



## **SERSECURITY COUNCIL**

### **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

#### **St. Bonaventure University High School MUN**

Welcome to the St. Bonaventure University high school Model UN conference. I am the Chair of Security Council. My name is Joshua McGraw and I am a biochemistry major. I have participated as a delegate for two years at the collegiate level. This letter will explain the various topics that we will discuss during the conference. I will also give you an idea of my chairing style, and how I will evaluate your performance.

I believe that all delegates should have an understanding of the rules of procedure, but I also do not expect every delegate to know every single rule. I will do my best to make the debate flow and move smoothly. If a procedural error has been made, I will alert the delegates to the rules of procedure. Each delegation should be familiar with and knowledgeable of their individual country's policies. Knowing one's country goes a long way in evaluating your performance during the debates. Finally, keep in mind that the Security Council has an open agenda; therefore, any topic can be discussed or while we are in session, a crisis might arise and we have to deal with it. The topics in this letter are simply a guide, they are not the only topics that would be discussed.

### **THE TOPICS**

#### **Security Council Reform**

Reforming the Security Council to better respond to the current issues and conflicts and crises has been an important topic for a while now. There is a long held beliefs that the current structure of the Security Council and its Veto powers do not reflect the international reality. Other emerging powers also have ambitions to become permanent members. Many developing countries also believe that the veto powers have a monopoly on the working of the Security Council and would like to see major changes on constraints on using the veto privileges.

The General Assembly has consistently had conversations about the topic, but no significant recommendation has been accepted. Reforming the Security Council is one of the most controversial topics facing the United Nations. There are obvious obstacles in creating a resolution that the Permanent Members (P5 Members) will not automatically veto.

Questions:

1. What is your country's specific policy with respect to SC reform?
2. Does your country currently have a permanent seat, and how will that affect your Position?
3. If reform is passed, how will the Security Council look/function?
4. Will there be Permanent Members to the Security Council?
5. If Permanent Members are retained, will they continue to hold a veto?
6. Will there be new members with veto powers?
7. Will there be an increase to the overall number of members on the Security Council?
8. Will the number of members from each region change?

References:

<http://www.centerforunreform.org>      <http://www.un.org/press/en/2013/ga11450.doc.htm>  
<http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/ga11679.doc.htm>  
<http://www.un.org/ga/president/62/statements/screform90408.shtml>  
<https://www.globalpolicy.org/security-council/security-council-reform.html>  
<https://ourworld.unu.edu/en/united-nations-security-council-reform>  
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## **Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)**

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), more commonly referred to as North Korea, began its nuclear program in 1962. Since the DPRK's withdrawal from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the nuclear situation has rapidly deteriorated. In April of 2003, the DPRK declared that they had obtained nuclear weapons. The DPRK made this claim again in February of 2005, and on October 9th, 2006 it announced that it had successfully tested a nuclear weapon.

In the following years, tensions between the DPRK and the international community have continued. As recently as September 9, 2016, there has been evidence of a strong nuclear test produced by the DPRK. World leaders have condemned the test and have declared it as a threat to international peace and security.

In addition to the nuclear situation, the DPRK is starving its people and is in violation of human rights.

Questions:

1. What are my country's relations with the DPRK?
2. How does my country view the DPRK's nuclear program?
3. Where does my country stand on the issue of sanctions?
4. What has my country done to address the humanitarian crisis?
5. Does my country have specific recommendations to deal with N. Korea?
6. Does my country support financial aid to the starving people? Or would that simply embolden the Korean regime?

References:

[http://i.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/Nonproliferation\\_CSR54.pdf](http://i.cfr.org/content/publications/attachments/Nonproliferation_CSR54.pdf)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-pacific-11813699>

<http://www.cnn.com/2016/09/08/asia/north-korea-seismic-activity/>

<http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/index.php/crises/crisis-in-north-korea>

## **Sudan & South Sudan**

There are two conflicts in Sudan. The first is in Darfur region in Sudan and the second in the newly-formed Republic of South Sudan. This newly born republic is an independent country that is recognized by the United Nations. It came to being as an outcome of a long civil war between the government of Sudan and rebels located in South Sudan. Eventually, a referendum was held and South Sudan voted to secede and become an independent country.

The conflict in Darfur began in 2003. The conflict started when the non-Arab residents of the region accused the government, which is dominated by Arabs, of discriminating against them. As a result, rebel groups began fighting with the Sudanese government. The two main groups, the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army (SLM/A) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), accused the government of committing genocide. These rebel groups are mainly composed of non-Arab Muslims. On the other side, the Sudanese government sponsored militia and police forces combat the rebels. The President of Sudan, Omar al-Bashir, has been accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity for his role in the conflict. The conflict is believed to have killed thousands of people.

In July of 2011, the Southern region of Sudan split from the country, forming the Republic of South Sudan. This outcome resulted from the long-standing Civil War between North and South Sudan (and is not directly related to the conflict in Darfur). However, South Sudan has had to face challenges of its own. Currently a civil war broke out in the new country. A U.N. official estimates at least 50,000 people have been killed and 2,200,000 people have been relocated since the formation of the country. The South Sudanese civil war started in December 2013. Government forces are being led by President Salva Kiir. The opposition forces are being led by the former Vice-President Riek Machar. Thus, the independence of the South did not lead to peace.

Questions:

1. What is my country's relationship to Sudan and South Sudan?
2. How has my country responded to the crisis in Darfur?
3. How is my country responding to the situation in South Sudan?
4. Does my country consider either of these issues to be security threats?

5. How does my country support U.N. missions to the region?

6. Does my country have concrete policy plans to resolve the civil war in South Sudan?

#### References:

<http://www.hrw.org/news/2011/01/08/sudan-deteriorating-situation-darfur>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14019051>

<http://www.africanews.com/2016/07/23/south-sudan-minister-taban-deng-gai-replaces-reik-machar-as-vice-president/>

<http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/08/south-sudan-riek-machar-khartoum-medical-care-160823161508776.html>

<https://news.vice.com/article/un-official-estimates-50000-dead-in-south-sudan-as-violence-spreads>

[http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/sudan\\_darfuroverview.html](http://www.unicef.org/infobycountry/sudan_darfuroverview.html)

## ISIS

Instability in the Middle East has given rise to ISIS (the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, also known as ISIL, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant and is now called IS—Islamic State). Origins of the group can be attributed to the Iraqi insurgency in 2003. However, during the Syrian civil war, ISIS spread there as well. In early 2014, ISIS drove Iraqi forces out of several key cities and regions, almost causing the collapse of the Iraqi government and forcing the United States to again become more involved in the region. ISIS has utilized the power of social media to gain prominence with beheadings, threats, and destruction of ancient and historical sites. Their ruthlessness knows no bounds.

They have killed hundreds of prisoners of war, thousands of civilians, prosecuted religious and minority groups, partaken in sexual violence and slavery, and used child soldiers. Several organizations such as the Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have condemned and charged ISIS with human rights violations. ISIS has staked claims in parts of Northern Africa, Southeast Asia, and the Middle East. It promotes an extremist version of Islam: one that encourages violence and sees Muslims that do not agree with them as infidels. It is not a simple terrorist cell but an organization with a complex government structure, leadership, and military and all are secretive. They have even gone

as far as to start their own monetary system. Leaders of many countries have addressed ISIS, even United States President Barack Obama in his 2016 State of the Union Address.

Currently ISIS claims itself as a worldwide caliphate bestowing the authority of military, political, and religious power over all Muslims in the world. Many Muslim political and religious leaders have denounced the Islamic State and its Caliph, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. As of 2016, the Islamic State has claimed many attacks throughout the Middle East and Europe, taking responsibility for the November 2015 Paris attacks and the 2016 Istanbul bombing. There is ongoing concern over their reach in Syria. The Islamic State has made it clear that they are an enemy to the Western world and have no intention of stopping their current tactics in order to gain more recruits and fight against what they call a threat to the Islamic world.

#### Questions:

1. What can the UN or other countries do to fight this threat?
2. What could the Security Council do to defeat ISIS?
3. What is the most effective way to stop the rise of ISIS?
4. What is my country's attitude towards ISIS? Has my country been directly affected by ISIS activities?

#### References:

[www.un.org](http://www.un.org) [www.cnn.com/world](http://www.cnn.com/world) [www.bbc.com/news](http://www.bbc.com/news)  
<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/film/rise-of-isis/>  
<https://www.foreignaffairs.com/tags/isis> <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-24179084> <http://www.nytimes.com/topic/organization/islamic-state>

#### Additional Topics:

1. The Syrian Crisis (ISIS, Refugees, Regional Repercussions, how to resolve the conflict....)

2. Al-Qaeda
3. Peace Treaty in Columbia
4. Any number of civil wars in Africa