



GlobalMUNers Conference
in New York City
#GMNYC2025

Background Guide

Security Council (SC)



Table of Contents

Welcome Letter	2
Committee Overview	3
Topic A: Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict	5
History	5
Context	6
Guiding questions	11
Topic B: The Situation in the Middle East, Including the Palestinian Question	12
History	12
Context	15
References	20

Welcome Letter

Honorable Delegations of the Security Council,

First and foremost, please receive a warm welcome to the III GlobalMUNers Conference in New York City (GMNYC2025), and congratulations on your decision to take part in this experience within one of the committees presenting the most complex and challenging topics in the international landscape. It will be an honor for your President, **Ana Laura Moreno Méndez**, your Vice-President, **Pamela Yocasta Pereyra Caba**, and your Rapporteur, **Stephanie Michell Díaz Medrano**, to guide you throughout this exciting process.

Threats to international peace and security have existed for as long as history can remember, but their consequences remain devastating, affecting millions of people today. Furthermore, they are complex and multi-dimensional issues that require deep reflection on the international system we are all part of. Therefore, it is expected that your interventions will not only be based on well-founded arguments but will also demonstrate creativity, empathy, and critical thinking.

Now, more than ever, innovative solutions are required, and that is the challenge of being part of a committee like the Security Council. In addition to staying informed and up-to-date on the latest developments in the issues, it is crucial to propose new perspectives and debate solutions that have yet to be explored. Staying true to the foreign policies of your delegations, while avoiding the same vicious cycle that has led us to the current critical situation, will undoubtedly require twice the effort, but it will also yield twice the reward.

In this regard, it is worth reiterating that Model United Nations conferences allow us, as young people, to model what we want to see in the world. They can and should be a realistic exercise while also being aspirational. Take advantage of this opportunity to learn, challenge yourselves, and dream of a better world where everyone has a life of freedom and fulfillment. Then, use these lessons to continue being active members in your communities, thinking globally and acting locally, contributing to making that dream a reality.

Sincerely,



Pamela Yocasta Pereyra Caba

Presidency



Ana Laura Moreno Méndez

Presidency



Stephanie Michell Díaz Medrano

Vice-Rapporteur

Committee Overview

It is essential to begin by noting that one of the main purposes of the United Nations (UN) is to maintain international peace and security (UN Charter, 1945, Art. 1). In this regard, one of its six main organs is the Security Council (SC), which has the primary responsibility for fulfilling this objective (UN Charter, 1945, Art. 7 and 24). To carry out this task, the SC must act in accordance with the purposes and principles of the UN. Additionally, the specific functions of the SC are defined mainly in Chapters VI, VII, VIII, and XII of the United Nations Charter (the Charter) (UN Charter, 1945, Art. 24).

For example, when identifying a threat to peace and security, the first step is to recommend reaching an agreement through peaceful means. To this end, the SC may conduct investigations, facilitate mediation processes, appoint special envoys, among other measures. If these actions are not sufficient, the SC's priority must be to end hostilities. In this regard, the SC can adopt stronger measures such as issuing ceasefire orders or deploying peacekeeping forces. In the worst case, if these measures prove inadequate, the SC may apply coercive measures such as arms embargoes, a variety of economic sanctions, travel bans, or even collective military action (UN, n.d.).

Another important feature of the SC is its composition. It consists of fifteen members, five of whom are permanent, while the other ten are elected by the General Assembly (GA) for a two-year term. The election takes into account equitable geographic distribution, as well as the contribution to achieving the purposes and objectives of the SC and the UN in general. Below is the current composition:

- Permanent Members in Alphabetical Order:
 - China;
 - France;
 - Russian Federation;
 - United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;
 - United States of America (UN Charter, 1945, Art. 23).
- Non-Permanent Members in Alphabetical Order (with the year their term ends in parentheses):
 - [Algeria](#) (2025)
 - [Denmark](#) (2026)
 - [Greece](#) (2026)
 - [Guyana](#) (2025)

- [Pakistan](#) (2026)
- [Panama](#) (2026)
- [Republic of Korea](#) (2025)
- [Sierra Leone](#) (2025)
- [Slovenia](#) (2025)
- [Somalia](#) (2026)

Although this is the current composition of the fifteen members, it is important to remember that any member of the United Nations can participate in discussions that it considers affecting its interests, without the right to vote. Furthermore, any country, whether a member or non-member of the UN, that is involved in the dispute, will be invited to participate in the discussion, also without the right to vote (UN Charter, Art. 31 and 32).

According to Article 27 of the Charter, decisions of the Security Council on procedural matters are adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members, while for all other matters, nine votes are also required, including those of the permanent members. This results in one of the most significant distinctions of the Security Council: the veto power, which grants the permanent members the ability to block resolutions that are not related to procedural matters (Security Council Report, 2024).

The final distinction of the Security Council to highlight is found in Article 25 of the Charter, which states that "the Members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the present Charter" (UN Charter, Art. 25). This has led to the general view that all Security Council resolutions are binding and therefore obligatory.

However, the binding nature of Security Council resolutions is not always clear, which has caused uncertainty and even led to debates within the international community, including at the International Court of Justice. Historically, there was a widespread belief that only decisions made under Chapter VII of the Charter were binding, while those under Chapter VI were considered non-binding. Furthermore, a distinction was suggested between "decisions" and "recommendations" to determine whether a resolution was binding or not. However, the Security Council does not always specify the legal basis for its actions when issuing resolutions. As a result, over time, a systematic approach has emerged to interpret these resolutions, considering the language used, the provisions invoked, and other factors (Olvera, 2024).

Topic A: Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict

History

The concern for the protection of civilians in armed conflict has been a constant in the development of international humanitarian law (IHL) since the mid-19th century. The first efforts to establish norms to safeguard non-combatants were manifested in the 1864 Geneva Conventions, the evolution of which culminated in the 1949 Geneva Conventions and the Additional Protocols of 1977 (ICRC, 2023).

These fundamental legal instruments enshrine the principle that civilians must not be the object of attacks and must be treated humanely in all circumstances. However, despite the existence of these legal frameworks, the reality persists: civilians continue to be the primary victims of armed conflicts (Salmon, 2004).

In response to this concerning situation, IHL has continually sought to adapt to the changing dynamics of warfare. After the 1864 Geneva Convention, which initially focused on the protection of the wounded and sick on the battlefield, the imperative need to extend protections was recognized. This vision led to the adoption of the 1949 Geneva Conventions, which established specific protection measures for civilians during wartime. Later, the Additional Protocols of 1977 strengthened these safeguards, addressing issues such as non-international armed conflicts and prohibiting indiscriminate attacks that could affect the civilian population (ICRC, 2023).

Throughout history, the nature of armed conflicts has significantly evolved, impacting the civilian population in various ways. In conventional armed conflicts between states, battlefronts were more defined, which in theory allowed for a clearer distinction between combatants and non-combatants. However, even in these conflicts, civilians suffered the consequences of indiscriminate bombings, blockades, and other military tactics that did not distinguish between military and civilian targets (Red Cross, 2023).

Today, the vast majority of conflicts are no longer international, but internal, often involving non-state actors and occurring in densely populated urban environments. This transformation has increased the vulnerability of civilians, who find themselves caught in the midst of hostilities, facing threats such as forced displacement, sexual violence, child soldier recruitment, and direct attacks (UNHCR, 2023). Additionally, the proliferation of more destructive weapons and the emergence of new warfare tactics have exacerbated the impact on civilian populations.

Despite these regulatory advances, the effective implementation of IHL remains a challenge. Violations continue to occur, and accountability mechanisms are often insufficient. International organizations, such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), play a crucial role in promoting and monitoring compliance with IHL, providing humanitarian assistance, and advocating for the protection of civilians in armed conflicts (Red Cross, 2023).

Context

Legal Framework and Key Concepts

International Humanitarian Law, also known as the law of war, is a set of rules designed to limit the effects of armed conflicts, whether national or non-international. Various agreements prohibit or limit the use of certain weapons and tactics of war and protect certain categories of persons and goods. However, as mentioned previously, the primary sources of IHL are the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, as well as their two Additional Protocols of 1977 and 2005, respectively (ICRC, 2004).

For the matter at hand, it is important to pay special attention to the Fourth Geneva Convention, which protects civilians in areas of armed conflict and occupied territories, as well as to the First Additional Protocol, which expands the protection of civilian populations (American Red Cross, 2011). It is also crucial to mention the general principles of IHL, among which are the *principles of humanity*, the *principle of humanitarian priority*, the *principle of distinction*, and the *principle of proportionality* (Spanish Red Cross, n.d.).

Apart from IHL, there are other key concepts that must be considered, such as the *Responsibility to Protect (R2P)*. This principle seeks to establish a formal commitment by states and the international community to refrain from remaining indifferent to situations of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. The concept of R2P arose in response to the failure of the international community to act appropriately in the face of the mass atrocities committed in Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia during the 1990s, and it is based on three fundamental pillars: the responsibility of each state to protect its own population; the responsibility of the international community to assist states in protecting their populations; and the obligation of the international community to intervene to protect a state's population when it is evident that the state is unable to fulfill this duty (Parmendorfer, 2024; Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect, 2012).

Main actors involved

Member States are responsible for protecting the people living under their control, especially in situations of armed conflict. In this context, all parties to the conflict, whether states or ***organized armed groups***, have the fundamental duty to respect and protect civilians, which includes the duty to take constant measures to prevent harm to them during military operations and hostilities (UNOCHA, n.d.). However, there are other actors involved in the protection of civilians that deserve to be mentioned and analyzed in more detail:

The UN intervenes through funds, programs, and specialized agencies. A couple of examples of these include the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). Additionally, there is the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), the department of the UN Secretariat responsible for coordinating global emergency responses to protect people in diverse humanitarian crises (UNOCHA, n.d.).

The International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is the largest humanitarian network in the world, composed of National Societies, the International Federation, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). The latter, which is most relevant to the topic at hand, is an impartial, neutral, and independent organization mandated to provide protection and humanitarian assistance to people affected by armed conflicts, as well as other situations of violence (ICRC, n.d.).

Peacekeeping Operations play a crucial role in the protection of civilian populations, as the Security Council has made this responsibility a critical priority, recognizing that “more than 95% of deployed personnel are given the mandate to protect civilians” (UN Peacekeeping, n.d.). However, these operations have generated controversy due to cases where their forces have caused harm to civilians, such as the allegations of abuse and killings reportedly committed by UN forces in the Central African Republic, as reported by Amnesty International in 2015 (Amnesty International, 2015).

It is imperative to highlight the role of ***civilians*** in the protection of their communities and in mitigating the impact of hostilities, through community organization and the creation of support networks, which can facilitate the distribution of humanitarian aid, offer shelter to displaced people, maintain vital communication lines, and report human rights violations. A notable example of this is the Sant'Egidio Community in Mozambique, which during the civil war (1977-1992) played a key role in mediation and the protection of civilians. Its BRAVO

program (Birth Registration for All Versus Oblivion) allowed the registration of thousands of children, protecting them from legal invisibility and ensuring their rights (Sant'Egidio, 2017).

Other humanitarian actors: Many intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector are all crucial actors in the protection of civilians in armed conflict. It is worth to further emphasize the role of local populations, in particular, play a vital role as they share critical information about threats and risks with peacekeeping personnel and contribute to local protection plans (UNOCHA, n.d.; UN Peacekeeping, n.d.).

The role of the Security Council in the protection of civilians in armed conflict

The SC plays a crucial role in the protection of civilians, utilizing many of the previously mentioned powers for this purpose. For example, it has authorized peacekeeping missions with specific mandates to protect civilians, monitor the implementation of peace agreements, and ensure the delivery of humanitarian assistance. A notable case is the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan, whose mandate was strengthened to focus on the protection of human rights and support for the provision of humanitarian aid (UN Peacekeeping, n.d.).

Furthermore, the SC's influence in diplomatic negotiations has been pivotal in fostering a culture of peace and facilitating the peaceful resolution of conflicts. A clear example of this is the case of Syria, where the SC, through its resolutions, has facilitated the delivery of humanitarian aid and promoted dialogue between the parties in conflict. It has also appointed special envoys to mediate in negotiations and supported multilateral agreements aimed at reducing violence and promoting sustainable political solutions for conflicts (UN Press, 2021).

The SC has issued several key resolutions in this area, including Resolution 1265 (1999), Resolution 1270 (1999), Resolution 1674 (2006), and Resolution 1894 (2009) (UN Peacekeeping, n.d.). More recently, other important resolutions have been adopted, such as Resolution 2730 (2024), which addresses the protection of humanitarian and UN personnel, as well as their facilities and assets; Resolution 2573 (2021), which condemns attacks on civilian infrastructure in conflicts; Resolution 2417 (2018), which links armed conflicts with food insecurity; Resolution 2286 (2016), which condemns attacks on healthcare workers and their facilities during armed conflicts; and Resolution 2222 (2015), which focuses on the protection of journalists (Security Council Report, n.d.).

Aggravated suffering and differentiated impact on women and children

Contemporary armed conflicts, both international and non-international, continue to escalate despite advancements, as belligerent parties show decreasing respect for the principles of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), devastating the lives of millions and endangering millions more. Armed conflicts not only cause deaths and injuries but also have other devastating consequences, which, for the purposes of this committee, will be referred to as "aggravated suffering." These consequences include the destruction of civilian infrastructure, the increased presence of explosive devices in urban areas, family separations, the disruption of public services and the rule of law, among others. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), it is estimated that at least 740,000 women, men, youth, and children die each year as a result of armed violence, with a significant portion of the victims being individuals living in poverty. Armed conflicts also generate widespread fear, affecting not only the countries directly involved but the entire world. (UNHCR, 2024).

Specifically, ***forced displacement***, according to the UN report on the protection of civilians in 2023, 94% of victims in populated areas, who were civilians, and 100 million people were displaced from their homes due to conflicts, acts of violence, human rights violations, or persecution. (UN, 2023).

Another form of aggravated suffering that deserves emphasis is ***food crises and insecurity***, which are a constant in conflict zones. In fact, the 2023 Global Report on Food Crises indicates that armed conflicts have left more than 117 million people in a state of acute food insecurity (Zeith, 2023). As Reena Ghelani (2023) states, "Armed conflicts destroy food systems, devastate livelihoods, and force people to flee their homes, leaving many in extreme vulnerability and hunger. At times, these effects are the inevitable result of war, but far too often, they are deliberately and unlawfully imposed, using hunger as a weapon of war" (UN, 2023).

Similarly, conflict-related ***sexual violence*** has devastating and long-lasting effects on victims and is used as a tactic of war, torture, and terrorism. Its consequences are profound, impacting the physical, sexual, reproductive, and mental health of individuals, while also destroying the social fabric of communities. ***Women and girls*** are the primary victims of this violence, which includes, among other forms, rape, sexual exploitation, forced marriage, forced abortion, and forced sterilization. Research by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has shown that conflicts increase people's exposure to human trafficking, including

sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, forced marriage to militants, and the use of children as soldiers (UNODC, n.d.).

Finally, armed conflicts have *devastating and long-lasting consequences on children*, causing severe emotional trauma such as post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, and depression. Children are forced to leave school, disrupting their education and limiting their future development. Many experience forced displacement with restricted access to essential services. Additionally, they are at risk of being recruited by armed groups or becoming victims of human trafficking, exposing them to violence and irreparable trauma. These experiences affect their cognitive, emotional, and social development, with impacts that can last a lifetime (Action Against Hunger, 2022).

Current and Future Challenges

While significant progress has been made, major challenges persist, extending beyond the mere non-compliance with regulations. As cities continue to expand, conflicts are increasingly shifting to urban environments, raising concerns about their devastating effects on civilian life, infrastructure, and essential services (ICRC, 2019). Addressing current challenges and prioritizing the protection of civilians in armed conflicts requires a more holistic approach. In this regard, it is crucial to consider the key points and issues highlighted in the latest report by the UN Secretary-General:

- ***Widespread harm to civilians:*** The use of explosive weapons in populated areas, attacks on critical infrastructure, landmines, explosive remnants, and private military companies.
- ***Aggravated suffering:*** Forced displacement, access to healthcare, conflict-induced hunger, water access, and the impacts of climate change and environmental degradation.
- ***Specific vulnerabilities:*** Including women and children, as previously mentioned, as well as persons with disabilities, journalists, and missing persons.
- ***Efforts to provide assistance, protect civilians, and ensure accountability:*** Humanitarian actions, peacekeeping missions, special political missions, and accountability for international crimes.

(UN Secretary General, 2024)

Similarly, *technological advancements in the context of armed conflicts* present both opportunities and future threats. Technology can provide unprecedented precision in target selection and alternatives to widespread destruction; however, innovation should not replace human decision-making (ICRC, 2019).

Finally, *ensuring protection both during and after a conflict* is essential and must be considered at all times. This approach faces significant challenges, such as the impact of disinformation and hate speech, which disproportionately affect vulnerable groups, including displaced persons, youth, and human rights defenders. Peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance efforts must evolve to focus on strengthening the resilience of local communities and developing inclusive protection strategies (UNOCHA, 2024).

A key aspect of this process is *guaranteeing the continuity of protection before, during, and after the withdrawal of peacekeeping missions*. It is crucial that these transitions are planned with clear risk mitigation strategies, empowering local actors and promoting community-based approaches to ensure sustained protection. Additionally, a multilateral approach is needed to adapt global policies to local contexts, serving as a vital step toward building a sustainable protection framework (UNOCHA, 2024).

Guiding questions

1. How is the delegation you represent related to armed conflicts, and in what ways has it intervened in them?
2. How has your delegation contributed to humanitarian assistance, either independently or in collaboration with other humanitarian actors?
3. What solutions would your country propose, or has it proposed, to improve the situation?
4. What is the relationship between the topic and the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 16?
5. How do the various delegations perform in complying with IHL, and what areas for improvement exist in this regard?

6. How can the Security Council, within its powers, address specific vulnerabilities such as those of women and children?
7. What role do local culture and traditions play in protecting civilians, and how can the Security Council, within its powers, take them into consideration?
8. How can various societal actors, especially youth, be involved in promoting peace? How can new technologies be involved in these solutions?
9. In what ways can the protection of civilians in armed conflicts be prioritized in light of the threat posed by new technologies and nuclear weapons?

Topic B: The Situation in the Middle East, Including the Palestinian Question

History

To achieve a proper understanding of the Israel-Palestine conflict, it is essential first to examine the conditions and events that gave rise to it. *During the establishment of the British Mandate in 1922*, Britain assumed administration of Palestine after the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire. It was during this period that the inclusion of the Balfour Declaration of 1917 was notable, which expressed British support for "the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people" (UNISPAL, 2023). Throughout the British Mandate, from 1922 to 1947, the region underwent significant demographic changes. Additionally, the arrival of the first wave of Jewish immigrants, mostly from Eastern Europe, intensified in the 1930s due to Nazi persecution in Europe.

The situation gradually deteriorated until, in 1937, the Arab demands for independence and resistance to Jewish immigration led to a rebellion (UNISPAL, 2023). The conflict escalated to such an extent that the United Kingdom, unable to maintain order and find a viable solution, decided to refer the matter to the United Nations in 1947. The United Nations' response materialized in Resolution 181 in November 1947, which proposed the *partition of the territory into two independent states: one Arab and one Jewish, with Jerusalem under international administration*. This proposal received mixed reactions: while the Jewish community accepted it, the Arab states and Palestinian leaders rejected it, considering the territorial distribution did not reflect the demographic reality of the time.

Events escalated in 1948 with the *declaration of independence of the State of Israel*, which was immediately followed by an armed conflict with neighboring Arab states. As a result, Israel exerted control over 77% of the territory of the former British Mandate, including a large area of Jerusalem. This period marked the beginning of a massive emigration of Palestinian inhabitants, as recorded by the United Nations: "More than half of the Palestinian Arab population was expelled or took refuge in the territory of the new state" (UNISPAL, 2023).

During the 1967 conflict, Israel took control of Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. This conflict caused a second wave of displacement, with nearly half a million Palestinians leaving their homes. In response, the Security Council issued Resolution 242, defining essential principles for lasting peace, including the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories and an equitable resolution for the refugee issue.

The Nakba, which means "catastrophe" in Arabic, is the term used by Palestinians to remember the mass displacement of their population in 1948 following the creation of the State of Israel. According to historian Benny Morris, "more than 750,000 Palestinians fled or were expelled from their land as Israeli troops advanced" (BBC Mundo, 2018). The commemoration of the Nakba, established in 1998 by Yasser Arafat, is a day of mourning for Palestinians, who every May 15th remember their territorial loss and the beginning of their status as refugees.

From the Israeli perspective, the flight of the Palestinians was partly due to the intervention of Arab countries such as Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Iraq, whose armies attempted to prevent the creation of the new state (BBC Mundo, 2018). However, Israel denied the right of return for Palestinian refugees and confiscated their properties, leading to a humanitarian issue that persists to this day. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) has stated that "history is now repeating itself in Gaza," referring to the current displacement caused by ongoing conflicts in the region (Anadolu, 2024).

The conflict between Israel and Palestine has led to multiple wars and clashes, including the Six-Day War in 1967, when Israel took control of the West Bank, Gaza, and East Jerusalem, displacing half a million Palestinians (BBC Mundo, 2018). Today, figures like Jeremy Corbyn have declared that "the Nakba did not end in 1948" and that the conflict continues to manifest through "occupation and violence" (Anadolu, 2024). After the Six-Day War in 1967, the region experienced a series of conflicts that shaped the dynamics of the confrontation between Israel and Palestine. In 1973, Egypt and Syria launched a surprise attack on Israel during the Yom Kippur War, aiming to reclaim the occupied territories. Despite their initial advances, both countries failed to achieve their objective, and the conflict ended with ceasefire agreements

brokered by the UN. This event led to the signing of the Camp David Accords in 1978, resulting in peace between Egypt and Israel and the return of the Sinai to Egypt.

During the 1980s and 1990s, Palestinian resistance intensified with the First Intifada (1987-1993), a popular uprising against the Israeli occupation that included protests, strikes, and clashes with security forces. This movement led to broader recognition of the Palestinian issue and opened the door for international negotiations. In 1993, the Oslo Accords established the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and granted limited autonomy to Palestinians in parts of the West Bank and Gaza. Still, the implementation of the agreements was slow and faced numerous obstacles, including, the expansion of Israeli settlements and the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in 1995 by Jewish extremists opposed to peace (UN, 1993).

The beginning of the 21st century was marked by a new cycle of violence with the Second Intifada (2000-2005), triggered after Ariel Sharon's visit to the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound in Jerusalem. This uprising was significantly more violent than the previous one and resulted in thousands of deaths, both Israeli and Palestinian. In response, Israel intensified its military operations, built a separation wall in the West Bank and increased restrictions on Palestinians. In 2005, Israel carried out a unilateral withdrawal from Gaza, dismantling settlements in the Strip but maintaining control over its borders, access to the sea, and airspace (HRW, 2005).

The Arab-Israeli conflict has been marked by limited diplomatic progress and multiple episodes of violence. On November 29 of 2012, the United Nations General Assembly granted Palestine observer state status, a significant step in the international arena. This resolution (A/RES/67/19) was supported by a broad majority but faced opposition from countries such as the United States and Israel. This status allowed Palestine to participate more actively in international bodies such as the International Criminal Court (ICC), from where it has sought justice for alleged war crimes in occupied territories.

During this period, conflicts between Israel and Hamas in Gaza intensified. The armed conflicts in Gaza in 2008-2009 (Amnesty International, 2009), 2012, and 2014 resulted in thousands of deaths, primarily Palestinian civilians and devastated Gaza's infrastructure.

In recent years, Israel's diplomatic recognition by some Arab countries under the Abraham Accords (2020) marked a significant shift in regional dynamics. Yet, these agreements did not include concrete progress toward resolving the conflict.

On October 7, 2023, Hamas launched an offensive against Israel from Gaza, marking the most violent episodes in the recent conflict. This attack included ground incursions and the mass launching of rockets into Israel territory, causing hundreds of deaths and kidnappings. Israel's response was immediate and forceful: a series of bombings hit Gaza, resulting in thousands of civilian casualties and an unprecedented humanitarian crisis. According to the UN reports, military operations have caused the deaths of more than 42,000 Palestinians, including over 13,000 children, and displaced nearly b 1.9 million people (Amnesty International, 2024).

At the International Court of Justice (ICJ), Israel faces accusations of genocide due to its actions in Gaza, and it has been ordered to take measures to protect the civilian population (Anadolu, 2024). The humanitarian situation in Gaza has drastically deteriorated due to the total blockade imposed by Israel, which has restricted access to food, drinking water, and essential medical care. The UN has warned that these actions could constitute violations of international humanitarian law.

Since the beginning of the current escalation of the conflicts, various attempts have been made to reach a ceasefire to mitigate the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. Though, negotiations have faced serious obstacles due to the irreconcilable positions of the parties and the lack of consensus in the UN Security Council. The veto power of Permanent Members States has been a key factor in diplomatic paralysis, preventing the adoption of resolutions that could lead to an effective de-escalation of the conflict (UN Security Council, 2024).

Despite mediation efforts led by actors such as Egypt, Qatar, and the United States of America, ceasefire agreements have been fragile and short-lived, failing to achieve substantial progress in protecting the civilian population. In this context, humanitarian organizations have denounced the lack of safe access to international aid and the inability to establish sustainable humanitarian corridors (Amnesty International, 2024).

Context

Relevance of the conflict for the maintenance of international peace and security and its humanitarian impact

Palestine is currently experiencing one of the worst humanitarian crises. Displacement trends changed significantly starting on October 13, 2023, when the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) ordered the evacuation of more than one million civilians from northern Gaza. Persistent bombings have damaged homes, infrastructure, and schools managed by UNRWA, which were also used as shelters (IDMC, 2024).

Living conditions are inhumane. People lack food, medicine, clean water, and medical supplies. Damage to water and sanitation infrastructure has worsened the health crisis, affecting hospital operations and increasing the risk of epidemic outbreaks (OHCHR, 2024). The displaced population lacks shelter and adequate clothing to protect themselves from the cold and rain. Thousands of recently displaced people are taking refuge in partially destroyed buildings or makeshift camps (UN, 2024).

The healthcare system is on the verge of collapse. Airstrikes on hospitals and medical personnel, along with shortages of basic supplies, fuel, and other essentials, are the main causes of this crisis. Moreover, hospitals are operating far beyond their capacity due to the increasing number of patients and civilians seeking refuge. The proximity of combat zones endangers essential healthcare services, from maternal care to the treatment of chronic diseases (WHO, n.d.).

Children have suffered terrible consequences. At least 14,000 boys and girls have died, and thousands have been injured. There are no safe spaces, and many have lost their families and homes. Many children have been forced to move multiple times, with an estimated 1.9 million displaced people, half of them children (UNICEF, 2025).

More than one million Palestinian women and girls are facing a devastating crisis. The humanitarian emergency poses a distinct threat to their health, especially for breastfeeding mothers and pregnant women, who require higher water and calorie intake. Around 11,000 pregnant women suffer from hunger and malnutrition, endangering not only their lives but also those of their newborns (UN, 2024). Access to clean water is also crucial for women and girls to manage their menstrual hygiene safely and with dignity (UN Women, 2024).

The work of humanitarian actors in Gaza has been crucial in mitigating the previously mentioned devastating effects. Specialized UN agencies, such as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), have played an important role in providing humanitarian and development services, including primary and vocational education, basic healthcare, infrastructure improvements in refugee camps, first aid, among others (UNRWA, 2024). Additionally, there are non-UN organizations, such as the ICRC, which has provided medical care, distributed food and essential household items, and worked closely with local organizations like the Palestinian Red Crescent (ICRC, 2025).

However, humanitarian organizations face extreme challenges including reaching people and delivering the necessary aid. Some of these challenges include the closure of entry points, shortages of supplies including fuel, multiple checkpoints within Gaza, and widespread insecurity (ReliefWeb, 2024). In fact, the Israeli parliament ordered UNRWA to vacate all its facilities and cease operations by the end of January 2025, prohibiting Israeli authorities from interacting with the agency. Despite ongoing efforts to limit the presence of the agency and activities in the region, UNRWA, along with other humanitarian organizations, continues to provide aid daily, carrying out its work with the limited resources currently available.

The role of the Security Council in the Palestinian question

In situations of escalating violence, the UN plays a crucial role both in the political and humanitarian spheres (UN, 2023). As the situation in the Middle East worsens, reaching a global consensus becomes more complex, the Security Council continues to study the issue and make relevant solutions, such as Resolution 1397 (2002). Historically, the UN Security Council has faced challenges in reaching consensus-based solutions to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, primarily due to the use of the veto by permanent members. This pattern has prevented the Security Council from adopting effective measures to resolve the conflict and has limited its ability to intervene decisively.

The use of the veto in the Security Council has been criticized, as it often reflects the geopolitical interests of permanent members rather than a commitment to international peace and security. This dynamic has contributed to the prolongation of the conflict and has made it difficult to implement sustainable solutions. The current situation in Gaza highlights the need for reform in the Security Council 's decision-making mechanisms to prevent the veto from remaining an obstacle to peace in prolonged conflicts such as the Arab-Israeli one.

The ceasefire in Gaza, which came into effect on January 19, 2025, represents a significant step in de-escalating the conflict. In its first phase, an agreement was reached for the release of 33 hostages by Hamas and the release of approximately 1,900 Palestinian prisoners and detainees by Israel. Additionally, this ceasefire has allowed for a significant increase in humanitarian aid to the region, which has been crucial for the affected civilian population (UN, 2025). However, the fragility of the agreement and the uncertainty surrounding its continuity underscore the lack of sustainable political solution.

UN reports have documented the devastating impact of the hostilities, with over 47,000 Palestinians killed most of them women and children, and massive destruction of the civilian infrastructure, further exchanging the humanitarian crisis (UN, 2025).

The economic and social consequences of the conflict have been catastrophic. According to reports from the World Bank, the European Union, and the UN, damage to infrastructure and economic losses exceed \$49 billion. The conflict has set back human development in Gaza by nearly 70 years, leading to the collapse of essential services such as healthcare, water and electricity. The UN has requested \$6.6 billion in humanitarian assistance to address the urgent needs of the population and has emphasized the importance of sustained ceasefire and restricted humanitarian access (UN, 2025).

On the other hand, tensions within the Security Council and the recurring use of the veto have prevented the adoption of effective resolutions for a lasting solution to the conflict, highlighting the need for structural reforms in the UN's decision-making mechanisms.

Challenges and key aspects for a lasting solution

It is undeniable that the Palestinian issue is a conflict that has endured for decades, with origins dating back nearly a hundred years. Unfortunately, last year, marked by atrocities and setbacks, reached a new critical point. Nevertheless, hope remains alive in 2025, and there is an expectation that the conflict will come to an end or, at the very least, that there will be a substantial easing of tensions to allow for the start of negotiations. To achieve this, several key points must be considered to reach a lasting solution (The New Arab, 2025).

On one hand, the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People suggests several key issues, such as the two-state solution based on pre-1967 borders, as well as the withdrawal and dismantling of settlements that have already been declared illegal violations of international law. Furthermore, the Committee emphasizes the need to end the exploitation, damage or depletion of natural resources in the occupied Palestinian territories particularly water (UNISPAL, n.d.).

On the other hand, in his first report dated June 19, 2024, the UN Secretary General addressed the implementation of one of the Security Council's most significant resolutions on the matter, Resolution 2334 (2016), highlighting the following points:

- Settlement activities.
- Violence against civilians.
- Incitement, provocations, and inflammatory rhetoric.
- Positive measures to reverse negative trends.
- Efforts made by both parties and the international community to advance the peace process.

The report also outlines the following key concerns:

- *Immediate and unconditional release of all hostages.*
- *Catastrophic scale of death, destruction, and humanitarian crisis in Gaza.*
- *Lack of access for humanitarian aid.*
- *Violations of international humanitarian law (IHL), with special emphasis on attacks against civilians, medical personnel, and UN staff.*
- *Forced displacement.*

Guiding Questions

1. What is your country's stance on this conflict, the language it uses in its narrative, the interests at stake, and what have the state leaders of your Delegation said about it?
2. What role do non-state actors play in the conflict's dynamics, and how does this affect your country's position?
3. How can your country contribute to strengthening international humanitarian law in the current context of the conflict?
4. What do key Security Council resolutions say about the issue, and how has your delegation participated in them?
5. What solutions has your country proposed to resolve the situation, such as the two-state solution? How can these solutions be adapted to vulnerable groups such as women and children?
6. How does your delegation assess efforts to achieve a ceasefire, and what measures does it consider necessary to achieve and sustain it?
7. What type of humanitarian assistance has your delegation provided?
8. How can your country contribute, and what is necessary to create a peaceful environment that allows for a resolution?

9. What accountability mechanisms exist to evaluate the impact of the humanitarian assistance provided by your Delegation?
10. What new strategies can be implemented to promote dialogue and peace processes? How can new technologies be integrated into these efforts?

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