



APL MUN

UNSC Background Guide





Letter from the executive board:

Dear Delegates, It is a great honour and privilege to welcome you to the United Nations Security Council of APLMUN 2021. As the Executive Board, we look forward to overseeing and guiding you towards a conference of stimulating and fruitful debate and to create an atmosphere such that at the end of committee you walk away with possible fresh perspectives and hopefully a bit of extra knowledge as compared to what you had whilst beginning the first session of this conference.

We understand that since this Security Council will be simulated on an online platform, certain difficulties are to be expected in terms of creating an effective debating environment and through possible technical difficulties. As the Executive Board, we will strive to do our best in addressing these aspects so as to provide you with a memorable experience. This study guide has been provided to equip you with a basic understanding of the agenda to be discussed and to act as a starting point for your research. Hence, we strongly urge that your research extends much further than the contents of this guide. Our duty as the Executive Board is to guide you and help you throughout the conference so we encourage you to ask questions should you have any without a shred of hesitancy. A conscious effort has been made by the Executive Board to ensure that this study guide is as restrained and skeletal as possible whilst still providing the necessary framework required by you to go about your research. Despite this simulation of the Security Council discussing a historic agenda, the events that took place are in the recent past with an abundance of easily accessible information. As the Executive Board, we do not want to deprive you of the opportunity to research on the agenda from your own unique perspectives.

The Security Council in MUNs has been known for its quality of debate and therefore we encourage you to dive into the intricacies of each aspect of this agenda whilst keeping in mind country policy and the mandate of the UNSC. It is our duty to ensure that each and every delegate irrespective of their experience walks away from the committee with greater knowledge than they began and to ensure a memorable experience for everyone and we hope to do just that through this conference. For any further queries don't hesitate to contact us through the organising committee.

- Executive Board



Introduction to the United Nations Security Council:

The United Nations Security Council is one of the six main organs of the United Nations. Under the Charter, the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Under the Charter, all Member States are obliged to comply with Council decisions. Since its first session in January 1946, the main role of the United Nations Security Council was maintaining international peace and security.

The Security Council has 15 members, each having one vote. Five of them are recognized as “Permanent Members” of the Council. These are The People's' Republic of China, the French Republic, The Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. The other 10 seats are granted to the different UN Member States on a rotational basis, with observance of the official UN regional division, and for a 2- year term of office. SC resolutions are typically delivered by UN Peacekeepers. They are military forces provided voluntarily by member states and funded independently from the UN Budget. As of 10th December 2018, UN Peacekeeping currently has over 110,000 field personnel including military, police, and civilians. There are currently 14 active UN peacekeeping missions across 4 continents. A representative of each of its members must be present at all times at the UN Headquarters so that the Security Council can meet at any time as the need arises. Its establishment and nature are enshrined in Chapter V of the United Nations Charter. Chapters VI, VII, VIII and XII all contain provisions pertaining to the power of the Security Council, which, alleviate the burden of the shoulders of you delegates, and is elucidated below. Chapter VI pertains to the Pacific Settlement of Disputes, within which, under articles 33 to 38, the Security Council may call up on the settlement of such disputes by the parties involved and investigate such disputes and recommend appropriate procedures, methods of adjustment or resolution of the issue in a pacific manner. Chapter VII deals with action with Respect to Threats to Peace, Breaches of Peace, and Acts of Aggression, within which, under articles 39 to 41, the Security Council may determine any of the three aforementioned violations and call up on parties involved to comply with provisional measures and invoke non-armed measures towards the resolution of it. Articles 42 to 50 pertain to the utilization of armed-measures, the procedures towards invoking and carrying out such measures and responsibilities, and options for UN member states in light of such measures being employed. Article 51 of Chapter VII finally iterates the inherent right of member states towards individual and collective self-defence. Chapter VIII contains articles 52 to 54, which enshrine the practices involving regional arrangements, particularly in regards to how the Security Council may utilize such regional arrangements, and also how these will always require explicit authorization from the Security Council should they wish to get seriously involved in matters. Finally, we have Chapter XII, which pertains to the International Trusteeship System under articles 83 and 84, and mentions the Security Council as the sole approver of terms regarding such trusteeship agreements as well as the body to whom the administering authority would be obligated to as a contractual partner in this agreement. It is vital to note that passage of a resolution in the Security Council is conditional on the affirmative voting of 9 member states and the absence of usage of the veto power, which a certain 5 states hold.

As diplomatic delegates to the most powerful body of the UN system, we hope that you will perform your duties with dignity, equity, and diligence, without forsaking the policy of your state



Introduction to the Israel-Palestine Conflict:

Israel is the only Jewish state in the world, and it lies to the east of the mediterranean sea. Palestinians, who are an arab population that hails from the same territory, refer to the land as Palestine, and want to establish a state of their own on part / the entirety of said land. Though both the Israeli and Palestinian peoples date their claims to the land back a few thousand years, the current political conflict started in the early 20th century, when Jews fleeing Europe wanted to establish a national homeland in what was then an arab- muslim majority region in the ottoman and later british empire. An early United Nations plan to give each group part of the land failed, and Israel and the surrounding Arab nations fought several wars over the territory.

Today's lines largely reflect the outcomes of two of these wars, one waged in 1948 and another in 1967. Recently, the conflict escalated after a series of controversial actions by Israel in Jerusalem, eventually breaking out into open conflict, with both sides firing rockets, causing many deaths and heavy property damage, particularly, but not exclusively, on the palestinian side.



History of the conflict

In 1917 the British Government issued the Balfour Declaration which declared British support for the creation in Palestine of a "national home for the Jewish people".

Many different proposals have been made and continue to be made to resolve the dilemma of the competing objectives, including an Arab state, with or without a significant Jewish population, a Jewish state, with or without a significant Arab population, a single bi-national state, with or without some degree of cantonization, two states, one bi-national and one Arab, with or without some form of federation, and two states, one Jewish and one Arab, with or without some form of federation.

At the same time, many Arab leaders maintained that Palestine should join a larger Arab state covering the imprecise region of the Levant. These hopes were expressed in the Faisal–Weizmann Agreement, which was signed by soon-to-be Iraqi ruler Faisal I and the Zionist leader Chaim Weizmann. Despite this, the promise of a Pan-Arab state including Palestine were dashed as Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan declared independence from their European rulers, while western Palestine festered in the developing Arab–Jewish conflict. During the 1936–39 Arab revolt in Palestine the British government formed the Peel Commission, which recommended the formation of a Jewish and an Arab state. It called for a small Jewish state in the Galilee and maritime strip, a British enclave stretching from Jerusalem to Jaffa, and an Arab state covering the rest. The Commission recommended the creation of a small Jewish state in a region less than 1/5 of the total area of Palestine. The Arab area was to be joined to Transjordan. The Arab population in the Jewish areas was to be removed, by force if necessary, and vice versa, although this would mean the movement of far more Arabs than Jews. The Zionist Congress rejected the proposal, while allowing the leadership to continue negotiating with the British. The Arab leadership rejected the proposal outright. It all came to nothing, as the British government shelved the proposal altogether by the middle of 1938.



The framers of the Arab League sought to include the Palestinian Arabs within the framework of the League from its inception. In November 1945, the Arab League reconstituted the Arab Higher Committee comprising twelve members as the supreme executive body of Palestinian Arabs in the territory of the British Mandate of Palestine. The committee was dominated by the Palestine Arab Party and was immediately recognised by Arab League countries. The Mandate government recognised the new Committee two months later. The Constitution of the League of Arab States says the existence and independence of Palestine cannot be questioned *de jure* (state of affairs that is in accordance with law) even though the outward signs of this independence have remained veiled as a result of *force majeure* (common clause in contracts which essentially frees both parties from liability or obligation when an extraordinary event or circumstance beyond the control of the parties).

In 1947, the United Nations created the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) to find an immediate solution to the Palestine question, which the British had handed over to the UN. The report indicated that the Arab state would be forced to call for financial assistance "from international institutions in the way of loans for expansion of education, public health and other vital social services of a non-self-supporting nature." A technical note from the Secretariat explained that without some redistribution of customs from the Jewish state, Arab Palestine would not be economically viable. The Committee was satisfied that the proposed Jewish State and the City of Jerusalem would be viable. The majority of the members of UNSCOP proposed certain recommendations for the UN General Assembly which on 29 November 1947 adopted a resolution recommending the adoption and implementation of the Partition Plan, based substantially on those proposals as Resolution 181(II). The leaders of the Jewish Agency for Palestine accepted parts of the plan, while Arab leaders refused it. On May 14, 1948, at the end of the British Mandate, the Jewish People's Council gathered in Tel Aviv and the chairman of the Jewish Agency for Palestine, declared the establishment of a Jewish state in Eretz-Israel, to be known as the State of Israel. U.S. President Harry Truman recognised the State of Israel *de facto* the following day.

The Arab countries declared war on the newly formed State of Israel heralding the start of the 1948 Arab–Israeli War. King Abdullah I of Jordan annexed the West Bank, granting citizenship to the Arab refugees and residents against the wishes of many Arab leaders who still hoped to establish an Arab state. Under Abdullah's leadership, Arab hopes of independence were dealt a severe blow. In March he issued a royal decree forbidding the use of the term "Palestine" in any legal documents, and pursued other measures designed to make the fact that there would not be an independent Palestine clear and certain. During the 1948 Arab–Israeli War, Transjordan occupied the area of Cisjordan, now called the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), which it continued to control in accordance with the 1949 Armistice Agreements and a political union formed in December 1948. Military Proclamation Number 2 of 1948 provided for the application in the West Bank of laws that were applicable in Palestine on the eve of the termination of the Mandate. On 2 November 1948, the military rule was replaced by a civilian administration by virtue of the Law Amending Public Administration Law in Palestine.



The Second Arab-Palestinian Congress was held in Jericho on 1 December 1948 at the end of the war. The delegates proclaimed Abdullah King of Palestine and called for a union of Arab Palestine with the Hashemite Kingdom of Transjordan. Avi Plascov says that Abdullah contacted the Nashashibi opposition, local mayors, mukhars, those opposed to the Husaynis, and opposition members of the AHC. Plascov said that the Palestinian Congresses were conducted in accordance with prevailing Arab custom. He also said that contrary to the widely held belief outside Jordan the representatives did reflect the feelings of a large segment of the population.

In Gaza, the All-Palestine Government was formed prior to the war's end in September 1948. The U.S. advised the Arab states that the U.S. attitude regarding Israel had been clearly stated in the UN by Dr. Jessup on 20 November 1949. He said that the U.S. supported Israeli claims to the boundaries set forth in the UN General Assembly resolution. However, the U.S. believed that if Israel sought to retain additional territory in Palestine it should give the Arabs other territory as compensation. In 1957, the Basic Law of Gaza established a Legislative Council that could pass laws which were given to the High Administrator-General for approval. In 1959, Egyptian president Gamal Abdul Nasser ordered the dismantling of the All-Palestine Protectorate for good. In March 1962, a Constitution for the Gaza Strip was issued confirming the role of the Legislative Council. The All-Palestine Protectorate is regarded by some as the first attempt to establish an independent Palestinian state, whilst most just saw it as an Egyptian puppet, only to be annulled a few years after its creation by no less than President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt.

In June 1967, Israel captured and occupied the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, from Jordan, the Gaza Strip and Sinai Peninsula from Egypt, and the area of Golan Heights from Syria as a result of the Six-Day War. Israel, which was ordered to withdraw from territories occupied during the war in exchange for Arab recognition and the negotiation of final borders by United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, unilaterally annexed East Jerusalem and later applied Israeli civil law to the Golan Heights. On 9 June 1967, Israeli Foreign Minister Eban assured the U.S. that it was not seeking territorial aggrandizement and had no "colonial" aspirations. U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk stressed to Israel that no settlement with Jordan would be accepted by the global community unless it gave Jordan some special position in the Old City of Jerusalem. The U.S. also assumed Jordan would receive the bulk of the West Bank as that was regarded as Jordanian territory. The international community considers the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, held under military occupation by Israel subject to the Fourth Geneva Convention. Israel does not accept that the Fourth Geneva Convention applies de jure, but has stated that on humanitarian issues it will govern itself de facto (state of affairs that is true in fact, but that is not officially sanctioned) by its provisions, without specifying which these are. The Gaza Strip is still considered to be occupied by the United Nations, international human rights organisations, and the majority of governments and legal commentators, despite the 2005 Israeli disengagement from Gaza. Before the Six-Day War, the movement for an independent Palestine received a boost in 1964 when the Palestine Liberation Organization was established. Its goal, as stated in the Palestinian National Covenant was to create a Palestinian state in the whole British Mandate, a statement which nullified Israel's right to exist. The PLO would become the leading force in the Palestinian national movement politically, and its leader, Egyptian-born Yassir Arafat, would become regarded as the leader of the Palestinian people.



The declaration of a State of Palestine took place in Algiers on November 15, 1988, by the Palestinian National Council, the legislative body of the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO). It was approved by the Palestinian National Council (PNC) by a vote of 253 in favour, 46 against and 10 abstentions. It was read by Yasser Arafat at the closing session of the 19th PNC to a standing ovation. Upon completing the reading of the declaration, Arafat, as Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization assumed the title of "President of Palestine". By the 1988 declaration, the PNC empowered its central council to form a government-in-exile when appropriate, and called upon its executive committee to perform the duties of the government-in-exile until its establishment.

Under the terms of the Oslo Accords signed between Israel and the PLO, the latter assumed control over the Jericho area of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on 17 May 1994. On 28 September 1995, following the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israeli military forces withdrew from the West Bank towns. Under the terms of the Oslo Accords signed between Israel and the PLO, the latter assumed control over the Jericho area of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip on 17 May 1994. On 28 September 1995, following the signing of the Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Israeli military forces withdrew from the West Bank towns.

In 2005, following the implementation of Israel's unilateral disengagement plan, PNA gained full control of the Gaza Strip with the exception of its borders, airspace, and territorial waters. This increased the percentage of land in the Gaza strip nominally governed by the PA from 60 percent to 100 percent

The West Bank and Gaza Strip continued to be considered by the international community to be Occupied Palestinian Territory, notwithstanding the 1988 declaration of Palestinian independence, the limited self-government accorded to the Palestinian Authority as a result of the 1993 Oslo Accords, and Israel's withdrawal from Gaza as part of the Israel's unilateral disengagement plan of 2005, which saw the dismantlement of four Israeli settlements in the West Bank and all settlements in the Gaza Strip.

In March 2008, it was reported that the PA was working to increase the number of countries that recognize Palestine and that a PA representative had signed a bilateral agreement. By September 2012, with their application for full membership stalled, Palestinian representatives had decided to pursue an upgrade in status from "observer entity" to "non-member observer state". On November 27 it was announced that the appeal had been officially made, and would be put to a vote in the General Assembly on November 29, where their status upgrade was expected to be supported by a majority of states.



Timeline of recent events

Mid-April to early May: Sheikh Jarrah district in Jerusalem:

Six Palestinian families face a looming eviction from the houses where they have been living since the 1950s. The case sparks clashes between Palestinians and Israeli security forces around the neighborhood. These later intensify as gangs of young Israeli Jews march in the streets of East Jerusalem chanting "Death to Arabs." Violence between Arabs and Jews spreads to other parts of the city and triggers several riots.

May 7: Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem

Clashes break out at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, one of Islam's most sacred sites — an area also revered by Jews as the Temple Mount. As Muslim worshipers pack the mosque for Friday prayers, Jewish groups approach the area to celebrate the day marking Israel's capture of East Jerusalem in 1967. Clashes between Palestinians and Israeli police ensue that leave hundreds of Palestinians and around 20 police officers injured. In the afternoon, the Palestinian militant Islamist group Hamas, which has controlled the Gaza Strip since 2007 and is classed as a terrorist organization by both the EU and US, among others, sends an ultimatum, threatening to attack if Israel does not withdraw its armed forces from the mosque compound and Sheikh Jarrah.

As the deadline passes, Hamas' rockets target Jerusalem for the first time in years, with the first shot fired on May 10. Israel's Iron Dome missile defense system intercepts one of the rockets. The others damage properties but leave no casualties. In response, Israel responds with airstrikes on Gaza, killing two children.



May 11 through May 12: Several Israeli cities and Gaza:

The exchange of fire continues, intensifies and targets more cities. An Israeli airstrike destroys a Gaza city tower block that was said to host the offices of senior Hamas officials. In other attacks, Israel kills about 10 senior Hamas military figures along with dozens of civilians. In addition to airstrikes, Israeli artillery and tanks fire at the Palestinian enclave from inside Israeli territory. In return, Hamas rains rockets down on Israeli cities including Tel Aviv, Ashkelon and Beersheba. In mixed Jewish-Arab towns, riots flare up. Authorities of several cities declare a state of emergency, and police arrest hundreds of Arab and Jewish rioters.

May 13 through May 15: Israel, West Bank, Gaza, Syria and the Lebanese border:

As Israel and Hamas continue to trade fire, demonstrations across the West Bank and Jordan turn violent. Palestinian health officials announce that Israeli forces have killed 11 protesters.

On the other side, the Israeli military claims three rockets have hit Israel from Syria. Damascus does not respond to the accusation.

At the border between Lebanon and Israel, Israeli troops shot dead a 21-year-old Lebanese member of Hezbollah. He and others were protesting in support of Palestinians on the Lebanese side of the border and tried to cross a security fence on the border.

Following the clashes, Israel and Hamas agreed to a ceasefire, which has thus far held, but amid rising tensions, there are increasing concerns that there may be another eruption of violence.

Important Note:

Any events that happen after 12PM on August 20th will not be considered to have happened for the purposes of this council



MoU Format

A MoU is non-binding in nature. It can involve a few clauses of the agreement between two or more countries, or potential action that is to be taken. All members in question must be taken consent from and mentioned in the format below:

Memorandum Of Understanding

Parties Involved: X, Y

The parties agree as follows: (State your clauses in points)