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# Background Guide

## Security Council (SC)



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## Welcome Letter

*Dear delegates of the Security Council (SC),*

On behalf of the Secretary General of GMPC2026 and all the staff, receive a warm welcome to the **I GlobalMUNers Conference in Punta Cana**.

In today's world modern circumstances appear disconnected; notwithstanding ongoing conflict, division, and extreme temperatures that are heavily testing the international system, the Security Council maintains great influence over multilateralism to comprehensively resolve global affairs—especially sporadic armed conflict. It is therefore expected that your role, as delegates, is not only based on well-founded arguments, but also demonstrates innovation, audacity, and critical thinking.

During this debate, you will be addressing two topics of major importance:

A. **Artificial intelligence: opportunities and risks for international peace and security;** and

B. **The situation in the Middle East.**

The repercussions of armed conflict require all countries to intensify their efforts to protect humanity: addressing power, sovereignty, and international relations.

Take advantage of this great opportunity to *learn*, conduct *creative* discussions, and *debate* on solutions that have never been explored.

**Welcome to GlobalMUNers Conference in Punta Cana 2026!**

*Yours sincerely,*

Mateo Velasco Alva
**Presidency**

José Delio Guzmán Paulino
**Vice Presidency**

## Committee Overview

Amongst the six principal organs of the United Nations, the Security Council (SC) is the organ entrusted with primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security (United Nations, 1945a). It is the only body whose decisions bind every Member State: under Article 25 of the Charter, all Members agree to accept and carry out what the Council decides. Unlike the General Assembly, which meets in annual sessions, the Council is organised so that it can convene at any moment, and its presidency rotates monthly among its members in the English alphabetical order of their names, a detail that shapes the agenda, since each presidency chooses the signature events of its month.

However, there have been many objections to the authority of the Security Council and its effect on smaller and developing nations. Concomitantly, as members of the SC, they are rarely challenged on their actions in their own countries or globally. What is more, these are the nations that do not sign agreements on critical issues, such as the environment and human rights. Therefore, it is the SC act that brings into question the place of the UN in world politics as an effective tool and an example of good global governance.

When the SC identifies a threat to international peace and security, the body recommends reaching an agreement through peaceful means. In this regard, the institution tries to act as a mediator according to Berridge's (2002) Ideal Mediator characteristics that highlight impartiality, power of influence, ability to devote sustained attention to the dispute, and a strong incentive to reach a durable agreement.

Often classified as the most important body of the UN, the SC has the responsibility of maintaining international peace and security (United Nations, 1945a). It has 15 total members, among them, five are permanent:

1) China;
2) United States of America;
3) Federation of Russia;
4) The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland; and
5) France

and 10 are non-permanent members elected by the General Assembly for a two-year term. Each member has one vote. Under the UN Charter, all member states are obliged to comply with Council decisions. Any Member State that is not a member of the Council may take part in the discussion of any question brought before it, whenever the Council considers that the interest of that Member is specially affected (United Nations, 1945b). To adopt a resolution, nine of the

fifteen members must vote in favor, and none of the five permanent members may vote against it. A permanent member that abstains is not blocking, abstention is not a veto, and a resolution can still pass.

At GMPC2026, only the fifteen delegations with a seat on the Council may vote. Delegations representing States that are not members of the Council can take part in the committee like any other delegation: they may speak, join informal consultations, raise motions, and sign and sponsor Draft Resolutions. They are also counted for quorum. The one thing they cannot do is vote; not on motions, not on amendments, and not on a Draft Resolution. The veto will be active throughout the conference, so the five permanent members may block the adoption of any text.

Even though the SC is often criticized, it is generally accepted that the body is also a competent authority, since the 193 members are bound by the UN Charter; meaning that, the resolutions taken in the SC are binding for all member states. In essence, article 42 of the UN Charter (1945b) states that the SC "may take such actions by air, sea, or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security." Thus the SC can only justify a military intervention if international peace and security are under threat.

One of the biggest challenges that the SC faces today is deciding how to broker peace agreements in active conflict zones, particularly in the Middle East. According to Kirsch (2017), peacemaking can be done in many different ways, from consultation to arbitration. Berridge (2002) argues that in order to solve an international conflict, an evidenced, reasoned, balanced, and well-intentioned approach is needed. The biggest factor that seems to influence peace and conflict is the importance of resources, the search for power, the psychological dimensions of "us versus them," among others; hence, the current importance of the SC in the resolution of global conflicts, such as the rise of artificial intelligence (AI) and the situation in the Middle East.

## Topic A: Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities and Risks for International Peace and Security

### Historical Background

The concept of using technology to simulate intelligent behaviors was first described by Alan Turing in 1935 when he described an abstract machine with limitless memory and a scanner that moves through the memory, reading what it finds and writing more. Turing's concept is now known as the Universal Turing Machine (Copeland, 2026). Furthermore, the term AI was first coined in 1956 during the Dartmouth Conference where a group of scientists including John McCarthy proposed that every aspect of learning or any other feature of intelligence can in principle be so precisely described that a machine can be made to simulate it (McCarthy et al., 1956). AI includes a diverse range of technologies that can be defined as self-learning, adaptive systems. It can be categorized based on technologies, purposes, functions, or types of agents (United Nations, n.d.).

During the 1990s a surge in development of AI began as researchers invented early versions of machine learning algorithms which are defined by the United States Department of Energy as the process of using computers to detect patterns in massive datasets and then make predictions based on what the computer learns from those patterns. A significant milestone came in 1997, when IBM's Deep Blue defeated world chess champion Garry Kasparov using a supercomputer and rule-based programming. This event marked the first time a computer outperformed a human in a highly intellectual game, capturing the world's attention and signaling that AI had entered a new era (Febres, 2025).

Years later, during the 2000s, the Artificial Intelligence field evolved into what is known as Deep Learning Algorithms which, according to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), consists of techniques of training computers to mimic the way neurons in the human brain process and learn information. This advanced subset of machine learning, and function of AI has revolutionized the AI scene by shifting systems from manual programming to automated learning from vast amounts of data.

In recent years, AI has risen in popularity as it becomes more ingrained in day-to-day life, allowing more access to the public through chatbots such as OpenAI's Chat-GPT, Google DeepMind's Gemini, and X AI's Grok. As a result, this greater presence in the public eye has resulted in increased controversy and discussion over its possible malignant uses.

## Artificial Intelligence in the Modern Day

Due to the sudden rise of popularity, starting with the release of OpenAI's Chat-GPT to the public on November 30th 2022, many businesses have begun adapting to new AI technologies in their day-to-day operations. Said programs have led to the growth in productivity among many different sectors, leading to a more effective use of time in the workplace, as well as allowing employees to automate standardized and basic procedures.

Due to the recency of this technology, AI systems possess multiple weaknesses in their infrastructure which are frequently abused with malicious intents. One of these weaknesses in their code (and probably the most famous one) is their extremely weak guardrails. These guardrails, which are supposed to avert dangerous behavior, act more like suggestions than limitations for users (Metz & Hsu, 2026).

One of the most recent events, according to Metz & Hsu (2026), was conducted by a group of Italian researchers. These young scholars endeavored to test these guardrails and their research concluded with the discovery that they are not as strong as once thought. Through poetry, they were able to trick 25 separate AI systems into ignoring their safety controls, with an attack success rate around 62% for curated poetic prompts (Bisconti et al., 2025). In this case, they prompted the systems to give them information and instructions to create dangerous apparatus, which the system provided.

## Military Applications for Artificial Intelligence

As a result of the nature of AI technologies, the most common assumption when it comes to its usage for harmful applications consists of cyberwarfare. This sentiment is shared by Burnham (2026) who warns of AI being complicit in the creation of malware, phishing, deepfakes and other harmful technological attacks at the behest of its users. However, its most harmful uses consist of attacks of a different nature.

Their military applications are not limited to cyber attacks however and other forms of technological warfare, but also their usage in direct combat scenarios. Autonomous and semi-autonomous drone systems developed by firms, such as Anduril Industries, are increasingly used for surveillance and strike missions, leading to a rapid shift toward machine-assisted combat (Lamensch, 2026).

This shift towards machine assisted combat also includes a growing reliance on AI algorithms in data analysis and reconnaissance, resulting in machine assisted judgement being

utilized more and more often. This has brought about an entirely different debate regarding the ethics of the usage of these technologies and whether or not an AI algorithm should be included in decisions regarding human life (Lamensch, 2026).

While this can aid in military scenarios, at the same time, the growing incorporation of AI into military capabilities, critical infrastructure, communication systems, and global economic networks has created new vulnerabilities. AI-based cyber operations may present failures in automatic decision-making systems, and the exploitation of these technologies poses inherently transnational security risks. Disruptions to energy systems, financial markets, or defense-related communications can cause cascading effects, increasing the likelihood of miscalculation, escalation, or interstate confrontation (Puscas et al., 2022)

**Future Concerns and Potential Ramifications of AI usage**

A range of public, academic, and political debates regarding the societal effects of AI have intensified particularly after the accelerated period of development known as the AI boom. While advocates emphasize the technology's potential to solve complex problems and enhance quality of life, others highlight a wide variety of dangers and challenges. These include concerns over ethics, fraud, environmental impacts, and the spread of misinformation. It also delves into severe future and theoretical challenges, such as the emergence of artificial superintelligence and other existential risks.

One of the biggest concerns people share is unemployment due to AI replacements. According to Georgieva (2024), nearly 40% of global employments are at risk of being affected by AI, with the same statistic rising to an astonishing 60% in countries with advanced economies, AI applications may execute key tasks currently performed by humans, which could lower labor demand, leading to lower wages and reduced hiring. In the most extreme cases, some of these jobs may disappear (Georgieva, 2024).

Besides the concerns the public have, the UN also has a list of concerns regarding AI and how it could affect the future of the world. Some of these concerns include peace and security, human rights violations, and the risk of harming democracy. One of the main concerns regarding peace and security is AI misinformation, specifically how it can harm civilians and UN staff. According to Under-Secretary-General for Global Communications, Melissa Fleming (2023), over 70% of UN peacekeepers responding in recent surveys have stated that mis- and disinformation have severely or critically affected their ability to implement their mandates due to targeted disinformation turning populations and donors against them.

**The International Response to Date**

Although the debate on AI has advanced rapidly in academic and industrial circles, the multilateral response remains recent and fragmented. The Security Council held its first formal meeting on the subject on 18 July 2023, under the title “Artificial Intelligence: Opportunities and Risks for International Peace and Security”, which is the same question before this committee. Secretary General António Guterres briefed the Council together with experts from the private sector and the scientific community, and urged members to approach the technology “with a sense of urgency, a global lens, and a learner’s mindset” (United Nations, 2023). A second formal meeting was convened by the United States in December 2024, and a high-level open debate chaired by the President of the Republic of Korea was held on 24 September 2025 (Security Council Report, 2025). However, it is important to note that the council has adopted a resolution on artificial intelligence.

On 31 December 2025, Slovenia, France, Denmark and Greece issued a joint statement acknowledging both the promise and the dangers of the technology and pledging to remain alerted of its implications. However, four delegations speaking for themselves is not the Council speaking (Stimson Center, 2026). That gap is the real political question here. Several Member States, the Russian Federation most vocally among them, hold that AI governance belongs to the General Assembly and to the specialised bodies already seized of it, and that Council engagement simply duplicates work under way elsewhere.

The General Assembly has been considerably more active on the matter. On 21 March 2024 it adopted the resolution A/RES/78/265 on seizing the opportunities of safe, secure and trustworthy artificial intelligence systems for sustainable development, and returned to the subject in July with A/RES/78/311. In December of that year it turned to the military domain, affirming that international law: the UN Charter, international humanitarian law and international human rights law among them, governs the military use of AI no less than any other means or method of warfare (Security Council Report, 2025).

The institutional architecture came together at the Summit of the Future. On 22 September 2024, the Member States adopted the Global Digital Compact as an annex to the Pact for the Future (A/RES/79/1), the first intergovernmental agreement on digital cooperation and AI governance. The Compact relied heavily on the Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence, whose final report (*Governing AI for Humanity*) had set out seven recommendations for global cooperation (United Nations, 2024). Building on both, the Assembly adopted A/RES/79/325 on2025, creating two standing mechanisms: an Independent International Scientific Panel on AI, 40 experts tasked with annual evidence-based assessments, and a Global Dialogue on AI Governance, launched in September 2025 and holding its first full session in Geneva in July 2026 (United Nations, 2025).

## Conclusion

During this past decade, AI has become extremely important, bringing both significant benefits and risks for international peace and security. While its developments have allowed for higher productivity and technological advancements, its malicious uses pose a serious threat to civilians and global stability. The growing use of AI in cyberwarfare, military operations, and decision-making systems show that technology can have consequences beyond its intended uses. As AI continues to develop, the need for proper regulations becomes significantly important. The UN has already begun addressing these concerns through discussions and resolutions. However, international response remains recent and fragmented. This shows the importance of continued cooperation when addressing the risk of AI.

Ultimately, AI itself may not be harmful, as it can provide a wide variety of benefits to society. However, the way it is developed and the way humans decide to use it will determine if it becomes a tool to advance humanity, or a threat to international peace and security. Therefore, international cooperations through bodies such as the UN SC will be necessary to reduce its risks, prevent its misuse, and ensure that its development continues to provide benefits while protecting international peace and security. By taking action before these risks become more difficult to control, countries around the world can help ensure that AI is used as a tool for progress rather than a source of greater conflict

## Guiding Questions

1. What is the official position of the delegation you are representing on the use of AI in security and defense?

2. How can the SC protect human rights and privacy against AI based surveillance without blocking the use of AI or potentially invading another state's sovereignty?

3. What measures could the SC include in a resolution on AI?

4. What are the main positions among UN Member States regarding the regulation of artificial intelligence, and what arguments, interests, or concerns explain the differences between them?

5. How can the Security Council prevent the misuse of AI without restricting its peaceful and beneficial applications?

## Topic B: The situation in the Middle East

Conflict, hegemonic discourse, and enforcement of hard power are reshaping the global order. The situation in the Middle East represents a shock point for the international economy, leading to a skyrocket on oil prices which will ultimately have a knock-on effect on all sorts of goods around the world (Saeed, 2025). Sørli et al. (2005) highlighted that the Middle East is a conflict-ridden region because of lack of development, poverty, ethnic dominance, authoritarian regime, and corruption, explained by the general model of civil war. Particularly, the consequences of the closure of the Strait of Hormuz have had a major effect on the global economy.

### Historical Background

The Middle East is prone to regional volatility leading to significant global energy market fluctuations, migration crises, and the spread of weapons internationally. Conflict in the Middle East stems from the robust hegemonic competition between the United States of America, the Federation of Russia, and China (Ahmed & Bashir, 2026). This competition for global order exacerbates local conflicts in the region, while transnational security threats, such as paramilitary groups, escalate. Moreover, the economic, humanitarian, and military conflicts result in a highly unstable region. Paradoxically, the constant conflict in the Middle East leads to the formation of new global alliances, the disruption of trade routes, and the massive consumption of global diplomatic capital. Among the major conflicts facing the Middle East today are the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Syrian civil war, the Iraq War, conflicts in Yemen and Gaza, among others; which demonstrate why this region captures various international interests, especially those of the United States of America, the Federation of Russia, and China.

The Middle East is at the center of so many conflicts due to its abundant energy reserves, strategic routes, and religious crossroads (Ahmed & Bashir, 2026). With the discovery of new oil reserves in the region at the beginning of the 20th century, the power rivalry to control this region intensified sporadically. Luciani (2022) claims that one of the sources for conflict in the Middle East since the mid 20th century has been oil exploration within the area. This resource gave power as well as money to the region, which led to the conflict and struggle of world powers to be the sole owners of the reputable resource. One of the biggest examples that regional disputes can lead to the clashing of the world economy was the oil embargo in 1973, where Arab members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries stopped oil exports to the United States and other allies of Israel in retaliation for the support to Israel during the Yom Kippur War. This caused the removal of 4.5 million barrels of oil per day from global supply, and oil prices quadrupled unexpectedly (Duggal, 2026). Furthermore, the Middle East boasts the

Strait of Hormuz and the Suez Canal, two trade routes that exemplify the region's importance for global trade.

According to realism theory, world powers, such as the United States and Russia, form alliances with certain countries in the region, like Israel and Iran, to keep up strategic power and to gain access to resources, mainly oil (Ahmed & Bashir, 2026).

**Conflicts in the Middle East**

The Middle East has provided the setting for numerous conflicts that continue to impact the geopolitics of the world and international relations, trade and security. The following are some of the most significant conflicts in the Middle East:

1) **Arab-Israeli Conflict (1948-present):** one of the longest wars in the region, evokes a territorial dispute between Israel and other Arab states and non-state actors to the land of Palestine with claims of territorial identity and national security. Furthermore, this war involves the western nations that support the Israeli cause and the Global South countries that defend the Palestinian cause (Ahmed & Bashir, 2026). Interestingly, polarization has made this conflict endless since intergovernmental organizations, such as the UN, have tried to put a stop to the conflict but have failed because of the veto powers of permanent members of the SC.

2) **The Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988):** it arose from a mix of historical grievances, ethnic tensions, and political distrust between the governments of Iran and Iraq. The conflict escalated because Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi president, perceived Iran as a threat to Iraq. The war included military offensives and counter-offensives by both sides, as well as the use of chemical weapons by Iraq (Burch, 2021). The conflict ended thanks to UN intervention through ceasefire mediation through SC Resolution 598 (1987). However, it left significant tensions between the two countries and reshaped the landscape of the Persian Gulf (where the Strait of Hormuz is located).

3) **Persian Gulf War (1990-1991):** triggered by the invasion by Iraq to Kuwait, Saddam Hussein justified this occupation as payment of the debt that Kuwait owed to Iraq (Britannica Editors, 2026a). This invasion was aimed at acquiring Kuwait's large oil reserves, expanding Iraqi power in the Middle East. This Iraqi offensive led to the armed conflict between Iraq and a nation coalition headed by the United States.

4) **Iraq invasion (2003-2011):** troops in coalition with the United States, Great Britain, Australia, and Poland, invaded Iraq with the justification to disarm Iraq from its development of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). Curiously, UN inspectors found

no evidence of WMDs in Iraqi territory. The post-war outcome led to destabilization in the region as well as the emergence of extremist groups, such as ISIS (Ahmed & Bashir, 2026).

5) **The Syrian Civil War (2011-2025):** it is one of the most complicated and multi-dimensional conflicts of the 21st century (Ahmed & Bashir, 2026). It started when Bashar al-Assad's government was plagued by pro-democracy protests, demanding the end to authoritarian practices in the country. In response, the Syrian government employed the use of violence to suppress demonstrations (Britannica Editors, 2026b). These clashes between militias and paramilitary forces gave rise to a civil war that ended in 2025 when Assad fled the country and with the installment of a new government that took over Syria. Note that this conflict brought with it one of the largest refugees' crises in modern history (Ahmed & Bashir, 2026).

6) **Yemeni Civil War (2014-present):** the conflict arose when the Houthi, a political and military organization, took over the government of Yemen. This caused the then president of Yemen, Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi, to flee the country. Likewise, an alliance led by Saudi Arabia launched a military operation to restore the former Yemeni government. It is said by experts that this war is part of the Iran-Saudi proxy conflict by the indirect intervention of the Iranian government in Yemen. Note that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has ranked the Yemen Civil War as one of the most serious humanitarian disasters in the world (UNHCR, 2025).

**Non-State Actors**

States are not the only players in these conflicts. Armed groups across the region hold territory, run armies, and provide social services. They avoid conventional battles they would lose, build support through ideology and religion, and use social media to recruit, raise money, and shape how the world sees the conflict (Ahmed & Bashir, 2026). Any settlement reached by governments alone has to contend with actors who were never at the table.

The Council treats these groups very differently depending on their legal status. ISIL (Da'esh) and Al-Qaida fall under a sanctions regime created by resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015), with an assets freeze, a travel ban and an arms embargo now set out in resolution 2734 (2024) and binding on every Member State (United Nations Security Council, n.d.-a, 2024). Hamas and Hezbollah have never been designated. On Hezbollah the Council took a different route: resolution 1701 (2006), calling for the disarmament of all armed groups in Lebanon (United Nations Security Council, 2006). That gap is what limits the Council here. Acting against a listed group means using machinery that already exists. Acting against any other group means building it from nothing, and the votes for that have never been there.

## Intergovernmental Organizations

The UN, the European Union (EU), and the Arab League have taken part in solving several Middle East conflicts, however, these struggle due to the complexity of the conflicts. Specifically, the UN SC has resolved Palestine, Yemen and Syria many times (Ahmed & Bashir, 2026), but these resolutions can be easily vetoed by permanent members. On the other hand, the EU helps out when it comes to humanitarian crises, like migration. Nevertheless, because the organization is decentralized, it has caused inconsistencies in diverse actions. The Arab League has attempted to resolve many situations in the region, but because there is lack of political will (Ahmed & Bashir, 2026) it has failed in doing so.

## The Strait of Hormuz

The United States and Israel have long expressed strong opposition to Iran's nuclear program, which is allegedly betting on nuclear weapons (Sobelman, 2018). Over the years, Iran has expanded its ideology, giving rise to a regional front called the Axis of Resistance (Steinberg, 2021), encompassing the militia groups Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis, and the former Syrian regime. With the recent US military intervention in Iranian territory, Iran has carried out retaliatory attacks on Israel and US-allied countries, which have directly affected thousands of innocent people (Al Jazeera, 2026).

Likewise, the actions of the conflict have been indirect, through the closure of an essential waterway for international trade: the Strait of Hormuz. Given its proximity to the surrounding territorial waters, Iran exercises significant de facto control over this strategically global shipping lane. Located in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz is the obligatory passage for all vessels leaving the Persian Gulf bound for Asia. The Strait accounts for 38% of the global crude oil trade, 29% of liquefied petroleum gas, 19% of liquefied natural gas, 20% of refined petroleum products - derived from which developing nations heavily rely on - and 30% of the world's helium supplies (Sağlam & Korkmaz, 2026). Because these resources form the basis for most global supplies in terms of agri-food, energy, technology, medical, and food security, a disruption in this waterway would trigger a global paralysis. The Strait of Hormuz exemplifies the shared global responsibility that countries have toward the global economy. Therefore, if this waterway were to close to international navigation, the resulting havoc would impact the peoples of the world through the deprivation of essential resources for their livelihoods—beginning with a rise in global inflation (Zamani, 2026).

International Law and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea are being violated if the Strait shuts down to international navigation. Moreover, the fact that this waterway closes may set the stage for other Straits to cease operations as well, a serious threat

for the global economy. The World Food Program indicates that the closure of the Strait of Hormuz will lead to a severe increase in the prices of gas, transport, oil, and food (Root, 2026).

Sørli et al. (2005) point out that diversifying these economies towards development is the key to preventing future conflict in the Middle East. This sets the stage for delegates to discuss methods to improve the management of resources (natural and human) in the region as well as the transitioning towards a more transparent, legitimate, and democratic administration to prevent new conflicts from emerging in the Middle East and Northern Africa.

**Middle East Conflicts Implication in the Globe**

Due to the volatility, importance, and location of the region, Middle East conflicts resonate around the world. The intervention of world powers like the United States, Russia, and China seek to influence the region with the purpose of fulfilling their own interest, as supported by the realism theory.

Due to the vast amount of energy resources in the region and the global demand for them, any major activity in the Middle East will severely impact the global market, foreign policies, and security strategies (Ahmed & Bashir, 2026). Currently, as the world transitions into a multipolar order, the Middle Eastern instability has influenced international relations.

Ahmed & Bashir (2026) confirmed that regional instability is a central factor impacting world alliances, international relations, global security, and international architecture. Hence the importance of international organizations like the UN SC to control the impact of these conflicts in the rest of the world. Yet, because of the asymmetry of power, their ability is set to be limited.

**The International Response**

No file has been on the Security Council's agenda longer than the Middle East, and the resolutions it produced along the way are still the language negotiators reach for. Resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) gave the Arab-Israeli file its land-for-peace formula, which has survived every attempt to replace it. In 1990, after Iraq invaded Kuwait, the Council moved through resolutions 660, 661 and 678 in a matter of months; condemnation, then sanctions, then authorization to use force. Nothing since has matched it as an exercise of Chapter VII. The more recent texts are narrower: resolution 2254 (2015) sketched a political roadmap for Syria, and resolution 2216 (2015) imposed an arms embargo in Yemen. Peacekeepers have been on the ground even longer than any of this. UNTSO deployed in 1948 and was the first operation of its kind anywhere.

Where that record stops is visible in the current crisis. The Council did adopt resolution 2817 in 2026, rejecting any attempt to close or obstruct navigation through the Strait of Hormuz. What it could not do came next: Bahrain and five Gulf and Arab States tabled a follow-up demanding an immediate halt to attacks on commercial vessels, and Russia and China voted it down. More than a hundred States from every region had signed on as co-sponsors (United Nations News, 2026).

**Conclusion**

The situation in the Middle East continues to be a major challenge to international peace and security due to numerous conflicts, rivalries, and economic importance in the region. Conflicts such as the Yemeni Civil War, the Syrian Civil War, and the Arab-Israeli conflict have created massive instability that affects not only the countries involved but also the rest of the world. The involvement of major powers such as Russia, China, and The United States has also given these conflicts an even bigger international impact.

The Middle East is also extremely important to the global economy because of its energy resources and trade routes. The Strait of Hormuz, and the Suez Canal are especially important because disruptions in their routes can affect gas, oil, and food prices worldwide. Therefore, conflicts in the Middle East can easily affect countries on an international scale, despite them not being involved in the conflict

Ultimately, reducing instability in the Middle East will require addressing both the conflict that already exists and the conditions that could lead to a new one. Improving the management of resources, and strengthening international cooperation can help prevent new conflicts from emerging. The UN SC possesses an important role in addressing the situation and limiting their effects on international peace, and the global economy.

**Guiding Questions**

1. What is the impact of Middle East conflicts on the international arena?

2. What do global powers, such as the United States, Russia, and China, make of the crises in the Middle East?

3. How does the SC shape world politics and governance in relation to Middle East conflicts?

4. What implications does social media have on world reaction to the current war in the Middle East?

5. Does the UN SC undergo a reform to improve its ability to mediate disputes, such as the highly complex ones happening in the Middle East?

6. What role does the Global South play when trying to mediate Middle Eastern conflicts, are these as effective as the actions undertaken by northern countries?

7. In what ways can regional states bolster internal trade and economic variety to diminish their reliance on external world powers?

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