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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

Dear delegates,

We are really happy that you will join us in the Security Council at the Future We Want Model United Nations conference! At the conference, we are looking forward to entertain fruitful speeches, high-quality debate and compromise between countries in order to maintain international peace and security, which is the key for solving most of the conflicts happening right now on our planet. The two issues that you will be dealing with at the conference go hand-in-hand as you are the generation that will have to ensure that these conflicts will not continue to threaten the peace worldwide by making sure that international law and rights are respected by all member states of the United Nations.

From decades ago to today, we can see that a number of member states have started conflicts that threaten the stability of many nations as well as the well-being of the citizens of these nations. The continuous breach of international law leads most of the time to further destabilization of the regions.

We are so excited that we will meet all of you in New York! While at first the preparation for the conference, as well as delivering a speech might seem hard, we firmly believe that through this conference you will be given the opportunity to find and provide meaningful solutions that will tackle the problems we face today and build the future we want,

Best of luck



INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

Topic Area A: The promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security

Topic Area B: Youth in peace and security

The United Nations Security Council was established by the United Nations in 1945. The works of the committee take place year-round in a dedicated chamber in the United Nations Conference Building. The committee is responsible for keeping international peace and security, accepting new members to the United Nations and approving any changes that have to be made on the United Nations charter.

Apart from the abovementioned responsibilities, the committee also has the power to establish peacekeeping operations, enforce international sanctions as well as authorize military action in form of resolutions. It is the only committee whose resolutions on member state are binding.

The enforcement body for the resolutions is usually the United Nations peacekeepers, which are military forces provided by the member states and funded independently of the main budget of the United Nations.

Unlike other committees, Security Council has only five permanent members: China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and the United States. These members have the power to prevent a resolution from being adopted; the power to veto. Apart from the permanent members, ten non-permanent members are elected by the United Nations General Assembly for two years starting on January 1, with five replaced each year.



TOPIC AREA A: THE PROMOTION AND STRENGTHENING OF THE RULE OF LAW IN THE MAINTENANCE OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

I. Introduction and Definition

II. Timeline of UN's Commitments towards the promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security

III. Discussion of the topic

IV. Bloc Positions

V. Recommended Sources and Further Research

VI. Questions to Consider

VII. Conclusion

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I. Introduction and Definition

Debate and the resolution about this topic will focus on how the rule of law can be promoted through Member States and strengthened through punishments for acts that violate it, in order for international peace and security to take place and be maintained.

With that being said it would be really helpful to give a definition for the rule of law, which according to the Secretary-General is a principle of governance in which “all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the State itself, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and which are consistent with international human rights norms and standards”.



The United Nations connects the rule of law with three pillars: Peace and Security, Human Rights and Development. This topic will focus only on the first pillar. As mentioned in article 1 of the UN Charter the main goal of the United Nations is to maintain international peace and security and to bring about by peaceful means the settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace, in conformity with the principles of justice and international law. This goal is achieved by actions taken both on national and on international level. At national level, United Nations support the national rule of law institutions so that further conflict is prevented and de-escalated as well as to support accountability for international human rights law violations. On the international level, United Nations tries to help both parties in the conflict make peace and creating the conditions for it to hold.

Unfortunately there have been many instances that international law has been breached, and the United Nations have been incapable of de-escalating the conflict. It is essential for a resolution to be proposed that will provide solutions to make sure that the United Nations have the appropriate power to enforce international law and impose sanctions on Member States that breach it.

II. Timeline of UN's Commitments towards the promotion and strengthening of the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security

United Nations have promoted the rule of law in the maintenance of international peace and security since the beginning of its existence in 1945. Specifically, the article 1 of the UN Charter mentions that the purpose United Nations exist is “to maintain international peace and security, and to that end: take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace, and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace”.

At that point it is important to mention that the United Nations mainly contribute by assisting and providing support to the national police, justice and corrections authorities rather than intervening directly. However, there have been two instances on Kosovo and Timor-Leste where the United Nations had the responsibility of controlling the country's police administration and prison systems.



The first appearance of the term rule of law as a concept was on Resolution (1040/1996), where the Security Council supported the Secretary-General efforts for promoting “national reconciliation, democracy, security and the rule of law”. An important link in Security Council and the rule of law was in 2000 with the Brahimi-report on peacekeeping which was the first of its kind to recognize the importance of the rule of law.

The first thematic debate about the rule of law took place in 2003. The Presidential Statement of that debate resulted in rule of law being given a definition by the Secretary-General and being seriously considered when debating and when adopting new resolutions.

In 2012, a high-level meeting for the Rule of Law was held by the General Assembly and its final declaration managed to mention all of the areas the concept of the rule of law applies both on the national and on the international level. However the greatest result of this meeting was that many Member States agreed to apply rule of law in as many aspects as they can on their own nation.

It was year 2014, that the Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2014/5) reinstated the importance for all Member States to adhere to the Rule of Law and implement it.

With that being said, the United Nations have greatly contributed as a mediator between countries, to. The Security Council binding resolutions have also played an important part to prevent further escalation of conflicts and to secure even a temporary period of peace among nations.

Moreover, the United Nations peacekeeping forces arrival on areas of conflict has severely reduced the possibility of further warfare being started.

III. Discussion of the Topic at Hand

Obstacles faced

It is important to realise that rule of law is strictly connected to social norms and cultures. That means if there is an abrupt attempt to apply the rule of law, there is a possibility for a conflict to be further escalated rather than stabilized.

Another issue that arises is that due to the many number of entities the United Nations have, Member States are sometimes reluctant to ask for help regarding the enforcement of the rule of law as there exists a problem of coordination between all of the UN parties together, something acknowledged by the Secretary-General



Ban Ki-moon, who introduced new ways of collaboration between the Member States and the United Nations regarding the rule of law.

Some examples of the rule of law not being applied

There are numerous examples on long standing conflicts that do not respect the rule of law and the United Nations has not been able to de-escalate them yet. Some of the most prominent are:

1. The Turkish invasion in Cyprus in 1974, where Turkish military forces invaded some 31% of Cyprus island and created the so-called “Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus” state. While the United Nations has not recognized the state and several sanctions have been taken such as a ban on international flights from/to the airport, the Republic of Cyprus has been unable to regain the lost space.
2. The Libya-Turkey Maritime Agreement signed on November 28th 2019, which violates the Greek maritime zone is believed to violate the international law of the sea as well as the Skhirat Agreement.
3. The conflicts between the relationship of the United States and Iran that had led to several breaches. Especially the targeted killing of Qasem Suleimani by an air-strike, near the Baghdad International Airport, in January 3rd 2020 is said by Agnès Callamard, the United Nations special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions to “most likely violate international and human rights law”, as well as the killing of other individuals “being absolutely unlawful”. Furthermore, it is important to note that the UN Charter prohibits the use of force against other states, if a country does not consent to it on its territory, That being said since the United States had not received consent from Iraq to perform this attack makes the attack unlawful and unjustifiable.

IV. Block Positions

More or less all of the UN Member States have agreed that the rule of law is the only way to ensure that all actions respect the international laws in place and that peace can be maintained. Moreover, there is common agreement on Member States that there should be punishment for actions that violate international law and threaten the peace and security of a specific region or the further escalation of a conflict.

As mentioned above, there were many Member States that pledged on the 2012 high-level meeting on Rule of Law to apply it to their national judicial system. The United Nations has created a database which lists all of the pledges made by a



country as well as a report on whether this pledges have been successfully fulfilled to most of the countries.

V. Recommended Sources and Further Research

United Nations on Rule of Law website:

<https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/>

United Nations Security Council website:

<https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/>

United Nations on Peace and Security webpage:

<https://www.un.org/en/sections/what-we-do/maintain-international-peace-and-security/index.html>

Presidential Statement (S/PRST/2014/5):

https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/PRST/2014/5

United Nations Pledging Database on Rule of Law:

<https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/what-is-the-rule-of-law-archived/the-rule-of-law-in-un-work/>

Challenges to the Rule of Law - Encyclopedia Britannica:

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/rule-of-law/Challenges-to-the-rule-of-law>

VI. Questions to Consider

1. In which ways can the United Nations enforce that rule of law is kept by its Member States?
2. How can Member States be punished for violating international laws?
3. Should there be a stricter alignment of national with international regulations?
4. How can the rule of law be promoted as a way for maintaining peace and security?
5. If a member state does not run accordingly to the rule of law, are there any measures that can be taken by the United Nations to ensure the wellbeing of the citizens?



6. Could there be a way for citizens who believe that their rights are not respected to complain about it and be sure that their complaint will be noticed?
7. If there is clear evidence that the rights of citizens of a specific region are disrespected, how can the United Nations ensure that this behavior will be corrected?

VII. Conclusion

There are currently a number of conflicts that are further de-stabilizing specific regions such as the Middle East and there have been numerous times that Member States violate the rule of law by taking unlawful actions which threaten the well-being of humans as well as the maintenance of peace.

It is important to recognize the role of the United Nations in ensuring that each of its Member States uses the rule of law when taking decisions and respects all international laws that are in place, so that the current conflicts are prevented from de-escalation thus leading to security on the region and maintenance of peace.

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TOPIC AREA B: YOUTH IN PEACE AND SECURITY

I. Introduction and Definition

II. Timeline of the UN's Commitments towards youth in peace and security

III. Discussion of the topic

IV. Bloc Positions

V. Recommended Sources and Further Research

VI. Questions to Consider

VII. Conclusion

VIII. Works Cited

I. Introduction and Definition

Today the youth have been more active than ever in promoting peace among nations.

Across the globe, there are extraordinary young people creatively seeking ways to prevent violence and consolidate peace. However, many are frustrated by the tendency of their Governments and international actors to treat youth as a problem to be solved, rather than as partners for peace.

Throughout the world, young people consulted for the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security expressed that they have lost faith and trust in their Governments, the international community and systems of governance that they feel



excluded from contributing to a strong and ongoing sense of injustice. This must be addressed in order to support and benefit from young people's contributions to peace, and to realize the potential of 1,8 billion young people.

In countries affected by conflict and violence, young people are commonly perceived as either perpetrators or victims. Turmoil and instability-including in recent years with the Arab Spring-are often explained by countries having large youth populations. The surge in terrorism and violent extremism in the past 15 years also tends to be linked to the role of young men, and increasingly young women. In reality, the role of young people in relation to peace and security is poorly understood and much more complex than these stereotypes suggest.

The Youth, Peace and Security agenda has gained momentum in recent years and marks a shift in the understanding of who young people are and their role for peace and security. United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015) is the first international policy framework that recognizes the positive role young people play in preventing and resolving conflict, countering violent extremism and building peace. The UNSCR 2250 was followed by the independent progress study on youth, peace and security: the missing peace (2018), and UN Security Council Resolution 2419 (2018).

UNSCR 2250 identifies five key pillars for action: participation, protection, prevention, partnership and disengagement and reintegration.

This landmark resolution urges Member States to give youth a greater voice in decision-making at the local, national, regional and international levels and to consider setting up mechanisms that would enable young people to participate meaningfully in peace processes.

II. Timeline of the UN's Commitment towards youth in peace and security

In December 2015, the United Nations Secretary Council unanimously adopted, under the leadership of Jordan, Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS), the first resolution fully dedicated to the important and positive role young women and men play in the maintenance and promotions of international peace and security. This is the first international policy framework that recognizes the positive role young people play in preventing and resolving conflict, countering violent extremism and building peace.



Through the unanimous adoption of resolution 2250 (2015), which defined youth as persons aged 18 through 29, the Council also urged Member States to consider setting up mechanisms that would enable young people to participate meaningfully in peace processes and dispute resolution.

Prior to its adoption, Jordan's representative, Dina Kavar, said the resolution — considered the first of its kind on youth, peace and security — followed efforts by the Prince of Jordan, public discussions on combating violent extremism, and the Global Forum on Youth Peace and Security that took place in Amman in August. The Amman Youth Declaration (2015) was the outcome of a Global Forum that brought together 500 government officials, policy experts, youth-led organizations, and young peacebuilders from over 100 countries aimed at helping shape a new international agenda on youth, peace and security. The Amman Youth Declaration, drafted in consultation with over eleven thousand youth from around the world and supported by the Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, United Nations system and representatives of the civil society, presents a “common vision and roadmap towards a strengthened policy framework to support young people in transforming conflict, preventing and countering violence and building sustainable peace.

The declaration highlights four key areas where young people's input and engagement must be sought by the international community:

1. Meaningful participation and leadership in decision and policy-making around peace and security;
2. Recognition and support of youth networks, organizations and individual initiatives in preventing violence and violent extremism and promoting peace;
3. Promotion and protecting of the rights of girls and prevention of gender-based violence;
4. Prioritizing investing into youth socio-economic development.

In the declaration young peacebuilders “call upon the United Nations Security Council to adopt a resolution on Youth, Peace and Security,” a commitment that the Crown Prince Al Hussein of Jordan said the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan will champion.

UNSCR 2250 requests the Secretary General “carry out a Progress Study on the youth's positive contribution to the peace processes and conflict resolution” and



to present the results to the Member States of the United Nations, in order to recommend effective responses at local, national, regional and international levels. In August 2016, the UN Secretary-General appointed an independent lead author, Graeme Simpson, to develop the study, as well as an advisory group of experts, including 21 scholars, practitioners and young leaders.

UNFPA and the Peacebuilding Support office jointly provided secretariat functions for the development of the study, working in close collaboration with the Office of the Envoy on Youth. A steering committee, composed of 34 partners from the UN system, civil society, non-governmental organizations, inter-governmental organizations and foundations, oversaw the preparation of the study.

The study is an agenda-setting document, defining a strategy for the implementation of SCR 2250. It was developed through a unique participatory research process, including face to face discussions (focus group discussions, national and regional consultations) with 4,230 young people, as well as research in 27 countries, and surveys and mapping exercises.

Taking action on the report of the Peacebuilding Commission on its ninth session (document A/70/714-S/2016/115), the 15-member Council unanimously adopted resolution 2282 (2016) on post-conflict peacebuilding.

By that resolution, the Council urged the Peacebuilding Commission to hold a regular exchange of views with relevant regional and subregional organizations. It also requested that the Secretary-General explore options for strengthening collaboration between the United Nations and the World Bank in conflict-affected countries.

Unanimously adopting resolution 2419 (2018), the Council called on all relevant actors to consider ways for increasing the representation of young people when negotiating and implementing peace agreements, recognizing that their marginalization was detrimental to building sustainable peace and countering violent extremism, as and when conducive to terrorism. In that context, it noted the independent Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security, titled, “The missing peace”. Introducing the draft, Olof Skoog (Sweden) said it built on and complemented resolution 2250 (2015). It underlined the contribution young people could make to peace and security if actively engaged, recognizing both their diversity and the need to counter any stigmatization or homogenization. Further, the resolution highlighted that the youth, peace and security agenda was a crucial part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Indeed, it marked an advance in the collective determination to ensure youth could play their rightful and necessary



role in the Council's work and in building peace around the world.

The Secretary-General tasked his Envoy of Youth in conjunction with the UN system and in close consultation with the youth to lead in developing a United Nations Youth Strategy. Its aim: scale up global, regional and national actions to meet young people's needs, realize their rights and tap their possibilities as agents of change. The strategy is ambitious. It will guide the UN system in stepping up support for the empowerment of young people, while ensuring that the Organization's work fully benefits from their insights and ideas.

The official launch of Youth2030: The United Nations Youth Strategy, took on Monday, 24th September 2018, at a High-Level Event at the United Nations in New York. The Strategy was presented by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

III. Discussion of the Topic at Hand

The Security Council's youth, peace and security agenda is beginning to make a difference for young people in conflict zones and other vulnerable situations, but much work remains to effectively incorporate their voices, energy and ideas into efforts to build and sustain peace.

For societies and countries to fully harness and support the innovation of young people's contributions to peace and to begin to work towards the seismic changes set out above, three mutually reinforcing strategies are needed.

It is critical to Invest in young people's capacities, agency and leadership, and facilitate an enabling environment for youth organizations and initiatives through substantial funding support, network-building and capacity-strengthening. This approach needs to recognize the full diversity of youth and the ways young people organize (including the fact that many youth initiatives are not formally structured or part of a registered organization).

The systems that reinforce exclusion must be transformed to address the structural barriers limiting meaningful youth inclusion and participation in peace and security.

Partnerships and collaborative action, where young people are viewed as equal and essential partners for peace, must be prioritized.



IV. Block Positions

UNSCR resolutions 2250 and 2419 were adopted unanimously. Since the United Nations Secretary General introduced his Plan of Action to prevent violent extremism (PVE), in 2016, numerous UN entities, from UNESCO to UNDP, have gone into overdrive to produce countless reports and develop programs on PVE to demonstrate their dedication to this “new agenda”.

Regional organizations, such as the European Union and the African Union, all showed their political and financial commitments to this arguably new agenda. Numerous national governments have already developed national action plans on the prevention of violent extremism.

Even key non-governmental peacebuilding organizations who work with or are run by young people, welcomed this new policy agenda and started to work in the field of PVE as well. While all these actors work for the PVE policy agenda, almost all of them also endorse the Youth, Peace and Security agenda (YPS), born through the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 2250 in 2015.

This is not a surprise considering that both the PVE and the YPS emphasize the importance of youth empowerment. At the same time, we need to see the qualitative differences in the way these two fields approach youth empowerment. While the PVE agenda supports empowerment programs where young people to take a more active role in the prevention of violent extremism, the YPS agenda promotes youth empowerment in the context of fostering social inclusion and increasing youth participation in peacebuilding.

The PVE agenda’s positive approach to youth empowerment is an opportunity to build constructive relationships between the powerful actors working in the security sector and the organizations working in youth development, including organizations led by young people themselves. However, since the PVE field is born out of counter-terrorism, some caution is necessary in the way it approaches youth empowerment. The actors working in the PVE are not united in their understanding and application of youth empowerment programs.

While organizations working in education, economic, social and cultural development fields have extensive experience in developing and delivering youth empowerment programs, actors working in the security sector are noticeably new to youth empowerment and challenged by its implications. In fact, the concept of ‘power’ is rarely if ever considered something to be shared with ‘others’ among security sector actors.



There is a danger that youth empowerment programs in the security sector may merely function as a tool to strengthen, support, supplement hard-fisted law enforcement approaches. As *The Missing Peace: Independent Progress Study on YPS* report alerts, such law enforcement approaches are simply not cost-effective in terms of diverting funds away from social services necessary to tackle the drivers of violence. These hard-fisted law enforcement approaches are also counterproductive since they further alienate young people and diminish their trust in their governments and the multilateral system.

Lastly, any misuse of youth empowerment programs by military, police or counter-terrorism forces can easily turn into “spaces of social control and containment, seeking to inculcate in their young participants a narrowly prescribed set of legitimate practices and viewpoints, and offer little to no real opportunity to effect radical or significant social or political change” as Sukarieh and Tannock argue.

The emphasis on youth empowerment in the field of PVE is possibly an asset, but might easily pose a risk to the YPS field. In this context, it is crucial that organizations working in the economic, social and cultural development fields are loud and clear in explaining the function of youth empowerment programs to actors working in the security sector. It is also necessary that security sector actors are willing to build equal partnership with actors who have experience in the youth empowerment field. Meaningful and credible partnerships in the context of youth empowerment may be the best way to reform and transform the security sector field. As the new kids on the block, the YPS agenda and youth-led organizations may seem marginal but offer new and exciting avenues for the transformation of the outdated structures, institutions, policies and minds in the entire security field.

V. Recommended Sources and Further Research

Information about the Youth2030 program, the strategy of it as well as the video about its launch: <https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/youth-un/>
https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/18-00080_UN-Youth-Strategy_Web.pdf

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https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/amman_youth_declaration.pdf

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United Nations Security Council resolution 2419, adopted in 2018:

[https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2419\(2018\)](https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2419(2018))

The missing peace: Independent progress study on youth, peace and security:

<https://www.youth4peace.info/system/files/2018-10/youth-web-english.pdf>

VI. Questions to Consider

In the upcoming years even though great things have been done, there is still a lot of work to be done, and a lot of question to be answered. Some of the most important and urging ones are:

1. In which more ways can the youth promote peace and security?
2. What actions can the Member States take so that the youth's opinion is considered?
3. How can countries work towards strengthening the further implementation of the resolution 2250 and 2419?
4. Can we make the YOUTH 2030 programme come true?

VII. Conclusion

The world today is home to the largest generation of young people in history, 1.8 billion¹. Close to 90 percent of them live in developing countries, where they constitute a large proportion of the population.

Connected to each other like never before, young people want to and already contribute to the resilience of their communities, proposing innovative solutions,



driving social progress and inspiring political change, in urban as well as rural contexts. Young people constitute a tremendous and essential asset worth investing in, opening the door to an unparalleled multiplier effect.

At the same time, young people are also facing incredible challenges and even life-threatening risks, disproportionately carried by girls and young women in many parts of the world. These arise when accessing their rights, including to quality education, healthcare or decent work. They also arise in situations of conflict, or when young people flee home in search of survival, or move for better opportunities.

Young people also suffer interpersonal violence, are affected by the slow onset of climate change or frontline impacts of disasters. They experience intersecting forms of marginalization, and struggle with the brunt of a global erosion of human rights and impeded access to justice.

The way in which the shifting demographics in the world are leveraged, and how young people navigate their transition into adulthood, are critical for the progress of humankind and the health of the planet. With this large and increasing number of young people across the globe, it is abundantly clear that it is only by engaging and working with them, supporting them in standing up for their rights and creating the conditions allowing them to progress and play an active role, that the international community will be able to achieve peace, security, justice and sustainable development for all.

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DELEGATE!**

