

United Nations

Security Council



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1. Letter from the presidents.

Dear delegates,

Welcome to the 13th version of MOSMUN, the Montessori School's Model of the United Nations, and the Security Council committee. We feel honored and privileged to be able to do this, and are strongly looking forward to this experience.

We are Ilana Garza and Isabela Jaramillo, and we will be chairing this most promising committee during the conference. We would also like to thank you for stepping up to the challenge of joining the Security Council, where you will debate relevant topics involving the international community, develop a more critical view of the world as we know it, and challenge your research and debate abilities. Each Model of the United Nations (MUN), is a learning and growth opportunity for everyone involved, so we hope you enjoy it and take as much advantage of it as possible.

During the days of the conference, your critical thinking, creativity, recursivity and oral skills will become the main leads and will need to be always on play, in order to come to the most favorable solution regarding the reforms to the Council that are to be discussed, as well as the threat Nationalism might pose.

As the first organ of the United Nations, our goal is to maintain the international peace and security which is being affected with the actual issue we are dealing with, hence we hope you take this into account and take action about it.

Lastly, remember that this is before all a learning opportunity. Any mistake will be accepted, as they are all necessary and important in this growth process. Most importantly, we hope you have both a nourishing and fun experience in the committee.

Without further ado, welcome to MOSMUN XIII's Security Council!

Sincerely,

Ilana Garza and Isabela Jaramillo, your presidents.

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2. Introduction to the committee.

2.1. General Information:

The Security Council serves as one of the main decisive organs of the United Nations (UN). Its main purpose is maintaining global peace and security, as well as providing a discussion space for decisions that involve the international community. This discussion space is incredibly important, as it helps avoid violent conflicts amongst countries.

The Council has a set structure, with 10 non-permanent members. These are strategically distributed, in order to get representation for all geographical areas. They consist of five members from Africa or Asia, one from eastern Europe, two from Latin America, and two from western Europe and other areas. These are picked by the general assembly and rotate the presidency each month, in alphabetical order. Each year, 5 countries are chosen to serve another year, while other 5 are dismissed and changed.

The Council also has another 5 members, the veto powers: United Kingdom, United States of America, The Russian Federation, The People's Republic of China, and The French Republic. These, being the veto powers of the committee, can cancel any resolutions if they vote against them.

Due to the importance of the committee, it has the power of forcing any member from the United Nations to carry out the decisions taken by the committee. As well, any country (member or non-member of the UN) can bring forth a topic to discuss. Next, it will be tried to be resolved peacefully, and if it isn't possible, diplomatic and political means will be taken.

The Council also has the help of the Military Staff Committee and the United Nation's Blue

Helmets, in case it desires to take a more physical means of intervention. The committee is also in charge of allowing or disregarding military involvement of the United Nations in conflicts.

2.2. History:

The Security Council was created along with the rest of the UN, the 24th of October of 1945, at the end of World War II. Its main purpose was providing a space to promote peaceful solutions and replace the failed League of Nations.

The veto powers (also known as P5, Permanent 5) were also chosen after the war: the United States, Soviet¹ Union and the United Kingdom, took their place as vetoes due to them winning the war. France got involved after Winston Churchill, British prime minister of the time, decided another European buffer would be needed in case of Soviet dangers. Finally, China became a member of the P5 thanks to the vision of Franklin D. Roosevelt, president of the United States at the time, who wanted the “four global policemen” (the United States, Soviet Union, United Kingdom, and China) to oversee international security.

For many years, especially during the Cold War, the United States and the Soviet Union ran the institution useless due to the fact that both members had veto powers. For example, in 1950, the Soviet Union wasn't attending the Security Council in protest of the blocking of the Chinese delegation to take their seat at the UN thanks to the guerrillas that were ongoing in

¹ The Soviet Union was a socialist state that involved 15 republics, but after it dissolved in 1991, only Russian was recognized as a veto.

Taiwan. Thanks to this, the United States was able to take advantage of the veto to carry out resolutions that supported South Korea in the context of the Korean War.

The Council currently moves forward with an open agenda, meaning that countries can bring forward topics each session, but there are some exceptions- the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan is an example, which was so pressing that it required breaking protocol and calling for an extraordinary assembly to discuss it.

3. Topic A: Nationalism as a threat to global peace and security.

3.1. Introduction to the topic:

Nationalism the identification of the state or nation with its people, or attempting to determine the extent of the state according to its ethnographic principles, sometimes to the exclusion or detriment of the interests of other nations. This movement has gained popularity in the past decades more than ever before. This has become a potential threat for maintaining the rights of people internationally, and can also be catastrophic for the international peace, security and stability we as a committee have been trying to ensure for the past decades. Some countries believe it is clear that measures need to be immediately taken in order to prevent the possible implications of the rise of this extreme ideology, while others believe it to be a false concern.

3.2. Background:

Nationalism is a relatively modern movement, at the end of the 18th it began to be recognized as an ideology, affecting and shaping people's lifestyles. It has become one of the greatest factors of today's society and culture. One of the earliest manifestations of nationalism can be seen in the American Independence and French revolution. The ideological wave from the latter impacted other European and Latin American intellectuals, which quickly spread.

The 19th century is known as the golden age of nationalism in Europe, it became extremely relevant as a social and political force. Citizens from "The Great Powers" (Britain, France and Germany) convinced themselves of the economic, cultural and military supremacy of their nations. Politicians, diplomats, royals and newspapers contributed with their speeches

and rhetoric to the sentiment, they spread many rumors about rival nations and alleged they painted them as evil. Because Nationalists were prone to believe that in case of war, their nation will be victorious because of their military supremacy, by 1914, Europeans became dismissive about the dangers of war. This, to many, is what led to World War I alongside the belief that other nations were “inferior” and “lesser”.

Due to the losses that came from WWI, by 1939, the sentiment of immunity because of the winners’ claimed “military supremacy” was gone. Europe could be split in two: fascist governments which alongside the Nazi party were taking militarized nationalism to a new level, and, the rest of Europe which was backing from militarism and aggressive Nationalism. These fascist governments, especially the Nazi party, were what lead to World War II exploding in this same year. Millions of people perished, entire countries and economies were harmed in what could be called one of the most gruesome periods of human history.

Meanwhile, in the 20th century, nationalism impacted Asia and Africa, thus, this century witnessed the rise and struggle of powerful national movements throughout those continents.

3.3. Current Situation:

Not only has nationalism proven to be a hindrance to Global Peace and Security, but also to multilateralism and the relations between countries.

In November 9th 2018, the United Nations published a Press Release titled Rising Nationalism Threatens Multilateralism's 70-Year 'Proven Track Record' of Saving Lives, Preventing Wars, Secretary-General Tells Security Council

In this document, the Security Council states that the multilateral system of cooperation among nations is now under a great pressure in the sense that unilateralism and lack of trust within the countries has generated a scenario where the international community is affected by the rising of Nationalist ideas within some countries.

Many member delegations of the Organization have declared that the rise of nationalism has created a polarization in the community and in turn to an augmentation in global conflicts. An observer in representation of the African Union argues that the rise of nationalism and Unilateral patterns "(...) have seriously affected existing norms and established practices of international law."

The reason why this unilateral approach of the delegations of the United Nations and polarization due to Nationalism is so dangerous, is because the world faces a series of challenges and conflicts that need to be solved through cooperation between nations, and with the increase of nationalist ideas in certain countries, this scenario may not be far from reality in the near future.

A recent example of nationalism in politics was during the Trump administration. In his address to the United Nations on September 25, 2018, the ex-president stated; "As my administration has demonstrated, America will always act in our national interest." This statement carried a lot of controversy- what comes first, national or international interests?

His statement showed a lot of care for his country, which remains as the president's main duty always.

Conflicts, even if small, always end up involving more nations than the ones directly affected. Critics tend to root this back to the individual interests of the countries, which remains concerning due to the individualists and lack of multilateralism in these actions.

3.4. Future Expectations:

Nations are unpredictable. With the always changing geopolitical climate, tensions always changing, and conflicts starting, you can only hope. The United Nations shall always push for an international approach, especially when regarding conflicts that these nationalist ideals can bring up. Countries having colonies can be traced back to this center thought, but can this cause problems to a similar scale in the 21st century?

All that can be hoped for is for this not to interfere in international relationships, and only further positive ones, as well as strengthen the bonds of our society as we know it: proud of its differences, yet together as one.

3.5. Useful Questions:

- What are the most important internal issues historically in your country? (i.e. civil wars, coup d'etat, religious/ethnic conflicts, belligerent or militia groups)
- Are there any current internal disputes between different ethnic or other identified groups in your country? If so please describe it/them.
- Has your country had any conflicts with nearby nations, especially for land or ideals?

- What is your country's goal: uniting the world and searching for a common purpose, or getting respect for the independence and uniqueness of their region?
- Has your country taken actions to distance itself from the international community?

3.6. Useful Links:

- <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/nationalism/>
- <https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/ga12236.doc.htm>
- <https://time.com/4815170/wwii-nationalism-donald-trump-america-first/>

4. Topic B: Reforms to the Security Council regarding vetoes.

4.1. Introduction to the topic:

ve·to | \ 'vē-(,)tō \

plural vetoes

- an authoritative prohibition : INTERDICTION²

One of the things that set apart the Security Council from other committees within the United Nations is the use of vetoes. These veto powers are made up of the United States, Russia, France, China and the United Kingdom. They are also known as the P5 (permanent 5).

These countries, and their role in such an important peacekeeping organ, are a topic of controversy within the international community. When taken into consideration their role in international conflicts, the reasons become clear: The P5 are some of the most economically

² Definition of *veto* according to the Merriam-Webster dictionary.

powerful countries in the world, which is important when the country holds such a high regard within a committee, but also get consistently involved within conflicts that may or may not affect them directly (such as the Iraqi, Syrian, and Afghan conflicts). These involvements had mixed results, with some of the events reaching peace with low casualties and harm, and others remaining ongoing, with awful consequences.

These situations lead to questioning if these countries are the correct ones to hold such an important role in a committee which has peacekeeping as its main and only goal. Some popular suggestions amongst the community have been a regular change of vetoes, some countries holding a permanent place but not having the veto power, completely changing the current vetoes and taking into account geography and population, etc.

To carry out any type of reforms to the committee, the Charter of the United Nations must also be modified, due to the fact that this is where the working plan of the Council is laid out. The Council itself must call to the Special Committee on the Charter of the United Nations and on the Strengthening of the Role of the Organization, an Ad Hoc³ committee for the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (Legal). Still, actions are yet to be taken.

4.2. Background:

Before the United Nations was created, the League of Nations was the main international organ that served as a replacement. It was created after the First World War , in

³ A temporary committee that serves a special purpose.

the Versailles Treaty⁴, 1919. Every country involved had a veto power, and by the time the Second World War came, some of the most important involved parties (The United States, Germany, Japan, and the Soviet Union) were lacking due to the high number of vetoes that basically impeded all actions from taking place. In 1945, after an Australian-led revolt to limit the power of vetoes in the United Nations, the United States mentioned these, especially in a small number, were necessary in order to protect their “vital interests” so their participation would be continuous and not like what happened in the League of Nations, meaning that the Security Council would not fall out of relevance (The Advocate, 1945).

The roots of the Council lie in war, as do the roots of the United Nations as a whole. The organization was created to solve conflicts and disputes in an orderly, violence free manner. The origins of the veto power come with, being generated in article 27 of the United Nations Charter;

“1. Each member of the Security Council shall have one vote.

2. Decisions of the Security Council on procedural matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members.

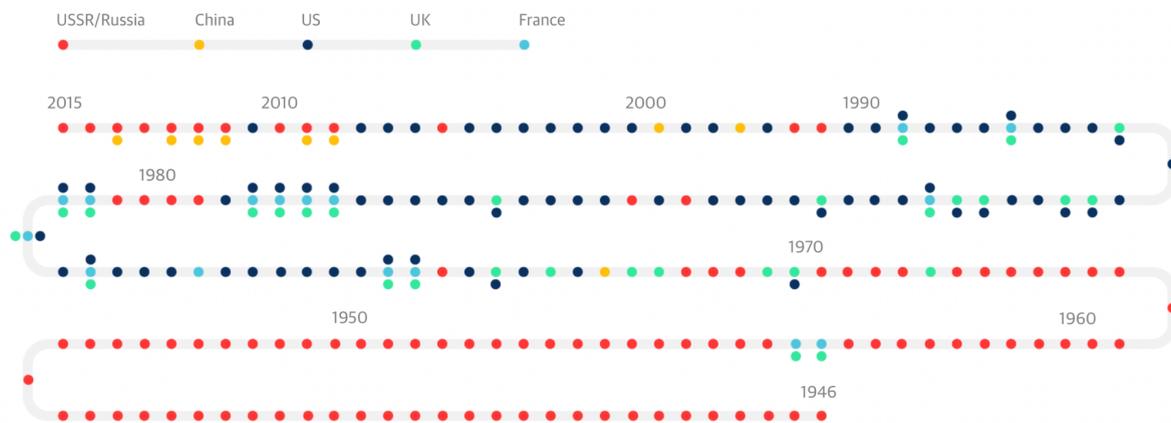
3. Decisions of the Security Council on all other matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members including the concurring votes of the permanent members; provided that, in decisions under Chapter VI, and under paragraph 3 of Article 52, a party to a dispute shall abstain from voting.”

Taken from the United Nations Charter, 1945

As was specified at the beginning of the guide, the veto powers were chosen in direct relationship to the results of the Second World War. The chosen countries were also to be

⁴ Peace treaty signed regarding the end of the First World War.

regarded as some with the highest geopolitical power of the time, but since the countries were picked regarding the victors of the war, countries such as Japan or Germany were excluded.



Usage of veto throughout history, taken from the Guardian, 2015.

4.3. Current Situation:

Reforms are a topic of controversy within the international community. An example of this can be seen in the General Assembly of the UN that was carried out the 21st of November of 2021 ([GA/12389](#)), where the topic was brought up. The delegate of Vietnam stressed the veto should only be used in the Council with the purpose of discharging its duties under the VII Chapter of the Charter of the United Nations, which sets out the guidelines of what the Council is allowed to carry out, to *"Determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression"* and to take both military and nonmilitary action to *"restore international peace and security"*. The delegation also suggested the use of the veto to be eventually eliminated. Other delegations, such as the delegation of Ethiopia,

brought up the lack of inclusivity within the committee. Considering the fact that Africa is an entire continent, it should at least have one veto, as well as Latin America and South Asia.

France, the first veto to have shown disagreement with the current functioning of the committee within that session, said that the veto should not apply to cases of mass atrocities, due to the fact that these normally had a conflict of interest due to the tendency of the vetoes and their alliances to be involved in these situations. This idea was shared jointly with Mexico, as well as with the agreement of Guatemala.

Take into account that when the Council was created, in 1945, the Security Council consisted of 21.6% of the general membership (there were 11 Council members, with 51 UN member states), this ratio later decreased to 12.8% in 1965 (15 Council members, 117 UN member states) and further to only 7.8% today (15 Council members, 193 UN member states). This proves how little is being truly represented, and the rotations don't really help, especially considering that different times have different needs and conflicts to oversee.

A popular idea is the G4 (Group 4) proposal: giving permanent membership to two African countries, Germany, Japan, Brazil, and India. The African group proposal also shines, which pushes to expand the council overall- both permanent and non-permanent seats. There is also the L69 group, made up of Brazil and India, some African countries and some island states. The United for Consensus (UFC) group also comes to play, which is made up of some of the regional rivals of the G4 states, since these countries would go away empty handed while the G4 gains a lot of power, so their invitation is to add more non-permanent seats.

Overall, these are the proposals:

	Total Seats	Permanent Seats (current)	Permanent Seats (proposal)	Non-permanent Seats
Group of Four	25	5	6 (no veto)	14 no immediate re-election
Uniting for Consensus	25	5	-	20 Immediate re-election possible
African Group	26	5	6 (veto)	15 1 additional NP for Africa
L69	27	5	6 (veto)	16 1 additional NP for Africa 1 additional NP for small island developing states

Dörfler, T., & Hosli, M. O. (2013). Reforming the United Nations Security Council: Proposals, Strategies and Preferences. In B. Reinalda (Ed.), Routledge Handbook of International Organization (pp. 377–390). Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge, with additions based on Swart, L. (2013). Reform of the Security Council: 2007-2013. In L. Swart & E. Perry (Eds.), Governing & Managing Change at the United Nations: Security Council Reform from 1945 to September 2013 (pp. 23–59). New York, NY.

It is evident that controversy lines this idea, but whatever reform is carried out, must benefit every delegation involved in the Council, and furthermore, in the United Nations.

As of December 2021, China has used the veto 17 times, France 16 times, the United Kingdom 29 times, the United States 82 times, and Russia a whopping 118 times.

China:

From 1946 to 1971, the seat for China was held by the Republic of China, or Taiwan. During this time, the veto wasn't used much. In 1971, Taiwan was expelled from the United Nations, since the United Nations is made up of sovereign states and Taiwan is only a province of the People's Republic of China. From then on, China has used its veto on occasions only directly related to Chinese interests, and since 1999, every usage of the veto has been joint with Russia.

United Kingdom:

The United Kingdom mainly used the veto from 1956 to 1989. It only used it five times unilaterally, regarding Rhodesia⁵, and since then has normally used it along with France and the United States.

Russia:

In the early days of the United Nations, Russia was known to veto most resolutions to include new members to the United Nations. After the Soviet Union dissolved, the use of the veto became less frequent, but picked back up again in the current century with the purpose of vetoing resolutions about conflicts in which there is Russian military intervention.

United States:

The United States has mainly used its veto regarding resolutions about Israel. On July 26, 2002, John Negroponte (United States Ambassador to the United Nations), established the Negroponte doctrine which states that the United States will not approve of actions that condemn Israel without also condemning the armed groups involved in the conflict. In 2016, the United States abstained from a resolution regarding ending all Israeli conflicts, the only time the United States has done this.

France:

France doesn't use its veto frequently: the last time it was used was in 1989. The only time it vetoed a draft without support from the other vetoes was in 1976, with the purpose of maintaining Mayotte, which is a French overseas department, as a French community after the

⁵ Rhodesia was an unrecognised state in what is now modern day Zimbabwe, from 1965 to 1979, that used to be a British colony.

draft raised a question regarding the independence of Comoros, which Mayotte shares a border with.

4.4. Future Expectations:

The only thing to expect is to reach an agreement that benefits all parties involved, both those that want to carry out the reform and those who don't. More diversity in the committee would be fully welcomed, either by adding more vetoes, changing them, or adding permanent members. The committee should benefit the entire community involved in the United Nations, and should always have peace as its objective, so these two must be the two goals in moving towards the future.

Even if it only has 15 members, this organization allows for the committee to keep working. Nations argue that it actually isn't working due to the mixed interests, but history and what'll come next will be the only ones to tell.

4.5. Useful Questions:

- Has your country stated its position regarding the reforms? Has it made any suggestions?
- If a reform was made, especially regarding the vetoes, how would it benefit or harm your delegation? Would it have special geopolitical, economical, or other forms of benefits?
- What history does your country have regarding the vetoes?

- What actions has your delegation taken regarding the structure of the committee?
- Has there been any form of protests, revolts, or complaints within your country regarding the vetoes?
- What was your delegation's involvement in the Second World War?

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7. Delegation List.

1. Commonwealth of Australia
2. Federative Republic of Brazil
3. Dominion of Canada
4. People's Republic of China
5. Republic of Colombia
6. French Republic
7. Federal Republic of Germany
8. Republic of India
9. Japan
10. Russian Federation
11. Kingdom of Spain
12. Kingdom of Sweden
13. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
14. United States of America
15. Socialist Republic of Vietnam

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