United Nations Security Council

Letter from the executive board.

Dear Delegates,

It is with incredible delight that we invite you all to the academic simulation of the **UNSC** at **CANMUN 2024.**

We trust this experience improves your public speaking abilities and that you find out about a squeezing world issue that convolutes the existence of numerous individuals in our nation just as abroad. Please consider that the following guide, as the name suggests, is merely to provide you with the background of the agenda and cannot serve as a credible source of information. Your real research lies beyond this guide, and we hope to see some strong content and debate come our way. The agenda at hand is vast and complex and a successful discussion on it would entail the collective participation of all of you. It shall be your prerogative to decide where you want to take this committee. The background guide is designed to help everyone understand the basic things about the agenda, and we strongly recommend that you research various things on your own. We also suggest understanding how various rights get affected (legally).

Please don't be taken aback by the research, foreign policy and other details of the allotted country. Before coming for the meeting, it is vital to break the agenda into more modest subtopics and pose inquiries to yourself about the plan. Making chits and directed gathering points previously would give you an edge. That said, we also want you to understand that a Model UN is more about collaboration and coming together to solve global issues than a competition and we sincerely hope that the entire committee comes with the right spirit in this conference. It is also crucial to enhance your leadership skills and lobbying capacity since we would give equal importance to overall participation in the committee. We would be using the UNA-USA rules of procedure to facilitate this simulation.

Take the initiative to research properly**. PLEASE READ THE GUIDE**. While it is a clear agenda, it is still open to interpretation and there shall be no direction of debate that shall be provided by the Executive Board. Delegates are required to direct the council at all stages unless stagnation occurs. The agenda of an MUN is a beautiful experience and is not as difficult as it may seem. We hope to see a great level of effort and enthusiasm from you all so that we all can take back a great experience.

Chairperson- Algin Thomas

Vice Chairperson- Darsheel Jain

Rapporteur- Pragna Reddy

Origin and the Overview of the UNSC

The UNSC is often referred to as the pillar of the United Nations and the global forum, The fifteen members of the UN Security Council seek to address threats to international security. The UN Charter established the Security Council, which gives primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the Security Council, which may meet whenever peace is threatened.The Security Council consists of ten elected members, and five permanent members (China, the United States, France, the United Kingdom, and the Russian Federation)Under the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions. It calls upon the parties to settle any dispute by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security. The Security Council has five permanent members—the United States, China, France, Russia, and the United Kingdom—collectively known as the P5. These nations possess the 'veto power'

The member states include -:

1. Algeria,
2. China,
3. Ecuador,
4. France
5. Guyana,
6. Japan,
7. Malta,
8. Mozambique,
9. Republic of Korea
10. Russian Federation,
11. Sierra Leone,
12. Slovenia,
13. Switzerland,
14. United Kingdom,
15. United States

According to the Charter, the United Nations has four purposes:

- to maintain international peace and security;
- to develop friendly relations among nations;
- to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights;
- to be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations. All members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. While other organs

of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, only the Security Council has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.
Overall, being the root of the United Nations, the UNSC represents peace, prosperity and development of the global nation. It calls upon all the member states to settle disparities peacefully and promptly to enhance the global peace of the world.

UNSC has one goal, to **maintain international peace and security**; to develop friendly relations among nations; to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights; and to be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations.

Nature of evidence

Documents from the following reports and documents will be accepted in committee in cases of any controversial statements made in the session. Below, some reports will not serve as proper evidence in committee .

1. **Reuters, Al jazeera** - Documents and quotations from the Reuters and Al jazeera news agencies will be widely accepted. In cases of executive board approval of the accuracy check on statements that surround controversy which are made in committee.
2. **Official Government documents** -: Government official documents, reports and quotations will also be considered as evidence or proof of any such statement made during committee.
3. **UN official reports-** All United Nations agency reports will be accepted as adequate evidence and proof. Quotations and Verbatim from UN charters will suffice as solid proof and will stand valid.
4**. Invalid sources** - Evidence and quotations from sources like Wikipedia will not serve as authentic proof in committee. Although it is barred to serve as proof, it can be used to understand the agenda better

Rules of Procedure

A Model UN is built upon its rules of procedure. With no proper conduct, we fail the entire point of a mock UN. This section of the Background guide will cover all the ROPs required to know the basic happenings of a conference.

1. Research:- Each delegate must research the nation's profile, agenda background, previous international action and country foreign policy along with possible solutions that relate to the agenda. These five aspects serve as the cornerstones of the research made by the delegate.

2. Roll call :- A delegate can vote either 'present' or 'present and voting'. 'Present' grants the delegate to abstain from voting upon the draft resolution whereas 'Present and voting' does not grant the delegate the same power of abstaining.

3. The General Speakers List :- The GSL refers to a speech of merely 90 seconds that talks about the agenda or summarizes one's position paper. It is to be of relevance to one's nation and the agenda.

4. Time Yields :- If a delegate has an amount of time remaining in their speech, they may yield their time in the following ways.

- Yield to the EB
- Yield to the floor for questions
- Yield to comments
- Yield to another delegate

5. Moderated Caucus :- A moderated caucus refers to speech made to cover a sub-topic of the agenda. It requires a majority of committee votes to pass. It requires specific verbatim to make it valid. For example :- "The delegate of XYZ would like to motion for a moderated caucus on the topic XYZ for a total time period of X providing X to each speaker.

6. Unmoderated Caucus :- During this caucus, delegates are free to lobby, discuss future moderated caucuses, make allies, working papers etc. it is often referred to as informal debate.

7. Points :- There are four points that are used in a conference. They are as follows-

- Point of information - POI's are questions directed to a delegate's speech in accordance to the agenda and are strictly required to be relevant.
- Point of order - Under a point of order a delegate may raise either a 'logical fallacy' or 'factual inaccuracy'

. ❖ Logical fallacy - When a delegate has mentioned something in their speech which is logically fallacious we refer to it as a logical fallacy.

❖ Factual inaccuracy - When a delegate has mentioned a fact which is wrong or inaccurate of any sort, we refer to it as a factual inaccuracy.

- Point of parliamentary enquiry -: A POE may be raised to clarify any doubts and misunderstandings with regards to the proceedings of the committee.
- Point of personal privilege -: A Point of Personal Privilege must refer to a matter of personal comfort, safety and/or well being of the members of the committee.

8. Documentation

● Position paper-: Refers to a paper that is to be submitted prior to the dates of the conference. It contains the stance of your nation and must answer the following Current position of the nation Past actions Possible solutions

● Draft resolution -: Resolutions are a commuted compilation of the solution discussed in committee that are presented to the world community as an actionable or suggestion to curb a certain issue,

● Working Paper -: Working papers are an outline of the solutions proposed. They are usually to be submitted prior to the tabling of the DR.

9. Voting

● There are 5 types of voting methods. All being -:

- Yes
- No
- Yes with rights
- No with rights
- Abstain

HISTORY

"When tyranny becomes law, rebellion is a right." - Simon Bolivar

The first (partial) union of Yemen resulted from the Ottomans' defeat in the First World War. This was made feasible by Imam Yahya and his son's leadership of the Hamid al-Din dynasty. The creation of a hierarchy wherein Zaydis held supreme authority over Sunnis was another consequence of unity. Consequently, the status gap was institutionalized and accepted. Due to its disobedience to Zaydi customs, the Hamid al-Din dynasty was unpopular with the Zaydis and was eventually overthrown in 1962 by Imam Badr, the grandson of Imam Yahya. A civil war sprang out as a result, pitting republicans against royalists. However, other forces like Saudi Arabia intervened for ideological reasons, as the latter aimed to uphold the monarchical structure to which it was personally committed. Saudi Arabia kept the republican form in 1970 despite its initial aspirations.

The internal conflicts of its counterpart in the north engaged the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen. Though it had backed the republicans in their earlier efforts to counter Saudi influence, the Hamdi dictatorship in the Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen) was most known for its efforts to lessen Saudi influence in Yemeni affairs. Nevertheless, his reign was brief. Following a string of political upheaval characterized by the murders of previous presidents,

Colonel Ali Abdullah Saleh emerged as the president of the Yemen Arab Republic. Saleh ruled for thirty-three years. The 1990 Yemeni unity was a significant event that defined his rule. His endeavor was not totally fruitful since a civil war erupted in 1994. Nevertheless, he managed to emerge triumphant from it. The Republic of Yemen was then formally founded by constitution. Saleh attempted to hold onto power by amending the constitution in the hopes that his son would succeed him, but protests and strong opposition forced him from office.

As this was going on, the organization "Friends of Yemen" was established, initially with the goal of halting al-Qaeda on the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), as there was evidence linking it to several attacks against US military installations and hardware. Following the Gulf Cooperation Council's (GCC) and United Nations' recommendation that the management of Yemen's "crisis" be left to international actors, the "Friends of Yemen" group became increasingly active in the country during the Arab Spring.

In the north, a revolt has been ongoing for over a decade in the northernmost governorate of Sa'da. This is often referred to as the Houthi conflict because it is led by the Houthi family, a prominent Zaydi religious clan who claim descent from the prophet Mohammed. Houthis believe that Zaydi Shiism and the Zaydi community became marginalized in Yemeni society for a variety of reasons, including government neglect of Sa'da governorate and Saudi Arabian “Wahhabi” or “Salafi” proselytizing in Sa'da. They have repeatedly fought the Yemeni central government. In 2009, the Houthis fought both Yemen and Saudi Arabia. The Saudi government staged a cross-border military intervention inside Yemen in response to reported infiltration by Houthi fighters into southern Saudi Arabia. The Houthis are a regional separatist movement and, in practical terms, would be unable to effectively control all of Yemen.

Stakeholder Analysis

“ As long as we have faith in our own cause and an unconquerable will, victory will not be denied us.” - Winston Churchill, Former Prime Minister of the United Kingdom.

The crisis at hand is a result of multiple instances which led to the final destabilisation of the country. This finally leads to the outbreak of the unprecedented civil war which has affected the equilibrium in the entire region. The executive board chooses to only highlight key stakeholders and elaborates in a very inquisitive tone in order to enhance research and debate.

The Houthis

The Houthi family, a prominent Zaydi religious clan, claim descent from the prophet Mohammed. Houthis believe that Zaydi Shiism and the Zaydi community became marginalized in Yemeni society for a variety of reasons, including government neglect of Sa'da governorate and Saudi Arabian “Wahhabi” or “Salafi” proselytizing in Sa'da. They have repeatedly fought the Yemeni central government. In 2009, the Houthis fought both Yemen and Saudi Arabia. The Saudi government staged a cross-border military intervention inside Yemen in response to reported infiltration by Houthi fighters into southern Saudi Arabia. The Houthis are a regional separatist movement and, in practical terms, would be unable to effectively control all of Yemen. The Houthis want to maximize their position in Yemen’s internal power structure. In order to achieve that, they seek more autonomy and a redrawing of the federal regions that would formally provide them with an outlet to the Red Sea and/or access to oil pipelines, reserves, or export facilities. The Houthis also want to maintain their militia, though some observers speculate that they could ultimately be integrated into the national armed forces.

The Hadi Government

Abd Rabo Mansour Hadi came into power following a peace deal brokered by the GCC in 2011. The internationally recognized government was given the task of preparing Yemen for significant amendments of its constitution and to pave the way for the upcoming elections. Hadi’s government attempted reconciliation among parties by conducting a National Dialogue Conference (NDC). The NDC brought together an equal number of representatives from South and North of Yemen and included youth and women. It produced a document that included 1,800 recommendations, and the UN praised NDC's efforts. Hadi’s government is backed by Saudi Arabia and works hand in hand with the Riyadh-based Islah movement. On the other hand, it opposes the GPC in Sanaa and fights the Houthi presence. Hadi’s government also opposes Iran for its financial and logistical support to the Houthis.

The General People’s Congress (GPC)

This party was formed in 1982 by Yemen’s former President Ali Abdullah Saleh. Although officially, the GPC follows Arab nationalism as its ideology, the GPC was established to serve as a support system for Saleh’s regime in the country. Members and supporters of GPC often received rewards for their loyalty in jobs and other perks. However, following the Arab Spring in 2011, when Saleh was ousted as President, GPC was divided into factions. One of the factions has continued being loyal to Saleh, and allied with the Houthis against the coalition, who carried out airstrikes in Yemen.

The Southern Transitional Council is also in a fierce conflict with Islah, as Islah was initially founded to counter the South's separatist efforts. Although both STC and Islah are anti-Houthis, they have engaged in violent conflicts multiple times. STC works hand in hand with the Saudi-led coalition against Houthis. Furthermore, they receive financial and advisory aid from the United Arab Emirates, where its leaders live.

Saudi Arabia

To Saudi Arabia, the Houthis represent the Iranian agenda to create a non-state, non-Sunni movement in the Middle East, which can pressure Iran's enemies, like Hezbollah's operations in Lebanon (Sharp, 2015). Saudi Arabia's intervention in tribal matters has been evident, especially in the North of Yemen. In the 1970s, Saudi's support for the Salafist schools in the north contributed significantly to the Saada wars outbreak in 2004-2010. Another example of its intervention is in 2011, following the Arab Spring, the GCC coalition, led by KSA, brokered a deal that resulted in the removal of former President Saleh and Hadi's appointment as head of the transitional government.

When this plan fell apart in September 2014, Saudi Arabia intervened militarily, supporting the Hadi government against Houthi rebels. Although the conflict between STC and the Hadi government has caused some tensions in the STC-Saudi relationship, the two still share a good relationship.

Moreover, KSA shares a close relationship with former President Saleh's family, specifically his son Tariq, who leads forces under Saudi's command. Although most GCC member states have withdrawn from the civil war, Saudi Arabia is intensifying its presence in this war's politics and is extensively involved in multiple negotiations.

Despite offering a great degree of political and financial support to Yemen under Hadi – indeed, effectively bailing out the central bank on multiple occasions – Saudi Arabia has gotten very little out of the investment, considering the collapse of the government and the dramatic rise of the Houthis, a group that the Saudis designated a terror organization in March 2014.

Foreign Intervention

Russia and China have also entered the picture, with their diplomatic staff holding numerous high-profile meetings with key Houthi political leaders. The Houthis' public moves towards Russia and China would appear to underline the shift away from the United States. Former president Hadi's closest ally, perhaps, was Washington, which saw the government as a key partner in the battle against the Yemen-based AQAP. Even if they have sent signals of a willingness to cooperate on some grounds, the acerbically anti-American Houthis' domination of

the capital – and the institutions of the Yemeni armed forces – has nonetheless forced the US to dramatically scale back its involvement in Yemen, particularly since the closure of its embassy.

Nonetheless, a number of drone strikes have occurred since the resignation of Hadi, indicating that the US will continue its controversial drone strikes against suspected AQAP targets.

Iran

This is in large part due to paranoia over the Houthis' ties to Iran. While largely overhyped – the Houthis are, ultimately, an indigenous Yemeni group with an autonomous leadership motivated almost wholly by local Yemeni issues – the Houthis' ties with Iran have, unsurprisingly, been the cause for widespread anxieties among the Gulf states.

Oman has proved the exception, reportedly using its non-aligned position to increase its role as a mediator in negotiations between differing Yemeni political factions. But while the Gulf states' focus on the Houthis' ties with Iran may be somewhat misplaced, there is little question that a Houthi-ruled or Houthi-influenced Yemen will see the centre of gravity shift towards Iran at the expense of Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states. This is likely to continue regardless of whether the Houthis formally take control of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Iran has also built ties with some members of the GPC and leftist figures from the south of the country. These relationships have been strengthened as Iran has upped its economic and political cooperation with Sanaa, welcoming a delegation of government officials to Iran.

The Islamic Republic's ultimate Yemen strategy appears unclear – although it appears that Iran aims to have a friendly government in Sanaa, albeit not one that is necessarily hostile to Saudi Arabia. And while hardliners within the Iranian government have heaped praise upon the Houthis' takeover of Sanaa, many have argued that Tehran has ultimately been pleasantly surprised by the extent and speed of the group's gains.

Yemen: Legal

"What is called the Law of Nations is not properly law, but a part of ethics."
***- John Stuart Mill,* Former MP, United Kingdom**

The United Nations Security Council harnesses the power it does for a very crucial reason, to harmonise the actions of International actors. This very reason calls for a very intense and thorough discussion of International Law at a level that at times is not often seen in the other bodies of the United Nations. Since we are discussing key legal principles at a birds eye level, dealing with the entire crisis at hand and not just deliberating upon individual catalysts, the

executive board calls upon the committee to take a moment to understand and interpret law as intended, that leads to a lasting, constructive solution. Conflict Classification International Humanitarian Law classifies armed conflicts into two types, IAC's and NIAC's. While international armed conflicts (IAC) involve two or more States, Non-international armed conflicts are fought between the armed forces of one or more States and one or more organised non-State armed groups and other such groups.11 International jurisprudence has clarified that international and non-international armed conflicts may coexist on the same territory. Furthermore, a non-international armed conflict between a State and an organised armed group may become international if a third State exercises overall control over such a group.

Use of Force

This section deals with the Houthis in specific. The Houthis have been found to be:

1. Firing long range missiles from Capital Sana'a
2. Unlawfully ousting the Hadi Government
3. Using lethal force on civilian protesters
4. Capturing and murdering hostages
5. Kidnapping children
6. Capturing coastlines
7. Murdering former President Saleh, etc.

The use of force in other states is prohibited by the UN Charter;15 the only exceptions are the use of force in self-defense and the use of force with UN Security Council authorization has accused Saudi Arabia of using force in Yemen as an unlawful international intervention in Yemen's sovereign territory.

In response, Saudi Arabia claims that the legitimate government of Yemen is the Hadi government, referring to the UN's statements, and that this legitimate government has invited Saudi Arabia to use force in Yemen to restore order and peace to counter the illegitimate use of force by the Houthis.

Therefore, I implore the committee to enquire about the legality of using force by invitation or consent of the host state, and then to evaluate whether the use of force by Saudi Arabia is aligned with the international law of using force.

Humanitarian Crisis

Currently, Yemen is facing the "largest food insecurity emergency in the world.

Even before the war broke out, Yemen was reported to be one of the poorest countries in the world, dependent on international aid for a majority of its food supply. The economy, health care system, infrastructure, rule of law, and governance in Yemen have been devastated.

Alongside these issues, Yemen is suffering from outbreaks of deadly diseases, violence, poverty, and the displacement of its population. More than three million people are internally displaced within Yemen, and more than 160,000 people have migrated to other countries as refugees. Saudi Arabia has received the most. Twenty million people need humanitarian aid and more than ten million people need food aid. Almost 10,000 innocent civilians have lost their lives in indiscriminate attacks.

Thousands of those innocents have been small children. Approximately 20 people die every day from deadly diseases or from war wounds in Yemen. Thus keeping in mind the above verified facts, the President implores the committee to discuss applicable IHL provisions to tackle the same.

Intervention

The primary legal issue that needs attention is the Right to Intervention. The concept of intervention by invitation or with consent, has been proven, in practice, to be one of the most complicated, implicating issues of government legitimacy (from different perspectives) as well as collective security.

The main question to be answered is: why, and to what extent, does a government have the right to invite foreign intervention in its own territory. This question allows us to examine how the implementation of consensual intervention is regulated and whether an intervention by invitation is, in any circumstances, legitimate. In addition, in cases where legitimacy is contested, it is necessary to ask, which entity can claim, for itself, the right to consensual intervention. The analysis of this last issue comes down to the criteria regarding the legitimacy of a government in cases of contested authority.

All of these questions are important in relation to the Saudi-led intervention. Traditionally, it was widely accepted that an invitation by the recognized government of a State, which effectively controlled the territory and the population, constituted a legitimate basis for intervention, provided the consent to intervention was genuine.

The invitation of intervention is perceived as a bilateral agreement between the inviting or consenting part and the intervening part, which suspends the normal code of conduct and rules regulating their relationship regarding the use of force. After all, force is not used against the territorial integrity or the political independence of the State, but in furtherance of them, despite literally taking place in the territory of the State. This view was adopted by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the famous Nicaragua case, as well as in the DRC v. Uganda case

where, parenthetically, the Court accepted the legitimacy of consensual intervention provided the consent was valid. The Draft Articles on State Responsibility also provide that:

"Valid consent by a State to the commission of a given act by another State precludes the wrongfulness of that act in relation to the former State to the extent that the act remains within the limits of that consent."

However, considering that interpretations of International law by member states are in most cases polar opposites to popularly held notions, the question becomes a lot more technical. In such a sense, the intervention in Yemen constitutes a clear case not only of the difficulty to find a clear pathway for such cases, but also of the limitations to sovereignty and to the rights flowing out of it, on the basis of internal legitimacy as well as of international law.

Last but not least, in light of such a catastrophe, the international community and the UN organs should have come up with more constructive and effective solutions, compared with their current position, which is inconsistent and, to some extent, hypocritical.

CURRENT SITUATION

"There are two ways to resolve conflicts, through violence or through negotiation. Violence is for violent beasts, negotiation is for human beings." - Marcus Tullius Cicero

Despite the official six-month UN-brokered cease-fire technically ending in October 2022, neither party has since taken any significant escalatory measures, and tensions have not increased. Alongside continued UN mediation efforts, peace discussions between Saudi and Houthi leaders, mediated by Oman, resumed in April 2023. But real progress is still difficult, as the first official Houthi visit to the Saudi capital since the start of the conflict on September 14 produced nothing more than platitudes. Reconstruction efforts, a date for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Yemen, and the full reopening of Houthi-controlled ports and Sanaa airport were purportedly the main topics of discussion. The negotiations have also been overshadowed by the Houthi drone strike that occurred in late September and the suspension of the sole commercial flight route out of Sanaa.

Although there is still little animosity between the two sides of the conflict, AQAP's political violence increased in May and June to its highest monthly level since November 2022. The majority of the fighting has been concentrated in the Yemeni governorates of Abyan and Shawba, where AQAP has targeted STC-affiliated forces with IEDs and drones. Three soldiers from the Security Belt Forces, an armed organization that supports the STC, and a military officer were slain by an explosive that AQAP detonated in August 2023. That same month, five soldiers from a different separatist council-affiliated militia were slain by AQAP fighters. Three

days after the October 7 attack on Israel, Abdel-Malek al-Houthi, the leader of the Houthis in Yemen, issued a warning: if the US directly intervenes in the Hamas-Israel War, the group will retaliate with military force. U.S. officials declared in mid-October that multiple Houthi drones and cruise missiles fired at Israel had been shot down by the USS Carney.

The Houthis persisted in firing several missiles and drone attacks until October 31, when it formally declared its entrance into the conflict to aid Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Similar strikes by the Houthis persisted till November. As of late January 2024, the Houthis have assaulted at least thirty-three other ships using drones, missiles, and speed boats after taking over a commercial ship in the Red Sea on November 19.

As a result, big shipping firms have switched to more and time-consuming routes around Southern Africa, bypassing the Red Sea, which is used by over 15% of all seaborne traffic worldwide. Increased shipping and insurance expenses are the result of the situation, which fuels concerns about a potential new cost-of-living crisis. The United States and the United Kingdom conducted coordinated airstrikes on Houthi targets in Yemen on January 11 and January 22, in response to the Houthi attacks that have been occurring on a regular basis in the Red Sea. Given that the Houthis have vowed to continue their military operations until a truce in the Gaza Strip is agreed upon and aid is permitted into the enclave, it is unclear when the strikes will end.