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STUDY GUIDE

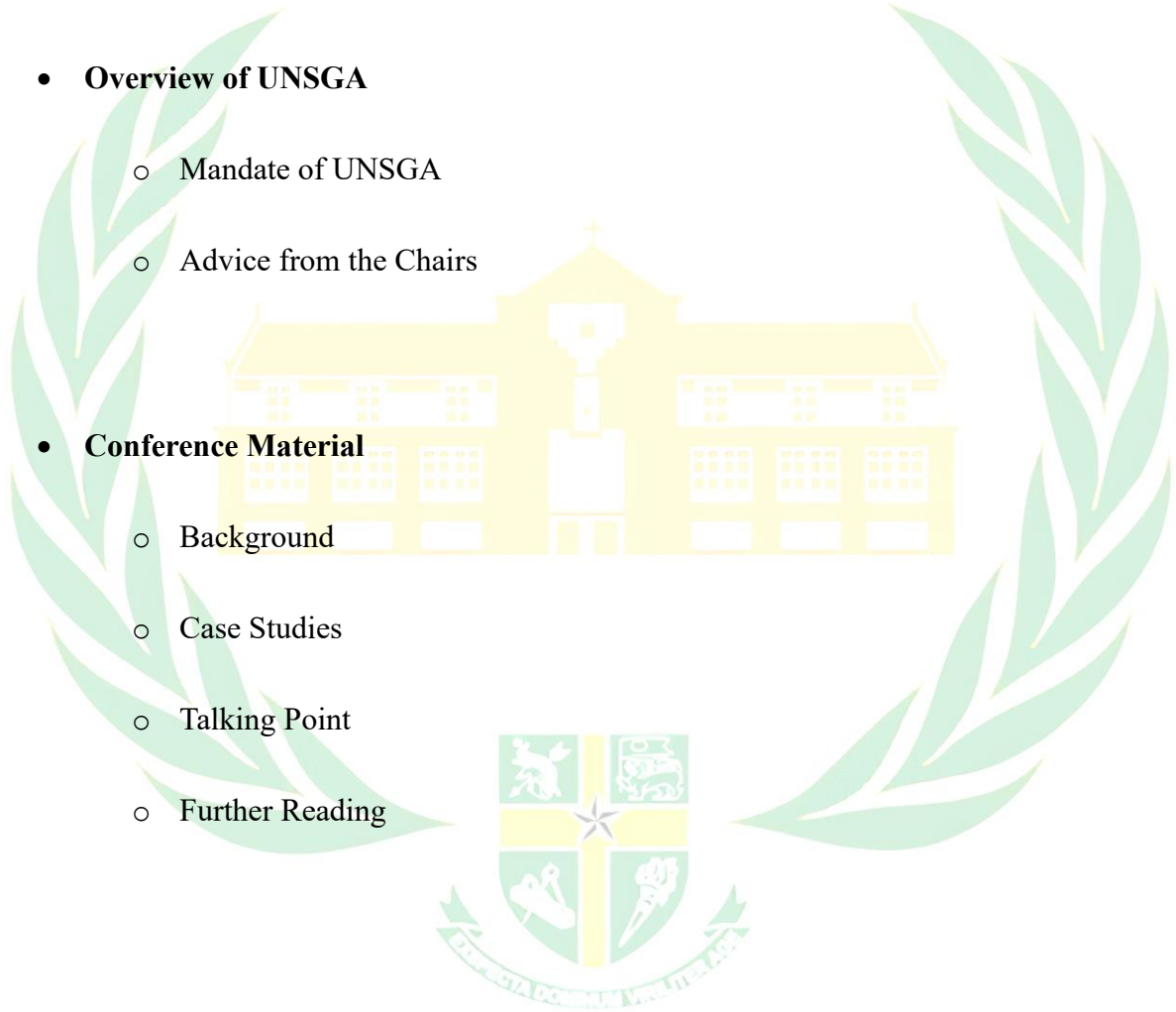
SSCMUN 2024

United Nations Special General Assembly – UNSGA

Study Guide

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Overview of UNSGA

Committee Mandate

The UNSGA will be utilized to discuss debates of disarmament, nonproliferation, arms control, and international security issues. The committee will further shed light towards humanitarian aspects, with respect to upholding international humanitarian law, human rights, and social equality.

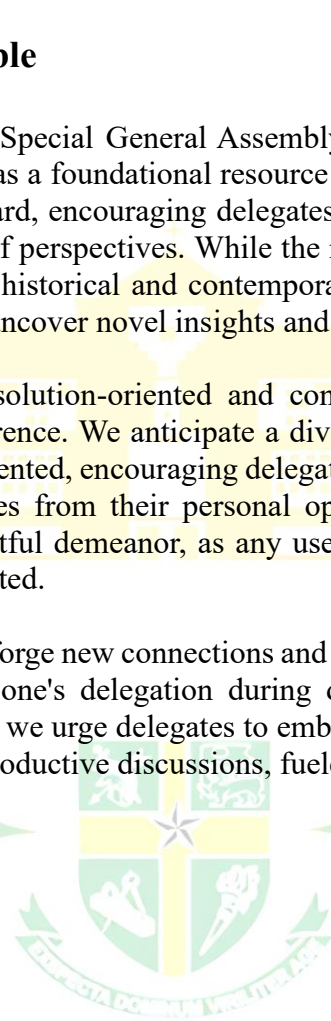
Message from the Head Table

As the chairs of United Nations Special General Assembly (UNSGA), it is imperative that delegates utilize this study guide as a foundational resource for their research endeavors. This guide should serve as a springboard, encouraging delegates to delve deeper into the outlined topics and explore a wide range of perspectives. While the mandate of UNSGA encompasses a broad spectrum of issues, both historical and contemporary, it is essential for delegates to conduct independent research to uncover novel insights and approaches.

Our committee seeks to foster solution-oriented and constructive debates throughout the practice sessions and main conference. We anticipate a diverse array of viewpoints from the multitude of member states represented, encouraging delegates to uphold their country's stance with diligence, even if it diverges from their personal opinions. However, it is crucial to maintain a diplomatic and respectful demeanor, as any use of profanity or hostility towards fellow delegates will not be tolerated.

While we encourage delegates to forge new connections and friendships, it is vital to remember the importance of allegiance to one's delegation during debates. Upholding your nation's position may pose challenges, but we urge delegates to embrace this role wholeheartedly. Our goal is to witness engaging and productive discussions, fueled by a commitment to diplomacy and mutual respect.

Chairs of UNSGA
Mandiv, Himanshu



Conference Material

Conference Topic: The situation in the Middle East with emphasis on the situation in Gaza

Background

The Middle Eastern area has been exposed to multiple struggles in the past, and some that are ongoing as of now. In the 21st century we have seen multiple conflicts such as the Yemeni Civil War, and Saudi Arabian intervention in Yemen. This event caught eyes of multiple other Middle Eastern nations such as Jordan, Sudan, and the United Arab Emirates. Therefore, it can be concluded that the Middle East, despite its economic and social advancements remains a conflict prone and unstable area.

The United Nations has taken note of these disputes throughout its functioning period and implemented specific methods to deal with struggles in the area. The UN works with both regional and global partners to facilitate dialogue, reduce tensions, foster local advancements, and support political negotiations aimed at achieving a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This collaborative effort aims to establish a fair, comprehensive, and enduring peace in the Middle East.

Case Studies

1. Israel-Palestine conflict

UN General Assembly passing of resolution 181 called for the partitioning of the Palestinian territories in two states, one Arab and one Jewish. Following the partition, in 1967 the infamous sixty day war was fought between Israel and several of its Arab neighbors. As a result, Israel gains control over the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem, which are predominantly inhabited by Palestinians. Additionally, Israel gains control over the Golan Heights from Syria and the Sinai Peninsula from Egypt. Israel's presence in the Sinai Peninsula continues until April 1982.

Two main peace processes were initiated: The Madrid Peace conference, and the Oslo Accords. The Madrid Peace Conference, co-sponsored by the US and USSR, involves Israeli, Jordanian, Lebanese, Palestinian, and Syrian delegates. Talks focus on bilateral discussions between Israel and its neighbors, with Lebanese joining Syrians and Palestinians joining Jordanians. A multilateral track addresses regional concern. Lasting two years, the talks yield no breakthroughs. The Oslo Accords were a series of agreements signed in the 1990s between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). They aimed to establish a framework for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including mutual recognition, Palestinian self-governance in parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and negotiations on final status issues such as borders, Jerusalem, and refugees. The accords led to the establishment of the Palestinian Authority and marked the first direct negotiations between Israel and the PLO.

Despite these agreements, there has been continuous exchange of attacks between Palestinian Hamas forces, and Israeli forces. Multiple external nations have intervened

to mediate peace processes and suppress these attacks. Most Western nations namely the United States of America have declared the Hamas military group as a terrorist organization. The most recent uprising of conflict was fueled by Hamas surprise attacks on Israeli territory, and according to reports from Israeli media, the initial attacks in the conflict resulted in a death toll of at least 250 people and left 1,500 injured in Israel. This attack stands as the deadliest in the country in decades. Additionally, Hamas reportedly took approximately 250 individuals in Israel as hostages. Hamas's military leader, Mohammed Deif, said the group undertook its assault because of Israel's long-running blockade of Gaza, its occupation of Palestinian lands, and its alleged crimes against Muslims, including the desecration of al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu, in turn, announced that Israel was at war with Hamas. Israel proceeded to launch deadly rocket fire on Gaza and later began a ground assault. The situation in the Gaza strip therefore gets worse by ever passing minute, and there is a lack of resources and humanitarian aid reaching the area. Furthermore, a cascade of human rights violations are being committed due the war at hand.

2. Red Sea Crisis

The Red Sea crisis commenced on October 19, 2023, when the Iran-backed Houthi movement in Yemen launched missiles and armed drones towards Israel, demanding an end to the Gaza Strip invasion. Since then, the Houthis have seized and attacked merchant and naval vessels in the Red Sea. In response, U.S. and allied forces have targeted missile sites and other Houthi positions. This crisis is intertwined with the Israel-Hamas conflict, the Iran-Israel proxy rivalry, the Iran-United States proxy tensions, and the ongoing Yemeni Crisis.

The Houthis' assaults in the Red Sea prompted a military reaction from several nations. In January 2024, the UN Security Council passed Resolution 2722, condemning these attacks and upholding the freedom of navigation. Operation Prosperity Guardian, spearheaded by the United States, was initiated to safeguard shipping in the Red Sea. This operation has involved airstrikes on Houthi-held locations in Yemen and engagements with Houthi vessels in the Red Sea. Since January 12, a coalition led by the U.S. and U.K. has carried out missile strikes against the Houthis, while other countries have independently conducted patrols near Yemeni waters.

3. Iraqi Insurgency

The ongoing insurgency in Iraq, initiated in 2017 following the loss of territorial control by the Islamic State (IS), stems from the War in Iraq. During this conflict, IS, along with allied groups like the White Flags, engaged in combat against the Iraqi military, which received substantial support from the United States, United Kingdom, and other nations conducting airstrikes against IS. The insurgency is essentially a continuation of the preceding war, with IS and other factions opposing the Shia-led Iraqi Government. The White Flags, reportedly comprised of former IS members and Kurdish rebels, operate mainly in the Kirkuk Governorate and are believed by the Iraqi government to be associated with Ansar al-Islam and potentially linked to al-Qaeda. Employing guerrilla tactics against government forces, the group has remained active in the region.

In September 2017, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, IS's leader, urged supporters worldwide to target Western news media, signaling a shift in IS's strategy from state-building to a more traditional insurgency approach.

4. Hezbollah activity in Lebanon

Hezbollah is a Muslim political party and para-military group in Lebanon, with an elaborate political and social network that allowed it to establish a reputation as a 'State within a state'. It expanded to Middle East, Africa, and North and South America, including the tri-border region of Argentina, Brazil, and Paraguay. They carried out bombings and attacks across the region with special opposition to the Israeli nation during the Israel-Hezbollah war. Hezbollah is eager to show solidarity with Sunni Hamas in its war with Israel which has resulted in multiple instances of aggression and attacks across the border, joined by Yemeni Houthis. Israeli attacks on Iran have led to the development of an Iran-Hezbollah axis forming leading to further destabilization within the region and risking a potential war within the middle eastern nations.

Talking Points

- Development of an effective partition plan for Israel and Palestine
- Mechanism of upholding human rights within the Middle East
- Examining of existing peace initiatives
- Discuss the extent to which foreign nations must intervene.
- Post-conflict reconstruction methods
- Methods in which nations that violate international humanitarian law should be held accountable.

Further Reading

- <https://www.seatrade-maritime.com/containers/red-sea-crisis-three-months-no-end-sight>
- <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2024/01/the-situation-in-the-middle-east-including-the-palestinian-question-open-briefing.php>
- <https://odihpn.org/publication/the-humanitarian-challenge-in-the-middle-east/>
- <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/1/25/israel-gaza-war-spillover-risk-mapping-recent-strikes-in-middle-east>