

DAYMUNC XIX—3-4 February 2012
Security Council
Background Guide

Allow me to welcome you to DAYMUNC XIX. My name is Antje Williams and I will be your director on the Security Council. This will be my sixth year involved with Model United Nations. I was a delegate at this conference for two years, a chair for two, and I was a head delegate for Wright State's Model United Nations in 2010. I attended the National Model United Nations Conference in New York City for four years, and also participated in the international conference in Quito, Ecuador.

This background guide is intended to serve as a springboard for your research on the following topics. It is a brief introduction; external research will be necessary. Effective delegates in committee will demonstrate having made efforts in their research and preparation, and will often present new solutions in line with their State's policy.

The issues before the Security Council are:

1. Member States' Responsibility in Preventing Misconduct during Peacekeeping Operations
2. Drug Trafficking and its Role in Fueling Conflict

These topics are changing and there is a lot of time between the posting of this background guide and the conference. Try to stay up-to-date with current events regarding these topics throughout December and January so you will be well informed as the conference draws closer.

Many of you will be writing a position paper for your State regarding the topics discussed in this background guide. If you are looking for formatting templates and more information about the conference it can be found at www.daymunc.org. Position papers are due January 25, 2012.

Keep in mind that this is a learning conference meant to prepare you for other conferences or endeavors. I am looking forward to meeting you and working with you at the conference in February!

Kind regards,

Antje Williams
Director of the Security Council
DAYMUNC XIX

Introduction to the Security Council

The United Nations (UN) Security Council was founded under Chapter V of the Charter of the United Nations. It is charged with maintaining international peace and security. The Security Council consists of 15 Member States. Five are permanent members: The People's Republic of China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. The other ten members are elected to rotating two-year terms. In procedural matters, nine votes are required to pass. On substantive matters, nine votes are also required, but with affirmative votes from all five of the permanent members.

The Security Council is often noted for having powers other committees may not necessarily have. It may investigate threats to international peace and security and deem the appropriate response. The Security Council is within its rights to impose sanctions, take measures to ensure international peace, including peacekeeping operations (PKOs), and it may call upon parties to comply with its decisions. These powers are laid out in Chapters V, VI, VII, and VIII of the Charter of the UN.

I. Member States' Responsibility in Preventing Misconduct during Peacekeeping Operations

PKOs are established by UN Security Council resolutions, under Chapter VII of the Charter of the UN. Once the Security Council resolution is passed, the issue moves to the General Assembly, which analyzes and approves the required budget and resources. The Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Department of Field Support (DFS) then work together to manage the civilian staffing of the mission.¹ The peacekeepers are provided by Member States, and Member States make contributions to the DPKO to finance the operations.² Regular reports are made to the Security Council regarding the status of the PKO. There are currently 16 PKOs across the world.³

The UN has been working on PKO reform for some time. In 2000, the Brahimi Report was issued, and it laid out many recommendations for reform, which have since been addressed in efforts by the UN and DPKO. Among the concerns laid out in the report were the previous amount of peacekeeper impunity, unclear chains of command, and unqualified personnel.⁴ These issues have been contributing factors to abuse by peacekeeping personnel.

Allegations of abuse go back to the 1990s in the Balkans, Timor Leste, and Cambodia. There were also allegations in 2002 in West Africa, which led to an investigation and report by then-Secretary-General Kofi Annan.⁵ Major allegations of misconduct by peacekeeping personnel in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 2004 prompted a plethora of UN resolutions and reports.

¹ United Nations Peacekeeping. <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/newoperation.shtml>

² Ibid.

³ United Nations Peacekeeping. <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/current.shtml>

⁴ A/55/305 – S/2000/809.

⁵ ST/SGB/2003/13

The UN has a code of conduct which prohibits sexual exploitation, sexual relations with anyone under 18, and relations with beneficiaries of peacekeeping.⁶ In addition to this, the UN has adopted a zero-tolerance policy toward sexual exploitation and abuse. This policy is known as the Comprehensive Strategy to Address Sexual Misconduct and Abuse.⁷ It is a three-pronged approach including preventing misconduct, enforcing a code of conduct, and punishing the abusers. Pre-deployment training, investigations, disciplinary measures, awareness campaigns, and assistance to victims of abuse are all elements of this strategy.⁸

In terms of pre-deployment training to prevent misconduct, it is the responsibility of the Member State to ensure the peacekeeping personnel they provide receive necessary training.⁹ It is also the responsibility of the Member State to ensure perpetrators are brought to justice once they are reported, and to carry out any further investigations as appropriate.¹⁰

The UN began keeping records and tracking allegations in 2006 and the DFS has launched a database offering confidentiality for allegations against peacekeeping personnel.¹¹ Also, in 2005 a Conduct and Discipline Team was established as a part of peacekeeping reform designed to strengthen accountability, and was subsequently renamed the Conduct and Discipline Unit (CDU) in 2007.¹² Conduct and discipline teams are in place in PKOs around the world under the auspices of the CDU. There are conduct and discipline teams involved in 14 PKOs currently.¹³ The UN also established a Protection from Sexual Abuse and Exploitation task force in 2005.¹⁴

Allegations of misconduct have been on the decline since 2006. In 2006, there were 371 reported allegations of misconduct, down to 127 in 2007, 83 in 2008,¹⁵ and remaining at that approximate level with 85 reports in 2010. Of allegations of abuse, 35% involved sexual exploitation and abuse of a minor.¹⁶ Despite efforts of the UN and DPKO, many of the issues addressed in the Brahimi Report remain concerns.

Questions for the Committee

What is your State's policy regarding misconduct by peacekeeping personnel? Is your State a troop contributing country? Does your State make financial contributions to the DPKO? Does it contribute in other ways? What does your State do in terms of pre-deployment training of personnel it contributes? What measures has your State taken to make sure violators are punished for their crimes? What actions still need to be taken? How can the international community cooperate to best ensure further misconduct by UN associated personnel does not take place?

⁶ UN Action to Counter Misconduct Factsheet.

<http://cdu.unlb.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=JgmZCsqYgYw=&tabid=88>

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ United Nations Peacekeeping. <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/issues/cdu.shtml>

¹⁰ United Nations Peace Operations: Year in Review. 2010.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ United Nations Peacekeeping. <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/issues/cdu.shtml>

¹⁵ UN Action to Counter Misconduct. <http://cdu.unlb.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=JgmZCsqYgYw=&tabid=88>

¹⁶ A/65/742.

What role do regional organizations and other multilateral forums have in improving PKOs? Would other reforms currently being discussed assist in preventing misconduct? Delegates should be familiar with actions the UN is taking, codes of conduct, recent resolutions, or other publications regarding misconduct carried out by peacekeeping personnel.

II. Drug Trafficking and its Role in Fueling Conflict

In recent years, the threat posed by trafficking in illicit drugs has grown. Perhaps the most notable examples today are Afghanistan, South America and West Africa, but the problem extends globally. Illicit drug trafficking is the link between supply and demand and is accompanied by other forms of transnational organized crime and terrorism, creating unstable environments susceptible to armed conflict. In many cases the drug market can be larger or more stable than the licit economy, creating a drug economy and making the effort to combat illicit drugs more difficult.¹⁷ This also creates a cycle with armed conflict in which the drug economy fuels conflict, making both the conflict and the illicit drug trade more difficult to combat.

Several international efforts lay the groundwork for combating illicit drug trafficking: the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961), amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971), and the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1972). In 1997, two UN departments, the UN Drug Control Programme and the Center for International Crime Prevention, merged into the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) which is now the UN's arm for fighting illicit drug traffic.¹⁸ The Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) is the policy-making arm of the UNODC and has subsidiary bodies that report to it.

Currently, the UNODC has three main pillars of its drug efforts: capacity enhancing to better allow Member States to combat illicit drugs, terrorism, and crime; executing analyses of drug and crime trends to inform policies; and working with Member States to ensure ratification of international efforts, domestic policies, and providing support to other drug- and crime-prevention bodies.¹⁹

Cannabis currently constitutes the most produced and consumed drug, with opiates following, trailed by cocaine use.²⁰ Heroin is a highly profitable market: in 2010, the global opiate market was estimated at \$68 billion, with heroin accounting for \$61 billion of that.²¹ Furthermore, while cocaine production seems to be decreasing (it saw a 17% reduction between 2007 and 2010), the market for amphetamine-type stimulants seems to be on the rise.²²

Case Study: Afghanistan

¹⁷ World Drug Report, 2011.

¹⁸ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/about-unodc/index.html?ref=menutop>

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ World Drug Report, 2011.

²¹ Ibid

²² Ibid

The World Drug Report, produced by the UNODC, estimates that Afghanistan constituted 63% of the global area under poppy cultivation.²³ In 2006, this was noted in the Afghanistan Compact to be a cross-cutting issue, and revisited at the London Conference on Afghanistan held in 2010. Afghanistan has adopted a National Drug Control Strategy aimed at eradication and education. Eradication efforts have been taking place and there was a 65% increase in opium poppy field eradication in 2011 over 2010.²⁴ However, the strategy has faced difficulty in being implemented; eradication teams were attacked 48 times in 2011, four times as often as in 2010.²⁵ The National Drug Control Strategy was also up for review after the 2010 London Conference on Afghanistan.²⁶ The effects of that review will be seen in the next couple years.

With poppy being such a profitable enterprise in Afghanistan, coupled with insecurity, lack of governance in parts of the country, corruption, and strong trafficking networks, the environment exists for opium production and trafficking to flourish, and these still present current difficulties for implementation of the international, multilateral efforts taking place, alongside efforts of the Afghan Ministry of Counter Narcotics. While Afghanistan is merely one example in a global cycle, it is perhaps the most notable case and provides lessons learned, both good and bad.

Questions for the Committee

What is your State's policy regarding illicit drugs? Which international drug-related agreements has your State signed onto, and which have you not? Is your State a member of the CND or other drug-related organization? What actions has your State done, or what measures have you implemented? Does your State make contributions to the UNODC? What actions does your State support, and how can existing efforts be improved? What sort of multilateral actions would your State be in favor of, and has it presented new alternatives? How can efforts in Afghanistan, and elsewhere in the world, be improved? What is the Security Council suited to do to resolve the issue? Delegates should be well-versed in the measures the UN, UNODC, CND, and its subsidiary bodies, are taking, and come to committee with ideas to combat the world drug problem as it relates to armed conflict.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ A/63/369 – S/2011/590.

²⁵ Ibid.

²⁶ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. <http://www.unodc.org/afghanistan/en/Events/london-conference-january-2010.html>