

Security Council

Committee Background Guide

GC: London 2012



приветствовать.

bienvenidos.

bienvenue.

welcome.

سلام.

欢迎.

About this Committee

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the principal organs of the United Nations and is charged with the maintenance of international peace and security. Its powers, outlined in the United Nations Charter, include the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the establishment of international sanctions, and the authorization of military action. Its powers are exercised through United Nations Security Council resolutions. There are 15 members of the Security Council, consisting of five veto-wielding permanent members—China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States and 10 elected non-permanent members with two-year terms. This basic structure is set out in Chapter V of the UN Charter. Security Council members must always be present at UN headquarters in New York so that the Security Council can meet at any time and be ready to respond quickly to a crisis.

Background

Though direct conflict, both between the two Sudanese states and within South Sudan, has largely ceased, the instability and uncertain future of these states has ramifications for regional and global security. The creation of UNMISS brought the end of the previous peacekeeping mission in Sudan, the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), which was established in 2005.

Since independence, South Sudan has experienced internal conflict between different ethnic and regional groups. In August, a conflict in Jonglei between different ethnic groups, resulted in more than 600 deaths and over 1,000 wounded. Violence broke out after large-scale cattle raids, amounting to the theft of approximately 30,000 cattle.

The violence has also led to the kidnapping of children and the displacement of over 26,000 people. UNMISS peacekeepers have been sent to contain the violence, but the resettlement process must be deferred until basic protection can be assured for displaced persons.

Oil

Oil has been both the cause of conflict and a motivator for peace negotiations in its history. Sudan's economy is reliant on natural resource extraction. In recent years, Sudan's most important export has been oil. While agriculture is the single most important industry in the Sudanese economy, as it employs about two thirds of the working population, oil is now the main driving force behind the economy—accounting for around 95 percent of export revenue in 2008. It is responsible for sharply increasing the GDP.

The Government of South Sudan has developed as an institution that is completely dependent on oil, providing 98% of its revenue. This is partially due to the very high state involvement in the oil industry.

Conflict

For decades, the conflict between the Arab, Islamic, and relatively wealthy North and the African, Animist or Christian, and relatively poor South has been fought in a variety of locations across Sudan, including not only the long-running war between the Sudan and what is now South Sudan, but also between the central government of Sudan and people in the Darfur region.

Darfur

Since 2003, the Sudanese conflict that has received the most international attention has occurred in the Darfur region of Western Sudan. In fact, according to many observers what has happened there is genocide. Since 2003, approximately 2.3 million people from black African tribes in the Darfur region of Western Sudan have been internally displaced. This is the largest population of internally-displaced persons (IDPs) in the world.

The problem began in 2003, when insurgents from the Fur, Massalit and Zaghawa tribes attacked Sudanese government installations in retaliation for favoring Sudan's Arab population. In response, the government and government-sponsored Arab Muslim militias (the Janjaweed) attacked the black African communities. According to UNHCR, they killed up to 70,000 men and deliberately drove from their homes more than 2 million people, most of whom became internally displaced, while 200,000 became refugees in neighbouring Chad.

From 2003 to the present, the number of deaths from starvation, disease and violence in Darfur is estimated at more than 350,000. Almost 2 million people live in squalid camps, totally dependent on international aid and with little or no prospect of returning home due to the insecurity and destruction in their homeland areas.

Although overall violence has decreased, military and Janjaweed attacks on black African farming communities and camps of internally displaced people still continue. In 2008, Sudan was the country with the largest number of internally-displaced people in the world. As of then, most Sudanese IDPs were living in 65 camps established by international organizations with the permission of the Sudanese government.

In 2005, the UN Security Council exercised its authority under the Rome Statute to refer Sudanese individuals to the International Criminal Court (ICC) for trial. In 2009, the ICC indicted Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir with five counts of crimes against humanity. President Bashir ordered 13 international and three national non-governmental organizations operating in Darfur to leave the country, alleging that they had provided biased testimony to the ICC. These organizations employed 40 percent of all aid workers in Darfur.¹⁶ UNHCR and other organizations, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), were allowed to continue working in Sudan and expanded their operations to make up for the departure of the other organizations.¹⁷ Because the ICC does not have a police force or military, it is up to UN member states to apprehend Bashir, if they so desire.

Justice

The International Criminal Court has an active warrant for the arrest of Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir for crimes against humanity and genocide from the Darfur conflict. The African Union has rejected the warrant and the ICC because it “undermin(es) African solidarity and African Peace and Security.” To date, no African Member States have initiated campaigns to arrest Bashir for visiting their nation despite the fact that 33 African countries are signatories of the I.C.C. Only President Joyce Banda of Malawi has agreed to honour the arrest warrant. Critics argue that the AU’s diplomatic ambiguity undermines the organisation’s own case that it is capable — and deserving — of taking charge of its own political destiny.

The Responsibility to Protect

In September 2009, Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon congratulated the General Assembly on adopting the UN’s first resolution on the international community’s “responsibility to protect” (R2P) civilians from genocide, ethnic cleansing, war crimes, and other atrocities even if this means violating national sovereignty. R2P places a responsibility on the part of a state to protect its citizens from mass atrocities such as genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing.

Responsibility for protection belongs first and foremost to the sovereign state within which the atrocities are occurring. However, when mass atrocities are occurring or are imminent and “the state in question is unwilling or unable to halt or avert it, the principle of non-intervention yields to the international responsibility to protect.”

In the case of Sudan, international intervention has occurred on a large scale over a long period of time, due to the state’s targeting of its own people during the prolonged civil war. As of October 2011, the UN Security Council has three peacekeeping missions in the region:

1. In the Darfur region of Sudan, the Security Council has authorized UNAMID (the African Union/United Nations Hybrid operation in Darfur)
2. In the disputed, oil-rich territory of Abyei where the boundary between Sudan and South Sudan has not been established and the militaries of each side fight on a regular basis, the Security Council has authorized UNISFA (the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei).
3. the Security Council has authorized UNMISS (the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan).

Although some Security Council members, especially Russia and China, have been reluctant to pass resolutions invoking R2P, in March 2011, the Council did pass such a resolution with regard to Libya. There, the Council authorized “all necessary means” to protect civilians from the government of Libyan President Moammar Gaddafi. Thus there is now a precedent for the Council to authorise a resolution calling on member states to use “all necessary means” to arrest President Bashir and take him to the ICC for trial.

Regional and International Implications

One of the arguments against R2P is that the UN Charter specifically states that UN member states cannot intervene in one another's domestic affairs. In January 2011, it was revealed that China has continued to sell weapons and ammunition to Sudan during the Darfur conflict, despite UN arms sanctions on Sudan. According to journalist Colum Lynch, "Since 2001, China has supplied Khartoum with 72 percent of its imports of small arms and light weapons." In addition, a recent UN report claims that "Chinese ammunition had made its way into Darfur, and in some cases, had actually been used in skirmishes against U.N.-African Union peacekeepers."

Instead of becoming more cooperative since South Sudan became independent, President Bashir has cracked down on new groups within Sudan, including people in the Nuba Mountain region of Southern Kordofan. According to Amnesty International (AI) and Human Rights Watch (HRW), "an indiscriminate bombing campaign carried out by Sudan since early-June is killing and maiming men, women and children." Sudanese troops even detained four United Nations peacekeepers and subjected them to "a mock firing squad." According to AI and HRW, "The type of munitions used - unguided munitions dropped from high altitude and the indiscriminate manner in which they were delivered, violated international humanitarian law." As a result, the AI and HRW have urged the Security Council to "condemn in the strongest possible terms the ongoing human rights violations in the Nuba Mountains, and mandate an independent inquiry to investigate abuses committed by parties to the conflict in Southern Kordofan.

Previous Committee Work on This Topic

In Resolutions 1990, 1996, and 1997, the Council revised the mandate of UNMIS, the peacekeeping force that used to separate Sudan and South Sudan, to create UNISFA and UNMISS now that South Sudan is an independent state.

In S/RES/2003, the Security Council extended the mandate of UNAMID, the peacekeeping force in Darfur, for one year.

The Security Council has not passed a resolution on the emerging violence in the Nuba Mountains nor discussed it.

Should the Security Council authorize a new UN peacekeeping mission to operate in the Nuba Mountains, or should it take new approach and authorize an international effort to apprehend President Bashir? Peacekeeping operations, would have to be approved by the government, that is, by President Bashir.

The Security Council's alternative is to invoke the new principle of the Responsibility to Protect and authorize UN member states to enter Sudanese territory without the government's invitation to apprehend President Bashir so he can be tried for crimes against humanity by the ICC.

Current Situation October 2012

A UN Security Council resolution ordered a ceasefire and the settlement of crucial unresolved issues, under African Union mediation. The leaders of Sudan and newly independent South Sudan reached agreement in late September that will resume oil exports, but failed to address other key disputes.

The South's government had halted oil production in January after accusing Khartoum of theft in a long-running dispute over how much the impoverished government in Juba should pay for sending its oil through northern infrastructure for export. The deals signed last month included agreements to ensure the resumption of oil exports, as well as progress on a financial package of about \$3 billion that South Sudan offered Khartoum.

The Security Council had set a deadline for both sides to agree a deal or face sanctions - but a solution was not found to the disputed flashpoint region of Abyei, or on a series of border zones claimed by both countries.

Both Sudan and the South are reliant on their oil revenues, which account for 98% of South Sudan's budget. The two countries have tentatively agreed how to divide the oil wealth of the former united state. Some 75% of the oil lies in the South but all the pipelines run north. It is feared that renewed disputes over oil could lead the two neighbours to return to war. Resumed oil exports — from which Sudan will take transport fees — will help ease tensions but the new demilitarized buffer zone will provoke more conflict if the borders are not clearly defined.

They also reached agreement on a demilitarised border buffer zone, where troops must withdraw 10 kilometres (six miles) from the de facto line of control along the undemarcated frontier. The zone aims to cut support for rebels which Sudan says are backed by South Sudan in the northern states of South Kordofan and Blue Nile.

Threats

Citizenship and statelessness

The government of Sudan has restricted dual nationality; Sudanese nationals may now be stripped of their citizenship after adopting South Sudanese citizenship. Many Southern Sudanese have been living and working in the North for years, but without the recognition as Sudanese nationals, they do not have basic rights and cannot acquire jobs or attend school. Prolonged statelessness for these groups will lead to increased poverty and displacement, which could exacerbate ethnic tensions and cross-border violence.

Humanitarian crisis

South Sudan faces challenges in providing basic services to its population in terms of health care, education and living standards. Over half of the population of South Sudan lives in poverty and without significant humanitarian aid. This lack of necessities could lead to future conflicts over resources.

Resolutions:

Despite the progress that has been made in bringing involved parties to negotiate, violence within the province continues to displace civilians and threatens future peace building efforts in the area. Violence is also rampant in Abyei, a still-contested area that falls along the Sudan-South Sudan border and there are large numbers of Internally Displaced Persons.

South Sudan should be supported to build an amicable relationship with Sudan and to build a strong diplomatic relationship will be critical in resolving border disputes and dissipating future cross-border conflict. This is essential for global security.

South Sudan and Sudan face significant challenges in becoming peaceful and stable states. Humanitarian projects, including poverty reduction, clean sanitation projects, increased access to healthcare and expanding education, must be integrated into peace building attempts to strengthen and protect the both the Sudanese and South Sudanese populations. Border disputes must be successfully resolved.

33 countries of the AU are signatory to the I.C.C. The AU has failed to honour the arrest warrant of President Bashir. What steps can Security Council take to guarantee human rights across the region?

When researching this topic, delegates should consider how the AU might work with the Sudanese and South Sudanese governments to reach a solution to the problems of migration and citizenship. Given the domestic nature of immigration and citizenship policy, how might Security Council assist South Sudan in the creation of fair and equitable policies?

How can the Security Council support Sudan and South Sudan and ensure:

- Reciprocal economic and security arrangements;
- The correct demarcation of the common border and the resolution of border disputes;
- The political boundary between the two states does not hinder all-round human interaction across this border, making this a "soft border";
- The guarantee of the rights of the nationals of each state temporarily or permanently resident on each other's territory;
- The establishment of dispute-resolution mechanisms to peacefully settle all differences that may arise in the context of the implementation of these agreements.

Questions for Research:

What is your country's historical relationship with Sudan and its neighbouring states?

What direct and indirect effects does continued violence in Sudan have on your country?

Has your country experienced civil and international violence like that occurring in Sudan? If so, what is its current status? If the conflict ended, what brought it to a close?

What role has your country played in previous UN resolution and programs in Sudan? Does it have peacekeeping troops there?

What are the precedents and principles established by the Security Council for addressing the situation in the Sudan?

What can the Security Council do to ensure a peaceful solution to the Sudan's current civil unrest?

What is your country's position on the International Criminal Court and on the "responsibility to protect" civilians from war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity?

What is your country's position on the recent Security Council and NATO intervention in the civil war in Libya?

Research Links

www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-14094995

<http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43068&Cr=Sudan&Cr1=>

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_49194.htm

http://www.nytimes.com/2012/10/04/world/africa/nigerian-peacekeepers-killed-in-darfur-ambush.html?ref=africanunion&_r=0

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-africa-16910745>

<http://www.google.com/search?q=african+unuin+sudan+evaluation&sourceid=ie7&rls=com.microsoft:en-US&ie=utf8&oe=utf8>

[http://unmis.unmissions.org/.](http://unmis.unmissions.org/)

[http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocusRel.asp?infocusID=88.](http://www.un.org/apps/news/infocusRel.asp?infocusID=88)

[http://www.un.org/apps/news/docs.asp?Topic=Sudan&Type=Resolution.](http://www.un.org/apps/news/docs.asp?Topic=Sudan&Type=Resolution)

[www.internal-displacement.org/countries/southsudan.](http://www.internal-displacement.org/countries/southsudan)

[http://www.npr.org/2012/05/03/151958812/diplomats-up-efforts-to-avert-war-between-sudans.](http://www.npr.org/2012/05/03/151958812/diplomats-up-efforts-to-avert-war-between-sudans)

[http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=S/RES/2046%20%282012%29.](http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=S/RES/2046%20%282012%29)

UNISFA

Resolutions of the Security Council

Statements by the President of the Security Council

Reports of the Secretary-General

Letters between the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council