and structures on which an organization is built and the powers it has) of the concerned committee. Finally, if the resolution is to gain the approval of the Director, then it must be conceivable. The realistic resolution must take into account the limitations of the United Nations and the current international balance of power so as to make the most effective use of diplomacy.

Finalizing the Resolution

One should type the Resolution out. Only soft copies shall be accepted and resolutions submitted on paper shall not be considered by the Executive Board. At this stage, it is important to carefully check grammar, syntax, style, etc. This Conference Handbook contains a

Sample Resolution that delegates can follow. You must now get the required number of delegate signatures. When attempting to get signatures, it is important to remind delegates hesitant to sign that their signature does not bind them in any way to any future support, a signature only implies a desire to see the resolution out on the committee floor.

Passing the resolution

Once a Resolution has the required signatories and is also approved by the Chairperson of that committee, it is copied, distributed, and read out to the committee in unmoderated caucus. Any two signatories of the Resolution will read out the Operative Clauses of the resolution. The minimum number of signatories needed for a resolution to be considered by committee is 1/5th of the total strength of committee. If the motion receives a simple majority required for passage, the resolution shall be divided accordingly, and a vote shall be taken on each divided part for its passage. Parts of the resolution which are passed shall be recombined into the final resolution and shall be put to a substantive vote as a whole. If all the operative parts of the proposal are rejected, the resolution or amendment in question will be considered to be rejected as a whole.

Emendments

Following the reading, a moderated caucus may be held where delegates clarify the syntax (and syntax only) of the proposed resolution. This process of emending must take place before the vote.

Amendments

As not everything can be worked out prior to the introduction of resolutions, it is expected that amendments to resolutions will be presented on the floor. The amendment process allows delegates to alter parts of a resolution without scrapping the entire document, strengthening consensus on the resolution by allowing delegates to change sections upon which they disagree. However, delegates must be aware of the direction in which the amendments are steering the committee. If the amendments are not substantive, they merely bog the committee down in procedure.

- An approved amendment may be introduced when the floor is open. General debate will be suspended and two Speaker's Lists will be established, one for and one against the amendment. Debate will alternate between each list.
- A motion to close debate will be in order after the committee has heard two speakers for the motion and two against, or when one of the Speakers' Lists is exhausted. In accordance with the normal procedure, the Chairperson will recognize two speakers against the motion to close debate, and a two-thirds majority is required for closure of debate.
- When debate is closed on the amendment, the Committee will move to an immediate vote. Votes on amendments are substantive votes. After the vote, debate will return to the General Speaker's List.

Voting

Once committee is in voting procedure and all relevant motions have been entertained, the committee will vote on the resolutions on the floor. Voting occurs on each resolution in succession; once a resolution has been passed, no further resolutions will be voted on. In all matters, both substantive and procedural, each country will have one vote. Each vote may be a "Yes," "No," or "Abstain." Most matters shall be voted upon by a show of placards, but roll call vote shall come into play during voting on the passage of any kind of paperwork (or otherwise at the discretion of the chair. Delegates have the option of voting "Yes with Rights" and "No with Rights". A delegate votes in either manner when their vote on the draft resolution could violate their foreign policy.

During voting, no delegate can raise a motion or a point till voting ceases except for a point of personal privilege or a point of order in connection with the actual conduct of the voting. A simple majority requires more "Yes" votes than "No" votes; abstentions are not counted toward either total. A two-thirds majority vote requires at least twice as many "Yes" votes as

“No” votes. A procedural vote is a vote on any matter besides an amendment or resolution, and requires every allotment to vote either “Yes” or “No” on the question.

Roll Call Voting for substantive motions

- In a roll call vote, the Chairperson will call all countries noted by the dais to be in attendance in alphabetical order starting with a randomly selected member.
- In the first sequence, delegates may vote “Yes,” “No,” “Abstain,” “Pass,” “Yes with rights,” or “No with rights.”
- A delegate who passes during the first sequence of the roll call must vote “Yes” or “No” during the second sequence. The same delegate may not request the right of explanation.
- A delegate may only vote with rights if he or she votes “Yes” or “No” in the first round of voting and if his or her vote appears to insinuate a divergence from his or her country’s policy. After all delegates have voted, delegates who had requested the right of explanation will be granted 30 seconds each to explain their votes.
- The Chairperson will then announce the outcome of the vote.
- While roll call is taken at the beginning of the session, delegates may reply by saying either ‘present’ or ‘present and voting’. Those calling out the latter in response are compelled to vote by saying ‘yes’ or ‘no’ during formal voting, while those only responding ‘present’ during the roll call at the commencement of the session can also ‘abstain’ later.

RESOLUTION FORMATTING GUIDELINES

Heading

The title should be centred, in capital letters, above the body of the draft resolution. The next two lines should list the name of the committee and the title of the topic, left-aligned. Note that only a maximum of five authors should be listed (The number of authors of a Resolution is upon the discretion of the Executive Board).

Body

- The body of a resolution is written in the format of a long sentence, with the following rules:
- The committees of the General Assembly and Security Council should begin their resolutions with “The General Assembly” and “The Security Council,” respectively.

All other committees should use their own names in the introductory line. The rest of the resolution is comprised of two sets of clauses.

- The first set consists of perambulatory clauses, which describe the problem being addressed, recall past actions taken, explain the purpose of the resolution, and offer support for the operative clauses that follow. Each clause in the preamble begins with an italicized (or underlined, if handwritten) word or phrase and ends with a comma.
- The second set consists of operative clauses, which are numbered and state the action(s) to be taken by the body. These clauses all begin with present tense active verbs, which are generally stronger words than those used to begin perambulatory clauses. These verbs are underlined. All operative clauses, except the last, which ends with a period, are followed by semi-colons.

Operative clauses

Affirming

Alarmed by

Approving

Aware of

Bearing in mind

Believing

Cognizant of

Confident

Contemplating

Convinced

Declaring

Deeply concerned

Deeply conscious

Deeply convinced

Deeply disturbed

Deeply regretting

Desiring

Emphasizing

Encourages

Expecting

Expressing its appreciation

Expressing its satisfaction

Has resolved

Notes

Proclaims

Reaffirms

Recommends

Regrets

Reminds

Requests

Resolves

Solemnly affirms

Strongly condemns

Supports

Takes note of

Trusts

Urges

Welcomes

Preambulatory clauses

Guided by

Having adopted

Having considered

Having considered further

Having devoted attention

Having examined

Having heard

Having received

Having studied

Keeping in mind

Noting further

Noting with approval

Noting with deep concern

Noting with regret

Noting with satisfaction

Observing

Reaffirming

Realizing

Recalling

Recognizing

Referring

Seeking

Taking into account

Taking note

Viewing with appreciation

Welcoming

SAMPLE RESOLUTION

Draft Resolution 1.0

Author: The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Special Signatory: Ukraine

Signatories: Portugal, Bulgaria, Lithuania, Estonia, Latvia, Luxembourg

The North Atlantic Council (NAC),

1. Calls upon the Russian Federation to:
 - a. Abide by the Founding Act on Mutual Relations, Cooperation and Security between NATO and Russia, 1997 and the Rome Declaration of 2002 titled “NATO-Russia Relations: A New Quality”, in accordance with which the Russian Federation should re-join the NATO-Russia Council so as to engage in a spirit of mutual cooperation with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) regarding the following but not limited to:
 - I. The prevention of conflict in Ukraine from spreading to the other NATO States like Poland and Romania,
 - II. The prevention of conflict in the Baltic Region, especially with regards to the Kaliningrad Exclave and the NATO territory surrounding it,
 - III. Progress in de-escalation of tensions between NATO and the Russian Federation, especially after the sinking of the German frigate in the Black Sea,
 - IV. Reduction of tensions between NATO and the Russian Federation with regards to the recent Russian threats of use of nuclear weapons,
 - b. Engage actively with NATO Member States through the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) for facilitating a framework for smooth coordination for fulfilling the aforementioned principles;
2. Recommends the Standard North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Maritime Group 2 (SNMG2) and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in coordination with the United Nations Mines Action Service (UNMAS) to:
 - a. Form a Team of 100 experts titled “The Panel of Experts for Issuing Advice relating to De-mining Operations in the Black Sea” (PEIADO) consisting of the following individuals but are not completely limited to: -
 - I. Those individuals and/or officials who are part of the Standard NATO Maritime Group 2 (SNMG2) and the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS),
 - II. Those individuals and/or officials who have participated in De-mining operations in the past,

- III. Those individuals who have the required educational and experience-oriented qualifications to participate in De-Mining Operations,
- b. To facilitate a process for cooperation with officials at both the political and military level in the Black Sea States such as Ukraine, the Republic of Turkey, the Republic of Bulgaria, Romania and Georgia so as to: -
 - I. Allow the PEIADO experts and/or officials to access the extent of the Black Sea which is under the rights of the respective countries,
 - II. Facilitate transportation of the PEIADO experts and/or officials to access those respective portions of the Black Sea by- land, air and water, while keeping in mind the Montreux Convention on Regime of Straits, 1936.
 - III. Ensure non-interference in the work of the PEIADO experts and/or officials by any means including but not limited to-
 - Political Pressure,
 - Collusion,
 - Providing financial incentives, etc,
- IV. Provide the PEAIDO experts and/or officials with comprehensive information regarding-
 - Recent mine activity in the portion of the Black Sea belonging to the respective countries,
 - Current efforts undertaken by the respective countries to diffuse or remove floating mines in the Black Sea and particular nature of origin of the floating mines,
 - Locations of the floating mines,
 - Current Technological Equipment used to remove or diffuse the floating mines,
- a. Provide advice to, in the context of efficiently and quickly removing and diffusing the floating mines, and assist the respective countries to remove and diffuse the floating mines in certain methods which include but are not limited to: -
 - I. Mine Sweeping which is comprised of-
 - Contact Sweeping usually resulting in the mooring wire of the floating mines being cut off by a wire that is dragged through the water,

- Distance Sweeping usually mimicking the sound and magnetism of a ship and is pulled behind the sweeper, thus acting as the only sweep effective against bottom mines,
 - II. Mine Hunting which involves the use of Specialized High Frequency Sonars and High-Fidelity Side Scan Sonar,
 - III. Counter-mining, if absolutely necessary,
- b. Formulate a time-schedule for beginning the period of aiding and advice to the respective countries who are and will be involved in de-mining operations in the Black Sea and coordinate with them an understanding of:
- I. The potential locations where the floating mines may be found,
 - II. Which of the aforementioned and/or other methods of removing or diffusing sea mines;
3. Encourages Member States of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to take active steps to counter Russia's malign influence in the Black Sea by:
- a. Significantly increase assistance to certain States integral to maintaining NATO force presence in the Black Sea, in the form of: -
 - I. Financial assistance, aimed at driving them away from Russian economic influence,
 - II. Assistance in the energy sector which is aimed at reducing Russian oil and gas exports to the respective countries,
 - III. Assistance in the information and cyber sectors aimed at countering Russian information warfare tactics and malicious cyber warfare tactics by the Russian Federation against the respective countries,
 - IV. Military assistance in the form of provisions for deployment of air missile defence systems and coastal defence missile systems in the respective countries,
 - b. Expanding, increasing and continuing of naval exercises by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) after holding consultations with the Republic of Türkiye to allow passage for the warships into the Black Sea;
4. Encourages the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to begin developing and enhancing its Eastern Flank near the Baltic Sea by:
- a. Providing the Baltic States with important weapons including but not limited to: -
 - I. Advanced and Sophisticated Air defence Systems,
 - II. Attack Helicopters,
 - III. Transport Helicopters,

- b. Enhancing and Improving Security among the Baltic States through the following measures: -
 - I. Smooth and efficient coordination among the Baltic States with regards to collective security and defence in the region,
 - II. Improvements and extension in training,
 - III. Interoperability of forces,
 - IV. Improvement in Command-and-Control functions and techniques,
 - V. Development of logistical capabilities,
 - VI. Intelligence gathering, providing comprehensive intelligence to the Member States of the North Atlantic Treaty,
 - VII. Development and expansion of surveillance capabilities,
 - VIII. Establishment of a set of military exercises, to be conducted within a fixed period of time, for the implementation and testing of the aforementioned measures,
- c. Implementing and facilitating a gradual and timely transition of NATO's military structure from one which supports the Battlegroup System to one dealing with a brigade division level with depictions of classic rehearsals of offensive, delay and defensive operations,
- d. Choosing and facilitating the supplies of military equipment and weapons to the Baltic States through less vulnerable routes or ways of transportation which cannot be detected by radar or missiles belonging to the Russian Government,
- e. Increasing the capacity and speed of logistics involved in the weapon and troop transfers,
- f. Preparing the Baltic States, through a comprehensive and realistic assessment of the military situation in the Baltic Region to defend themselves against any possible Russian attack through the following measures which include but are not limited to:
 - I. Electronic Jamming of Search Radars, Engagement Radars and Command-and-Control Networks for Artillery Systems, Rocket Systems and Missile Systems,
 - II. Tricking Radar systems on the ground, be it of artillery or missile defence systems, by using Physical Decoys, Electronic Decoys and Glider Decoys,
 - III. Militarily assisting insurgency efforts by Special Units in the militaries of the Baltic States,
 - IV. Taking active steps to provide Sweden with membership so as to help NATO use Swedish airbases, facilities which could be used for emergency landing and could facilitate higher sortie rates in the event of a NATO air operation against the Russian Federation in the Baltic Region.

POSITION PAPER

Every committee will be having position papers which are primarily documents to highlight your allotment's policy regarding a particular agenda. It consists of three fundamental parts:

1. Statement of the Problem
2. Policy Pertaining to the Agenda
3. Solutions

Please do read the Sample Position Paper given below for reference and further understanding.

POSITION PAPER

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Committee: Special Political and Decolonization (Fourth) Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (SPECPOL)

Agenda: Determining Future Peace Reconciliation Steps in Yemen with Special Emphasis on the Recent Developments in the Southern Region

Allotment: The French Republic

Statement of the Problem

The Arab Spring of 2011

The Arab Spring of 2011 was a series of Anti-Government protests, uprisings and armed rebellions that spread across much of the Arab world and began in response to oppressive regimes and a low standard of living. In Yemen, the Arab Spring sparked the Yemeni Revolution also known as the Yemeni Revolution of Dignity, against the rule of then President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

The shift of power from President Saleh to Vice President Hadi

In response to the uprising, the United Nations (UN) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) brokered a transitional dialogue process called the National Dialogue Conference from 18th March, 2013 and 24th January, 2014, which saw the transition of power from President Saleh to Vice President Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi.

The Houthi Rebels

The Houthi Insurgency which was a military rebellion pitting Zaidi Shia Houthis mostly, was sparked in Yemen began back in 2004. They were also very active in the Anti-Government protests during the Arab Spring in Yemen in 2011 and are being provided logistical, financial and military support from the Islamic Republic of Iran, through its' radical proxy organization Hezbollah and North Korea. During the civil war, the Houthi rebels have committed grave human rights violations.

¹Houthi forces have repeatedly fired artillery indiscriminately into Yemeni cities such as Taizz and

Hodeida, as well as launched indiscriminate ballistic missiles into Saudi Arabia, including Riyadh's

International Airport¹. Their use of cluster munitions and land mines are in violation of the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons. Their deliberate attacks on the civilian population as well as civilian sites like mosques are in grave violation of the Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols which prohibit the deliberate targeting of civilians and civilian facilities and therefore constitute war crimes. They have resorted to using child soldiers, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions and torture, all of which violate the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights, International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. They have also been responsible for blocking and preventing aid from reaching civilian populations.

The Saudi Arabia-led coalition in Yemen

In fear of the rapid spread of Iranian influence and the Houthi insurgency, on 26th March, 2015, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia led a coalition of nine countries and began a bombing operation in Yemen called Operation Decisive Storm. The legal basis of the operation was Article 51 of the UN Charter which states that "Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence if an armed attack occurs against a Member of the United Nations, until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security". The air campaign was followed by a land, air and naval blockade to prevent the smuggling of arms from Iran to the Houthis. However, the blockade has resulted in certain humanitarian difficulties. The Saudiled coalition has been receiving military and logistical support from the United States of America (USA), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK) and the French Republic. The coalition efforts have been extremely effective in curbing violence by the Houthi rebels as well as other non-state armed groups but have also caused civilian casualties.

Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL)

The crisis in Yemen had created a power vacuum in certain parts of Yemen which then was exploited by terror organizations such as the Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL) which have been involved in bombings in several parts of Yemen against mostly pro-Hadi forces.

Southern Transitional Council (STC)

The Southern Transitional Council (STC) is a secessionist organization in Yemen calling for and working towards the separation of Southern Yemen from the rest of the nation.

²Beginning on 28th January 2018, separatists loyal to the STC seized control of the Yemeni government headquarters in

Aden in a coup d'état against the Hadi Government. The STC declared self-governance on 26th April, 2020. In Aden, the movement's attempt was successful, as it occupied all Governmental institutions². Although the Saudi-led coalition has tried to come to a peaceful settlement with the STC through the Riyadh Agreement, all efforts have gone in vain.

Policy pertaining to the agenda

Arms sales to the Saudi-led Coalition

The French Republic has been providing the Saudi-led coalition with military and logistical support in order to defend itself against the Houthi rebels that continue to pose a great threat to both the

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), especially considering that the Houthi rebels have targeted oil facilities in Saudi Arabia and the construction of the Barakah Nuclear Power Plant in Abu Dhabi. Keeping in mind the saying “A nuclear power plant in a country is like a pre-deployed nuclear weapon for the enemy”, it is our belief that the Nuclear Power Plant may be as vulnerable as Saudi Arabia’s Abqaiq facility was, which was protected by three layers of missile defence. Thus it might be vulnerable to drone or missile strikes from the Houthi rebels because it does not have any added protection from aeroplane crashes or missile attacks and does not even have a core catcher which can catch the core in the scenario of a meltdown.

Careful methods of providing arms to the Saudi-led coalition to prevent violation of international treaties

The French Republic takes a great number of steps in order to ensure that arms provided to the

Saudi-led coalition go through a number of checks. By providing the coalition with arms, the French Republic is not violating the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) which does not require signatories to stop exporting weapons to countries that go to war. It requires only that Governments carry out assessments that their weapons don't contribute to war crimes. In these efforts, the French Government sets rules that parties to the conflict cannot use French arms in the Yemeni Civil War in an offensive manner but only to protect themselves against Houthi offensives.³ Arms sales are governed by strict procedures that are in line with international treaties.³

The War on Terror

The French Government sees Yemen as a stronghold for both Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant (ISIL) and therefore provides arms to the Saudi-led coalition to fight such terror organizations as well as curb the activities of Houthi rebels committing acts of terror. Acts of terrorism may pose a threat to international peace and security, jeopardize friendly relations among States, hinder international cooperation and aim at the destruction of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the democratic bases of society; Therefore, the French Republic will do anything in its' power to set forward the principles of the UN Charter and prevent the spread of terrorism.

Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen

The French Republic is extremely concerned about the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. According to the UN,⁴ Yemen is suffering the worst humanitarian crisis in the world with more than 24 million people, some 80 percent of the population in need of humanitarian assistance, including more than 12 million children.⁴ The French Republic suggests that Saudi Arabia abides by the No Strike List provided by the United States of America so as to prevent any violations of the Geneva Conventions. In 2018, The French Government has committed to giving Yemen €7.8 million in humanitarian aid via international organizations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) as well as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).⁵ The projects provided support in the fields of healthcare and malnutrition to help combat the risks of famine and the cholera epidemic. In January 2018, €1.5 million was also leveraged to fight against the risks of famine and malnutrition as part of planned food aid for the country.⁵

Solutions

Political Solutions to the War

The French Government advocates for the implementation of the measures mentioned in the Hodeidah Agreement, the Stockholm Agreement and the Riyadh Agreement. The Saudi-led coalition must draw up an agreement with the STC not only consisting of the contents of the Riyadh

Agreement but also ensuring that the STC is given humanitarian and financial aid in order to prevent them from backing out of the deal. This can serve as a first step towards coming to a peaceful solution to the instability in Southern Yemen. Coming to the Houthi rebels, since they claim that they have been marginalized, therefore the coalition must address their issues through a formal peace negotiation format if there is any hope for a comprehensive peace deal.

Economic Sanctions

Ever since the United States of America (USA) withdrew from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) or the Iran Nuclear Deal of 2015 and re-imposed sanctions on Iran, Iran's economy has begun collapsing and in the midst of the spread of the novel coronavirus, has been suffering a financial crisis. The French Republic fears that if Iran does not withdraw its support for the Houthi rebels, then the international community might be compelled to impose tougher sanctions on Iran. Thus, the Islamic Republic of Iran must withdraw its support for the Houthi rebels and participate positively in the peace negotiations as well as persuade the Houthi Rebels to negotiate with the Saudi-led coalition for a peaceful settlement to the crisis. This could even set the process for negotiating a new nuclear deal with the US to prevent sanctions from destroying the Iranian economy. The UNSC must also impose harsh economic sanctions and arms embargos against the Houthi rebels.

Humanitarian Solutions

All nations should work with the Yemeni Government to build critical infrastructure, improve health facilities, form a joint counterterrorism surveillance mechanism, draw up comprehensive agricultural policies, provide clean water supplies, and in the process work towards solving the humanitarian crisis in Yemen.

The French Republic believes that only a political solution can solve this war and therefore all the warring parties must come to the table and formulate a comprehensive solution to the war.

Citations

1. <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2020/country-chapters/yemen>
2. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Southern_Transitional_Council
3. <http://web.archive.org/web/20200113142837/https://www.telesureenglish.net/news/French-ArmsSales-to-Saudi-Arabia-Increased-50-in-2018-Report-20190604-0018.html>
4. <https://christianaidministries.org/updates/helping-yemenis-in-their-struggle-to-survive/>
5. <https://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files/yemen/>

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