

Hi Security Council Delegates!!!

My name is Anita Pershad, and I am beyond excited to be serving as your Security Council President for this year's SHSMUN 2014 Conference!! Just a little bit of information about me: I live in Memphis, and I'm a senior at Lausanne Collegiate School. I love Zumba, tiramisu, and Jane Austen. My favorite book is *Half the Sky*, and my favorite T.V. show is *Downton Abbey*. I'm a die-hard Harry Potter fan and fun fact—I'm also a British citizen. But unfortunately, no, I don't have an accent.

Hopefully you will thoroughly enjoy the topics for this year! I tried my best to choose topics that are creative, so as a committee, we can approach these issues from a different angle. My goal was to choose topics that are not typically done in Security Council, in order to allow Security Council veterans a chance to broaden their Model UN abilities, and hopefully make this year's committee extra fun and interesting. I trust that these topics will provide an interesting and thought-provoking experience for all Security Council delegates this year.

Established by Article V of the Charter of the United Nations, the Security Council is one of principal organs of the United Nations, with the main role of maintaining international peace and security. The Security Council has the power to establish peacekeeping operations, prevent aggression, and authorize military action. This critical body consists of fifteen total members, including five permanent members. The 5 permanent members (P5) who hold "veto power" or "great power unanimity" are: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Decisions on all substantive matters require nine votes, including the concurring votes of all five permanent members. The other ten are non-permanent members, chosen on a rotational basis. Security Council is a unique committee in the UN, because it can institute legally-binding legislation and that it may investigate international disputes.

I am more than happy to answer any and all question you may have before, after, and during the conference! You can email me or call/text me anytime at 901-279-4196. I am so excited for this year's Security Council debates! Bring your "A" game!!!

Your 2014 SHSMUN Security Council President,
Anita Pershad
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Topic I: Narco-Terrorism in Afghanistan

Introduction

Narco-terrorism describes “the attempts of narcotics traffickers to influence the policies of a government or a society through violence and intimidation, and to hinder the enforcement of anti-drug laws by the systematic threat or use of such violence. [1]” This term was first used by President Terry of Peru in 1983 to describe the activities of a Maoist guerrilla insurgent group and an efficient cocaine distributor in Peru called the Shining Path. There are many similar groups around the world that use drug trafficking and violence to commit crimes in a country to disrupt its stability and harm innocent civilians in the process. This term can also be used to describe groups that undertake terrorist activities and use drug trafficking to fund their operations, gain recruits, and extend their influence. Other examples of these groups include Escobar’s actions in Columbia, Hamas, and the Taliban. Ever since the first use of narco-terrorism, it has taken on a new meaning the Middle East where their narco-terrorist actions directly threaten international peace. In Afghanistan and Pakistan in particular, the illicit sale and trade of opium and heroin was grown in prevalence and recognition over the past years, because this cultivation directly funds terrorist organizations like the Taliban and their activities.

History

Warfare and drugs have been closely related enterprises in Afghanistan since the Soviet era when illicit drugs were used as the main form of currency to trade for weapons and military intelligence. The interconnected relationship between warfare and drugs started from the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is largely responsible for “the constant outbreak of violence between separatist groups who desire control over various territories.[2]” Afghani warlords sold drugs for military weapons with the Soviets, and the US-led NATO forces traded weapons with fraction extremist groups such as Mujahedeen. Following the power-vacuum created by the withdrawal of Soviet forces in 1989, warlords and factions expanded their illicit drug trade for power and territory control. In 2000 the Taliban forces under Omar were able to actually stem the drug trade through an anti-drug campaign and ban that was controlled through extensive force. However, following the United States’ recent declaration of its “War on Terror,” the Taliban was removed from power, warlords, tribal leaders, and even Muslim leaders saw this as the opportunity to profit from resumed drug sales by establishing power and influence in the region. Islamist leaders saw this as the opportunity to ensure a grassroots presence with the Afghani people through the easy profits of selling drugs to impoverished people. As a result, the entire “power-political system has become dependent on narcotic funding for its survival and patronage.[3]” Any disruption to this narcotics network would be detrimental to the current economic and political stability in Afghanistan.

Following the US-led NATO invasion of Afghanistan in 2001, the cultivation of opium from white poppy seeds has increased the overall global illicit production by 22 percent, making Afghanistan the largest global producer of illegal opium trade, even larger than the notorious “Golden Triangle” in Asia[4]. The Taliban’s opium ban was removed and drug sale and cultivation increased. In addition Afghanistan is the leading producer of cannabis or marijuana in the world. The extensive illegal drug cultivation and sale network in Afghanistan has lead President Karzai to state “The question of drugs...is one that will determine Afghanistan’s future [I]f we fail, we will fail as a state eventually, and we will fall back in the hands of terrorism.[5]” However, the United States, the United Kingdom, and Russia have implemented anti-narcotic programs throughout the region, undermining the authority of President Karzai, creating tension. This tension itself is a major factor that directly threatens regional and international stability and security.

Although the Afghani government depends heavily on the narcotics network in Afghanistan, the Afghan people are central to the cultivation and transportation of these illegal substances. Eradicating this vital economic supply network from Afghanistan could easily throw the nation into political riots, instability, and economic upheaval. The heavy dependency of the Afghan economy on the narcotics network and lack of an independent successful economy is what drives the success and propagation of the narcotics demand in Afghanistan, which in turn aids the terrorist communities throughout the region.

Current Situation

In Afghanistan terrorist groups continue to fund their operations by selling opium from white poppy cultivation and heroin throughout the ongoing Afghanistan War. In Pakistan opium farming is prevalent in Waziristan and the surrounding areas. Because terrorist groups that manage these narcotic networks are largely transnational, it is vital to recognize the need for action in the entire region to protect Afghanistan and surrounding nations from the political and economic dependency on the trade of illegal drugs, and stem the increasing revenue supply of the Taliban and other terrorist extremist groups.

Today, the United States Counternarcotics Strategy for Afghanistan Program (CN) practices a strategy that works with other nations to break these illicit drug networks and create sustainable economic opportunities for Afghan citizens, and to establish anti-narcotics law enforcement[6]. The United States tries to take control of insurgent territories by connecting the people of Afghanistan to their government. The CN also tries to act as an engine for job growth and higher incomes for rural families in Afghanistan, enabling farmers to choose licit alternatives to growing poppy. The CN Strategy focuses on disrupting of drug manufacturing materials, stopping drug traffickers, and arresting drug lords. The CN also supports the Afghanistan-Pakistan Strategy Program to prevent the spread of narco-terrorism.

Recently, Russia and Japan implemented a yearlong project to train the Afghan National Police in counter-narcotics tactics. This specialized training was given in Moscow. This program was created to greatly improve the anti-narcotics operational abilities of the Afghan Police and ensure that Afghanistan is protected from further de-stability due to narcotic activities. In addition, the Regional Program for Afghanistan and Neighboring Countries was established in 2011 with the intent of lasting 3 years [7]. This program was created to increase the amount of coordinated counter-narcotics efforts and promote regional stability where there is heavy illicit drug activity. This program is designed to counter the effects of transnational terrorist groups being able to cross borders and evade capture through the implementation of border controls to prevent drug trafficking.

According to President Karzai, “since the 2001 invasion and the lifting of the Taliban opium ban, opium production in Afghanistan has increased from 70 percent of the overall global illicit opium production to 92 percent today.[8]” Afghanistan is a narcotics-driven nation due to the rampant terrorist organizations, violence, decentralized governance, and poverty. Narco-terrorists have been able to profit due to the instability and weak government of Afghanistan. In fact, according to U.S. Intelligence, “Karzai government controls only about 30 percent of Afghanistan, the Taliban about 10 percent, while various tribes and warlords control the rest.[9]” Using their control of the economic system of Afghanistan, narco-terrorists are able to assert some political control through the insecurity they create. With the significant economic backing of narcotics networks, a terrorist organization can grow in strength to assert control over the region.

Many of Afghanistan’s current internal problems stem from narco-terrorism. Issues such as corruption, lawlessness, instability, violence, and innocent civilian suffering are all results of the increase in opium cultivation and narcotics production and trafficking[10]. The violence and political instability that affect all facets of life in Afghanistan stem from terrorist organizations. These organizations are successful and prevalent due to the rampant illegal drug industry throughout the region. By shutting down narcotics networks, terrorist activities and violence can be prevented, and the future of Afghanistan can be secure. Subduing terrorist groups such as the Taliban and Al-Qaeda, and establishing a sustainable and secure government can only be accomplished with the elimination of Afghanistan’s narco-economy.

Insurgents and drug lords work together throughout Afghanistan to undermine President Karzai’s government and promote violence and instability throughout the region. However, NATO and the United States continue to fight two separate wars: the war on terror and the war on drugs. The war on drugs is often forgotten under the political energy to fight terrorist groups and eliminate their activities. However, the strength of their movements are not attacked. Instead of focusing on the true root of terrorist successes, narcotics, the world continues to fight these extremist groups head-on. Groups such as the Taliban are successful due to their control of the narco-economy and their ability to connect to the Afghani people financially. For example, the

Taliban gains nearly 70 percent of their income from protection money, the sale of opium, and imposing taxes on opium farmers[11]. Another source of Taliban revenue comes from receiving weapons and money from drug traffickers and drug lords in exchange for protection. The coalition formed between the drug world and terrorist organizations makes fighting to eliminate both groups through counter-narco-terrorist acts necessary.

Even though terrorism organizations profit the most from the narcotics industry in Afghanistan, its citizens are the primary drivers and significant victims behind its persistent force and affects. Given Afghanistan's widespread poverty and lack of centralized, stable government, many farmers are driven into participating in the illicit drug economy. "With an 80 percent poverty rate, and a per capita income of only \$800[12]" Afghani people are particularly vulnerable to narco-terrorist influences. Agriculture is the primary means of existence for more than 70% of the population, and growing opium is almost 20 times more profitable than growing wheat[13]. Therefore, many Afghani people turn to opium cultivation in order to provide for their families.

Committee Directive

The Security Council is called upon to craft resolutions that can effectively combat narco-terrorism in Afghanistan. Effective solutions must couple counterinsurgency tactics with counter-narcotics programs. Many programs currently work to eliminate narco-terrorist organizations and their farms. However, more effective solutions should focus on security and education for the Afghani people rather than eradication. This is because eradication tactics have proven in the past to be ineffective at deterring the proliferation of narcotics networks. Impoverished farmers are the narco-terrorists' greatest resource to bolster their ranks and increase their legitimacy in the Afghanistan region. Providing other employment opportunities for farmers and providing deterrents for opium cultivation is essential to an effective solution. In addition, an increased police presence for security and a stronger central government is needed to protect the Afghani people and prevent the further growth of the Afghanistan narco-terrorism network. In addition, alternative livelihood programs are needed to provide alternative resources and provisions for Afghani farmers. By cutting off narco-terrorists' resources, the Afghani people, narco-terrorism can be prevented. Furthermore, world governments are prevailed upon to fund such programs and policies to aid the crumbling state of Afghanistan.

Questions to Consider

1. What is your nation's economic/political relationship with Afghanistan?
2. Has your nation been involved with counter-narcotic or counter-insurgency activities in Afghanistan?
3. Does your nation have a prevalent internal narcotics or terrorist problem?
4. How has your nation addressed narco-terrorism in the past? Was it effective?

5. Is your nation affected by narco-terrorism in the Middle East? If so how?
6. What is your nation's policy regarding providing assistance for counter-narcoterrorism programs for Afghanistan?
7. How have drug networks affected the internal or external stability of your nation?

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Topic II: Women, Peace, and Security

Introduction

The issue of Women, Peace, and Security has been a constant agenda item both in the Security Council as well as the General Assembly 1st Committee, DISEC, beginning with resolution 1325, passed in October 2000[1]. Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) focuses on the impact women have on the maintenance of international peace and security throughout the world. It explores the connections and the importance of women's participation in security efforts and conflict prevention efforts. Women's political and economic empowerment must be stressed as vital in conflict prevention efforts, peacekeeping, and conflict resolution. Also, the implications of sexual violence in armed conflicts is an important aspect of this topic. The role of women is important particularly in transitional national contexts and national, economic, and political reconstruction efforts. The topic of Women, Peace, and Security covers many aspects on how women and girls directly impact global security, in areas such as the special situation and victimization of women in armed conflict. For example, during violent and regional conflicts, women are often subjected to systematic rape as a weapon of war or genocide. In addition, after armed conflicts, women often lack economic and social protection as widows or lack resources to care for their children. There is also a lack resources to care for both internally and externally displaced women and girls. Another facet of this topic is the essential role women play in peacebuilding, disarmament, post-war economic restructuring, and government construction.

History

There have been seven separate United Nations Security Council Resolutions passed on women, peace, and security, and the dedicated efforts of international agencies, civil society actors, and governments. The Security Council holds an annual Open Debate on WPS. Of the 43 country-specific resolutions passed by the Security Council in 2011 alone, 27 included aspects related to WPS[2]. Issues in countries such as South Sudan, Afghanistan, Mali, Libya and the Democratic Republic of the Congo have been addressed by the Security Council under a gender-specific approach. In the past, women have been shown to directly be linked to peace and sustained security internationally, and the Security Council has attempted to address the vital role women play in global peace by trying to reduce sexual and discriminatory violence and to encourage national monitoring and global accountability with limited success. With all the previous progress made, there remain large gaps in the activities of the Security Council on this topic.

A key area of this topic that has not been addressed by the Security Council includes disarmament, especially in regard for small arms and light weapons. Resolutions that address peacebuilding are also missing from the Security Council, because women peace builders still face legal, cultural and traditional discrimination. Both of these topics have had relatively little

gender-specific coverage when addressed in the Security Council, despite the large impact these areas have with women, peace, and security.

All previous Security Council efforts have focused on broad-based national approaches towards addressing this issue, leaving little room for tangible progress. No resolution truly establishes the essential role women play in security and violence issues, as a key incentive for nations to implement these resolutions. Furthermore, all past resolutions attempt to incite reform with broad, general statements and recommendations, without implementing direct action to target the plight individual women face all around the world on a daily basis to truly penetrate the security issues women all over the world face. So far, the greatest progress in the implementation of Resolution 1325 has been made on the level of local and international civil society movements, whereas the language of the relevant Security Council decisions typically remains comparatively vague and general, giving overall recommendations or demanding reports rather than putting concrete plans into action and providing help for affected women and girls where it is needed[3]. The Security Council is the sole United Nations body that can implement and enforce direct international action, and must to create an effective solution to aid affected women and girls.

Current Situation

In the past year, additional regions of the world have been compromised in regards to this topic, calling for a renewed evaluation by the Security Council to address WPS. These regional situations highlight the key challenges and gaps the Security Council currently faces in addressing this issue:

- including women in disarmament efforts
- protecting women in border disputes and security concerns
- protecting women from sexual violence and other effects of armed conflict
- providing women with access to legal justice
- giving women representation in peacebuilding, post conflict issues, and conflict prevention
- supporting women's meaningful participation in peace negotiations
- strengthening mandates of peacekeeping missions to address sexual violence
- addressing the root causes of sexual violence

A few countries have had specific resolutions passed that include women, peace, and security measures, such as, Mali, Sierra Leone, and the Central African Republic. Other international security issues, such as the Israeli Palestinian conflict, have hardly addressed the conflict under this aspect.

However, in Afghanistan, following the world's war on terror campaign, life for women changed significantly with the overthrow of the Taliban. In the rebuilding of Afghanistan, there were

significant efforts made to include women and recognize women's rights with the aid of U.S. Congresswomen, female Ambassadors to the United Nations and international women's rights organizations. Lakhdar Brahimi, the U.N. Special Representative for Afghanistan, presented a multi-stage political plan that included references to Women, Peace, and Security in all but the first stage of negotiations[4]. On the civil society level, the Afghan Women's Summit for Democracy convened to ensure the inclusion of women's rights. To this day, 65 % of resolutions on Afghanistan passed in the United Nations include references to WPS, the highest of any country situation[5]. By incorporating security clauses for women in Afghanistan's public policy division, greater advancements can be made to effectively target certain aspects of this topic and close the inherent gaps between broad, general resolutions and direct action. However, in Afghanistan, many women face problems regarding sexual violence, since there is no law specifically prohibiting sexual harassment in Afghanistan. A 2010 U.S. Department of State report noted that societal violence was pervasive, and directed at women in particular[6]. Many violations of women's rights, including sexual harassment, do not receive adequate responses from the justice system.

In the past 22 years of civil war in the South Sudan, over 2 million women have been raped and abused[7]. Four million women and children have been displaced from the homes, refugees in other African countries who are overwhelmed with their cost and number. Female literacy is incredibly poor as 96% of women cannot read or write in South Sudan[8]. In this war-torn region, for women, the odds of dying in childbirth are greater than the odds of completing primary school. There is little to no access to medical care, school or even clean water. Food shortages and ongoing violence plague this region. The situation in South Sudan is an example of the significant effects of security issues that directly affect women. Women can effectively alter these human security issues, if they are valued, rather than seen as abused victims of war.

The continued violence in South Sudan has highlighted the necessity of women's participation in all political processes and government structures aiming to bring lasting peace and security to South Sudan. Women in South Sudan have a long history of asserting their right to participate, and there is a minimum quota of 25% of women being included at governmental decision-making levels enshrined in the transitional constitution. Despite all this, women are not visibly present as decision-makers, nor are their voices sufficiently informing the drafting processes of key policies[9]. In addition, in rural areas, women are often subject to victimization in violent rape. Women and children are impacted by the recent violence on the border with Sudan and in the Jonglei conflict. With the urgent humanitarian crisis and increased flow of refugees, women are victims and bystanders instead of filling capacity needs of this region. Overall in rural areas particularly, women lack training and literacy programs, especially in the areas of political leadership, peacebuilding and negotiation, and organizational development. Sudan, like many countries has a lack of legal and constitutional reforms to utilize women in their national infrastructure, but there is also a significant lack of rights given to women at the grassroots level. In particular, during times of conflict and violence, women in South Sudan face a lack of

accountability in the judicial system for human rights violations committed against them during this civil war. Women live in fear and chaotic violence, being seen as victims of war, not as valuable and contributing members of society to aid in disarmament, peacebuilding, and post-conflict reconstruction.

In April 2014, almost 300 Nigerian schoolgirls were kidnapped by the Boko Haram extremist militant group. These girls were taken into neighboring African countries and sold into marriage, human trafficking rings, and slavery. The Nigerian government is still not sure how many girls initially went missing and how many escaped. The limited accountability demonstrates the frequency with which these incidents occur. According to Amnesty International, the Nigerian military had four hours advanced warning of the kidnapping, but failed to send reinforcements to protect the school[10]. Boko Haram claims that these girls should not have even been in school, but should be housewives and mothers at the schoolgirl age, from 9-15. The extremist attitudes against girls' education is indicative of the fact that girls are often victims of war. These view prevents women and girls from becoming involved with conflict resolution.

Committee Directive

The Security Council must find ways to overcome the disparities between intentions and implementation to make effective reforms for women around the world, in ways that will simultaneously improve international security. Delegates are called to battle cultural stigmas, and bridge the gap between broad, generalized resolutions and targeted, grassroots solutions, focusing specifically on how women are used as victims and tools of war through rape in armed conflict, their situation as refugees with a paucity of basic resources and aid. Furthermore, it is of the utmost importance that delegates address how women can be instrumental in situations of peacebuilding, disarmament, post-war economic and political restructuring.

Questions to Consider

1. What obstacles are currently standing in the way of women's participation in national and UN troops and law enforcement in your country and how can they be removed?
2. How can impunity for sexual violence in conflict finally be overcome? What changes to the judicial and legal systems of member states are required? What role does transitional justice play in this situation?
3. How can displaced women be protected better in your country?
4. How can women contribute to conflict prevention measures such as arms control and disarmament?
5. How can women's health and general humanitarian situation in armed conflict be improved in your country?
6. How can women be integrated into peace negotiations and government building?

7. Which UN and regional agencies should be included in future Women, Peace, and Security work and how should they be utilized?
8. What role does women's economic and social advancement play in your country? How can this be used as an incentive for countries to address this issue more effectively?

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Topic III: The Situation in Crimea

Introduction

The recent Crimea crisis has brought the world's attention to a pending conflict that is centered on the Ukraine and Russia, both of which dispute the control of the Crimean Peninsula. The conflict began in February of 2014 and currently, the Russian Federation has control of the Crimean Peninsula, a status that is not recognized by the United Nations[1]. This situation and international crisis rapidly unfolded before the eyes of the world following the Ukrainian Revolution. In February of 2014, the recently elected Ukrainian President, Viktor Yanukovich, fled from Ukraine and the Parliament deposed him. He was deposed as a result of his abandonment of trade negotiations with the European Union. Angry protesters took to the streets of Kiev to protest these actions that would damage Ukraine's trade relations with the European Union and strengthen Ukraine's ties with the Russian Federation. An interim President, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, was declared and recognized by the United States, and the European Union; however, Russia and several nations declared this revolution illegitimate, and the direct result of a Western-influenced coup[2]. Following the Ukrainian Revolution, unofficial pro-Russian forces began to gradually take control of the Crimean Peninsula through force. With Russian troops occupying Crimea, it declared independence with intention of joining Russia, after a referendum that passed with 96% of the Crimean people in favor of becoming part of Russia. On March 18, the Republic of Crimea formally signed an agreement to initiate Crimea's accession into the Russian Federation[3]. The highly contentious issue is ongoing with key nuclear and energy sites being contested in the Ukraine, bringing additional aspects and concerns regarding this international crisis.

History

For much of history, the Crimean Peninsula was under Russian control. However, during World War II it fell under German occupation, and then "in 1954, the Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev 'gifted' Crimea to Ukraine from Russia, when both were part of the Soviet Union.[4]" Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, there were many questions regarding the Crimean Peninsula. Russia treasured their ability to continue to keep their Black Sea Fleet at their naval base in the Ukraine, even though Crimea was officially granted independence. In 1995, after the Crimea challenged the Ukrainian government's sovereignty and threatened to secede, the Ukraine placed Crimea's government under national control[5]. Recently, the Crimean ethnic distribution has shifted, and according to a 2001 census, about 58% of Crimeans are ethnically Russian[6]. In the minority are ethnic Ukrainian people and Muslim Tatars.

Following the three months of violent and bloody protests against the Ukrainian President, Yanukovich, in Ukraine's capital city, the president was ousted from power on February 22. The

protests were against the President's pro-Kremlin policies, and were against tying Ukraine closer to the Russian Federation. This Ukrainian Revolution was followed by the institution of a new President, Yatsenyuk, which was approved by the Parliament. However, "Russian forces seized de facto control of the region on Feb 27 and pro-Moscow authorities took power.[7]" On March 16, the Crimean people voted to decide whether to be reunited with Russia after 60 years as part of the Ukrainian republic, or go back to the 1992 constitution that effectively made Crimea an independent state within Ukraine. "Nearly 97 per cent of the two million residents voted in favor of joining Russia.[8]" The international community disagrees over the legitimacy of this vote.

Current Situation

On March 1 the Security Council met in an attempt to diffuse the violence in Ukraine. Although all sides agreed that the situation of impending war and violence is dangerous and threatens the entire international community, little tension was reduced in the Crimean crisis. Both sides blamed each other for the current situation of impending war between countries with nuclear capabilities; therefore, instability in the region remains.



There are many speculations about the reasoning behind Russia's suddenly aggressive and nationalistic actions. Crimea is a small peninsula that juts out into the Black Sea with approximately 2.2 million people, that is strategically valuable to Russia[9].

Russia cherishes their access to the Black Sea through Crimea for military purposes. The former Ukrainian President Yanukovich had signed a "2010 agreement that gives Ukraine a 30% discount on Russian gas in exchange for Russia's presence in Crimea.[10]" Even though the Russian Federation had lost the Crimean Peninsula during World War II, they had previously never lost their access to the Black Sea as a naval base. With the threat of anti-Kremlin sentiments, and the possible removal of Russia's 2010 agreement with the Ukraine, it is speculated that the Russian Federation felt compelled aggressively to act in order to maintain their fleet.

Currently, although the Russian Federation is officially in control of the Republic of Crimea, the United Nations does not recognize this status. Pro-Russian militias are in control of the Crimean Peninsula, the Crimean Supreme Court, and the Crimean Parliament. A new Prime Minister is now established in Crimea. The United Nations has expressed its disapproval over Russia's

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militant actions and does not recognize the referendum as legitimate either. Even though the referendum had an official turnout of over 83%, the vote was condemned by not only the United Nations, but the European Union, the United States, Ukraine, and additionally, several Muslim Tartar officials in Crimea.

The Russian Federation believes its actions are consistent with the United Nations Charter and appropriate international protocol. For example, President Putin defended the vote as "legal" and "fully in line with the norms of international law and the UN Charter.[11]" He recently addressed the Russian parliament, expressing hopes for regaining Russia's naval base in the Black Sea, and stating that "Crimea has always been an integral part of Russia in the hearts and minds of people.[12]" The Russian Federation believes that the Russian forces merely acted to support and bolster the Crimean self-defense forces. However, other more Cold War Era views were stated as he expressed hope for a restoration of Russia following a period of humiliation following the Soviet collapse. It was with great alarm to the West that he called the collapse of the Soviet Union, "the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the 20th century.[13]" In contrast, he stated to the international community that he was not interested in partitioning off the Ukraine, nor was the Russian Federation interested in restoring the Soviet Empire. President Putin recently declared that the world should not "believe those who try to frighten you with Russia and who scream that other regions will follow after Crimea.[14]"

The Ukrainian opinion is one of fear, anger, and disgust with the recent and developing situation in Crimea. Following the revolution, Ukraine gained a pro-Western government, so its views are cautiously balanced with self-defense mechanisms. Their international position is balanced with diplomatic restraint to defuse further tension with their much larger neighbor, while asserting their fundamental dispute with Russia at losing their Southern province. After the Russian Federation annexed Crimea, Ukraine expressed that it would never recognize the Russian Republic of Crimea. However, the Ukrainian government is worried about the recent growing Pro-Russian protests in Eastern Ukraine which threaten to destabilize and overthrow the new government in Kiev. Another concern is the energy crisis in the Ukraine caused by the tensions with their Russian neighbor, because the Ukraine significantly relies on Russia for oil and natural gas. There are also many nuclear power plants in the Ukraine, which are at risk should conflict or violence break out. Therefore, the Ukrainian government is seeking ways of easing the tension with the Russian Federation.

Another area of contention that is connected to the situation in the Crimean Peninsula is the status of Sevastopol. While the Russian Federation views this area as a mere city in the southwestern region of Crimea, many countries view it as separate from the Crimean Federal District and fundamentally part of the Ukraine. Sevastopol has significant value to the Russian Federation, as this is the city where the Russian Black Sea Fleet is located, in the Bay of Sevastopol[15]. The city's location and navigable harbors make it an important and strategic naval base. It is also a vibrant and rich economy due to its unique naval and maritime features.

This city was taken over by Russia simultaneously with the rest of the Crimean Peninsula. During the recent crisis, Sevastopol announced its desire to join the Russian Federation, following the Ukrainian Revolution of 2014. Then, on 11 March the city “released a joint resolution with the Supreme Council of Crimea to unite as an independent republic between the potential passing of the referendum and union with Russia.[16]” This city also voted in the referendum, resulting in the establishment of the Republic of Crimea, which included the Crimean Peninsula and the city. On March 18, 2014, a treaty was signed between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Crimea which declared the Special Status City of Sevastopol as part of the Federal City of Russia and the Crimean Federal District[17]. This status of the city of Sevastopol is not recognized by the Ukraine or the European Union, as they believe Sevastopol is not part of the Crimean Peninsula that was taken over by the Russian Federation.

In reaction, the United States and Europe both imposed sanctions against several Russian leaders and Ukrainian governmental members who were instrumental in threatening the security and borders of the Ukraine for Russian annexation of Crimea. Japan has also condemned the Russian Federation for their actions in undermining the territorial integrity of Ukraine, while Venezuela heavily criticized the Western reaction. The United States and the European Union are resistant regarding economic sanctions due to the potential rippling effects on the global economy. Any economic sanctions against Russia have the great potential to cause job and investment loss in the United States as well as the Russian Federation[18]. The Russian Federation could also respond by reducing natural gas supplies, which would be catastrophic for the European Union. The Russian Federation’s Gazprom supplies over 25% of the European Union’s natural gas, and over 50% of the Ukraine’s energy supplies[19]. In addition, most of the European Union’s natural gas travels through pipelines that cross Ukraine[20]. Furthermore, the Russian Federation is the Ukraine’s main trading partner, which further contributes to their cautionary reactions to the Russian Federation’s movements. These extensive economic ties between Russia, Ukraine, Europe, and the United States are all reasons to maintain caution regarding economic sanctions and aggressive reactions.

Committee Directive

The Security Council of SHSMUN is called upon to do what international diplomats could not: pass a sustainable resolution in the Security Council to resolve the situation in Crimea, diffusing tension and further violence, while protecting the economic interests of the involved countries as well. On one side, the West and Ukraine believe Russia is orchestrating violence to revive their former Soviet Union Empire by exerting control and violating international law in annexing Crimea. On the other side, Russians believe that they are merely protecting their naval ports and standing up against the Western-propagated Ukrainian Revolution. The Security Council is charged with seeking diplomatic and cautionary measures to resolve this conflict effectively and efficiently.

Questions to Consider

1. How should the Security Council react to the development of Russian forces in the Crimean region?
2. How can the sovereignty and integrity of the Ukraine be preserved and at the same time the interests of ethnic Russians who are living in the Ukraine be protected?
3. How is your country affected economically and politically by the Russian Federation?
4. How can the Ukrainian government and the international community protect the rights of minorities living the Ukraine, such as the Muslim Tartars?
5. Does your country recognize the Russian Republic of Crimea?
6. Does your country recognize the referendum?
7. Does your country believe that the Russian Federation violated international law and the Ukraine's territorial integrity by annexing the Crimean Peninsula?
8. Does your country feel that the Russian Federation was justified in annexing Crimea to protect their naval base?
9. Does your country feel the Ukrainian Revolution was organic or a product of Western involvement in the Ukraine?
10. To what extent does your country feel that Russian Federation was involved in Crimea's decision to leave the Ukraine?
11. How can tensions be diffused to reduce the possibility of war between nations with nuclear capabilities?

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