# BACKGROUND GUIDE



# **Committee:**

# UNSC

**United Nations Security Council** 

# **Agenda:**

Addressing the challenges posed by international criminal networks involved in activities like drug trafficking, human trafficking, and cybercrime.



#### **UNSC**

#### **United Nations Security Council**

#### **Committee Overview**

#### History of the committee

The Security Council has remained largely unchanged since its founding in 1946, stirring debate among members about the need for reforms. In recent years, members' competing interests have often stymied the Security Council's ability to respond to major global conflicts and crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's annexation of Crimea and subsequent invasion of Ukraine, and the war between Israel and Palestinian militant group Hamas.

The Security Council has five permanent members—the United States, China, France, Russia, and the United Kingdom—collectively known as the P5. Any one of them can veto a resolution. The Security Council's ten elected members, who serve two-year, nonconsecutive terms, are not afforded veto power. The P5's privileged status has its roots in the United Nations' founding in the aftermath of World War II. The United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) were the outright victors of the war, and, along with the United Kingdom, shaped the postwar political order.

Significant milestones in the history of UNSC:

- I. Korean War (1950-1953): The UNSC played a crucial role in authorizing the use of military force to repel North Korean aggression against South Korea. This was one of the first major military actions sanctioned by the Security Council under the auspices of collective security.
- II. Suez Crisis (1956): The UNSC intervened to resolve the Suez Crisis, in which Israel, France, and the United Kingdom invaded Egypt after the nationalization of the Suez Canal. The Council established the first UN peacekeeping force (UNEF) to supervise the withdrawal of troops.
- III. End of the Cold War (1989-1991): With the collapse of the Soviet Union, the dynamics of the Security Council shifted. The UN was able to undertake more robust



- peacekeeping and conflict resolution efforts in regions previously mired in Cold War politics.
- IV. Gulf War (1990-1991): The UNSC authorized military action against Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait in 1990. This marked a significant instance of collective security enforcement by the UN.
- V. Adoption of Responsibility to Protect (R2P): In 2005, the UN endorsed the Responsibility to Protect principle, affirming the international community's responsibility to intervene to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity.
- VI. Syrian Civil War (2011-present): The ongoing conflict in Syria has posed significant challenges to the Security Council, with disagreements among permanent members leading to deadlock on resolutions addressing the crisis.

#### **Background Information**

Addressing the challenges posed by international criminal networks involved in activities such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, and cybercrime is a pressing concern for the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). These criminal activities not only undermine the rule of law but also pose significant threats to international peace and security.

Previous UNSC resolutions, such as Resolution 2462 (2019) and Resolution 2331 (2016), have highlighted the need to counter the financing of terrorism and address the links between terrorism and transnational organized crime, indicating the Council's recognition of the interconnected nature of these issues.

In conflict zones, international criminal networks often flourish, exploiting weak governance structures and exacerbating conflicts. The impact of these criminal activities extends beyond geopolitical boundaries, with severe humanitarian consequences including displacement, exploitation, and violence against vulnerable populations, particularly women and children. Combatting these networks requires enhanced international cooperation, capacity-building efforts, and the strengthening of legal frameworks. However, law enforcement agencies face significant challenges in gathering intelligence, conducting investigations, and prosecuting perpetrators across borders. International organizations such as the United Nations Office on



Drugs and Crime (UNODC) play a crucial role in supporting member states' efforts by providing technical assistance, training, and coordination mechanisms to facilitate cooperation among countries.

#### **Key Definitions**

- Transnational Organized Crime: Criminal activities that occur across national borders and involve organized groups or networks. Examples include drug trafficking, human trafficking, cybercrime, and illicit arms trafficking.
- **Veto Power:** The authority of a permanent member of the UNSC to block the adoption of a draft resolution, even if it has the support of all other members. This power is often used to protect a member's national interests or to prevent actions perceived as against its interests.
- Responsibility to Protect (R2P): A principle endorsed by the UN in 2005, affirming the international community's responsibility to intervene to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing, and crimes against humanity when a state fails to do so.
- Collective Security: A system in which states agree to take collective action against aggression or other threats to peace and security, often through organizations like the UN and actions like peacekeeping operations or sanctions.
- Capacity-building: Efforts to strengthen the abilities of individuals, institutions, and states to address specific challenges or achieve specific goals, often through training, technical assistance, and institutional development programs.
- Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs): Collaborative arrangements between government agencies and private sector entities to achieve common goals or deliver public services. PPPs can involve shared resources, expertise, and risks to address complex challenges effectively.



### **Agenda Overview**

#### The agenda and the committee's aim/targets

Agenda - Addressing the challenges posed by international criminal networks involved in activities like drug trafficking, human trafficking, and cybercrime.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has several aims and targets concerning the issue of addressing challenges posed by international criminal networks involved in activities like drug trafficking, human trafficking, and cybercrime, this includes:

- 1. Enhancing International Cooperation: The UNSC aims to foster greater cooperation among member states and international organizations in combating transnational organized crime. This includes sharing intelligence, coordinating law enforcement efforts, and exchanging best practices to disrupt and dismantle criminal networks.
- 2. Strengthening Legal Frameworks: The UNSC seeks to support efforts to strengthen national legal frameworks and enhance international legal instruments to effectively prosecute individuals and entities involved in transnational criminal activities. This may involve sanctioning and implementing relevant international conventions and protocols.
- 3. Protecting Vulnerable Populations: The UNSC prioritizes measures to protect and support vulnerable populations, including victims of human trafficking and other forms of exploitation. This may involve strengthening victim protection mechanisms, providing better access to justice and support services, and addressing the root causes of vulnerability.
- 4. Promoting Cybersecurity: Given the increasing prevalence of cybercrime, the UNSC aims to promote cybersecurity and strengthen measures to prevent, detect, and respond to cyber threats. This includes enhancing international cooperation in combating cybercrime, promoting responsible behavior in cyberspace, and building capacity in cybersecurity-related fields.
- 5. Supporting Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding: Recognizing the destabilizing impact of transnational organized crime on conflict-affected and fragile states, the



UNSC aims to integrate efforts to address these challenges into broader conflict prevention and peacebuilding strategies.

#### **Issues Faced by the Committee**

The United Nations Security Council faces a wide range of issues in solving the problem at hand due to the widespread of the criminal networks around the globe. Due to the development of advanced technology, the rates of cybercrime have increased rapidly. Human and drug trafficking also prevails in many underdeveloped countries of the world.

- Lack of Coordination: International criminal networks operate across multiple countries and jurisdictions, making coordination among jurisdictions of different nations difficult.
- Resource Constraints: Many nations around the world lack the resources and capabilities to effectively combat the organized international network of crime. This is due to their limitations in technology and infrastructure.
- Corruption: Corruption within the law enforcement agencies, judiciaries and governments, creates a barrier to solving the issues at hand. In many cases, the officials turn a blind eye to the problems and many are even directly involved.
- Political Will: When political differences arise among the Security Council member states, it can hinder the efforts to address crimes effectively. Some countries might prioritize security concerns over certain areas, which leads to limited cooperation.
- Technological Advancements: Rapid technological advancements have enabled criminals to carry out cybercrimes, such as hacking and online fraud, presenting new challenges for law bodies of different nations.

Addressing the issues at hand with a comprehensive and cooperative approach will help the Security Council body to effectively work and eradicate the prevailing crimes, such as cybercrime and human and drug trafficking. The eradication of such crimes is a must in the developing world as it hinders the establishment of a peaceful society. With a strong, and uncorrupted body of the United Nations Security Council, such issues can be solved with ease.



#### **UN Response (Actions taken)**

The United Nations Security Council has been actively working and addressing the challenges posed by international criminal networks that are involved in crimes such as cybercrime, human trafficking, and drug trafficking. Recognizing the nature of these crimes and their significant impact on global peace and security, the UNSC has come up with various measures to combat them effectively.

- Combating lack of Coordination: The UNSC has emphasized the importance of
  international cooperation and coordination in combating transnational organized
  crime. It has called for the establishment of mechanisms for sharing information,
  intelligence, and best practices among member states and international organizations.
  Additionally, the UNSC has encouraged the development of regional and
  international partnerships to enhance coordination in addressing cross-border criminal
  activities.
- Addressing resource constraints: Recognizing the resource constraints faced by many
  nations, particularly in the Global South, the UNSC has advocated for increased
  international assistance and capacity-building support. This includes providing
  technical assistance, training, and financial resources to strengthen the capabilities of
  law enforcement agencies and judicial systems in combating organized crime.
- Minimizing corruption: The UNSC has highlighted the detrimental impact of
  corruption on efforts to combat transnational organized crime and has called for
  measures to strengthen integrity, accountability, and transparency within law
  enforcement agencies, judiciaries, and governments. This includes supporting anticorruption initiatives, promoting good governance practices, and holding perpetrators
  of corruption accountable.
- Political Will: While political differences among Security Council member states can hinder cooperation, the UNSC has sought to foster political will and consensus on the importance of addressing transnational organized crime as a threat to international peace and security. This includes engaging in diplomatic efforts to bridge differences



and build consensus on strategies and measures to combat organized crime effectively.

• Technological Advancements: Recognizing the challenges posed by rapid technological advancements, particularly in the realm of cybercrime, the UNSC has called for enhanced international cooperation in addressing cyber threats. This includes promoting the development of international norms, standards, and legal frameworks for cyberspace, as well as supporting capacity-building efforts to strengthen cybersecurity capabilities among member states.

#### Scope of debate

#### **Possible Caucus Questions**

- 1. Discussing and drafting resolutions on promoting regional cooperation frameworks to combat transnational criminal networks effectively.
- 2. Deliberating on methods to improve intelligence sharing among member states to facilitate swift action against international criminal networks.
- 3. Examining ways to strengthen international legal frameworks and cooperation mechanisms to prosecute and extradite individuals involved in transnational crimes.
- 4. Formulating strategies to enhance cybersecurity measures at national and international levels to counter cybercrime activities.
- 5. Discussing measures to disrupt the financial networks of criminal organizations involved in activities such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, and cybercrime.



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- Contact details

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Hi, I am Dwitipriya (プリア). I am a 3rd year undergraduate student at the University of Aizu's ICTG program.

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Fal 20:		> Degree-seeking students > Transfer students (applicants who need a student visa)	- Sep 2, 2024	Apr 14, 2025
		> Degree-seeking students > Transfer students (applicants who have a valid status of residence)		May 30, 2025

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Total	1,796,000	1,596,000

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