Japan Educational International Model United Nations 2024

Background Guide

<u>United Nations Security Council Reform</u>

Greetings from Hayato Mochida, the Executive Committee Chairperson

Dear delegates,

It is my honor to welcome you to Japan Educational International Model United Nations (JEIMUN). I am Hayato Mochida, a sophomore studying law at the University of Tokyo. I am thrilled to be one of the organizing members for this first-ever JEIMUN conference, where talented delegates across the globe participate.

The agenda item for this year's conference is UN Security Council reform, a theme that has been a topic of discussion among the very Member States of the UN since its foundation. Yet this is not a topic long overdue. It is an urgent one in today's world. Changes in economic, social, political, and military circumstances on a global scale hint to us that the way in which the UN seeks to maintain global peace and security must constantly be reviewed, if not altered completely. This process requires all Member States to actively participate in discussions and dialogues.

These debates may at first glance seem rather political, a race for authority and power. However, when we turn our eyes to the other side of the world, we notice countless people suffering from poverty, political persecution, and conflict. Reflecting on past commitments, I believe the UN and the Security Council are capable of making substantial advancements in achieving and sustaining global peace and security and responding to the voices of those who need them the most.

This background guide provides delegates with basic information regarding the Security Council and how the discussion towards its reform has developed. We have also set two topics of discussion for this conference, namely: 1. How should the Council's seats be divided, and 2. Regarding veto.

We expect delegates to research how your countries are approaching these topics, and prepare a set of solutions to move the debate forward. It is worth keeping in mind that all ideas should be open to discussion, and when needed, delegates may be required to compromise during the course of negotiation. So as to avoid being at a loss in such cases, delegates are recommended to consider the extent to which your country can negotiate.

Again, I would like to thank all the students who have decided to take part in this conference. If you have any questions regarding this Guide or the conference, please feel free to contact us via email (2024jeimun@gmail.com). We are very much looking forward to seeing you in January.

Hayato Mochida

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Chapter 1: Setting of Assembly

\<What is the Security Council?\>

The Security Council is one of the six main organs of the United Nations and has the role of maintaining international peace and security according to the UN Charter. The Security Council consists of 15 members: five permanent members (the United States, the United Kingdom, China, France, and Russia) and 10 non-permanent members elected by the UN General Assembly for a two-year term.

The five permanent members have veto power, and decisions on substantive matters require the approval of at least nine countries, including all five permanent members. The Security Council has the power to enforce its decisions, which include economic measures such as embargoes and sanctions, and the use of force.

\<Conference Setting\>

The setting of the meeting is the "79th Plenary Session of the General Assembly of the United Nations".

The agenda will be "The Reformation of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)".

It should be noted that the reform of the UNSC will be discussed within the General Assembly, not the council itself.

Chapter 2: History of the UNSC

UN security reform and debates about it have been taking place for over half a century. This chapter will provide an overview of the history regarding the reform of the Security Council.

An example of how the Security Council functioned

In January 1991, following the invasion of Kuwait by Iraqi forces in the Gulf War, the Security Council established a multinational force and called for the immediate withdrawal of Iraqi forces.
At the time, the multinational force consisted of 680,000 personnel from 28 countries, 540,000 of whom were dispatched by the U.S. military.
The deployment of the multinational force brought the war to an end by the end of February 1991, and contributed to the early end of the war.

History of Security Council Reform

1945.
With the Charter of the United Nations coming into force, the Security Council was created as one of the main pillars of the United Nations. The council originally consisted of 11 members: The five permanent members were the United States, the Soviet Union (now the Russian Federation), the United Kingdom, France, and the Republic of China (now the People's Republic of China). They were joined by 6 non-permanent members who served two-year terms.

1963.
In an attempt to improve the representation of the Security Council by increasing the number of non-permanent members, the number of non-permanent members was increased to 10, and together with the permanent members, the Security Council became a 15-member body. Non-permanent members were elected based on regional groups to ensure equal regional representation.

December 1989
The Yalta Conference marked the end of the Cold War.
The end of the Cold War and changes in global geopolitics led to growing dissatisfaction surrounding the composition of the Security Council. In particular, there were calls to expand the permanent membership of UNSC to reflect the economic strength and importance of regional cooperation.

December 1992
A resolution on the "Equitable Sharing and Expansion of Seats on the Security Council," compiled by India and Indonesia, was adopted by the UN General Assembly and deliberations on the UNSC reform began. This resolution was mainly supported by developing nations, and at this time Japan was the only economically developed country that listed its name in the joint resolution. In December 1993, the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) for the UNSC reform was established and began full-fledged discussions.

1994~1996
The OEWG identified issues related to Security Council reform and reported a global governance proposal that would serve as the basis for a Security Council reform proposal (the Razali Draft).

March 1997
Ambassador Razali (Malaysia), Chairman of the OEWG General Assembly, presented the "Comprehensive Security Council Reform Proposal (the Razali Draft)," but a conflict surfaced between the Security Council reform advocates (Japan, Germany, etc.) and the blocking group (Consensus Group 17), and the latter group submitted a joint resolution for the purpose of delaying the reform of the Security Council. As a result, the Razali Draft ended up not being submitted to the General Assembly.

1999~2000
The Millennium Special Session of the General Assembly in 2000 adopted a declaration calling for reform of the Security Council, but no concrete reform regarding the Council's seats and its distribution was realized.

2003
The Iraq War occurred.
The United States and the United Kingdom led the invasion of Iraq, although the Security Council resolution did not decide on military measures.

2003
The Iraq War (and the discourse surrounding the role of the UNSC) reaffirmed the need for Security Council reform, and Secretary-General Kofi Annan proposed the establishment of a High-level Panel (HIP) to replace the OEWG, which had virtually ceased to function. In the following year, the HIP was established, and with the preparation of "A more secure world: Our shared responsibility, " the Security Council reform proposal by the HIP was revealed.

2004

Proposal from the Group of Four (G4).

In 2004, the Group of Four (G4) - Germany, Japan, India, and Brazil - issued a joint statement calling for an expansion of permanent members. They insisted that their countries be permanent members of the Security Council, and that African countries should also have a permanent membership.

March 2005

Based on the Security Council reform proposal by HIP, Secretary-General Kofi Annan released a report on UN reform, which was titled "in larger freedom: towards development, security and human rights for all." He recommended that Member States consider Model A, Model B, or other proposals based on one of the two models.

September 2005

Proposals were submitted by the G4, Coffee Group, and AU Group respectively, but none of the proposals submitted were voted on, and were thus scrapped. The resolution only stated that the General Assembly is requested to inspect the progress of the reforms by the end of the year.

January 2006

The "AU Draft Resolution" decided at the AU Summit held in October 2005 was re-submitted. In response, the G4 countries except Japan submitted essentially the same draft resolution as the G4 draft resolution submitted to the 59th General Assembly in 2005.

March 2006

S5 submitted a draft resolution on transparency, i.e., improvement of the working methods of the Security Council. While the resolution gained support from small and medium-sized countries, the permanent member states opposed it because it contained restrictions on the use of the veto power.

July 2006

The General Assembly held deliberations on the Security Council reform. It was confirmed that there was a near-consensus that maintaining the status quo on the Security Council was undesirable; the AU draft resolution, the G4 draft resolution excluding Japan, and the S5 draft resolution were all scrapped without ever coming up for discussion or vote in the General Assembly.

September 2007

The 62nd session of the UN General Assembly began, and the General Assembly deliberations on the UNSC reform took place in November. During these deliberations, the majority of countries stated that countries should commence intergovernmental negotiations as a next step towards the UNSC reform.

September 2008
As the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly drew to a close, the President of the General Assembly finally reached a compromise, which included a recommendation to begin Intergovernmental Negotiations by February 2009.
The report of the OEWG, including a recommendation to initiate Intergovernmental Negotiations by February 2009, was adopted without a vote at the plenary session of the General Assembly.

November 2008-January 2009
Under the leadership of Miguel d'Escoto, President of the General Assembly, the OEWG on Security Council Reform convened several times regarding the "framework" and "modalities" for intergovernmental negotiations. Also in January 2009, Miguel d'Escoto reported the results of the OEWG meetings and announced that intergovernmental negotiations would begin on February 19, 2009. He also made clear he would present a work plan including a short-term schedule for future discussions.

February 2009
Intergovernmental negotiations began on February 19, 2009 during the informal plenary session of the UN General Assembly.

2011-2014
The General Assembly debated on Security Council reform (66th, 67th, and 68th UN General Assemblies).

2015
President Kutesa of the 69th UN General Assembly, Mr. Kutesa, and President Rattray of the Intergovernmental Negotiation, distributed a negotiation document summarizing the positions of each group and country, and a decision (rollover decision) was adopted by consensus to continue intergovernmental negotiations on Security Council reform based on that document until the 70th session (from September 15).

2017
A "Co-Chairs' Paper" was prepared, summarizing the countries' agreement and differences on issues (categories, regional representation, and veto power) not addressed in the "Elements Paper," which in 2016 summarized only the main points countries agreed in relevance to "the relationship between the Security Council and the General Assembly" and "the total number and working methods after enlargement." Subsequently, the paper was revised several times.

Chapter 3: Current Standings Surrounding the Reformation of the UNSC

This section introduces established frameworks regarding the discussion on the UNSC reform. Each group has its own stance on the expansion of seats, the use of the veto, transparency for UNSC discussions and working methods in the UNSC. In examining your country's national interests and stance, it is worth researching which group your country belongs to. In addition to what is written in this document, we recommend delegates refer to past UN conference records, government websites and press releases for further information.

Group of Four (G4)

Participating countries: Brazil, Germany, India, Japan

The G4 is a group of four countries that support each other to gain a permanent seat on the UNSC. In addition, they also discuss the reform of the Security Council on general terms.

The G4 has proposed expanding the number of seats on the Council by six for the permanent members, and by four to five for the non-permanent members. The six new seats for the permanent members will consist of: two seats for the Asia-Pacific region, two for Africa, one for Western Europe and Others (North America, etc.), and one for Latin America and the Caribbean. This, they argue, will distribute seats fairer based on regions.

With regard to the use of the veto, G4 claims that the new permanent members of the Council should not be able to exercise the veto until a review session, in which the issue of extending the veto to the new permanent members would again be discussed. This essentially means that four countries call for a temporary suspension on the use of veto power.

They also request the adoption of new working methods and procedures to increase the transparency of Security Council discussions, for instance utilizing live Internet webcasts and record keeping, as is the method of proceedings of the General Assembly.

Uniting for Consensus (UfC, also known as the Coffee Club)

Participating countries: Argentina, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Italy, Malta, Mexico, Pakistan, San Marino, Korea, Spain, Turkey

The UfC is a group, consisting mainly of G4 neighboring countries, united in their opposition to the G4 countries gaining access to permanent seats on the Council.

In recent years, it has advocated reform by expanding the seats of the non-permanent members of the Council. It intends to establish 11 new non-permanent seats, which consist as follows.

Asia 3, Asia-Pacific 3, Latin America 2, and Western Europe and Others (North America, etc.) 1. These will be limited to an initial one-year term of office, but will be eligible for immediate re-election after their first term ends. Current regulations do not allow for immediate re-election of non-permanent members of the Council. In addition, one non-permanent member quota for a two-year term will be distributed to Eastern Europe and the island states, respectively.

They argue the veto should be limited to genocide or war crimes.

L.69 group of developing countries from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific (L.69)

Participating countries: 33 countries from Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific

As the name suggests, L.69 is a group formed by countries from Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific. It is characterized by the inclusion of Brazil and India, which are leading reforms as G4 countries, and by the clear allocation of seats to island countries.

As for its stance on the allocation of seats, the G8 advocates for the expansion of both permanent and non-permanent seats on the Council. The group requests that the new permanent members be allocated a total of six seats: two from Asia, two from Africa, one from Western Europe and Others (North America, etc.), and one from Latin America and the Caribbean. Non-permanent member seats are also to be expanded by six, with two from Africa, one from Asia and the Pacific, one from Latin America and the Caribbean, one from Eastern Europe, and one from

small island developing states (SIDS). It argues that this will ensure the seats and presence of developing island states on the Security Council.

Regarding the use of the veto power, L.69, while looking toward the future abolition of the veto power, insists that as long as the veto system continues to exist, new member states will have the right to exercise the veto power. On the other hand, as mentioned earlier, in realizing the abolition of the veto in the future, the groups claims that efforts to limit its exercise are necessary from the time of reform.

In addition to the policy mentioned above,, the group requests the Security Council discussion to be more text-based in order to improve the transparency of the discussion.

Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

Participating countries: 14 countries that are members of CARICOM

CARICOM is a regional community of Caribbean countries that has been discussing ways to improve the representation of island nations in the Security Council reform debate. Many of the participating countries are members of the L.69 group as mentioned above, and as a result, CARICOM has made proposals similar to those of L.69 regarding the allocation of seats and the exercise of veto power.

They suggest the seats of the permanent members of the Council be increased by 2 for Asia, 2 for Africa, 1 for Western Europe and Others (North America, etc.), and 1 for Latin America and the Caribbean, while the seats of the non-permanent members will be increased by 2 for Africa, 1 for Asia-Pacific, 1 for Latin America and the Caribbean, 1 for Eastern Europe, and 1 for SIDS (small island developing States). CARICOM also recommends that the veto power should be exercised by new Council members. Regarding the exercise of the veto power, new members of the Council have the right to exercise it as long as the system continues to exist.

The island states, offering their own unique and realistic perspective on peace and security, have stated that their presence is indispensable in the Security Council, which discusses the security of the world as a whole.

African Group

Participating countries: 54 member states of the African Union (AU) (excluding the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic)

Like CARICOM, some countries in the African Group and in L.69 group overlap, but Africa has adopted a unique stance with regard to the distribution of seats for new non-permanent members and the use of the veto power.

The non-permanent membership is expanded by five slots. Two for Africa, one for Asia-Pacific, Eastern Europe and Latin American and the Caribbean each. The permanent members of the Council will be expanded by six seats: two from Asia, two from Africa, one from Western Europe and Others (North America, etc.), and one from Latin America and the Caribbean. The AU will decide which countries will be given seats on the African quotas, and the criteria for selection will also be set by the AU. (This is a change from the current system in which UN member states are elected from all Member States.)

Regarding the veto, the African Group believes that the new permanent members of the Council should have the right to exercise all the powers granted to the current permanent members. In other words, African Group opposes suspending the veto right for new permanent members of the Council.

Arab Group

Participating countries: 22 member states of the Arabian League

The Arabian Group, which consists of the same countries in the Arabian League, is a group that seeks to secure seats for Arabian countries on the Security Council.

In the 2022 debate, the Arabian Group called for an improved quota for Arabian seats on the Council and better representation of Arabian countries on the non-permanent membership. This is due to the fact that many of the issues discussed by the Security Council deal with conflicts in the member states of the Arabian League and their neighbors. The Arabian countries involved in these conflicts are seeking for a Security Council that can reflect their own national interests in the handling of disputes and other matters.

In addition to this, they regard the transparency of Security Council discussion to be vital to Arabian countries. This is due to the fact that discussions in the Security Council directly affect

their national interests. Therefore, they argue that the number of closed-door meetings and informal consultations which are often held in the Security Council should be reduced, and that the auxiliary organs of the Council should provide information on developments in the permanent and non-permanent members of the Council.

Permanent 5 (P5)

Participating countries: People's Republic of China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States

P5 are the current five permanent members of the Council. While generally taking a negative view about limiting the veto, their stances are divided over the expansion of the permanent members of the Council.

China, for its part, said that the Security Council needs to be transformed into a body that absorbs the voices of developing countries mainly through the expansion of the non-permanent members, so that it no longer is a forum that represents only the developed countries.

On the other hand, the United Kingdom suggested that African countries might join the permanent members of the Council in addition to the G4. Its delegate expressed the prospect of achieving a gradual transformation by the mid-2020s, with changes to the permanent members of the Council as well.

Chapter 4: Agenda Issues

Two main issues will be set for discussion at this meeting.

①How should the seats of the Security Council be distributed

②The veto power

The following is a detailed explanation.

①　Composition of the UNSC

Participating delegates shall discuss the Security Council membership, keeping in mind the following points.

- Expansion of permanent and non-permanent members of the Council
    - Should both the permanent and non-permanent seats be expanded?
    - Should the expansion be limited to permanent/non-permanent seats?
    - Should the expansion not take place? Are there alternative options?
- Distribution of regions (or specific countries) among the members of the Council
- Timing of the election of new members and re-election
- Methodology for electing new members

②　Veto power

- Should the veto power be available for use in the future Council?
- If it should be available,
    - To whom should the veto be granted?
    - In what form should the veto be granted? Should the range of topics to which the veto can be used be limited? Should the Council temporarily suspend the use of veto by new permanent Member States, if new seats are to be added?
- If it should be abolished, would there be a similar/alternative function? What would be the difference between the current veto and the new function, and why should it be established?

Things to keep in mind

There are two things to keep in mind when discussing these issues.

1. Please refer to past documents and press releases such as those presented in this guide to understand the up-to-date proposals by countries about reforming the Security Council.
2. Delegates are also welcome to do their research and come up with imaginative, new proposals that they believe are in line with their country's position.

Out of Agenda

Anything that is not in line with these contents will be considered out-of-agenda. For example, this includes discussing how to improve the transparency of the council, and discarding the Security Council as a whole. If delegates wish to confirm whether their argument is subject to Out of Agenda, please email the organizing committee for specific instructions before the meeting. During the meeting, delegates should follow the Director's instructions.

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