



Universidad
de Navarra

FACULTAD DE
DERECHO



UNMUN
UNIVERSIDAD DE NAVARRA
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL

STUDY GUIDE 2024

Dear Delegates,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the University of Navarra Model United Nations 2024 Conference – and especially to the Security Council!

This committee will be led by Chair Diego Tagliaferro (4th Year - International Relations), Vice Chair Kyra Nicole Abastillas Bello (2nd Year - International Relations + Geopolitics and Diplomacy), and Secretary Juan Pablo Ojeda (1st Year - Law). Together with the UNMUN staff, the three members of the dais have been working hand-in-hand to deliver the best experience to all of the delegates of the committee.

In line with this commitment, the Chairs have selected two topics that they feel are highly relevant to the UNSC's duty to maintain and defend matters regarding international peace and security. In particular, the delegates will be challenged to uphold the values of this principal organ as they navigate the issues of: "The Antarctic Conflict: Sovereignty claims in the territory due to the lack of efficiency of the Antarctic Treaty" and "Impact of small and light weapons trafficking through maritime routes". During this dire time, this powerful committee is once again being called to take the lead in countering acts of aggression with their unparalleled ability to make decisions that member states are obligated to implement under the Charter.

Given the challenge of participating in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), the Chairs recognize the unique dynamics and paramount significance of this committee on the global stage. Delegates are expected to be well-prepared, as the topics have been carefully chosen to encourage the engagement of all and facilitate high-level debates. The Chairs expects full commitment during the UNMUN 2024 sessions, urging delegates to actively contribute to finding realistic solutions that hopefully contribute to a better future.

The Chairs of this committee, mindful of the complexity of the issues at hand, is available and willing to assist delegates at every step, both before and during the sessions. This experience presents a singular opportunity for learning and growth in the realm of international relations. Lastly, savor the Model United Nations experience and connect with fellow delegates; this will enrich the UNMUN experience and leave all with amazing memories of your participation. Do not hesitate to contact us for any doubts. Good luck!

All the best in your preparations,

Diego Tagliaferro O'Higgins - President

Dtagliaferr@unav.alumni.es

Kyra Nicole Abastillas Bello - Vicepresident

kabastillas@alumni.unav.es

Juan Pablo Ojeda Ruiz - Secretary

Jpojedaruiz7@gmail.com

THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) stands as one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, uniquely entrusted with maintaining global peace and security. This committee plays a pivotal role in decision-making on matters ranging from armed conflicts and humanitarian crises to emerging threats in today's complex geopolitical landscape.

The UNSC's founding in 1945 was a direct response to the grueling lessons of World War II. Its formation, along with the broader United Nations, aimed to prevent future catastrophes by creating a forum for diplomatic dialogue and collective security. The inaugural session of the Security Council on January 17, 1946, marked a historic milestone in international diplomacy and international relations globally.

The UNSC serves various crucial functions, which encompass:

1. **Preserving global peace and security:** The committee confronts armed conflicts, humanitarian emergencies, and potential threats to international harmony, emphasizing peaceful negotiations and dispute resolutions.
2. **Resolution adoption:** The UNSC wields the authority to pass legally binding resolutions that obligate UN member states to take specific actions. These resolutions encompass imposing sanctions, endorsing peacekeeping missions, and promoting diplomatic initiatives.
3. **Mediation and diplomacy:** The committee actively engages in mediating conflicts and utilizing diplomacy to facilitate peaceful settlements and proactively prevent crises.

The United Nations Security Council commands formidable powers, including:

1. **Veto authority:** The five permanent members (China, the United States, France, the United Kingdom, and Russia) possess the exclusive privilege to veto substantive resolutions. This prerogative empowers them to block any measure they perceive as detrimental to their national interests.
2. **Sanctions imposition:** The UNSC wields the capability to enforce economic, trade, and military sanctions on nations or entities posing threats to international peace and security, with the goal of compelling compliance with its mandates.
3. **Authorization of military force:** The committee can grant authorization for the use of military force to preserve or restore peace when diplomatic efforts and other peaceful means prove insufficient. It's the only committee in the UN system that has this power.

The UNSC is composed of 15 members, comprising five permanent members with veto power and ten non-permanent members selected by the UN General Assembly for two-year terms. While non-permanent members lack veto power, they actively contribute to the committee's deliberations and decisions, ensuring a more inclusive and representative approach to security matters. For this conference, the non-permanent members of our Security Council will be Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, India, Mozambique, Pakistan, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

This guide provides a comprehensive overview of the United Nations Security Council and its critical role in maintaining global peace and security. Delegates must diligently prepare to navigate the intricate complexities of international affairs, fully considering the considerable powers and responsibilities vested in this esteemed committee.

TOPIC A: THE ANTARCTIC CONFLICT: SOVEREIGNTY CLAIMS IN THE TERRITORY DUE TO THE LACK OF EFFICIENCY OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY



Covering approximately 20% of the Southern Hemisphere, Antarctica is an area characterized as remote and enveloped almost entirely by ice sheets. As a result of this isolation, this region does not have a native human population or government. Nonetheless, territorial conflict has been taking place in this zone for over a century.

In particular, seven nations currently have territorial claims in Antarctica. They include France (Adélie Land), the United Kingdom (British Antarctic Territory), New Zealand (Ross Dependency), Norway (Peter I Island and Queen Maud Land), Australia (Australian Antarctic Territory), Chile (Chilean Antarctic Territory), and Argentina (Argentine Antarctica). On the other hand, a few nations (including the United States of America and Japan) have engaged in exploration but have not officially claimed any territory. Furthermore, some states reserved their right to claim territory in the future (such as the USA, Peru, Russia, and South Africa), while others (like Brazil) have a "zone of interest" but not an actual claim. Aside from states, individuals and entities also have some interests in the region. Scientists continue to conduct research throughout the year, with about 1,000 to 5,000 being posed in scientific stations depending on the season. The following map illustrates the territorial claims in the continent:



Given the inhospitable environment of this “frozen wasteland,” many wonder why there is a substantial interest in the region by such superpowers. The answer lies in two ideas: scientific discovery and intellectual exchange.

After British explorer and naval officer James Cook first predicted Antarctica’s existence in the 1770s as a result of encountering extensive sea ice, efforts to explore the region have been exhaustive and never-ending. Such endeavors began culminating in the late 19th century to the early 20th century when several states began to claim portions of territory in the continent. However, it soon became clear that as interest in the region and technological advancements that allowed greater access to the continent simultaneously grew, so did the potential for conflict that threatened future scientific cooperation.

After years of minor conflicts due to Cold War tensions between the USA and the Soviet Union, the overlapping territorial claims between the United Kingdom, Chile, and Argentina (known as the Antarctic Peninsula), and the separate claims of Australia, France, New Zealand, and Norway, the international community began to sense a need for some form of international stewardship in the 1950s. From this concern, scientists established the International Geophysical Year (IGY) – a global scientific effort to study the Earth, including its poles, atmosphere, and behavior. This entity also provided a concrete platform for participating scientists in 67 nations to collaborate on research in the Antarctic from July 1957 to December 1958.

Through this initiative, the negotiation of the Antarctic Treaty was born and eventually signed in 1959 by 12 countries with scientific interests in the region. Since then, it has acted as the foundation for other international treaties and diplomatic efforts to oversee territorial claims in the area, recognized as the Antarctic Treaty System (ATS).

Together, these documents have maintained relative peace in the region for more than 60 years. It does so by prohibiting numerous efforts in the continent, including mining, establishing a permanent settlement, and any military activity (including establishing military bases, weapons testing, and disposal of nuclear waste).

Despite this apparent success, the actual situation in Antarctica hangs on the balance due to limitations in the ATS itself. Numerous policy analysts find the language of the treaty and related conventions to be deliberately ambiguous and vague. While many suspect that the authors intentionally did so to allow for the execution of a larger scope of efforts, it has also left room for freedom of interpretation. As a result, the actual implementation of the treaty in terms of inspection, enforcement, and governance mechanisms may be weak. Given all these facts, the United Nations Security Council is challenged to address the deficiencies of the Antarctic Treaty System to ensure true stability and lasting peace in the region.

Key Terms

- *Territorial Claims*: Refers to the official claims made concerning particular regions of Antarctica by several nations, including France, the United Kingdom, Australia, and others. These assertions have a long history and still influence regional geopolitics today.
- *Scientific Cooperation*: Identifies the cooperative research projects carried out in Antarctica by experts from many countries, showing the significance of international scientific projects in the area.
- *International Geophysical Year (IGY)*: A global scientific initiative that was essential in promoting collaboration and creating the foundation for the Antarctic Treaty. Between 1957 and 1958, the IGY sought to explore the Earth, particularly the Antarctic region.
- *Antarctic Treaty System (ATS)*: The collective framework of international agreements, notably the Antarctic Treaty, created to control activity in Antarctica, foster peaceful coexistence, and safeguard the ecology in the region.
- *Cold War Tensions*: Refers to the ideological and geopolitical war that erupted between the United States and the Soviet Union in the middle of the 20th century, which had an impact on the talks for the Antarctic Treaty and the region around it.

- *Ambiguity in Treaty Language*: Signifies the intentionally vague language used in the Antarctic Treaty, which leaves room for interpretation and poses challenges in terms of implementing and enforcing treaty provisions.
- *Resource Exploitation*: Discusses the possibility of future mining operations and resource extraction in Antarctica despite the Antarctic Treaty's existing restriction on such activity.
- *Military Activities*: Encompasses concerns about the Antarctic Treaty's ban on military activities, such as the construction of military bases, weapon testing, and the disposal of nuclear waste, are included here.
- *Inspection and Enforcement Mechanisms*: Refers to the mechanisms or lack thereof for ensuring compliance with Antarctic Treaty provisions, including the challenges associated with monitoring and verifying activities in the region.
- *Permanent Settlement*: Addresses the issue of whether or not permanent human settlements should be allowed in Antarctica, given its extreme environmental conditions and potential ecological impact.
- *United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Involvement*: Highlights the role of the UNSC in addressing the deficiencies of the Antarctic Treaty System and potential actions it may take to strengthen governance and stability in Antarctica.

Topics of Discussion during Committee Sessions

- *Territorial Claims and Overlapping Claims*: Delegates can explore the significance of overlapping claims and potential conflicts as they delve into the historical background and current situation of territorial claims in Antarctica.
- *Scientific Research and International Cooperation*: The importance of scientific research in Antarctica and the function of international cooperation in advancing knowledge while preserving regional peace can be discussed in this topic. Scientific Research and International Cooperation.

- *Resource Exploitation and Environmental Protection:* In accordance with the Antarctic Treaty, delegates may debate how to strike a balance between the potential for resource exploitation, such as mining, and the need to safeguard Antarctica's vulnerable ecosystem.
- *Military Activities and Arms Control:* The discussion may center on whether more stringent arms control regulations are required, as well as if military operations in Antarctica, such as the construction of bases and the storage of nuclear waste, are prohibited.
- *Ambiguity in Treaty Language and Treaty Reform:* Delegates can address concerns related to the deliberately ambiguous language in the Antarctic Treaty and explore possibilities for clarifying and strengthening treaty provisions.
- *Inspection and Enforcement Mechanisms:* The difficulties and potential solutions associated with inspection and enforcement procedures to guarantee adherence to the terms of the Antarctic Treaty may be the focus of this discussion.
- *Permanent Settlement and Ecological Impact:* Delegates can discuss the benefits and drawbacks of allowing permanent human settlements in Antarctica while taking into account the ecological impact and long-term sustainability.
- *Future Economic and Geopolitical Interests:* The debate may center on the geopolitical ramifications of rising commercial activities in Antarctica, like fishing and tourism.
- *UNSC Role and Treaty System Strengthening:* Delegates may explore the role of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) in addressing deficiencies in the Antarctic Treaty System and propose measures for enhancing governance and stability in the region.

- *Future of International Cooperation in Antarctica*: In light of shifting geopolitical dynamics and the requirement for sustainable management of the continent, this topic may inspire participants to evaluate the potential for future international cooperation in Antarctica.

Bibliography:

- *65 Years Ago: The International Geophysical Year Begins*. (2022). NASA. <https://www.nasa.gov/feature/65-years-ago-the-international-geophysical-year-begins>
- *British Antarctic Survey: Natural Environment Research Council*. (2018, October 5). *The Antarctic Treaty Explained* - British Antarctic Survey. BAS UK. <https://www.bas.ac.uk/about/antarctica/the-antarctic-treaty/the-antarctic-treaty-explained/>
- Heathcote, A. (2020, July 23). *A concise history of Antarctic exploration*. *Australian Geographic*; *Australian Geographic*. <https://www.australiangeographic.com.au/topics/science-environment/2020/07/a-concise-history-of-antarctic-exploration/>
- Karev, S. N. (1991). *Cooperative Momentum? The Antarctic Treaty System and the Prevention of Conflict*. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-349-12471-8_25
- Press, T. (2011, July 17). *Explainer: Keeping conflict on ice with the Antarctic Treaty*. *The Conversation*. <https://theconversation.com/explainer-keeping-conflict-on-ice-with-the-antarctic-treaty-2197>
- Routley, N. (2021, February 20). *Slices of the Pie: Mapping Territorial Claims in Antarctica*. *Visual Capitalist*. <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/mapping-territorial-claims-in-antarctica/>
- Teller, M. (2014, June 19). *Why do so many nations want a piece of Antarctica?* *BBC News*; *BBC News*. <https://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-27910375>

TOPIC B: IMPACT OF SMALL AND LIGHT WEAPONS TRAFFICKING THROUGH MARITIME ROUTES

Arms trafficking in the maritime routes is not just any situation, it has been affecting the international community for years, threatening security, economic sustainability, and providing illegal groups with the tools to bring an entire country under the mantle of violence. It is common knowledge that in order to address an issue and eradicate it thoroughly, a historical context is needed.

Cold War: The nations of the United States and at that time the Soviet Union (Russia) maintained a cold war from March 12, 1947 until December 26, 1991, in this period of time both countries financed their allies with weapons as well as the insurgent groups of their enemies through the maritime routes, this created tensions in the international community which made the problem could not be solved in a short period of time.

Nowadays, the problem has been worsening since with technology and globalization, communications, hackers, illicit operation strategies have become almost impossible to detect, which is why the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) has been created to counteract these crimes committed. It should be noted that it has not been possible to solve due to the number of organizations involved that may be by governments, political opposition, terrorism or always economic benefit to those who demand these weapons illicitly.

9 august 2021: United Nations Security Council High Level Virtual Open Debate "Enhancing Maritime Security: A case for international cooperation"

The security council met that day to discuss how to improve international maritime security. They talked about all kinds of crimes such as human trafficking, drug trafficking, the issue that concerns us, which is arms trafficking, among other problems. India was recognized for its commitment to strengthen its security since 80% of international transport is carried out through the Indian Ocean. India has every reason to have the intention to maximize security as this is a latent danger to the economy of the countries.

“Our Global Maritime Crime Programme began in 2009 with a budget of 300,000 dollars to address the threat of Somali piracy. It has since expanded into our largest programme with a budget of over 230 million dollars, providing capacity building and support for legal reform, simulated trials, maritime training centres, and more.”

Despite the investment in securing the maritime areas, for each strategy there is a solution by organized groups, pirates, and different clans that do not desist to stop using the international seas as their place of illegal transportation. This is why in this conference it was established that the only way to create an impact that makes a change in the existing insecurity, is to join forces, that all governments analyze their maritime transport laws, their penalties and strength of the organizations in charge of maintaining peace and legality in this sector.

Countries with highest rates of maritime arm trafficking:

- Somalia
- Nigeria
- Guinea
- Yemen
- Syria
- Colombia
- Philippines
- Indonesia

The United Nations and Interpol have worked together to ensure security in maritime routes, however the problem continues to affect such countries as mentioned above and other countries economically and in other important aspects.

Some countries that are members of the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty are the world's top 10 arms producers such as France, Germany, Spain, China, the United Kingdom and Italy. It is relevant to point out countries that are not ratified into this treaty in order to make them part and expand our forces globally.

It is our goal to strengthen the maritime security of our countries and put an end to the perpetration of the seas for illicit purposes, to do this international cooperation is necessary. All countries must agree to reduce the rates of arms trafficking, however there may be discrepancies between countries on how to address and resolve this conflict.

Key Terms:

- *Arms Trafficking:* The illegal trade and transfer of small and light weapons, including firearms and ammunition, through maritime routes, often involving criminal networks and insurgent groups.
- *Maritime Security:* The measures and efforts aimed at ensuring the safety and protection of maritime routes, vessels, and ports, encompassing the prevention of arms trafficking and other illicit activities at sea.
- *Cold War Arms Proliferation:* Refers to the proliferation of weapons during the Cold War era, primarily by the United States and the Soviet Union, to allies and insurgent groups through maritime routes, contributing to global arms stockpiles and tensions.
- *United Nations Arms Trade Treaty (ATT):* An international treaty aimed at regulating the global arms trade, including small and light weapons, to prevent their diversion into illicit channels, enhance transparency, and promote accountability.

- **Transnational Criminal Networks:** Criminal organizations that operate across national borders and are involved in various illegal activities, including arms trafficking through maritime routes.
- **Indian Ocean Security:** The specific focus on security measures and cooperation in the Indian Ocean region, which is a critical area for maritime transportation and faces challenges related to arms trafficking and piracy.
- **Piracy and Organized Crime:** The connection between piracy and organized criminal groups involved in arms trafficking, highlighting the need for a comprehensive approach to maritime security.
- **Arms Producers and Arms Trade Treaty:** The involvement of major arms-producing countries, such as France, Germany, and China, in the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty and the significance of their commitment to curbing arms trafficking.
- **Interpol Collaboration:** Cooperation between the United Nations and Interpol to address security challenges in maritime routes, emphasizing the importance of international organizations in combating arms trafficking.
- **Non-Ratification of ATT:** The status of countries that have not ratified the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty, potentially leaving gaps in the global effort to control arms trafficking, and the need to encourage their participation.

Topics of Discussion during Committee Sessions

- *Arms Trafficking Routes and Trends:* Delegates can examine current trends in the illegal trade of small and light weapons, including shifts in trafficking techniques, as well as the main maritime routes used for arms trafficking.

- *Impact on Regional and Global Security:* The implications of arms trafficking for regional and international security, including its role in igniting conflicts, aiding terrorists, and destabilizing governments, might be discussed.
- *Role of Transnational Criminal Networks:* Delegates may examine the role played by transnational criminal organizations in the trafficking of weapons while taking into account their administrative setups, funding sources, and covert operations techniques.
- *Indian Ocean Security:* Focusing on the issues raised at the UN Security Council discussion regarding the special difficulties and security precautions required to combat arms trafficking in the Indian Ocean.
- *International Legal Frameworks:* The efficiency of international legal frameworks, such as the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), in preventing the trafficking of weapons through marine routes can be the subject of discussion.
- *Interpol and United Nations Collaboration:* Examining how Interpol and the UN work together to handle maritime security issues while highlighting the significance of international institutions in the fight against arms trafficking.
- *Arms Producers' Responsibility:* The importance of the major arms-producing nations' participation in the ATT, as well as their role and duty in preventing the diversion of their weapons into illicit routes, may be discussed by delegates.
- *Piracy and Organized Crime Linkages:* Investigating the connections between organized crime groups that traffic in weaponry and piracy, as well as the necessity of a comprehensive approach to maritime security.

- Enhancing Maritime Surveillance and Enforcement: Examining ways to enhance maritime enforcement, inspection, and surveillance capabilities to find and stop arms trafficking activities.
- Non-Ratification of International Agreements: Addressing the issue of countries that have not ratified international agreements like the ATT and exploring strategies to encourage their participation in efforts to combat arms trafficking.

Bibliography:

- The Arms Trade Treaty | Home page. (s. f.). ATT. <https://thearmstradetreaty.org/>
- Maritime Terrorism and the Illicit Trafficking in Arms (Riyaz Hamza) | . (s. f.). <https://lawexplores.com/maritime-terrorism-and-the-illicit-trafficking-in-arms-riyaz-hamza/>
- UNSC-Maritime-090821. (s. f.). United Nations: Office on Drugs and Crime. <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/speeches/2021/unsc-maritime-090821.html>
- Southbound Firearms Trafficking Coordination Meeting. (2023, 15 junio). <https://www.justice.gov/opa/video/southbound-firearms-trafficking-coordination-meeting>
- NTI. (2023, 16 marzo). Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The Nuclear Threat Initiative. <https://www.nti.org/education-center/treaties-and-regimes/arms-trade-treaty-att/>
- Issuing presidential statement, Security Council underlines importance of maritime safety, safeguarding oceans for legitimate use | UN Press. (2021, 9 agosto). <https://press.un.org/en/2021/sc14598.doc.htm>
- Treaty status. (s. f.). Treaty status. <https://thearmstradetreaty.org/treaty-status.html?templateId=209883>