



United Nations
Security Council

BACKGROUND GUIDE

UNITED NATIONS OF SECURITY COUNCIL

DPSIMUN'26

CONFERENCE THEME

Radical Resilience : Engineering Stability in an Age of Volatility

[DAIS

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COMMITTEE

UNSC

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1.1 [Welcome Message]

Welcome to the United Nations Security Council!

As your Dais, we are beyond excited to welcome you to what promises to be an intense, fast-paced, and deeply rewarding conference. The Security Council stands as the apex body for international peace and security. Unlike any other committee, the decisions you make here carry binding weight, demanding not only a deep grasp of foreign policy, but also high-level diplomacy, quick critical thinking, and a willingness to compromise under pressure.

2026! Every MUN conference presents a unique opportunity to step into the shoes of global decision-makers, address critical threats to international peace and security, and harness the power of diplomacy. Our theme, "Radical Resilience: Engineering Stability in an Age of Volatility," calls on us to recognize that uncertainty is a defining feature of today's geopolitical landscape. As members of the Security Council, you will be challenged to balance national strategic interests with collective global responsibility, negotiate with purpose, and formulate practical, high-impact resolutions.

Our goal is to create a dynamic, inclusive, and rigorous environment where every delegate—whether this is your first conference or your tenth—has the space to lead, debate, and grow. We expect thorough research, active engagement, and above all, respect for your fellow delegates and the diplomatic process.

Read through this background guide carefully, come prepared with creative solutions, and get ready for a memorable session.

We look forward to meeting you all in committee!

Warm regards,

The Executive Board / Dais

United Nations Security Council

1.2 [Chair Messages]

Emily Akweley Atitiati CHAIR, UNSC

Dear Delegates,
Welcome to DPS International Model United Nations 2026!
It is my pleasure to serve as your Chair, and I am excited to welcome each of you to this committee. Our theme, "Radical Resilience: Engineering Stability in an Age of Volatility," challenges us to think critically, collaborate effectively, and develop innovative solutions to today's most pressing global issues.

I look forward to witnessing your passion, creativity, and dedication throughout our sessions. I hope this conference pushes you to grow as a speaker, negotiator, and global citizen.
Best of luck with your preparation—I cannot wait to meet you all.

Mary-Anne Mbrokoh -Ewoal CHAIR, UNSC

Dear Delegates,
Welcome to DPS International Model United Nations 2026.
It is an honor to serve as your Chair, and I am delighted to welcome you to this committee. Every MUN conference presents an opportunity to step into the shoes of world leaders, tackle complex international challenges, and discover the power of diplomacy. I hope this committee will encourage you to think beyond the obvious, question assumptions, and engage in meaningful debate. Our theme, "Radical Resilience: Engineering Stability in an Age of Volatility," calls on us to recognize that uncertainty is a defining feature of today's world. As delegates, you will be challenged to balance national interests with global responsibility, negotiate with purpose, and seek solutions that are both practical and impactful.
I look forward to meeting each of you and witnessing the insightful discussions and innovative ideas you will bring to committee. I wish you the very best in your preparation, and I hope your experience at DPS I MUN 2026 is both enjoyable and inspiring.

Afaan Khaja Masihuddin-CHAIR, UNSC

Dear Delegates,
Welcome to DPS International Model United Nations 2026.
It is an honor to serve as your Chair, and I am delighted to welcome you to this committee. Every MUN conference presents an opportunity to step into the shoes of world leaders, tackle complex international challenges, and discover the power of diplomacy. I hope this committee will encourage you to think beyond the obvious, question assumptions, and engage in meaningful debate. Our theme, "Radical Resilience: Engineering Stability in an Age of Volatility," calls on us to recognize that uncertainty is a defining feature of today's world. As delegates, you will be challenged to balance national interests with global responsibility, negotiate with purpose, and seek solutions that are both practical and impactful.
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1.3 [General Overview]

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations and bears the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. Established in 1945 under the UN Charter, the Council consists of 15 members: five permanent members the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China and ten non-permanent members elected by the UN General Assembly for two-year terms. The five permanent members possess veto power, enabling any one of them to block the adoption of substantive resolutions. The Security Council is empowered to investigate disputes, recommend peaceful means of settlement, authorize peacekeeping operations, impose sanctions, and, when necessary, authorize the use of force to address threats to international peace and security.

As the UN's principal decision-making body on matters of peace and security, the Security Council serves as a forum where member states negotiate responses to international crises. Its decisions, known as resolutions, are legally binding on all UN Member States under the UN Charter. The Council meets throughout the year to address emerging conflicts, humanitarian crises, terrorism, and other threats to global stability. While the Security Council has played a central role in conflict resolution and peacekeeping for decades, it also faces criticism regarding the use of the veto, unequal representation, and its ability to respond effectively to rapidly evolving geopolitical challenges. Nevertheless, it remains the most influential international body for promoting collective security and international cooperation.

Addressing Regional Escalation and the Threat to International Peace in the Middle East

| [Background Information]

The Middle East has long stood as one of the most strategically pivotal and politically intricate regions on the globe. Positioned at the crossroads of Asia, Africa, and Europe, its geopolitical weight is anchored not only in vast energy reserves but also in its deep historical, religious, and political fractures. For decades, the region has been trapped in cycles of structural instability driven by unresolved territorial disputes, entrenched state-on-state rivalries, sharp ideological divides, and the complex interplay between sovereign governments and non-state armed groups. Because these local grievances are deeply interwoven across national borders, localized frictions rarely remain contained; a single tactical miscalculation or border flare-up possesses the inherent potential to cascade rapidly into a multi-theater crisis.

In recent years, the security landscape has grown significantly more volatile. Tensions involving major regional actors—most prominently Israel and Iran—alongside a sophisticated network of regional armed groups and neighboring sovereign states have pushed the risk of an all-out regional war to historic highs. The nature of conflict has evolved from indirect, shadow warfare to visible, direct military confrontations. Repeated cross-border rocket and drone attacks, targeted assassinations, high-volume ballistic missile strikes, and heavy kinetic retaliations have disrupted traditional deterrence models. This systemic escalation highlights a dangerous reality: local actions now trigger immediate, multi-front military responses, drawing in actors from the Levant to the Arabian Peninsula and placing immense strain on international diplomacy.

The stakes of this compounding instability extend far beyond the geographical borders of the Middle East. The region houses critical maritime choke points, including the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea, through which a massive percentage of the world's petroleum, natural gas, and commercial container traffic flows. Disruptions to these vital transit corridors endanger global energy security, drive up shipping and insurance costs, and exacerbate global inflationary pressures. Beyond the economic fallout, protracted conflicts continue to inflict devastating humanitarian tolls, fueling widespread civilian displacement, collapsing infrastructure, and creating power vacuums that invite further radicalization. Consequently, the United Nations and the broader international community consistently stress that de-escalation, adherence to international law, and the establishment of durable diplomatic frameworks are not merely regional goals, but essential imperatives for safeguarding global peace and economic stability.

[Historical Context]

The current challenges facing the Middle East are the result of decades of political developments, conflicts, and shifting alliances. Many of the region's modern disputes can be traced back to the aftermath of the First World War, when the collapse of the Ottoman Empire led to new borders and political arrangements across the region. These changes often failed to fully consider existing ethnic, religious, and political divisions, contributing to tensions that continued throughout the twentieth century. The establishment of Israel in 1948 and the first Arab-Israeli War marked a major turning point in regional history. The conflict resulted in significant displacement and created lasting political disagreements that continue to influence relations between Israel, Palestine, and neighbouring states. Subsequent conflicts, including the Six-Day War in 1967 and the Yom Kippur War in 1973, further intensified regional tensions and shaped modern security concerns.

During the Cold War, the Middle East became an area of competition between global powers. The United States and the Soviet Union supported different governments and political movements, increasing the international dimension of regional conflicts. Rivalries between major powers often influenced local disputes, making peaceful resolution more difficult.

Following the end of the Cold War, the region experienced further instability. Events such as the Gulf War, the 2003 invasion of Iraq, the rise of extremist organizations such as ISIS, and the Arab Spring uprisings contributed to political uncertainty and weakened state institutions in several countries. These developments created conditions where armed groups gained influence and conflicts became increasingly difficult to contain.

In recent years, security challenges in the Middle East have become more interconnected. Rivalries involving Iran, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and various armed groups have contributed to instability in areas including Gaza, Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen. The increasing use of drones, missile systems, and cyber capabilities has also changed the nature of modern conflict, allowing tensions to spread beyond traditional battlefields.

The United Nations Security Council has attempted to address these challenges through diplomatic efforts, resolutions, sanctions, peacekeeping operations, and humanitarian assistance. However, disagreements among permanent members and wider geopolitical divisions have often limited the Council's ability to take decisive action.

[Current Situation]

As of 2026, the Middle East remains one of the world's most politically sensitive and strategically significant regions. Although several diplomatic efforts have been attempted, tensions between states and armed groups continue to create instability. Long-standing disputes, ongoing conflicts, and competing regional interests have made it increasingly difficult to achieve lasting peace.

The situation in Gaza, Lebanon, and the wider region continues to raise serious humanitarian and security concerns. Continued hostilities have resulted in civilian casualties, displacement, and significant damage to essential infrastructure. The international community has repeatedly called for the protection of civilians, increased humanitarian access, and adherence to international humanitarian law.

Beyond direct conflicts, regional tensions have expanded into areas such as maritime security, cyber operations, and cross-border attacks. The rivalry between Iran and Israel remains a major factor influencing regional security, with allied armed groups and regional partners playing significant roles in ongoing tensions. These developments have increased concerns that a localized confrontation could develop into a wider regional conflict.

Maritime security has also become a key international concern. Strategic waterways such as the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea are essential for global trade and energy transportation. Any disruption to these routes could have consequences for international markets and economic stability.

Despite diplomatic initiatives and temporary ceasefire efforts, many underlying political disputes remain unresolved. The Security Council must therefore consider both immediate measures to reduce violence and long-term strategies that address the root causes of instability. Delegates should focus on preventing further escalation while promoting dialogue, civilian protection, and respect for international law.

[Subtopics]

[1.4.4.1] Preventing further escalation between Israel and Iran.

The growing tensions between Israel and Iran present a significant risk of wider regional conflict. Delegates should consider mechanisms such as diplomatic communication channels, emergency hotlines, and international mediation efforts that could reduce misunderstandings and prevent retaliatory cycles from escalating

[1.4.4.2]Protecting civilians and critical infrastructure during regional conflict

Armed conflicts in the region have placed civilian populations and essential services at increasing risk. The committee should explore methods to strengthen compliance with International Humanitarian Law, protect healthcare facilities, safeguard energy and water infrastructure, and ensure humanitarian assistance reaches affected communities.

[1.4.4.3]Maritime Security and Freedom of Navigation in the Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz

The security of major maritime routes remains a global concern due to their importance for international trade and energy transportation. Delegates should examine ways to protect commercial shipping, prevent attacks on vessels, and maintain freedom of navigation without further increasing regional tensions.

[1.4.4.4]The Role of Diplomacy in Preventing a Wider Regional War

Diplomatic engagement remains essential in preventing further escalation. The committee should consider how the United Nations, regional organizations, and neutral states can support negotiations, establish ceasefires, and create frameworks for long-term regional stability.

[Questions a Resolution Must Answer]

- 1 What diplomatic mechanisms can be created to prevent direct military confrontation between major regional powers?
- 2 How can the international community strengthen the protection of civilians and essential infrastructure during armed conflicts?
- 3 What actions can the Security Council take to safeguard freedom of navigation in the Strait of Hormuz and surrounding waterways?
- 4 How can maritime monitoring and security cooperation be improved while avoiding unnecessary military escalation?
- 5 What role can neutral states and regional organizations play in mediating ceasefires and supporting negotiations?
- 6 How should the international community address the increasing use of drones, missiles, and other advanced military technologies by both state and non-state actors?

[Useful Sites and Documents]

United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

Provides official resolutions, debates, voting records, and statements regarding international peace and security issues.

<https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/>

United Nations Digital Library

A database containing official UN documents, including Security Council resolutions, reports, and General Assembly records.

<https://digitallibrary.un.org/>

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Provides humanitarian updates, emergency reports, and information regarding civilian needs in conflict-affected areas.

<https://www.unocha.org/>

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Provides guidance on International Humanitarian Law, civilian protection, and responsibilities during armed conflict.

<https://www.icrc.org/>

International Crisis Group (ICG)

Provides analysis of conflicts, regional politics, and possible pathways toward diplomacy.

<https://www.crisisgroup.org/>

[Glossary]

Strait of Hormuz - *A strategically important waterway connecting the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman. A significant amount of the world's oil transportation passes through this route, making its security essential to global energy markets.*

International Humanitarian Law (IHL) - *A set of international rules designed to limit the effects of armed conflict and protect civilians and individuals who are not participating in hostilities.*

Axis of Resistance - *A term commonly used to describe Iran-aligned political and armed groups across the Middle East that cooperate on regional security and political objectives.*

Uncrewed Aerial Vehicle (UAV) - *An aircraft operated without a human pilot onboard, commonly used for surveillance, reconnaissance, and, in some conflicts, military operations. here*

Responding to the Humanitarian and Security Crisis in Sudan

| [Background Information]

The conflict in Sudan has escalated into one of the most severe, complex, and catastrophic humanitarian and security crises in modern history. What began in April 2023 as a brutal power struggle between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) has rapidly spiraled into a devastating civil war. The fighting has destroyed critical national infrastructure, brought basic public services and healthcare to total collapse, and fueled widespread violence against civilians including targeted ethnic attacks and systemic human rights abuses. This institutional breakdown has triggered the world's largest displacement crisis and pushed millions of people toward severe malnutrition and famine conditions across the country.

Beyond Sudan's borders, the conflict poses acute security and socio-economic risks to an already fragile region. The massive outflow of millions of refugees into neighboring nations like Chad, South Sudan, Egypt, and Ethiopia has severely strained local resources, exacerbating regional humanitarian pressures. Furthermore, the conflict's expansion threatens the broader stability of the Horn of Africa, the Red Sea corridor, and the Sahel region. Border porousness has accelerated the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, while competing foreign interests and proxy dynamics threaten to entrench the war and further complicate diplomatic peace building.

For the international community, particularly the United Nations Security Council and regional bodies, addressing the situation requires a unified and urgent multi-pronged approach. The immediate priority must focus on securing a verifiable, lasting ceasefire, protecting civilians, and establishing unhindered cross-border and cross-line humanitarian corridors to deliver life-saving aid. Concurrently, international efforts must enforce sanctions, ensure accountability for war crimes, and support a comprehensive diplomatic pathway. Ultimate stability will depend on transitioning power back to inclusive, civilian-led governance rather than accommodating the military interests of the warring factions.

[Historical Context]

1956–2005: Civil Wars and Political Marginalization

Following Sudan’s independence in 1956, the country experienced repeated periods of internal conflict. Political and economic inequalities between Khartoum and peripheral regions contributed to tensions and fueled decades of instability. These divisions created conditions for future conflicts, particularly in regions that felt excluded from national decision-making.

2003: Darfur Conflict and the Rise of Armed Groups

The conflict in Darfur marked a major turning point in Sudan’s modern history. Fighting between government forces, allied militias, and rebel groups resulted in widespread displacement and serious allegations of human rights violations. The Janjaweed militias that emerged during this period later became linked to the formation of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

2019: Revolution and Attempted Democratic Transition

In 2019, widespread protests led to the removal of President Omar al-Bashir, who had ruled Sudan for nearly three decades. A transitional government involving civilian and military representatives was established with the goal of guiding the country toward democratic elections. However, disagreements between political and military leaders weakened the transition process.

2021: Military Coup

In October 2021, the Sudanese military dissolved the civilian-led transitional government, ending the planned democratic transition. Tensions between military leaders, particularly between the SAF and RSF, continued to increase as both groups competed for political influence and control over the future structure of Sudan’s security forces.

2023: Outbreak of SAF-RSF Conflict

In April 2023, tensions between the SAF, led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the RSF, led by Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo (Hemedti), escalated into open conflict. Fighting began in Khartoum before spreading to other parts of Sudan, including Darfur, Kordofan, and other regions.

2024–2026: Prolonged Conflict and Humanitarian Emergency

As the conflict continued, Sudan experienced increasing displacement, food insecurity, and damage to essential services. Humanitarian organizations have reported severe challenges in delivering aid due to insecurity, restricted access, and ongoing fighting. The prolonged conflict has made Sudan one of the largest displacement crises in the world and increased concerns about regional instability.

[Current Situation]

As of 2026, Sudan remains affected by a devastating conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF). The fighting, which began in April 2023, has resulted in widespread insecurity, a collapse of essential services, and one of the largest humanitarian emergencies in the world. Millions of civilians have been forced to leave their homes due to ongoing violence, with many seeking safety in neighbouring countries such as Chad, Egypt, South Sudan, Ethiopia, and the Central African Republic. The scale of displacement has placed significant pressure on both humanitarian organizations and host communities, many of which are already facing economic and security challenges.

Food insecurity has become one of the most urgent concerns in Sudan. Conflict has disrupted agricultural production, damaged markets, and restricted humanitarian access in many areas. Several regions have faced extreme levels of hunger due to continued fighting and difficulties delivering aid. The situation has been further worsened by economic instability and shortages of essential resources.

The conflict has also caused severe damage to Sudan's healthcare system. Many medical facilities have been forced to close or operate with limited capacity due to insecurity, shortages of supplies, and attacks affecting healthcare workers. As a result, communities face increased risks from preventable diseases and limited access to emergency medical services.

Serious concerns have also been raised regarding violations of international humanitarian law. Reports of attacks against civilians, conflict-related sexual violence, forced displacement, and destruction of civilian infrastructure have highlighted the urgent need for stronger protection measures and accountability mechanisms.

The conflict has divided control of Sudan between competing armed actors, with the SAF and RSF maintaining influence over different regions of the country. This fragmentation has made humanitarian operations increasingly difficult and has complicated international efforts to negotiate a lasting ceasefire.

For the Security Council, the challenge is not only ending immediate violence but also addressing the underlying political, security, and humanitarian factors that continue to drive the conflict.

[Subtopics]

[1.5.4.1] [Protection of Civilians and Humanitarian Access]

The protection of civilians remains one of the Security Council's most urgent priorities. Millions of Sudanese citizens require humanitarian assistance, yet aid delivery continues to face obstacles due to insecurity, restrictions, and damaged infrastructure. Delegates should consider how the international community can establish safe humanitarian corridors, improve coordination between humanitarian organizations and local actors, and ensure that civilians, medical workers, and aid personnel are protected during conflict.

[1.5.4.2] [Preventing Regional Spillover and Instability]

The Sudan crisis has consequences beyond its borders. The movement of refugees, the spread of weapons, and political tensions in neighbouring countries have increased concerns about regional instability. Delegates should examine ways to support neighbouring states, strengthen border security cooperation, and prevent the conflict from contributing to wider insecurity in the Horn of Africa and Sahel regions.

[1.5.4.3] [Strengthening Ceasefire Negotiations and Peace Efforts]

Several international and regional actors, including the United Nations, African Union, and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), have attempted to support negotiations between the SAF and RSF. However, achieving a lasting ceasefire remains difficult due to disagreements between the parties and continued military operations. Delegates should explore how mediation efforts can be strengthened and how ceasefire agreements can be monitored effectively.

[1.5.4.4] [Accountability for Violations of International Humanitarian Law]

Reports of attacks against civilians and other violations of international law have created concerns regarding accountability. Addressing these violations is essential for protecting civilians and preventing further abuses.

The committee should consider mechanisms such as independent investigations, evidence collection, targeted sanctions, and cooperation with international judicial institutions

[Questions a Resolution Must Answer]

- 1** How can the Security Council ensure safe and unrestricted humanitarian access to civilians affected by the conflict
- 2** What measures can be implemented to protect civilians, humanitarian workers, and medical personnel from attacks?
- 3** How can neighbouring countries be supported in assisting refugees fleeing Sudan?
- 4** What diplomatic approaches can help unite international and regional mediation efforts into a coordinated peace process?
- 5** How can the international community prevent the illegal transfer of weapons and resources that continue to fuel the conflict?
- 6** What steps can be taken to address the humanitarian funding gap and ensure continued delivery of food, healthcare, and emergency assistance?

[Useful Sites and Documents]

[United Nations Security Council (UNSC)]

Official resolutions, meetings, reports, and statements concerning Sudan and international peace and security.

<https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/>

United Nations Digital Library]

A collection of official UN documents, including Security Council resolutions, Secretary-General reports, and humanitarian updates.

<https://digitallibrary.un.org/>

[United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)]

Provides updates on humanitarian needs, displacement, emergency response efforts, and access challenges in Sudan.

<https://www.unocha.org/>

[United Nations Security Council (UNSC)]

Provides updates on humanitarian needs, displacement, emergency response efforts, and access challenges in Sudan.

<https://www.unocha.org/>

[World Health Organization (WHO)]

Provides information regarding healthcare conditions, disease outbreaks, and public health concerns linked to the conflict.

<https://www.who.int/>

[International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)]

Provides guidance on International Humanitarian Law, civilian protection, and humanitarian responsibilities during armed conflict.

<https://www.icrc.org/>

[Glossary]

[Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF)] -The official military force of Sudan, currently involved in an armed conflict with the Rapid Support Forces (RSF).

[Ceasefire] - A temporary or permanent agreement between opposing parties to stop armed hostilities.

[Humanitarian Corridor] -A designated route or arrangement that allows the safe movement of humanitarian aid and civilians during periods of conflict.

[Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)] - A regional organization in East Africa that works on issues including peace, security, development, and conflict resolution.

[Internally Displaced Person (IDP)] - A person who has been forced to leave their home due to conflict, violence, or disaster but remains within their country's borders.

1.6 [Notes]

Delegates are encouraged to consult the following sources to gain a deeper understanding of the humanitarian, political, and security dimensions of the Sudan crisis:

United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Reports and Resolutions

Official Security Council documents provide information on international responses to the conflict, including resolutions, statements, discussions, and diplomatic initiatives regarding Sudan.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) — Sudan

OCHA provides humanitarian updates, situation reports, response plans, and information regarding civilian needs, displacement, and humanitarian access challenges.

World Health Organization (WHO) Reports on Sudan

The WHO provides analysis on healthcare conditions, disease outbreaks, public health emergencies, and the impact of conflict on Sudan’s medical infrastructure.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Operational Data Portal

UNHCR provides information on refugee movements, displacement patterns, protection needs, and humanitarian assistance efforts in Sudan and neighbouring countries.

Delegates are encouraged to explore the following sources to develop a deeper understanding of the topic and prepare informed solutions about Saudi Arabia:

United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Reports and Resolutions

Official Security Council resolutions, meeting records, presidential statements, and reports provide insight into previous international responses to conflicts and security concerns in the Middle East.

International Maritime Organization (IMO) Resources

The IMO provides information regarding maritime safety, navigation risks, and security concerns affecting important waterways such as the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea.

International Energy Agency (IEA) Reports

The IEA publishes research on global energy markets, oil supply disruptions, and the economic consequences of instability in energy-producing regions.

International Crisis Group (ICG) Middle East Program

The International Crisis Group provides independent analysis of regional conflicts, political developments, and possible diplomatic approaches to reducing tensions.