

# COMMISSION GUIDE

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**CCBMUNXVII**

**United Nations Security Council**

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## 1. Presidents' Letter

Dear delegates,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to the seventeenth version of CCBMUN, and to the Security Council. We are Juan Carlos Rengifo and Luis Adrian Sterling, 12<sup>th</sup> grade students from Colegio Colombo Británico. As your presidents, it's our honour to guide you through the complex topics that are going to be addressed in our commission, and we are excited to have the possibility of seeing you develop as delegates during the Model. In the Security Council, you will not only have to use and further develop the normal skills of being a delegate in the MUN, but you will also have to demonstrate excellent research, critical thinking, and improvisation skills in a very short period of time during the development of an Open Agenda as a second topic. We can't wait to see how you face and overcome this challenge, executing an interesting and dynamic debate, and hopefully, a realistic and effective resolution.

The Security Council has always been an extremely important commission in all MUNs, having as its main objective the maintenance of international peace and security. We are both extremely passionate about this Commission, and are anxious to observe how it develops in this version of CCBMUN. The topics to be discussed address different tense and problematic situations around the globe that threaten the stability of peace and security in today's world. Hence, we are excited to see how you, delegates, represent the different polemic perspectives that generate conflicts under specific circumstances, and the methods that you will use to reach consensus during the Commission. Watching how delegates implementing their critical thinking, communication and expression skills are able to find solutions to real, pressing issues always generates sparks of hope in our hearts: sparks that may become fires of peace, empathy and conciliation around the world in the near future.

As a higher school commission, we expect our delegates to: adopt an active position in the discussion of the topics being developed; apply critical thinking and creativity skills to protect their nations' interest in a tactical way; seek to preserve international peace and security through novel solutions. As recommendations, it's crucial that you read the guide thoroughly and understand its contents completely, as well as developing deep research into your delegation's actual situation and perspective on the topics of the Committee. If you have any doubts or problems during your preparation for the model, don't hesitate to contact us through our commission email: [sc@ccbcali.edu.co](mailto:sc@ccbcali.edu.co). Please remember that, as your presidents, we are present to assist you in achieving outstanding results in the Model, so don't be afraid to let us know if you have questions or difficulties.

Best regards,

Luis Adrián Sterling

Juan Carlos Rengifo

Security Council Presidents - CCBMUN XVII

## 2. Commission Information

### i. History

The United Nations Security Council was established under the 5th chapter of the United Nations Charter the 26th of June of 1945. After World War I and World War II, the world had faced its worst expressions of chaos and violence, leaving humanity in diplomatic disorder and nations vulnerable to further conflicts. Henceforth, the victors of the wars decided to establish the United Nations (and its Security Council) as an international entity bound to prevent the outbreak of similar conflicts and to maintain worldwide peace.

The Security Council is the main organism in the United Nations that works to maintain international peace and security, and addresses problematic issues present all around the globe to ease tensions and neutralize threats against its fundamental mission.

The Security Council has been an important organism for the conservation of worldwide security and stability since its creation. The entity had a controversial role during the Cold War, where continual disagreement between the United States and the Soviet Union (both permanent members of the Council) made its procedures ineffective. Towards the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Council's international prestige grew considerably. The organism engaged in innumerable peacekeeping and observation operations, like those executed in the Balkans, Angola, Haiti, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Somalia. These interventions led to the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to the UN Peacekeeping forces in 1988. (Britannica, 2019).

Nonetheless, the lack of intervention from the Security Council during the Rwandan Genocide (1994) generated doubts about the entity's transparency and deliberateness to address crises. In 1995, UN peacekeepers also failed to protect hundreds of Bosniak people (Bosnian Muslims) from Bosnian Serb Paramilitary Groups. More than 8000 Bosniak men and boys were killed in the Srebrenica Massacre.

During the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Security Council's effectiveness has become considerably reduced. The first hint of this phenomenon was the Council's inability to deploy a peacekeeping mission to Sudan during a terror campaign developed by government-supported Arab Militias in Darfur (2003), due to the Government's rejection of aid. Additionally, the United States has constantly vetoed resolutions that are critical of Israel and its actions in the Middle East, especially regarding the status of Palestinians; whilst Russia has used its powers to maintain strong relations with Syria and other controversial allies in the region. These manipulations of the Council have limited its powers, causing it to be unable to intervene in the Russian annexation of Crimea (2014), or to bring to justice those accused of the shooting down of Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 (2014) amongst other situations. (Britannica, 2019).

## ii. Structure

The current (2019) Security Council members can be seen in the following image:



AdenPress. (2019). 2019 Security Council Composition [Image]. Retrieved from:  
<http://en.adenpress.news/UploadFiles/2019/Jan/02/71dbdfa1-1f75-48a7-ae41-5eb2d4720be7.jpg>

The United Nations Security Council works and operates under the articles 23 to 32 (Chapter V) of the Charter of the United Nations, where the structure and basic procedure of the council are stipulated:

### Article 23

1. The Security Council shall consist of fifteen Members of the United Nations. The Republic of China, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (Changed to Russian Federation after USSR dissolution), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America shall be permanent members of the Security Council. The General Assembly shall elect ten other Members of the United Nations to be non-permanent members of the Security Council, due regard being specially paid, in the first instance to the contribution of Members of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the other purposes of the Organization, and also to equitable geographical distribution.

2. The non-permanent members of the Security Council shall be elected for a term of two years. In the first election of the non-permanent members after the increase of the membership of the Security Council from eleven to fifteen, two of the four additional members shall be chosen for a term of one year. A retiring member shall not be eligible for immediate re-election.
3. Each member of the Security Council shall have one representative.

### **Functions and power**

#### **Article 24**

1. In order to ensure prompt and effective action by the United Nations, its Members confer on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and agree that in carrying out its duties under this responsibility the Security Council acts on their behalf.
2. In discharging these duties the Security Council shall act in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations. The specific powers granted to the Security Council for the discharge of these duties are laid down in Chapters VI, VII, VIII, and XII.
3. The Security Council shall submit annual and, when necessary, special reports to the General Assembly for its consideration.

#### **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.

#### **Article 26**

In order to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources, the Security Council shall be responsible for formulating, with the assistance of the Military Staff Committee referred to in Article 47, plans to be submitted to the

Members of the United Nations for the establishment of a system for the regulation of armaments.

### **Voting**

#### **Article 27**

1. Each member of the Security Council shall have one vote.
2. Decisions of the Security Council on procedural matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members.
3. Decisions of the Security Council on all other matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members including the concurring votes of the permanent members; provided that, in decisions under Chapter VI, and under paragraph 3 of Article 52, a party to a dispute shall abstain from voting.

#### **iii. Special Procedures (if applicable)**

As the main organ in security and peace maintenance, the United Nations Security Council follows a few special procedures, of which the most notable and important is the veto power. The veto power provides the possibility for any of the five permanent members to stop a resolution passing by vetoing it. As article 27.3 states, any decision of the Security Council shall be made by an affirmative vote of the permanent members.

During the voting process each permanent member will be able to use the veto power when called to vote. If any of these permanent members would like to make use of it, they shall answer *“against with veto power”*.



### 3. **Simulation:** *The effects of Mexican drug cartels on regional stability*

#### i. **History/Context**

Mexico has a long story dealing with drug trafficking. During the 1980's there was a high increase in drug trafficking, especially in countries such as Colombia, with the appearance of cartels such as the Medellin Cartel and drug lords such as Pablo Escobar, Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, and the Ochoa brothers. These groups saw an opportunity in Mexico to smuggle drugs to the United States through its land borders. Several drug traffickers in Mexico organized themselves for this purpose, such as Miguel Ángel Félix Gallardo, founder of the Guadalajara Cartel, who already had the infrastructure needed for their operations. However, this increase became a source of conflict between the different cartels, which began to fight for territorial control and routes of exportation. Mexico was submerged into violence as a result of these disputes and of the high presence of different groups in the region.

Even though the disputes and violence in Mexico calmed down during the 1990's, the situation has been worsening since the new millennium. This is the result of the decline of Colombian drug cartels, with Mexican drug cartels taking over the cocaine business. During the first semester of 2005, 110 people died in the city of Nuevo Laredo due to a fight between the Sinaloa and Gulf cartels.



Mexican Army moving in the city of Michoacán

In 2006, Felipe Calderón was elected president; later that year on December 11, Calderón sent 6,500 Mexican Army soldiers to end violence in the state of Michoacán. This action is regarded as the declaration of war against the drug cartels from the Government. During Calderón's six-year presidency (2006-2012) he dispatched

around 45,000 troops, including Federal Police. Unfortunately, as a result of this, the violence escalated in an unprecedented way. In 2008 the number of drug cartel-related homicides was 5000, in 2009 it was 9600 and by 2010 it was 15000. At the end of Calderon's mandate there had been around 50,000 drug cartels-related homicides.



Being aware of Mexico's situation, and because it is considered a threat to its own national security, the United States has consistently been involved in the conflict. In 2008, the Mérida Initiative, an international treaty with Mexico and other North American countries to fight drug trafficking, was accepted by the U.S. congress. The initiative provided Mexico with around \$1.6 billion dollars in military training and equipment during the first 3 years, and an additional \$65 million dollars to countries such as Belize, the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, and El Salvador, among others. In consequence, the Preventive Federal Police (PFP) doubled its assets, and trials against captured members of different cartels took place in the states of Chihuahua and Nuevo León. Even so, the initiative has been highly criticized, as political analysts and activists have claimed that the initiative will encourage counter-insurgency, and that the high level of military action has led to the abuse of human rights by the public forces.

In 2012, Enrique Peña Nieto was elected President. Peña Nieto shifted the strategy used by Calderón; while Calderón had focused on attacking the drug cartels through the capture and assassination of the most-wanted drug lords, Peña Nieto preferred to focus on improving public safety and law enforcement capacity. Despite this, Peña Nieto's presidency was full of controversy. In 2013, self-defence groups rose in the countryside of Mexico as a strategy proposed by Peña Nieto's advisor, the Colombian general, Oscar Naranjo, in order to fight the cartels. Later, the Iguala mass kidnapping, where 43 students were disappeared after an alleged fight between the Iguala police and a cartel cell, and Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzmán's escape and recapture a year later, left Peña Nieto's international credibility seriously affected.

When the Trump administration entered office in 2016, President Trump had a clear point of view about the conflict. Trump wanted to increase U.S. involvement in the conflict, as he said that "we [The U.S.] are willing to help you [Mexico] with that big-league" during a phone call with Enrique Peña Nieto. In response to the talks between the administrations, the Department of Defense of the United States contributed \$130 million dollars to the Mérida Initiative.

## **ii. Current Situation**

2018 saw the biggest number of drug-related homicides in Mexico; nearly 34,000 people died from this cause. This represents a 15% increase in this type of violence compared to 2017. A great concern about this issue is the fact that amongst the people murdered, there are victims whose deaths could bring instability upon Mexico and its surroundings, victims such as political figures, journalists, and public workers.

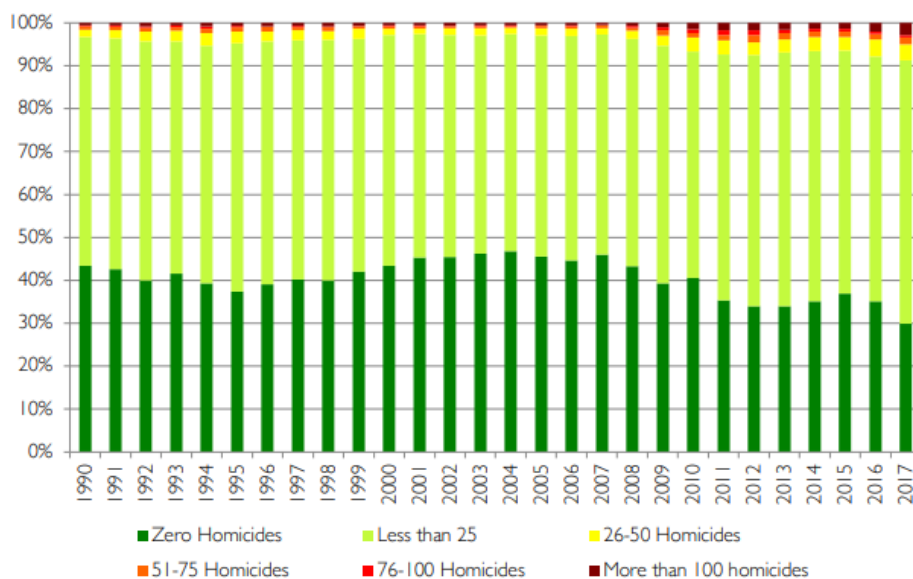
In 2018, 130 politicians and candidates were killed by drug cartels, and Mexico has been named “one of the world’s most dangerous places for journalists” according to a 2019 report by the Department of Political Science & International Relations at the University of San Diego.



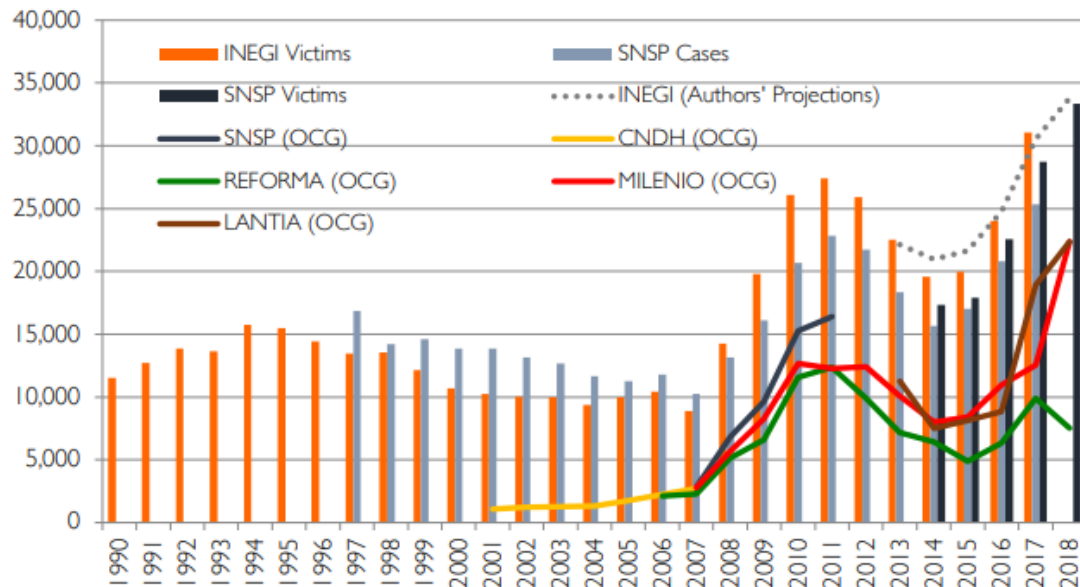
Cartel division in Mexico in 2017. Note that the map might have changed slightly.

Another issue the *War against Drugs* has faced is the increase in corruption by public workers and forces such as the police; this achieved such endemic proportions that the whole of the Acapulco City Police had to be disarmed in September 2018, in order to conduct an investigation to determine whether the police had been working with the cartels. Some of its officers were also accused of the murder of civilians. In November of the same year, a mass grave was found in Veracruz State containing around 500 bodies; this was the result of the confrontation between Los Zetas and the Jalisco Cartel New Generation.

**Figure 8: Concentrations of Violence at the Municipal Level, 1990-2018**



**Figure 6: Comparison of Homicide and Organized Crime Homicide Data from Multiple Sources, 1990 through 2018**



Sources: INEGI, SNSP, Reforma, Milenio, Lantia, CNDH.

When Mexico's current President, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador (also known as AMLO) came to power in December 2018, he declared that the Government would, once again, shift the focus on the war against drugs and cartels; in his national public security plan, he announced a new National Guard Force of 60,000 officers. However, AMLO's efforts have not worked as expected, and in 2019 the situation has not changed significantly. Mexico's statistics for drug-related homicides, kidnappings, and corruption have either maintained or increased. In the first six months of 2019, there was a 5% increase in drug-related homicides, with nearly 15,000 people being killed.

Mexico's situation appears to have no viable solution as the nation becomes increasingly violent every year, threatening the whole region with instability. The military approach, encouraged by the U.S. has provided few outcomes and leads to more violence in the country and the region, as military forces have been accused of abusing their power throughout the region. People have become afraid to participate in politics, fearing they might be "targeted" by either the cartels or the military. In August 2019, around 800 mass graves containing a total of around 4000 bodies were found in Mexico. As these graves come to light, more and more people have begun to manifest against the situation they're facing, demanding that the Government give them an answer, not only to the whereabouts of their relatives, but to the conflict itself.

### **iii. Key points of the debate**

- The existing territorial dispute between the different Mexican drug cartels.
- Implications of the political and social instability the region suffers through the presence and action of these cartels.
- Evaluation of the efforts of the Mexican Government in the management of the problem, including viable measures the Mexican Government has taken which could provide a solution with proper support.
- The need to reduce the number of casualties among civilians and political figures.
- The role the international community and the United Nations Security Council should play in the situation.

### **iv. Participating Organisms**

- United Nations Security Council
- United States of Mexico
- Sinaloa Cartel
- Jalisco Cartel
- Los Zetas
- Gulf Cartel
- United States of America
- Republic of Colombia

### **v. Guiding Questions**

- What role or perspective does your delegation have about the actual situation in Mexico?
- To what extent should the Security Council get involved in the problem?
- Considering the context of the conflict, what measures or strategies should be taken in order to ensure that regional stability is achieved?
- To what extent is the conflict interfering with the security of other countries?
- What measures or strategies is your delegation willing to take concerning civilian security?
- Has your country resolved any similar situation and, if so, how could the strategies used be applied to Mexico?
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## 4. **Topic 1:** *Conflict between Turkey and armed Kurdish groups*

### i. **History/Context**

The Kurdish people are a stateless ethnic group inhabiting the mountainous regions of south-eastern Turkey, north-western Iran, northern Syria and northern Iraq, in a geographical area named *Kurdistan* (The land of the Kurds). Various Kurdish diasporas have also taken large groups of Kurds around the globe, especially towards Western Europe. The Kurds are believed to be one of the many Iranian Indo-European races, who, organized in kingdoms, inhabited and dominated the territories of the Iranian Plateau and the Euphrates.



*A map depicting Kurdistan in the Middle East.*

Washington Times. (2014). Kurdistan [Map]. Retrieved from: [https://twthumbs.washtimes.com/media/image/2014/09/09/9\\_9\\_2014\\_b-pipes-kurdistan-8201\\_c1-0-2933-1710\\_s885x516.jpg?eec8478d47a9962f84c4ba518909630cf76acba0](https://twthumbs.washtimes.com/media/image/2014/09/09/9_9_2014_b-pipes-kurdistan-8201_c1-0-2933-1710_s885x516.jpg?eec8478d47a9962f84c4ba518909630cf76acba0)

The Kurdish race, properly, dates back to 612 BC, when the Medes (apparent ancestors of the Kurds) established an empire by conquering Assyria, Iran and Central Anatolia. The empire's political power ended in the year 6 BC, but its culture, religion and civilization persisted in the territory of modern day Iran, which fell to the Macedonians and later to the Arabs. The Kurds presented fierce resistance against Arab-Muslim invasions, but ended up joining Islam, without sacrificing their cultural characteristics. Hence, the Kurdish people lived under the rule of Islamic invaders for centuries, maintaining a strong social resistance to ensure their status in society.

(Institut Kurde de Paris, n.d.).

The weakening of the Caliphate's<sup>1</sup> power during the 9<sup>th</sup> Century AD generated a possibility for the Kurds to regain their political autonomy. By the 10<sup>th</sup> Century, Kurdistan was controlled and shared between four Kurdish Principalities, but faced constant invasions from Central Asia, which prevented them from unifying into a large Kurdish nation. In 1150, Seljuk Turks annexed Kurdish principalities and finally created a province for Kurdistan. The recognition of Kurdistan as a geographical entity allowed it to develop a strong supremacy in the Muslim world, especially through literature written in the Kurdish language. The region survived constant Turko-Mongolian invasions until the 15<sup>th</sup> Century. During the 16<sup>th</sup> Century, Kurdistan became a main target for the Ottoman and Persian Empires. Fearing a takeover, Kurdish leaders made an alliance with the Ottoman Empire, conserving a wide level of autonomy, whilst protecting the Empire against Persian attacks on the Iranian border.

Through this agreement, Kurdish leaders were able to grant their people stability and peace until the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, when the ideas of unified nation-states and nationalism inspired Kurdish leaders to seek independence. These ideas arose from events such as the French Revolution, and the unification of Germany into a single state from a string of smaller autonomous states. However, Kurdistan only rose against the Ottomans when the Empire interfered in their sovereignty and tried to terminate their autonomy. Wars and uprising for an autonomous Kurdistan were common until World War I.

(Institut Kurde de Paris, n.d.).

With the Ottoman defeat by the Allies in 1918, Kurdish delegations were sent to the Versailles Peace Conference to accentuate their claim for a Kurdish State. The Treaty of Sèvres (1920), between the Allied victors and the defeated Central Powers recommended the creation of an independent Kurdish state in Kurdistan in section 111, articles 62 - 64. Nevertheless, European occupation of the former Ottoman territories sparked outrage amongst Turkish Nationalists, who fought the Turkish War of Independence (1919 – 1923) for the implementation of an autonomous Turkey in the region. Prior to the confrontations, Turkish leaders had asked for help from the traditional wing of the Kurdish movement, seeking to liberate the territories from foreign invasions and create a state of *Turks and Kurds*. The first troops deployed by the Turkish Nationalist were, in fact, Kurdish. The conflict was concluded with the Treaty of Lausanne (1923), where the Turkish delegation in charge of the peace discussions assured that they represented both Turkey and Kurdistan as *sister nations*. The treaty invalidated the previous Treaty of Sèvres, and made no reference to the conservation of

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<sup>1</sup> **Caliphate:** the political-religious state comprising the Muslim community and the lands and peoples under its dominion in the centuries following the death (632 CE) of the Prophet Muhammad – Encyclopaedia Britannica. (2019). Caliphate. Retrieved from: <https://www.britannica.com/place/Caliphate>



Kurdish independence or their rights. As a result, most of Kurdistan was annexed to the Republic of Turkey.

Additionally, the Kurdish region of Mosul, which is rich in oil and other commodities, was claimed by the British after the Second World War. The League of Nations accepted the annexation of the region, under the mandate of the Iraqi government in 1925, promising autonomy for the local Kurdish population. This promise was never kept by the British or the Iraqis, generating outrage amongst the Kurdish population.

(Institut Kurde de Paris, n.d.).

## ii. Current Situation

After the establishment of Turkey and its borders, the situation of Kurdish groups in the region has been tense. Nowadays, around thirty million Kurds live in the Middle East, and they make up one fifth of Turkey's population (Council on Foreign Relations, n.d.). During the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century, and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Kurdish groups in Turkey have suffered from constant repression by the Government. After the creation of the Republic of Turkey through the Treaty of Lausanne, the drafted constitution, written by Turkish nationalists, didn't recognize the presence of any minorities or ethnic groups in the region. As a result, the legal and social status of Kurds in Turkey has been diminished progressively; generating increasing outrage in the relatively large portion of the population that Kurds represent (Federation of American Scientists, n.d.).

The constitution fails to portray an inclusive society for distinct sub-cultural groups in Turkey, being discriminatory and oppressive through diverse methods. By not recognizing the existence of ethnic minorities in the country, the rights of Kurdish people to freely develop their culture and language, and their desire to maintain political autonomy from the central Turkish Government, are repressed by the law. Articles with the intent to provide freedoms and liberties to the Turkish people end up being contradictory with others in the constitution:

*ARTICLE 3 - The State of Turkey, with its territory and nation, is an indivisible entity. Its language is Turkish.*

*ARTICLE 10 - Everyone is equal before the law without distinction as to language, race, colour, sex, political opinion, philosophical belief, religion and sect, or any such grounds.*

(The Grand National Assembly of Turkey, 1982)

Additionally, there has been great controversy regarding education and the way that it is addressed in the document. Article 42, "*Right and duty of education*", prohibits any

other language apart from Turkish to be taught as a mother tongue in educational institutions around the country:

*“No language other than Turkish shall be taught as a mother tongue to Turkish citizens at any institution of education. Foreign languages to be taught in institutions of education and the rules to be followed by schools conducting education in a foreign language shall be determined by law. The provisions of international treaties are reserved.”*

(The Grand National Assembly of Turkey, 1982)

These legal and social aspects, have sparked inconformity and outrage amongst local Kurdish groups, which have sought political autonomy and the recognition of their culture and language by the Turkish Government. However, the Government has shown strong opposition to a stable, organized Kurdish political movement; Kurdish political parties are closed, and its members are harassed and condemned for “crimes of opinion”.

Another complaint is that the Government has abandoned the south-eastern region of the country, where the Kurdish population is abundant. Economic development in this region is extremely limited, and central government has withheld resources from investment in these areas. Therefore, the Kurdish territories of Turkey face a significant economic disadvantage, resulting in marked socio-economic problems. All of these conditions, along with a high level of social discrimination, where Kurds were called “Mountain Turks” and were prevented from using their typical Kurdish dress in public by governmental authorities, have encouraged Kurds to move from the south-eastern region of the country towards urban areas in the west, hence dissipating the concentration of Kurds in the nation (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2019).

(Federation of American Scientists, n.d.).

As a result of the discriminatory measures adopted by the Turkish Government and society against local Kurdish groups, various rebellious movements were generated periodically. In 1978, the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (the PKK) was created by Abdullah Öcalan as a Marxist organization seeking to establish an independent Kurdish state. Since its creation, the organization operated from Anatolia to perpetrate constant violent attacks on government and civilian targets (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2019). The actions of the PKK generated a large scale conflict between the government and the insurgent group between 1980 and 1990. In 1999, the Turkish Government captured Öcalan, slowing down the PKK’s attacks. Additionally, seeking to ease tensions, the Turkish Government legalized broadcasts and education in the Kurdish language in 2002. Nevertheless, the PKK’s operations resumed in 2004, drawing the Government to continue operations in south-eastern Turkey against PKK structures, considered a

*terrorist organization* by the Turkish Government. On various occasions, Turkish troops also performed incursions into Northern Iraq. (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2019).

Tensions and violent encounters between both sides have continued during the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. After a ceasefire between 2013 – 2015, a suicide bombing executed by the Islamic State killed around thirty Kurds near the Syrian border. As a response for the Government's incompetence in protecting the Kurds, the Kurdistan Freedom Hawks, an organization derived from the PKK, claimed responsibility for a series of bombings in Ankara, in October 2015, generating the deadliest terror attack in Turkey's history. (Council on Foreign Relations, n.d.).



Victims of the October 2015 bombings in Ankara lying on the street.

The Guardian. (2015). Victims lie on the street in Ankara as the scene of the explosion is cordoned off [Photograph]. Retrieved from:

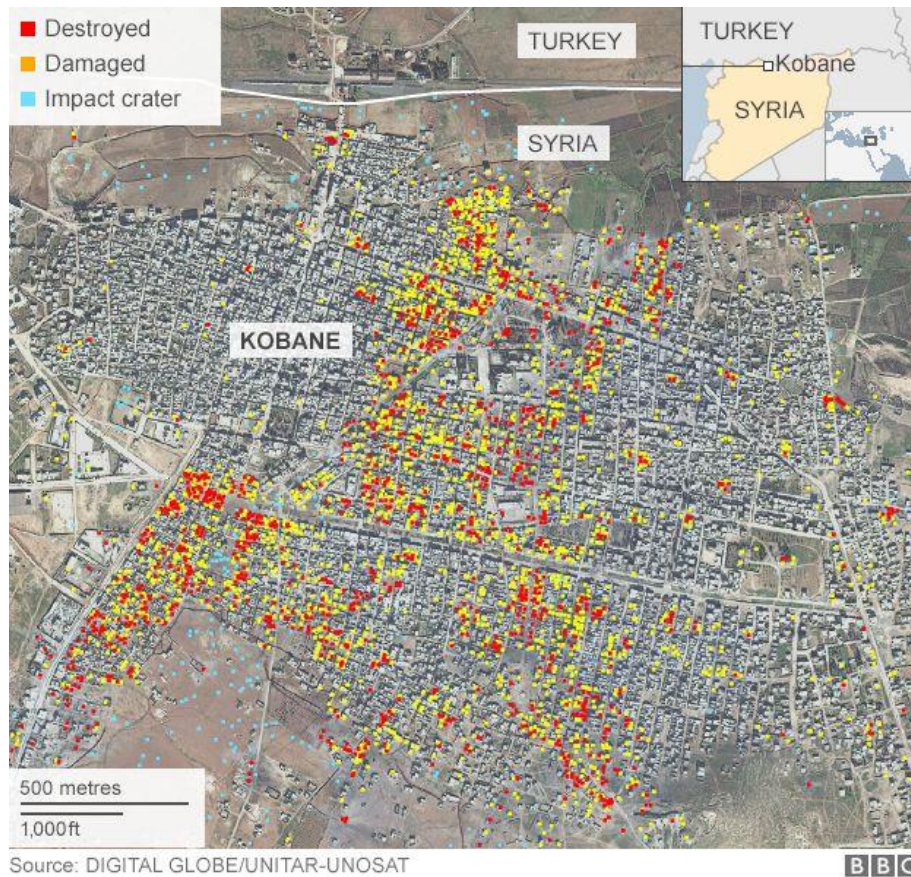
[https://i.guim.co.uk/img/media/4725a276c35c72f08d625c630460e6c1a7938cf7/152\\_289\\_4407\\_2645/master/4407.jpg?width=620&quality=45&auto=format&fit=max&dpr=2&s=a1c9a336bc19f726d0b7c23f67065a7d](https://i.guim.co.uk/img/media/4725a276c35c72f08d625c630460e6c1a7938cf7/152_289_4407_2645/master/4407.jpg?width=620&quality=45&auto=format&fit=max&dpr=2&s=a1c9a336bc19f726d0b7c23f67065a7d)

Rising tensions on both sides of the conflict lead to the generation of two failed Coup d'état attempts in Turkey in recent years (2015 & 2016). The situation now presents a great threat to socio-political stability in Turkey. Maintaining an armed conflict that has left at least 4400 casualties, including 464 civilians, since 2015 (International Crisis Group, 2019), is a clear threat to domestic and international civilian security, considering the range of the PKK and other Kurdish armed groups outside of Turkey.

Additionally, the PKK and other Kurdish armed groups in Syria have been actively fighting the Islamic State in the territories they dominate. For example, the city of Kobane, located on the border of Turkey and Syria, has been a constant battleground between Kurdish fighters and the Islamic State since September 2014. The U.S intervened in the conflict, executing airstrikes in the city, thus aiding the Kurds to regain control over the territory. ISIS militants have fought back against Kurdish settlers in the city, generating constant confrontations between both parties. Only between September 2014 and February 2015, the conflict left at least 1600 casualties, and destroyed over 3200 buildings in the city.

(BBC, 2015).





Annotated satellite image evaluating the effects of the conflict between the Islamic State and the Islamic State in Kobane / June 2015

BBC. (2015). Kobane Damage Map [Map]. Retrieved from: [https://ichef.bbci.co.uk/news/624/media/images/80968000/jpg/\\_80968120\\_kobane\\_damage\\_624map.jpg](https://ichef.bbci.co.uk/news/624/media/images/80968000/jpg/_80968120_kobane_damage_624map.jpg)

Kurdish armed groups in Iraq have also been presenting resistance to the expansion of the Islamic State in the region, allegedly receiving financial and weaponry assistance from the United States (although the US has designated the PKK as a foreign terrorist organization since 1997).

The implementation of a strong, unified Kurdish front in Syria could accelerate tensions and the development of separatist movements in the region, along with violent confrontations with the nations comprising Kurdistan. Elevated activity within the PKK is also a threat to the region's stability, being a factor that diminishes military and political stability. The relations between the United States and Turkey have also been affected by the conflict, especially regarding the supply of aid to rebel groups fighting the Islamic State. For all these reasons, the whole situation is a catalyst for instability in the Middle East, and it is the United Nations Security Council's job to address the

situation, in order to ease tensions, ensure civilian security, and to restore stability to the region. (Council on Foreign Relations, n.d.)

### **iii. Key points of the debate**

- The status of Kurdish groups and populations in Turkey and the Middle East
- The possibility and implications of establishing Kurdish political independence, or an independent Kurdistan.
- Mechanisms to address the crisis, and reduce tensions between Kurdish armed groups and the Turkish government
- Implications of the cooperation between Kurdish armed groups in different countries, and measures to prevent a structured, transnational insurgent organism.
- Viability and implications of engaging in violent confrontations with Kurdish armed groups as a method to address the crisis.
  - o International cooperation and military aid for the governments in the region.
- The implications of a power takeover (successful Coup d'état) of the Turkish government by Kurdish armed groups.
- The implementation of emergency and diplomatic procedures for a possible Kurdish takeover of the Turkish government.
- The role of foreign nations on the status of Kurdish armed groups in the region.
- The United States and its actions in the region as an aggravating factor on the tensions between Turkey and local Kurdish armed groups.

### **iv. Participating Organisms**

- United Nations Security Council
- Republic of Turkey
- Kurdish Armed Groups – (Kurdistan Workers' Party (the PKK), etc.)
- United States of America
- United Nations Human Rights Council

### **v. Guiding Questions**

- What role or perspective does your delegation have towards the status of Kurdish populations in Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Iran and Armenia?

- What type of measures can be implemented to ease tensions in the region with Kurdish armed groups, especially in Turkey? What implications could direct confrontation have as a viable solution to the situation?
- To what extent would your delegation be willing to intervene in the conflict? (Consider the supply of military equipment, troops, personnel and financial aid.)
- What specific measures could be taken to prevent the forceful takeover of power from Kurdish armed groups in Turkey?
- In which ways could the international community cooperate to diminish the status of Kurdish armed groups in the region?

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## **5. Topic 2:** *Open Agenda*

### **Open Agenda**

Be aware of current situations of tension around the world that threaten international peace and security, and be prepared for any possible crisis to be addressed by the committee.