Security Council 3 - SC3 (University Students)

I. What to Expect

It is the power speaking up that will set you apart from everyone in the room. Whether it’s your first time stepping foot in the glamorous United Nations (UN) building, your first time in a Model United Nation, or your first time speaking among a large group, your unique perspective is much desired for our committee. My first few steps in my first Model United Nations were intimidating. I still recall how well dressed everyone was, and each eye contact I made on my first hour of sitting while shaking. Little did I know that I was in an experience that will transform me completely, for the best, of course. Remember that no one was born an expert, and each was a first timer at some point. Prior to providing our topics and goals, I want to share a few housekeeping rules to best sharpen our professional skills preparing for a professional council meeting. It is crucial for both, the committee and the delegates, to adhere to the rules provided by Change the World Model United Nations (CWMUN) and the ones here. We will demand your active listening to the rules and debates. I want to also draw a huge emphasis on respect that we should hold toward one another and to us, Anna and I, as a committee. Severe consequences will be in place for misbehaving and we will be practicing a low-tolerance approach toward such behaviors. Let’s make this experience positively memorable for all of us!

In our agenda, we will be discussing three major topics. Peace and security in Africa (I), The promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security (II), and The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo (III). The resource below will serve as a good background guide for you. Please utilize it to your benefit, since we worked on it to make it most helpful for you, being it’s your main source of guidance. I'd kindly ask you to also research the topics well so you can better debate them. Avoid third party sources and one sided platforms. Be ready to be intellectually challenged and practice with your team beforehand.

We look forward to hearing each and every one of you.

Yours truly,

Ramy Gadelhayed

SC3 Director
II. Committee History

The Security Council is a rich in history branch and the United Nations' most powerful body, with "primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security." (https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/.) In the Security Council, there’s five powerful countries that sit as "permanent members." There’s also ten elected members with a length of two-year terms. Since 1990, the Council has been growing in size and its activities have been increasing. Currently it meets in nearly continuous sessions. It “dispatches military operations, imposes sanctions, mandates arms inspections, deploys election monitors and more.”(https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/).

The Security Council gets the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the Security Council, which may meet whenever peace is threatened. By reading the United Nations (UN) Charter, we learn and understand that the United Nations has four purposes. Maintaining international peace and security, developing a friendly relation among the different nations, cooperating in solving international problems and in respect to human rights, and to being the centre for “harmonizing the actions of nations”. All members/ countries of the United Nations (UN) have chosen to accept and honor the decisions of the Security Council (our committee). While other committees of the United Nations can make recommendations to members, only the Security Council has the right to honor and pass decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter we mentioned earlier. For background purposes, “The Charter of the United Nations was signed on 26 June 1945, in San Francisco, at the conclusion of the United Nations Conference on International Organization and came into force on 24 October 1945.” (https://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/) The Statute of the International Court of Justice is an integral part of the Charter.

On 17 January 1946, and at Church House, Westminster in London, The Security Council held its first session. Since its first meeting, the Security Council has taken permanent residence at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City (NYC), where our committee will meet. It
has travelled to many cities through the course of its history,” holding sessions in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 1972, in Panama City, Panama, and in Geneva, Switzerland, in 1990” (https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/what-security-council). A representative of each of its members must be present at all times at United Nations (UN) Headquarters so that the Security Council can meet at any time when needed. Now and ever since, when a complaint concerning a threat to peace is on its hands, the Council’s first action is to suggest that both sides attempt to reach some agreement first and through peaceful matters. By doing so, they can possibly “set forth principles for such an agreement, undertake investigation and mediation, in some cases, dispatch a mission, appoint special envoys, or request the Secretary-General to use his good offices to achieve a pacific settlement of the dispute.” When a dispute leads to hostilities, the Council’s primary concern is to “bring them to an end as soon as possible. In that case, the Council may: issue ceasefire directives that can help prevent an escalation of the conflict; dispatch military observers or a peacekeeping force to help reduce tensions, separate opposing forces and establish a calm in which peaceful settlements may be sought. Beyond this, the Council may opt for enforcement measures, including economic sanctions, arms embargoes, financial penalties and restrictions, and travel bans; severance of diplomatic relations; blockade; or even collective military action. A chief concern is to focus action on those responsible for the policies or practices condemned by the international community, while minimizing the impact of the measures taken on other parts of the population and economy.” (https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/what-security-council).
III. Committee Topics

1. Peace and Security in Africa

50th Anniversary Solemn declaration
https://www.un.org/en/africa/osaa/pdf/au/50anniv_declaration_2013.pdf holds a promise of the African Union to decrease the overwhelming violence and to establish peace across the continent by 2020. Nevertheless, being already in the year 2020 the International community may state that this promise was not kept. What are the root causes of this issue and, if making a promise for the next decade, how this time the African Union can keep its word?

The State of Peace and Security and Africa

The African region has undoubtedly gone through a great transformation over the past decades, facing promising industrial and economic growths, which created a great environment for the younger population. Nevertheless, the perpetual armed conflict, which had been destroying the continent for a long time, represents one of the main obstacles on the path towards the bright future of the region. Since Africa had experienced the taste of its independence, armed conflict had always been present on its land.

It is worth mentioning, that the International community had witnessed a notable decline in numbers justifying the presence of the inter-state conflicts in late 1990s. However, there are currently new forces opposing each other with a greater intensity. The state of peace and security in Africa had been regularly threatened by various factors, starting from people’s movements and ending up with large-scale warfare.
There are number of countries, which had experienced devastating consequences of armed conflicts on its land, for instance Tunisia, Lybia, Egypt, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Liberia, Rwanda, South Sudan, Sudan, Mali, Central African Republic, Nigeria. It is worth mentioning, that in variety of mentioned states the warfare between the opposite forces is still ongoing.

What are the main destructive features, which cause the chaos across the African region?
One of the main reasons would be immense corruption, which spread across the vital areas of the
state governance and economic life of countries around the continent. The features of this dangerous “disease” has been reflected on the struggle over the power; on occurring unconstitutional changes; on the control over the natural resources and the lack of equality in terms of its distribution.

**Besides corruption, however, there are other factors, which the International community should tackle.** Without any doubt, there are also social features of the current African community, which add its contribution towards the never-ending violence across the region. These features are, for instance, huge inequality among population and discrimination on the gender, ethnic, religious or any other basis. Within the international perspective, it is about the foreign interference into domestic policies and political transition. Besides the general devastating effect, armed conflicts take its huge toll on the demographic situation as well, putting in jeopardy the life of future generations. This is mainly because of the following noticeable pattern: more and more young people tend to actively participate in armed conflict and cause violence to each other.

Current situation across the continent remains wanting: immense loss of income and assets, poor infrastructure, weak state institutions, undermined integrity of the states, rising shadow economies where the inequality and criminality became universal.
There are several measures which had been already undertaken towards the stabilization of the region and decreasing its vulnerability. For instance, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) [https://www.ecowas.int/] has been narrowly following and exposing any unconstitutional changes being implemented in the African region. The International community also called for the peacekeepers and human right observers, who are currently risking their lives in the areas of conflict. The interventions to several states with the aim of resolving armed conflicts also were made by the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development (IGAD) [https://igad.int/].

Internally, the African Union itself has also made significant efforts towards the state of the “universal relief”. For instance, it adopted the Protocol Relating to the establishment of Peace and Security council (PSC protocol) [https://www.peaceau.org/uploads/psc-protocol-en.pdf] as well as identified and developed three central instruments for the conflict prevention, peace building and conflict management of the African Union within the framework of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) [https://www.peaceau.org/en/topic/the-african-peace-and-security-architecture-apsa].
It is worth mentioning, that the United Nations gave its technical and financial support to the region as well. Moreover, several resolutions were adopted, as well as the variety of peacekeeping missions established. However, it is still clear, that all the efforts mentioned above are not enough to eradicate the instability and violence. What would be other steps that the International community still needs to undertake?

It would have been a great mistake to neglect the fact that peace and security in the region are highly dependent on the presence (or lack) of democracy. The aim of establishing democratic state of affairs across the continent should be at the liability of African leaders. By tackling this aim the political decision-makers would demonstrate their truly commitment and contribution to the future of the African land. Nevertheless, besides the governmental forces, the state of peace and security is also impossible without the active engagement of other parties, such as private sector and the civil society as a whole.

Viewing the current state of affairs across the African region, the task mentioned above may seem hardly achievable if not impossible. Fortunately, Nelson Mandela, a former president of the Sough Africa already gave a response to all the doubts of the International community: “It always seems impossible until it’s done”.
The main goal of the United Nations, as stated in the Article 1 of the Charter of the UN, is to “bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace”. The task to be fulfilled by the International community and all the partner institutions is to ensure that the rule of law and the universal principles of justices are applied and maintained across the States. The respect to the rule of law is vital for establishing the best environment for the civil society, where peace, integrity, prosperity, security and democracy would be reflected.

The Charter of the United Nations represents itself a framework for the lawful communication and cooperation between the States. It constitutes certain norms for the international relations, where legitimacy of each party’s actions; their predictability; the validity and fairness over the disputes come first. While being complemented by the wider body of the international law, the Charter of the United Nations provides strong fundamentals against use of threat or force in any manner which is not aligned with the legal basis. For the maintenance of peace and security as well as for the conflict prevention the Article 33 of the Charter becomes crucial. It provides the overview of all the consistent measures which are to be implemented by the parties in case of all type of disputes. These measures and instruments include Mediation, Enquiry, Arbitration, Conciliation, Judicial Settlement, Resort to regional agencies and Negotiation.

The primary objective of the international legal system is to protect human rights, which smoothly segues into the prevention of any kind of crimes, including the war crimes and
crimes against humanity. This main goal is supported by the application of the legitimate processes, given by the International community. One of the principles which drags the attention in relation to this topic is the principle of the responsibility to protect, which was met and accepted by the General Assembly in the 2005 World Summit Outcome. This principle puts its emphasis on the significant role of the international law and human rights institutions. The presence and strength of both of these factors in domestic policies of states ensures that the governments are endowed with all the necessary instruments to protect its civil society against all forms of discrimination, genocide and ethnic cleansing.

Certainly, it happens that the rules, established by the International community are not followed. Consequently, there are numbers of armed conflict across the continents with its devastating features. When it comes to the situations, which include violence and weapon employment, it is a primary priority of the United Nations to protect civilians. Any undertaken action must be consistent with the rule of law and give lawful practices to any kind of circumstances. Various international treaties adopted by the International community represent guidelines which States are highly recommend to integrate into the national legislation in order to establish strong institutional structure. Also, great significance is still with the provision of relevant education on the illicit practices and obligatory norms.

The establishment of the state of peace and security, especially in the situation of the conflict or post-conflict periods, is highly dependent on the strong justice and corrections institutions. These are also complemented by the law enforcement agencies, which should fully respect the principles of international legislative system. The main role of these agencies is to bring to justice the parties who committed any sort of international crimes and to encourage peaceful measures in solving disputes. It is fundamental not to underestimate the importance of the binding character of the legislative framework, as long as it constitutes one of the vital pillars for the international sustainable development. In light of this, the entire criminal justice chain and reformation of the security sector is highly supported by the United Nations.

One of the greatest challenges which was and still threatening the state of peace across the countries are the types of crimes which cause the impact on the entire regions and the whole
international community, as, for instance, terrorism. Terrorism in its most devastating phase may cause not only the degradation, but the extinction of the population; it threatens the right of the civil society to life and security. In relation to the terrorist activities the United Nations hammered out 18 universal instruments, which took as a primary objective to tackle the international terrorism. These are 14 conventions and 4 protocols, including the The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. This document mainly signifies the significance of the anti-terrorism actions in terms of prevention several layers of population, especially youth, to participate in terroristic communities (A/HRC/20/14). Another type of the criminal practice which undermines the development of civil society across the world is the transnational organized crime. It had been claimed during the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto that there is an immense negative impact which transnational organized crimes cause on the legislative system and on the humanity as a whole. Taking into consideration enormous devastating effects of acts of crime on the international community, it is essential to admit the significance of the international legal framework and promote supportive actions of the United Nations and its partner institutions on this matter.

2. The promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security
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3. The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo
On 24 July 2019, The members of the Security Council met to discuss the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and activities of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). “They were briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Leila Zerrougui, on the political, human rights, security and humanitarian situation in the country.”(https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13907.doc.htm). The members of the Security Council who followed the situation acknowledged minor new and good political developments in the Democratic Republic of the Congo with the welcoming of President Félix Tshisekedi to the office. The delegates were impressed seeing the efforts of President Tshisekedi “towards reconciliation and peace and stability in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They further welcomed the steps he has taken to open political space, including the release of members of the political opposition and of civil society, the return of political actors to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, his efforts in support of freedom of opinion and expression, and encouraged further action to deliver on his commitment to ensure the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo respects human rights and fundamental freedoms. They further welcomed his commitment to fight corruption and impunity and called for further efforts to hold those responsible for such crimes to account.” (https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13907.doc.htm” They particularly highlighted the necessity of forming a Government that can be well functioned on President Tshisekedi’s “commitments to pursue national unity, strengthen the rule of law, and further political inclusiveness and peacebuilding. The members of the Security Council welcomed the initiatives taken by President Tshisekedi to promote regional cooperation and the renewed commitments of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its neighbours to work together to tackle insecurity in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, bearing in mind the need to address the root causes of conflict, including the illicit exploitation and trafficking of natural resources, and put an end to recurring cycles of violence, as outlined in the Peace Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region. The members of the Security Council also welcomed the improvement of the security situation in some parts of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. They expressed concern, however, over the deterioration of the security situation in
some areas of eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, particularly in Ituri and North Kivu provinces, as well as over the worrisome humanitarian situation. They called on all actors to end violence. (https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13907.doc.htm).

The members of the Security Council reiterated their condemnation of all armed groups operating in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and their violations of international humanitarian law, especially those involving attacks on the civilian population, United Nations and associated personnel and humanitarian actors, medical personnel and facilities, as well as violations of other applicable international law and abuses of human rights.

They welcomed the commitments made by some members of these armed groups to disarm, demobilize and return to civilian lives, and commended the role of MONUSCO in facilitating this process. They encouraged the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to develop, with the support of its partners, tailored initiatives to attract combatants willing to demobilize and transition into a peaceful civilian life. The members of the Security Council also welcomed the commitment of the authorities to fighting against impunity for human rights violations and abuses, including those involving sexual violence, and encouraged them to hold accountable those responsible for such violations and abuses.
The delegates also expressed concern about the continuation of the Ebola outbreak. They commended the concerted efforts by the Government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the World Health Organization, MONUSCO, the African Union and other partners to combat the Ebola virus disease. They reiterated their appeal to donors and partners to continue providing the necessary support in order to close the humanitarian funding gap as quickly as possible. (https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/sc13907.doc.htm).

The delegates of the Security Council assured its strong commitment to the “sovereignty, independence, unity and territorial integrity of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.” They are truly looking forward to working with the Government in Congo once formed to be dealing with the challenges the Democratic Republic of the Congo is facing and will face. Furthermore, the delegates also assured their continued willingness to collaborate with regional actors and international partners, “for the consolidation of peace, stability and development in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.” They restate their full support to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).