

Hello delegates,

My name is Noah Burton and I would like to welcome you to the SBU Model United Nations Conference. I am looking forward to serving as president of the Security Council. I have been participating in Model United Nations conferences for a few years, as both a delegate and a staff. I am well versed in the topics and policies of committee members. I understand what it's like to be in your position and how hard it is to speak up sometimes or voice your opinion. I am a rather laid-back chair, believing that the role of the chair is to facilitate the conduct of the body. I expect you to research and attain solid understanding of the topics that we may discuss in the Council. Additionally, I expect you to know the rules and procedures and to know how to write a working paper, and to have a thorough understanding of your country's policies. I expect continual participation from all members of the body in formal debate and in caucuses. As a chair, I am not only a facilitator of debate but also an evaluator of delegate performance. With all that being said, I hope that we have a good productive time and that we can cover several topics while we are in session.

International Terrorism

With 45 armed conflicts occurring throughout the world, the United Nations Security Council needs to address the threat of international terrorism. Different states have experienced various attempts on their airline (9/11, Russian Metrojet, etc...). When terrorists board a plane they turn from a domestic threat to an international threat with the possibility of causing widespread panic. Attacks on airliners cause more fear than any other terrorist attack due to the already present fear of flying. Each time a plane is

destroyed, the media grabs it and the public is whipped into a frenzy causing widespread terror. The United Nations must address this issue by using the power afforded to it. The terrorists exploit security weaknesses that result from lack of cooperation and coordination among states. Each UN Member state has its own intelligence networks and does not freely share its information with other members, thus leaving a gap that terrorists can exploit. Member states also have varying security measures for their points of access and departure from their countries. The Security Council must address these issues to prevent sharp rise in these types of attacks.

The discussion will not be limited to air-trafficking incidents (which is only an illustrative example of international terrorism) but will cover all forms of terrorism, especially the recent coordinated attacks in France and the United States.

Questions

- 1. How does your nation deal with civilian flights and active war zones?*
- 2. Has your nation been effected by any incident with global travel?*
- 3. What type of action can be taken internationally to resolve this issue?*
- 4. Do you think the UN should handle this issue? Does your country have specific proposals?*

Research

<http://www.economist.com/blogs/economist-explains/2014/07/economist-explains-14>

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2014-07-21/ukraine-joins-n-korea-no-fly-zone-as-carriers-look-for-firmer-rules.html>

<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2014/07/140723-map-no-fly-zones-israel-ukraine-world/> Malaysian Airlines Flight 17:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malaysia_Airlines_Flight_17

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malaysia_Airlines_Flight_370

Syrian Civil War

The Syrian civil war has dragged on for over 5 years now and has taken the lives of 220,000 Syrians. The Syrian civil war began when originally peaceful protests turned in to full-fledged armed rebellion against the Assad regime with many secular and religious groups being formed since. Two of the most troubling of the groups are the Islamic state and al-Nusra, which is an affiliate of al-Qaida. The Islamic state, the more brutal of the two, has carried out many brutal executions and has enforced a hyper-oppressive form of sharia law (Islamic laws) in the areas that it governs. The Syrian civil war is further complicated by international involvement in the war: the U.S. is involved and so is Russia with its recent air campaign against the rebels. Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey all support the rebels in their war to topple the Assad regime. Iran and Hezbollah are deeply involved in support of the Assad regime. The war has taken on a bloody sectarian form (between the Sunnis and the Shi'a, represented by Saudi Arabia

and Iran respectively). The Security Council must attempt to resolve this conflict in the most peaceful way without allowing extremism to overcome the greater good.

Questions

1. *What is the stance of member nations on this issue especially those with veto power?*
2. *How can the Security Council bridge the gap between Sunnis and (Alawites/Shia) in Syria?*
3. *Does the Assad regime need to be deposed for a resolution to occur?*
4. *Does your country support either side?*
5. *Does your country support a transitional form of government?*
6. *Does your country have leverage in Syria?*

Research:

Institute for the Study of War

Syrian Observatory for Human Rights

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-26116868>

Conflict in the South China Sea

The South China Sea is a major trade route that runs near the counties of Japan, China, Indonesia, Philippines, Taiwan, and other nations. The country that is able to exclusively control this region will have billions of dollars going through their waters and a major strategic hold on the region's water ways. All countries neighboring the South China Sea have claimed part or all of the waters and many have threatened

military action to back up their claim, the most aggressive of these being China. The Chinese have been building artificial islands and bases in the South China Sea to legitimize their claims to those waters. In turn, the United States has responded diplomatically and militarily to challenge China's claims by intentionally sailing through those water. The United States has an interest in those waters for two reasons: treaties and economics. The United States has strong treaties with Japan and the Philippines and continues to protect Taiwan from Chinese invasion. If the Chinese are able to cement control over those waters, they will be in a much stronger strategic position relative to the United States and its allies causing much concern. As mentioned earlier, billions of dollars in trade pass through the South China Sea and the United States wants to prevent the Chinese from having full control over the area which would give them a huge increase in economic power. The Security Council should attempt to resolve this issue so that a compromise in security and trade interests between member nations is achieved.

Questions

- 1. How can the Security Council address military presence in the South China Sea by concerned parties?*
- 2. Should a communication network be established to prevent accidental military conflict?*
- 3. How is the South China Sea best managed? Should new treaties be negotiated?*
- 4. Does your country have stakes in the region?*

5. *Do you have specific proposals to resolve the potential crisis?*

Research

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/16/world/asia/us-navy-commander-implies-china-has-eroded-safety-of-south-china-sea.html?_r=0

<http://nationalinterest.org/blog/the-buzz/why-beijings-south-china-sea-moves-make-sense-now-14643>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_China_Sea

<http://www.businessinsider.com/china-using-south-china-sea-conflicts-as-distraction-2015-6>