

HSNUMUN 2017

STUDY GUIDE

**GA1-THE DISARMAMENT AND
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE**

**QUESTION OF
ADDRESSING
POST-CONFLICT
SITUATION IN
SYRIA**



HSNUMUN 2017

COMMITTEE: Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC, GA)

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TOPIC: Addressing the post-conflict situation in Syria

Introduction

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (also known as DISEC), is the first committee under the United Nations General Assembly (GA). It considers global issues such as terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, and any threats to world peace. There are annual conferences in which all member states and observers reach a solution within the scope of the Charter of the United Nations. Its general principles are promotion of cooperative agreements on international peace and security and measures to strengthen stability through lower levels of armaments.

This year, our committee will be discussing the topic of addressing the post-conflict situation in Syria. Since the outbreak of Arab Spring in 2011, Syrian Civil War has not come to an end. Throughout the past five years, there has been conflicts and chaos, which led to the unstable and tense situation in the middle east area. Also, it brings refugee crisis which impacts European countries and is yet to be solved. The United Nations has passed a resolution to end international bombings in Syria, and how they can actually end conflicts in Syria is still a complication to be solved. There are a lot of crucial factors involved where the whole crisis started and got worse, including Assad regime, ISIS, rebels and other terrorist ground that divide Syria territory, also the intervention made by other countries. These factors mentioned are aspects to consider as to the resolution of the issue. How to end the conflict and ensure the peace and security in Syria will be of most importance and emergency. Moreover, how to send the refugees back to their hometown and to settle them are yet to be discussed during the conference. Through discussion, debates, and cooperation, member states of General Assembly is of responsibility to come up with a concrete and feasible resolution to not only solve the problem of Syria but also promote international peace and security.

Definition of key terms

The followings are parties dividing Syrian territory:

Assad

Bashar al-Assad is the current president of Syria since 2000. He is a son of Hafez al-Assad, who was President of Syria from 1971 to 2000, which means that his family has taken control of Syria for more than 40 years. There have been conflicts and civil war ongoing during his presidency. His hardline policy has brought about protests, which is the beginning of the Syrian civil war. Protesters called for political reforms and the reinstatement of civil rights. Also, Assad is accused of carrying out chemical attacks on its own civilians.

The Islamic State

The Islamic State(IS), also known as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant(ISIL) and Islamic State of Iraq and Syria(ISIS), is a Salafi Jihadist unrecognized state and militant group. It was founded in 1999 and has been active since the 2013 invasion of Iraq to present. Claiming religious, political, and military authority over all Muslims worldwide, the Islamic State is universally considered as a terrorist group.

Al-Nusra Front

Al-Nusra Front, also known as the Jabhat Fateh al-Sham or al-Qaeda in Syria, is a Sunni Islamist terrorist organization fighting against Syrian Government forces in the Syrian Civil War, with the aim of establishing an Islamist state in the country.

Federation of Northern Syria (SDF)

Federation of Northern Syria-Rojava, also known as Western Kurdistan, is a de facto autonomous region in the northern part of Syria. Rojava is a constitutional state with canton government, the federal assembly as well as federal council. Although it is not officially recognized by the Syrian government or any international state, due to the continuing Rojava conflict and Syrian Civil War, this state has been large empowered.

Syrian rebels

The Syrian opposition includes Syrian National Coalition, Syrian Arab Republic, an alternative Syrian government, and also other anti-regime groups. Those groups are usually heavily armed, such as the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS), a supreme military council of the free Syrian Army, Islamic Front, Popular Protection Units etc.

Al-Qaeda in Arabian Peninsula

Al-Qaeda in Arabian Peninsula, also known as AQAP is a military Islamic organization, especially active in Saudi Arabia and Yemen. It was formed in 2009, then an emirate was established in 2011 Yemeni Revolution. AQAP is a branch of al-Qaeda organization, therefore, it was also targeted by US military. Though it was severely attacked by US drones in 2011, it still has large control in Arabian Peninsula.

Kurds

The Kurds, or the Kurdish people, are an ethnic group in the Middle East and are estimated to number, worldwide, around 30–32 million. Kurds account for 9% of Syria's population and the ethnic identity of the community is suppressed. There are various bans on the use of Kurdish Language and culture, for instance, prohibition of books and other materials written in Kurdish and refusal to register children with Kurdish names.

Statement of the problems

Political instability in the Middle East has since been present throughout the 20th and 21st century; manifesting through civil wars, coups, massacres, and dictatorships. Sick of this situation, a democratic revolutionary wave desiring changes in political agendas of the nation ignited, and protests, riots and civil wars began in the Arab world, later named as the Arab Spring. In Syria, where the Alawite family of the Al-Assads is ruling since the 1960s, these insurgencies started in March 2011 with initially peaceful demonstrations which swiftly turned into a downright civil war, where more than 250,000 Syrians have lost their lives in approximately four years of armed conflict.

In response to the crisis, the United Nations issued its concern over the Syrian government's attacks targeting civilians and repeatedly reminded the government of its responsibility to protect its population in a series of public statements. However, no substantive resolutions of the Security Council could be passed as a result of the divided status of the 5 Permanent Members, namely Russia and China, who used their right to veto during the voting of 7 draft resolutions. As a result, only individual states and regional organizations were able to take action to uphold their

responsibility to protect within the frame. The League of Arab States (Arab League), European Union (EU), Turkey and a range of other states publicly condemned the Syrian government for its actions and diplomatically isolated the regime; while by March 2012, one year after the conflict had begun; at least 49 countries had imposed bilateral targeted sanctions while at least 14 had closed their embassies in Damascus. Larger scales of international intervention also occurred after 2014, where mass deployment of troops from deviated ends, such as the US in contrary to Russia, made their way into the region, under claims both to secure so-called “peace and justice”.

Opinion amongst the international community is primarily divided between support for Bashar al-Assad and his Syrian Arab Republic, and support for moderate rebel groups, primarily the Free Syrian Army(FSA). Support for the FSA is based on the opinion that the Assad regime is in gross violation of human rights, with reports of indiscriminate violence directed at civilians, the use of torture and chemical weapons etc. and believe he should either step down or be deposed by force if necessary, but through support of the FSA rather than through an invasion akin to the invasion of Iraq in 2003. States and groups that subscribe to this opinion believe that the FSA should form a democratic government with respect to human rights following the removal of Assad. In contrast, support for Assad is based on the view that the rebel groups opposing Assad are not well-intentioned rebel groups at all but terrorist organizations. It is argued that these groups simply used the Arab Spring and Assad’s actions to quell the dissent as a cover to legitimize their fight against the Assad regime.

With such a large variety of groups now involved in the conflict; likely both terrorist organizations and states, it is difficult to comprehensively decide on a stance, but an alternative view is that support should be for the Assad regime for the sake of stability. The argument states that the FSA wouldn’t be able to successfully maintain a stable state, certainly not with opposition from other rebel groups such as IS and the al-Nusra Front leading insurgencies against them if they were to depose Assad. Following on from this assumption, it’s concluded that the sensible thing to do would be to support Assad so that stability may be regained in the region, and following the re-establishment of stability, as a compromise, Assad should step down and allow an interim government to bring about democratic and constitutional reform in Syria.

History

With the self-immolation of Tarek Al-Tayeb Mohamed Bouazizi on December 17, 2010, in Tunisia began a series of violent uprisings in the entire Arabic and Islamic world which soon should be labeled as “Arab Spring”. In Syria, where the Alawite family of the Al-Assads is ruling since the 1960s these insurgencies started in March 2011 with initially peaceful demonstrations which swiftly turned into a downright civil war. The subsequent interventions of foreign governments as well as different foreign paramilitary groups have turned the situation in Syria into a regional crisis, threatening the stability and the peace of the entire Middle East.

The first protest against the regime in Syria began in March 2011 in Damascus and Deraa and was calling for the release of political prisoners. Subsequently, protests were also taking place in Banyas and Homs. Immediately, Syrian security forces tried to quell the protest violently. Approximately 5000 people were killed in the first months of the insurgency.

The Syrian President, Bashar Al-Assad refused to halt the violence and to meet the demands of the protesting people. Instead, Assad blamed the protesting, armed groups for the fights, calling them “terrorists”. However, in June, Assad pledged to start a national dialogue on reform.

Soon, the rebel-organized opposition group. In November 2011, the Arab League voted to suspend Syria, accusing it of failing to implement an Arab peace plan, and imposed sanctions against Syria.

In June 2012, Syria shot down a Turkish plane that strayed into Syrian territory. Turkey declared that if Syrian troops approached Turkey's borders this would be seen as a military threat, to which Turkey would respond accordingly. Soon afterward, the Free Syrian Army blew up three security chiefs in Damascus and seized Aleppo in the north. In November 2012, Israeli military fired on Syrian artillery units after several months of occasional shelling from Syrian positions across the Golan Heights. In April 2013, the news of chemical weapons in Syria spread around the world.

United Nations Resolutions and Failed Resolutions

An overview of the most recent UN Security Council resolutions can be found in Appendix A below. Nevertheless, it should be mentioned again that all three attempts to pass a strong resolution which could have led to sanctions against Syria were vetoed by the Chinese and the Russian delegations in the Security Council. This happened on the 4 October 2011, 4 February 2012 and on the 19 July 2012.

UN Documents for Syria: <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/syria/>

Key issues

Domestic State of the Conflict

In order for delegates to fully understand the post-conflict situation in Syria, we will first have to take into consideration the major dimensions under the scope, mostly the controversy of the conflict regarding domestic quarrels and international intervention.

Regarding the background of the conflict, as the Syrian society is composed of a diverse array of at least 18 religious and ethnic communities, it is undoubtedly important to recognize each of their particularities, their rules, and each of their deliberate role within the Syrian society. In such a setting, one should bring divergent to the fragile balance, conflicts may be expected to emerge within the frame.

Therefore, with the violent and arrogant behavior of the Syrian security forces in attempts of tackling such insurgency, combined with the unwillingness of the regime stakeholders to proceed with political and economic reforms, these were only a minor amongst the key reasons that lead to such an escalation in the situation. However, unlike other countries such as Egypt and Libya in which civil insurgencies overthrew dictators, Mubarak and Gaddafi respectively, Bashar Al-Assad, president of Syria remained strong in power. Nonetheless, he did not control the nation in its entirety. Lack of control in some areas of the country, especially the north, led to the great expansion of armed militia groups, namely the Islamic State (ISIL), which controls up to 40% of Syrian territory.

The current situation mainly involves three individual but interrelated conflict zones, including the ongoing civil war in Syria, the spreading of ISIL, and finally, the unclear situation of the Kurds in Iraq, Syria, and Turkey. Delegates should be aware of the evolution of all three of these conflicts and have a detailed knowledge of UN actions taken over time.

Political Dimensions of the Conflict

As we have mentioned above, the scope of the crisis can be roughly classified into three conflict zones, namely the Kurdish region located to the north, the ISIL region located to the southeast, and the civil war region in the southwest. Bearing that in mind, we would like you to also focus your attention on inquiring the key players involved in the region - what are their motives? What are their stances?

Apart from terrorist groups roaming the area, the remainder parties involved can also be categorized into two oppositions - Anti-Assad force and Pro-Assad forces. While going through the

segment below, keep in mind that the Syrian Crisis is no longer merely a regional crisis, but also an expression of international competition; as most forces involved are most likely backed by an international superpower. Therefore, carefully speculate all the supporters behind each force, while you keep track of the potential interests their pursuit might fulfill, and the controversy embroiled within may be easily punctured and recognized.

Taking a closer look at the Anti-Assad forces, bands of local rebel groups did not receive any international recognition until the coming of the National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces, commonly named the Syrian Opposition Coalition (SOC), which is an umbrella group formed from scattered entities including the Syrian National Council (SNC), the National Co-ordination Committee (NCC), and the Free Syrian Army (FSA). This compilation issued their once highly fractured status both politically and militarily by building strong relationships between each other. The alliance, formed after months of division among competing groups, opened the door to greater foreign financing and military aid. The SOC received positive reception by the international community and is committed to several principles including national sovereignty and independence, the unity of country and people, ousting the Assad regime, and civil and democratic society. The coalition has been recognized by more than 100 nations as “the legitimate representative” of the Syrian people in 2012, including most world powers, with the exception of Russia and China. The coalition later took the Assad regime's seat at the Arab League summit in Dubai and opened its first embassy in Qatar in March 2013.

Major Syrian rebel leaders of the FSA and SOC also help create the Syrian Liberation Front (SLF), the Syrian Islamic Front (SIF) and several Kurdish military groups in 2012, which is an international coalition led by the USA with participation from many Middle Eastern countries. Despite the tense relationship between the Turkish Kurds and the Turkish government leading to the involvement of Turkish armed forces in the conflict, the Kurdish regions in Iraq and Syria were the first successfully defeating ISIL troops approaching their territory. They were able to secure their territory but came under growing military pressure and asked the international community for military support, and have received weaponry and military support since then from western parties.

However, Bashar al-Assad is also supported by two important actors in the Middle East: Iran and the Lebanese Hezbollah. Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah stated: "Syria has real friends in the region and the world that will not let Syria fall in the hands of America, Israel or Takfiri groups." Hezbollah fighters have been engaged in Syria helping the government from early on in the 25- month uprising. While initially their presence had been officially denied by the Syrian Government, it has become by now more openly as well as large-scale. Iran is also often known as Syria's closest ally. Tehran's ties with Damascus have historically been based on shared strategic interests, including thwarting U.S. and Israeli power in the Middle East; while both countries have also relied on each other to balance their relation to other Arab states. However, the Syrian-Iranian alliance has largely lacked an ideological or religious dimension, as the Syrian regime is dominated by members of the Alawites, which is distantly related to the Shi'a religion that is dominant in Iran.

In regards to international support for Bashar al-Assad, there are namely two of them: Russia and China. Both of them have vetoed multiple Security Council draft resolutions directing sanctions towards Syria, which allows arms trade in Syria to persist. Experts believe that Moscow wishes to protect a key naval facility which it leases at the Syrian port of Tartous, which serves as Russia's sole Mediterranean base for its Black Sea fleet and has continued to supply weapons to the Syrian military despite international criticism. China too has also blocked any potential international condemn and transition of the SOC. However, warns against foreign action in Syria and hopes to maintain restraint and avoid any actions that would escalate tensions.

Humanitarian Dimensions of the Conflict

Up to 4.5 million people have fled Syria since the start of the conflict, mainly women and children. Countries such as Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey have struggled to deal with one of the largest refugee exoduses in contemporary history. Syrian refugees faced numerous challenges, such as child protection, sexual and gender based violence, human trafficking, and forced marriage.

While neighboring countries still open their borders to Syrian refugees, the access to their territories grow rather constrained. Limited access points and staggering arrival and admission policies have since taken place within these countries; not to mention the influx of refugees has proved a negative impact to host countries due to their limited funding and inability to accommodate refugees.

The UN affirms that it will need \$3.2 billion to help out the 13.5 million people (6 million children included who strongly have need of humanitarian assistance inside Syria nowadays). About 70% of the population is without access to adequate drinking water, one in three people are not able to meet their basic food needs, more than 2 million children are out of school, and four out of five people live in poverty.

The combative parties have multiplied difficulties by refusing humanitarian agencies access to civilians in need. More than 4.5 million people in Syria live in hard-to-reach areas, including nearly 400,000 people in 15 besieged locations who do not have access to life-saving aid.

Apart from the refugee crisis, the Syrian government is also heavily criticized for its use of chemical gases against citizens. The Security Council issued numerous press statements condemning the terrorist attacks but rarely showed unity on passing resolutions which would require the Syrian government to destroy its current stockpile of chemical weapons and force them to meet their responsibility to protect their population.

In order to ascertain the truth, a 15-strong team of United Nations experts charged with investigating these allegations was deployed to Cyprus and is awaiting Syrian government permission to enter the country. However, the Assad regime only wants a UN investigation to focus on government claims of alleged chemical weapons usage. In response, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has demanded “unfettered access” to all alleged sites, saying, “I urge the Syrian government to be more flexible, so that this mission can be deployed as fast as possible. We are ready, it is a matter of time.” Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov warned against jumping to conclusions by repeating the "Iraqi scenario" in which claims that Saddam Hussein's government possessed so-called weapons of mass destruction were the basis of the US-led invasion. Lavrov accused other nations of "politicizing the issue." Further, he criticized how international investigators looking into an alleged use of chemical investigators in Aleppo had demanded access to all facilities in Syria and to have the right to interview any Syrian. Since the use of chemical weapons is difficult to confirm it remains unclear if the Syrian Government or the military opposition have used these weapons so far.

The Responsibility to Protect

The Responsibility to Protect (R2P), the global commitment adopted at the 2005 United Nations World Summit, has been central to the international discourse on how to respond to mass atrocities in Syria. Despite the acrimonious debate surrounding the UN Security Council mandated intervention in Libya in 2011, individual states, regional organizations, and UN agencies have struggled to find the ways and means of upholding their responsibility to protect the vulnerable.

The three basic pillars include:

Pillar I: The protection responsibilities of the state

The responsibility of the state to protect its own population from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, and from their incitement.

Pillar II: International assistance and capacity-building

The commitment of the international community to assist states in meeting these obligations.

Pillar III: Timely and decisive response

The responsibility of United Nations Member States to respond in a timely and decisive manner, using Chapters VI (Pacific Settlement of Disputes), VII (Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace) and VIII (Regional Arrangements) of the United Nations Charter as appropriate, when a state is manifest to provide such protection.

While there are many international frameworks involved in the work of the Council, the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) is in the center of the concerns. Despite the state sovereign prevents States from external interference in the past, it no longer functions exclusively and states are in charge of responsibility for the welfare of their people.

Given the crucial role of the United Nations and the “primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security” as stipulated in the Charter, the engagement of the Council with the linkage between R2P and prevention and assistance on human rights violations is critical in the implementation of the norm. Regarding the situation in Syria, the Council has adopted two resolution with reference to R2P: resolution 2139 and resolution 2165, one of which “demands that all Parties take all appropriate steps to protect civilians, including members of ethnic, religious and confessional communities, and stresses that, in the regard, the primary responsibility to protect its population kites with the Syrian Authorities.” While the use of R2P remained debating within the UN, it serves as an essential part when responses to human right violations and atrocity crimes. The commitment to the R2P indicates the United Nation’s envision to maintain international peace and security as the Secretary-General stressed that “ ‘Responsibility to Protect’ came of age,” the international community should address the need to “prepare ourselves for the next test of our common humanity” for “that test is here — in Syria.” Seeing the reluctance to respond to serious threats as a chief failing of international community, he continued “Let us not let the pendulum swing back to the past. Let us not make the best the enemy of the good.”

Major parties involved and their views(key actors)

United States of America

Under the Obama Administration, United States of America have been calling for Assad’s resignation since August 2011, and have pressed the United Nations Security Council to condemn the Syrian government. They also have recognized the National Coalition of Revolution and Opposition Forces (SOC) as the legitimate representative of the Syrian people and provide nonlethal assistance to the Coalition and an affiliated Supreme Military Command Council (SMC). Furthermore, the US provides humanitarian aid to international organizations supporting Syrian civilians and nonlethal support to unarmed and armed elements of the Syrian opposition. The Obama Administration believes that a negotiated political settlement is required and has prepared military plans to secure Syria’s stockpiles of chemical weapons, if necessary. In May 2013 Obama reiterated his objective as to continue the efforts to increase pressure on the Assad regime, to provide humanitarian aid, to strengthen the moderate opposition and to prepare for a democratic Syria without Bashar al-Assad.

Russian Federation

Russia, as a close ally of the Syrian regime under President Bashar al-Assad, remains refusing to sanction tougher action against Damascus by using its veto powers on the UN Security Council. Despite the international condemnation of the Syrian regime, Russian President Vladimir Putin has so far displayed no sign that Moscow is preparing to abandon its ally.

In May 2013, John Kerry, US secretary of state, and Putin agreed to establish an American- Russia peace conference. In the same month Sergei Lavrov, the Russian foreign minister, said that Russia was completing its delivery of surface-to-air missiles to Syria. However, he emphasized that “Russia is not planning to sell, Russia has sold a long time ago, and is completing supplies of the equipment - which is anti-aircraft systems, according to the already signed contracts”. Lavrov said earlier that Moscow did not plan to sell its advanced S-300 air defence system to Syria, but left open the possibility that it could ship such systems to Damascus under an existing contract. Moscow has long been accused of propping up Assad and supplying Damascus with military hardware.

Russia is said to oppose a draft resolution, which on Wednesday, May 15, 2013, the UN General Assembly is about to vote on. The draft resolution includes condemning Syrian authorities and accepting the opposition Syrian National Coalition as a party to a potential transition.

United Kingdom

Together with the US, the UK wants to increase the pressure on Syrian President Bashar al- Assad. After a recent meeting with President Obama, the British Prime Minister David Cameron said that he ruled out a tougher action in Syria but pledged to double non-lethal aid to the Syrian opposition. Cameron also declared that he fully backed the outcome of a meeting between the top US and Russian diplomats this week who agreed to make a joint effort in search of a solution. According to Cameron the UK’s ultimate aim is that of halting the bloodshed, allowing the Syrian people to elect a government and preventing a growth in extremism.

China

China, which along with Russia, has vetoed three UN Security Council resolutions criticizing Assad’s government, strongly condemns the ongoing violence in Syria. However, China warns against foreign action in Syria and says that the abandonment of Mr. Kofi Annan's six-point- peace plan (see below) could plunge the country “into the abyss of full-scale war”. In a recent statement, China's foreign ministry emphasized once more that China opposes the use of military force and believes any country’s sovereignty should be respected. Also, China wants to maintain restraint and avoid any actions that would escalate tensions.

France

France has with Britain sought to lead European diplomacy on Syria, notably with proposals to drop an existing EU arms embargo on the country to allow arms supplies to the rebels. Its priority is to find a political solution to the Syrian crisis and wants to prevent Bashar al-Assad from remaining in power. This involves establishing a transitional government with full executive powers, formed on the basis of mutual consent. France also welcomes the outcome of the meeting between U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian President Vladimir Putin, in order to make progress toward a process aimed at achieving a negotiated settlement of the Syrian crisis.

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Past actions

International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings

The International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, also known as the Terrorist Bombing Convention, was drafted in 1997 to criminalize terrorist bombing. This convention has been ratified by 169 states in the United Nations and entered into force in 2001. It describes terrorist bombings as the unlawful and intentional use of explosives in public places with intention to kill, to injure, or to cause extensive destruction to compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing some act. The convention also seeks to promote police and judicial co-operation to prevent, investigate and punish acts of terrorism.

International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism

International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, also known as the Terrorist financing convention, was drafted in 1999 and entered into force in 2002. Due to its universality, the Terrorist financing convention is considered one of the most successful anti-terrorism treaties in history with 187 parties. This convention criminalizes acts of financing acts of terrorism in order to cut off the financial supports to terrorists and potential chances that would benefit them. Article 2.1 defines the crime of terrorist financing as the offense committed by "any person" who "by any means, directly or indirectly, unlawfully and wilfully, provides or collects funds with the intention that they should be used or in the knowledge that they are to be used, in full or in part, in order to carry out" an act "intended to cause death or serious bodily injury to a civilian, or to any other person not taking an active part in the hostilities in a situation of armed conflict, when the purpose of such act, by its nature or context, is to intimidate a population, or to compel a government or an international organization to do or to abstain from doing any act.

International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism

The International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, also known as the Nuclear Terrorism Convention is to criminalize nuclear terrorism and to maintain international peace and security and to promote police and judicial cooperation to prevent, investigate and punish those acts.

UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

The United Nations General Assembly has adopted the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on 8 September 2006, which is a global instrument to counter-terrorism. There are four pillars in the Strategy, including addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, measures to prevent and combat terrorism, measures to build states' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in that regard, and measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism. These are to enhance the capacity to individually and collectively combat terrorism in order to maintain international peace and security.

Security council resolution 2254

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 2254 was unanimously adopted on 18 December 2015. It calls for a ceasefire and political settlement in Syria. The resolution demands that all parties immediately cease any attacks against civilian targets, it urges all Member States to support efforts

to achieve a ceasefire and requests the U.N. to convene the parties to engage in formal negotiations in early January 2016. Offensive and defensive actions against terrorist groups will continue and a mechanism to monitor the ceasefire will be set up.

Geneva Peace Talks on Syria

Geneva Peace Talks generally refer to direct dialogues between countries, being brokered by Special Envoys of the United Nations, for the purpose of seeking political solutions to conflicts or hostilities. The first Geneva Peace Talks on Syria (Geneva I), more commonly referred to as the Action Group on Syria, was held on June 30th, 2012. Set a year after the start of the Syrian Civil War, the peace talk is to discuss the implications of the Syrian Civil War and what the international community can do to push for a political solution within the region. Countries that were present issued a Final Communiqué and agreed on taking actions to fully implement the six-point plan stated in United Nations Security Council resolution 2042 and assist in facilitating a Syrian-led political transition that meets the aspiration of the Syrian people.

Right after Geneva I, the UN special envoy tried to conduct a follow-up talk, hoping to kickstart the negotiation between the Syrian government and its opposition forces. However, their efforts were impeded as both sides accused the other of using chemical weapons in the outskirts of Damascus. The second Geneva Peace Talk did not occur until early 2014. The second Geneva Peace Talks and its successor in early 2016 both failed as the government and the opposition forces can't agree on the agenda. The fourth peace conference in 2017 would be based on United Nations Security Council Resolution 2254.

Cessation of hostilities

A cessation of hostilities is a temporary stoppage of violence, or the suspension of fire. A party does not give up any military position or arms in declaring a cessation of hostilities: instead, it freezes positions on the ground and serves to stop violence temporarily. When undertaken, a cessation of hostilities usually indicates a respect for humanitarian concerns and the willingness to find a negotiated settlement.

Questions a resolution must answer

As explained above, the situation is being developed day by day into a more transnational topic encompassing more and more international actors. Therefore, any resolution to this conflict should be a multilateral approach piece by piece. These pieces should be formulated through the consideration of every factor necessary for a complete and efficient solution.

An efficient aid effort directed toward the civilians displaced as refugees or internally displaced persons.

A multilateral coalition of individual member states that hold an active role in the development of the conflict. Member nations who support parties to the conflict should work together in order to help the Syrian nation regain political stability and bring an end to the ongoing deaths of innocent civilians. This coalition should also work closely with the Arab League and friendly states in the region.

How does the regional nature of the ISIS problem impact the Syrian situation, and vice-versa?

With several resolutions on particular issues of the conflict the Security Council still lacks for a comprehensive resolution on the overall situation. This resolution should address the following points.

Military Actions. Is there a chance to give an UN backing for the ongoing process? If so, which guidelines are important for this operation to be efficient and according the UN charter? Which military actions can be taken to reach further progress in defeating ISIL?

Counter-terrorism. How can the growing risk of counter-terroristic attacks be addressed? ISIL Recruitment. S/Res/2170 addresses this topic. How can further measures against ISIL recruitment in all member states of the UN be taken?

Political Situation in Syria. Which steps can be taken to restore peace and security in Syria? Which impacts does the fight against ISIL have on this process? How can the new situation change the international views on the conflict in Syria?

Political Situation of the Kurds. Is the collaboration with the Kurds in the fight against ISIL a starting point for new debates for the autonomy of the Kurds? If so, which measures can be taken and which role does Turkey play in this issue?

Weaponry in the region. How can the growing number of weaponry in the region be controlled? In which ways should the military support to allied forces of the international community be given?

Refugees. How can the issue of refugees in bordering countries be addressed, both in short-term and in long-term?

Position Paper format

Font: Times New Romans 12

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Heading:

FORUM: General Assembly 1 (The Disarmament and International Security)

TOPIC: Addressing the post-conflict situation in Syria

SUBMITTED BY: Country

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