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UNSC Jr

BACKGROUND GUIDE



Wesgreen International School
Model United Nations

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Welcome Note

Dear Delegates,

It is with great excitement and pleasure that we welcome you to the United Nations Security Council (Junior) at Wesgreen International School Model United Nations (WESMUN) 2025.

The UNSC Junior Committee is dedicated and specialises in addressing global security challenges that are currently being faced globally.

As delegates, you will be engaged in vibrant debates that will challenge you to think critically to solve and aim for peace and stability in such a world we live within. Whether debating against another delegate or collaborating with a team, your ultimate goal is to find the most effective and logical resolutions possible. You will be expected to communicate and share ideas and various viewpoints.

The UNSC plays a vital and critical role in the United Nations; it takes primary responsibility for maintaining peace and security, as outlined in the United Nations Charter including establishing peacekeeping operations, imposing sanctions and binding resolutions.

Throughout this background guide, you will gain valuable knowledge and an overview of the UNSC Jr committee. It will serve as a starting point to explore the topics and complexities associated with such issues, where you play a vital role in discovering and unravelling different solutions.

Please reach out to us at unscjr.wesmun25@gmail.com if you have any issues or questions. We intend to assist you in maximizing your experience at MUN.

Sincerely,

The UNSC Junior Committee Chairs

Topic 1:

Preventing the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction in Developing Nations

Introduction

The proliferation of weapons of mass destruction in developing nations has become a critical issue on the United Nations Security Council's agenda in the last two decades. Although the issue of foreign intervention in ethnic conflicts has been well explored, the issue of preventing the spread of WMDs has not been addressed as a function of both domestic and international factors. Internal factors, including political instability, weak governance and regional tensions, are the main causes of WMDs acquisition or use by the emerging countries while external factors, including security threats and rivalry, lead the UNSC to act. Intervention has not been a new strategy as it has been around for many years as a means of international relations from ancient times. After the Second World War the United Nations and specifically the UNSC were created with the aim of mediating conflicts and avoiding the use of weapons. The UNSC has shifted its focus towards preventive diplomacy where the council deals with early warnings and diplomatic measures to contain WMD before it spreads. Therefore, the UNSC's role in preventing the proliferation of WMDs is based on both political and economic measures as well as military measures, which reflect the balance between the respect for the sovereignty of nations and the security of the world.

Analysis

In the developing regions of the world such as Africa, Asia and Latin America there are some factors such as political instability, group inequality and social fragmentation that warrant a WMD. Such regions are very volatile where state authorities, non-state actors or insurgent groups would like to possess such weapons of mass destruction to tip the balance of power in their favour, to improve the threat to them or improve their status in the region which may be weak in traditional means of power control. Regional instability can also lead to such countries acquiring WMDs as they may see them as a means to strengthen their restrictive policies, particularly where there is civil unrest. The pressure born out of such instability and conflict can create a situation where WMDs become a requirement for certain states in the region. The members who are active in the UN Security Council have to grapple with such issues while respecting the rights of individual nations. The problem is to find the optimum degree of WMD restrictions in such cases when humanitarian considerations require the use of military, political or economic pressure.

Foreign intervention, in the same way, might have unexpected effects on attempts at preventing WMD proliferation. On one hand, the role of the UNSC involves deploying sanctions, diplomatic pressure, and sometimes military action in order to limit or prevent the development of WMDs in vulnerable nations. However, such interventions could heighten tensions between states and further destabilize the region. For example, the very efficacy of the tools themselves as the use of sanctions or arms embargoes runs a real risk of further debilitating already troubled economies and humanitarian crises, feeding even greater instability. In turn, attempts at military intervention designed to neutralize such programs are often resisted and will most certainly precipitate actions like retaliation or regime collapse that render a sustainable long-term security difficult.

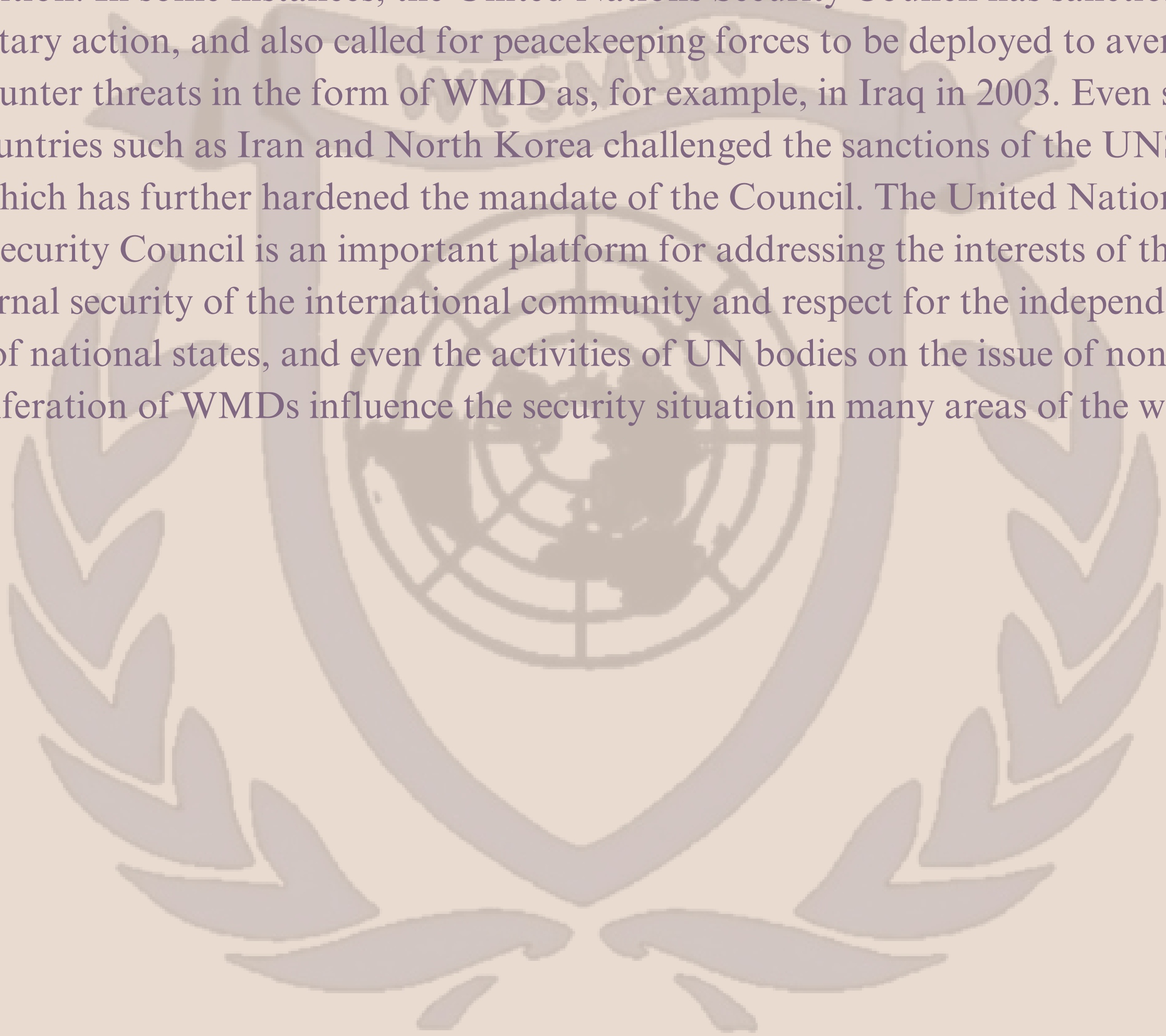
The response of the international community to WMD proliferation does have broader regional and global ramifications. If interventions are not carefully managed, then operations could lead to the destabilization of entire regions, creating power vacuums that may be filled by other actors, such as extremist groups, which do not necessarily abide by international norms. The proliferation of WMDs could thus have snowballing effects, threatening not just the state concerned but also the regional and even world security. In addition, international interventions designed to prevent WMD proliferation can lead to increased tension in international relations, particularly if major powers have opposing interests in terms of intervention, thus leading to diplomatic estrangements and a more fragmented international order.

History

The widespread acquisition of weapons of mass destruction especially by developing countries has been one of the greatest issues of concern to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) because it has a direct reference to international peace and security.

From the time of the creation of the UNSC, the tendency of the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons has been declared as one of the core issues of danger to the world. In that regard, sanctions, diplomatic efforts, and, even the conclusion of non-proliferation treaties, have made the UNSC to be quite active in fighting off international terrorism. One of the key documents in the framework of their non-proliferation policy is the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons which is also known as NPT which commenced in 1968. Interactions with such countries as India, Pakistan and more who already had nuclear bombs but had never been signatories to the treaty posed some challenges towards enhancing the stability of the NPT, more recently the numerous nuclear tests conducted by North Korea have begun to present another test. Furthermore, terrorism and the illegal trafficking of sensitive technologies have replaced states like North Korea, and the challenge of preventing these terrorists from ever gaining control over WMDs has been replaced by the greatest challenge to the UNSC.

For countries with developing economies, the possession of WMDs is sometimes deemed necessary to protect and promote the interests of the state. This pertinent issue has been dealt with by the UN Security Council through a series of legal resolutions and directives... Article 1540 of the Security Council is one of those which is a 1558 resolution in the non-proliferation of weapons. However, it is the differences in security objectives and political objectives that further aggravate the position. In some instances, the United Nations Security Council has sanctioned military action, and also called for peacekeeping forces to be deployed to avert or counter threats in the form of WMD as, for example, in Iraq in 2003. Even so, countries such as Iran and North Korea challenged the sanctions of the UNSC which has further hardened the mandate of the Council. The United Nations Security Council is an important platform for addressing the interests of the external security of the international community and respect for the independence of national states, and even the activities of UN bodies on the issue of non-proliferation of WMDs influence the security situation in many areas of the world.



Questions a resolution must answer:

1. How can the UNSC stop developing countries from getting WMDs while respecting their rights?
2. How can the UNSC stop terrorists from getting WMDs?
3. How can the UNSC get countries to work together to reduce WMDs?

Subtopics:

1. Current Global Efforts to Prevent WMD Proliferation
2. Challenges in Monitoring and Enforcing Non-Proliferation Agreements
3. The Role of Developing Nations in WMD Proliferation
4. The Threat of Non-State Actors and Terrorism
5. Diplomatic Solutions and International Cooperation

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- 5- <https://www.nti.org/> (Nuclear threat initiative)
- 6- <https://www.opcw.org> (Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons)
- 7- <https://www.un.org/en/ga/first/> (United Nations General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and International Security)
- 8- <https://www.brookings.edu> (Brookings Institution - Arms Control and Non-Proliferation)

Topic 2:

Preventing the Use of Chemical and Biological Weapons in Armed Conflicts

Introduction

The use of chemical and biological weapons during armed nations clashes is cited as one of the most egregious international crimes involving great violations of human rights. Weapons that can cause devastation resulting in atrocious effects on society and the environment are a major detriment to the existence of peace around the globe. Not only do chemical and biological agents cause harm to soldiers in the combat zone, but they also inflict wounds on the population, environment, and infrastructures and this transgenerational impact.

Measured efforts to try and eliminate the threat posed by such weapons have been made, for example, the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), however, their production, storage and potential usage remains a focal point. The absence of responsibility assignments in places of conflict together with the possibility of these weapons provisions to non-state actors requires prompt prevention strategies that have the potential of addressing the needs.

This is a problem that merits the interest of the UNSC, which exists to ensure peace and security across the globe. The Security Council employs methods addressing the proliferation of the weapons including sanctions, peacekeeping and diplomacy.

Analysis

Chemical Weapons: Any chemical material that is used to intentionally hurt or even kill such as nerve agents, mustard gas or chlorine which cause great damage to human lives and the environment.

Biological Weapons: Diseases or toxic components that are used intentionally to infect and disable large parts of the population such as anthrax, smallpox and botulinum toxin, and could easily spread across nations and induce fear.

The employment of these weapons is not only a breach of the international conventions against such acts but also acts against the very foundation or core of the humanitarian law principles. The recent incidents of violation of the Chemical Weapons Convention in Syria and the suspected biological weapons programs in some outcast and outlaw states indicate the fact that these weapons remain a serious threat which should always be taken into consideration.

To meet these threats, the first obvious task is to encourage more effective implementation of existing treaties, increase confidence and trust in biological and chemical development and research, and improve the effectiveness of monitoring structures, for example, the OPCW.

History

Throughout history, the world has witnessed the catastrophic consequences of bioweapons and chemical warfare. Chemical warfare, during World War I, resulted in the death of hundreds of thousands of people which prompted the formation of the 1925 Geneva Protocol, which barred the use of such weapons in armed disputes. Despite this, the first Bushido did not precede the deployment of these weapons during wars, an example being the Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988), where nerve agents and mustard gas were used widely.

As seen, in the past few decades, non-state actors including extremist groups, have attempted to either build or seek chemical weapons and biological weapons, making best preventive practices more difficult. Along those lines, the Sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway in 1995, which was aimed at civilians, and the attacks involving anthrax on Americans in 2001, made the world realize the devastating effects of biological agents in the hands of people regardless of nation-state control.

The UNSC has unrelentingly denounced the use of chemicals and biological weapons in warfare and has tried to impose sanctions on the states found guilty of using these weapons and has asked for and carried out investigations in alleged cases. But, still, it proves to be difficult to implement restrictions on the violent and disorderly states.

Questions a Resolution Must Answer

1. In what ways can countries around the world enhance mechanisms of compliance with CWC and BW?
2. What measures can be employed to frustrate the efforts of rogue states and non-state actors to acquire and employ chemical and biological weapons?
3. How can the countries work together better to improve the monitoring and assurance for the use of these weapons?

Subtopics

1. Bringing together global instruments such as the BW and CW and operationalising the gaps in their enforcement and compliance.
2. Fostering the scientific and technological advancement of tracking and monitoring of the fabrication or application of such weapons.
3. Dealing with the issue of non-state actors and denying them the means to have precursors of chemical and biological weapons.
4. Promoting the conduct of activities that improve visibility on research and development in order not to allow dual-use technologies to be weaponized.
5. Strengthening the capacity and the mandate of international bodies such as the OPCW and WHO on chemical proliferation and biochemicals on pandemic incidents.
6. Assisting post-conflict countries to secure their pipelines and dismantle any efforts at the proliferation of chemical and biological weapons systems.
7. Raising Public understanding and education about the menace of chemical and biological weapons to limit their spread.

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