

UNITED NATIONS HISTORICAL SECURITY COUNCIL



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**I. Letter from the chair**

Dear delegates,

It is a pleasure to invite you to our committee in this edition of Minimun. We are about to embark on a unique experience that will not only allow you to demonstrate your debating abilities, but also allow you to discuss situations from the past related to the committee's topic. We want to invite you to contribute to the topic by actively participating in the committee, and being involved in the discussions present inside of it.

As presidents, the biggest advice we want to give you is challenging yourselves by talking confidently, not being scared to make mistakes, accepting points of information, or trying to discuss with the other delegates present in the committee.

At the end of the day, Minimun is for you to practice for ASMUN, so we encourage you to make mistakes and learn freely in these debates. As your presidents we are open to helping you in anything you may need, so don't doubt on reaching out to us via our emails or WhatsApp.

We hope this serves as motivation, and good luck for everyone!

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## **I. About the United Nations Security Council**

### 2.1. What is it, and how does it work?

The Security Council is one of the six main organs established under the UN charter, with its main responsibilities being maintaining international peace and security, addressing

international threats, imposing sanctions and authorizing the use of force, including the deployment of peacekeeping missions.

The Security Council consists of five permanent members—The United States, The United Kingdom, China, Russia and France—and ten elected members, which have a two year term. The members meet regularly to assess threats that may disturb international security, including natural disasters, civil wars, arms proliferation, and terrorism. It aims to resolve these conflicts, avoiding the use of arms, under Chapter VI of the UN Charter, which authorizes the Security Council to investigate any dispute or situation which may lead to international conflicts. Additionally, Chapter VI of the UN Charter allows the Security Council to call on parties or countries to seek solutions via peaceful methods, such as negotiations.

To take action, the Security Council holds meetings where member states discuss and negotiate resolutions. Each member has one vote, and a resolution requires at least nine affirmative votes, including the concurring votes of all five permanent members, to pass. However, a veto from any of the permanent members can prevent a resolution from being adopted.

The Security Council's work is guided by the UN Charter, and its decisions have significant implications for international peace and security.

## 2.2. History

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was established on June 26, 1945, following the end of World War II and the creation of the United Nations (UN).

Throughout its history, the Security Council has played a crucial role in addressing various global conflicts and crises. It has the power to impose sanctions, authorize military interventions, and establish peacekeeping missions.

During the Cold War era, the Security Council was often deadlocked due to the rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union. However, it successfully managed to address several conflicts, such as the Korean War and the Suez Crisis. In recent times, the Security Council has been involved in addressing conflicts in regions like the Middle East, Africa, and Eastern Europe. It has authorized peacekeeping missions in countries like Haiti, Liberia, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Security Council's effectiveness and decision-making process have been subjects of debate. Some argue for the need to reform the Council to reflect the changing global landscape and to enhance its representativeness and transparency. Nevertheless, the United Nations Security Council remains an essential international body for maintaining peace and security by addressing conflicts and promoting diplomatic solutions to global challenges.

### 2.3. Vision and Mission

We seek to address threats to international security and to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace, and for the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace.

In order to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources, the Security Council shall be responsible for formulating, with the assistance of military assistance.

## 2.4. Structure

The United Nations Security Council is composed of 15 member countries. Out of these, five are permanent members with veto power: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The other ten members are elected by the General Assembly for two year terms, with five seats allocated to African and Asian

countries, one to Eastern European countries, two to Latin American and Caribbean countries, and two to Western European and other countries. The Security Council is responsible for maintaining international peace and security, and its decisions carry significant weight in matters such as imposing sanctions, authorizing peacekeeping missions, and taking action to address conflicts.

## 2.5. Movements and achievements

The United Nations Security Council has been responsible for addressing a wide range of international issues, including conflicts, peacekeeping efforts, sanctions, and diplomatic initiatives.

The Security Council has achieved several notable accomplishments since its establishment, including:

- Countering the financing of terrorism.
- Border security and arms trafficking.
- Law enforcement.
- Legal issues.
- Human rights.

- Integrating gender into counter-terrorism.
- Countering violent extremism and terrorist narratives.
- Information and communications technologies.

## **II. Topic A: The War Against Terrorism: Responses and Repercussions Caused by the 9/11 Incident**

### 3.1. Introduction of the topic

As the name suggests, the 9/11 incident occurred on September 11, 2001, turning out to be a massively significant event in modern history. It was a series of coordinated terrorist attacks directed by the extremist group of al-Qaeda.



(Rand)

On that morning, 19 terrorists hijacked four commercial flights from two different airlines. They were American Airlines Flights 11 and 77, and United Airlines Flights 93 and 175.

The first two planes, flights 11 and 175, were hijacked shortly after takeoff from Boston, And crashed into the North and South towers from the World Trade Center ("The Twin Towers") respectively (8:46 and 9:03 AM). The twin towers were two iconic skyscrapers located in lower Manhattan, in New York City, and were built between 1966 and 1977.

These collisions caused massive fires and structural damage, eventually leading to the towers collapsing at 9:59 and 10:28 AM respectively. This caused significant loss of life and debris that affected the surrounding area.





(National Geographic)

Meanwhile, at 9:37 AM, Flight 77 crashed into the "Pentagon" (The headquarters of the United States Department of Defense, located in Arlington, Virginia), ending with the lives of 125 people in the building and the 59 passengers onboard.

The fourth hijacked plane, United Airlines Flight 93, was intended for a target in Washington D.C., likely the White House or the Capitol. The passengers onboard in this flight, learned about the earlier attacks through phone calls and tried to regain control on the plane. They eventually crashed into a field in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, at 10:03 AM.

The aftermath of all these events, was nearly 3,000 lives ended taking into account passengers on planes, first responders, and civilians in the targeted areas.

### 3.1.1 Timeline of the Attacks:

September 11, 2001

7:59 AM- American Airlines Flight 11 takes off from Boston, headed for Los Angeles, California. There are 76 passengers, 11 crew members, and five hijackers on board.

8:15 AM- United Airlines Flight 175 takes off from Boston, also headed for Los Angeles.

There are 51 passengers, 9 crew members and 5 hijackers on board.

8:20 AM- American Airlines Flight 77 takes off from Dulles, just outside of Washington D.C, headed for Los Angeles. There are 53 passengers, 6 crew members, and 5 hijackers on board.

8:42 AM- United Airlines Flight 93 takes off from Newark, New Jersey, headed for San Francisco. There are 33 passengers, 7 crew members and 4 hijackers on board.

8:46 AM- Flight 11 crashes into the World Trade Center's North Tower (WTC). One of the hijackers had unintentionally alerted air control previously, and the Air National Guard had been mobilized to follow the plane. All passengers aboard Flight 11 were instantly killed, and employees of the WTC are trapped above the 91st floor. The New York City Fire Department arrives immediately to the scene, they are later joined by thousands of paramedics and police officers.

9:03 AM- Flight 175 crashes into the World Trade Center's South Tower. All passengers aboard are killed instantly, however the number of victims inside the tower remains unknown. This attack is televised.

9:37 AM- Flight 77 crashes into the Pentagon. All passengers are killed, and so are 125 civilian and military personnel in the building.

9:45 AM- US airspace is shut down under Operation Yellow Ribbon, and all civilian aircraft are ordered to land at the nearest airport. President George W. Bush had been previously informed.

9:59 AM- The South Tower of the World Trade Center collapses.

10:02 AM- Flight 93 plows into an empty field in Pennsylvania after passengers take control of the cockpit.

10:28 AM- The North Tower of the World Trade Center collapses.

5:30 PM- Building 7 of the World Trade Center collapses.

8:30 PM- President Bush addresses the nation.

### 3.2. Current Situation (Up Until 2004)

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 were followed by confusion, shock and sorrow from United States Citizens. The country suffered great economic loss, and organizations such as the Red Cross provided financial assistance to families that lost loved ones. Rescue and recovery efforts included more than 108,000 truckloads of debris and 1.8 millions tons of wreckage over a span of nine months. Additionally a huge amount of first responders, such as firefighters, paramedics and police officers, were lost in the rescue efforts.

The aftermath of the attacks set the American government into a series of changes, incorporating new safety features to buildings, hardening of fire suppression systems, and changing the architecture of upcoming constructions. However, the attacks brought on more than structural changes to the country. Declared by then president George W. Bush, “*A war against terror*”, the attack was taken as a declaration of war against islamist extremists. The attacks set off a huge wave of stigma against muslims, and it was the start of a long fight against terrorism.

Americans' support for military intervention grew in the weeks following the attack, believing that the country should intervene abroad, rather than building defenses at home. In October 2001, a month after the attack, Operation Enduring Freedom was sent into action, and a coalition led by the United States invaded Afghanistan, after al-Qaeda and the Taliban refused to turn Osama Bin Laden over. American and NATO troops fought alongside anti-Taliban groups known as the Northern Alliance, but despite fierce battles against extremists, Bin-Laden escaped capture and fled into neighboring country, Pakistan.

At the end of 2001, a transitional government was put in place, and to help support it the International Security Assistance Force, ISAF, was set up and led by the United Kingdom. A year later, ex-president Bush said that Afghanistan was now in a period of "*stability and stabilization and reconstruction activities*". However, support started growing towards the Taliban, and the country entered a period of uncertainty.



(Friends Committee on National Legislation)

In 2002, the United States' focus shifted towards Iraq, and in March 2003, US forces invaded Iraq, vowing to destroy Iraqi weapons of mass destruction and to put an end to the dictatorial rule of Saddam Hussein. U.S, British and other coalition forces quickly overwhelm the Iraqi army, and President Bush declares the end of major combat operations. However, after Hussein's sons are killed by U.S troops during a raid, combat once again escalated, and a suicide bomber sent to destroy UN headquarters in Iraq, murders Sérgio Vieira de Mello, UN special representative to Iraq, and twenty-two members of his staff. In December 2003, Saddam Hussein is captured by U.S troops.

### 3.3. Factors affected by the issue

Worldwide repercussions were seen after the 9/11 attacks, affecting innocent muslims who were targeted with stigma, families that lost relatives on 9/11 and the operations that followed it, and countless Afghans displaced from their homes after the invasion.

The displacement crisis that followed the 2001 Afghan invasion, left thousands of civilians displaced, as Pakistan kept a hardened stance and maintained their borders sealed, as did Afghanistan's neighbors. Tens of thousands of Afghans were trapped in places of danger, facing crossfire from both sides. This led to widespread poverty, lack of access to healthcare, and education and reduced quality of life significantly for Afghan citizens.

Additionally huge losses of life were seen in the attack and after it. Approximately 3,000 people died in the 9/11 attacks, including civilians and first responders, making it one of the deadliest terrorist acts in history. Afterwards, the war in Afghanistan resulted in significant military and civilian casualties, with estimates of tens of thousands of Afghan civilians and over 2,400 U.S. service members killed.

Globally, new and heightened security measures were implemented in airports, government buildings, and public spaces. Countries worldwide joined together in efforts to put a stop against terrorism and militia. Several countries were involved in the crises, as for the first time in NATO's history, Article 5 (collective defense) was invoked, leading to the participation of NATO allies in the invasion of Afghanistan.

Additionally the war and attacks, had huge economic impacts on the United States, as the invasion itself and the war that followed it has been estimated to cost over 2 trillion dollars. This number does not account for the trillions of dollars lost in the destruction of the North and South Towers, or the countless lives lost and affected in the aftermath.

Beyond this, the psychological impact and the destruction of both the United States and Afghanistan cannot be measured in terms. Nor can the social injustices, stigma, and countless other factors that followed afterwards.

#### 3.4. Glossary of terms

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Al-Qaeda</i></b></li> </ul>	<p>A broad-based militant Islamist organization founded by Osama bin Laden in the late 1980s, that became one of the world's most notorious terrorist organizations after carrying out the attacks of September 11, 2001.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Taliban</i></b></li> </ul>	<p>An Islamist militant group that emerged in the early 1990s in Afghanistan. They gained control of the country in 1996 and enforced strict Sharia law until being ousted by U.S. forces in 2001.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Sharia Law</i></b></li> </ul>	<p>Islamic law derived from the Quran and Hadith, which the Taliban enforced during their rule in Afghanistan, often in harsh and oppressive ways.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><i>World Trade Center</i></b></li> </ul>	<p>A complex of buildings in Lower Manhattan, New York City, that was the site of the primary attacks on 9/11, resulting in the collapse of the Twin Towers.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><i>Pentagon</i></b></li> </ul>	<p>The headquarters of the United States Department of Defense, which was attacked on 9/11 when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into it.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><i>Islamic Extremism</i></b></li> </ul>	<p>A form of fundamentalist ideology that seeks to impose strict interpretations of Islam and can lead to acts of violence and terrorism.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><i>Operation Enduring Freedom</i></b></li> </ul>	<p>The U.S.-led military operation launched in October 2001 in response to the 9/11 attacks, aimed at dismantling Al-Qaeda and removing the Taliban from power.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><i>War on Terror</i></b></li> </ul>	<p>A global campaign launched by the United States and its allies to combat terrorism, particularly following the 9/11 attacks. It includes military, political, and economic efforts to prevent terrorist activities.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><i>International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)</i></b></li> </ul>	<p>A NATO-led security mission in Afghanistan established to train Afghan forces and assist in maintaining security following the overthrow of the Taliban.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b><i>NATO</i></b></li> </ul>	<p>A military alliance formed in 1949, NATO invoked</p>



	<p>Article 5 after the 9/11 attacks, marking it as an attack on all member states. It supported the U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan, participating in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to combat terrorism and promote stability. The countries involved in this operation, include the US, the UK, Canada, Germany, and France.</p>
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### 3.5. Guiding questions

1. What modifications did the USA's military strategies see after the 9/11 incident?
2. What impact did the attacks have in the Arabic and Muslim communities in the USA?
3. What economic implications did the aviation sector face after the incident?
4. What role did the media play in the attack's effect on the public opinion?
5. How did the incident change society's opinion on the Arabic and muslim communities?
6. How were the USA's immigration policies affected in response to the incident?

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## **V. Expectations & recommendations from the chair**

The chair expects all delegates to come prepared beforehand and to act accordingly to the situation at hand, one that affects political, social and economic aspects. The chair expects delegates to treat the situation accordingly, acting with respect and authority, understanding the seriousness of the issue at hand. Moreover it expects delegates to make structured interventions, ones that affect the trajectory of the committee.

Additionally the chair would like to remind delegates that this is a Historical Security Council, so all articles, news, and other reliable sources cited and used must be issued or said before 2004. However, it is still highly encouraged to use and cite information as it will greatly support delegate's interventions and make them more reliable and trustworthy.

The chair also recommends investigating and exploring all aspects of this very broad conflict at hand, so the debate can proceed in an open and fluent manner. Moreover, it encourages delegates to prepare interventions that support the country's position whilst also giving insight into other countries' position on the conflict. The chair wants to invite you to investigate other countries' stance on the topic, as it will help you come more prepared and will give way to a fluent debate.

We will also like to encourage delegates, if the situation presents itself, to treat crises as your delegation will see fit, using the crisis to your delegations advantage.

Below you can find a text referring to each delegation's position on the matter at hands, and their viewpoint on the crisis. This was created with the intention of helping you establish a firm foundation for your speech and your role throughout the debate. We recommend you to read your delegation's position as well as the other ones, to inform and prepare yourselves.

Following all these recommendations, the chair expects to have an heartening and fulfilling debate, where all delegates can and will participate.

## 5.1. Countries' Positions

### **Canada:**

Canada's position on the 9/11 attacks was one of solidarity with the United States and a commitment to combating terrorism. Following the attacks, Canada participated in the U.S.-led coalition to invade Afghanistan in October 2001, viewing the operation as necessary to dismantle Al-Qaeda and remove the Taliban from power. Throughout the mission, Canada contributed significant military and humanitarian resources, with over 40,000 Canadian Forces members deployed over the course of the conflict. The country emphasized the importance of rebuilding Afghanistan and supporting its people in achieving stability and security.

### **China:**

China condemned the 9/11 attacks and expressed solidarity with the U.S., emphasizing its own fight against terrorism, particularly concerning separatist movements in Xinjiang. During the war in Afghanistan, China supported efforts to stabilize the country while advocating for Afghan sovereignty. Being a longtime ally of Iraq, China opposed the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, arguing that it lacked a clear mandate from the United Nations and violated international law. They called for a peaceful negotiation and diplomatic solutions, arguing that violence was not the answer.

### **Egypt:**

Egypt sided with the United States after 9/11, however they received huge backlash and criticism from the public, seeing as one of the hijackers, the planner behind the operation,

was Egyptian. However, the Egyptian government denounced terrorism in all its forms, emphasizing the need for international cooperation to combat extremism. Egypt increased its cooperation with the U.S. on security issues and counterterrorism measures after the attacks.

### **Germany:**

The German government expressed solidarity with the United States and offered support in the fight against terrorism. In the wake of the attacks, Germany enhanced its security measures and committed to cooperating with the U.S. and NATO in counterterrorism efforts. However, the 9/11 plot planning had its headquarters in Hamburg, Germany, where all the leaders were based.

Regarding the invasion of Afghanistan, Germany participated in the U.S.-led military operation as part of NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). German troops were deployed to assist in stabilizing Afghanistan and rebuilding efforts.

### **Russia:**

Even as long time enemies, Russia's position on the 9/11 attacks was one that sided with the United States. Russia, and its president Vladimir Putin, offered to cooperate in the fight against terrorism, emphasizing the need for a united global response to extremism.

While Russia did not actively oppose the U.S.-led invasion in 2001, Russia was wary of long-term U.S. military presence in the region, seeing it as a potential threat to its own interests. However, Russia publicly opposed the US invasion of Iraq stating that it lacked mandates from the UN and violated international laws.

### **Saudi Arabia:**

Even though 15 out of 19 hijackers were from Saudi Arabia, they distanced themselves from the hijackers, pledging cooperation with the U.S. in counterterrorism efforts. They also supported the invasion of Afghanistan seeing it as necessary to dismantle future al-Qaeda operations. They provided logical support and humanitarian assistance, though they opposed the Iraq invasion, fearing it would lead to regional instability and sectarian conflict.

### **Pakistan:**

Pakistan condemned the 9/11 attacks and expressed solidarity with the United States. Following the attacks, Pakistan became a key ally in the U.S.-led War on Terror, offering logistical support and intelligence cooperation. The Pakistani government faced internal pressure, as many citizens opposed U.S. intervention in Afghanistan. They supported the invasion of Afghanistan, however they did not accept Afghan refugees into their countries, fearing that, even though they received financial support, this will be taken away and they will be left with no way to support the massive influx of refugees. They opposed the Iraq invasion, stating that it would bring even more instability to the region, calling for a diplomatic solution.

### **France:**

France supported the United States thoroughly after the attacks, offering support in the fight against terrorism. Furthermore, French forces participated in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and contributed to stabilization and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan. However, they too, opposed the Iraq invasion, arguing that it lacked a clear mandate from the United Nations and warning of potential regional destabilization. They called for diplomatic solutions, straining their longtime alliance with the United States.

