

## **SECURITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

### **CHAIRING STYLE**

Hello delegates! It is our great honor to welcome you to St. Bonaventure University for quality educational debate. Remember delegates, this conference is meant to serve as a way to gain knowledge about current world events, and collaborate on drafting resolutions to resolve conflicts and to deal with tough situations across the world.

Our chairing style is firm but fair. We expect all delegates to have good knowledge of rules and procedure. The chairing team will not impose a debate topic and will generally rather remain neutral leaving it up to the delegates to decide on topics priorities. You are all expected to accurately portray the positions of your country, know the rules, and use them appropriately. Doing so will make you stand out and will certainly yield an overall better experience for all of us. With that being said, we will have to intervene if we observe direct or explicit violations of the Rules of Procedure or if we notice unprofessional behavior or if the council has gone too far off into irrelevant topics. Our objective is to create a professional environment that is safe for debate and for learning.

One of the best pieces of advice we can give you is to speak as much as possible while staying focused on the topic at hand. Public speaking might make some of you anxious or nervous, but this student-led conference is very friendly and offers a great opportunity to help you practice and put your fears or anxieties of public speaking behind! It is our goal, and hopefully yours too, to have all of you feel more comfortable with public speaking by the end of the conference.

A significant part of the conference is drafting/writing a resolution. Our ultimate objective is to see a resolution passed after sufficient debate and negotiations. Get involved in the drafting and writing of resolutions is a major criterion we use to evaluate your performance. Your professionalism and the accuracy of the information you discuss will weigh in on your evaluation. We hope you all have a great time being part of the Security Council. Good luck delegates and we are looking forward to meeting all of you!

## **Failed States in Africa**

A quick look at the world and you easily observe the presence of several failed states, mostly in Africa and the Middle East. There are many countries that you can focus on. One failed state on the continent of Africa that has struggled for decades is the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This is a country that has been afflicted by political and violent strife and turmoil for years and has been plagued by several devastating civil wars. We need to carefully study this war-torn country if we were to offer any help to restore stability and prosperity.

### **Key Questions:**

What involvement has my country had with the continent of Africa in general and with the DRC in particular?

What is my country's position on conflict resolutions proposals?

Is my country involved in the United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC)?

What steps are necessary to ensure the success of the current peace agreements? Is your country making any contributions/efforts in this regard?

Another state in Africa that is going through difficult times is the Republic of South Sudan. This newly-born county has gone through a series of civil wars, military coups, famines, etc...

### **Questions**

Did you country support the independence of South Sudan?

After the recent events, do you think it was right to support the creation of another state in Africa?

Does your country support any side in the ongoing conflicts in South Sudan?

What is the role of the United Nations? Other regional organizations?

Does your country have stakes in the conflicts there or in the African continent in general?

Does your country believe that the conflict might have spillover effects? Does this conflict pose threats to international security?

What could the international community do to stabilize the country?

Sources:

[What are the Political Causes of Failed States in Sub-Saharan Africa?](#)

[Most-failed State](#)

[Africa: Seven Nations Named in Top Ten 'Failed States'](#)

[AFRICA: FAILED STATE IS BECOMING MAJOR EXPORTERS OF INSTABILITY](#)

### **Civil Wars in Syria and Yemen**

As you all know, the Middle East is riven with civil wars and state failures. Two countries nowadays deserve special attention: Syria and Yemen. Instability in the Middle East (especially the US invasion of Iraq in 2003 and the civil war that broke out in Syria in 2011) has given rise to ISIS, which has followers in parts of North Africa, Southeast Asia, most prominently, in the Middle East and sleeping cells in other parts of the world. Recent events indicate that ISIS has lost several battles in both Syria and Iraq and its presence in those two countries has come under sustained pressures. Some even say that ISIS is almost finished in those two countries. Debate about ISIS will be one of the focal points, but be sure to research other groups that fight in the region and do NOT forget about al-Qaeda. But ISIS (and other terrorist organizations) are only part of the turmoil inflicting the region. We need also to focus on the larger picture, on the civil wars that bedevil the region, especially the ones in Syria and Yemen. It appears that the Syrian regime has 'almost' won the civil war; but the regime is nonetheless far from restoring its control over all of Syria. The opposition still controls large parts of Syria and the US is not inclined to allow the Syrian regime to completely win the war. The situation in Yemen is very fluid. The war there has created many disasters: famine, diseases (especially cholera), refugees, etc... Saudi Arabia and its allies have launched a major offensive against the Houthi rebels in Yemen. The United States supports the Saudis in their war in Yemen, a war that the United Nations deems a human disaster.

### **Key Questions:**

What can the Security Council do to end the numerous civil wars in the region?

What can the international community do to combat this threat?

Even if we win the military war against ISIS, don't we have to win 'hearts and minds' or the battle of ideas? But, how to accomplish that?

What is your country's position regarding those matters?

Does your country take sides in these two civil wars? Which side?

Sources:

[Civil War in Syria](#)

[Syria's civil war explained from the beginning](#)

[Inside the leadership of Islamic State: how the new 'caliphate' is run](#)

[Exclusive: Iran Steps up Support for Houthis in Yemen's War - Sources](#)

## **Nuclear Proliferation: Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)**

The DPRK, more commonly referred to as North Korea, allegedly began its nuclear program in 1962. Since 2003 North Korea has made public its intentions regarding its nuclear program and withdrew from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). North Korea has also developed significant missile capabilities that could target distant places—some experts even claim that N. Korea could hit some parts of the United States. Recent developments and the election of Donald Trump as President even led to more tensions and serious threats. The US under the current administration has taken a very aggressive stance and is pushing hard to contain N. Korea. What was once unthinkable or very unlikely (war between the US and N. Korea) has become a real possibility. Of course, from the North Korean perspective, American policies are pure aggression and only justify its efforts to create nuclear deterrence capabilities. North Korean supporters argue that had Iraq really possessed nuclear weapons, the United States would not have invaded the country in 2003.

### **Key Questions:**

What are my country's relations with the DPRK?

What is my country's stance on the use of weapons of mass destruction?

Where does my country stand on the issue of sanctions?

Where does my country stand regarding Kim Jong-un?

Does your country support the US policies towards N. Korea?

Does your country have other proposals to resolve the conflict?

Does your country support more sanctions?

### Sources

[North Korea's nuclear weapons: Here is what we know](#)

[North Korea's nuclear programme: How advanced is it?](#)

[Why North Korea succeeded at getting nuclear weapons — when Iraq and Libya failed](#)

[What You Need To Know About North Korea's Nuclear Program](#)

[U.S. warns North Korea against new missile test, plays down talks](#)

[Strong sign of North Korean nuclear test as regime calls 6 May party congress](#)

[NORTH KOREA](#)