

TOPIC SYNOPSIS

Advanced UNHCR



South Sudan Refugee Crisis

POSITION PAPERS

Position papers are due by midnight, January 12th. Please send to the email address below. Identify your committee and assignment on the subject line and in the text of the message. Include your position paper as an attachment in .PDF format. If you choose, you can also include it as a Google Doc, but remember to give access to the Secretariat.

The position paper format can be found [HERE](#).

Email your position paper and any questions you might have to:

Advanced UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR): whsmununhcr19@gmail.com

IMPORTANT COMMITTEE POLICIES TO BE AWARE OF

- Speaking time for speeches will not be lowered to anything shorter than a minute-thirty seconds. Lowering a speaking time below this does nothing to facilitate debate;
- Comments on speeches cannot be lowered below 30-seconds;
- Moderated caucuses have a set time of 20-minutes. They can be extended for two extra 10-minute sessions afterward;
- Unmoderated caucuses can be set for 10, 15, and 20 minutes with one 10-minute extension permitted;
- There is no yielding of speaking time to other delegates;
- No pre-written resolutions will be accepted;
- The use of national flags, pins, or any other national emblem in committee is discouraged, as the United Nations does not allow them either in committee;
- Handouts or briefing sheets are not allowed to be distributed in committee as it gives an unfair advantage to delegates who don't have them and is in conflict with the spirit of no pre-written resolutions;
- Computers and phones are not permitted for non-committee related activities such as chatting, gaming, non-conference related web browsing, etc.
- All committee rooms are open to adult advisors including during voting blocs. Student advisors can be kept out during voting blocs;
- Recently, we have discovered that some delegations have been relying on chat groups with adult and student advisors writing speeches and comments for delegates in order to help them with committee awards that they could not do on their own. The use of using chat to, in essence, cheat, is prohibited. This does not mean that advisors cannot send general advice to their delegates such as "get yourself on the speaker's list" or "raise your placard more." This is just to keep delegates from being fed speeches or comments on information they did not research themselves.

Delegates found to be in violation of these restrictions will lose diplomacy points and may be excluded from any recognition. In addition, they will be reported to their advisors.

Background:

South Sudan underwent several decades of fighting and civil war and culture clashes before finally unifying to become a country. And, now, they are the newest nation in the world. The resources in South Sudan, include oil, which is very common in these Middle-Eastern countries. The country was extremely undeveloped even before all off this fighting and war broke out among the citizens from both sides of the issue. In December 2013, a disagreement between Salva Kiir and Riek Machar resulted in Riek Machar's firing from the Vice President position in South Sudan. Riek Machar was accused of planning a coup plot against Salva Kiir; however, Machar has denied these claims and it remains unconfirmed to this day. This caused an uproar within the South Sudan Government and two sides were formed. The Dinka Ethnic group supported President Salva Kiir while the Nuer ethnic group supported former Vice President Riek Machar. Both ethnic groups have committed massacres, rape, and the exploitation/recruitment of children along ethnic lines. Tensions in South Sudan have disrupted farming season causing a shortage of food. With expensive and scarce food, South Sudan faced a food crisis. It was predicted that a third (4 million citizens) of South Sudan's population would face starvation. While many attempts at ceasefire are made, they are all ineffective and quickly broken. By June 2014, 1.4 million South Sudan citizens fled their homes due to armed conflict and famine. Both sides signed a peace agreement in 2015. Fortunately, in April of 2016, the

Transitional Government of National Unity (TGNU) was created by the UN to implement a permanent ceasefire and transitional institutes in the government to rebuild trust among the two sides. The United Nations Security Council was the specific branch who did this. While famine posed a serious threat, many efforts were made to create peace and rebuild South Sudan.

However, when Machar came back to his country in 2017, fighting broke out once again. In May 2017, a unilateral ceasefire was announced; however, conflict still continued. However, many people are still suffering South Sudan. Although it is slightly better than before, many people are still hungry and starving. Most of the people fleeing South Sudan are children and women.

These people have been through the most abuse and trauma, such as rape, as aforementioned.

Some countries help host these refugees, such as Uganda, who provide them with food and shelter.

Uganda is hosting more than one million refugees to this date. Currently, there are more than 2 million refugees. As of now the temporary government has expired, so we need to work towards solutions in this committee. Currently, there are more than 2 million refugees. Sanctions are being used to provide incentive for both of these political sides to work together.

UN Involvement

There has been a good amount of peacekeeping involvement from the United Nations in the South Sudan Refugee crisis. In 2007, UNAMID, which was an operation in Dafur, was initiated.

UNAMID was a hybrid project created with the help of both the African Union and the United Nations. The purpose of this mission was primarily to protect civilians, but also helps out with other social issues and can also help settle some political tensions. In 2011, on June 27th, the Security Council established UNISFA in resolution 1990. UNISFA's main purpose and goal was to provide humanitarian aid and help to the people encountering these harsh political climates. It also monitors the border between north and south. UNISFA stands for United Nations Interim Security Force for Abeyei. UNISFA came after the Sudan Government and SPLM, or Sudan

People's Liberation Movement, came up with an agreement; the agreement included the demilitarization of Abeyai and let Ethiopian troops help oversee the area. Later that year, the Security Council deemed that this situation could have harmful effects and disrupt peace worldwide and, as a result, issued resolution 1996 on July 8th. This resolution set up UNMISS, or United Nations Mission in South Sudan. This would be effective for one year, starting from July 9th 2011, and could be renewed as seen fit. Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Bintou Keita, recently stated that, "A sustainable political resolution of the conflict is also the only avenue to chalk out a viable exit strategy". In more recent years, the UN security council has used the Regional Protection Force or RPF to also assist with the issue. Since this time, 2016, military conflict in the capital is less prominent and occurs at a lesser rate than before although it still poses a threat to civilians and citizens. The United Nations is also investigating into how to use less forces and peacekeeping troops in this area. An update to the UNMISS mission was made in 2017 after criticism from the public for not doing enough to help out with the situation. Because of this, they now deliver more humanitarian aid and also protect citizens human rights violations as well as from the political warfare climate. The United Nations specifically focused on the famine problem in the country in 2017. The peacekeeping troops that were sent to South Sudan in the last decade have done a lot of work in the region. Specifically, it helps control law and promotes human rights and helps to work against and fight against human rights violations such as abuse. The missions also help with the political process. They also oversee the border of Chad and the Central African Republic, otherwise known as CAR. Bloc

Positions

Western Bloc: Previously, the United States has imposed sanctions upon some South Sudan officials. The western bloc, but specifically the United States, condemns and disproves the fighting and political warfare in the area. Former President Obama wanted to put an end to this

conflict, saying that the inflammatory situation is not good and emphasizes more peaceful and diplomatic situations. The United States has some troops stationed in the area to watch out for and protect US interests. Additionally, the United States places an emphasis on the regional governments of the area to not deal with the war money coming from the South Sudan area. This is because there is heavy corruption in the oil industries in South Sudan, where the money is coming from.

European Bloc: Europe has only taken in a few refugees from the time the war started to 2016. However, they have been supporting South Sudan refugees and sending help to this crisis by giving money. Some of the money goes directly towards helping the refugees and the other half of the money is going to humanitarian agencies and organizations within the region. The European Union also helps out with supplies, such as food, water, and shelter. Other than these resources, the European Union is also helping out medically with supplying vaccines and other such needed supplies. Some of the European money also went to nutritional centres for malnourished citizens, specifically pregnant women and children.

Asian Bloc (A): Overall, countries in the Asian Bloc have supported international efforts to alleviate the situation in South Sudan through peace talks and humanitarian aid. Specifically, China has supported efforts with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) to mediate peace in South Sudan. Largely, this has been done to protect oil interests in South Sudan. However, China has found large success utilizing persuasion instead of sanctions and negotiated the release of some of the thirteen members of SPLM arrested by Kiir for the alleged coup in 2013.

Latin Bloc (A): The Latin Bloc has provided support through humanitarian aid and financial support to aid those suffering in the South Sudan Civil War. They have also supported international efforts to establish peace in South Sudan.

African Bloc (A): Many countries in the African Union, such as Uganda, have suffered from a massive influx of south Sudanese refugees. However, the African Union has established financial and humanitarian aid to support the South Sudan government feed the population suffering from famine.

Questions to Consider

- Does your country support the current President Kiir, or the Ex-Vice President Machar, or neither of them?
- How can we prevent the corrupt government elite from siphoning funds and resources from African countries into their personal banks?
- Often, the UN and foreign nations lack leverage to evoke any change from corrupt government officials in Africa, what can we do to gain leverage in negotiations?
- Recently, the United States has utilized the Global Magnitsky Act to target Kiir's companies to crack down upon corruption scandals, what can we learn from this and how can this be utilized to combat corruption.
- China's persuasive approach at negotiation (no sanctions) has allowed for the release of some of the thirteen SPLM members jailed for the alleged coup against Kiir, is it more beneficial to take lax approaches like China or aggressive approaches like the U.S.?

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