

# SECURITY COUNCIL

SECRETARÍA GENERAL ADJUNTA DE MISIONES DE PAZ

**MUNUS**  
Model United Nations Universidad de La Sabana

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## 1. PRESENTATION LETTER FROM THE DAIS

Dear delegates,

Welcome to the Security Council of the United Nations for this version of MUNUS. We are beyond excited to assume the presidency of a committee that is intended to challenge both you and us. As your dais, we expect nothing but the best from all of you, not only as delegates but as human beings. Honesty and fair play, combined with an excellent academic background and preparation, will be considered at all times during these 4 days. Before we get to the substance, a brief introduction from your chair:

Greetings, delegates! My name is Manuela Chocontá and I am a fifth-semester student of International Relations at Universidad del Rosario. I have been in Model United Nations since I was a little kid, and my passion for them has not decreased ever since. Now, I am a Senior delegate at the team that represents my university in these competitions, ONUROSARIO. I firmly believe there are little scenarios that can teach you as much as a MUN does, and that goes not only regarding academics, but also values. I'm looking forward to meeting you all, and, please, do not hesitate to ask me anything by any means. We are here to help you as much as we can.

My name is Sofía Campos Sánchez and for this edition of MUNUS I will be part of the Board of Directors for the Security Council committee. I am 21 years old and a eight semester student of Jurisprudence (Law) at Universidad del Rosario and I am currently doing an emphasis on International Law and Human Rights. I am part of the Staff of the MUN group of my University called ONUROSARIO, where I am also Senior Delegate, and for ten years now I began my career in this world of Models of United Nations, where I found who I truly am and what kind of lawyer I want to be in the future, for me this isn't just a competition, this is an experience where you develop values like honesty, fair play and loyalty. I am truly passionate about what I study and what I do, I found my path of study in International law, and in the litigation of Human Rights and International Criminal Law when I started my internship as a degree requirement. I love languages, listen to all kinds of music and spend most of my time with my parents, family and my closest friends. Finally, I hope that this experience at MUNUS will be enriching, not only at an academic level, but also at a personal level, I hope you enjoy every moment of the model in all its facets.

Good evening,

Delegates, it is an honor to be part of the Board of Directors for the Security Council committee. My name is Emma Giraldo, I graduated the past June from ASPAEN Gimnasio Iragua. I started participating in Models of United Nations for five years ago, I have gone to international and national models. The way I perceive it, is as my passion; the power that young people can sensitize about the world issues that affect millions of people every day. Nowadays our society had been characterized by being conformist because of the indifferent posture that people had taken due to the actual injustices. Is your duty as delegates, to have a remarkable preparation, to empower yourself in the discussion, also to find suitable solutions regarding the topic and your internal jurisdiction, but the most important: the idealisms and conclusions have to endure not only in the draft resolutions,

but throughout the walls; to get a different mindset, and take action as the future generations on topics that feels external to our reality, nevertheless they are present.

Last but not least, it is vital for you to know that as your dais we are here to solve any doubt that may come up along your academic preparation. For that purpose, you may contact any of us through our e-mail addresses, as follows:

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## 2. INTRODUCTION

For this edition of MUNUS, the Security Council will operate under an open agenda. Nonetheless, and for a better interconnection within the entire under-secretary, the focus of the committee will be the securitization of Northern Africa and the Middle East, given the importance of both regions for the international peace and security. On one side, Africa is the most unstable continent in the world, with more than eight conflicts that are unchanging or even worsening, according to the Global Conflict Tracker (CRF). For instance, the ongoing situation on Somalia with Al-Shabab is categorized as worsening, with an estimated number of 9000 insurgent fighters.

On the other hand, the panorama in the Middle East is not any better. Despite the fact that the two confrontations that have most attracted the attention of the media and the agenda of the international community are the historical and long-term situation of Israel and Palestine, as well as the effects that the region has had on the entire region. gradual territorial intervention that has had the ISIS Group or Islamic State, in the other countries of the Middle East like Libya, Syria and Lebanon the conflicts are far from being solved. Example of the above, is The civil war in Syria and its constant level of aggravation, causing negative

implications for the entire region. Lebanon is one of the countries most affected by the situation that since 2011 Syria is living, as an example of this are the large number of refugees seeking shelter in the Lebanese country, in addition to the constant border attacks that occur in the border area between these two countries. (CRF, 2019)

In order for you to have a better context of the current situation of the Middle East and Northern Africa, we consider it pertinent to give you a broad overview of the main conflicts that are affecting not only the region, but the international peace as well. We highly encourage you to read this guide thoroughly, however, do not limit to the information here contained.

## 1. CIVIL WAR IN LIBYA

Libya is a country located in North-Africa. It acquired its independence on 1951, under the mandate of King Idris al-Sanusi. Nevertheless, after almost 20 years in power, opposition against him rose, leading to a military coup led by Muammar Gaddafi. The former Colonel Gaddafi installed a new government with three main pillars on his agenda: i. Pan-arabism; ii. State-Socialism; iii. Nationalism. Those bases, along with its known intervention in Chad's civil

war, unleashed chaos within the country as many of Libyans were not satisfied with Gaddafi's actions. (BBC, 2018)

Eventually, the discontent from many of the population led to the conflict known as the Libyan Civil War of 2011. This conflict, also known as the Revolt, began in February 2011, where the Libyan government of Muammar Gaddafi faced different opposition groups organized in the so-called National Transitional Council. This last, was supported by different foreign countries, among which we can find France and the countries of NATO. The conflict began by demonstrations and popular protests against the government of Muammar Gaddafi, shortly after the conflicts of what is now called the Arab Spring. (The New York Times, 2011)

According to the New York Times (2011), the armed rebellious groups came to take control of some cities causing the Libyan government, called Yamahiriya, to lose control over important areas of the country which led to an armed confrontation. This confrontation was described by some countries as an attack on civil rights and the safety of the civilian population. These countries, mainly belonging to NATO and led by France, based on a United Nations resolution, decided to carry out an intervention that they described as humanitarian intervention. On October 31, 2011, the UN Security Council unanimously determined to

nullify the resolution that had allowed the intervention due to the rebel victory. The war ended with the defeat of the supporters of Muammar Gaddafi, his death, and the total control of the country by the rebels of the National Transitional Council. In August 2012, the National Transitional Council (NTC) was dissolved, initiating the democratic transition with the General Congress of the Nation and the foundation of the Libyan Republic.

In 2014, a new conflict broke out, leaving the country divided into different zones of influence and plunged into violence in which jihadist groups are increasingly important. The former NTC had handed power to the General National Congress (GNC) in 2012, and, two years later, the GNC refused to step down, causing even more violence than before. Tripoli is now the epicenter of armed groups and violent actions, and the main cause of political instability now is the control of oil ports. Recent progress of the conflict has been shown by a French initiative to unite the main rival Libyan leaders into peace talks since 2017, but a clear result has not been yet accomplished. (Al Jazeera, 2017)

## 2. YEMEN

Yemen has been an epicenter for violence ever since its formation as a State. Historically, North Yemen was a part

of the Ottoman empire -gaining independence in 1918-, while the South was under British mandate -independent in 1967-. Five years after South Yemen was formed, border clashes between both countries started, and the Arab League brokered an alleged ceasefire, increasing tension between them. (BBC, 2019)

After years of extreme violence between the two nations, in 1986 Haidar Abu Bakr al-Attas assumes power of South Yemen, seeking unification with the North. Four years later, the two Yemens unite as the Republic of Yemen, while clashes on the borders were still causing extreme political instability. The unification was so fragile, and lacked a peacebuilding guarantee, that in 1994 southern population started seeking independence again, declaring secession from the north. In addition to the constant clashes between both parts, Yemen has also suffered Al-Qaeda attacks, and internal insurgency, causing a state of civil war.

Now, the ongoing Yemeni civil war is an armed confrontation amid a political power conflict that is going through the Republic of Yemen, because of the coup d'état suffered in 2014. This is a conflict between two entities claiming to constitute the Yemeni government: the southern separatists and the forces loyal to the government of Abd Rabbuh Mansur al-Hadi, based in Aden, that came into conflict with the Houthis and their forces, loyal to former

President Ali Abdullah Salé. The Al-Qaeda organization in the Arabian Peninsula and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant have also participated in the conflict, with the AQAP reaching out to control some territories in the interior and stretches of the coast.

In this context, a foreign military intervention is under way - Decisive Storm Operation, which began when the Arab States coalition, led by Saudi Arabia, launched a bombing campaign in the territory of its neighbor Yemen, on March 25, 2015. The aim was trying to repel the Houthi forces, allegedly backed and armed by Iran. Despite the coalition's attacks, most of the victims turn out to be civilians.

On 18 August, Amnesty International (AI) reported that war crimes were committed against the civilian population of Yemen, including the loyal forces Abd Rabbuh Mansur al-Hadi in the group responsible for them. To substantiate its report, AI presented evidence of eight air strikes that killed 141 civilians and wounded 101 others. Both sides use hail, mortar and artillery rockets, considered inaccurate and that do not allow discriminating targets in highly populated areas. Therefore, AI called on the UN Human Rights Committee to create an independent commission to investigate these alleged crimes. (The Washington Post, 2015)

Nowadays, a report released by the European Commission in December 2018 estimates 60,000 deadly victims of the conflict, compared to the 10,000 that the UN maintains in its records since 2016. The conflict is only getting worse every day, almost reaching the line of a conflict known as *intractable*.

### 3. EGYPT

Egypt is one of the main actors in the regional scene of the Middle East. Nonetheless, it has also been affected by internal clashes and political instability. In February 2011, President Hosni Mubarak leaves power after 18 days of intensive protests, ending his 29-year reign over Egypt. The army then seizes the legislative and executive powers. The following month, the Egyptians validate by referendum a reform of the Constitution that provides for a rapid transition to an elected civilian power. In November of the same year, new violence erupted, killing several people and leading the army to accelerate the transfer of power.

In the legislative elections of 2011-2012, Islamists won most seats. Then, in June 17 of 2012, at the end of the second round, Mohamed Morsi wins the presidential election and becomes the first president of the country elected by universal suffrage in a free election with 51.7% of the votes

against Ahmed Chafik, former Prime Minister of Mubarak. The new head of State fails to solve the problems facing the country and is strongly challenged. It then adopts an amendment to the Constitution which, according to the opposition, opens the way for rigorous interpretations of Islam and offers few guarantees for certain freedoms.

A year after coming to power, President Morsi is massively contested by the opposition, which brings together various factions between secular leftists and former supporters of the Mubarak regime and revolutionary groups, including the Tamarod group. A part of the population reproaches Mohamed Morsi a dictatorial drift and a policy conducted in the sole interest of his organization, the Muslim Brotherhood. After massive rallies throughout the country, the army, led by General Abdelfatah Khalil al-Sisi, issued an ultimatum on 1 July 2013. It was rejected the next day by Mohamed Morsi, who defends his legitimacy by emphasizing that he was elected democratically, with 52% of the votes. However, according to observers, the ultimatum was launched as early as April 2013, by the opposition coalition, while the economic situation was at its worst. (The Guardian, 2013)

At a conference held on June 15, 2013, Morsi called for Egyptian intervention in the Syrian civil war. The army refuses to get involved in this war, explaining that its only

role is to protect the Egyptian borders. Although the Egyptian constitution declares the president supreme commander of the armed forces, the latter are independent of civilian control. On Friday, June 28, protests against President Morsi spread across Egyptian cities - including Cairo, Alexandria, Daqahliyah, Gharbeya and Aswan as a glance of upcoming major events on June 30.

#### 4. ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN

As anti-Semitism movements in Europe rose, the Israeli population flew to their alleged 'sacred land', starting massive migration to Arab territory. The Arab opposition to Zionism is marked from the beginning of the British mandate on Palestine, with many riots and massacres and an Arab rebellion between 1936 and 1939. After the Second World War, it was the Jews who revolt. Unable to manage it, the British forward the file to the United Nations, which in late 1947 voted for the partition of Palestine in the RES 181. The next day, the civil war breaks out which six months later is followed by the first Arab-Israeli war, with the support of the newly-created Arab League. (Jerusalem Post, 2010)

The population movements have led to the problem of the Palestinian refugees, who are nearly 5 million today, not to

have been integrated by their host countries. Since the rejection of the partition plan of Mandatory Palestine by the Arab countries, the United Nations has so far issued nearly a hundred resolutions by the Security Council and the General Assembly, to resolve the conflict. Several negotiations and peace conferences have also taken place. The conflict has developed over several distinct periods, according to the BBC (2019):

1. **1922-1929:** beginning of the violence. Arab leaders request the British mandate to i. Stop Jewish migration; and ii. Limitate land purchase from the Jewish in Palestine. Hope-Simpson commission was established for this purpose, but the British Parliament did not approve it.
2. **1929-1939:** Great Arab Revolt (1936-1939) civil resistance against British mandate, that caused great violence. During this time, Peel Commission was also established and, for the first time, a division of the territory was considered: there would be an Arab State, Jewish State and permanence of the British mandate in Nazareth, Belen and Jerusalem. In Great Britain, there was created the McDonald White Paper, that redefines the terms of the Palestine

mandate. This doctrine prohibits Jewish migration to Palestine but did not work at all.

3. **1939-1949:** creation of the IRGUN with violent acts against British Mandate. In 1947, the Jewish population had already reached the 600.000. In the United Nations, the Security Council establishes the United Nation Special Committee on Palestine in May 1947.
4. **1948 to 1967,** the territory of Mandatory Palestine was administered largely by Israel, founded in 1948, with the Gaza Strip coming under the control of Egypt, and the West Bank being occupied and then annexed in 1950 by Jordan.
5. **1967 to 1993,** the outcome of the Six Day War brought the West Bank and Gaza populations under Israeli administration. Palestinian national sentiment is expressed by the voice of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO).
6. **1993 to 2000,** the Oslo process led to the recognition of the State of Israel by the PLO, and established a Palestinian Interim Authority.
7. **2000 to 2005,** the Second Intifada marks the blockage of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. The Gaza Strip, from which Israel withdrew in 2005,

is led by Hamas, which took control by force in June 2007. Since 2006, the Gaza Strip has been blockaded by Israel.

## 5. LEBANON

Newly independent Lebanon established a political system for the guarantee of religious representation in 1943. Nonetheless, the State was unstable at the time, leading to clashes that devolved into a civil war from 1975 to 1990. In this conflict, many foreign actors intervened, principally Israel and Syria. Lebanon was in war with Israel in 2006. It has also been militarily occupied by Syria, which considers it as one of its provinces, until 2005.

Since March 2011, Syria has been experiencing a civil war that has turned into a community conflict between the Alawite minority and the Sunni majority, leading to inter-confessional tensions in Lebanon. This country is also experiencing the massive influx of refugees from Syria: there were about 70,000 in July 2012 and their number would have exceeded the million in March 2013. This has obvious repercussions on the economy and politics as well. (CFR, 2019)

Furthermore, internal tension between Hezbollah and Sunni groups has increased, with Iran supporting the first ones

while Saudi Arabia support the second. France declared itself ready to "respond quickly to the needs of Lebanon", after an appeal by the head of the Lebanese army, General Jean Kahwahji, to obtain a delivery of weapons as soon as possible. On August 14, 2014, the United States decided to supply arms to the Lebanese army to support it in its fight against the jihadists. (Euronews, 2012)

## 6. IRAQ

The second Iraqi confessional war or Iraq's second civil war is a phase of the Iraq war which began on December 30, 2013 and was officially completed on December 9, 2017. It follows the first Iraqi confessional war, which took place from 2006 to 2009. Following the withdrawal of the military coalition in December 2011, Iraq is experiencing a new upsurge of sectarian tensions. In 2013, protests erupted in Sunni provinces denouncing the sectarian policies of Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki. Starting in December 2013, Islamic State (IS) jihadists and some Sunni insurgent groups seize part of western Iraq, taking advantage of the disorganization of the army. Between June and August 2014, IS extends its territory over a large part of Iraq during a blazing offensive. This insurgency seizes Mosul and proclaims a caliphate.

In August 2014, the conflict produced the formation of a new international coalition led by the United States that provides air support, weapons and training to the Iraqi armed forces and Peshmerga of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). The fighting is undecided between the summer of 2014 and the spring of 2015, but from the end of 2015 the Iraqi forces began to take over the main cities conquered by the Islamic State: Tikrit in March 2015, Baiji in October 2015, Sinjar in November 2015, Ramadi in February 2016, Fallujah in June 2016 and Mosul in July 2017. At the end of 2017, Tall Afar, Hawija and al-Qaim are taken back. On November 17, 2017, the Islamic State lost Rawa, its last city in Iraq. On December 9, 2017, after a final desert offensive, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announces the "end of the war" against the Islamic State. As in 2009, at the end of the first Iraqi civil war, the Islamic State is driven out of urban centers. (Russia Today, 2014)

In the course of their campaign of conquest Ambar, the militants of the Islamic State of Iraq took at least 70% of the government of Ambar in June 2014, including the cities of Falluja, Al-Kaim, and half of the urban area of Ramadi. Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi himself also infiltrated the Abu Ghraib prison, located in the Baghdad governorate, to recruit dissatisfied men with the new government and

foreign intervention. In June 2014, after new large-scale offensives in northern Iraq, the Islamic State took control of Mosul, the second most populous city in the country, including other major cities such as Tal Afar and large geographical areas.

At first, it was believed that Islamic State had only between 2000 and 3000 combatants until the Mosul campaign, but, during that campaign, it became clear that this figure was a great underestimation. There were also reports that the number of Sunni groups in Iraq that opposed the predominantly Shia government had joined the ranks of the Islamic State, thus reinforcing the numbers of the group. However, other groups of the same Sunni majority but of secular tendency, like the Kurds in the north of Iraq, were not willing to be blocked by the Islamists for which there were confrontations in the border areas between the Iraqi Kurdistan and the territories of the self-proclaimed Caliphate. (Gulmohamad, 2014)

## 7. SYRIA

In early 2011, the Arab Spring reaches Syria. Democracy and mostly peaceful demonstrations are taking place throughout the country against the Baathist regime of President Bashar al-Assad. These demonstrations are

brutally repressed by the regime and little by little, and the protest movement turns into an armed rebellion.

Many belligerents participate in the conflict. The Free Syrian Army, nationalist, is the first movement to lead the rebellion. But, from 2013, it is supplanted by Sunni Islamist groups like Ahrar al-Sham, Jaych al-Islam or the Front al-Nusra, the Syrian branch al-Qaeda. The rebel groups are supported mainly by Turkey, Qatar and Saudi Arabia. For its part, the Syrian regime is maintained with the help of Iran and Russia. Iran is deploying forces of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps in Syria since the beginning of the conflict, after which dozens of Shiite Islamist militias sponsored by Tehran in turn win Syria. Like the Lebanese's Hezbollah, the Hazaras Afghans of the Fatimid Division or the Iraqis of the Badr Organization and Harakat Hezbollah al-Nujaba. For its part, Russia intervened militarily in September 2015 and begins a campaign of air strikes in support of the regime. (Al-Khalidi, 2012)

From Iraq, the Islamic State (IS) appears in Syria in 2013, initially allied with the Syrian rebel groups, it comes into conflict with them from January 2014. Since September 2014, the IS is the target of a campaign of air strikes carried out by a coalition led by the United States. For their part, the Kurds of the Party of the Democratic Union (PYD)

and its armed wing, the People's Protection Units (YPG), linked to the PKK, fight for the self-determination of Rojava. From March 2011 to February 2016, the conflict has claimed 260,000 to 470,000 deaths, according to estimates by various NGOs and the UN. Many massacres, war crimes and crimes against humanity have been committed, mainly by the Syrian regime and the Islamic State. The loyalist camp is responsible for most the civilian casualties of the war, often through aerial bombardment. Between 100,000 and 200,000 people have disappeared in the regime's prisons, at least 12,000 to 60,000 have been tortured to death. Chemical weapons have also been used. Half of the Syrian population was displaced during the conflict and between five and six million Syrians fled the country, a quarter of the population. (UNDP, 2018)

The advance of the fundamentalist Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant by large areas of northern Iraq during 2014 has led to the flight of some 50,000 people from the Sinyar Mountains to the autonomous Kurdish regions and to Syria. It was after the withdrawal of US troops after the war in Iraq when this fundamentalist faction grew in number of militants to about 2500, and with that jump was encouraged to enter the Syrian civil war. On June 29, 2014, the organization was renamed the Islamic State in the occupied areas of Syria and Iraq, assuming Al Baghdadi's command.

The course of the war took a sharp turn since Syria has to resort to the power of its rivals to defend its territory. Syria thus opened the door to bombings by the United States against the Islamic State. Since September 23, 2014, US aviation bombs terrorist positions with the help of navy and warplanes incorporated into the international coalition against Islamic State. On November 13, 2017, an airstrike was carried out in a village in Aleppo, resulting in more than 50 deaths and more than 90 injuries. The author of the incident is unknown, presumably the Syrian or Russian government. (Joseph, 2011)

## 8. FINAL REMARKS

Having established the geographical context of the Committee, it will be up to you, delegates, to decide the topics that are going to be treated in the debates. For this purpose, at the beginning of the first session you must establish an agenda of a minimum of 3 points, and a maximum of 5 points. An example goes as follows:

*Order of the agenda for the "n"th Plenary Session (2019) of the Security Council:*

- 1. Peacekeeping in the Yemeni Conflict*
- 2. Securitization Arab-Israelí conflict*

3. “

4. “

5. “

Last, but not least, do bear in mind that the Security Council will receive incoming crisis, and, for you to fully manage the debates, there will be permanent lobby. Once again, we are completely willing to help you through your preparation, please, do not hesitate to ask anything that may come up. See you in MUNUS!

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