

Prepared by Lee Zhonghern, Head Chair of UNSC

UNSC



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Reviewing the Geneva
Conventions of 1949



Redefining the Purpose and
Objectives of United Nations
Peacekeeping Forces

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1.0 Introduction to the Dais

1.1 Head Chair: Lee Zhong Hern

Hello dear delegates, Zhong Hern here and I am honoured to be able to serve as your Head Chair! For first-timers, welcome to the world of Model United Nations (MUN), and I hope that you will have an amazing journey with us. As for those who have been delegating multiple times, welcome home!

This is my 26th MUN conference, the 11th time serving as a Head Chair, therefore, I am undoubtedly excited to learn together with all of you. At the same time, I would also like all of you to relax and enjoy your journey of 3 days with me and my Co-Chair — Joe. Mistakes are always welcome in the council, as long as you promise to learn from them and improve even better!

If you have any inquiries or require assistance from me and Joe, always do not hesitate to reach out to us! And with that, my dear delegates, hope to see you soon during the 1st day of TISKLMUN'26! Please take care and stay safe :D

Finally, to share my quote that I like to use:

“Life always begins with nothing, until you learn something, and try to strive and master everything.”

~Lee Zhong Hern

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1.2 Co-Chair: Ng Joe Hynn

Good morning, afternoon or evening, distinguished delegates! My name is Joe and I will be serving as your Co-Chair for this United Nations Security Council. As Zhong Hern's said, welcome to all new delegates, and welcome *back* to all veterans!

My experience definitely pales in comparison to your Head Chair. Therefore, I'm looking forward to learning as much as all of you will from this experience! We can both give you our reassurances that we will be nothing but helpful, warm and insightful members of TISKLMUN'26's Board of Dais. With all that being said, I can tell that this will be a super fruitful and productive council and am eagerly looking forward to meeting you all. Whether it's about Geneva, the Peacekeepers, or (hopefully!) both, I'm certain meaningful debate will spring forth :)

I don't yet have the wisdom of Zhong Hern to pen my own inspirational quotes (but I suppose that's what Google is for)

“Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.”

~Winston Churchill

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2.0 The United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

2.1 General Introduction



The United Nations Security Council, or better identified as UNSC, is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN), alongside other five being the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the International Court of Justice (ICJ), the United Nations Trusteeship Council, and the United Nations Secretariat. The council serves the purpose to coordinate works such as economic, social, cultural and other activities related to the UN, and promote international cooperation for development. At the same time, it serves as a central platform for discussions, debates, and developing consensus to tackle global issues related to sustainable development, covering aspects such as economic, social and environmental (UNSC, *n.d.*).

2.2 Historical Background

As World War II was about to end in 1945, nations were in ruins, and the world wanted peace. Representatives of 50 countries gathered at the United Nations Conference on International Organisation in San Francisco, California, from 25 April to 26 June 1945. For the next two months, they proceeded to draft and then sign the UN Charter, which created a new international organisation, the United Nations, which, it was hoped, would prevent another world war like the one they had just lived through (UN, *n.d.*).

2.3 Responsibilities and Powers

As mandated under Articles 24, 25 and 26 of the UN Charter, which state the functions and powers of the UNSC as follows:

1. Article 24 (1): In order to ensure prompt and effective action by the United Nations, its Members confer on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and agree that in carrying out its duties under this responsibility, the Security Council acts on their behalf.

2. Article 24 (2): In discharging these duties the Security Council shall act in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations. The specific powers granted to the Security Council for the discharge of these duties are laid down in Chapters VI, VII, VIII, and XII.
3. Article 24 (3): The Security Council shall submit annual and, when necessary, special reports to the General Assembly for its consideration.
4. Article 25: The Members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the present Charter.
5. Article 26: In order to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources, the Security Council shall be responsible for formulating, with the assistance of the Military Staff Committee referred to in Article 47, plans to be submitted to the Members of the United Nations for the establishment of a system for the regulation of armaments (*UN, n.d.*).

2.4 Current Composition

As mandated under Article 23 of the UN Charter about the composition of the UNSC, the composition of the council shall be as follows:

1. Article 23 (1): The Security Council shall consist of fifteen Members of the United Nations. The Republic of China, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America shall be permanent members of the Security Council. The General Assembly shall elect ten other Members of the United Nations to be non-permanent members of the Security Council, due regard being specially paid, in the first instance, to the contribution of Members of the United Nations to the maintenance of international peace and security and to the other purposes of the Organisation, and also to equitable geographical distribution.
2. Article 23 (2): The non-permanent members of the Security Council shall be elected for a term of two years. In the first election of the non-permanent members after the increase of the membership of the Security Council from eleven to fifteen, two of the four additional members shall be chosen for a term of one year. A retiring member shall not be eligible for immediate re-election.
3. Article 23 (3): Each member of the Security Council shall have one representative.

The latest composition of the 15 members of the UNSC council is as follows:

1. The People's Republic of **China** (PRC) - Permanent Member
2. The French Republic (**France**) - Permanent Member
3. The Russian Federation (**Russia**) - Permanent Member
4. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (**UK**) - Permanent Member
5. The United States of America (**USA**) - Permanent Member
6. The People's Democratic Republic of **Algeria** - Non-Permanent Member

7. The Kingdom of **Denmark** - Non-Permanent Member
8. The Hellenic Republic (**Greece**) - Non-Permanent Member
9. The Co-operative Republic of **Guyana** - Non-Permanent Member
10. The Islamic Republic of **Pakistan** - Non-Permanent Member
11. The Republic of **Panama** - Non-Permanent Member
12. The Republic of Korea (**South Korea**) - Non-Permanent Member
13. The Republic of **Sierra Leone** - Non-Permanent Member
14. The Republic of **Slovenia** - Non-Permanent Member
15. The Federal Republic of **Somalia** - Non-Permanent Member

2.5 Council Presidency

The Presidency of the UNSC is slightly different from other UN organs, such as the UNGA or ECOSOC, in which the Presidency of the Council normally lasts for a designated term (usually a year or longer). In the UNSC, the council Presidency is rotated each month, with each council member allowed to preside over the sessions.

As mandated under Rule 18 of the Security Council's Provisional Rules of Procedure: "The presidency of the Security Council shall be held in turn by the members of the Security Council in the English alphabetical order of their names. Each President shall hold office for one calendar month."

The rotation of the UNSC Presidency for the year 2026 shall be as follows:

Calendar Month	Presidency	End of Membership Term
January 2026	Somalia	31 December 2027
February 2026	United Kingdom	Permanent Member
March 2026	United States	Permanent Member
April 2026	Bahrain	31 December 2027
May 2026	China	Permanent Member
June 2026	Colombia	31 December 2027
July 2026	DR Congo	31 December 2027
August 2026	Denmark	31 December 2026
September 2026	France	Permanent Member

October 2026	Greece	31 December 2026
November 2026	Latvia	31 December 2027
December 2026	Liberia	31 December 2027

3.0 Agenda A: Reviewing the Geneva Conventions 1949

3.1 Definition

Key terms	Explanation
Extradited	Hand over (a person accused or convicted of a crime) to the jurisdiction of the foreign state in which the crime was committed.
Emblems	A heraldic device or symbolic object as a distinctive badge of a nation, organisation, or family.
Annexes	Added as an extra or subordinate part, especially to a document.
Combatants	Combatants are individuals entitled to directly participate in hostilities during an armed conflict, including members of a party's armed forces or organised armed groups. They may be lawfully targeted for their participation in the conflict. Key examples include members of state armed forces, militias, volunteer corps, and organised resistance movements.
Hostilities	Hostile behaviour, unfriendliness or opposition.
Red Crystal	Created during the late 1800s to avoid perceived religious connotations of the Red Cross emblem in certain countries. It was formally recognised in the updated Geneva Convention of 1929.
Red Cross	The Red Cross is a global humanitarian movement dedicated to preventing and alleviating human suffering. It is made up of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and 191 National Societies like the American Red Cross or Malaysian Red Crescent. These organisations provide assistance in areas such as disaster relief, health services, and support for those affected by armed conflict, guided by the principles of impartiality, neutrality, and humanity.
Red Lion and Sun	The Red Lion and Sun Society of Iran was established in 1922 and admitted to the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in 1923. However, some sources report that the symbol was introduced at Geneva in 1864 as a countermeasure to the Red Crescent and the Red Cross used by two of Iran's rivals: the Ottoman Empire and the Russian Empire, respectively.

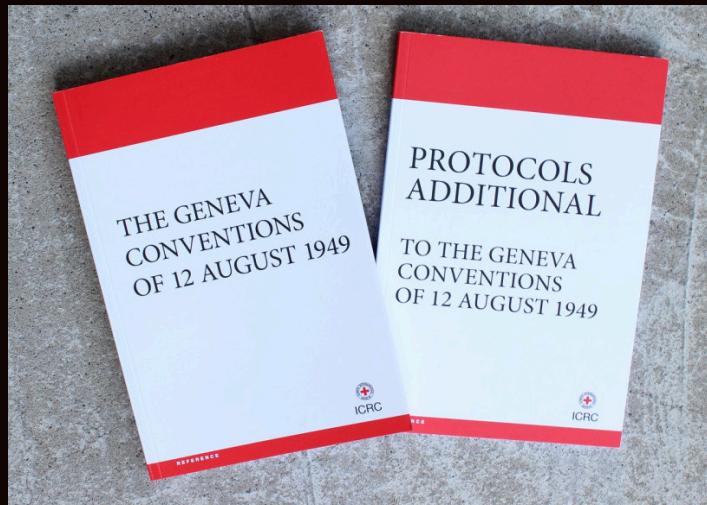
Red Crescent	Created during the late 1800s to avoid perceived religious connotations of the Red Cross emblem in certain countries. It was formally recognised in the updated Geneva Convention of 1929.
The Convention for the Amelioration of the Wounded in Armies in the Field	The "Convention for the Amelioration of the Wounded in Armies in the field" refers to the original 1864 treaty, which was the first of the Geneva Conventions and was later updated and incorporated into the modern "Geneva Convention (I) for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded and Sick in Armed Forces in the Field" adopted in 1949. The convention's main purpose is to protect the sick and wounded in armed conflict, ensure the neutrality of medical personnel and facilities, and establish the distinctive red cross emblem as a sign of protection.
Henry Dunant	Henry Dunant, born Jean-Henri Dunant (8th of May 1828 – 30th of October 1910), also known as Henri Dunant, was a Swiss humanitarian, businessman, social activist, and co-founder of the Red Cross. His humanitarian efforts won him the first Nobel Peace Prize in 1901. Dunant was born in Geneva to a devout Calvinist family and had business interests in French Algeria and Tunisia. In 1859, while on his way to petition Napoleon III, he witnessed the aftermath of the Battle of Solferino in northern Italy. Horrified by the suffering of the wounded and the lack of care they received, Dunant took the initiative to organise the local population in providing aid for the soldiers. After returning to Geneva, he recorded his experiences in the book <i>A Memory of Solferino</i> , in which he advocated the formation of an organisation that would provide relief for the wounded without discrimination in times of war. In February 1863, Dunant was a member of a five-person committee that sought to put his plan into action, which in effect founded the organisation that would become the International Committee of the Red Cross. A year later, he took part in a diplomatic conference organised by the Swiss government that led to the signing of the First Geneva Convention.
Battle of Solferino	The Battle of Solferino (referred to in Italy as the Battle of Solferino and San Martino) on 24 June 1859 resulted in the victory of the allied French army under Napoleon III and the Piedmont-Sardinian army under Victor Emmanuel II (together known as the Franco-Sardinian alliance) against the Austrian army under Emperor Franz Joseph I. It was the last major battle in world history where all the armies were under the personal command of their monarchs. ^[5] There were approximately 300,000 soldiers on both sides in the most important battle, the largest since the Battle of Leipzig in 1813.
Atrocities	An extremely wicked or cruel act, typically one involving physical violence or injury.

Gruesome	Causing repulsion or horror; grisly.
A. J. Muste	Abraham Johannes Muste (8th of January 1885 – 11th of February 1967), usually cited as A. J. Muste, was a Dutch-born American clergyman and political activist. He is best remembered for his work in the labour movement, pacifist movement, anti-war movement, and civil rights movement.
Thomas Jefferson	Thomas Jefferson (13th of April 1743 – 4th of July 1826) was an American Founding Father and the third president of the United States from 1801 to 1809. He was the primary author of the Declaration of Independence. Jefferson was the nation's first U.S. secretary of state under George Washington and then the nation's second vice president under John Adams. Jefferson was a leading proponent of democracy, republicanism, and natural rights, and he produced formative documents and decisions at the state, national, and international levels.
Retaliation	Taking harmful action against someone in response to a perceived injury, offence, or protected activity.
In Absentia (Latin) Verdicts	Judgments in absence or (Latin: in absentia) are decisions made by a court when the accused or defendant is not physically present, a practice allowed under specific conditions, often when a defendant waives their right to be there, flees, or disrupts proceedings, but it remains controversial as it can conflict with the right to a fair hearing, leading to strict legal rules, especially in serious criminal cases where a defense attorney is usually appointed to represent the absent party's interests.
Israeli Defence Forces (IDF)	The Israel Defence Forces (IDF; Hebrew: צְבָא הַגָּנָה לִיּוֹרָאֵל, romanised: Tsva Hagana le-Yisra'el, or translation into: 'Army for the Defence of Israel'), alternatively referred to by the Hebrew-language acronym Tzahal (צָהָל), is the national military of the State of Israel. It consists of three service branches: the Israeli Ground Forces, the Israeli Air Force, and the Israeli Navy. It is the sole military wing of the Israeli security apparatus. The IDF is headed by the chief of the general staff, who is subordinate to the defence minister. On the orders of the first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, the IDF was formed on 26 May 1948 and began to operate as a conscript military, drawing its initial recruits from the already existing paramilitaries of the Yishuv—namely Haganah, the Irgun, and Lehi. It was formed shortly after the Israeli Declaration of Independence and has participated in every armed conflict involving Israel.
Hamas	The Islamic Resistance Movement, abbreviated Hamas (an acronym from the Arabic: حركة المقاومة الإسلامية، romanised: Ḥarākat al-Muqāwamah al-’Islāmiyyah), is a Sunni Islamist Palestinian nationalist political

	organisation with a military wing known as the al-Qassam Brigades. It has governed the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip since 2007. The Hamas movement was founded by Palestinian Islamic scholar Ahmed Yassin in 1987 after the outbreak of the First Intifada against the Israeli occupation. It emerged from his 1973 Mujama al-Islamiya Islamic charity affiliated with the Muslim Brotherhood. Initially, Hamas was discreetly supported by Israel, as a counter-balance to the secular Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO), to prevent the creation of an independent Palestinian state.
UNESCO	The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is a UN agency established to build world peace through international cooperation in education, science, culture, and communication, setting global standards, developing knowledge, and protecting shared heritage like UNESCO World Heritage Sites and promoting sustainable development, freedom of expression, and inclusive societies. Headquartered in Paris, it works with member states to address global challenges from climate change to digital literacy, focusing on areas like quality education, scientific research, and safeguarding cultural/natural sites.
Cluster Munitions	Cluster munitions are weapons consisting of a container that opens in the air and scatters explosive submunitions or "bomblets" over a wide area. Depending on the model, the number of submunitions can vary from several to more than 600. Cluster munitions can be delivered by aircraft, artillery and missiles.
Holocaust	The Holocaust (1941 - 1945), known in Hebrew as the Shoah, was the genocide of European Jews during World War II. From 1941 to 1945, Nazi Germany and its collaborators systematically murdered some six million Jews across German-occupied Europe, around two-thirds of Europe's Jewish population.
Massacre	An indiscriminate and brutal slaughter of many people.
Balkans	The Balkans, or Balkan Peninsula, is a diverse geographical and cultural region in southeastern Europe, characterised by mountains (the name means "mountains" in Turkish) and a rich, often turbulent history as a crossroads for empires (Greek, Roman, Ottoman), featuring countries like Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Romania, Serbia, and Slovenia.
Genocide	Genocide is an internationally recognised crime defined by law as specific acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group. It is widely considered the

"crime of crimes" under international law.

3.2 Background Introduction



The Geneva Conventions (alongside their additional protocols) are sets of international treaties which cover the most vital rules limiting the conduct in wartime. The conventions protect those who are not involved in the act of fighting, such as civilians, medical personnel and workers, and those who can no longer fight, like the wounded, sick, and prisoners of war. The conventions and their protocols are to be enforced strictly, and any breaches or violations shall be pursued, tried, or extradited (ICRC, 2025).



The First Geneva Convention (1949) protects the wounded and sick, but also medical and religious personnel, medical units and medical transports. The Convention also recognises the distinctive emblems. It has two annexes containing a draft agreement relating to hospital zones and a model identity card for medical and religious personnel (IHLD, 1949).



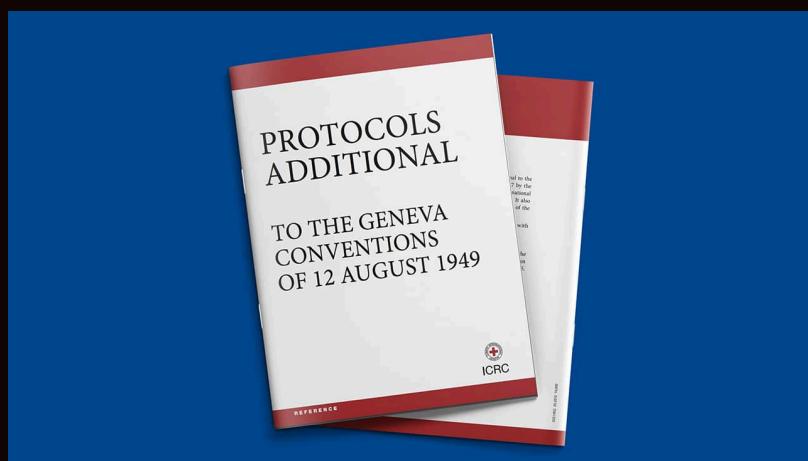
The Second Geneva Convention (1949) primarily focused on the protection of wounded, sick and shipwrecked members of armed forces at sea was regulated for the first time in a Geneva Convention. Prior to this, the rules on the protection of the wounded, sick and shipwrecked during naval warfare were codified in the 1899 and 1907 Hague Conventions, which adapted the principles of the Geneva Conventions on the wounded and sick to naval warfare (*IHL*, 1949).



The present Third Geneva Convention replaced the Prisoners of War (POWs) Convention of 1929. It contains 143 Articles, whereas the 1929 Convention had only 97. It became necessary to revise the 1929 Convention on several points owing to the changes that had occurred in the conduct of warfare and the consequences thereof, as well as in the living conditions of peoples. Experience had shown that the daily life of prisoners depended specifically on the interpretation given to the general regulations. Consequently, certain laws were given a more explicit form, which was lacking in the preceding provisions (*IHL*, 1949).



The Geneva Conventions which were adopted before 1949, were concerned with combatants only, not with civilians. Some provisions concerning the protection of populations against the consequences of war and their protection in occupied territories are contained in the Regulations concerning the laws and customs of war on land, annexed to the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907. During World War I, the Hague provisions proved to be insufficient in view of the dangers originating from air warfare and of the problems relating to the treatment of civilians in enemy territory and in occupied territories. The International Conferences of the Red Cross of the 1920s took the first steps towards laying down supplementary rules for the protection of civilians in time of war. The Fourth Geneva Convention, adopted in 1949, takes into account the experiences of World War II. It contains a rather short part concerning the general protection of populations against certain consequences of war (Part II), leaving aside the problem of the limitation of the use of weapons (*IHL*, 1949).



Additionally, the three supplementary protocols to the Geneva Conventions are the First Additional Protocol (1977), the Second Additional Protocol (1977), and the Third Additional Protocol (2005). The First Additional Protocol provides supplementary protection to the Geneva Convention in relation to international armed conflicts, imposing restrictions on hostilities and prohibiting attacks on civilians and civilian objects (*IHL*, 1978). The Second Additional Protocol primarily focused on non-international armed conflicts. The Article proved to be inadequate in view of the fact that about 80% of the victims of armed conflicts

since 1945 have been victims of non-international conflicts and that non-international conflicts are often fought with more cruelty than international conflicts (*IHL*, 1978). And finally, the Third Additional Protocol introduces an additional protective emblem, the Red Crystal, since the establishment of the Red Cross emblem back in 1864 and the Red Lion and Sun at the end of the 19th century (*IHL*, 2005).

3.3 History Background



Back in the year 1864, the Convention for the Amelioration of the Wounded in Armies in the field was adopted in Geneva, after a man named Henry Dunant witnessed horrifying atrocities and gruesome scenes in the Battle of Solferino in 1859. The convention marked the first time in human history that the concept of international humanitarian law (IHL) was born, and benefited many generations to come, including those that involved in globally-scaled conflicts such as the First World War (WWI) and the Second World War (WWII).



In February 1863, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) was founded in the city of Geneva, marking an important milestone on the international political stage. Subsequently, in August 1864, the ICRC, alongside the Swiss Government, organised a diplomatic conference attended by 15 representatives of European States and the United States of America (USA) to discuss the adoption of a convention to improve conditions for wounded soldiers on the battlefield. The treaty drafted by the ICRC established the obligation to treat and provide aid to all wounded soldiers, regardless of the nation they served, a formation of neutral medical establishments and their personnel, and the use of a distinctive emblem (a red cross on a white background) to specifically identify medical services. The text was adopted on the 22nd of August 1864 and immediately signed by 12 present States at the Conference. The 1864 Convention thus became the first universal and lasting treaty of international humanitarian law (*Palmieri, 2025*).

“Violence begets violence by whomever used. War is a dirty business and entails the use of degrading means, whoever wages it.”

~ A. J. Muste

A quote by American political activist Abraham Johannes (A. J.) Muste illustrates the reality of warfare, where violence will only lead to more, and war itself is full of violence. Therefore, whoever started it will, by all means, fuel it with more to ensure the ultimate victory.

3.4 Situation Analysis



In modern days, the existence of the Geneva Conventions ensures the protection of combatants and non-combatants, and establishes a protection mechanism to prosecute and punish those who commit war crimes. At the same time, it also builds up a safe hub for those wounded and guarantees fair and equal treatment being able to be delivered in time, increasing the chances of those wounded in war to be able to survive.

With the existence of the conventions, a message is delivered:

“We might be enemies in war; however, in peace, we might be friends.”

~ Thomas Jefferson

The convention established the minimum protections, standards of humane treatment, and fundamental guarantees of respect to individuals victimised by armed conflicts.



Russo-Ukrainian War (2022 - Present)

During the Russo-Ukrainian War, there were dozens of reports of war crimes committed by the Russian army in Ukraine. According to a report from an Independent rights commission, the Russian army murdered and forcibly transferred the population of Ukraine involved in the zones of conflict into Russian-occupied territories. At the same time, attacks focused on striking many civilian targets such as houses and buildings, humanitarian distribution points and critical energy infrastructure. Subsequently, there are also reports of attacks on first responders such as ambulances and fire brigades, which are given special protection under international humanitarian law (*UN News, 2025*).

In March 2023, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued arrest warrants for President Vladimir Putin and other Russian leaders accused of war crimes in Ukraine. The court alleges he is responsible for war crimes, and has focused its claims on the unlawful deportation of children from Ukraine to Russia. It says the crimes were committed in Ukraine back on the 24th of February 2022, when Russia launched its full-scale invasion (*Radford, Gardener, 2023*).

In retaliation for actions taken by the ICC against the Russian leaders, the Russian court has issued in absentia verdicts against the chief prosecutor and eight judges of the ICC over their indictment of President Putin for alleged war crimes in Ukraine (*The Moscow Times, 2025*).



Israeli-Palestinian Conflict/Gaza War (2023 - Present)

In the issue of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict or the Gaza War, numerous allegations arose towards both sides of the combatants, primarily the Israeli Defence Forces (IDF), Hamas and other armed forces. As illustrated by the Western media, many believe that the conflict began back on the 7th of October 2023, when Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel, killing civilians and abducting dozens (*FP News Desk, 2025*). Historians and international relations experts believe that the conflict may be traced back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, with the simultaneous rise of Zionism in Europe and Arab nationalism in the Middle East. Both movements laid claim to the same territory in the region of historic Palestine (*BBC, 2025*).

The allegations towards Hamas and other armed groups primarily include the following:

1. Attacks on civilians and hostage taking in the 7th October 2023 incident;
2. Usage of civilians and hostages as 'human shields';
3. And indiscriminate attacks against Israeli civilian areas.

Each is considered a violation of the 4th Geneva Convention, which mandated civilians must not be targeted, tortured or collectively punished, and Additional Protocol I (1977), which further emphasises the strict rule of no indiscriminate attacks on civilians, no bombing of civilian areas, and combatants are required to distinguish between civilians and combatants (soldiers or fighters).

The allegations towards the IDF primarily include the following:

1. Indiscriminate attacks and disproportionate response towards threats, including targeting civilian targets such as residential buildings, hospitals, and schools;
2. Using starvation as a weapon of war;
3. Forced displacement and unlawful transfer of the Palestinian population;
4. Collective punishment, primarily the blockade of humanitarian supplies from reaching those in need;
5. Attacks on civilian infrastructure, such as hospitals, electricity, and water

- installations;
6. And detention and inhumane treatment against Palestinian detainees (regardless of Hamas and other armed groups' fighters or civilians);

In addition to violations of the 4th Geneva Convention and Additional Protocol I (1977), there are also violations of the 1st Geneva Convention, primarily the protocol that stipulates medical staff, hospitals, and ambulances are not targets of war, the 3rd Geneva Convention, where POWs must be treated humanely, and should not be tortured, executed or humiliated. POWs may be detained, but not abused.

Subsequently, the allegations were brought to the ICC, and the court issued arrest warrants for Israeli and Hamas leadership, including Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, former Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, and Hamas Commander Mohammed Deif (*Gritten, 2024*).



Thailand-Cambodia Border Clashes (2025 - Present)

In the recent border conflict between Thailand and Cambodia, there were reports of countless violations of war crimes, namely, surrounding allegations of attacks on civilian targets by both sides. Even though there is no detailed report of clear allegations with strong evidence presented to the ICC, however, through channels such as the media, there were dozens of new reports that provide insights into the conflict to the eyes of the public.

The allegations towards Cambodia include:

1. Indiscriminate attacks on civilians and infrastructure, specifically using heavy artillery to indiscriminately target civilian areas, including hospitals (such as Phanom Dong Rak Hospital), schools, temples, and homes, resulting in numerous civilian casualties;
2. Civilians' involvement in military operations, such as including women and children,

in military activities, such as assembling ammunition and providing supplies within military bases located in historical sites, which may result in them losing their non-combatant status;

3. And using protected cultural sites recognised by UNESCO as military bases, which might invalidate its neutrality of civilian status, and being targeted as a military target in wartime.

A clear violation of the 1st Geneva Conventions could be observed here, with actions such as targeting hospitals, with additional violations to the 4th Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol I (1977) for bombing schools, temples and homes. However, on the other hand, actions such as including civilians in military operations and using protected cultural sites for military purposes might, to a certain degree, violate the 4th Geneva Convention and Additional Protocol I (1977), as civilians should not be viewed as military combatants according to the Geneva Conventions. Regardless, with their participation in military operations, which might hinder their safety and status as civilians, they might be mistaken as combatants by the opposite side and targeted.

The allegations towards Thailand include:

1. Attacks on cultural properties, such as implementing airstrikes and artillery fire, damaged the UNESCO World Heritage site of Preah Vihear Temple, which could be considered an attack on a civilian target;
2. Usage of cluster munitions, which could be considered indiscriminate attacks, especially when being used in populated areas, and the risk of harming the surrounding civilians;
3. And forced evictions of Cambodian civilians from the disputed areas, which could be understood as forcibly transferred or being held unwillingly.

Again, a violation of the 4th Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol I (1977) due to targeting civilian targets, such as cultural sites and properties, and usage of dangerous weapons that might cause serious collateral damage, such as cluster munitions in populated areas.

3.5 Past Actions & Precedents

Nuremberg Trials (1945 - 1946)

The Nuremberg Trials mark the first ever international war crimes tribunal in history, intending to prosecute and try major Nazi Germany leaders who participated in war crimes against humanity, primarily during the Holocaust.

After the war ended in the European theatre following the fall of Berlin and the death of Adolf Hitler, the Allies organised an international military tribunal to put Nazi leaders on trial for the crimes they committed throughout the war. It implemented sentences ranging from prison time to execution (*The National WWII Museum, n.d.*).

It established a precedent of individual accountability for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and crimes against peace, laying the groundwork for modern international criminal law and institutions like the ICC.

Tokyo War Crimes Trials (1946 - 1948)

The Tokyo War Crimes Trials or Tokyo Trials is the second international war crimes tribunal — The International Tribunal for the Far East (IMTTF) that been organised by Allies powers alongside other eleven countries, namely Australia, Canada, China, France, India, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States (*The National WWII Museum, n.d.*).

After the war ended in the Pacific theatre following the drop of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, alongside the unconditional surrender of the Empire of Japan, eleven countries call for the formation of IMTTF to put Japanese leaders on trial for their crimes conducted throughout the war, for instance the Nanjing Massacre (China), Sook Ching Massacre (Singapore), Manila Massacre (Philippines), and Bangka Island Massacre (Indonesia).

Similar to the Nuremberg trial, the Tokyo trial established a precedent for individual accountability; it serves as a historical record with testimonies and evidence that created a detailed record of Japanese war crimes, which is vital for understanding the conflict and preventing future atrocities. Additionally, it served as a major model for international war crimes tribunals, with its framework used by later bodies like the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in the 1990s.

Yugoslav Wars (1991 - 2001)

The ICTY was a United Nations court of law that dealt with war crimes that took place during the conflicts in the Balkans in the 1990s. During its mandate, which lasted from 1993 - 2017, it irreversibly changed the landscape of international humanitarian law, provided victims an opportunity to voice the horrors they witnessed and experienced, and proved that those suspected of bearing the greatest responsibility for atrocities committed during armed conflicts can be called to account (*UN ICTY, 2017*).

Rwandan Genocide (1994)

The UNSC established the ICTR to "prosecute persons responsible for genocide and other serious violations of international humanitarian law committed in the territory of Rwanda and neighbouring States, between 1 January 1994 and 31 December 1994". The Tribunal is located in Arusha, Tanzania, and has offices in Kigali, Rwanda. Its Appeals Chamber is located in The Hague, Netherlands (*UN ICTR, 2015*).

3.6 Possible Solutions

1. Stronger enforcement of IHL and ensuring compliance of member states. Should any countries, like Russia and the USA, declare ICC rulings as invalid or not binding, it would defeat the purpose of the existence of the judiciary at the international level.
2. Strengthening agencies such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL), to ensure effective cooperation with member states in ensuring criminals may be apprehended

- and sent to the Hague to stand trial.
3. Reevaluating whether the Geneva Conventions are still applicable in the modern warfare situation, where techniques such as targeting important non-military targets, such as the opponent's infrastructure (water, electricity, hospitals, factories) to ensure having the upper hand before the war begins.
 4. Taking into consideration the usage of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in modern warfare, and implementing subsequent additional protocols to ensure no exploitation of grey areas, where AI will be used to commit war crimes.
 5. Implementing a clear line between who is considered a "civilian", "neutral party" (normally medics), and "combatants". Additionally, regulating the involvement of civilians in military operations, and should civilians have been forced into it, the perpetrators shall be charged with war crimes as well.
 6. Implementing a clear line between what is considered a "civilian target", "neutral target" (normally medical buildings and properties), and "military target". Subsequently, adding additional rules that state how one could lose "civilian" or "neutral" status, i.e. by letting military combatants use the building or property for military purposes.
 7. Reviewing the Geneva Conventions each time after a subsequent time passes, for instance, after 5 years, to ensure the Conventions can still be applied in modern times.
 8. Allowing the UNGA to suspend the membership of any member state that goes against the ICC and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to ensure the judiciary is respected and taken seriously.

3.7 Questions A Resolution Must Answer (QARMA)

1. Do the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols still apply in modern days?
2. What should be done to ensure member states comply with ICC rulings?
3. How to ensure justice is delivered for those who commit war crimes?
4. How do we distinguish clearly between combatants and non-combatants in warfare?
5. Do the Geneva Conventions apply to terrorists and insurgents?
6. What punishments should be implemented for those who contempt the courts?
7. How should the Geneva Conventions apply in modern days with the inclusion of AI in warfare?

4.0 Agenda B: Redefining the Purpose and Objectives of United Nations Peacekeeping Forces

4.1 Definition

Key terms	Explanation
Rule of law	For the United Nations (UN) system, the rule of law is a principle of governance in which all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the State itself, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and which are consistent with international human rights norms and standards. It requires measures to ensure adherence to the principles of supremacy of the law, equality before the law, accountability to the law, fairness in the application of the law, separation of powers, participation in decision-making, legal certainty, avoidance of arbitrariness, and procedural and legal transparency.
Human Rights Charter	A milestone document in the history of human rights. Drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world, the Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948 (General Assembly resolution 217 A) as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations.
Consent	Permission for something to happen or agreement to do something.
Impartiality	Equal treatment of all rivals or disputants; fairness.
Robust peacekeeping	Principle that allows peacekeepers to use force beyond just self-defence, including to protect civilians, ensure humanitarian access, and deter threats to the peace process, marking a shift from traditional, consent-based peacekeeping to more active intervention in volatile situations, exemplified by missions like MONUSCO.
League of Nations	The League of Nations was an intergovernmental organisation founded in 1920 to promote international cooperation and world peace, and it was the first such organisation whose principal mission was to maintain world peace. It was formed after World War I to solve disputes between countries through negotiation and diplomacy instead of warfare. The League was dissolved in 1946 and succeeded by the United Nations.
Arab-Israeli War	The 1948 Arab–Israeli War, also known as the First Arab–Israeli War, followed the civil war in Mandatory Palestine as the second and final stage of the 1948 Palestine War. The civil war became a war of separate states with the Israeli Declaration of Independence on 14 May 1948, the

	end of the British Mandate for Palestine at midnight, and the entry of a military coalition of Arab states into the territory of Mandatory Palestine the following morning. The war formally ended with the 1949 Armistice Agreements, which established the Green Line.
Cold War	A post-WWII era (1945-1991) of intense geopolitical tension, economic competition, and ideological struggle between the US-led capitalist West and the Soviet-led communist East, characterised by no direct large-scale fighting between the superpowers but through proxy wars, arms races (especially nuclear), espionage, and a space race, ending with the USSR's collapse.
Massacre	An indiscriminate and brutal slaughter of many people.
NATO	NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) is a military alliance of North American and European countries, formed in 1949 for collective defence, ensuring members' freedom and security through political and military means, with its core principle being that an attack on one ally is an attack on all (Article 5).
Battle of Mogadishu	The Battle of Mogadishu (Oct 3-4, 1993), also known as "Black Hawk Down," was a fierce urban battle in Somalia where U.S. special forces, part of a UN mission, tried to capture warlord Aidid's lieutenants but got overwhelmed by militia fighters and civilians, resulting in 18 U.S. deaths, downed helicopters, and a costly rescue, ultimately leading to UN withdrawal from the country.
Genocide	The deliberate and systematic killing or persecution of a large number of people from a particular national or ethnic group to destroy that nation or group.
Transparency International	A global, non-governmental organisation (NGO) fighting corruption by promoting transparency, accountability, and integrity, defining corruption as the abuse of entrusted power for private gain, and working to end its impact through advocacy, research, and campaigns in over 100 countries.
Referendum	A general vote by the electorate on a single political question that has been referred to them for a direct decision.
Blue Line	The Blue Line is a demarcation line dividing Lebanon from Israel and the Golan Heights. It was published by the United Nations on 7 June 2000 for the purposes of determining whether Israel had fully withdrawn from Lebanon. It has been described as "temporary" and "not a border, but a line of withdrawal." It is the subject of an ongoing border dispute between Israel, Lebanon, and Hezbollah.

Collective security	Collective security is a security arrangement where nations agree that an attack on one is an attack on all.
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4.2 Background Introduction



Logo of the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces

The United Nations Peacekeeping Forces are a body of the United Nations focusing on keeping peace in areas where war or conflict is occurring. In each case, the Peacekeeping Forces generally serve as a mediator between states, armed groups or other such disputes. In the case where peace may not be achieved, the UN forces are still expected to help reduce tensions. Major programmes are usually required to address human needs, bolster any final treaty or agreement that may be signed, and also address the root cause of the conflict itself. The Peacekeeping Forces have participated in 72 missions (12 of which continue today) and earned the Nobel Peace Prize in 1988 for their contributions to world harmony. (*United Nations, 2008*)

The most important job of a peacekeeping mission is to protect the civilians of a country. Peacekeepers have been given increasingly strengthened authority to act by the Council, particularly after the mid-1990s (cases such as UNAMIR and UNPROFOR). All peacekeepers operate by the Policy on Protection of Civilians. These are also guided by frameworks to address both children in conflict and related sexual violence; the rule of law and the Human Rights Charter also inform these policies. (*United Nations, 2023*)



Major General Jean Bosco Kazura (left), Force Commander of the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), meets with Colonel Adama Kamissoko (right), Governor of Kidal Region, Mali.

Sending a peacekeeping mission does not happen on a whim, and it is certainly not a simple foreign envoy. Any decisions to send a peacekeeping mission to any nation are decided purely by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC); the presence established in the region is called a mandate. Subsequently, the United Nations Secretariat is responsible for developing and implementing detailed strategies and purposes of the mandate. These strategies are guided by the three cornerstones of all peacekeeping missions:

1. *Consent of all parties*: Peacekeepers are deployed with the consent of the main parties, secured where appropriate by the Council. The parties are expected to pursue a political process and support the mission in the implementation of its Security Council mandate. In the absence of consent, the peacekeeping operation would risk leaning towards one party's side or the other - this would draw it towards possible enforcement and even armed action, rather than simply to keep the peace.
2. *Impartiality*: United Nations peacekeepers are impartial in their dealings with the parties to the conflict, but not neutral in the execution of their mandate. They act almost like the referee of a sports game; only speaking out when rules or the mandate from the Security Council are violated. The United Nations urges peacekeepers to '*not shy away from a rigorous application of the principle of impartiality for fear of misinterpretation or retaliation*'.
3. *Non-use of force*: Peacekeepers may only use force in self-defence or as authorised by the Security Council. In principle, they will not use force unless in self-defence or pursuant to the mandate, including protecting civilians using robust peacekeeping. Peace in the country comes first.
 - *Robust peacekeeping is NOT to be confused with peace enforcement (the principle outlined under Ch. VII of the UN Charter)*
 - *Robust peacekeeping is the utilisation of force at a tactical level. It is mandated by the Security Council and has consent from the parties involved.*
 - *Peace enforcement does not require consent. It may involve military force from both a domestic and an international standpoint, as long as it is authorised by the Security Council. This ties to the principle of collective security that was established even in the United Nations' predecessor, the League of Nations (1920-1945)*

These three principles have guided peacekeeping missions ever since 1948. (*United Nations, 2022*).



Female members of a Philippine peacekeeping force, bound for Liberia, stand outside the military headquarters of Manila (January 28, 2009)

A peacekeeping mission may, depending on the mandate of the Security Council, attempt to achieve the following aims. These include both during and after the conflict:

- Supervise major conflict zones
- Monitor ceasefires and troop withdrawals
- Patrol buffer zones and borders
- Protect civilians from violence, by force if necessary
- Support and enforce disarmament of former fighters, especially militias or junta
- Advise and reform local police forces
- Investigate crime and human rights abuses to be sent to the ICC / ICJ (International Criminal Court / International Court of Justice)
- Support elections and democratic institutions
- Help rebuild courts, prisons, government systems, etc.
- Coordinate incoming humanitarian aid, especially UN-mandated aid

It should be noted that this is not an exhaustive list, but simply a list of possible actions that the peacekeepers could be required to carry out. (*United Nations, 2019*)

4.3 History Background

4.3.1 Early Years



A view of UNTSO Headquarters, Government House, Jerusalem.

United Nations peacekeeping was established in 1948 with the creation of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO) in the Middle East. It deployed unarmed military observers to monitor ceasefires following the Arab-Israeli War. The mission was officially authorised on May 29, 1948, now known as the International Day of United Nations Peacekeepers. In the same year, the UN also created the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). These established the three aforementioned principles - which we know are consent of the parties, impartiality, and limited use of force. However, peacekeeping was not explicitly mentioned in the UN Charter at this time (*United Nations, 2019*).

4.3.2 The Cold War



LEFT: United Nations Emergency Force troops resting in Egypt.

RIGHT: Lester Pearson, a major contributor to the success of the UNEF

During the Cold War, peacekeeping expanded slowly due to political divisions between the United States and the Soviet Union in the UN Security Council. By 1988, only 13 peacekeeping missions had been deployed; most missions focused on monitoring ceasefires and buffer zones between states. The most significant of these was the UN Emergency Force (UNEF I) in Egypt, established after the 1956 Suez Crisis. The formation of such a force, with a neutral and observing manner, was initially suggested as a concept by future Canadian Prime Minister Lester Pearson, who went on to dedicate 1,000 Canadian peacekeepers to the cause. (Cohen, 2008)



Members of the Irish contingent of the UN Force, photographed at the airport as they were about to board an aircraft for the journey to Elizabethville, where they will reinforce the UN contingent in that area.

Other peacekeeping efforts during the Cold War include (United Nations Peacekeeping, 2019):

- UN Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP): 1964
 - Established to prevent a recurrence of fighting between the two hostile parties: Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots
- UN Operation in the Congo (ONUC): 1960-1964
 - Established to help facilitate the decolonisation of the Congo from Belgian control
 - Stayed on until 1964 to help maintain stability during the Congo Crisis
- UN Temporary Executive Authority (UNTEA): 1962-1963
 - Maintained law and order while the territory was transferred from Dutch colonial control to Indonesia
- UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan: 1988
 - Oversaw the Pakistan-Afghanistan border + withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan
- The United Nations also had other deployments in:
 - Dominican Republic
 - West New Guinea
 - Yemen

- Lebanon

4.3.3 Failures & Reform

Following the end of the Cold War, UN peacekeeping expanded rapidly. The successful conclusion of long-running proxy conflicts created opportunities for negotiated settlements. Missions such as the UN Transition Assistance Group (UNTAG) in Namibia (1989-1990) marked a significant shift in peacekeeping practice. UNTAG supervised elections, monitored the withdrawal of all foreign forces, and assisted in the transition to independence. (*United Nations Peacekeeping, 2024*)

Between 1992 and 1994, however, the rapid expansion of peacekeeping exposed major structural weaknesses. The UN deployed large and ambitious missions into active internal conflicts, often without secure peace agreements in place. Significantly, operations such as UNOSOM II in Somalia, UNPROFOR in Bosnia, and UNAMIR in Rwanda were tasked with protecting civilians, delivering humanitarian aid, and enforcing peace under highly unstable conditions (*United Nations Peacekeeping, 2024*). By 1993, peacekeeping personnel peaked at approximately 78,000, more than triple the number deployed just five years earlier. (*Gao, 2016*).



A woman in Bosnia during the Srebrenica massacre (1995). Dutch UN peacekeepers were present, but did nothing to intervene against the Serbians. Their inability to stop the conflict became a major controversy.

Yet, these missions suffered from unclear mandates, insufficient troop numbers, limited equipment, and a lack of political support from member states.

- In **Bosnia** (UNPROFOR, 1992-1995), the mission operated in the active Bosnian war zone without a comprehensive peace agreement, facing hostility from multiple armed factions
 - It managed humanitarian aid and ‘safe areas’ for civilians

- The most serious failure occurred in July 1995 at Srebrenica (a UN-declared safe area)
- Bosnian Serbs of Republika Srpska (a Serbian proto-state) massacred over 8,000 Bosniaks
- Dutch UN troops were completely unable to prevent the massacre and reportedly simply stood and watched whilst it occurred
- Requests for any NATO air strikes were either delayed or denied, and they had no weapons or air support to stop the massacre (*Human Rights Watch, 1995*)
- In **Somalia** (UNOSOM II, 1993-1995), the mission was authorised to use force to disarm militias and restore order
 - However, the mission became increasingly involved in combat, especially against forces loyal to the warlord Mohamed Farrah Aidid, bordering on violating the UN's policy of impartiality
 - 18 US soldiers died in the Battle of Mogadishu ('Black Hawk Down') in 1993, including a costly rescue mission to rescue pilots from downed helicopters
 - This led to a massive loss of political support among contributing states
 - The mission failed to stabilise Somalia and withdrew in 1995 (*Agada, 2008*)
- In **Rwanda** (UNAMIR, 1993-1996), the mission was severely under-resourced with a mere 2,500 troops, many of whom were under-armed
 - The mandate was purely based on self-defence; despite the Force Commander's many appeals to the UN to change this to a more interventionist approach, the UN never responded and in fact doubled down on de-scaling the size of the Force
 - The force was further reduced to around 270 troops after the killing of ten Belgian peacekeepers
 - Major powers, e.g. the US and Belgium, feared another costly intervention like Somalia and therefore, support from the Security Council was thin
 - UNAMIR completely failed to prevent the Rwandan genocide, during which an estimated 800,000 people were killed in approximately 100 days
 - UNAMIR ultimately withdrew in 1996, having failed to enforce its mandate (*Lakin, 2019*)

The failures to protect civilians in Bosnia, prevent mass violence in Rwanda in 1994, and successfully stabilise Somalia significantly undermined confidence in UN peacekeeping. This prompted a period of reassessment and reform in the late 1990s and 2000s, such as through the Brahimi Report (2000), assessments of the Srebrenica massacre & non-intervention in Rwanda, and in response to an NGO Transparency International report (2013) which heavily critiqued the conduct of the Peacekeeping forces. (*refer to Section 6*)

At its height in 2015, the UN deployed over 106,000 uniformed personnel (troops and police) across 16 missions, with an annual budget of ~US\$8 billion. The majority of peacekeepers are contributed by developing countries such as Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Ethiopia and Rwanda, with funding provided mainly by wealthier states. (*United Nations, 2020*)

4.4 Situation Analysis

4.4.1 Active Missions

As of 2025, there are eleven active peacekeeping missions, all of which are listed here (*data from: United Nations Peacekeeping, 2025*):

Dates of operation	Name of operation	Location	Conflict
1991	United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)	 Morocco  Sahrawi Republic	Western Sahara conflict
2010	United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO)	 Democratic Republic of the Congo	Kivu conflict
2011	United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA)	 Sudan	Abyei conflict
2011	United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS)	 South Sudan	Ethnic violence in South Sudan South Sudanese Civil War
2014	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA)	 Central African Republic	Central African Republic Civil War
1949	United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP)	 India	Kashmir conflict
		 Pakistan	
1964	United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP)	 Cyprus	Cyprus dispute
		 Northern Cyprus	
1999	United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK)	 Serbia	Kosovo War
		 Kosovo	
1948	United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation (UNTSO)	Middle East	Monitors the various ceasefires and assists UNDOF and UNIFIL
1974	United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)	 Israel	Agreed withdrawal by Syrian and Israeli forces following the Yom Kippur War.
		 Syria	
		 Lebanon	

1978	United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)	 Lebanon	Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the 2006 Israel-Lebanon conflict
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4.4.2 Limitations

However, the effectiveness of peacekeeping in these missions is greatly limited by many factors.



MONUSCO (DRC) peacekeepers are carrying out a military drill.

The major concern is the **funding shortfall** affecting many missions. The UN peacekeeping budget has declined from \$5.6 billion in 2024-2025 to \$5.38 billion for 2025-2026, as part of an organisation-wide move to cut expenditure for each department by 15%. (*United Nations, 2025*). In October 2025, with the uncertainty of the United States' contribution to the incoming budget, it was announced that the number of global peacekeepers would be reduced by a quarter. (*Nichols, 2025*)

This comes even as missions are expected more and more to operate in more complex and dangerous conflicts. The UN Department of Peace Operations has implemented cost-cutting measures across multiple divisions (*United Nations, 2025*). For instance, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), funding pressures have coincided with a phased drawdown of personnel. Reduced budgets mean limited helicopter availability (therefore hindering accessibility in such a rural country), intelligence-gathering capabilities, and rapid-response patrols in eastern provinces such as North Kivu and Ituri, where armed groups are still active. Due to a lack of personnel speaking the local language, peacekeepers are increasingly reliant on local translators, making leaks of intelligence more likely. Civilian protection responsibilities have seen increased handovers to Congolese authorities. Similar constraints have been reported in MINUSCA, the current mission in the Central African Republic. (*Travers, 2025*)



Smoke emerging from the drone strike site, which killed six Bangladeshi peacekeepers in Sudan, December 2025

Peacekeeping forces also remain **vulnerable to violence**, demonstrated by the repeated attacks on UN personnel and facilities in recent years. Recently, in December 2025, for instance, a drone strike on a UN logistics base in Sudan's South Kordofan region killed six Bangladeshi peacekeepers serving under the UN Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA) (Magdy, 2025). Peacekeepers have also faced significant threats in the Middle East, particularly along the Blue Line between Israel and Lebanon, where personnel serving with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) have been injured during exchanges of fire and targeted attacks on patrols. Also in the region, 263 staff fatalities have been reported since the war in Gaza began, including a substantial number of peacekeepers. (United Nations, 2025) Above all, there is a significant disconnect between peacekeepers on the ground and higher authority in New York - peacekeepers are often paralysed by the orders from the UN and are not allowed to do as they see fit. This means they are not only vulnerable to violence, but often helpless to stop it. This was already seen in the cases of Rwanda and Bosnia.

Misconduct within peacekeeping operations remains a serious and persistent concern, particularly allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA). A 2024 United Nations report recorded over 100 allegations linked to peacekeeping and associated missions, with a significant concentration in missions operating in environments marked by weak governance, poverty, and prolonged conflict. The majority of reported cases originated from operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Central African Republic, where peacekeepers interact closely with vulnerable civilian populations. Allegations have included rape, sexual assault, transactional sex, and the exploitation of minors. Despite strong allegations, the UN also has an extremely weak ability to prosecute those responsible, as any legal action usually has to be taken by the government of the country of origin. And there is often sparse evidence available. (United Nations, 2025)

4.5 Past Actions & Precedents

UN Secretary-General's Report on Somalia S/1995/231 (1995)

- This was a reassessment of the UN's experience in Somalia, especially during UNOSOM II
 - Created a lasting precedent against deploying UN peacekeepers into environments with no functioning state, no consent, and ongoing conflict
 - UN peacekeeping requires sustained support from member states, even after high-profile casualties
 - International support had waned after the deaths of US soldiers in 1993 (*United Nations General Assembly, 1995*)

UN Secretary-General's Report on Srebrenica A/54/549 (1999)

- This was the UN's internal inquiry into its failure to prevent the 1995 massacre in Bosnia
 - It concluded that the UN had made "serious errors of judgement", particularly in declaring "safe areas" without the military means or political will to defend them
 - Acknowledged that UNPROFOR was deployed with insufficient troops, limited firepower, and unclear rules of engagement
 - This was the first time the UN formally accepted institutional responsibility for failure to protect civilians (*United Nations General Assembly, 1999*)

Report of the Independent Inquiry into the Actions of the United Nations during the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda (1999)

- This was the UN's internal inquiry into the failure to prevent the 1994 genocide in Rwanda
 - It concluded that the United Nations failed to act on clear and credible early warnings of mass violence, including intelligence that genocide was being planned
 - The UN failed to listen to the warnings of the Force Commander and made decisions from Headquarters in New York without fully understanding the situation on the ground
 - The self-defensive mandate UNAMIR was provided with paralysed the mission and created significant inaction
 - The reduction of troop levels, even as violence began, was identified as another crucial error
 - The UN's interpretation of the third pillar of peacekeeping - impartiality - further contributed to the inability to act

Brahimi Report A/55/305 (2000)

- This was a report commissioned following the failures of the 1990s (Rwanda, Bosnia, Somalia)
 - It identified systemic weaknesses in UN peacekeeping, including unclear mandates, inadequate resources, poor planning, and unrealistic expectations

- The report argued that peacekeeping operations should not be deployed unless there was a credible peace process and sufficient political support from Member States
- It explicitly acknowledged that peacekeepers could not succeed if Member States were unwilling to provide troops, funding and political backing (Rwanda)
- It insisted on:
 - Clearer mandates are only authorised if achievable and matched with adequate equipment
 - Faster deployment by standby arrangements
 - Improved intelligence units
 - Honest acknowledgement of limits - the UN should not deploy peacekeepers when there is no peace to keep (*General Assembly Security Council, 2000*)

Zero-Tolerance Policy on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse A/RES/77/333 (2003-Present)

- In response to repeated abuse scandals, the UN adopted a formal zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse
- Conduct and Discipline Units within peacekeeping missions and mandatory pre-deployment training were created

Responsibility to Protect (R2P) (2005)

- This framed sovereignty as a responsibility rather than a privilege - countries needed to abide by collective security
- Endorsed at the 2005 UN World Summit
- There are three pillars of the R2P doctrine:
 - State Responsibility - each state has a core duty to protect its population from mass atrocities
 - International Assistance - the international community has a role to help states build capacity to fulfil the above
 - Collective Response - the international community has a responsibility to act decisively (diplomatically, humanitarily, or militarily) when a state fails to protect its own people (*United Nations, 2005*)

Transparency International Report (2013)

- Identified corruption as a mission-critical issue, often ignored in mission planning and mandate designs
 - Corruption risks were often ignored in mission planning and mandate design, meaning mandates rarely mentioned corruption, and training did not prepare personnel to recognise or counter it
- Bribery, fraud, and collusion in contracting were identified as major issues from missions in Darfur, Haiti, and Kosovo, among others (*Transparency International, 2013*)

4.6 Possible Solutions

1. Increase predictable and adequate funding from Member States to ensure missions always have sufficient troops, equipment, and logistical support, especially from wealthier states
2. Increase resources and equipment available for peacekeepers, to extend a larger presence in key regions
3. Provide a layout for clear, achievable mandates that is standardised and easily enforceable
4. Strengthen rules of engagement to allow peacekeepers to more robustly protect civilians while minimising unnecessary harm
5. Authorise peacekeepers to intervene more strongly if suspected human rights violations are occurring
6. Enhance pre-deployment preparation, especially emphasising cultural awareness and corruption prevention
7. Further strengthen Conduct and Discipline Units to prevent misconduct, including sexual exploitation and abuse, as well as build frameworks for the UN to easily bring them to justice
8. Foster greater political commitment and cooperation from Member States, including clear backing for peace enforcement

4.7 Questions A Resolution Must Answer (QARMA)

1. How exactly will UN peacekeepers ensure the sufficient protection of civilians in countries, and increase presence and engagement while remaining a neutral third party?
2. How will the UN ensure complete, dedicated and consistent backing from member states at all stages of conflict, to prevent operational shortfalls?
3. What reforms can improve accountability and oversight to prevent misconduct, including sexual exploitation, abuse, and corruption, by peacekeeping personnel?
4. How can commanders be given more authority to make decisions based upon the situation on the ground, rather than being solely tied to UN requests from above?
5. What mechanisms can integrate military, police, and civilian components more effectively within missions to improve overall mission efficiency?
6. What other improvements can the Peacekeeping Force make to achieve maximum efficiency and success on the ground in various countries?

5.0 Submission of Position Paper

Attention: Submission of the Position Paper is mandatory to be considered for any awards.

5.1 Formatting

Delegates are required to adhere to the following format when writing position papers:

- 1) Position Papers should be titled as such TISKLMUN'26_PP_[Official Names of Country]_[Full name of delegate] E.g: **TISKLMUN'26_PP_United States of America_Donald John Trump**
- 2) Position Papers are to be written in **English only** with a competent degree of formality. Any other languages used will not be considered for grading.
- 3) State out your **full name, council, country represented** and **topic/agenda** in the position paper.
- 4) Position Papers are to be written in **Times New Roman**, font size of **12**, and in **justified** format. Line spacing should be set to **1.5**.
- 5) Usage of bold, italics, and underlines is **allowed**.
- 6) Delegates are required to cite any referenced sources in a bibliography section at the end of the position paper. This should be done in **APA 7** format.
- 7) You must write for **BOTH** topics, in one single document.
- 8) **Each topic** should not exceed **2 pages**; thus, the whole document shall not exceed 4 pages, **excluding the bibliography**.
- 9) **Do not** include any flags of countries or names/logos of your school/institution.
- 10) You may refer to the **sample** given to assist you in structuring your Position Paper.

 [MWMUN'25_PP_Russian Federation_Syed Adam Danish Wafa Bin Syed Mo...](#)

5.2 Content

These are the basic guidelines on what can be included. These need not be followed strictly, and reasonable omissions/additions are allowed.

- 1) Introduction of the topic. Include relevant data and notable past efforts regarding the agenda.
- 2) Introduction of your country's profile and how it might relate to the agenda.
- 3) Your country's past actions pertaining to the agenda.
- 4) Your proposed solution(s).

5.3 Plagiarism

These are the basic guidelines on what can be included. These need not be followed strictly, and reasonable omissions/additions are allowed. The use of AI tools such as Chat-GPT is generally **prohibited**, and the Chairs fully discourage the usage of AI tools both before and during council sessions. However, we do appreciate that it serves as a beneficial idea-generation too, which we believe delegates will paraphrase and alter whatever is necessary for fair play and distribution across the council.

An academic plagiarism and AI checker software will be utilised. A **20%** tolerance level will be given for **plagiarism**, and a **30%** tolerance level will be given for **AI similarity**. Any submissions that exceed the aforementioned limits will be **automatically disqualified**.

5.4 Submission

Delegates are required to submit position papers to the [Google Form](#) prepared by **11.59 PM** on the **5th of February 2026**. Extension requests will be entertained with **valid reasoning**, and the Board of Dais reserves the right to refuse acceptance of position papers that do not fulfil the submission requirements or are submitted beyond the aforementioned deadline.

Should you have any further enquiries, do not hesitate to contact the Board of Dais at:

Head Chair: zhlee6288@gmail.com

Co-Chair: joehynn.ng@gmail.com

6.0 Further Research Material

6.1 Agenda A: Reviewing the Geneva Conventions 1949

Video Materials

1. [▶ What are the 4 Geneva Conventions? | The Laws of War | ICRC](#)
2. [▶ Geneva Convention: Explained in 3 minutes](#)
3. [▶ Every War Crime Explained In 8 Minutes](#)
4. [▶ Where did the Geneva Conventions come from? | The Laws Of War | ICRC](#)
5. [▶ What Happens If A Country Violates The Geneva Conventions?](#)
6. [▶ ICRC | The Geneva Conventions Explained: Protecting Civilians in War](#)
7. [▶ What are the Rules of War? | The Laws of War | ICRC](#)
8. [▶ What is the International Criminal Court \(ICC\)?](#)
9. [▶ UN report accuses Russia of war crimes in drone warfare and forcible transfer ...](#)
10. [▶ ICC judges issue arrest warrant for Putin over alleged war crimes](#)
11. [▶ Russia Issues Arrest Warrant for ICC Judge Over War Crimes Rulings | Times ...](#)
12. [▶ What are the war crimes allegations against Israel and Hamas? | BBC News](#)
13. [▶ ICC vs Israel Explained: Arrest Warrants Stay, Investigation Continues | Dawn ...](#)
14. [▶ Israel's Netanyahu slams ICC ruling as 'pure anti-Semitism'](#)
15. [▶ US sanctions ICC judges; Rubio says court's cases are 'baseless and politicised'](#)
16. [▶ What to know about the Thailand-Cambodia conflict](#)
17. [▶ Cambodia plans ICC case against Thailand over alleged war crimes](#)
18. [▶ The Nuremberg Trial](#)
19. [▶ The Tokyo Trial Explained](#)
20. [▶ Yugoslavia Trial Explained](#)
21. [▶ What Was The International Criminal Tribunal For Rwanda \(ICTR\)? - True Cri...](#)

Reading Materials

1. [GENEVA CONVENTION RELATIVE TO THE PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN PERSONS IN TIME OF WAR OF 12 AUGUST 1949](#)

6.2 Agenda B: Redefining the Purpose and Objectives of United Nations Peacekeeping Forces

Video Materials

1. [▶ UN Peacekeeping: How do they decide to start a new mission?](#)
2. [▶ UN Peacekeeping animation - Security and rule of law in the field](#)
3. [▶ UN Peacekeeping: Challenges from the field today and tomorrow](#)
4. [▶ Patrolling The Lawless Sahara Desert With The Blue Helmets | VICE on HBO](#)
5. [▶ Does UN Peacekeeping Work? Here's the data | Global Focus](#)
6. [▶ Why Is UN Peacekeeper Misconduct Hard To Prosecute? - International Humanitarian Law](#)
7. [▶ Srebrenica massacre - Explained in under 2 min - BBC News](#)
8. [▶ UN Peacekeepers \(Warning: Graphic Video\)](#)
9. [▶ PICR Lesson 7: Peacekeeping and Conflict Resolution in War Zones](#)

Reading Materials

1. [Summary of UN Peacekeeping History](#)
2. [Official UN Peacekeeping Documents List](#)

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