

 **HCMUN**
MARCH 3RD, 2018

SECURITY COUNCIL

BACKGROUND GUIDE

GUEST CHAIR: ANGELA HOU
DIRECTOR: LARA GROUND

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the fourth annual Havergal College Model United Nations conference. My name is Lara Ground, and I am honoured to be the director for the Security Council this year. The guest chair for our committee is Angela Hou. She is a former Havergal student and now studies International Relations and Contemporary Asian Studies at the University of Toronto. We look forward to hearing thought-provoking debates and ideas from the delegates, as well as seeing collaboration as successful resolutions are developed.

This year, the Security Council will be covering the pertinent topics of 1) accessibility of weapons by terrorist organizations and 2) the UN mission to Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). These matters are complex and controversial, and there are many viewpoints regarding each topic. We are very excited to hear the creative resolutions that will be presented to address the issues at hand.

Please note that all delegates who wish to be considered for awards must submit position papers by March 1st, 2018 to lground@havergal.on.ca. All delegates who do not submit a position paper on time will not be eligible for awards, subject to individual exceptions at the discretion of the director. This background guide is intended to serve as a starting point for your research, and the questions and delegate resources at the end of each topic are intended to help guide further research. Please feel free to direct any inquiries or concerns to Lara Ground at lground@havergal.on.ca, or Angela Hou at ahou@havergal.on.ca. We look forward to hearing from you and meeting you in person.

Sincerely,

Angela Hou and Lara Ground
Security Council
HCMUN IV

Committee Overview

The United Nations Security Council was founded on October 24, 1945. Currently, the five permanent seats on the Security Council are granted to the five victors of World War II: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. These countries were also granted veto power within the Council. Other non-permanent members rotate every two years by election and geographic distribution, and ten seats are allocated to these Council members. The Security Council has the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security, and determines when a UN peacekeeping operation should be utilized. Additionally, the UNSC is the only body within the UN that is authorized to use force in order to maintain peace, contingent on the absence of objection from any of the five permanent members and a supporting vote of nine out of fifteen.

Topic 1: Accessibility of Weapons by Terrorist Organizations

Introduction

Terrorism is one of the most significant global threats today, and the use of terrorism has increased and accelerated in recent years. Our World in Data at the University of Oxford finds that the number of terrorism-related incidents has increased drastically over the past decade, with a peak of 16,860 terrorism-related incidents in 2014.¹ The occurrence, possibility, and threat of terrorists and terrorist organizations gaining access to both conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) is a matter that should concern every Member State. Thus, taking measures to prevent terrorists from accessing such weapons is crucial.

The Origins of Terrorism

Historically, terrorism has emerged from resistance and political movements. Using terrorism to further a political cause has become more prevalent in recent years, as terrorism has become a persuasive way to make change.² After World War II, modern terrorism evolved with increased nationalist movements in the former colonies of European powers. These movements shed light on the potential for terrorism to generate publicity for a political cause and influence public opinion and policy-making.³ Contemporary terrorism has become increasingly lethal and more complex, with examples such as ISIS and Boko Haram.

¹ Roser, Max, Nagdy, Mohamed and Ritchie, Hannah. "Terrorist Attacks." *Our World in Data*.

² Roser, Max, Nagdy, Mohamed and Ritchie, Hannah. "Historical Terrorism." *Our World in Data*.

³ Ibid.

Conventional Weapons

Conventional weapons include a wide range of military equipment, including but not limited to small arms and light weapons, cluster munitions, ammunition, and artillery.⁴ They are the most common type of armament globally, yet there is a lack of effectively implemented, binding measures regulating the trade of conventional arms.⁵

The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons occurs all over the world, but it is most concentrated in places of the world affected by violence, armed conflict, in neighbourhoods terrorized by organized crime, and in civil wars where soldiers attack civilians and peacekeepers.⁶ In these places, the demand for weapons is usually highest. Arms trafficking stocks terrorist arsenals and contributes to the proliferation of conventional weapons as well as violent crime.⁷ The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is a major issue worldwide because the weapons are lightweight and inexpensive.⁸ Therefore, they are easy to transport, conceal, and handle, making them more accessible to terrorist organizations.⁹ While there are numerous ways for terrorists to obtain weapons, one of the most significant methods is “ant trade.” This is a process in which several shipments of small numbers of weapons result in the accumulation of a larger stockpile of illicit weapons by unauthorized, non-state users.¹⁰

It is said that conventional bombs are more advantageous for the use of terrorists because they are relatively inexpensive and simple to construct.¹¹ The technology used to create bombs is not as advanced as the technology needed for weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), and the bombs come with many detonating options that suit the target and nature of terrorist attacks.¹²

Weapons of Mass Destruction

Weapons of mass destruction are chemical, biological, or radioactive (nuclear) weapons that are capable of inflicting widespread suffering, death and destruction.¹³ They constitute a class of weaponry with the ability to kill millions of civilians, jeopardize the natural environment, and alter the world and the lives of future generations through their long lasting, catastrophic effects.¹⁴ WMDs are the most threatening weapons for both terrorist and governmental use, and they pose significant challenges to maintaining global peace and security. The use of WMDs in warfare is illegal

⁴ “Conventional Weapons.” *UNRCDP*.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ “Illicit Trafficking.” *Small Arms Survey*.

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ “Small Arms and Light Weapons.” *U.S. Department of State*.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ “Illicit Trafficking.” *Small Arms Survey*.

¹¹ Schwalbe, Dr. Stephen. “Where are the Terrorist WMD Attacks?” In *Homeland Security*.

¹² *Ibid.*

¹³ “Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD).” *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

¹⁴ “Weapons of Mass Destruction.” *UNRCDP*.

under international law.¹⁵ According to the Central Intelligence Agency, terrorist interest in WMDs is growing, which causes great concern.¹⁶

With the advancement of technological innovation, countries began stockpiling and building lethal arsenals of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, as well as the materials used to produce them.¹⁷ States have officially committed to the non-proliferation of all chemical weapons and certain biological weapons, and they strive for the elimination of nuclear weapons.¹⁸ The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is a landmark international treaty that has the objective of preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament.¹⁹ A total of 191 states have joined the Treaty, including the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, and China, which are considered to be the five nuclear-weapon states. More countries have ratified the NPT than any other arms limitation and disarmament agreement.²⁰ There are nine countries that currently possess nuclear weapons: Britain, China, France, India, Israel (assumed), North Korea (claimed), Pakistan, Russia, and the United States.²¹ There are also many more states believed to possess agents of chemical and/or biological warfare.²²

In addition to the dangers posed by existing stockpiles of WMDs, the proliferation of WMDs to other countries, non-governmental actors, and terrorist networks through black-market sales and related underground programs is a significant concern.²³ Security officials consider terrorists acquiring WMDs and the use of WMDs by terrorists as a “worse case” scenario. As William Perry, the former United States Secretary of Defence stated at a meeting of the National Academy of Sciences in 2004, “I have never been more fearful of a nuclear detonation than now — there is a greater than 50 percent probability of a nuclear strike on U.S. targets within a decade.”²⁴ Notably, the terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda and ISIS have expressed interest in using WMDs, and are seeking to obtain materials needed for an attack using these types of weapons.²⁵

Recently, it was discovered by the United Nations that terrorists and non-state actors are using the “dark web,” in search of tools necessary to make WMDs. The “dark web” is a part of the internet that requires specific software access and allows users and website operators to remain anonymous.²⁶ Additionally, the use of drones and 3D printers by terrorists is a growing concern.²⁷ The use of 3D printers gives rise to various security implications as they could be used to create non-metallic weapons and weapon components, making them difficult to trace and more appealing

¹⁵ Reed, Laura. “Weapons of Mass Destruction.” *Hampshire College*.

¹⁶ “News and Information.” *Central Intelligence Agency*.

¹⁷ Reed, Laura. “Weapons of Mass Destruction.” *Hampshire College*.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁹ “Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).” *United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs*.

²⁰ *Ibid.*

²¹ Reed, Laura. “Weapons of Mass Destruction.” *Hampshire College*.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ Early, Bryan R. and Nance, Mark T. “Here’s how the U.N. is working to stop terrorists from getting weapons of mass destruction.” *The Washington Post*.

²⁶ Besheer, Margaret. “UN: Terrorists Using ‘Dark Web’ in Pursuit of WMDs.” *The Voice of America*.

²⁷ *Ibid.*

to terrorist organizations.²⁸ Plans for these weapons that have the potential to be created on consumer-grade 3D printers are readily available on the internet.²⁹ Terrorist groups and non-governmental actors could even utilize 3D printers to make more destructive weapons, and the likelihood of terror attacks could increase through the use of this technology.³⁰ Thus, taking measures to prevent terrorists from accessing and illegally trafficking sensitive, military materials is vital.

Past Action

Preventing terrorists and terrorist organizations from accessing weapons has been a long-term concern for the United Nations. The UN has held numerous conferences aimed at keeping weapons out of the hands of terrorists such as the 2005 World Summit, which promoted unqualified condemnation of all forms of terrorism.³¹

In September 2001, following the attacks of 9/11, the Security Council adopted resolution 1373, which aimed to prevent the funding of terrorism, and prevent states from supporting terrorist organizations.³² The resolution also created the Counter-Terrorism Committee, which was tasked to monitor the implementation of resolution 1373, and requested that countries develop measures to enhance their legal and institutional ability to counter terrorist activities in their regions and around the world.³³

One of the most significant resolutions adopted by the United Nations Security Council was Resolution 1540 under Chapter IV of the United Nations Charter, which affirms that the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and their means of delivery constitutes a threat to national peace and security.³⁴ The resolution imposes binding obligations as an international legal instrument that all states adopt legislation to prevent the proliferation of these weapons, and establish appropriate domestic controls over related materials to prevent illicit trafficking.³⁵

To address conventional arms, the United Nations facilitated the negotiation and signing of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which came into force in December 2014. The ATT seeks to regulate the international trade of a range of conventional arms, from small arms to battle tanks.³⁶ The United Nations also created The United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, an annual

²⁸ “Why Should We Care About 3D Printing and What are Potential Security Implications?” *Geneva Centre for Security Policy*.

²⁹ *Ibid.*

³⁰ Tirone, Daniel C. and Gilley, James. “3D printing: a new threat to gun control and security policy?” *The Conversation*.

³¹ “The 2005 World Summit High-Level Plenary Meeting of the 60th session of the UN General Assembly (14-16 September 2005, UN Headquarters, New York).” *United Nations Conferences, Meetings and Events*.

³² “United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).” *Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee*.

³³ *Ibid.*

³⁴ “United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004).” *1540 Committee*.

³⁵ *Ibid.*

³⁶ “The Arms Trade Treaty.” *United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs*.

reporting mechanism where governments voluntarily share information on weapons they transferred the previous year, which promotes transparency in inter-state arms trade.³⁷

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism strategy was adopted in 2006, and serves as a global instrument and blueprint to enhance national, regional, and international efforts to counter terrorism.³⁸ It is reviewed every two years, making it a living document. The strategy sends the key message that terrorism is unacceptable in all forms, especially to the United Nations Security Council, which takes practical steps to combat it.³⁹

Guiding Questions

1. What are the most effective ways to combat terrorism, and prevent terrorists from acquiring both conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction? How is terrorist acquisition of weapons a unique problem, compared to other non-state actors per se?
2. Is terrorism and the accessibility of weapons for terror purposes best addressed on an international, regional, or state level? What is the role of the United Nations in this issue, and the Security Council in particular?
3. How can the Security Council strengthen the implementation and monitoring process of existing mechanisms, or endorse new programs to better combat this issue?

Delegate Resources

“A New Development Agenda: Reducing illicit arms flows and Sustainable Development Goal 16.” *Small Arms Survey*. Accessed December 4, 2017. <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/about-us/highlights/2016/highlight-rn-57-and-58.html>

“Security Council Statement Reaffirms Concern over Weapons of Mass Destruction as It Marks 10 Years since Adopting Landmark Non-proliferation Text.” United Nations. Accessed December 4, 2017. <http://www.un.org/press/en/2014/sc11382.doc.htm>

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“United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004).” *1540 Committee*. Accessed December 4, 2017. <http://www.un.org/en/sc/1540/about-1540-committee/general-information.shtml>

³⁷ “Transparency in Armaments.” *United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs*.

³⁸ “UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.” *Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force*.

³⁹ *Ibid.*

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. Accessed December 4, 2017.
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<http://unrcpd.org/conventional-weapons/>

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“News and Information.” *Central Intelligence Agency*. Accessed December 4, 2017.
<https://www.cia.gov/news-information>

Reed, Laura. “Weapons of Mass Destruction.” *Hampshire College*. Accessed December 4, 2017.
<https://www.hampshire.edu/pawss/weapons-of-mass-destruction>

Roser, Max, Nagdy, Mohamed and Ritchie, Hannah. “Historical Terrorism.” *Our World in Data*. Accessed December 4, 2017. <https://ourworldindata.org/terrorism/>

Roser, Max, Nagdy, Mohamed and Ritchie, Hannah. “Terrorist Attacks.” *Our World in Data*. Accessed December 4, 2017. <https://ourworldindata.org/terrorism/>

Schwalbe, Dr. Stephen. “Where are the Terrorist WMD Attacks?” In *Homeland Security*. 7 October 2016. <https://inhomelandsecurity.com/where-are-the-terrorist-wmd-attacks/>

- “Small Arms and Light Weapons.” *U.S. Department of State*. 12 April 2005. <https://2001-2009.state.gov/t/pm/rls/rm/44625.htm>
- Tirone, Daniel C. and Gilley, James. “3D printing: a new threat to gun control and security policy?” *The Conversation*. 19 July 2016. <https://theconversation.com/3d-printing-a-new-threat-to-gun-control-and-security-policy-61416>
- “Transparency in Armaments.” *United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs*. Accessed December 4, 2017. <https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/transparency-in-armaments/>
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- “UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.” *Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force*. Accessed December 4, 2017. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctif/en/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy>
- “United Nations Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).” *Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee*. Accessed December 4, 2017. <https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/resources/databases/recommended-international-practices-codes-and-standards/united-nations-security-council-resolution-1373-2001/>
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- “The 2005 World Summit High-Level Plenary Meeting of the 60th session of the UN General Assembly (14-16 September 2005, UN Headquarters, New York).” *United Nations Conferences, Meetings and Events*. Accessed December 4, 2017. http://www.un.org/en/events/pastevents/worldsummit_2005.shtml

Topic 2: United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO)

Introduction

The Democratic Republic of the Congo's (DRC) history of colonization and exploitation has led to a number of conflicts arising from many sources: ethnic conflict, political grievances, and regional geopolitics.⁴⁰ A lack of economic opportunity boosts recruiting for armed forces and competition for the DRC's land and natural resources, often leading to violence. Rebel forces also perpetuate the conflict.⁴¹ Since its independence, the DRC has seen two major wars between its allies and neighbours, along with several coups. In an effort to stabilize the DRC, the United Nations Security Council deployed the UN Organization Mission in the Congo (MONUC), later renamed the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the largest and most expensive peacekeeping mission in its history.⁴² Its budget for 2017/2018 is \$1.14 billion, and the United States is the largest financial contributor to the mission.⁴³ Analyzing the history of the DRC reveals the basis for much of the conflict that occurs today.

History of Colonization

King Leopold II of Belgium claimed the Congo as his own personal property in 1880 and promptly began exploiting its natural resources such as rubber and ivory.⁴⁴ The Congo was known as the Belgian Congo Free State, and became a formal colony of Belgium in 1908.⁴⁵ During these years, colonists terrorised the local population in coercive labour for rubber, and enforced rubber quotas introduced by the Force Publique, a military force, by physically abusing native Congolese people.⁴⁶ Millions died as a result of colonial exploitation, sparking a movement for equal political and bureaucratic representation in the form of international protests led by British reporter Edmund Dene Morel and British diplomat Roger Casement.⁴⁷ After World War II, Belgium saw that pressure for an independent Congo increased.⁴⁸ In 1960, the Congo gained its independence from Belgium, and the first national elections took place.⁴⁹

However, the country fell into turmoil five years later. Throughout this five-year period, the country witnessed the assassination of the Prime Minister, mutinies within the Congolese army, general instability and violence, and a coup lead by army chief Joseph Mobutu to overthrow the

⁴⁰ "The Eastern Congo." *Council on Foreign Relations*.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Hochschild, Adam. "Leopold II King of Belgium." *Encyclopedia Britannica*.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ "Democratic Republic of Congo." *Cooper Hewitt*.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ "Democratic Republic of Congo profile – Timeline." *BBC*.

⁴⁹ Gallo, Carol Jean. "Trouble." *UN Dispatch*.

president, Joseph Kasavubu.⁵⁰ Mobutu declared himself the new President and changed the country's name from the Congo to Zaire, with the goal of developing a new sense of national unity.⁵¹ Under the leadership of Mobutu, Zaire lost its foreign investments, defaulted on loans, and fell into social and economic turmoil. At the end of his 32 years of presidency, the country's weakness and internal chaos sparked the formation of many rebel groups.⁵²

First and Second Congo War

The First Congo War was the result of the social, economic, and political turmoil under Mobutu's rule, which eventually forced him out of power. In addition, the 1994 Rwandan genocide served as the catalyst for conflict. Ethnic Hutus in Rwanda massacred and killed hundreds of thousands of Rwandan Tutsis, with the complicity and encouragement of the Hutu-dominated government.⁵³ After months of violence, a Tutsi rebel army ended the genocide with Ugandan support by establishing a Tutsi-led government, and forcing many Hutus into exile.⁵⁴ About 1.2 million Rwandans fled over the adjoining border to the eastern Kivu regions in Zaire, an area inhabited by ethnic Tutsis. This directly led to a rebellion between President Mobutu's forces and Laurent Désiré Kabila, a Congolese politician, in 1996.⁵⁵ With the help of Rwanda and Uganda, Kabila's forces took the capital city of Kinshasa in 1997, and renamed Zaire the Democratic Republic of the Congo.⁵⁶

The Second Congo War began in 1998, when a rebellion against the Kabila government began in the Kivu regions. It only took weeks for rebels to seize large areas of the country.⁵⁷ Angola, Chad, Namibia, and Zimbabwe promised President Kabila military support. Rwanda and Uganda, unwilling to lose their role in the DRC, supported the rebel movement, the Congolese Rally for Democracy (RCD).⁵⁸ In 2000, the Security Council appointed a panel of experts to analyze the link between the war and the desire to control the DRC's rich natural resources.⁵⁹ It was found that mineral exploitation was funding the warring faction.⁶⁰ In total, the war claimed approximately 5.4 million lives. Disease and malnutrition aggravated by conflict contributed significantly to the death toll.⁶¹ To end the Second Congo War, the Security Council called for a ceasefire and a withdrawal of foreign forces, and urged Member States not to interfere with the DRC's internal affairs.⁶² In 1999,

⁵⁰ "The Congo, basic facts." *IRIN News*.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*

⁵² "Democratic Republic of Congo profile – Timeline." *BBC*.

⁵³ "History of the Conflict." *Eastern Congo Initiative*.

⁵⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵⁵ "Background." *United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DR Congo*.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

⁵⁹ Woudenberg, Anneke Van. "Democratic Republic of Congo: On the Brink." *Human Rights Watch*.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

⁶¹ Bavier, Joe. "Congo war-driven crisis kills 45,000 a month: study." *Reuters*.

⁶² "Background." *United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DR Congo*.

the Lusaka Ceasefire Agreement was signed between the DRC and the five regional states of Angola, Namibia, Rwanda, Uganda, and Zimbabwe.⁶³

Past Action

On November 30, 1999, the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) was established by its resolution 1279.⁶⁴ The mission was intended to observe the ceasefire and the disengagement of forces, as well as maintain liaison with all parties to the Ceasefire Agreement.⁶⁵ The Security Council expanded the mandate of MONUC, recognizing the ongoing conflict in the DRC.⁶⁶ The DRC's first fair and free elections took place in 2006, and the electoral process was said to be one of the most complex votes the United Nations had ever helped facilitate.⁶⁷ MONUC continued to try to resolve persisting conflicts in many DRC provinces, which were legacies of the Second Congo War.⁶⁸ These conflicts included the illegal exploitation of natural resources, which continued to fuel internal conflict, unresolved ethnic differences and land disputes, and heavily armed rebel groups who continued to challenge state authority.⁶⁹

On July 1, 2010, the Security Council, by its resolution 1925, renamed MONUC the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), recognizing a new phase reached in the country.⁷⁰ MONUSCO was authorized to use all necessary means to carry out its mandate, including the protection of civilians, humanitarian personnel, and human rights defenders under the threat of physical violence, and to support the government of the DRC in its efforts to bring stability and consolidate peace.⁷¹

The Security Council concluded that MONUSCO would comprise of appropriate civilian, judiciary, and correctional components, as well as a maximum of 19,815 military personnel, 760 military observers, 391 police personnel, and 1,050 members of former police units.⁷² Finally, future reconfigurations of MONUSCO would be determined as the situation in the DRC evolved.⁷³

In 2013, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2089, which extended the mandate until March 31, 2014, and approved the use of “offensive” combat force.⁷⁴ The resolution created a specialized “intervention brigade” with the objective of neutralizing and disarming the armed groups in the region.⁷⁵ The peacekeeping mission was given permission to carry out “targeted offensive operations” with the intention of reducing the threat posed by armed groups on state

⁶³ Ibid.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ Ibid.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ “Briefing Materials.” *Public Information Division – United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC)*.

⁷⁰ “Background.” *United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DR Congo*.

⁷¹ “Mandate.” *United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DR Congo*.

⁷² “Background.” *United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DR Congo*.

⁷³ Ibid.

⁷⁴ “‘Intervention Brigade’ Authorized as Security Council Grants Mandate Renewal for United Nations Mission in Democratic Republic of Congo.” *United Nations Security Council*.

⁷⁵ “Resolution 2098.” *United Nations Security Council*.

authority and civilian security.⁷⁶ The new brigade was tasked with carrying out offensive operations either unilaterally or jointly with the Congolese armed forces, making operations with the Congolese armed forces optional.⁷⁷ With the intervention brigade, the Congolese government was able to defeat the M23, a group of Tutsi rebels who deserted from the Congolese army in April 2012 following a mutiny. Unfortunately, efforts to reintegrate its soldiers in to the national army failed, and many M23 fighters remain in Rwanda and Uganda. UN officials consider this situation to be “a time bomb.”⁷⁸ Another approved measure of the Security Council to help address the situation in the DRC was the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), also referred to as drones, to observe and combat militia activity.⁷⁹

Current Situation

Significant progress has been made in the DRC since the establishment of MONUSCO, and the mission has provided much needed support for the peace-keeping process.⁸⁰ Many areas of conflict in the region have mostly stabilized. However, the eastern part of the DRC continues to undergo conflict, chronic humanitarian crises, and human rights violations, including sexual and gender-based violence.⁸¹ In addition, the DRC’s natural resources hold great potential but also drive conflict in the region due to disputes from rebel groups who seek to control them.⁸² A major challenge to peace has been the DRC’s faltering efforts to demobilize thousands of rebel fighters.⁸³ A planned joint UN-Congolese offensive against FDLR rebels, Rwandan Hutu Rebels who make up the largest remaining rebel army, collapsed in 2015 over UN criticism of human rights abuses within the Congolese army.⁸⁴ Many observers argue that the UN Peacekeeping Mission lacks a clear strategy for sustaining the peace and eradicating the vast number of armed groups that persist.⁸⁵ So far, the mandate of MONUSCO has been extended four times, and a resolution unanimously adopted by the 15 members of the Security Council decided to extend the peacekeeping mandate until March 31, 2018, with a reduced troop strength.⁸⁶ However, the humanitarian situation remains of great concern. Further, a delay in the DRC’s November presidential elections has sparked protests and fears of another civil war, as the elections were scheduled for 2016, delayed for 2017, and now expected to be held late 2018.⁸⁷

⁷⁶ Ibid.

⁷⁷ “‘Intervention Brigade’ Authorized as Security Council Grants Mandate Renewal for United Nations Mission in Democratic Republic of Congo.” *United Nations Security Council*.

⁷⁸ “The Eastern Congo.” *Council on Foreign Relations*.

⁷⁹ Gberie, Lansana. “Intervention brigade: End game in the Congo?” Africa Renewal. *United Nations*.

⁸⁰ “Background.” *United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DR Congo*.

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ “The Eastern Congo.” *Council on Foreign Relations*.

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ Ibid.

⁸⁶ “Timeline.” *United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DR Congo*.

⁸⁷ Stewart, Phil. “Exclusive: Congo poised to see election pushed back to late 2018 - sources.” *Reuters*.

Guiding Questions

1. Has your country been involved in past conflict in the DRC or any of its neighbouring countries? What is your stance on this conflict, and what are your proposed solutions?
2. Is your country currently involved in MONUSCO and/or have you provided aid for the population or government of the DRC? If not, what are your country's reasons for not being involved?
3. What measures would your country propose to stabilize the DRC? Please assess the effectiveness of MONUSCO in answering this question, and consider the necessity and possibility of different, new initiatives in the DRC.
4. Should the mandate of MONUSCO be extended? For what reasons would your country be inclined to extend the mandate?
5. What is the current role of the Security Council and the United Nations in this conflict? Is this role an appropriate and effective one?

Delegate Resources

“Background.” *United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DR Congo*. Accessed December 4, 2017. <https://monusco.unmissions.org/en/background>

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