The Security Council (SC)

Topic: Addressing Territorial disputes and Maritime Militarization in the South China sea

General Overview: The South China Sea (SCS) is one of the most contested maritime regions in the world, being one of the most important locations for global trade, with over one-third of global trade passing through it, as well as vast crude oil reserves, granting it significant economic and political value.

In 1947, China established an "eleven-dash" line, and later, in 1952, under the new Communist government, it was reduced to a nine-dash line. Yet, this mapping still claimed over 90% of the SCS's territory for its own. In 1994, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) was put into effect, a UN legal mechanism that regulates maritime claims. Soon after its establishment, the UNCLOS allowed for the organization of the SCS into Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZs) for coastal states, such as Brunei, Vietnam, Malaysia, and the Philippines. However, these regulations went directly against Chinas historical claims. In 2016, an international tribunal ruled in favour of the Philippines, decreeing that China's "nine-dash" line had no legal basis and that several of China's actions violated the sovereignty of the Philippines by infringing on their territorial claims. China later declared this ruling "null and void". Since the ruling, particularly in 2024-2025, tensions between the two nations remain high as China sought to reinforce its territorial and maritime claims by building artificial islands, as well as using water cannons, laser equipment, and dangerous manoeuvres against the Philippines patrol and supply vessels.

The United States (US) has also involved itself in the conflict, framing its presence as a defence of international law. The US has reaffirmed its Mutual Defence Treaty with the Philippines, as well as continued freedom of navigation operations (FONOPs). The Security Council (SC) has struggled heavily to act on this issue, as more pressing matters overcame the importance of the SCS, such as the war in Gaza. China's talks with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on establishing a binding code of conduct have been advancing slowly, with disputes over enforcement mechanisms, the role of external powers, and the geographic scope. While talks are advancing, many changes must be made in order to achieve regional stability in the SCS. Strategies include de-escalation of military tensions, ways to implement and uphold international law, and to protect the rights and interests of smaller nations.

The Security Council (SC)

Topic: Addressing the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the threat to international peace and security

General Overview:

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine represents one of the most severe threats to international peace since the end of the Cold War. The humanitarian toll has resulted in at least 150,000 confirmed named deaths by 2025, as well as 3.7 million internally displaced people

(IDPs) and 6.9 million externally displaced people. The 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine has left many countries economically shocked.

Tensions between Russia and Ukraine span decades. After the USSR dissolved in 1991, and Ukraine gained its independence, Russia provided security assurances to Ukraine in exchange for Ukraine giving up its nuclear weapons in 1994. However, in 2014, more than a decade after its establishment, Russia illegally invaded and annexed the Crimean region. Moreover, since the 2000s, Ukraine has made an effort to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which Russia believes directly threatens its safety. Before the war started, Russia asked for a guarantee from NATO not to include Ukraine in 2021. Then, on the 24th of February 2022, Russia launched a full-scale military invasion of Ukraine, calling it a "special military operation". The invasion is widely considered a breach of Article 2(4) of the UN charter, which caused the UN to immediately attempt to pass a resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire and the withdrawal of Russian troops. A resolution that garnered 11 votes for, 3 abstentions, and a veto from Russia in the UNSC. In the following 7 months, Russia annexed crucial regions of Ukraine, such as Donetsk, Luhansk, Kherson, and Zaporizhzhia. The SC held over 50 meetings on the topic in 2022 alone, with Russia vetoing a resolution 4 times. Russia now controls roughly a fifth of Ukraine.

While efforts to end the war diplomatically have been made, Russian usage of the veto has paralysed these efforts, highlighting the flaws with the veto system in the Security Council, which creates an increasing demand for Security Council reform. Meanwhile, the conflict's consequences have reached far beyond Eastern Europe, disrupting global grain and energy supplies, while also triggering one of the largest refugee crises in European history, as well as escalating nuclear tensions.

The Security Council (SC)

Topic: Addressing the Civil War and Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen

General Overview:

Yemen has been described as one of the worst humanitarian crises in the world, the result of a decade-long civil war fuelled by external involvement, making the Civil War more of a Proxy War. The cause of Yemen's political instability is the product of the unification of North and South Yemen in 1990, which left political, tribal, and religious tensions unresolved, creating a fragile political environment that later sparked a civil war.

The conflict escalated in 2014, after the Houthi movement, a rebel group from northern Yemen backed by Iran, swept southward, capturing the Yemeni capital Sana'a and causing the internationally recognised government's representatives to flee. Afterward, a Saudi-backed Arab military coalition stepped in on behalf of the prior government, at the request of the president, Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi. This coalition launched multiple air and naval campaigns to restore the government's authority; however, this had the opposite effect on the government, drawing the nation into a fully-fledged civil war. The intervention only prolonged the conflict, causing many to recognise the civil war as a proxy between Iran and Saudi Arabia and the Sunni-Shia.

The Security Council has been engaged in Yemen since 2015, passing resolution 2216, putting into place sanctions and an arms embargo on the Houthis. However, enforcement of the embargo has been inconsistent, hence the continuation of the war. In April 2022, the UN mediated a truce, which resembled the most diplomatic progress in years; that truce expired in October 2022 without renewal. The frontlines remain mostly frozen; however, with the situation in the Middle East growing more complex, the Houthis launched attacks and strikes on shipping in the Red Sea in solidarity with Gaza. This triggered US and UK airstrikes from 2024-2025, internationalising the conflict further. In December 2025, the Southern Transitional Council (STC), backed by the UAE, swarmed and seized a large chunk of southern Yemen, including multiple ports, before being pushed back by Saudi forces in January 2026.