



United Nations Security Council

The Yemeni Civil War

AbbyMUN 2023



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

November 25, 2023

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone taking part in the 2023 Abbotsford Model United Nations Conference.

This conference offers delegates a wonderful opportunity to experience international diplomacy firsthand and to gain deeper insights into pressing issues facing the world today. Through their research and preparation, students will learn more about the policies and positions of different countries on a wide variety of topics as they engage in debates and discussions with their peers.

I would like to thank the organizers for putting together a stimulating and rewarding program for everyone involved. I would also like to commend the students taking part for their hard work in preparing for these deliberations. I am certain that you will benefit greatly from this opportunity to lead, negotiate and collaborate, and that you will come away inspired to create positive change as informed and engaged global citizens.

Please accept my best wishes for a memorable and rewarding experience.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Hon. Justin P. J. Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada



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Director's letter

Dear Delegates,

My name is Rocky Yu, and I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to serve as your director for this iteration of Abbotsford Model United Nations. On behalf of myself and the entire dias team: Stephanie Wu and Tymofii Popovych, welcome to the United Nations Security Council at ABBYMUN 2023.

I am currently a grade 10 student at Southridge School, and going into my third year of participation in MUN. Ever since my first conference, I've grown to appreciate the wonders of MUN, from truly unique experiences to forming new bonds. Certainly, the skills I've learned and the memories I've made will stick with me for a lifetime.

At this conference, delegates will be discussing the topic of the Yemeni Civil War. As a complex military conflict alongside one of the world's greatest humanitarian crises, I hope that this committee brings meaningful discussion and drafts long-standing resolutions on the topic. I encourage you all to approach this issue openly and to be ready for a conference filled with fruitful debate.

If anyone has any questions or concerns, you are more than welcome to contact the dias team at unsc.abbymun@gmail.com. Best of luck, and I look forward to meeting everyone soon.

Rocky Yu
Director of UNSC | ABBYMUN 2023

Committee Description

The United Nations Security Council(UNSC) holds the purpose of keeping international peace and security. As a specialized agency and one of the six principal organs of the United Nations(UN), the UNSC has been historically front and center in solving conflicts and humanitarian disasters around the globe. The Charter of the UN states to maintain international peace and security, the UNSC should: 1. Develop friendly relations among nations; 2. cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights; 3. To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.

The council is composed of 15 member states, of which 5 are permanent and non-rotating (China, Russia, the United States of America, France, and the United Kingdom). It was established in 1945 alongside the UN but was incapable of exerting any substantial change until after the Cold War had subsided. The UNSC is the only committee in the UN that has the ability to pass binding resolutions to members of the UN, with all other committees merely being able to issue guidelines. This specialized agency has many powers it has access to, from investigations into various countries to appointing special envoys for better representing UN members. It can also pass resolutions that: utilise the UN peacekeeping forces, issue for ceasefires, create sanctions on nations, create blockades, and force nations to sever diplomatic ties. While the committee takes action, they also abide by the tenets of “focus[ing] 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.” Since its establishment, the UNSC has been involved all around the world due to conflicts and humanitarian crises such as the Korean War, the invasion of Afghanistan, and the Second Congo War.



People inspecting the site of an airstrike in Sana'a on November 11.

Topic Overview

The poorest country on the Arabian Peninsula is suffering from a humanitarian crisis as a result of the lengthy and catastrophic Yemen Civil War, which broke out in 2014. An intricate network of political, sectarian, and regional conflicts served as the fuel for the conflict, which began when the Houthi rebel organization took control of the Yemeni government. Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, the internationally recognized President, fled to Saudi Arabia, setting off a complex struggle involving a wide range of players with conflicting interests. Regional powers, particularly Saudi Arabia and Iran, have been actively involved in the war, escalating the situation. Yemen, a country already plagued by destitution and scarce resources, is currently dealing with severe starvation, illness, and a collapsing healthcare system.



A destroyed grandstand where the army and Saleh loyalists would parade in Sana'a on November 5.

Timeline

June 2004 - The tension increases between the Believing Youth and the Saleh regime. The sympathizers were angered by Saleh's support of its 2003 invasion of Iraq. The Saleh regime began to attack participants and issued an arrest warrant for Hussein al-Houthi. He was then killed in September and this movement was passed to his father and later his brother Abdul.

3 February 2011 - the first wave of anti-government social protest began in Yemen

9 August 2011 - The United Nations Security Council issues a press statement to express their concern for this issue and urges all parties to acknowledge the Gulf Cooperation Council.

26 February 2014 - The UNSC adopted a resolution (S/RES/2140) to express support for the Yemen government's transition including drafting a new constitution, new electoral law, and transition of the state from unitary to federal.

11 July 2014 - UNSC issues a statement demanding that the Houthi withdraw and relinquish control of Amarna and hand over all weapons and ammunition to the government.

3 ~ 24 March 2015 - UNSC implemented resolution 2201 that deplored the Houthi's actions to take over the government institutions. On 20 March, the Council members condemned attacks against the airport and airstrikes and suicide bombings at two Zaydi Shi'a mosques. On 24 March, the UNSC invited all willing countries to deter the Houthis in the south as well as requesting military forces against the Houthi.

14 ~ 28 July 2020 - On 14 July, the mandate of the UN Mission to Support the Hodeidah Agreement was renewed until 15 July 2021. On 28 July, the UNSC called parties to agree on a nationwide ceasefire, economic and humanitarian measures and peace talk proposals and further called for entry permits and a UN technical team to assess the Safer tanker.

17 May 2023 - UNSC conducted a briefing and closed the consultations with Special Envoy Hans Grundberg and OCHA Deputy Director Edem Wosornu and a public briefing by Yasmeen al-Eryani from the Sana's Center for Strategic Studies.

Historical Analysis

The roots of the Yemen Civil War can be traced back to the Arab Spring in 2011, a series of pro-democracy uprisings that swept across the Middle East. In Yemen, widespread protests called for the resignation of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who had been in power for nearly 33 years. Under domestic and international pressure, Saleh eventually agreed to step down in November 2011, handing power to his deputy, Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi. However, the transition process was far from smooth, and Yemen continued to struggle with political instability, economic challenges, and a persistent al-Qaeda presence. Hadi struggled to assert control over the entire country, facing opposition from various factions. By September 2014, discontent with Hadi's rule reached a tipping point, and the Houthi rebels seized control of the capital, Sanaa, and dissolved the government. The fall of Sanaa marked a significant turning point in the conflict, starting widespread concern both within Yemen and among neighboring countries. Hadi, along with his government, was forced to flee. The Houthi takeover drew regional attention, particularly from Saudi Arabia and Iran. Saudi Arabia, fearing Iranian influence in its backyard, formed a coalition of Arab states, supported by the US, and launched a military intervention in March 2015, with the goal of restoring Hadi's government to power. The

conflict quickly escalated into a full-blown humanitarian crisis, with growing civilian casualties and critical infrastructure like schools and hospitals being damaged. The blockade imposed by the coalition furthered the suffering of the Yemeni people, leading to severe food and medicine shortages. As the conflict raged on, internal divisions within the anti-Houthi coalition emerged, adding another complex layer to the situation. Southern separatists, backed by the United Arab Emirates, sought to establish an independent state in southern Yemen. Efforts to find a diplomatic solution to the Yemen Civil War faced numerous obstacles. Several rounds of peace talks, held under the supervision of the United Nations, gave limited results. The humanitarian situation continued to worsen, with the United Nations describing Yemen as the world's worst humanitarian crisis. In 2019, the Riyadh Agreement between the Yemeni government and the Southern Transitional Council, aiming to address internal rifts within the anti-Houthi camp, was signed. However, the larger conflict persisted, and hopes for a political settlement remained small. The UN Mission to Support the Hodeidah Agreement's mandate was extended until July 15, 2021, on July 14, 2020. On July 28, the UNSC issued a demand for the parties to reach a national ceasefire, humanitarian and economic measures, and suggestions for peace negotiations. In addition, the UN technical team was asked to evaluate the Safer tanker and get entrance permits.

Current situation

The Yemen Civil War has been continuing for the past 6 years. The conflict between the Yemen government and the Houthi movement has started to die out. The two sides are starting to negotiate and talk about the ceasefire. Despite some hope for a negotiated solution through dialogue between the Houthis and Saudi Arabia, not much progress has happened and violence continues. The Southern Transitional Council (STC) has renewed calls for an independent southern Yemeni state, stalled peace talks, and sporadic fighting continues. Poverty and lack of health care is still a huge issue in Yemen with 21.6 million people in need of aid, including 11 million children, and over 4.5 million displaced. Humanitarian support is crucial to Yemen. Two million children have been displaced and more than 10,200 children have been killed or maimed. The education and health services for children have been disrupted due to the damage to hospitals and schools.

Past Involvement

Over the past 6 years, the Yemen Civil War has not stopped and over those past 6 years, the UNSC has provided over 28 resolutions. These resolutions include renewing the UNMHA, peaceful political transitions, renewed sanctions and ceasefires.

Resolution 2691 (10 July 2023): This resolution again extends the mandate of UNMHA until 14 July 2024. This is the fourth resolution to extend the support for UNMHA.

Resolution 2624 (28 February 2022): This resolution renewed the Yemen sanctions regime for one year. It also added the Houthi as an entity to that list. The subjective was to the measure of the targeted arms embargo in resolution 2216.

Resolution 2452 (16 January 2019): This resolution established the support for the Hodeidah Agreement(UNMHA), another agreement made under the Stockholm agreement to send an advance team to facilitate the ceasefire.

Resolution 2451 (21 December 2018): This resolution endorsed the agreements reached by the parties during the consultation. The Secretary-General established and deployed an initial period of 30 days for an advance team to monitor and facilitate the implementation of the Stockholm Agreement.

Resolution 2216 (14 April 2015): This resolution demanded the Houthi to withdraw from all the seized areas and relinquish the arms embargo. The UNSC also established an arms embargo on the Houthis.

Bloc Positions

Pro-Houthi Bloc (Russia, Iran, Bahrain)

Russia and Iran are the only countries believed to have any support for the Houthi movement. All share close international relations, and have voted in similar fashions on the issues of the Yemeni Civil War at the UN in the past. To varying degrees, this bloc has both indirectly or directly supported the Houthi movement. Iran is one of the biggest suppliers of the arms the Houthis have used to rise to power. Russia has often opposed the UN designation of the Houthis as a terrorist group and frequently shares diplomatic ties with the organization. Russia previously voted against a UN probe on human rights violations in Yemen. Currently, the civil war in Yemen acts as a backdrop for these states to conduct a proxy war between these nations, against Western powers and the Gulf states, curbing their influence and geopolitical power in this area of the Middle East. This means neither country is particularly keen on ending the war in Yemen,

rather focusing more on providing humanitarian aid as a solution without proposing substantial ends to the conflict

Government Coalition Bloc (Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Jordan, Yemen)

Many Gulf states alongside the United States of America(USA) and Jordan have all provided support to the Saudi-backed intervention in the area. This ranges from Jordan sending troops to the USA. Countries in this bloc may have varying opinions to offer on the resolution of this crisis, however, all are a part of a coalition whose intention is to stabilize the region and restore a functioning government as well as law of the land. The original government of Yemen is backed by many of these nations and provides legitimacy to the coalition that is attempting to drive out the other forces in Yemen. This Bloc would be in favour of solutions that end the conflict, and ideally diminish Houthi influence in the region. Additionally, attempts to end the humanitarian crisis through solutions such as providing food and medical care would be very likely. However, the common denominator of this bloc is its intervention in Yemen. Individual nation-states within the bloc have a range of stances on how aid will be provided and how/if ceasefires should be negotiated, so there is room for potential disagreement, especially considering the diversity of this bloc. Despite this, all nations in this bloc are for the eventual ending of this conflict, meaning they will work for lasting peace and be aligned with initiatives to stabilize a potential post-war Yemen.

Neutral Countries Bloc (Canada, France, United Kingdoms, China, Kuwait)

The countries included in this bloc are more detached from the conflict for the most part, both geographically and politically. Although the Western nations in this bloc have in the past supplied arms to the Saudi-led coalition, all countries here are less connected with the other two blocs when it comes to the intervention and civil war in Yemen. These countries have the opportunity to create peace by holding negotiations and brokering deals as third parties in the conflict. Another aspect is this group of nations would likely call for humanitarian aid and cease-fires despite which side has the upper hand at the moment. Since this bloc consists of Western nations along with Kuwait and China, the Eastern nations within this bloc may have differences of opinion while representing their own country's interests. All members of the bloc look towards an end to the conflict, with an emphasis on the humanitarian crisis, in as fast a timespan as possible regardless of the geopolitical landscape.

Potential solutions

Providing Medical Aid

The nature of wars means that there will be deaths and hurts. The battle continues between the protesters and the government, and medical aid becomes crucial. The more medical aid willing countries can provide means the more lives UNSC can save. Organizations like Doctors Without Borders provide training for participants while those participants travel to places in need of medical care. Other non-government organizations as well as NGOs for the World Health Organization can support the funding and specialists to provide medical aid. Even though providing medical care is crucial, organizations are lacking volunteers to assist in helping refugees and harmed citizens. As wars are hazardous and unpredictable, very few are willing to risk their lives to join non-government organizations like Doctors Without Borders in the region. To increase access to care, there needs to be a push for more of those with medical expertise to get involved

Providing Weapon and Ammunition

Due to the continuous attacks and the unbalance of power, weapons and ammunition are provided in defence and to maintain the safety of the innocent. The weapons and the ammunition protect the government from being demolished as well as provide more chances for any who want to join the fight. This is not a long-term solution. The end goal is to end the war and rebuild the country, therefore providing weapons is not the ideal solution in regards to reaching peace other than completely abolishing the existence of Houthi through further conflict.

Food Resources

Yemen has long been one of the poorest countries in the Middle East and North Africa. It is estimated that 24.1 million people in 2023 will be at risk of hunger and disease. Poverty in particular is an issue that has continued to be the stem of many other problems common to poverty-stricken communities, such as health issues. Many Yemen citizens felt Yemen in seeking help. The World Bank Group has been actively sending resources to relieve people from poverty. The shortage of food is also due to the war where there are insufficient resources for people to farm and grow their plants.

Discussion Questions

1. Regarding the Yemen Civil War, how do you think regional countries like Saudi Arabia and Iran might affect how the conflict is resolved?

2. How has the Yemen humanitarian situation impacted your understanding of the overall conflict, and do you believe solving the humanitarian issues could lead to long-term stability?
3. How can you determine a lasting political solution that takes into account the historical concerns of the Houthi rebels, while also catering to the different interests of the Yemeni populace?
4. Considering the internal conflicts within the anti-Houthi alliance, specifically the Southern Transitional Council's desire for independence, what obstacles might appear?
5. In your opinion, how can the international community—which includes institutions such as the UN—better assist peace in Yemen, and what particular diplomatic strategies could be most helpful in reaching a long-term agreement?
6. How can the international community handle the issue of arms trade in the Yemen Civil War, given the continued sales of weapons and military support to the parties involved, and what effect do you think such steps could have on de-escalating the conflict?

Further Resources

1. From the UNSC Reports
 - a. [Monthly Forecast](#)
 - b. [Chronological Events](#)
2. [The Guardian](#)
3. [United Nations Yemen Ongoing Challenges](#)
4. [The UN Mission To Support The Hudaydah Agreement](#)

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