



**THIMUN Singapore**

# **Research Reports**

## **Security Council**

**Fourth Annual Session**

**The Hague International Model United Nations  
Singapore**

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**Committee:** Security Council

**Question of:** Admission of new members

**Student Officer:** Peter Hung

### **Description**

By October 17, 2008, five states' membership in the Security Council will expire. By procedure, the remaining members of the Security Council will select the new five members of the Security Council through an election. The five seats are guaranteed to states from five different regions: one seat for Africa (currently held by South Africa), one seat for the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC), (currently held by Panama), one seat for Asia (currently held by Indonesia); and two seats for Western European and Others Group (WEOG), (currently held by Belgium and Italy).

Aside from this election that is on UNSC's agenda, several states and other UN affiliates have fostered for a reformation in the member body of the Security Council. Mostly, two reformations have been proposed: to restructure the membership of the UNSC at large and admitting more permanent members.

### **Definition of Key Terms**

**Condition to take seat:** the candidate of a region must obtain a two-thirds majority of the votes by voting member states.

**Permanent Members:** Member states that enjoy permanent membership in the Security Council thus do not have to comply with the rotational elections of the Security Council's. Currently, USA, UK, Russia, China, and France are the permanent members of the UNSC. Permanent members also enjoy the power to veto any resolution passed in the Security Council.

### **Background to the Topic**

#### **Election in 2008**

Currently, two of the five seats, those for Africa and GRULAC, will remain uncontested. Originally, the seat of Africa was contested by two states: Uganda and Madagascar. However, the decision made by the African Union in the African Union Summit in Sharm El-Sheikh in June 2008 affirms that Uganda will be the only endorsed candidate for the African seat. Madagascar forfeited after this decision was declared final. Mexico is the only state running for the GRULAC seat and thus is uncontested. Although uncontested, these two candidates are still required to go through the electoral procedures due to GA decision 34/401 (refer to Relevant Treaties and UN Resolutions).

The seat of Asia is contested vigorously among two member states: Japan and Iran. Japan has served the Security Council as a non-permanent member for nine terms whereas Iran has only served for one term.

The race for the two seats of WEOG is even more competitive. Three states: Iceland, Turkey, and Austria, are running to those seats. All of the three states seem to enjoy a very strong base of support; therefore it is unlikely that any of these states will obtain a necessary two-thirds of the votes in order to become a member state. Multiple rounds of voting procedures are highly probable.

### **Reformation**

In 2005, then Secretary General Kofi Annan suggested that all member states seriously consider reforming the obsolete Security Council membership structure. He referred to this reformation as “The Larger Freedom.” Along with other member states, Annan suggested two plans of reforming the Security Council membership:

Plan A calls for an addition of 6 new permanent member seats and 3 new non-permanent member seats.

Plan B calls for 8 new seats that belong to a new classification in the Security Council, they will serve for 4 years, subject to renewal. Plan B also calls for adding one nonpermanent member seat.

To date, the majority of the member states favored plan A, which is the addition of new permanent member states. Several countries already started pushing for their acceptance as a new permanent member in the UNSC. The countries currently promoting their admission as a permanent member are: Japan, India, Brazil, Germany, The Islamic States, and the African States.

### **Profile of the Candidates (for 2008 election)**

#### **Africa:**

*Uganda* has served on the Security Council in 1966 (a split term) and 1981-82. The reason for *Uganda* being the only nominee of the African seat is because the African Union has adopted a rotational system which theoretically will eventually allow all AU member states to become a member of the Security Council, and it is *Uganda*'s turn this time. Although *Madagascar* appealed to the AU, argued that it should be representing Africa in the Security Council this time, the AU affirmed its decision in the AU summit in June 2008 and resulted in *Madagascar* forfeiting the race. *Uganda* should expect unilateral support of AU member states. *Uganda*'s recent activity records also give other states no reason for it to take the seat of Africa this time.

### **Group of Latin American and Caribbean States (GRULAC):**

*Mexico* is a founding member of the United Nations and has served the Security Council in 1946, 1980-82, and 2002-03. There are no rules agreed among the states in the region about rotation. Mexico's uncontested candidacy solely is based on the fact that no other GRULAC states wish to run for the seat for this term.

### **Asia:**

*Japan* has extensive experience in serving as a non-permanent member of the Security Council. It has served in 1958-59, 1966-67, 1971-72, 1975-76, 1981-82, 1987-88, 1992-93, 1997-98, and 2005-06. Japan is also the second largest contributor to the UN regular budget and peacekeeping budget; this may be taken into account by voting member states when voting.

*Iran* has only served the Security Council for one term in 1955-56. Aside from its lack of experience in the Security Council, it is also undergoing a dispute with the Security Council due to the latter's order of sanctions against Iran. Iran rejects the sanction's validity and legality.

### **Western European and Others Group (WEOG)**

*Austria* served on the Security Council in 1973-74 and 1991-92. It currently has 1400 workers involved in UN peacekeeping operations. It stresses the importance of international laws, disarmament, and human rights. It has extensive experience in serving in a similar position in the European Union.

*Iceland* has never been a member of the Security Council. Although it is an unarmed country, it has extensively participated in NATO and UN Special Committee peacekeeping operations. It is more concerned with the gradually depleting of natural resources around the globe, and stresses the significance of the interest of small states.

*Turkey* is a founding member of the United Nations. It has served on the Security Council in 1951-52, 1954-55, and 1961. It is ranked 28<sup>th</sup> on states who contributed police or military to the UN peacekeeping operations. It highlights the significance of peaceful dialogue between states in dispute, especially those involved in the Gaza conflict. It also reminds the UN that its geo-strategic position is a favorable location to build a bridge between western and Middle-Eastern worlds.

## **Possible Situations/ Outcomes of Election**

- One candidate receives two-thirds of the votes and legally attains its region's seat. Highly possible in the election of members in Asia, Africa, and GRULAC.
- One of the candidates receives the necessary two-thirds for gaining one of the two contested while neither of the other two contestants meets the criteria. The electoral procedure will be repeated until the house decides which of the two candidates will take the remaining seat, or until one of the candidates waives its position as a nominee. Possible in the election of WEOG.
- None of the candidates receive the require amount of votes and thus cannot be seated in its region's position. The electoral procedure will be repeated until the house decides which of the candidates will take the seats, or until one of the candidates waives its position as a nominee. Possible in the election of WEOG.

## **Profile of the Candidates (for admission as a new permanent member)**

### **Japan**

Japan is the second largest contributor to the United Nation's membership fee. It's admission as a new permanent member is backed by United States, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines, Vietnam, Australia, India, Brazil, France, Germany, and the United Kingdom, but meets strong opposition from China, North Korea, and South Korea. The Chinese opposition is the most threatening to Japan's application, as China has the power to veto Japan's bid.

### **Germany**

Germany is the third largest contributor to the UN regular budgets. It stresses its large scale influence in Europe and the rest of the world and ranked itself as a "great power" that "deserves a seat as a permanent member." Its bid is supported by Japan, India, Brazil, France, the United Kingdom and Russia, among other countries. The United States however, opposes Germany's application as Germany opposed the War in Iraq.

### **Brazil**

Brazil is the most populated country in Latin America. Currently, Russia and the United States have openly voiced their support on Brazil becoming a permanent member in the Security Council. However, Argentina and Mexico expressed their strong opposition to Brazil's bid, as Brazil is the only non-Spanish speaking country in Latin America and thus does not have the right to represent it in the Security Council.

## **India**

India is the world's second most populated country, a nuclear power, and a very promising economic power in the future. It has gained China and Russia's support on becoming a permanent member without a veto power. The United States and Pakistan, however, are against India's application.

## **Islamic Members**

Several states have raised the point that the Middle-East is a region that are in constant armed-conflict and should be regarded more seriously in the Security Council by providing a permanent member seat to a Muslim state. This point however meets several rebukes. Several commentators believe that by giving a Muslim nation will in fact restrict the UN's peacekeeping operations in the Middle East, as most of the conflicts in the region are caused by religious factionalism. Some also pointed out that the Security Council should remain a-religious, and that giving permanent membership based on the religious aspect will break this rule.

## **African Members**

The AU has been calling for the Security Council to allow one African nation to be a permanent member, as none of the P5 states are from Africa. Algeria, Egypt, South Africa, and Nigeria are the strongest contenders for the seat. However, several states have indicated that all the contenders except South Africa have had questionable Human Rights histories, thus should not be given a permanent seat in the Security Council as the UNSC upholds the ideal of humanism.

## **Relevant Treaties and UN Resolutions**

**GA decision 34/401:** Member states that are uncontested in the election of seats in Security Council are still required to obtain two-thirds of the voting members' votes in order to obtain the seat.

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**Committee:** Security Council

**Question of:** The stability of the state of Iraq

**Student Officer:** Amirah Al Idrus

## **General Overview**

Once the center of the Islamic Empire and a country made wealthy by its abundant natural resources, Iraq is now a nation divided. Rebels attack security forces and civilians alike and the Kurdish community in the north of the country have split off to form their own semi-independent region, Iraqi Kurdistan. Iraq has never been a model of stability, with numerous coups succeeding throughout its history. Essentially, it was the US-led invasion, aiming to overthrow Saddam Hussein's government that plunged Iraq into a power struggle, with forces vying for control.

Since 2003, there have been frequent bombings, car bombings and the like, which have worsened over time. Much hope is placed in the negotiations between the US and Iraq over the presence of American forces in Iraq. These negotiations have been going on for weeks, but Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki has delayed a final agreement, saying that it does not allow Iraq enough control over the actions of US troops. The working agreement includes US forces withdrawing from Iraqi cities by June 30, 2009 and the complete removal of US combat troops from Iraq by 2011.

## **Definition of Key Terms**

**Multi-National Force – Iraq (MNF-I)** – On May 15, 2003, the MNF-I replaced the Combined Joint Task Force 7 in Iraq. The MNF-I carries out offensive operations to disable any destabilizing influences to make Iraq a more secure environment. It also helps out Iraqi security forces (with training, equipment, etc.) so that the responsibility of security can be transferred from foreign forces to Iraqi forces. There has been a lot of debate on the size and capabilities of the MNF-I; the numbers jump around 22, 27 and 34 countries with troops deployed in Iraq. At least seventeen countries including Italy, Japan and New Zealand, have withdrawn troops, while other countries are currently planning to pull out.

**KDP** - Kurdistan Democratic Party

**Iraqi Accordance Front** - the main Sunni Arab political bloc in Iraq

## **Background to the Topic**

Iraq's first monarch was crowned in 1921, and the nation became independent in 1932. The monarchy lasted 37 years before a coup overthrew them and launched the country into a state of political turmoil. In the ensuing years, numerous coups were staged, the Gulf War began and an attempt on the life of US President George Bush in 1993 incensed an American missile response. Ten years later, after British and American involvement, President George W. Bush issued then leader of Iraq, Saddam Hussein, an ultimatum: to leave Iraq or face war.

In 2003, the US launched missiles at Baghdad while British and American troops invaded the nation from the south. The numbers are not definite, but tens of thousands were killed over the next few years through car bombings, bombings, shootings and sectarian violence initiated by bomb attacks on certain religious shrines.

## **Major Countries and Organizations Involved and Their Positions**

**Iraq** wants to be able to govern its own country and have all American forces removed.

**United States of America** – American troops make up the bulk (approximately 90 per cent) of the Multi-National Force – Iraq (MNF-I). The US agrees that its forces must leave Iraq, but hasten to add that if they pull out too quickly; enemy forces which are currently lying dormant will emerge as soon as the threat of US troops leaves.

**United Kingdom** – While American soldiers, by far, make up the majority of MNF-I, 4,000 British military personnel (as of April 2008) are deployed in southern Iraq, making the UK the second largest contributor to the MNF-I.

**The World Bank**, in conjunction with the UN, has set up the International Reconstruction Fund Facility for Iraq (IRFFI).

### **Other UNOs/NGOs working in Iraq:**

OCHA (Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs)

UNDP (UN Development Program)

OHCHR (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights)

WHO (World Health Organization)

WFP (World Food Program)

UNFPA (UN Population Fund)

UNEP (UN Environment Program)

UNESCO (UN Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization)

UNHCR (UN High Commissioner for Refugees)

## **Timeline of Events**

**1991:** The Gulf War begins with Operation Desert Storm (the coalition forces start bombing Iraq)

**1993:** Attempted Iraqi assassination of US President George Bush in Kuwait, in retaliation, the US attacks the Iraqi intelligence headquarters in Baghdad.

**1995:** Oil-for-food program is approved, but the program is not put into action until December 1996

**1998:** Iraq stops cooperating with the UN's Special Commission to Oversee the Destruction of Iraq's Weapons of Mass Destruction (UNSCOM), Operation Desert Fox is launched to destroy Iraq's biological, chemical and nuclear weapons programs.

**2001:** The UK and US try to take out Iraq's air defense network through bombing raids.

**2002:** US President Bush speaks to the UN General Assembly, telling them to take action against Iraq, or to stand back as the US acts

**2003:** President Bush gives Hussein and his sons an ultimatum: leave Iraq in 48 hours or face war; American missiles are launched at Baghdad and US and British troops invade the south of Iraq; Kurdish and American forces take Kirkuk and Mosul; the UNSC removes economic sanctions on Iraq and backs the US-run administration in Baghdad. The US administrator abolishes the Baath Party and the institutions of the former regime; August - The Jordanian embassy and UN headquarters are bombed; December - Saddam Hussein is captured in Tikrit.

**2004:** May - Hundreds are killed in the US forces' siege on Falluja, there is evidence that Iraqi prisoners are being abused by US troops; June - the US hands over sovereignty to the interim government, led by prime minister Iyad Allawi; November - there is a major US-led offensive against rebels in Falluja

**2005:** January - elections are held for a Transitional National Assembly. The Shia United Iraqi Alliance wins a majority, Kurdish parties are second; February - 114 are killed in a huge car bomb in Hilla; April - Kurdish leader Jala Talabani is appointed president and Ibrahim Jaafari (a Shia) is appointed prime minister; May - violence like car bombings, shootings and bomb explosions, increases dramatically; Marsoud Barzani is sworn in as president of Iraqi Kurdistan (a semi-autonomous region); August - a draft constitution is supported by Kurdish and Shia representatives, but is rejected by Sunni representatives; October - Hussein goes on trial for crimes against humanity, voters approve a new constitution; December - Iraqis vote for the first government and parliament since the US-led invasion of 2003.

**2006:** The Shia United Iraqi Alliance wins the election, but does not win an overall majority; June - Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, an al-Qaeda leader in Iraq, is killed; September - a ceremony to hand over operational command from US-led forces to the new Iraqi army is postponed; November - Hussein found guilty of crimes against humanity and sentenced to death, Iraq and Syria restore diplomatic relations; December - Hussein is executed.

**2007:** January - President Bush announces that more US troops will be dispatched in Iraq to reinforce security in Baghdad; February - a bomb in Sadriya market in Baghdad kills upwards of 130 people; March - three

trucks filled with chlorine gas are detonated in Ramadi and Falluja; April - bombings in Baghdad kill almost 200 people; May - Abu Ayyub al-Masri, an al-Qaeda leader in Iraq is reportedly killed; August - The Iraqi Accordance Front withdraws from parliament, truck and car bombs kill at least 250 people in two Kurdish villages; September - Blackwater shootings; December - Turkey launches an air raid on the Kurdish PKK movement inside Iraq, the UK transfers Basra to Iraqi forces, ending five years of British control in southern Iraq.

**2008:** February - suicide bombings in Baghdad kill over 50 people, General David Petraeus, the US military commander in Iraq, tells Congress he plans to stop withdrawing US troops because of fragile security gains; June - Australia ends all combat operations in Iraq, Prime Minister Maliki visits Iran to reassure Iran that he will not allow his country to be used by the US as a launch pad for an attack on Iran; July - Prime Minister Maliki proposes setting a timetable for the withdrawal of American forces from Iraq as part of a security agreement with Washington, the Iraqi Accordance Front rejoins the Iraqi government.

### **Statistics**

In June 2006, the UN reported that an average of 100 Iraqi civilians are killed each day.

The next year, the UN said that over 34,000 civilians were killed in violence during 2006.

### **Relevant Treaties and UN Resolutions**

**The International Compact With Iraq** was co-launched by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and Iraqi Prime Minister Maliki on May 3, 2007. It is a five-year national program for Iraq to form a new partnership with the international community, aiming to rebuild Iraq economically and politically. Its other aims include establishing Iraq as a 'secure, unified, federal and democratic nation, founded on the principles of freedom and equality and providing peace and prosperity for its people.'

<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs//2007/note6078.doc.htm>

#### **UN Security Council Resolutions:**

**949 (1994)** – demands that Iraq withdraws all military units dispatched in southern Iraq

**986 (1995)** – allows the partial resumption of Iraq's oil exports to buy food and medicine (Oil-for-food program). Although this is passed in 1995, it is not accepted by Iraq until May 1996 and it is not implemented until December 1996.

**1284 (1999)** – Establishes the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC)

**1500 (2003)** – establishes the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)

**2004-2007** – several resolutions have been passed in recent years; the main ideas include extending the mandate of UNAMI and reaffirming that it is at the request of the Iraqi Government that the MNF-I is in Iraq.

## **Previously Attempted Solutions: Analysis of their failures/successes**

**UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)** – UNAMI was first announced in Security Council Resolution 1500 passed in 2003. Originally planned as a one-year follow-through mission, the attacks on the UN in Iraq prompted the Secretary-General to review a re-entry due to security and political concerns.

## **Plagiarism Checklist**

See resolution list

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Iraq Coalition Forces [http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/ops/iraq\\_orbat\\_coalition.htm](http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/ops/iraq_orbat_coalition.htm)

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MNF-I – Global Security <http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/agency/dod/mnf-i.htm>

UNAMI <http://www.uniraq.org/default.asp>

## **Appendix: Useful Links**

UN News Center, Focus: Iraq

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocusRel.asp?infocusID=50&Body=iraq&Body1=inspect>

McClatchy Washington Bureau - Iraq <http://www.mcclatchydc.com/iraq/>

## **UNOs/NGOs in Iraq:**

ReliefWeb <http://www.reliefweb.int/rw/dbc.nsf/doc104?OpenForm&rc=3&cc=irq>

OCHA <http://ochaonline.un.org/Default.aspx?alias=ochaonline.un.org/iraq>

UNHABITAT <http://www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=203> OCHA

<http://ochaonline.un.org/Default.aspx?alias=ochaonline.un.org/iraq>

OHCHR <http://www.unhchr.ch/news/iraq.htm>

UNDP

[http://www.iq.undp.org/index.aspx?data=gH9u\\_2f2JmNRIL06sCaYRMidcPLWZOI9pEikNWUSMK5FoTtqkFLM4L1JQ2N1SVYHSA](http://www.iq.undp.org/index.aspx?data=gH9u_2f2JmNRIL06sCaYRMidcPLWZOI9pEikNWUSMK5FoTtqkFLM4L1JQ2N1SVYHSA)

WHO <http://www.who.int/countries/irq/en/>

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[http://www.wfp.org/operations/current\\_operations/countries/countryproject.asp?section=5&sub\\_section=7&country=368#EMOP](http://www.wfp.org/operations/current_operations/countries/countryproject.asp?section=5&sub_section=7&country=368#EMOP)

WFP Current Plan [http://www.wfp.org/operations/current\\_operations/project\\_docs/107170.pdf](http://www.wfp.org/operations/current_operations/project_docs/107170.pdf)

UNFPA <http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/iraq/index.htm>

**Committee:** Security Council

**Question of:** The Afghanistan-Pakistan Border

**Student Officer:** Jacques Zhang

## **General Overview**

Over the past century, the Afghan-Pakistani border, otherwise known as the Durand Line, has been a heavily disputed issue between these two nations. The line runs along the Eastern side of Afghanistan and the Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP). It also runs across the central Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) and the Balochistan region in the south. Due to the nature of the situation, firearms have also been involved in this dispute.

Similar to most territorial disputes, the Afghan-Pakistani line is disputed in part based on historical claims. Afghanistan has asserted that, although the line has been established since 1893, the Durand Agreement that originally established this border expired in 1993. Amir Abdur Rahman Khan, the principal signatory to this agreement, is also believed to have signed it against his will. Further Afghan claims assert that former British territory east of the border would be returned to Afghanistan after its independence was established. However, the United Kingdom fails to recognize such an agreement.

The presence of various tribal groups around the Durand Line also poses a major problem, as their free migrant, nomadic lifestyles often fail to acknowledge the established border. Around 18 million Pashtuns, the dominant tribal group in the region, reside on either side of the line, and along with Afridis, Ahmadzais, Kirghiz, Mohmands, and Waziris, deem the Line as an insult to their nomadic nature. Because of the Line's restrictive nature, unrest amongst these tribes, neither attributed to Afghans or Pakistanis linguistically or culturally, has been stirred.

The Pashtunwali Code is an agreement that essentially united tribes with similar customs, cultures, linguistics and other social aspects, and further allows for free movement across the so-called border. Though Pakistan recognizes these tribes, it states that a 1947 agreement between representatives of the tribes and former governor of NWFP swore allegiance to Pakistan and their wish to remain as part of that nation.

In more recent times, the Line has been significant with the war on terror led by the USA. Because US forces have deployed along the Afghan side of the line, Pakistani forces on the other side have been unable to target Al-Qaeda and Taliban that have continuously evaded capture. Because of the border's porous nature, Pakistan claims that terrorists have been moving freely across borders to engage in terrorism and narcotics trafficking. This further increases tensions between the two nations along the border.

## **Definition of Key Terms**

**NWFP:** Northwest Frontier Province situated in northwestern Pakistan

**FATA:** Federally Administered Tribal Areas

**Durand Line:** Alternative name for the Afghan-Pakistani border, namesake of Sir Mortimer Durand

**Pashtunwali Code:** Agreement that united tribes as a collective group and granted free movement across the Durand Line

**Al-Qaeda:** Terrorist group led by Osama Bin Laden situated in Afghanistan

**Taliban:** fundamentalist Islamic militia that took over Afghanistan in 1995

## **Background to the topic**

Since its establishment in 1893, the Durand Line, now the official border between Afghanistan and Pakistan has been a heavily disputed issue. With various ethnic tribes dispersed around the area, the security of the border has often been questioned. Both Afghanistan and Pakistan are known to be adequately armed for warfare and Pakistan has also been commonly known as a nuclear threat, particularly pertaining to the Kashmir conflict. Because of their current dispute with India, Pakistan is most likely overly protective with regards to their territory, as their “loss” the Kashmiri region is probably as much as they can support. Afghanistan, recently assaulted by the United States’ counterterrorism attempts, has also seen its fair share of international conflict. Both nations seem to be in a state of high volatility.



## **Major Countries and Organizations Involved and Their Positions**

**Afghanistan** – Firmly believing that the Durand Line Agreement has already exceeded its “expiration date,” Afghanistan contends that although the Line has been internationally recognized as the official Afghan-Pakistani border, it is not a valid demarcation of territory. Afghanistan has also asserted that a portion of this land was “promised” to them after their independence was obtained, but Britain has no recognition of such an agreement.

**Pakistan** – Pakistan, also holding historical claims to various areas around the border, views the porous nature of the Durand Line as an open lane for terrorism. Claims have also been made regarding the use of Pakistani land and sympathetic tribes as terrorist bases of support for Afghan terrorists to engage in weapons and narcotic trafficking. Pakistan’s ‘Forward Policy’ originally stemmed from its British rulers where a divided opinion on expansion prevailed. Some advocated a cautionary attitude while others supported an expansionist, more adventurous view. The latter presided over the former and this also spurred the Durand Line Agreement.

**The Pashtuns and other ethnic tribes** – Culturally nomadic, these tribes wander as freely across the border as possible. They view the Durand Line as a direct insult to their nomadic culture and feel strongly against its restrictive nature. Furthermore, Pashtuns have recently increased the momentum and have shown signs of nationalism. Their free movement is protected by the Pashtunwali Code.

## **Timeline of Events**

**1893:** Establishment of the Durand Line by Sir Mortimer Durand, foreign secretary of the British Indian Government

**1947:** Afghanistan claims that original British territory east of the Line was promised to them.

Pakistan also claims that an agreement involving tribe representatives swore allegiance to Pakistan around this same time.

**1993:** Pakistani forces engage in open firefights with Afghan tribesmen. Pakistan claimed that terrorists were attempting to infiltrate the border while the Afghans contended that Pakistan attempted to set up military bases in Afghanistan.

**2008:** Pakistan and Islamist and Pashtuns plunge into heavy fighting, leaving hundreds dead.

## **Previously Attempted Solutions: Analysis of their failures/successes**

**The Durand Line Agreement** established a border between Afghanistan and British India. It was signed by Sir Henry Mortimer Durand (the foreign secretary of British India) and Amir Abdur Rahman Khan (the ruler of Afghanistan) in 1893. The Agreement consists of seven points detailing where, exactly, the Durand Line will be and which areas will be in which country's (or colony's, in the case of British India) territory.

Though some periods of peace have prevailed, the complex nature of the situation usually results in violence, and ordinary attempts at cease-fires and peace agreements falter almost instantly.

Multilateral talks in such a situation must be established in order to alleviate the situation. Discussions should be held on the border dispute and the ambiguity of the history behind this topic should be cleared up, or disregarded on both sides equally. If Pakistan and Afghanistan are to hold onto what they believe to be historical fact and there is no way to prove either or, it is clear that this consideration must be eliminated to solve the issue.

Enforcement of peace across the border should be instituted using more innovative means as ordinary cease-fires have since failed. However, the problem of violence must be solved before an agreement can be reached. Perhaps a temporary cease-fire can be maintained (for as long as possible) while peace talks are initiated.

### **Plagiarism Checklist**

“benefit from a recognized open border between the two countries”

“territorial dispute centering on the border based on historical claims”

“free movement of tribes attributed to the highly porous nature of the border”

“original agreement stands without any proviso for an expiration date”

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Comprehensive summary of the issue [http://www.g4s.com/grk-special\\_report\\_afghanistan\\_pakistan\\_border\\_conflict\\_final.pdf](http://www.g4s.com/grk-special_report_afghanistan_pakistan_border_conflict_final.pdf)

Map of the region [http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/middle\\_east\\_and\\_asia/afghan\\_paki\\_border\\_rel88.jpg](http://www.lib.utexas.edu/maps/middle_east_and_asia/afghan_paki_border_rel88.jpg)

Further information that summarizes the issue and also provides some suggestions on solutions

<http://www.usip.org/pubs/specialreports/sr176.html>

News report on some more recent fighting across the border

<http://www.wsws.org/articles/2008/aug2008/afgh-a16.shtml>

The Durand Line Agreement <http://www.khyber.org/pashtohistory/treaties/durandagreement.shtml>

### **Appendix: Useful Links**

[http://www.g4s.com/grk-special\\_report\\_afghanistan\\_pakistan\\_border\\_conflict\\_final.pdf](http://www.g4s.com/grk-special_report_afghanistan_pakistan_border_conflict_final.pdf)

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**Committee:** Security Council

**Question of:** Threats to international peace and security from civil strife in Africa

**Student Officer:** Amirah Al Idrus

## **Description**

From the situation in Somalia to the clashes in Kenya, Africa is rife with conflict. The majority of African nations has suffered from civil strife in one form or another. There are several major threats to international peace and security from civil war in Africa:

### **Illicit Arms Trade**

Small arms are trafficked across borders usually by smuggling. There aren't many laws on domestic use and possession of arms in Africa.

#### *Case Study: Liberia*

In 2003, illicit ammunition and mortar rounds were imported by Guinea from Iran under the disguise of 'detergent' and 'technical equipment'. Guinea sent these weapons on to a Liberian rebel group, Liberians United for Reconciliation and Democracy (LURD), who then used them to attack the capital, Monrovia. Hundreds of civilians were maimed and killed. This is a prime example of illicit arms causing chaos outside their country of origin.

### **Outflow of Refugees**

People leave their native countries because of civil violence. This often has a negative effect on their countries of asylum.

#### *Case Study: Chad and Sudan*

As a result of the conflict in Darfur, approximately 250,000 refugees have fled to Chad. Chad has been going through a drawn-out civil war of its own and the surge of Sudanese refugees complicates matters further.

### **Cross-Border Activities of Rebel Groups**

Armed groups do not always remain in their country of origin. Often, they cross borders, wreaking havoc in neighboring nations.

#### *Case Study: Democratic Republic of the Congo*

In 1996, Rwandan Tutsi rebels captured eastern DR Congo (then called Zaire). Other rebels, the Congolese Liberation Movement (MLC, supported by Rwanda) and the Rally for Congolese Democracy (RCD, backed

by Uganda) captured Kinshasha and assumed control of the east. Almost a decade later, Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) troops entered DR Congo; they now take advantage of Congolese resources and abuse human rights.

## **Terrorism**

Terrorism is defined as 'the use of violence and threats to intimidate or coerce, especially for political purposes.' While terrorist organizations are concentrated in the Middle East, it seems that their influence is spreading to bases in Africa.

### *Case Study: Algeria*

Over the past year and a half, Algeria has been hit by numerous car bombings and suicide attacks by a group calling itself al-Qaeda in the Land of Islamic Maghreb (AQLIM). It seems that the group is becoming more sophisticated, possibly to establish itself as al-Qaeda's representative in the area.

## **Breakdown of Political Order**

The general breakdown of government poses a threat to neighboring countries, through the spillover of conflict, or through the military involvement of neighbors.

### *Case Study: Somalia*

Somalia has never been a stable nation, with numerous coups peppering its history. Ethiopian troops are present, supporting the Transitional Federal Government (TFG). Ethiopia is supported by the United States, but most of the international community feels that Ethiopia should be removed in order for peace to be achieved.

## **Definition of Key Terms**

**Civil war** – A war between factions of a country rather than between countries

## **Background to the Topic**

Several African nations have volatile histories of civil conflict. While ethnic differences and sectarian hatred seem to be the cause of many of these conflicts, economic stability also plays a large role. A study carried out by civil war experts Fearon and Laitin showed that however ethnically diverse a country is, the probability of civil war actually decreases as the country gets wealthier. The knock-on effects of war within one nation affect its neighbors, its region, and at times, the rest of the international community.

## **Major Countries and Organizations Involved and Their Positions**

Several African nations are either in the midst of civil strife or emerging from long civil wars. These are only a few examples:

**Algeria's** political violence has been declining, but has been hit by bombings carried out by the terrorist group, AQLIM.

**Burundi** is recovering from a twelve-year civil war.

**Chad** is undergoing violence between ethnic Arabs and ethnic Africans; it also has problems from refugees fleeing Sudan

**DR Congo** is in the midst of a humanitarian crisis, resulting from a war between government forces and insurgents.

**The Republic of Congo** still houses dregs of civil war militias, which still haven't disarmed.

**Liberia** is full of weapons, corruption and unemployment.

**Sierra Leone** is emerging from a decade-long civil war.

**Somalia** has never been stable, with rebel forces waging a guerrilla war against the government. The Security Council has been accused by the Human Rights Watch for indifference.

**Sudan** is just emerging from a twenty-year civil war.

**The African Union (AU)** condemns terrorism in all forms in Africa as well as around the world.

**The UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)** is working in several nations to settle internally displaced persons (IDPs) as well as refugees that have fled their countries.

## **Statistics**

Estimates say that there are approximately eight million small arms in West Africa.

## **Relevant Treaties and UN Resolutions**

**The Kimberley Process** is a joint project between governments, industry and civil society. It was introduced in 2000 to prevent the trade of diamonds to fund conflict.

## **The West Africa Moratorium on Importation, the Exportation and Manufacture of Small**

**Arms** was introduced to limit the proliferation of small arms in member states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). However, there has been much flouting of the Moratorium, with relaxed arms export regulations in supplier countries motivated by profits.

### **UN Resolutions:**

Several UNSC resolutions tackle the various causes and effects of African civil war, e.g.:

**733 (1992)** – imposes an arms embargo on Somalia

**1209 (1998)** – tackles illicit arms flow to and from Africa

**1366 (2001)** – addresses the role of the Security Council in the prevention of armed conflicts

**1521 (2003)** – addresses the proliferation of illicit arms in Liberia

**1620 (2005)** – establishes the UN Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL) to help with reconciliation in the country.

**1794 (2007)** – extends the UN Mission in DR Congo (MONUC) until the end of 2008

### **Previously Attempted Solutions: Analysis of their failures/successes**

**UN arms embargoes** have been imposed, but many are not adhered to.

**UN Missions, e.g. the UN Mission in Somalia (UNSOM)** – there were two phases, namely UNSOM I and II, and both were withdrawn without having achieved their targets.

The West has been criticized for only intervening in African civil wars when their own interests are at stake. Key examples include American involvement in Somalia – a US ship shelled suspected al-Qaeda figures in Puntland. In other areas, Western involvement is almost non-existent, or delayed, as seen in the case of Rwanda.

### **Plagiarism Checklist**

See resolution list

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Human Rights Watch: Small Arms and Conflict in West Africa

<http://hrw.org/english/docs/2004/05/20/africa8680.htm>

Statement on threats to International Peace and Security – USA <http://www.state.gov/p/io/rls/rm/78474.htm>

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The Kimberley Process <http://www.kimberleyprocess.com/>

UN Security Council Resolutions [http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/unsc\\_resolutions.html](http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/unsc_resolutions.html)

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The United States and the Rwandan Genocide

<http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/NSAEBB/NSAEBB53/index.html>

### **Appendix: Useful Links**

Global Policy Forum: The Role of Small Arms in African Civil Wars

<http://www.globalpolicy.org/security/smallarms/articles/2006/0921roleinafrica.htm>

African News Agency <http://www.afrol.com/>

Crimes of War Project <http://www.crimesofwar.org/index.html>