**CNGMUN XLII**

**Security Council**

**Academic Guide**

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5. **Introduction to Security Council**

On October 26, 1945, a mere two days subsequent to the establishment of the United Nations, the United Nations Security Council was inaugurated. Operating as one of the UN's six principal organs, its primary objective is the proactive identification and maintenance of global peace and security.

The UN Security Council comprises 15 members endowed with the authority to cast votes on pivotal matters. Among these, 10 are non-permanent members that undergo rotation every two years, while the remaining 5 are permanent members chosen for their considerable military, economic, and political influence. The permanent members are The United States of America, The Russian Federation, The People’s Republic of China, The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and The French Republic.

All permanent members possess the exclusive right to veto any decisions of the Security Council, thereby preventing their enactment. Compliance with Security Council decisions is obligatory for all UN members. To secure passage, a decision must meet two criteria: a minimum of nine out of the fifteen UN Security Council members must cast affirmative votes, and no permanent UN Security Council member may cast a dissenting vote.

The United Nations Security Council bears distinctive responsibilities and functions, encompassing the maintenance of peace and security in accordance with UN principles, the recommendation of solutions to disputes or the establishment of terms for settlements, the identification of potential threats to international security, the formulation of proportional responses to international security threats, and the authorization of military action against aggressors.

Moreover, the Security Council is charged with the investigation of conflicts that may escalate into international disputes, the recommendation of solutions to disputes or terms of settlement, the identification of acts threatening international peace and the proposal of proportional responses, the encouragement of members to implement economic sanctions and other diplomatic measures to prevent or halt aggression, the undertaking of military action against aggressors, the recommendation of new member admissions, the exercise of trusteeship functions of the United Nations in strategic areas, and the provision of advice to the General Assembly regarding the appointment of the Secretary-General and the election of Judges for the International Court of Justice.

1. **Topic 1: Haiti Internal Security Crisis**

3a. Historical Context

Haiti has grappled with a series of crises since gaining independence on the 1st of January, 1804. Foreign intervention, debt, political instability, and natural disasters have consistently hindered development efforts in Haiti, transforming the once wealthiest colony in the Americas into a nation where more than half of its population lives below the poverty line.

From the outset of Haiti’s independence, freedom from France in 1804 did not signify an end to foreign powers intervening in the nation's affairs. It took until 1825 for France to officially recognize Haiti's independence, a recognition that came at a steep cost. In exchange, Haiti agreed to pay reparations, estimated to be worth $21 billion in today’s dollars. This agreement set a precedent, as over the next 122 years, up to 80 percent of Haiti’s revenues went towards servicing this debt.

This historical pattern of foreign interference continued, with Haiti becoming a pawn in various geopolitical strategies. In 1915, under Woodrow Wilson, U.S. Marines were deployed to Haiti to restore political stability. The occupation lasted for two decades, and it wasn't until 1934, as part of Franklin D. Roosevelt's Good Neighbor Policy, that U.S. troops were withdrawn. However, this withdrawal ushered in a period of instability, culminating in 1957 with the establishment of a dictatorship under François Duvalier and his son, Jean-Claude.

The Duvaliers' rule, lasting for twenty-nine years, was marked by corruption that depleted the nation’s resources and human rights violations, resulting in an estimated thirty thousand deaths or disappearances. The regime finally ended in 1986 due to massive protests and international pressure, leading to the younger Duvalier fleeing the country. This marked the beginning of a new era with a new constitution and democratic institutions, yet political instability persisted.

In the subsequent years, Haiti saw the election of Jean-Bertrand Aristide as its first democratically elected president, only for him to be deposed twice in coups, in 1991 and 2004. Both incidents prompted U.S. military interventions supported by the United Nations. In 2004, the United Nations initiated a thirteen-year peacekeeping mission, the Brazil-led UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), aimed at restoring order after the fall of the Aristide government.

The year 2011 brought the election of Michel Martelly as president, a process clouded by allegations of U.S. interference. Martelly, however, later stepped down after postponing presidential elections twice and ruling by decree for over a year. In 2016, Haiti faced a political vacuum when fraud allegations against Martelly’s successor, Jovenel Moïse, led to the postponement of Moïse’s official election until early 2017.

3b. Current Situation,

This already dire situation was exacerbated with the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse in July of 2021. Following the assassination, Haiti has descended into a multidimensional crisis characterized by political deadlock, extreme violence, and dire humanitarian conditions. At the time of writing, the country lacks a single democratically elected official (As no official elections have been held since 2019), and the caretaker government led by Prime Minister Ariel Henry has been unable to reach a political settlement with opposition groups on the organization of elections. This had given politically connected criminal gangs ample space and time to overtake an estimated 80 percent of Port-au-Prince, the capital, fuelling unprecedented levels of violence and disorder.

In the absence of functioning state security institutions, a vigilante movement known as “bwa kwale” has emerged, resulting in the extrajudicial killing of over 200 individuals allegedly linked to gangs. About half of the country’s population is food insecure and nearly 200,000 people are internally displaced. Thus in October 2022, seeking to stabilize the country’s security situation and stem the multidimensional crisis, the Haitian government appealed for the immediate deployment of an “international specialized force” to temporarily reinforce the efforts of the Haiti National Police (HNP) to combat gangs.

On 21 October 2022, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2653, establishing a sanctions regime on Haiti that included targeted asset freeze, travel ban and arms embargo measures. Followed this, On 14 July, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2692, renewing BINUH’s mandate for another year and requesting the Secretary-General to report within 30 days on the full range of options for UN support to enhance the security situation in Haiti, including but not limited to support for a non-UN multinational force.

Finally ten months after Haiti’s initial request for security support, on 29 July, Kenyan Foreign Minister Alfred Mutua announced in a statement that his country had agreed to “positively consider” leading a multinational force to Haiti. This multinational force approved by the UN Security Council has a one year mandate to help Haiti fight gangs and restore order.

3c. Key points

Within this topic the committee should as Kenyan Foreign Minister Alfred Mutua said “positively consider” the following key points in our discussion for a resolution to this crisis.

* The dire humanitarian situation, with more than half its population under the poverty line, food insecure, and thousands displaced from their homes there is a strong emphasis on this multidimensional crisis.
* The historical mistrust for UN missions, with the last one in 2004 being mired by scandal.
* The appeal from the de facto Haitian government for security support from the international community.
* Currently passed UN Security Council resolutions such as the ones mentioned previously which are the basis for future actions.

 3d. Guiding Questions

* What does your delegation believe would be best for Haiti in the current situation? What other delegations share this belief?
* Should there be a multinational security support mission? If so, who should lead it? Is Kenya the best nation to lead this mission?
* Is extending the BINUH’s mission in Haiti a reliable way to start solving this crisis, should the UN start looking into sending another mission, or should there be no mission to Haiti?
* Does your delegation believe other delegations are out to gain benefits from this crisis? What would be those benefits?
* Is the current Haiti government legitimate?
1. **Topic 2: Mali Coup d’etat and Internal Conflict**

4a. Historical Context

Mali has always held an intriguing status due to its diverse culture and societal shifts. Many of its tribal civilizations trace their origins to the Niger River, with the Djenné-Jeno being one of the most well-documented, settling in Mali around 200 BC.

A pivotal moment in Mali's development occurred in the 13th century when Sundiata Keita founded the Mali Empire (1230s-1670), officially adopting Islam as its main religion. Despite reaching extraordinary heights with prosperous cities like Timbuktu and renowned leaders such as Mansa Musa, the empire eventually declined, yielding to the Songhai Empire (1460s-1591). Political infighting and Moroccan invasions in 1591 led to turmoil until the French conquered the territory around 1892, renaming it 'French Sudan,' with Bamako as the new capital, a designation it retains to this day.

During French rule, historic decisions were made, such as promoting the use of the Arabic language to standardize dialects and implementing Islamic law. Religious neutrality was established, and in 1905, a significant decree abolished slavery in all of French West Africa, prompting nearly a million slaves to move away from their masters and create new population centers.

Despite these reforms, informal slavery persisted, especially in Northern and Eastern Mali. In 1960, Mali gained independence, marking its first presidential election won by Modibo Keïta. A subsequent single-party state with nationalistic, socialist policies led to economic decline and, eventually, a bloodless coup in 1968, placing Moussa Traoré as president. The one-party rule brought political stabilization, but discontent arose due to policies favoring the rich.

Opposition movements grew in 1990, marked by ethnic violence and unrest, leading to the repressive Truoré regime. In 2002, democratic elections transitioned to a new president, but significant challenges emerged in 2012 with the MNLA insurgency. French and international intervention in early 2013 helped restore order and achieve a peace treaty.

On June 5, 2020, widespread protests called for President Ibrahim Boubcar Keïta's resignation, leading to a mutiny and his detention. The National Committee for the Salvation of the People took power, initiating an 18-month political transition. Colonel Assimi Goita dismissed interim president Bah N'Daw in May 2021, becoming the new interim president.

In response to these events, France decided to withdraw its troops from Mali in February 2022. Reports from Human Rights Watch in March 2022 detailed alleged atrocities by Malian troops and Wagner group mercenaries, leading to international concerns. In 2023, proposals for a federation with Burkina Faso to enhance political and economic influence surfaced.

International reactions to actions within Mali by the CNSP have varied significantly. ECOWAS condemned the 2020 rebellion, imposing border closures with Mali. Further criticisms have been directed at the military junta by entities such as the French government and the European Union surrounding the coup.

4b. Current Situation

Presently, a decade-long peacekeeping mission in Mali conducted by the United Nations, known as MINUSMA, has come to an abrupt end. The military junta, reportedly influenced by the Wagner Group, requested the withdrawal of the UN's 13,000-strong force. The United States has implicated the Wagner Group in orchestrating this move. Prior to the cessation of MINUSMA, tensions and conflicts with the government had escalated, particularly following Mali's alignment with the Wagner group in 2021. MINUSMA, credited with playing a crucial role in protecting civilians against Islamist insurgencies, now concludes, leaving only 1,000 Wagner fighters.

As Islamist insurgents gain ground in Mali, conflicts with the UN and ECOWAS have intensified. Mali has joined a loose coalition of West African countries that have deviated from democracy in favor of military dictatorships. Recent coups in other African nations, including Guinea, Chad, and Niger, underscore a concerning trend of African countries veering away from democratic principles toward authoritarian politics. This shift raises the stakes for potential conflicts between regional powers, such as Niger and Nigeria, and the possibility of larger conflicts emerging from these loose coalitions, leading to further destruction.

Amidst these developments, tensions continue to escalate both internally and externally in Mali. The CNSP ruling the country faces growing opposition as promised democratic transitions remain unrealized. The controversial involvement of the Wagner group, diminishing collaborations between the United Nations and Mali due to junta decisions, and the lack of actions to ensure the longevity and implementation of the 2015 peace treaties between Mali and its Islamic insurgent groups contribute to the increasingly precarious situation post the 2021 internal coup.

In response to these challenges, the United Nations Security Council has convened once again. The agenda includes discussions on Mali's internal security, determining the actions the United Nations must take to ensure regional peace and security, acknowledging their responsibility towards the safety of Malian civilians, and securing the continuation of the United Nations' functions and goals within West Africa.

4c. Key points

* The lack of internal security from Mali’s previous governments, and the current military junta, regarding Islamic insurgents in Mali’s northern regions and underdeveloped areas
* Civil unrest and debates between the military junta’s actions, and the lack of their promised transition towards democracy
* The recent dissolution of MINUSMA operation and the diminishing relations between the UN and Mali, along with Mali’s increasing ties to organizations such as the Wagner group since 2021
* The lack of internal security for Mali’s citizens
* The de-escalation of border conflicts and international threats among ECOWAS, Mali, Niger, and other bordering states with unstable governments
* Rising tensions between ECOWAS and bordering states with authoritarian leadership

 4d. Guiding Questions

* How must the United Nations approach its future efforts to re-integrate Mali into international processes and dialogues, taking into account its previous missteps?
* How can Mali, ECOWAS and the United Nations come to a mutual understanding and plan to reinstate democratic processes inside of Mali?
	+ Is the current leadership in Mali even willing to endorse these processes?
	+ How can ECOWAS, Mali, and the UN avoid the repeated occurrence of democratically elected leaders in Mali misusing their power and engaging in corrupt practices?
* How can the United Nations ensure Mali’s safety when faced with Islamic insurgents in underdeveloped regions of Mali (Taking into account how a decade long operation, though helpful, did not fix the issue)?
* How willing is Mali’s current government to cooperate with the global west, and how can various countries in the global west adjust their processes to best accommodate and reach mutual understandings with Mali’s current government?