

# COMMISSION GUIDE

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# CCB MUN XVIII

**United Nations Security Council**

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## 1. Presidents' Letter

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Security Council. We are extremely honoured that you have decided to join this commission. Our names are Tomás Jaramillo and Antonio Robles, and we are currently both in 11th grade. Both of us have been part of numerous models starting from 7th grade and each of us has been the recipient of several awards.

As your presidents, we hope you enjoy this commission as much as we will. We hope that you learn a lot from this model and, from a new perspective, see how the world is changing. The MUN is a unique experience in which to see how countries differ in terms of point of view about important topics. They are also a great space for learning, as they teach participants to be patient, to listen, to comprehend problems in our society and to come up with innovative solutions to these problems. For all of the reasons, we are expecting that each one of you is willing to give your best during the model.

We expect all of you to be prepared so there can be a great debate in the commission. All of you must become experts in your delegation's point of view. If you have any questions do not hesitate to ask us. We will try our best to answer all your questions and to help you in any way possible during the debate.

Once again, we would like to emphasize that we expect you to come prepared to the model. A lot of planning and hard work has gone into making this a challenging commission, so we hope that you have a great model.

Yours sincerely,

Antonio Robles and Tomás Jaramillo, UNSC presidents

## 2. Commission Information

### i. History

After the huge repercussions of World War II, humanity was left in diplomatic disorder. The United Nations was established as an international organization to maintain worldwide peace and to prevent conflicts of such a severe magnitude ever happening again. The United Nations Security Council, the main organism in the UN, works to maintain international peace and security by addressing issues of great concern around the world. It was established under the 5th chapter of the United Nations charter of June 26th, 1945.

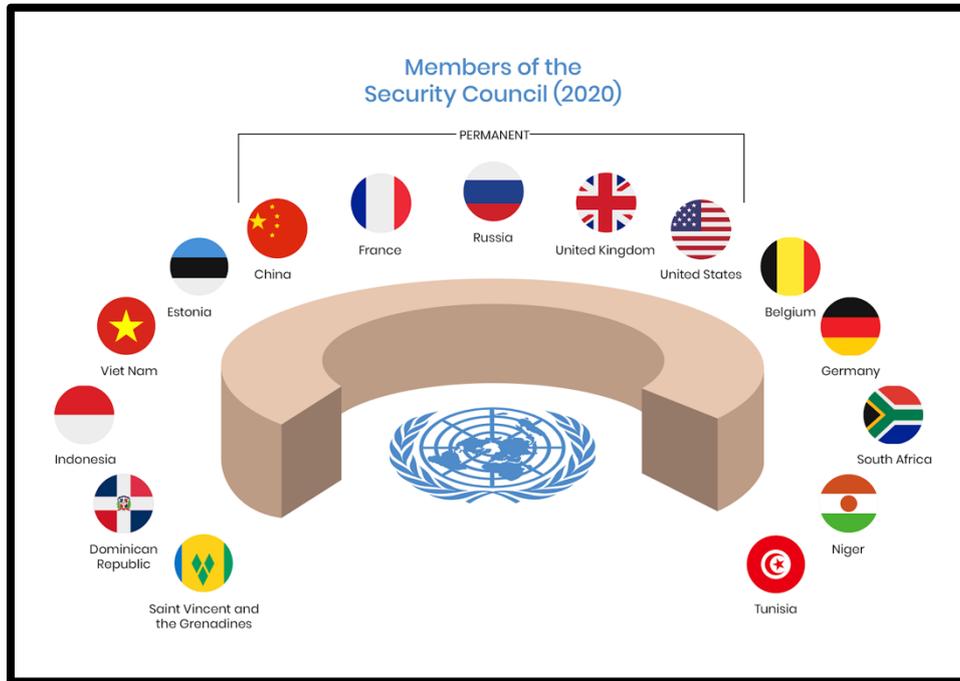
### ii. Structure

The United Nations Security Council operates under chapter V, articles 23 to 32, of the Charter of the United Nations. The chapter includes the composition, functions, powers, and procedures of the entity.

#### **Article 23:**

1. The Security Council shall consist of fifteen members of the United Nations. The Republic of China, France, the Union of the Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America will be permanent members of the Security Council. The General Assembly will elect another ten Members of the United Nations that will be non-permanent members of the Security Council, paying particular attention, first of all, to the contribution of the Members of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the other purposes of the organization, as well as equitable geographical distribution.
2. Non-permanent members of the Security Council will be elected for two years. In the first election of non-permanent members held after the number of members of the Security Council has been increased from eleven to fifteen, two of the four new members will be elected for one year. Outgoing members will not be re-eligible for the subsequent period.
3. Each member of the Security Council will have a representative.

The current members of the Security Council are presented in the image below:



(Glo.be, 2019)

## Article 24:

1. In order to ensure rapid and effective action by the United Nations, its Members give the Security Council the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security and recognize that the Security Council acts on their behalf in their performance the functions imposed by that responsibility.
2. In carrying out these functions, the Security Council shall proceed following the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations. The powers granted to the Security Council for the performance of these functions are defined in Chapters VI, VII, VIII, and XII.
3. The Security Council shall submit annual reports and, when necessary, special reports to the General Assembly.

## Article 25

The Members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the present Charter.

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## 3. Topic 1: *The future of UN peacekeeping*

### i. History/Context

In 1948, the United Nations Security Council formed the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions when they authorized the deployment of UN military groups to the Middle East. The objective of the first mission was to look after the armistice agreement between Israel and the surrounding Arab nations. Since then, over 70 peacekeeping missions have been launched, all prevailing from the main objective of the Security Council (maintenance of international peace and security). Hundreds of thousands of military recruits have participated in these missions, along with tens of thousands of United Nations Police members and in some cases, even civilians.

At first, these peacekeeping missions focused on maintaining stability in certain areas, and preserving the ceasefire between two countries or entities in conflict, whilst also providing political and monetary aid to resolve a conflict. While in development, these peacekeeping missions involved lightly armed interventions that were primarily for observation only. The first armed mission was the UN's intervention in the Suez Canal Crisis. The Suez Canal Crisis, also referred to as the Second Arab-Israeli war consisted of the armed invasion of Egypt by Israel in 1956. This was the first of many of these armed interventions, most of which were peaceful and did not leave many casualties. However, these interventions changed in 1960 when the UN Operation in Congo took place. In this deployment, 250 UN personnel died. As Arthur H. House says in his report, *The U.N. in the Congo: the political and civilian efforts*, "*In the years following the Congo Crisis, most Congolese viewed ONUC as an unwelcome foreign interference in their country's affairs*" (House, 1978)



*Swedish ONUC peacekeeper in the Congo (1960)*

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This event attracted a lot of controversy from the press, which criticised the UN's capabilities of maintaining proper organization when fulfilling their peacekeeping missions. Nonetheless, the UN kept sending these missions with great success to the point where, in 1988, the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. The Nobel Committee stated; *"The Peacekeeping Forces through their efforts have made important contributions towards the realization of one of the fundamental tenets of the United Nations. Thus, the world organization has come to play a more central part in world affairs and has been invested with increasing trust."* (United Nations Peacekeeping, N.A).

After the culmination of the Cold War, the purpose of these peacekeeping missions changed significantly. Field operations went from small deployments with lightly-armed troops focusing on observation to complex, multidimensional tasks that were executed by large numbers of trained and highly-armed troops. These interventions were of high risk to both troops and civilians. Since then, over 3,866 UN peacekeepers have been killed and society's portrayal of UN peacekeepers, better known as Blue Helmets, has been altered. In the eyes of the many people they no longer represent peace, balance and safety.



*Norwegian Peacekeeper during the Siege of Sarajevo, 1992–1993.*

## ii. Current Situation

Since their origin and organization in 1948, the United Nations Peacekeeping Missions have provided communities with significant help in the promotion of harmony and have guaranteed stability around the globe. However, the thirteen active peacekeeping missions today, with more than 80,000 members from 121 nations, remain fighting fundamental and reoccurring issues. Up to now, there have been 720 civilian deaths caused by Peacekeeping Missions and Special Political Missions. The emblematic Blue Helmet is not only seen as an unbiased or defensive measure to protect communities, but also as a target for belligerent groups. Moreover, peacekeeping has had a worrying environmental effect, as deployments in rural and far-off locations have a colossal ecological toll. In 2016 UN peacekeepers accounted for half of greenhouse gas emissions across all UN systems. The UN Peacekeeping work force has additionally been blamed for human rights infringements, and even for the sexual abuse of minors and females. Considering these fundamental issues, the Security Council is called upon to use its power to improve UN Peacekeeping, by making its missions more secure and more feasible, both for the troops and for those they help.

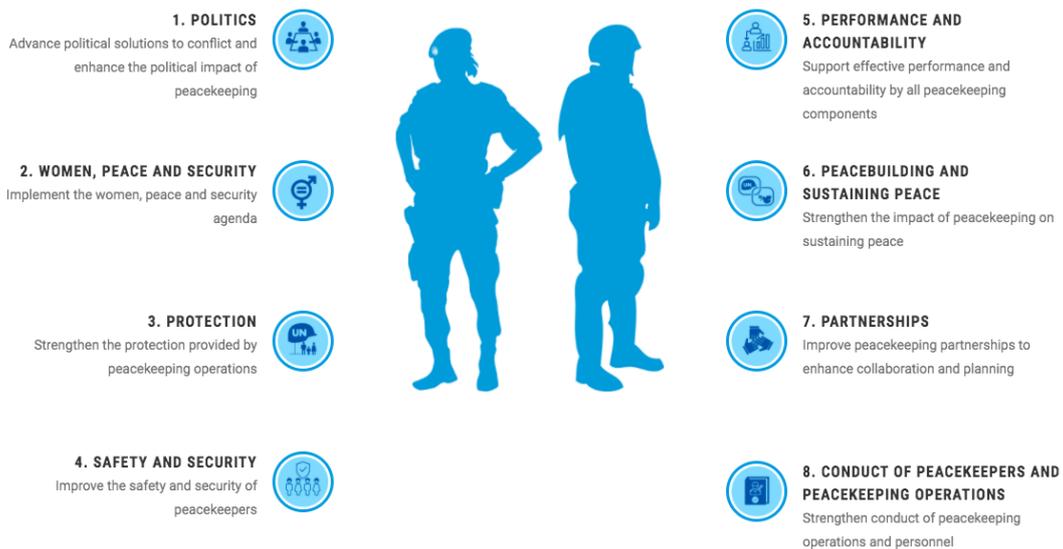


*Distribution of Peacekeeping Chapters Today (UN, 2020)*

As previously mentioned, today the UN counts with 13 active peacekeeping missions which span across 3 continents. The deadliest of these interventions is MINUSMA, the official abbreviation for the UN Peacekeeping chapter in Mali. The intervention began in 2012 after Islamist radicals, backed by al-Qaeda, seized several cities in Mali for over a year. 11,000 Blue Helmets arrived in Mali in 2013 with the purpose of training the nation's army. However, Blue Helmets were quickly targeted by the Islamist groups and were quickly nicknamed "crusader occupation forces." As of late 2020, MINUSMA has a personnel count of 15,000 with 177 fatalities, making it the deadliest UN Peacekeeping chapter to date.

The UN is looking to expand its peacekeeping reach into more hostile regions such as Iraq, Iran and Syria. However, the Blue Helmets lack the expertise and proper guidance to do so. When asked about the intervention in Mali, Dutch Col. Mike Kerkhove, commander of the U.N. intelligence unit in Mali said, *“We are trying to learn these lessons here, rather than in Iraq, Libya or Syria. This is not the end of this type of mission. It’s the beginning.”* Nevertheless, many think an expansion is not truly the way forward for UN peacekeeping.

To tackle the many issues that exist within the peacekeeping program inside the UN, the Secretary General developed a program called A4P or Action for Peacekeeping. The main goal of the program is to *“refocus peacekeeping with more targeted mandates, make our operations stronger and safer, mobilize support for political solutions and better equipped and trained forces.”* (United Nations).



### *A4P's Areas for Improvement (UN)*

When deciding what should be done with current peacekeeping missions, the UN should strictly analyze and weigh the pros and cons of past peacekeeping chapters. While many of these interventions have helped the nation they were intervening in to reach a successful stabilization and a proper solution, we cannot ignore the structural weaknesses within the program itself such as social injustice, repression, and corruption (The Global Observatory, 2020).

### iii. Key points of the debate

- The Suez Canal Crisis and the UN's intervention in the Crisis
- The UN Operation in Congo
- Killing of 98 UN Peacekeepers promoting peace and Security (2018)
- Killing of 15 and wounding of 40 in a targeted attack (2017)
- Implementation of A4P (Action for Peace Program) and its effect on UN peacekeeping and global security
- The effect of A4P on the UN Peacekeeping Missions of the future
- The Security Council's role in UN Peacekeeping and the influence of the committee on the future of the peacekeeping missions
- Reforms to the way in which Peacekeeping is managed by the UN

### i. Participating Organisms

- UN Peacekeeping Mission Committee
- UN Blue Helmets
- Members of the United Nations
- [All Countries Involved in UN peacekeeping Missions](#)

### i. Guiding Questions

1. Has your delegation ever contributed, or been host to a peacekeeping mission? If so, was it successful?
2. Does your delegation count with regional, belligerent groups? If so, how have they responded to peacekeeping interventions?
3. How have the deaths of UN peacekeeping mission's members affected the blue helmets image of safety on society and what effect does this have on global security?
4. Does your nation have the military capability to respond to outside threats without help from the UN?

5. Regarding past or current experiences, what would your nation modify about Peacekeeping missions?
6. How do the 45 shared commitments of A4P improve the flaws of the UN Peacekeeping Missions, and how do they focus on the security aspect of peacekeeping?

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**Topic 2:**

# **Open Agenda**