

HANDBOOK



CONGRESMUN XII





UNITED NATIONS SECURITY
COUNCIL



HANDBOOK



Presentation of the Committee

Dear representatives:

It is a pleasure to give you the warmest welcome to the Model United Nations, organized by the Honorable Congress of the Union, the 12th edition, CONGRESMUN 2019, and, above all to the United Nations Security Council. As hosts of this Model UN, we hope that this committee will represent a challenge for experienced delegates.

The Security Council interventions throughout the years have been vital to ensure the survivability of humankind, such a great and distinguished institution represents a challenge for everyone, delegates and chair, but we firmly believe to have the necessary, both academically and protocolary to provide the future delegates with a memorable and delightful experience. History can teach us important lessons there and now, but to learn these, we must know the mistakes of past leaders. Our goal is to provide each Delegate with the opportunity to bring their best arguments, their finest negotiations methods and the deterrent rhetoric characteristics of a diplomat to discuss and find viable solutions for our topics.

The knowledge that these exercises give us is not only dead prose, during these days you will have the opportunity to develop skills and attitudes that will be of great help, not only for academic purpose, but also for life. Either argue better, lose the fear of speaking in public or being able to lead a discussion in a diplomatic way, among others.

If you have any questions, please reach out to us and we will try to answer as soon as possible. In the following pages, you will find an overview of both topics. Please prepare with the necessary anticipation, for us to have the high-quality debate that is expected in the greatest Model of the country.

Sincerely yours,



The United Nations Security Council

Isaac A. García Serrano
President

David Marañón Campi
Moderator

Pablo Viñas Maguey
Conference Officer



Introduction to the Committee

The UN Charter established the Security Council as one of the United Nations' principal organs on January 17, 1946. It is considered to be the UN's executive organ and bears primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. Because of that, UN Member States are obliged to comply with resolutions of the Council; in other words, the Council's resolutions are binding. As testament to the Security Council's paramount position on security matters, the General Assembly is prohibited from making recommendations regarding a situation or dispute that the Council is exercising its functions over, unless requested by the Council.¹

Under the Charter, the Security Council's powers of dispute resolution fall into two broad categories. Chapter VI of the Charter provides for the Pacific Settlement of Disputes, this include calling on parties to resolve disputes peacefully (or recommending means by which they may do so) and investigating any dispute or situation to determine whether it is likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security. Under Chapter VII, the Security Council is able to take action in response to threats to the peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression.²

Upon determining that such a situation exists, the Council can recommend measures to be undertaken; such measures may or may not involve the use of armed force. Along with the right to self-defense under Article 51 of the Charter, this is generally regarded as the only other instance where States can legitimately use force.³ This highlights the particular importance of the Security Council in questions of peace and security.

The Security Council also has several roles under the Charter including recommending new members to the General Assembly and in the appointment of the Secretary-General and Justices of the International Court of Justice (ICJ), demonstrating its broader organizational significance. Along with the General Assembly, the Security Council also enjoys a general power to request advisory opinions from the ICJ (whereas other UN agencies can only request advice on matters within their remit).⁴

¹ UN. (1946). Charter of The United Nations. from the United Nations website: <http://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/>

² Ibid,

³ Ibid, Chapter VII

⁴ ibid, Article 49



In practice, the Security Council's powers extend beyond the Charter. It has an 'interpretive function' in clarifying the meaning of various parts of the UN Charter. It can also order peacekeeping measures under the so-called 'Chapter Six and a half' of the Charter.

Structure

The Security Council has 15 members, divided into the 5 permanent members and 5 non-permanent members. The five victorious powers (or their successor states) from the Second World Conflict: China, France, the Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States of America, who hold permanent seats. They can also veto substantive decisions, but not procedural decisions. While the wording of the Charter is ambiguous, the Council has adopted the practice of treating abstentions as not constituting a veto; hence, to veto a resolution a P5 member must vote negatively. The other 10 (initially six) members have two-year terms and lack veto powers. These members are selected by a General Assembly vote. Selection criteria include contribution to international security and other organizational purposes as well as equitable geographical representation. The 10 members for the year 2019 are:

Country	Regional Group	Term
Belgium	Western Europe & Others	2020
Dominican Republic	Latin America & the Caribbean	2020
Cote D'Ivoire	Africa	2019
Equatorial Guinea	Africa	2019
Germany	Western Europe & Others	2020
Indonesia	Asia-Pacific	2020
Kuwait	Asia-Pacific	2019
Peru	Latin America & the Caribbean	2019
Poland	Eastern Europe	2019
South Africa	Africa	2020



Topic A. The territorial expansion of Russia: Crimea and Georgia

Since the fall of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic (USSR) most of the Russian nationals were facing a shocking and unexpected outcome of the Cold War, communism failed. Many countries fell apart and the Union was disintegrated by the external pressure and the whole eastern bloc fell with.

Many of those which had dedicated their lives to the enrichment of the USSR were upset and poverty and misery spread the seed of resentment among the young that constantly heard the stories of the glory days of the Soviet Union. These generations that lived through the perestroika politics⁵ and instability were unable to understand and accept the weakness of the government of Boris Yeltsin. It was among this political fog that a former spy managed to erect his figure as a powerful beacon for the Russian people: Vladimir Putin.

Putin was elected as president on the 7th of May of 2000⁶, ever since he has worked to regain the former glory and power of the Soviet Union. After addressing the most immediate economic concerns of the Russian Government, Putin look at another sphere where Russia was not the worthy heir of the once mighty Soviet Union, military. During his second mandate as President of the Russian Federation, Putin focused his efforts in making a powerful army.

After a period as Prime Minister of Russia between 2008 and 2012, Putin returned to the presidential office to continue its labor to make Russia a superpower. During this period a former Soviet Republic had a territorial dispute with Russia. The president Medvedev ordered to attack the Georgian forces and after a brief battle Russia gained new territory. Energetics were key to the success of Russia, owning nearly a quarter of the world oils reserves, the Russian government aimed to approach the main consumer of energetics in Europe, Germany, and they managed to do so.⁷

⁵ The concept “Perestroika” can be define as the summary of political, economic and social reforms implemented by Mijail Gorbachev during the last days of the Soviet Union before the disintegration in January 1992; these reforms to the Soviet society harm many sectors of the population and caused general instability.

⁶ Reuters Staff. (2008). *TIMELINE: Vladimir Putin's 8 years as Russian president*. From Reuters, website: <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-russia-election-putin/timeline-vladimir-putins-8-years-as-russian-president-idUSL2890991520080228>.

⁷ Clifford Krauss. (2017). *Russia Uses Its Oil Giant, Rosneft, as a Foreign Policy Tool*. From The New York Times website: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/10/29/business/energy-environment/russia-venezuela-oil-rosneft.html>.



Shortly after the Winter Olympics in Sochi (2014), Russian troops invaded Ukraine raising alarms in every western country and especially amongst Russia's neighbors in the Baltic region.⁸ Now Russia has regained actual territory lost during the Soviet disintegration. This was a turning point for the Western countries, both the United States and the European Union (EU) imposed sanctions against Russian companies, people and the government itself. Now, after the election of Donald Trump as president of the United States and the fading of the US presence, is up to the rest of the International community, to stop the Russian expansionism.

Conflict analysis

I. Georgia

A former soviet Republic was escalating the bellic rhetoric and claimed to have lost territories that belonged to them, Georgia had a territorial dispute with Russia over some enclaves in Southern Ossetia; it started on August 7, 2008. The fighting began in South Ossetia, with the Battle of Tskhinvali, and later spread to other regions of Georgia and the Black Sea.⁹

The first clashes occurred when Georgian President, Mikhail Saakashvili, ordered his army to regain control of the Ossetian enclave, de facto independent since 1992, but described by Georgia as a rebel and de jure member of its territory that put an end to the Georgian Civil War. Russian peace forces were present in the Separatist Republic. These troops took arms from the side of Ossetia shortly after the fighting broke out, as well as new divisions of the Russian army that crossed the international border constituting, according to Georgia, an implicit declaration of war against their country.

On the same side, Russians and South Ossetians participated forces of the breakaway republic of Abkhazia, both in South Ossetia, sending volunteers to fight the Georgians, as in Abkhazia itself.¹⁰ Eventually the conflict media cover died out, Russia had clashed the local Georgian forces and gained an important role in the Eurasian

⁸ Piotr Szymanski. (2015). *Between continuation and adaptation: The Baltic states' security policy and armed forces*. From Osrodek Studiów Wschodnich website: <https://www.osw.waw.pl/en/publikacje/osw-commentary/2015-11-24/between-continuation-and-adaptation-baltic-states-security>

⁹ Fernández Rodrigo. (2008). *Guerra abierta entre Rusia y Georgia*. From El País website: https://elpais.com/diario/2008/08/10/internacional/1218319201_850215.html

¹⁰ Redondo Eugenia. (2008). *Osetia del Sur: cómo entender una guerra en curso*. From Soitu News website: http://www.soitu.es/soitu/2008/08/08/actualidad/1218214670_994790.html



politics, the western democracies payed little attention to what would be the precursor to the invasion and annexation of Crimea several years later. But the long-term effects are evident across the Georgian territory, the repercussions are still tangible in the local population, that according to the 2018 “*Countries in transit*” report made by Freedom House, is still in a transition between the oppressive Soviet Regime and a new form of government, nevertheless the economic indicators are not favorable to this nation.¹¹

II. Ukraine

The European Union had an economic and social propose to the eastern non-EU members, a treaty of association named the Eastern Partnership. This project aimed to provide the post-Soviet states access and guarantees to the European market, without being part of the EU itself. However, the president of Ukraine, Viktor Yanukovich, refused to sign the agreement due to pressure from the pro-Russian side that saw this approach to the EU as dangerous for the Ukraine-Russia relationships. The treaty was going to be signed in Vilnius, in November of 2013.¹²

Riots and anarchy spread all over the country due to the extreme polarization of the political life, militias that remained dormant ever since the collapse of the Soviet Union raised again and their goal was to overthrow the government of Yanukovich, this happened on the 22nd of February 2014. Shortly after the coup, Russian ground forces invaded the country to help the pro-Russian side. This ended up being the annexation of the southern territory of Ukraine, Crimea, a Russian ethnically enclave located in the Black Sea.¹³

On March 16, 2014, still under Russian occupation, the autonomous government of Crimea held a referendum to vote either in favor of leaving Ukraine and become part of Russia or to remain as Ukrainian territory. Many in the international community claimed that the results were manipulated and the referendum itself was illegal.¹⁴ That same month, with the protest of the EU and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), members of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea joined the

¹¹ Freedom House (2018) *Countries in transit: Georgia*. From Freedom House, website: https://freedomhouse.org/sites/default/files/NiT2018_Georgia_final.pdf

¹² Gutierrez del Cid, Ana Teresa (abril-junio 2017) Las claves del conflicto entre Rusia y Occidente después de Crimea y el conflicto con Ucrania. *Foro Internacional*. LVII (2), pp. 365

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ Frizell, Sam (2014) *Crimea votes to leave Ukraine for Russia*. From the Time Magazine, website: <http://time.com/26537/crimea-ukraine-russia-referendum-results/>



Russian Federation. The UN General Assembly via Resolution 68/262 condemn the action.

The conflicts and the UNSC

I. Georgia

The United Nations Security Council, summoned urgently by Russia, failed to agree on a declaration on the Georgian attack in South Ossetia. Both Russia and the United States as well as the European Union, amongst others, called for a peaceful solution to the conflict in their statements.¹⁵ Some analysts believe that this conflict was planned by Georgia to be able to enter NATO, since in order to be a member of this organization, a state cannot have territorial problems pending solution. According to them, it is not ruled out therefore that Abkhazia is the next goal of Georgia.

On August 13, Colonel General Anatoli Nogovitsin, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Russian Armed Forces, showed at a conference a map of Abkhazia, found by the Abkhaz forces, with detailed schemes of invasion of that republic. According to Nogovitsin, Russia's intervention would have aborted the Georgian offensive. On August 8 (August 7 according to Georgia) Russia sent reinforcements to help Russian peacekeepers, who suffered heavy losses (around 13 dead and 70 wounded). Russia accused Georgian peacekeepers of firing at Russian colleagues.

On August 12, Dmitri Medvedev decreed the end of Russian military operations in Georgian territory and subsequently accepted the peace plan proposed by the European Union, which entailed the withdrawal of both sides to positions prior to the beginning of the conflict.¹⁶ On the same day, Georgia filed a complaint against Russia in the International Court of Justice, for violation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

¹⁵ Zamora, Daniel. (2008). *El Consejo Europa llama al diálogo para evitar más violencia en Osetia del Sur*. From Terra News website: <https://archive.is/20120629223752/http://terranoticias.terra.es/internacional/articulo/consejo-europa-osetia-sur-2673396.htm>.

¹⁶ Bocharov Ruchei. (2008). *President of Russia Dmitry Medvedev signed a plan to resolve the Georgian-South Ossetian conflict, based on the six principles previously agreed on*. From Government of the Russian Federation, website <https://web.archive.org/web/20080914071231/http://www.kremlin.ru/eng/text/news/2008/08/205406.shtml>.



II. Ukraine

“Actual Russia’s goals remain with the goals of the Soviet Union, primarily territorial expansionism, and Russian tactics and technology have involved greatly since the collapse of the USSR”¹⁷, said Volodymyr Yelchenko, Ukrainian UN ambassador. The four yearlong crisis began in 2014 with the unmarked and unidentified Russian soldiers armed with current and modern weapons driving immense war vehicles.¹⁸ Soldiers seized key sites and Russian Government took power of the Crimean parliament, pro-Russian government gave a referendum over stay in Ukraine or join Russia, the Crimea’s referendum was not recognized officially by the international community; then, on March 18 Crimea’s annexation process to the Russian Federation began.

The Russian forces were sent by Viktor Yanukovych, pro-Russian’s president, and they began an armed conflict against the forces of the Ukrainian government. According to Yelchenko and some other Ukrainian Government workers declarations, they suspected that these Russian strategies have been used all around the world, to influence foreign governments and democratic elections.¹⁹

Moreover, economically speaking, Crimea’s Peninsula annexation to Russia brought many losses to Ukrainian companies; “There is an economic war between Ukraine and Russia since the last months of 2014,” a group of Ukrainian enterprises said to UNIAN Report website.

Years later, on March of 2018, Russia accused Ukrainian border guards of illegally seizing a Crimean-fishing vessel, Vladimir Gorbenko, vessel’s captain was taken to a court in Kherson and Ukraine for violating the entry patterns from the occupied territory. This is a clear example of the economic conflict. For 2016 to 2017 there was a jurisdiction of The Hague Court which ordered Russia to compensate Ukrainian companies for \$159 million total losses, the Court of Arbitration ordered

¹⁷ Yelchenko, Volodymyr. (2018). *Ukrainian ambassador to UN talks Crimean crisis*. From UNIAN Politics, website: <https://www.unian.info/politics/10069910-ukraine-parliament-passes-in-first-reading-draft-law-on-national-security.html>

¹⁸ Hristov, Kris. (2018). *All human life is precious. One death is a tragedy*. From The Daily Princetonian, website: <http://www.dailyprincetonian.com/article/2018/04/ukrainian-ambassador-to-the-un-talks-crimean-crisis>

¹⁹ Bowman, Karlyn (2017). *Things that could stop the next elections*. From Forbes Magazine website: <https://www.forbes.com/#3e6caef92254>



Russia to pay 18 Ukrainian businesses.²⁰ Russia's Justice Ministry retired the jurisdiction: "The Russian Federation doesn't recognize the aforementioned decision because the arbitration lacks jurisdiction in considering the case".²¹

Possible actions

The council can take several actions in these topics, one of them can be a resolution with an open condemn to the Russian actions (which is not likely to pass due to the Russian veto power). Other alternative could be to express in a declaration the legitimacy of the Russian actions; and a third possible outcome (out of countless more) could be to call upon the International Court of Justice to review the case.

Guide Questions

1. Is Your delegation a major trading partner of the Russian Federation?
2. Does Your delegation condemn the annexation of Crimea? Why or why not?
3. According to the International Right, was the annexation of Southern Ossetia legal?
4. According to the International Right, was the annexation of Crimea legal?
5. Is the grow of the Russian Sphere of Influence worrying for Your Delegation?
6. How must the International community react to these acts of aggression?
7. Economic sanctions are slowing down the Russian expansion? If so, should there be an increase of them?

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- The Washington Post. *The Washington Post*. [On-line]. Available at: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/>. Consulted on September 12, 2018.

²⁰ Scherbak, Alexander (2018). *Russia Rejects Court Ruling to Compensate Ukrainian Firms for Crimea Annexation*. From The Moscow Times website: <https://themoscowtimes.com/news/russia-rejects-court-ruling-compenste-ukrainian-firms-for-crimea-annexation-61425>

²¹ Konovalov, Alexander (2018). *Arbitration Lacks Jurisdiction*. From the Russian Government website: <http://government.ru/en/department/99/events/>





- The New York Times. *The New York Times*. [On-line]. Available at: <https://www.nytimes.com>. Consulted on September 14, 2018.
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Topic B. The situation in Western Sahara

One of the purposes of the United Nations established in Chapter 1 Article 1 section 2 of the UN Charter is, “respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination”.²² Based on the above, the UN has implemented actions to favor the decolonization of territories that demand sovereignty; the territories were mainly located in Africa, Asia and the Americas. The duty of tracking the progress on a peaceful decolonization is still in charge of the Trusteeship Council with help and occasional intervention of the United Nations Security Council.

The UNSC has intervened on several occasions to follow up the decolonization processes, mainly those that involve conflicts. One of them is the former region of the Spanish Sahara. Today this territory is divided between the independent move of the Polisario front who proclaims and defends the Arab Sahrawi Democratic Republic and the Kingdom of Morocco, who claims this territory.²³

The conflict began in 1967, the Arab Saharawi Democratic Republic was a Spanish Colony; in there was an independence propose of the UN. However, the disputes on that territory by Spain, Mauritania and Morocco stop the forum discussion on this topic. On November 5, 1975, just when the Spanish dictator Francisco Franco was agonizing, Hassan II from Morocco launched the “Green March” with more than 350,000 civilians that demanded the Spanish administration to leave the Sahara territory under Morocco and Mauritania.

The march accomplished its objectives and in November 14 of the same year, they signed the Madrid Agreement. Spain ceded the Administration of Western Sahara to Mauritania and Morocco, but not its sovereignty. The same Spanish delegation declares, “They cannot deliver to another country something that is not from them, but is from the people”.²⁴ This was supported by an opinion established by the International Court of Justice; after analyzing the case with evidence brought from Mauritania and Morocco, did not found any sovereignty relation between the past

²² United Nations. (1945). *Charter of the United Nations*, from United Nations, website: <http://www.un.org/es/charter-united-nations/index.html>

²³ United Nations. (1960). *Declaración sobre la concesión de la independencia a los países y pueblos coloniales*. from United Nations website: <http://www.un.org/es/decolonization/declaration.shtml>

²⁴ Rosa Meneses. (2015). *La Marcha Verde: 40 años de una herida abierta en el Sáhara Occidental*. 18/06/2018, from el Mundo ES website: <http://www.elmundo.es/cultura/2015/11/06/563a6cf5ca47418d378b457a.html>



countries and the people of Western Sahara.²⁵ The last declaration of the Spanish delegation was in 1976, when the Polisario front declares the Arab Sahrawi Democratic Republic. The declaration caused annoyance on Morocco and Mauritania, creating a bellic conflict that still exists today.

The Polisario Front is a revolutionary movement for the autonomy of the Western Sahara, created in 1973 to combat the Spanish occupation, now fights against the Moroccan occupation, by the Saharawi people's self-determination to the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic.

Furthermore, in the conflict, from one side, the Polisario front defended the sovereignty of the Arab Sahrawi Democratic Republic on the full territory of the former Spanish Sahara. The Front and the Republic have the support of Algeria and the African Union but doesn't achieve a high level of international recognition. On the other side, Mauritania surrendered its efforts on the Western Sahara, leaving Morocco alone, who claims the complete annexation of the territory and since the signing of the Madrid Agreements, has a fact administration, but not a one of right.

On April the 29 of 1991 the UNSC established the "Mission of the United Nations for the referendum of Western Sahara." There was a mission lead from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations; it has the objective to settle a referendum that decides the destiny of the Western Sahara. Nonetheless, even with the promises and international pressure, Morocco has delayed the date for this referendum and meanwhile is keeping a military occupation over the country.²⁶

Conflict's background

The history of the Western Sahara began with the African colonialism. In 1884, Spain colonized the Western Sahara territory, they had control for 74 years, and in 1958, they proclaimed the "Spanish Sahara". During this time, the entire African continent was under control of European countries, and the situation worried the United Nations organs, so they began to launch their stabilization and liberation missions in Africa.²⁷

²⁵ International Court of Justice. (1975). *Case relative to the Western Sahara*. from United Nations website: <http://www.iri.edu.ar/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/fallo-sahara.pdf>

²⁶ United Nations. (1991). *La preparación de una elección*. MINURSO website: <http://www.un.org/es/peacekeeping/missions/minurso/>

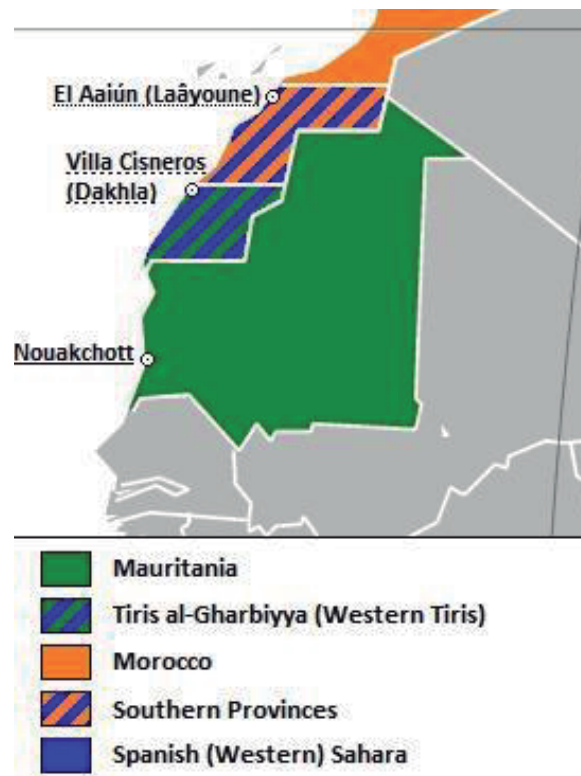
²⁷ Morrethy Inc. (2008). *The Western Sahara Conflict, Explained*. From Morrethy, website: <https://www.patreon.com/Morrethy>





One of the most important nations in the Western Sahara is Morocco which gained its independence from Spain in 1956. Since that, Morocco seized the Western Sahara region, and a fight for control began between Morocco, Mauritania, and Spain. The conflict lasted a couple of years, and by 1973, another part entered to the conflict: the Polisario Front. Moreover, the Marroquin forces are trying to establish a new colonial rule over this territory. Ever since that day, the Western Sahara is under warfare between Spain, Morocco, and Mauritania, trying to confront Polisario Front.

As we mentioned, the International Court of Justice determined that both, Mauritania and Morocco had the same rights over the Western Sahara region, so they signed the “Tripartite Agreement of Madrid” in 1975, the repartition of the territory can be seen on the following map. Nevertheless, when Spain, Morocco, and Mauritania signed the accords, they did not count with the violent presence of the Polisario Front.²⁸



Map: Claims on Western Sahara.²⁹

²⁸ Human Rights Watch World Report. (2017). *Freedom of Assembly and Association*. From Annual World Report, website: <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2017/country-chapters/morocco/western-sahara>

²⁹ The Map: Claims on Western Sahara, was obtained from: http://www.wikiwand.com/en/Tiris_al-Gharbiyya



The UNSC efforts on Western Sahara

The United Nations, during the Sixties, first took measures to achieve the independence of the territories of the Western Sahara from Spain; nevertheless, as we mentioned in last paragraphs, the regional interests for territory and resources, pushed the Kingdom of Morocco to occupy and seize the territory.

Since the Madrid Accords of 1975, a part of Western Sahara, most of the Saharan territory, has been administered by Morocco as their “Southern Provinces”. The Polisario Front administers the East part of the country, mostly desert wasteland, this region is known as the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR). Lastly, Mauritania administers temporally the western half of the Ras Nouadhibou Peninsula. Currently, the body responsible for mediating the dispute is the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara. A cease-fire, monitored by the UN, has been in effect since September 1991.³⁰

The Madrid agreement, signed on November 14, 1975, between the representatives of Spain, Morocco and Mauritania; was the political declaration stating that Spain would transfer the administration of the territory (but not sovereignty) to a temporary tripartite administration composed of Spain, Morocco and Mauritania. The agreement does not yet have international legal recognition.³¹ In practice, the Madrid Agreement contradicted the law of decolonization of the Sahara, ratified by the Spanish Parliament on November 18, because, according to the document, the Western Sahara would not be decolonized but would remain a non-autonomous territory, now occupied by Morocco and Mauritania.

While no other country has ever recognized Morocco's unilateral annexation of Western Sahara, several countries, like France, Saudi Arabia and Poland have expressed their support for a future recognition of Moroccan sovereignty over the territory as an autonomous part of the Kingdom, but this proposes have never been

³⁰ Visram, Nizar. (2017). *The world's last colony: Morocco continues occupation of Western Sahara, in defiance of UN*, from Open Democracy, website: <https://www.opendemocracy.net/north-africa-west-asia/nizar-visram/world-s-last-colony-morocco-continues-occupation-of-western-sahara-in-de>

³¹ Governments of the Kingdom of Spain, the Kingdom of Morocco and the Republic of Mauritania. (1975). *Madrid Accords*, from United Nations, website: <https://peacemaker.un.org/mauritania-morocco-spain-principles75>



accepted by the Sahrawi people. However, the African Union recognizes the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic as a right full member.³²

In contrast, to resolve the sovereignty issue, the UN has attempted to hold a referendum through the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), established in 1991 under United Nations Security Council Resolution 690³³, is holding direct talks between the Kingdom of Morocco and the Polisario Front. The MINURSO mandate has been extended almost 50 times since 1991, the last extension was made in 2018 via resolution 2414 and extends the mandate until the 31st of October of 2018.³⁴

Possible actions

The Council has a variety of options in this case; we can either condemn the illegal occupation of the Western Sahara territories made by Morocco and Mauritania or urge them to leave immediately these territories. On the other hand, the council can validate as legit the territorial ambitions of Morocco, or among other possibilities, the council can exhort the occupiers to celebrate the referendum.

Guide Questions

1. Does Your Delegation have formal relationships with the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic?
2. Why does MINURSO appears not to be working?
3. Does MINURSO needs to be extended again?
4. Does Your delegation support the Morocco partition plan?
5. Was the occupation of Western Sahara by Morocco legal according to International Right?
6. According to the Principles of the United Nations, does the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic qualifies to be accepted as a member of the United Nations?

³² African Union. (2018). Members States, from African Union, website: <https://web.archive.org/web/20130529092440/http://au.int/en/sites/default/files/Constitutive%20Act%20-%20Final.pdf>

³³ United Nations Security Council. (1991). *Resolution 690*, from United Nations website: [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/690\(1991\)](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/690(1991))

³⁴ United Nations Security Council. (2018). *Resolution 2414*, from United Nations website: [http://undocs.org/S/RES/2414\(2018\)](http://undocs.org/S/RES/2414(2018))





7. Should Morocco retreat its troops from the Western Sahara?

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CONGRESMUN XII