UNSC

“We the People’s”

MMSC
“If the United Nations once admits that international disputes can be settled by using force, then we will have destroyed the foundation of the organization and our best hope of establishing a world order.”

~ Dwight Eisenhower
Overview

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- History
- Membership
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The UN Security Council is:

- To maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations;
- To investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction;
- To recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
- To formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments;
- To determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken;
- To call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression;
- To take military action against an aggressor;
- To recommend the admission of new Members;
- To exercise the trusteeship functions of the United Nations in "strategic areas";
- To recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and, together with the Assembly, to elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice.
History

- One of the main reasons for the UN Security Council’s creation, size and power was to enable it to rapidly respond to international crises as they arise. The Council is tasked with “transforming disaster into constructive development [which] requires a conceptual model different from the traditional, linear model of economic development which assumes a stable administrative system.”

- On 31 January 1992, the first ever Summit Meeting of the Council was convened at Headquarters, attended by Heads of State and Government of 13 of its 15 members and by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the remaining two.

- The Council may meet elsewhere than at Headquarters:
  - 1972, it held a session in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
  - 1973, it held a session in Panama City, Panama
Membership

- Council is comprised of 15 member states
  - P5 Members: permanent seats (major powers)
  - E10 Members: elected rotational seats (geographically represented – 3 African, 2 Latin American, 1 Arab, 1 Asian, 1 Eastern European and 2 Western European)

- Elected by the General Assembly for a two-year term
Council’s current 15 member states are:

- P5 Members: China, France, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, and United States
- E10 Members (2nd Term): Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Croatia, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, and Viet Nam
- E10 Members (1st Term): Austria, Japan, Mexico, Turkey, and Uganda
Membership

- All members states of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council, under obligation to its Charter. While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to Governments, the Council alone has the power to take decisions which members states are obligated under the Charter to carry out.

- A member state against which preventive or enforcement action has been taken by the Security Council may be suspended from the exercise of the rights and privileges of membership by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Security Council. A member state which has persistently violated the principles of the Charter may be expelled from the United Nations by the Assembly on the Council's recommendation.
Meetings

- The Council is organized as to be able to function continuously, and a representative of each of its members must be present at all times at United Nations Headquarters.

- The Council is presided by a Presidency. The President is held in turn by the members of the Security Council in the English alphabetical order of their names. Each President holds office for one calendar month.

- The Council may be called to session by the President when deemed necessary or requested by another member state.

- The Council must hold at least two periodic meetings a year.
Agenda Setting

- When a complaint concerning a threat to peace is brought before it, the Council's first action is usually to recommend to the parties to try to reach agreement by peaceful means. In some cases, the Council itself undertakes investigation and mediation. It may appoint special representatives or request the Secretary-General to do so or to use his good offices. It may set forth principles for a peaceful settlement.

- When a dispute leads to fighting, the Council's first concern is to bring it to an end as soon as possible. On many occasions, the Council has issued cease-fire directives which have been instrumental in preventing wider hostilities. It also sends United Nations peace-keeping forces to help reduce tensions in troubled areas, keep opposing forces apart and create conditions of calm in which peaceful settlements may be sought. The Council may decide on enforcement measures, economic sanctions (such as trade embargoes) or collective military action.
Discussion Topics

- Generalized Themes
  - Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding
  - Sanctions
  - Terrorism
  - Nonproliferation
  - Human Security
  - Genocide
  - Sustainable Development and Climate Change
  - Democratization and Elections Monitoring
  - Reform

- Specific Situations
  - Georgia
  - Kosovo
  - Sudan
  - Somalia
  - Timor-Leste
  - Cote d’Ivoire
  - Iran
  - Iraq
  - Afghanistan
  - Cyprus
Voting

- Each Council member has one vote.
- Decisions on procedural matters are made by an affirmative vote of at least nine of the 15 members.
- Decisions on substantive matters require nine votes, including the concurring votes of all five permanent members (this is the rule of "great power unanimity", often referred to as the "veto" power).
- A member state of the United Nations but not of the Council may participate, without a vote, in its discussions when the Council considers that that country's interests are affected. Both member states of the United Nations and non-member states, if they are parties to a dispute being considered by the Council, are invited to take part, without a vote, in the Council's discussions; the Council sets the conditions for participation by a non-member State.
A voting bloc is a group of voters that are so motivated by a specific concern or group of concerns that it helps determine how they vote in either elections, legislation, or other issues before them.

A voting bloc can be longstanding and institutionalized, or it can be created from scratch as the result of the saliency of a new public issue.

Ethnic or regionalized groups are sometimes considered to be voting blocs, but it is untrue to say that all people from any given ethnic groups vote in the same way all of the time.

Voting Blocs:
- Non-Aligned Movement
- African Union
- Organization of Islamic Conference
- G-77
- The European Union
- Latin American Voting Bloc
- Organization of American States
Committees

- There are several sets of committees:
  - Standing Committees – maintains expert lists, reviews admissions of new members states, and decides on meeting locations
  - Ad Hoc Committees – reviews compensation, monitors terrorism, and refrains support of the proliferation of weapons
  - Sanctions Committees – maintains the implementation of sanction measures
There are several types of working groups:

- Situation Specific – Somalia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Cote d’Ivoire, Sudan
- Group Specific – Al-Qaeda, Taliban
- Generalized Themes – Counter-Terrorism, Peackeeping, Conflict Prevention and Resolution, Children and Armed Conflict, Documentation and Other Procedural Questions
There have been 36 operations since 1948

Current operations include:
International Tribunals

- Tribunals are used to prosecute those responsible for atrocities during times of war and genocide. Successful convictions of these political and military leaders are meant to bring justice to victims and to deter others from committing such crimes in the future.

- There have been only 2 tribunals:
  - Rwanda
  - Yugoslavia