IISMUN'17

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Background Guide

UN- SC

Panel:

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Message from the Panel

The most enthusiastic Delegates,

We welcome you to the meeting of the UN Security Council being replicated at the **IISMUN'17**. The committee provides you with an opportunity to apprehend about and engage in the practice of international associations, through the art of thoughtfulness, debating and diplomacy. You will not only enrich yourself with the better knowledge of the contemporary world crises but will also discover the orator in you.

As the panel, our goal is to have healthy discussions, while broadening horizons and nurturing new skills which are accessible for all delegates. We assure you for all the assistance required and will try our level best to make you feel comfortable as well as confident.

The agenda of the committee, **The Syrian Civil War**, is a dogmatic issue on the international docket. We expect you all to be well researched about the issue, about your country's perspective and policy responses regarding this situation.

UNSC has made a vibrant contribution to the community. The success of our committee will ultimately depend on you, the delegates and so we request you to participate with enthusiasm and be a part of this success story.

Feel free to contact us. We would feel obliged to help you.

With best wishes,

The Executive Board
UN- Security Council

The United Nations Security Council

The United Nations Security Council is the paramount council of the United Nations with 5 permanent members (**RUSSIA, PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND & FRANCE)** and 10 rotating members. Under the Charter, the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions.

The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.

The Security Council also recommends to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and the admission of new Members to the United Nations. And, together with the General Assembly, it elects the judges of the International Court of Justice.

As diplomatic delegates to the most powerful body of the UN system, we hope that you will perform your duties with dignity, equity and diligence, without forsaking the policy of your state.

Introduction

The Syrian Civil War is an ongoing armed conflict in Syria between the government of President Bashar al-Assad and his allies on one side and various forces opposing him. The unrest in Syria, part of a wider wave of 2011 Arab Spring protests, grew out of discontent with the Assad government and escalated to an armed conflict after protests calling for his removal were violently suppressed. The war is being fought by several factions: the Syrian government and its allies, a loose alliance of Sunni Arab rebel groups (including the Free Syrian Army), the majority-Kurdish Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), Salafi jihadist groups (including al-Nusra Front) who cooperate with the Sunni rebel groups, and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Syrian opposition groups formed the Free Syrian Army (FSA) and seized control of the area surrounding Aleppo and parts of southern Syria. Over time, some factions of the Syrian opposition split from their original moderate position to pursue an Islamist vision for Syria, joining groups such as al-Nusra Front and ISIL. In 2015, the Yekîneyên Parastina Gel (YPG) joined forces with Arab, Assyrian, Armenian, and some Turkmen groups, to form the Syrian Democratic Forces, while most Turkmen groups remained with the FSA.

Russia and Hezbollah militarily engaged in support of the Syrian government, while beginning in 2014, a coalition of NATO countries began launching airstrikes against ISIL.

International organizations have accused the Syrian government, ISIL, and rebel groups of severe human rights violations and of many massacres. The conflict has caused a major refugee crisis. Over the course of the war a number of peace initiatives have been launched, including the March 2017 Geneva peace talks on Syria led by the United Nations, but fighting continues.

Syria's civil war has created the worst humanitarian crisis of our time. Half the country's pre-war population — more than 11 million people — have been killed or forced to flee their homes.

Families are struggling to survive inside Syria, or make a new home in neighboring countries. Others are risking their lives on the way to Europe, hoping to find acceptance and opportunity. And harsh winters and hot summers make life as a refugee even more difficult. At times, the effects of the conflict can seem overwhelming.

Initiation of the Issue

The trouble began in 2011 in the Syrian city of Deraa. It began because local people decided to protest after 15 schoolchildren were arrested - and reportedly tortured - for writing anti-

government graffiti on a wall. The protests were peaceful to begin with, calling for the release of the children, democracy and greater freedom for people in the country.

The government responded angrily and, on 18 March 2011, the army opened fire on protesters, killing four people. The following day, they shot at mourners at the victims' funerals, killing another person. People were shocked and angry at what had happened and soon the unrest spread to other parts of the country. At first, the protesters just wanted democracy and greater freedom.

But after government forces opened fire on peaceful demonstrations, people demanded that President Bashar al-Assad resign. However, he refused to do this which made the protesters extremely angry.

President Assad still had a lot of people in Syria that supported him and his government, so they began to fight against people who were against the government. In July 2012, the International Red Cross said the violence in Syria had become so widespread that it was in a state of civil war.

Rebel Fighters

There isn't one single group of rebels fighting against President Assad and the government's army. The group who want the president to step down - called the opposition - is made up of several kinds of people. These include groups of rebel fighters, political parties who disagree with Assad, and those living in exile who cannot return to the country. It is thought there could have been as many as 1,000 different groups opposing the government since the conflict began, with an estimated 100,000 fighters.

The crisis in Syria has become more than just a war between people who are for or against President Assad.

In 2014, a group that calls itself Islamic State (IS) began to take over large areas of a country called Iraq, next door to Syria. IS is a militant group with extreme, violent views, which has used this violence against anyone who doesn't agree with what they think. They have also persecuted other groups, including Christians and Yazidis. They moved into eastern Syria and, in the chaos of the war, they were able to gain land and power there too.

Now, both Assad's forces and the rebels are having to fight a separate battle against IS at the same time. To try to stop IS, in September 2014 the US used planes to attack IS fighters in Iraq. These attacks are known as airstrikes.

Just over a year later, UK MPs voted in favour of military action against IS in Syria too. The first airstrikes were carried out by RAF Tornado jets within hours of the vote in the House of Commons.

Impact of the War on the people living in Syria

Millions of ordinary people living in Syria have had to escape from their homes to find somewhere safer to live.

According to the United Nations (UN), a group that works to try to solve some of the world's problems, almost five million Syrians have had to leave the country. Many have gone to neighbouring countries, like Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey or Iraq.

Six million more people have tried to find safety elsewhere in Syria.

Lots of children can no longer go to school because their schools have been destroyed or there are no teachers where they have moved to.

When people are forced to leave the country where they live like this, they become known as refugees. The conflict in Syria has caused one of the largest refugee movements in recent history.

Many refugees made the decision to try to reach Europe. This is because some countries in Europe said they would accept refugees who wanted to start a new life here.

Millions of people both inside and outside Syria are in desperate need of help, but aid agencies say that getting help to people inside the country is very difficult and dangerous.

Usage of Chemical Weapons

There is an international law which bans countries from using chemical weapons in wars, as they are deemed too cruel to use on other people.

However, in August 2013, it was reported that they were used in the war in Syria, which caused anger around the world. Both the rebels and the Syrian government denied that they were responsible.

MPs in Westminster voted against responding to this with military action in Syria. But the US and French governments discussed limited missile strikes against military targets.

In September 2013, Russia and the US reached an agreement which said the Syrian government should give up its chemical weapons and destroy them so they can never again be used. This was important as Russia and the US support different sides in the Syrian war.

The process of destroying the weapons began in October 2013 and the people working on this project were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize later that month.

But in April 2017, there was reportedly another chemical weapons attack on a town in north-west Syria, which killed and injured many people.

Many weapons experts, the UK and other countries, and US President Donald Trump have said President Assad's government was to blame for the attack.

But the Syrian President says he didn't do it and Russia, which supports him, said it was the result of aircraft hitting chemical weapons on the ground, which belonged to the rebels.

The US has responded with military action by carrying out missile attacks on Syria, which the UK has said it supports.

It doesn't look like the fighting is likely to end any time soon.

There is a stalemate between the two sides. This means that the government forces and the rebel groups are unable to defeat each other or agree on the future.

Child refugees miss out on school (February 2016)

Lots of countries are trying to continue to supply aid, such as food and emergency supplies.

The rest of the world will continue to try to work out if there is a way to help Syria achieve peace. But for the time being, the conflict continues.

International involvement

Foreign backing and open intervention have played a large role in Syria's civil war. An international coalition led by the United States has bombed targets of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, also known as ISIS) group since 2014.

The US has repeatedly stated its opposition to the Assad government, but has hesitated to involve itself deeply in the conflict, even after the Assad government allegedly used chemical weapons in 2013, which former US President Barack Obama had referred to as a "red line" that would prompt intervention.

On April 7, the US carried its first direct military action against Assad's forces, launching59 Tomahawk cruise missiles at a Syrian air force base from which US officials believe a chemical attack in Khan Sheikhoun had been launched.

The White House spokesman said: [Trump] "made it very clear that if those actions were to continue, further action will definitely be considered by the United States."

In October 2015, the US scrapped its controversial programme to train Syrian rebels, after it was revealed that it had spent $500m but only trained 60 fighters.

In February 2017, the CIA froze funding and logistical support for rebel factions in northern Syria but according to Free Syrian Army (FSA) sources, the funding was restored to a certain extent by late March.

Russia launched in, September 2015, a bombing campaign against what it referred to as "terrorist groups" in Syria, which included ISIL as well as rebel groups backed by western states. Russia has also deployed military advisers to shore up Assad's defenses.

At the UN Security Council, Russia has vetoed eight Western-backed resolutions on Syria, while China vetoed six resolutions.

Several Arab states, along with Turkey, have provided weapons and materiel to rebel groups in Syria. The governments of majority-Shia Iran and Iraq support Assad, as does Lebanon-based Hezbollah, while Sunni-majority states including Turkey, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and others staunchly support the rebels.

Turkish troops and special forces backed by the Free Syria Army, launched in August 2016 operation "Euphrates Shield" against ISIL to liberate the strategic Syrian city of Jarablus on the border with Turkey and to stop the advance of Kurdish militia fighters. Turkey's government fears its large native Kurdish population may grow more restive and demand greater autonomy as a result of increased Kurdish control in northeast Syria.

In March 2017, Turkey officially ended the Euphrates Shield military operation, but struck again in April against Kurdish PKK targets in the Karachok Mountains.

Israel also carried out air strikes inside Syria, the latest of which on Quneitra. Israel and Syria are technically at war since 1948, but the border remained largely quiet since 1973.

The situation today

A suspected chemical attack that killed at least 80 civilians in the Idlib opposition-held town of Khan Sheikhoun is being investigated by the UN as a potential war crime, while Bashar al-Assad said it was a "fabrication" to justify US military intervention.

Despite that 1,300 tons of sarin nerve gas and its precursors were removed from Syria, chemical weapons have been a recurring footnote in the bloody narrative of Syria's civil war.

In the latest evacuation deal between the rebels and the government, over a 110 people were killed in an attack targeting the evacuation convoys from the rebel-besieged towns of Foua and Kefraya in Idlib.

In March, an alliance of US-backed fighters said it has begun a new phase of its campaign on the ISIL-held city of Raqqa in northern Syria, aiming to complete its encirclement and sever the road to the group's strongholds in Deir Az Zor province.

Also in March, fighting in and around Damascus has intensified after surprise attacks by rebel fighters in the northeastern parts of the city. The United Nations said fighting around Syria's capital has cut off 300,000 people from humanitarian assistance and pauses in the conflict are needed to allow aid convoys to get to the area.

In addition to Aleppo, the Syrian government currently controls the capital, Damascus, parts of southern Syria and Deir Az Zor, much of the area near the Syrian-Lebanese border, and the northwestern coastal region. Rebel groups, ISIL, and Kurdish forces control the rest of the country.

Syrian refugees

The Syrian war is creating profound effects far beyond the country's borders. Lebanon, Turkey, and Jordan are now housing large and growing numbers of Syrian refugees, many of whom have attempted to journey onwards to Europe in search of better conditions.

With much of Syria in ruins, millions of Syrians having fled abroad, and a population deeply traumatized by war, one thing is certain: Rebuilding Syria after the war ends will be a lengthy, extremely difficult process.

Why are the Syrians leaving their homes?

- Violence: Since the Syrian civil war began in 2011, as many as 386,000 people have been killed, including nearly 14,000 children, says the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The war has become more deadly since foreign powers joined the conflict.
- Collapsed infrastructure: Within Syria, 95 percent of people lack adequate healthcare, 70 percent lack regular access to clean water. Half the children are out of school. The economy is shattered and four-fifths of the population lives in poverty.
- Children in danger and distress: Syrian children — the nation’s hope for a better future — have lost loved ones, suffered injuries, missed years of schooling, and witnessed unspeakable violence and brutality. Warring parties forcibly recruit children to serve as fighters, human shields, and in support roles, according to the U.S. State Department.

How is World Vision helping refugees and others affected by the Syrian refugee crisis?

Since the Syria crisis began in 2011, World Vision has helped more than 2 million people in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq.

- **Syria:** Food aid, health assistance, hygiene support, baby care kits, water and sanitation, shelter repair kits, and winterization supplies.
- **Iraq:** Food aid, health services, water and sanitation, baby kits, stoves and other winter supplies; for children: education and recreation, programming for life skills, peacebuilding, and resilience.
- **Jordan and Lebanon:** Personal and household supplies, clean water and sanitation, education and recreation, Child-Friendly Spaces and child protection training for adults, winter kits, and psychosocial support for children.

How does the war in Syria affect children?

- Children are susceptible to malnutrition and diseases brought on by poor sanitation, including diarrheal diseases like cholera. Cold weather increases the risk of pneumonia and other respiratory infections.
- Many refugee children have to work to support their families. Often they labor in dangerous or demeaning circumstances for little pay.
- Children are more vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation in unfamiliar and overcrowded conditions. Without adequate income to support their families and fearful of their daughters being molested, parents — especially single mothers — may opt to arrange marriage for girls, some as young as 13.
- Between 2 million and 3 million Syrian children are not attending school. The U.N. children's agency says the war reversed 10 years of progress in education for Syrian children.

History

The report on the evolution of the conflict starts with the Iraqi war from 2003. It is worth taking a look in the developments before that date gaining for a deeper understanding of the groups involved. During the war in Iraq 2003 – 2011 the US and UK troops fought against Al Qaeda and several of its branches including ISIL, called ISI at this time. Over the time, ISI became one of the major 19 opponents of the US and UK troops. With the end of the war and the eventual withdrawal of the American troops in 2011 the responsibility for peace in security within the country devolved to the Iraqi government. Prime Minister of Iraq at this time was Nouri al-Maliki who took office in 2006. The Kurdish Autonomous regions in Iraq as well as the Kurdish regions in Syria and Turkey are gaining for an independent Kurdish state for quite some time. However, the situations of each of these regions are different. In northern Iraq, the Kurds evolved state-like structures called Iraqi Kurdistan whereas this development has been depressed in Turkey. During the Arab spring in 2011 the civil war in Syria begun. The Assad regime brutally ended peaceful demonstrations.

With growing military actions taken by both sides the situation in Syria became more and more unstable eventually leading to a civil war in the country of increasing brutality. Government forces were fighting against rebel forces. Lots of the rebel forces were judged as moderate rebels and supported by western states, i.e. the USA, the EU and others. In August 2013 the USA and the UK discussed taking military actions after the Assad regime had used chemical weapons against civilians in Syria. Without backing of the UN and the national parliaments this military actions were never realized. Without any effective external measures taken the conflict in Syria has frozen more and more over time. With the raise of ISIL in Iraq at the beginning of 2014 the situation started changing again. Beginning in June 2014 ISIL started successfully to militarily take over large parts of northern Iraq and also started military activity in Syria supported from several rebel groups. Quickly ISIL got control of critical infrastructure including the Mosul dam in Iraq supplying major parts of Iraq with electricity and water. Iraqi forces were not able to stop the raise of ISIL; and the heavily weakened military forces of the Assad regime in Syria were not able to defeat the terrorist organization either. When ISIL reached the Kurdish areas in Iraq and Syria the Kurds were able to resist the attacks of ISIL and to secure their grounds. However, under growing military pressure the Kurds asked western countries for weapons and military support.

Western states, including the USA and EU, came under growing pressure to take action in the conflict, as the end of the ISIL's raise was not conceivable. With the United Nations Security

Council not able to pass a substantive resolution on counteractions against ISIL a broad coalition of states including several Arabic ones decided to take military actions against ISIL in Syria and Iraq. Under the US Operation Inherent Resolve those states started supporting the Kurds with military equipment and to fly airstrikes in Syria in Iraq. With that operations ISIL could be weakened substantially, as the U.S. Department of Defense reports in early January 2015. In the regions controlled by ISIL it is reported to rule brutally. Two American journalists have been executed and the videos of the execution have been published online. Women and Children are reported to be executed and whole villages have been destroyed by the advancing ISIL troops.

International Reactions

United States

Under the Obama Administration the United States have been calling for Assad's resignation since August 2011, and have pressed the United Nations Security Council to condemn the Syrian government. They also have recognized the National Coalition of Revolution and Opposition Forces (SOC) as the legitimate representative of the Syrian people and provide nonlethal assistance to the Coalition and an affiliated Supreme Military Command Council (SMC). Furthermore, the US provides humanitarian aid to international organizations supporting Syrian civilians and nonlethal support to unarmed and armed elements of the Syrian opposition. The Obama Administration believes that a negotiated political settlement is required and has prepared military plans to secure Syria's stockpiles of chemical weapons, if necessary.

In May 2013 Obama reiterated his objective as to continue the efforts to increase pressure on the Assad regime, to provide humanitarian aid, to strengthen the moderate opposition and to prepare for a democratic Syria without Bashar al-Assad.

Fawaz Gerges, director of the Middle East Centre at the London School of Economics, recently explained that "the United States is operating on two levels - the first level is to basically try to see whether America and Russia can reach a political settlement ... to ease Assad out of power as opposed to a frontal attack, as has been the case, to remove Assad by force. We should make no mistake about the second level on which the American government is operating - that is to keep up the pressure on the Assad government, to increase its support for the armed opposition and the political opposition."

Russia

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

In May 2013, John Kerry, US secretary of state, and Putin agreed to establish an AmericanRussia peace conference. In the same month Sergei Lavrov, the Russian foreign minister, said that Russia was completing its delivery of surface-to-air missiles to Syria. However, he emphasized that "Russia is not planning to sell, Russia has sold a long time ago, and is completing supplies of the equipment - which is anti-aircraft systems, according to the already signed contracts".

Lavrov said earlier that Moscow did not plan to sell its advanced S-300 air defence system to Syria, but left open the possibility that it could ship such systems to Damascus under an existing contract. Moscow has long been accused of propping up Assad and supplying Damascus with military hardware.

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

United Kingdom

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

People's Republic of China

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

France

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

Role of the United Nations Security Council

The UNSC has been involved in all three sub-conflicts in the region. UNSC resolutions on Iraqi Kurdistan have been past in the 1980s and 1990s. However, there are no direct relations between those actions taken by the UN and the role the Kurdish regions have taken today.

The UNSC failed to pass a strong resolution on the conflict in Syria. Proposals for an US-led air strike operation after the usage of chemical weapons by the Assad regime have been defeated by the Russian veto. However, resolutions on the humanitarian situation have been passed successfully and actions have been taken by NATO to secure the Syrian-Turkish-boarder.

Since the military success of ISIL the UNSC passed S/Res/2170 on sanctions against al-Qaeda and condemning the international recruitment of ISIL. A resolution on the international coalition has not been passed. However, presidential statements of the UNSC are urging member states to participate in the US-led Operation Inherent Resolve.

Relevant UNSC Resolutions and Presidential Statements

S/Res/2170 (15th August 2014)

The resolution expresses the concern of the UNSC about the land takes by ISIL and the Al Nusrah Front (ANF) that had taken place at this time, the kidnapping and hostage taking by this groups and also mentions the increased use of the internet by these organizations. It condemns both groups as well as associated Al-Quaida bodies. The resolution demands an immediate of any violence taken by ISIL, ANF and other terrorist groups. It further calls upon the UN member states take action within the borders of international law to counter the actions taken by those groups. It addresses the international recruitment of ISIL, ANF and others and calls upon the member states to work against that in their own boarders. It also recalls asset freeze and financial embargos on Al Qaida and others and takes them further with a detailed list of heads of Al-Qaida and others to by sanction.

S/PRST/2014/1 (10th January 2014)

This Presidential Statement is the very first action taken by the UNSC against the recent raise of ISIL. IT condemns early action that was limited to Northern Iraq and calls upon Iraq to take counter measures accordingly. It recalls asset freeze and bans against AlQaida and associated organisation from 2001.

S/PRST/2014/18 (28th July 2014)

In this Presindential Statement the UNSC reacts on increasing land taking by ISIL in the Northern Iraq and Syria. It reaffirms the sovereingty and terretorial integrity of both countries. It expresses the UNSC's concern of oilfields under control of ISIL that might generate income for terrorists. It recalls asset freezes and fincial bans.

S/PRST/2014/20 (19th September 2014)

This Presidential Statements reacts on the newly formed Iraqi government and welcomes the end of the political deadlock in the country. It asks for support by the member states for the new Iraqi government and the policy implementations at hand. It underlines the importance of international cooperation in the fight against ISIL and urges the international community to support Iraq in its measures against ISIL and other associated forces.

Questions for the Delegates

1. How come a minority is the one that controls or used to control Syria (Alawite Minority)?
2. Why are China and Russia using their Veto Power for resolutions concerning Syria?
3. Who are the Jihadists and what are they seeking?
4. What do you consider what are the missing elements to the resolution 2043 of de 21 de April de 2012?
5. Apart from all the deaths why would you consider this is "the worst refugee crisis of our generation"?
6. What do you believe were the reasons students and young people were moved to create the "Arab spring"?
7. Who were the members of the rebel groups and why did they join?
8. Explain how the conflict started (who raised to power?)
9. What was the response of the government response of the non-violent demonstrations from the people?
10. Who are Syria's allies?
11. Why are they supporting Syria? What do they get?
12. What are the war crimes that have been committed? Which sides have committed them?
13. What has been Europe's response to the refugees?

Outline of several countries positions towards the conflict in Syria

The United States of America: Banished military intervention but pressed for sanctions against the Assad's regime. These statements have created diplomatic tensions with Russia and China.

The Russian Federation: Concerned that a U.N. resolution could be used as a pretext to bring down the Syrian regime. Its naval base in Syria and its key role as weapon supplier to Damascus explain the Russian reluctance to drag the regime down. As a consequence, Russia is vetoing all the resolutions against Abbas's government in favour of sanctions and allowing supply help to the insurgents.

The European Union: The bloc imported 90% of Syria's oil before imposing sanctions against the country. Its main players: France, Germany and the United Kingdom have already started to back the Syrian rebel coalition openly with diplomatic support, and behind the scenes with some supplies.

Arab League: The organization led a failed attempt to monitor the conflict in Syria. Saudi Arabia and Qatar in their pro-Sunni strategy are leading efforts to isolate the Syrian government and to fund the Syrian rebel army.3536

Turkey: Turkey has already imposed various economic sanctions against Syria, and since the summer's attacks on its borders has begun a graduated military reply. Moreover, the leadership of the Free Syrian Army, an armed opposition group, is based in Turkey.

Israel: Focused in its war against the Hezbollah organization, Israel is reluctant to take part in the Syrian conflict at its borders. However, in January Israel led an airstrike into Syria intended to deny sophisticated weapons to Hezbollah's militants in Lebanon, an action that has compulsorily inserted the country into the civil war.37

China: Adopting the same strategy as that of Russian, Beijing is firmly opposed to any kind of military intervention in Syria. Protecting its interests in the region, China has vetoed all the UN resolutions that could lead to a collapse of the regime.

Iran: Iran is a strategic ally of Assad's regime and has been supplying the Syrian army with men and weapons since the beginning of the conflict. In fact, Téhéran considers Damascus to be a part of its « chiite resistance axe » with Iraq and Lebanon (through the Hezbollah).

Issues the resolution should address

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

- Is there a chance to give an UN backing for the ongoing process? If so, which guidelines are important for this operation to be efficient and according the UN charter? Which military actions can be taken to reach further progress in defeating ISIL?
- How can the growing risk of counter-terroristic attacks be addressed?
- Is it possible to map out a solution to the situation in Syria?
- Could the solution be acceptable to all parties? Why past actions failed?
- What steps shall be considered necessary to the solution?
- How should your country contribute to the situation and how will your country be affected?
- Due to the ongoing political conflicts in Syria and by targeted actions of ISIL several cultural heritages have been destroyed in Syria and Iraq. How can the cultural heritage in this region be secured?
- Which steps can be taken to restore peace and security in Syria? Which impacts does the fight against ISIL have on this process? How can the new situation change the international views on the conflict in Syria?
- Is the collaboration with the Kurds in the fight against ISIL a starting point for new debates for the autonomy of the Kurds? If so, which measures can be taken and which role does Turkey play in this issue?
- How can the growing number of weaponry in the region be controlled? In which ways should the military support to allied forces of the international community be given?
- How could international community response to the humanitarian crisis in a timely and effective matter?
- How can the issue of refugees in bordering countries be addressed, both in short-term and in long-term?

- How should we consider Syrian refugees problem in terms of opportunity, not a failure? How can we assure the long term security for the Syrians who are currently hosted by the Middle East and European Countries?
- To what extend should we financially assist for the Syrian refugees camps?
- Should we ease restrictions on asylum within the UN nations?
- What do the policy-makers shall do well to consider the significant economic, social, educational problems of Syrian refugees?
- We face the fear of a 'lost generation' of refugees growing up across the region without access to education. What can we do to assimilate Syrian children with the hosting nation?

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