



KIIT

INTERNATIONAL



MODEL
UNITED
NATIONS

STUDY GUIDE

KIIT INTERNATIONAL E-MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Background Guide

United Nations General Assembly (DISEC)

AGENDA:

- 1) QUESTIONS OF BREACH OF PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY IN PALESTINE
- 2) INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION ON PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Respected Delegates,

The Executive Board of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA-DISEC), simulated at KIIT International e-Model United Nations, welcomes you to this conference. We plan to channelize our efforts in making this a big learning experience.

Considering the experience in the committee and as conveyed to us by the Secretariat, we look forward to making this conference more of a deliberative engagement while still keeping up the spirit of learning and the essence of competition. To meet such ends, we will expect the debate to consist of deliberate points, logical analysis of facts and suggestions, and diplomatic statements forming substantive data as a base.

To clear any contentions, the delegates need not let thoughts about our expectations be a hurdle in their research or give way to any fear regarding fulfilment of their objectives. The only thing the Executive Board will put strong emphasis on, would be helping you understand the traits of diplomacy, logical analysis and argumentative debating.

This guide, although very comprehensive and factual, provides a basic idea of the agenda and arguments in view of the United Nations and may vary from those of the respective country policies. In no way is this guide to confine research. The delegates must make it a point not to confine their research to this guide. The guide consists of subjective and factual data with legal arguments, but this is just to make the delegates understand the ways in which they must make their addresses. At the cost of repetition, we strongly emphasize on reading this letter, the suggestions and the guiding questions given in this guide, thoroughly.

We expect this guide to serve as enough research for the agenda and you to revert back to us for any help with understanding or proceeding with the research, in case you have any doubts or contentions till the end of the conference.

Wishing you the very best,

Members of the Executive Board

SUGGESTION FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Following is a suggested pattern for researching (if required):

- The Delegates shall be expected to maintain a code of diplomatic courtesy while making an address and remain in the most astute behavioral standards while in the committee.
- The Delegates are expected to be researched properly on the agenda as a whole and their country in particular. Further, country specific research shall be appreciated. Also, every procedural address and operative actions should be in accordance with the respective country policies.
- Input of substantial knowledge and arguments based on a legal foundation with proper applications of principles of international law would make an ideal, mark fetching speech in the committee.
- A brief knowledge of the UN Charter and the treaties and resolutions on the agenda would be helpful.
- This study guide is not to be used as an integral part of a delegate's speech in the committee. This is only to give the delegates a brief idea of the agenda and to guide them in their research.
- An appreciable address may include:
 - Substantial facts
 - Brief of own country's stand and policies
 - Legal arguments
 - Logical ideas
 - Operative standards.
- A delegate may present his views on a subject, but substantial allegations and factual operative statements might require reports from credible sources.
- Every delegate is expected to analyze the agenda from a logical and legal point of view and present rational solutions and idealistic goals the functionality and legality of which should have been debated upon.
- Researching and understanding the United Nations and the Committee/Council being simulated – Its Mandate, including understanding historical work done on the agenda.
- Research on the allotted country. Understanding its polity, economy, culture, and history etc. – especially those relevant to the agenda at hand.
- Comprehending the Foreign Policy of the allotted country. It includes understanding the ideology and principles adopted by the country on the agenda. It further includes studying past actions taken by the country on the agenda and other related issues –specifically analyzing their causes and consequences.

Again, this is not by any means an exhaustive list. It is only indicative of what all can be done by the delegates to refine their research.

NOTE: The two agendas have been provided to make room for negotiations and to allow the participants to make an informed choice. Do bear in mind that ideally we should choose one agenda for the course of the entire conference so that participants can channelize their research in that direction. The negotiations on the choice of agenda for discussion must be carried out in the virtual presence of the EB members and shall be subject to marking. Please ensure that we are added to the meeting or the WhatsApp group where these negotiations are carried out.



ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

The Disarmament and International Security Committee was established in 1993, as one of the six main committees of the General Assembly. The purpose of DISEC is outlined in United Nations Charter, Chapter IV, Article 11, which states: "cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments" to be its main goal. Moreover, it is mandated "to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources". It considers all disarmament and international security matters within the scope of the Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any other organ of the United Nations; the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments; promotion of cooperative arrangements and measures aimed at strengthening stability through lower levels of armaments.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) was established in 1959 by the United Nations General Assembly in order to review and foster international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space and to consider legal issues arising from the exploration of outer space. Since its establishment, the Committee has addressed such issues as benefits from space activities, the definition and delimitation of outer space and the use of the geostationary orbit, implications of remote sensing, space sciences, space-based communications, navigation and meteorological systems, as well as use of nuclear power sources in outer space, space debris and spin-off benefits of space technology. Its mission is "to review the scope of international cooperation in peaceful uses of outer space, to devise programmes in this field to be undertaken under United Nations auspices, to encourage continued research and the dissemination of information on outer space matters, and to study legal problems arising from the exploration of outer space."

Introduction

Space exploration began in the very early ages of human history. Despite many great explorations carried out with different tools, it first used an apparatus that brought people closer to the sky when a telescope was invented in 1608 by Hans Lippershey. Later, during WWII, due to high demand in development of newer weapons, rocketry started to take its first steps. It is worth mentioning what became of geopolitics after WWII. A period of geopolitical tension between the United States and the Soviet Union became widely known as the Cold War. Despite many drawbacks and crises of many spheres of life during that time, it was a great time for space exploration. It was only in 1949 (around when the Cold War started), that NASA confirmed a first object in space (Many argue that it was actually a V-2 rocket that crossed the Karman Line in 1944). First came the Russians, who were able to put a satellite, Sputnik 1, in orbit, during the fall of 1957. 4 years later, Yuri Gagarin made history, as a first man in space. During the same year, the first interplanetary flyby took place, as Venera 1 (Sputnik 8) made its way to Venus. Soon, all planets of the Solar System were flown-by. In 1969, the Apollo 11 crew made history, as Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin were the 1st people to set foot on another world. With this event, it has been widely accepted that the United States of America won the Space Race. Further developments in space exploration weren't as widely recognized.

Recent Developments

At first glance, it may seem that the agenda is slightly misplaced, as it should be the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space agenda that deals with such problems. This statement is partially correct. Main problem is that it simply lacks the authority to execute certain resolutions and agenda's that will come up in the near future and that's where the role of DISEC comes in. Theory, according to multiple treaties, is very clear on some matters: non-appropriation of outer space by any country, arms control, the freedom of exploration, liability for damage caused by space objects, the safety and rescue of spacecraft and astronauts, the prevention of harmful interference with space activities and the environment, the notification and registration of space activities, scientific investigation and the exploitation of natural resources in outer space and the settlement of disputes all lay in the interest of particular governments. The problem is, that's simply it. It sounds great: takes care of everything you could possibly imagine, but in no way a law becomes one, when it is not enforceable. That's where you come into the spotlight.

On the next page, please find a general list of treaties that you should get acknowledged with, while preparing for the conference. Please bear in mind that the list is not comprehensive, as it serves as a foundation for your own research.

1. The Outer Space Treaty

Entered into force in 1967. States that no countries shall claim any celestial bodies as theirs, bans any use of weaponry in space, as well as maintains that space exploration must be peaceful.

2. The Rescue Agreement

Provides clarification to Article V of The Outer Space Treaty. States that in case when astronauts or technology connected to space exploration lands not according to the designated country, the signatories are obliged to return all items, as well as help the people return home.

3. Liability Convention

States that if any damage is caused to other signatories during space exploration, for example a probe lands on another signatories' territory, the owner (country) is responsible for all the damages.

4. Registration Convention

Underlines that all space objects launched by countries must be reported to the UN for monitoring purposes.

5. Moon Agreement

Entered into force in 1984, ratified only by 5 countries. States that the wealth of space should benefit all people and nations. Make a case that if any country claims anything in space, it must be shared with all the other nations.

It needs to be said that all those treaties regard countries and their respective governments, and are in no way binding for corporations or people. That mentioned, say, a businessman organizes a space mission to mine the moon and succeeded. Now, if a person is wealthy enough to create such missions, he surely has many other possibilities to consider, such as colonizing Mars. For example, in a recent interview Mr. Musk, who is an owner of SpaceX (A great example of an agency with aforementioned possibilities), stated that his company is going to begin colonization of Mars in 2024 and they shall impose their own Martian law. Is it in line with all the treaties? Are there ways to prohibit it? Are celestial bodies going to be what America became for explorers in the XV century and later? Many questions are unanswered simply because there is no legislation to make it possible.

Questions to answer

1. Is it possible to control different entities in space?
2. Are the space exploration standards up to date?
3. While different treaties are binding for signatories (governments), what can be done to establish certain standards in the private sector, and are they necessary?
4. Is it possible to keep outer space exploration peaceful?

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QUESTIONS OF BREACH OF PEACE AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY IN PALESTINE

Introduction

The conflict in the most basic sense is about how to divide territory between two. The territory question is also about up in other issues: whether the Palestinian territories and people can become an independent state and how to resolve years of violence that include the Israeli occupation of the West Bank, the partial Israeli blockade of Gaza and Palestinian violence against Israelis.

Two years after the second World War, in February 1947, the United Kingdom gave its mandate over Palestine to the newly created special committee the UNSCOP (United Nations Special Committee on Palestine). In the UN- Resolution 181 from 29th November 1947 a division of the region into a Jewish and an Arab state was decided while David Ben Gurion proclaimed the Jewish State of Israel on the 14th May 1948.

The Arabs couldn't accept this and hence started the first Israeli-Arab War with their own candidate for the territory, Palestine. During the first Arab-Israel War 1948-49 Israel was able to enlarge its territory- but also some of the Arab states had their own district. Jordan conquered the West Bank which it annexed in 1950 and Egypt occupied the Gaza Strip.

The 6-day War 1967 was a turning point in the geopolitics of the highly tensed region. Egypt and Syria concluded a defence alliance against Israel in November 1966. Israel then launched a pre-emptive strike and brought Egyptian Sinai peninsula, the Syrian Golan, the old town part of Jerusalem, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip under its control. The Israeli and Arab side could never agree if the Israeli actions were based on defence or if they were an act of aggression. Still the result was that Israel could triple it's territories. Most importantly for Israel, it had brought that part of Jerusalem under its control in which the Wailing Wall is located. Later a series of resolutions were adopted both by the General Assembly and Security Council in effort of a peaceful settlement of the issue. In that regard UNSC adopted resolution 1397 in 2002, in which UNSC for the first time called for a two-state solution. An Emergency Special Session of UNGA was also called in 1997 which still convenes to discuss "Illegal Israeli actions in occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory".

Palestinian Status at UN

Palestinian Liberation Organisation was granted a non-state permanent observer status to the General Assembly on 1974. UN General Assembly acknowledged the Palestinian Declaration of Independence of November 1988 and replaced the designation "Palestine Liberation Organization" by the designation "Palestine" in the United Nations system setting a unofficial victory for Palestine in its bid for international recognition. In 2012 the General Assembly accorded Palestine as non-member observer to the General Assembly, following which many nations respectively changed the designation of their missions to and from Palestine to ambassadors, or its equivalent.

Israeli Settlements

Perhaps the issue that is most divisive between the government of Israel and the Palestinian Authorities are Israel's continued settlements in the West Bank. It is also a great source of tension within Israel itself, and between Israel and the international community. The settlements first came about in the aftermath of the Six Day War of 1967 which left Israel in control of Gaza, the West Bank, and the Golan Heights, in which Israel subsequently built communities to expand the Jewish homeland and improve Israel's bargaining position in future peace talks. The territory captured is considered occupied territory, and settlements continue to exist in East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Golan Heights. Settlements existed in the Sinai Peninsula as well as the Gaza Strip, however residents were evacuated following agreements with Egypt in 1979.

Approximately 280,000 Israeli citizens live in 121 settlements in the West Bank and another estimated 190,000 Israelis live in East Jerusalem. These settlements place civilians into occupied territory, which is a violation of international law. Whether in the West Bank or East Jerusalem, Israeli settlements are widely regarded as violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention prohibition on colonizing occupied territories. The 2003 Roadmap for Peace stipulated a freeze on settlement construction. Settlements have rendered it significantly more difficult to envisage a Palestinian state, due the massive apparatus of roads, military infrastructure and protected land that services the Israeli communities. Nabil Shaath, leader of the foreign affairs department of Fatah has said, "We want to generate pressure on Israel to make it feel isolated and help it understand that there can be no talks without a stop to settlements". Although this is a large impediment to peace, there are many who remain optimistic and believe that the international community, and particularly the United States has the power to persuade Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu to put a halt to settlements, thus recommencing peace talks. Other optimists point to the withdrawal of settlements from Gaza.

The Security Council in 2016 set a unique precedent by adopting resolution 2334, which declared the Israeli Settlements in the West Bank (occupied territory) violating International Law and hence calling Israel to stop its settlement activities as well as declaring any change in border after 1967 would not be recognised.

In April 2002, the Israeli government built a so-called security fence also called "The Wall", with their stated motive of preventing Palestinians into Israeli territory. This particular instance amounted to several international law violations as per the advisory opinion given by International Court of Justice on 9 July 2004, where ICJ stated firstly, the wall was inconsistent with the 1967 borders, second it impeded exercise of several rights of Palestinian people including right to self-determination, right of freedom of movement, etc. It was also declared illegal by the Supreme Court of Israel. In 2004, the United Nations General Assembly passed a Resolution asking Israel to tear down its wall and made a reference for an Advisory Opinion to the International Court of Justice.

Two State-Solution

The "two-state solution" is a proposed way to resolve the issue of Israel-Palestine, which would create independent states of Israel and Palestine respectively, and is the mainstream approach to resolving the conflict. Israelis want a Jewish state, and Palestinians want a Palestinian one. The two-state solution has been the primary focus of efforts to achieve peace in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The two-state solution would establish two states for two peoples and ask for their peaceful co-existence and hence this should win Israeli security and allow it to retain a Jewish demographic majority while granting the Palestinians a state and hence upholding their right to self-determination. It has been reaffirmed by both the General Assembly and Security Council and most of the International Community, and also by most of the populations of Israel and Palestine.

Blockade of Gaza

Although Israel withdrew its military forces from Gaza in 2005, there still exists the opinion that Israel remains occupying power over Gaza. One of the hardest burdens for the people is the blockade. Its effectiveness for Israel's security is still highly problematic. On the other hand, the blockade together with strict restrictions on the import of vitally important goods (i.e., food, medication, building supplies) has brought the private sector's economy to a hesitance and has pushed many families under the poverty line. This substantial situation causes high pressure on the physical and psychological condition of many people living in the Gaza Strip. Because of the ongoing violent conflict between Gaza and Israel there has been fatal infrastructure devastation, which stresses the need of rebuilding and reconstructing buildings and infrastructure which is also retarded by the strict import restrictions. Such Israeli actions have a very harsh economic impact on people of Gaza and also could be seen as a "collective punishment" against the people of Gaza by Israel.

Security and Terrorism Concerns

The conflict has created a vicious cycle of violence on the people of both Israel and Palestine. The Israeli Defence Forces occupy large parts of Palestine in order to secure its borders in the name of nation security. However, this creates tension with Palestinians and leads to insecurity and fighting. Organisations within Palestine, most notably Hamas, have fired rockets into Israel often targeting civilians and hence accorded as acts of terrorism. Hamas is declared a terrorist organisation by the United States government. Although different plans have been tried and failed in the past with both sides blaming the other side for no progress, negotiations are restarting on both sides. From the Palestinian point of view the presence of Israeli forces in their land is a violation of Palestine's sovereignty and is seen as a show of force and very often they clash with civilians and hence not having any regards for Human Rights in Palestine. Many groups inside Palestine resort to acts of violence and terrorism against Israel as they don't recognise the right of Israel to exist as an Independent state. Now is an important time for the international community to act and help both sides come to an agreement that will lead to peace, while assuring Palestinians for their rights and also assuring Israel of a sense of security as a state. Lately there have also been aggressive use of force by Israeli Defence Forces against Palestinians, mostly civilians which can be categorised through various Human Rights violations especially in the West Bank.

Links and Further Readings

Secretary General's Report on Implementation of UNSCR 2334 -

https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2020_1234.pdf

Secretary General's Report on Peaceful Settlement of Question of Palestine -

<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/secretary-generals-report-on-peaceful-settlement-of-question-of-palestine-a-75-195-s-2020-834/>

UNSC Resolution 2334 - <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/SRES2334.pdf>

UNGA ESS Resolution - [A/RES/ES-10/19](https://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2019/1909/1909033.es.html)

UNHRC Resolution on use of force by Israeli occupying forces against Palestinian civilians - [A/HRC/RES/S-28/1](https://www.unhcr.org/refugees/48499999.html)

Secretary General's Report on Israeli Practices Affecting Human Rights of Palestinian People in Occupied Palestinian Territory -

<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/israeli-practices-affecting-human-rights-of-palestinian-people-in-opt-secretary-general-report-a-75-336/>