



SC



Dear Delegates,

Welcome to CancunMUN 2024!

My name is Lilly Kruitbosch, and this year I am delighted to be the Chair of the Security Council in CancunMUN 2024. I am 17 years old and a senior at the International American School of Cancun. Before joining IAS, I went to school in California, Qatar, and Switzerland, where I was born. When I am not in school I enjoy being with my friends and family, playing sports, singing, painting, and visiting new places. After I graduate high school in 2025, I want to study medicine in the Netherlands.

This will be my fourth MUN conference. The first conference I attended was two years ago at CancunMUN. I was a delegate in WHO and won an honorable mention for best delegate. I also attended RIMUN in Rome, Italy. Last year I was honored to be Chair of the General Assembly and had a wonderful committee and I can't wait to make this committee even better. It was two years ago when I first encountered MUN and gained an understanding of what it entails. The more I learned about it the more I wanted to be a part of it. I am so passionate about MUN because it helped me grow in confidence and how to work together as a team.

I am so privileged to be your chair in SC. I am looking for my delegates to be confident, prepared, professional, respectful, focused, hard-working, and most importantly I want you to try your best and challenge yourself to grow. I want you to leave the conference with more confidence so you can look back and be proud of what you have done. I can not wait to see this committee be the best but we can only have that with rich and strong debates and outstanding delegates like you. I want you to be reminded that the background guide should not be your only source of information; you should use reliable sources.

If you are stuck or need help with anything, feel free to reach out to me at lilly.kruitbosch@ciac.edu.mx and I will be glad to help you. I am looking forward to this amazing conference and seeing you soon!

Lilly Kruitbosch, Chair
Security Council

Fellow Delegates,

My name is Ania Arjona and I'm enthusiastic about being co-chair of the Security Council this year. I am a junior at the International American School of Cancun, and I am 16 years old. In my free time, I like to read, bake, and hang out with friends. I'm not yet sure of what my future will look like because I have a lot of passions, but it has always been my dream to study astronomy/astrophysics or law.

This will be my 4th MUN conference. The first time I participated in MUN I was in UNICEF, where I won Honoric Mention for Best Delegate. My second time was in the Security Council, where I won Best Position Paper. And lastly, my third time was in RIMUN (Italy). Participating in MUN as a delegate has encouraged me to challenge myself to be a chair of the Security Council this year.

I am eager to be your Chair this year, but I do expect that all my delegates come not only prepared and confident but also excited. But remember that this is not only a fun experience, it is also a serious role to take on. Security Council is one of the most challenging committees of the UN, and this is why I expect you to do your best so we can have an outstanding and rich debate. Make sure to use the resources we have provided and use reliable sources. Additionally, please be respectful; discourtesy will not be tolerated.

With that being said, if you have any concerns or questions please feel free to contact me at arjona.a@ciac.edu.mx. I look forward to meeting you at the Security Council this year. Good Luck Delegates!

Ania Arjona, Co-Chair
Security Council



COMMITTEE MISSION

The main objective of the Security Council is to maintain peace and security worldwide. It functions as one of the key pillars of the United Nations, tasked with identifying potential threats to international peace and security and taking necessary actions to address them. With the authority to issue decisions that are binding for all member nations, the Security Council can authorize military measures to uphold or restore global peace, impose sanctions on individuals or nations posing a threat to peace, and deploy peacekeeping operations in conflict areas worldwide.

In addition to these primary responsibilities, the Security Council also engages in secondary tasks such as mediating disputes, promoting peaceful resolutions to conflicts, and supporting human rights and international cooperation. Ultimately, its goal is to ensure that people around the world can live in peace, security, and freedom while upholding the core principles of the United Nations Charter.



Topic A:

Mitigating Terrorist Acts of the Islamic States in Iraq and the Levant

Introduction

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), also known as ISIS, IS and Daesh, is recognized by many worldwide organizations, such as the United Nations and the European Union as a terrorist organization due to its goal to establish a global Islamic caliphate, which fosters violent actions/conflict between non-muslims and Muslims. ISIS is an acronym for the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, signifying the group's focus on those nations. ISIL, on the other hand, stands for the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant, with the name "Levant" referring to a greater geographic territory that encompasses Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, and Palestine, in addition to Syria. Despite the difference in naming traditions, both groups have been linked to extremist ideology and have carried out terrorist actions in the Middle East and elsewhere.

Since this terrorist group established a caliphate by exploiting the conflict in Syria and tensions in Iraq to entrench itself in both countries, the ISIL has been responsible for over more than 50,000 deaths of civilians by carrying out multiple crimes, such as; public beheadings, executions, crucifixions, enslavement, and destruction of cultural heritage sites. Many religious minorities are specifically targeted, such as Shias, Ismailis, Alawites, and Christians, as well as Sunni Muslims who do not adhere to the group's religious laws.

History

The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant first emerged from a collaboration between remnants of Al-Qaeda in Iraq and small Iraqi-Sunni insurgent groups in 2004. It faded into obscurity for several years after the surge of U.S. troops to Iraq in 2007. However, it began to reestablish itself in 2011 amidst the Syrian Civil War, managing to capture the city of Raqqa. Over the following years, ISIS continued to exploit the escalating instability of Iraq and Syria to strengthen its ranks and to continue carrying out assaults. In June 2014, ISIS started to gain international attention by initiating military actions and attacks in the cities of Mosul and Tikrit. Later that month, its leader announced the formation of a caliphate. However, a US-led coalition launched airstrikes against ISIS targets in 2015, leading to the

¹ An Islamic form of government which is political and religious. leadership is united, and the head of state (the Caliph) is a successor to the Prophet Muhammad. The goal of ISIS is to govern through implementation of its strict interpretation of sharia.



gradual weakening of its territorial holdings. The liberation of Mosul in 2017 marked a turning point, followed by the recapture of Raqqa later that year. Despite losing territory, ISIS shifted to insurgency tactics, conducting guerrilla attacks and bombings.

Efforts to combat ISIS's online influence persisted alongside global affiliates. Non-governmental organizations, states, and international actors, including the EU, NATO, Turkey, and Iran, provided military support, intelligence sharing, and humanitarian aid. The UN-coordinated efforts through Security Council resolutions, such as Resolution 1535 in 2004, aiding refugees through agencies like UNICEF and UNHCR. Collaborative initiatives focused on the return of Iraqi nationals, legal prosecution of Da'esh crimes, and rehabilitation efforts. International cooperation facilitated rapid assistance to Member States, with coordination improved through platforms like the Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact.

The Security Council passed resolution 2610 in 2021; which reaffirmed the urgent need to address the issue of terrorism, specifically focusing on the threat posed by ISIL, by referring to the 41 resolutions that had been passed between 1999 and 2020. It also continued to emphasize the need for international cooperation and coordinated action to combat terrorism, including measures to disrupt ISIL's financing, recruitment, and propaganda efforts.

Meanwhile, the humanitarian impact of ISIS's reign of terror remained profound, with millions of people displaced, communities fractured, and infrastructure devastated. The conflict in Iraq and Syria as well as neighboring regions, has left a legacy of trauma and suffering, with survivors struggling to rebuild their lives amidst ongoing instability and insecurity. The challenge of reconciliation, reconstruction, and addressing the root causes of extremism remains a challenging task for affected countries and the international community.





Current Situation

In the northeastern region of Syria, over 48,500 individuals, including 31,600 foreign nationals, are staying in overcrowded camps and detention facilities due to suspected ties to Daesh (ISIL). Humanitarian access is extremely limited in the zone, and children constitute over 60% of the population. In Libya, women with alleged Daesh ties are facing detention without due process, enduring harsh conditions and mistreatment. Amidst this situation, ISIL remains a threat, utilizing guerrilla tactics and illicit private networks to carry out attacks. The group's resilience is clear in its establishment of affiliates and sleeper cells, particularly in unstable regions such as Libya, Syria, and Iraq.

Since the start of the year, ISIS cells have executed 50 separate operations in the desert, including ambushes, armed assaults, and bombings in areas. The last reported major incident up to date includes the death of 3 U.S. soldiers in Jordan on January 23rd due to retaliation from ISIS for U.S. troops having a presence in the Middle East. The United States in retaliation, launched air strikes, hitting 85 targets across seven locations in Iraq and Syria. The United States, alongside its coalition partners, including members of NATO, regional allies such as Iraq and Syria, and international partners from countries like the United Kingdom, France, and Australia, is actively engaged in combating ISIS and other terrorist groups in various regions. Through coordinated military operations, intelligence sharing, and diplomatic efforts, they are taking decisive measures to dismantle terrorist networks, disrupt their activities, and mitigate the threat they pose to global security. These efforts involve a range of strategies, including targeted airstrikes, ground operations, support for local partners, and efforts to counter extremist propaganda and recruitment. The goal is to degrade or completely demolish ISIS's capabilities and prevent further acts of terrorism, thereby enhancing stability and safety both regionally and internationally.

² Terrorist cell whose members work undercover in an area until sent into action.



Points to Consider

- How has the evolution of terrorist tactics and strategies employed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant been influenced by shifting geopolitical dynamics and regional conflicts, particularly in the Middle East?
- What specific measures have countries directly affected by ISIL terrorism, as well as other global participants, implemented to disrupt the group's funding sources and logistical networks, and how have these efforts impacted ISIL's operational capabilities and global reach?
- What measures can countries agree upon to effectively combat ISIL's influence and activities to ensure regional stability, international security, and the protection of human rights?
- What role do transnational criminal networks, illicit trade routes, etcetera, contribute in facilitating ISIL's activities and expansion, and how can international law enforcement agencies or other forces such as security forces enhance cooperation to effectively demolish these networks and disrupt ISIL's operations?
- How does this topic relate to the Israel & Palestine conflict and military escalation in the Red Sea? What measures can your country take to de-escalate these conflicts?

Useful Links

www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2024/02/counter-terrorism-briefing-on-the-secretary-generals-strategic-level-report-on-isil-daesh-6.php.

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"Timeline: The Rise, Spread, and Fall of the Islamic State." *Wilson Center*, www.wilsoncenter.org/article/timeline-the-rise-spread-and-fall-the-islamic-state#:~:text=The%20Islamic%20State%20%E2%80%93%20also%20known,began%20to%20reemerge%20in%202011. Accessed 1 Mar. 2024.

Country box:

Canada

China

Denmark

France

Germany

Iran

Iraq

Libya

Norway

Russian Federation

Sweden

Syria

United Arab Emirates

United Kingdom

United States



Topic B: Discussing the Partition and Militarization of the Arctic Circle

Introduction

The partition of the Arctic Circle is a major concern in global politics nowadays vast stretches of ice and snow have often been seen as a distant and unwelcoming wilderness. However, beneath this frozen surface lies a wealth of resources and crucial sea routes. As climate change progresses rapidly, the Arctic is undergoing profound transformations, opening up new opportunities and challenges for the countries that border the Arctic region. In this setting, the division and militarization of the Arctic have become an important topic to many countries, influencing the balance of power and collaboration in the polar region. After the Cold War ended, the Arctic experienced a change in the political landscape, with cooperation becoming the main focus for everyone involved. Despite recent years witnessing a renewal of military focus in the region, all Arctic-Five states (Canada, Denmark, Norway, Russia, and the United States) have strengthened their military presence, capabilities, and activities. This is known as the militarization of the Arctic, indicating an increasing perception of controversial and debatable interactions among Arctic nations, particularly regarding disputed areas in the sea and using resources in the Arctic.

History

The Cold War's geopolitical tensions had a significant influence on the history of the weaponization of the Arctic area. The Arctic became a vital venue for military actions and geopolitical deliberations between the US and the USSR (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) during this time. Taking advantage of the region's strategic advantage and proximity to their respective borders, both superpowers significantly increased their military presence in the area. Building early warning systems to keep an eye on activity in the Arctic, positioning nuclear submarines, and establishing military sites were all part of this buildup. The seas of the Arctic Ocean were especially significant from a strategic standpoint, providing a base for the deployment of nuclear-armed submarines. To identify and counter any threats, military installations like the Distant Early Warning (DEW) Line were set up, which helped to advance the broader prevention and defense policy. Furthermore, during the Cold War, the Arctic was used as a testing ground for military strategies and technology. To test weapons, train soldiers, and improve tactics for future



battles, both the US and the USSR carried out several military drills and experiments in the icy Arctic. As tension between the US and Russia lessened after the Cold War, there was a period of decreased military action in the Arctic. However, because of things like climate change, which is creating new marine routes and access to natural resources, there has been a renewed interest in the Arctic by military countries in recent years. Concerns about the Arctic becoming weaponized once more have been raised by the increasing military presence and activity in the area as a result of this revived interest.

Current Situation

The Arctic is currently facing rapid change as new shipping lanes and prospects for resource extraction are made possible by melting ice. Russia, the US, Canada, Norway, Denmark, Iceland, Sweden, and Finland are fighting for control of these new routes as well as the enormous mineral, oil, and gas deposits that are thought to be under the ocean. Apart from economic reasons, geopolitical factors are moving military expansions in the area, with Russia leading the way in augmenting its military footprint in the Arctic. The Arctic Council is managing the competing demands of geopolitical rivalry and environmental preservation. The council was founded in 1996 as a platform for Arctic states to discuss sustainable development and environmental protection. The geopolitical environment is becoming further complicated by non-Arctic powers like China, who have their interests in the region and are seeking membership as observers in the council.

There has been a noticeable growth in military presence and capabilities upgrading among Arctic states, which defines the current state of the militarization of the region. Some of these arctic nations have been aggressively enhancing their military presence in the area by building new facilities and deploying personnel with specific training for the Arctic. The increasing awareness of the strategic significance of the Arctic, partly due to climate change creating new marine routes and access to important natural resources including minerals, oil, and gas, is reflected in this augmentation of military capabilities. However, there are now more geopolitical conflicts and disagreements amongst Arctic states as a result of this increasing military engagement. Other Arctic coastal nations have expressed worry about Russia's forceful moves, such as placing a flag on the ocean floor, and have responded with their military posturing. These conflicts, which threaten regional stability and collaboration, center on matters such as maritime jurisdiction, resource

exploitation, and territory boundaries. In addition, the militarization of the Arctic has drawn attention from around the globe, with non-Arctic countries like China and organizations like NATO developing plans to protect their interests there. Despite these advancements, worries about the absence of thorough legislative frameworks and political arrangements to handle security and territory issues in the Arctic continue. The necessity of diplomatic measures to reduce dangers and encourage peaceful collaboration is emphasized by the possibility of environmental deterioration and security concerns, which are made worse by the region's militarization. Overall, despite the lack of open conflict or extensive conflict, the growing militarization of the Arctic and the geopolitical rivalry among its countries raise worries about the likelihood of tensions and conflicts in the future. It will need global collaboration, observance of international law, and diplomatic initiatives to resolve underlying issues and advance stability in the Arctic to manage these concerns.





Questions/points to consider in your research

- How has the resurgence of military interest in the Arctic region been influenced by geopolitical rivalries and the pursuit of economic opportunities, particularly in terms of access to shipping routes and natural resources?
- What specific military actions and postures have Arctic states, such as Russia, the US, Canada, Norway, and Denmark, undertaken to assert their interests in the region, and how have these actions affected regional stability and collaboration?
- What challenges and opportunities does the militarization of the Arctic present for international governance bodies like the Arctic Council, especially in balancing competing demands related to geopolitical rivalry and environmental conservation?
- How do non-Arctic powers like China impact the militarization of the Arctic, and what strategies have they employed to advance their interests in the region, considering both geopolitical and economic factors?
- What are the potential long-term consequences of the growing militarization of the Arctic for global security and environmental stability, and what diplomatic measures and international agreements are necessary to mitigate these risks and promote peaceful collaboration among Arctic states?

Useful Links Topic: -

https://books.google.com.mx/books?hl=es&lr=&id=b-U1To97zqsC&oi=fnd&pg=PR7&dq=who+are+all+the+countrien+involved+in+the+weponization+of+the+arctic+and+what+is+there+role+play&ots=IOsfsSIFQ_&sig=JSYWhXg9Pt13-XCn6pcfDL_L3Jg&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q&f=false



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