

Committee: Novice Security Council

Topic: The Moro Conflict

Goals of this committee:

The session of the Security Council committee is to focus on the Moro National Liberation Front within the Philippines. The committee will be focusing on maintaining security and peace and determining solution-based actions in response to the recent and past events in the region. The goal of the committee is to effectively respond to the Moro conflict and collaboratively construct and pass strong resolutions to alleviate the conflict.

Background of Committee:

The United Nations Security Council is the most powerful of the six major UN bodies. Often the most well-known branch of the United Nations, its primary purpose is to maintain international peace and security. The Security Council is the only committee with the explicit access to Peacekeeping forces as well as the ability to impose sanctions on other nations. There are five permanent members of the Security Council: the United States, United Kingdom, China, Russia, and France. Ten nations are rotated out every two years to work alongside the permanent members; every member of the Security Council takes a vote in resolutions, but if at least one permanent member votes against a resolution, the resolution immediately fails.

In a Security Council committee, speaking lists do not exist and the committee instead goes in a round robin speaking format; every delegate speaks for five minutes at a time until all delegates have had an opportunity to speak and delegates are allowed to pass when their turn comes. Unmoderated caucuses can be motioned for as well as moderated caucus, but moderated caucuses occurring will be dependent on the status of committee and time constraints. Please remember that Security Council members do not only represent their own nation, but surrounding states within their region or bloc as well.

Topic Background:

In 1971, the Moro National Liberation Front was founded by Nur Misuari to contest land in the Philippines as means for an independent state with the Muslim minority. This militant group primarily targeted Christian settlers who had been relocated to the Mindanao region, creating land conflicts. In September 1972, Filipino President Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law on this organization due to its escalating violating tendencies, an action which quickly led to war. This war led to massive unifications among the Moro rebels towards the rebel cause, creating a strong Moro rebellion. In response to this, the Armed Forces of the Philippines also

retaliated with massive numbers, forcing great losses upon the MNLF and forcing them to undertake more guerilla forms of offense.

UN Involvement:

The UN has created a peace agreement with the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in order to settle the conflict. Together with the UN, MILF is establishing a framework in order to set awareness of their international obligations within the community, prevent associations with the equipped group. However this agreement split in 1984 as the MILF continued to fight for independence. On October 7, 2012, a new peace agreement was created, called the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro. The agreement was signed in March of 2014 by the Government of the Philippines and the MILF once again and consisted of creating Bangsamoro which would be self-autonomic area in the Muslim dominated country of Western Mindanao.

Furthermore, the United Nations have signed an action plan in order to prevent continued recruitment of child soldiers in the moro conflict. Following the UN resolution, A/70/836-S/2016/360, which was issued on April 20th 2016, the United Nations agrees to further establish protection agencies/programs that would ensure a child's safety within war-torn regions of the Moro conflict. UN affiliated programs such as UNICEF, agrees on releasing any child soldiers within MILF forces, along with the further aid provided by the MLF, as well as the UN country team in Philippines. Along with the Government of Philippines, the UN has established a framework, for the purpose of settling future prolonged conflicts on the southern island of Mindanao. Additionally, the United Nations Secretary-General announces global reports on the impact of the moro conflict, regarding the international community to the Security Council. Nearly one year ago, the United Nations has financially assisted community networks in roughly six conflicted areas within the Bangsmoro region, in hopes of protecting individuals, which was later established and noted in United Nations resolution S/2017/294.

Possible Solutions:

The United Nations as well as the Philippines itself has already implemented several solutions to the conflict. Negotiations are a common solution pertaining to the topic and has been tried, leading to, in some cases, temporary peace and ceasefire. Many groups have advocated for peaceful methods on the situation of the Moro Conflict, such as the Young Moro Professionals Network (YMPN). However, peace agreements have made little progress due to weak implementation and opposing views on peace resolutions. The Moro National liberation front (MNLF) wants to enhance the current Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM), while the Moro Islamic liberation Front (MILF) and other radical factions want the (BBL) Bangsamoro Basic Law to be signed into law thus abolishing the ARMM and making the region more autonomous. These opposing views are what hinder the Muslim Mindanao region from

becoming a stable region. There must be a clear future path for this region otherwise solutions such as the Bangsamoro Basic Law could be deemed unconstitutional by the Philippine supreme court making it difficult for the Philippine congress to pass BBL by March 2018. Opposing views between the MILF, MNLF, and Philippine government are what have prevented these groups from benefitting from past peace processes. It is imperative they reach common ground, by analyzing different models and political structures that have been effective in resolving sectionalist conflicts elsewhere. Give examples of structures that might be effective in reaching an agreement for these groups.

Please note that delegates should come up with detailed and creative solutions to the problem. It is better to have less, more-detailed solutions, than more vague ones. Delegates' solutions must pertain to the Moro conflict and be within their countries interests.

Bloc Positions:

- **European Bloc:** The European Union is part of the International Monitoring Team (IMT) which overlooks and aims to keep the current ceasefire between the MNLF and the Philippines' government. The European Union's role in the IMT is to work on maintaining peace and productivity in Mindanao. Similarly, in the past, the European Union provided more than 10 million euros to those in need of assistance due to this conflict. The European Union has been incredibly supportive while they were in need of assistance during natural disasters and while Mindanao needed much international support.
- **Latin American Bloc:** As of recently there have been no designated support nor dissupport regarding the Morocco Conflict.
- **Asian Bloc:** The MNLF did receive support from the country of Malaysia in order to fight for and independent Moro nation. Associations such as the Asian Human Rights Council provide resources for information on human rights for the Moro conflict.
- **Western/North American Bloc:** The United States current advancements are in aiding and advising the Philippines government. In the past, the United States and Philippines did have conflicts such as the Philippine-American war but as of now the US is providing the Philippines with equipment and supplies.
- **African Bloc:** Countries such as Libya have participated in backing the MNLF.

Questions to Consider:

- Current attempts to eradicate extremist groups have either failed or resulted poorly. What are better methods to eradicate these groups (Specifically the MNLF) peacefully?
- How do, and what supplies and goods get imported to the rebels? Which nations, groups, or organizations export them?

- What delays to the new autonomous region, Bangsamoro (for the Moro people in the Southern Philippines), have been caused and how can they be solved?
- Communication has been a severe barrier from the MNLF to the International community. What networks/media outlets can serve smooth communication for peaceful methods?
-

Sources:

1. Cassman, Daniel. "Moro National Liberation Front." *Moro National Liberation Front / Mapping Militant Organizations*, web.stanford.edu/group/mappingmilitants/cgi-bin/groups/view/379.
2. "Guide to the Philippines conflict." *BBC News*, BBC, 8 Oct. 2012, www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-17038024.
3. *Moro National Liberation Front / Mapping Militant Organizations*, googleweblight.com/i?u=http%3A%2F%2Fweb.stanford.edu%2Fgroup%2Fmappingmilitants%2Fcgi-bin%2Fgroups%2Fview%2F379&grqid=ZLJ7SxuX&hl=en-IN.
4. "Philippines: UN official welcomes impact of Government-Rebel peace accord on children in armed conflict." *UN News Center*, United Nations, 24 Oct. 2012, www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43365#.WIKiEd-nFPY.
5. Yap, Lau Seng. "Will the Bangsamoro Peace Process Succeed?" *The Diplomat*, The Diplomat, 8 Dec. 2017, thediplomat.com/2017/12/will-the-bangsamoro-peace-process-succeed/.
6. *Young Moro Professionals Network*, www.rappler.com/previous-articles?filterMeta=Young Moro Professionals Network.
7. *History: Mindanao Conflict and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.* "Conciliation Resources", 16 Nov. 2015, www.c-r.org/where-we-work/southeast-asia/history-mindanao-conflict-and-moro-islamic-liberation-front
8. *Philippines: UN Official Welcomes Impact of Government-Rebel Peace Accord on Children in Armed Conflict.* "UN News Center", United Nations, 24 Oct. 2012, www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=43365#.Wlll-kxFxu0.

9. Hernandez, Mary Beatrice, and Joseph P. Smaldone. "The Philippines Moro Conflict: The problems and prospects in the quest for a sustainable peace." Georgetown University, Washington, D.C. , 2017.
10. Bacani, Benedicto R. "The Mindanao Peace Talks: Another Opportunity to Resolve the Moro Conflict in the Philippines." *United States Institute of Peace*, 21 May 2015, www.usip.org/publications/2005/02/mindanao-peace-talks-another-opportunity-resolve-moro-conflict-philippines.
11. "Tackling the Issue of Children Associated with Armed Groups in Mindanao, the Philippines Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict." United Nations, United Nations, childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/children-with-armed-groups-philippines/
12. "Report of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict in the Philippines (S/2017/294)." *ReliefWeb*, reliefweb.int/report/philippines/report-secretary-general-children-and-armed-conflict-philippines-s2017294.
13. Yap, Lau Seng. "Will the Bangsamoro Peace Process Succeed?" *The Diplomat*, The Diplomat, 8 Dec. 2017, thediplomat.com/2017/12/will-the-bangsamoro-peace-process-succeed/.
14. "The Mindanao Peace Talks: Another Opportunity to Resolve the Moro Conflict in the Philippines." *United States Institute of Peace*, 21 May 2015, www.usip.org/publications/2005/02/mindanao-peace-talks-another-opportunity-resolve-moro-conflict-philippines.

Novice Security Council 7

Hello! My name is Zunaira Baig and I will be your head chair for this conference! I am super excited to be running a novice security council for the first time. I am currently a sophomore, and I have been doing MUN since seventh grade. Along with MUN, I also am a part of our school's FTC robotics team and our school's Japan Quiz Bowl team. I enjoy listening to music, reading books, crushing on Johnny Seo and just talking way more than I need to. In this committee, I really want to see everyone grow as much as possible as delegates and I am looking forward to some productive debate. I hope we all have a great time today at WHSMUN and may the odds be ever in your favor!

Hi!! My name is Riya Shivanand and I'm your Vice chair for this conference! In my free time you can find me watching a bunch of random Jdramas and K dramas or lounging around in my bedroom. I enjoy taking showers as a pastime and I love studying psychology for fun. My all time favorite anime is Naruto and my favorite meal has become the infamous Ramen. I look forward to being able to make an impact in this world and believe that MUN is one way to go about doing this. I am super excited to be vice chairing this committee as we will make it the most fun and competitive committee yet!! This is an opportunity for everyone here to grow, learn, and just have fun!

Hi there! I'm Nhi Nghiem, your legal for this committee. I love cats to an unreasonable amount, and am overly passionate about way too many other things (which makes writing a short bio rather difficult). If you make puns, I will groan and pretend to hate them, but don't be intimidated, I'm secretly enjoying it. I look forward to a fun, productive committee with you

