

UNSC

United Nations Security Council



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(Correo electrónico del comité)

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1. Letters from the Chairs

1.1. *Letter from President Toro*

Dear delegates

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to the UN Security Council COSMUN 2025. My name is Simon Toro and I will be your President for this committee helped by the Vice President Teo Dominguez. We are thrilled to have you.

As your President for the Security Council I encourage you to have a great participation and debate in this wonderful experience, as you may know the Security Council is one of the most important committees in the UN, and it's incharge of many peoples lives. We join the UN modeled as delegates not just to have fun, but to discuss possible solutions that will likely change the world, this ideas help us to expand our cultural knowledge providing us with a greater understanding of what is really happening in our world, so I dare you to be prepared to face the great challenges that we will have in this experience, So I hope that you will take all of the topics with thoughtfulness so that we have great solution.

However, that doesn't mean that we only want that, because Teo and I want you to have lots of fun so that you will remember this experience as one of the best in your life. Having said that, we thank you all for trusting in us as your presidents. We will make sure that you get the best out of you, see you soon.

Sincerely, President Toro

1.2. Letter from Vicepresident Dominguez

Respected delegates,

My name is Teo Dominguez, and President Toro and I give you a welcome to COSMUN 2025. I'm a senior at TCS and I will be the vice-president for Security Council in COSMUN 2025. I'm really excited to be able to be yet again a part of the Presidential Board of COSMUN and be able to preside over the Security Council.

This year, the committee will embark to topics that are of utmost importance of which the Security Council has attempted unsuccessfully to mediate. Through the debate you will encounter economics, political and many other concerns that you are to find a solution to.

This year the chair expects that you are well prepared for the committee. Rather than vaguely researching the topics, we urge you to dive deep into each of the topics, looking at them from different perspectives, so that you can find ways to resolve the issue at hand. For the flow of the committee it is key to understand that if you are a rookie or an experienced delegate you should participate in the committee and President Toro and I will ensure that everyone can debate.

Finally, as your chair, we wish you success, and don't hesitate in contacting us with any doubts regarding the committee.

I look forward to seeing you in the committee,
Vice-president Dominguez

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2. Introduction to the committee

2.1. *History*

The UNSC was created in 1945 along with the creation of the United Nations after WWII. In the first instance, the security council consisted of 11 members, 5 permanent and 6 appointed by the General Assembly for two-year terms. The five permanent members were the Republic of China, France, The Soviet Union, The United Kingdom, and the United States. However, in 1965 an amendment to the UN charter increased the committee to 15 participants. This included 5 permanent and 10 non-permanent members. Furthermore, the non-permanent members are chosen in a way that represents all global regions. For instance, there are five members from Asia or Africa, two from Latin America, one from Eastern Europe, and two from Eastern Europe.

After its first meeting on January 17, 1946, at Church House, Westminster, London, the committee's location was established in the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. Since then the security council has been in charge of ensuring international security and peaceful international relations. It has been involved in multiple international countries by taking part in military action and posing war treaties such as the Korean War between 1950-1953, the Suez Crisis in 1956, the Congo Crisis between 1960-1964, and many other treaties in war until this day.

2.2. Functions and objectives

The Security Council's main purpose and primary responsibility is to ensure the maintenance and stability of world peace and security. To sustain peace and security, the Security Council is in charge of acknowledging a threat to world peace and consequently taking peaceful measures that can cease the existence of such a threat. These measures can include the authorization of the use of force or the council can even impose. The United Nations Security Council is the only UN body with authority to issue binding resolutions on member states according to Article 25 of the UN charter which states "the Members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council following the present Charter". In other words, regardless of what member states think about the binding resolutions presented by the Security Council, they are compelled to accept and carry these resolutions if they are accepted and taken as official decisions in the UNSC.

2.3. Relevant Information

For a substantive matter to pass, the UN charter requires a three-fifths majority to vote in favor (ie: 9 out of 15 delegations must approve the motion). However, the 5 delegations that hold Veto power can strike down an otherwise approved motion.

The delegations that hold Veto power are the People's Republic of China, The Russian Federation, The French Republic, The United Kingdom, and The United States. Furthermore, the committee has a president that rotates every month in alphabetical order.

The president of the committee is in charge of setting agendas and presiding over meetings. On the other hand, the Security Council is also charged with the responsibility of recommending the admisión of new UN members to the General Assembly, in addition to approving any changes to the UN Charter. Additionally, the Security Council's resolutions are reinforced with UN peacekeepers and military resources provided by members of the council as well as the UN budget. Finally, the UNSC five permanent members, are also considered vetoes and gained their status of being the "Great Powers," after emerging victorious in WWII. The Great Powers can veto any resolution therefore considering it invalid and not allowing it to pass, as well as any admisión of new members to the General Assembly and nominees for the office of Secretary General.

3. Topic A: North Korea as a threat to global security

3.1. Introduction to the topic

North Korea (officially called the Democratic People's Republic of Korea) is an isolated country, Impoverished, and a proclaimed enemy to its southern neighbor South Korea, and Western nations such as the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain, and Northern island, the Republic of France, and other countries. Its Supreme leader Kim Jong Un, who inherited its title from his Father and Grandfather, regularly threatens the world with Missile strikes which marks it an aggressive country making it one of the worst threats that Western nations have to deal with. In North Korea,

there have also been violations of human rights by detaining opposition parties that range between 80,000 to 120,000 detaining political prisoners, pursuing high-ranking officials, and most likely ordering the murder of his half-brother. This and many more crimes have been happening in North Korea.

“Significant human rights issues included credible reports of: arbitrary or unlawful killings, including extrajudicial killings; enforced disappearance; torture or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment by government authorities; involuntary or coercive medical or psychological practices; harsh and life-threatening prison conditions, including in political prison camps; arbitrary arrest or detention; serious problems with the independence of the judiciary; political prisoners or detainees; transnational repression against individuals in another country; arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy; punishment of family members for alleged offenses by a relative; serious restrictions on freedom of expression and media freedom, including censorship; serious restrictions on internet freedom; substantial interference with freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association; restrictions of religious freedom; restrictions on freedom of movement and residence within the territory of a state and on the right to leave the country; inability of citizens to change their government peacefully through free and fair elections; serious and unreasonable restrictions on political participation; serious government corruption; serious government restrictions on or harassment of domestic and international human rights organizations; extensive gender-based violence, including domestic or intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and workplace violence; instances of coerced abortion or forced sterilization or

substantial barriers to sexual and reproductive health services access; trafficking in persons, including forced labor; prohibiting independent trade unions or significant or systematic restrictions on workers' freedom of association; and existence of the worst forms of child labor." (U.S. Department of State, 2023)

The U.S has had military involvement since 1950 during the early stages of the Cold War, in which the United States supported the Southern forces against Northern forces that China and the Soviet Union supported in the peninsula between North Korea and South Korea (The Korean peninsula). Today the United States of America is committed to defending South Korea under the terms of a mutual defense treaty—the U.S has nearly 29,000 troops deployed in the Korean peninsula for that purpose, in addition to that many South Korean troops (630,000) and North Korean troops (1.2 Million) are stationed near the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) making it one of the most heavily armed borders in the world.



(image by the Center of Preventive Action, updated on February 9th, 2024)

In violation of the UN Security Council resolutions, North Korea continues to overt nuclear enrichment and long-range missile development efforts. Although the scale of North Korea's urinarianium is still a mystery, the U.S. intelligence agency estimated that it is enough to produce at least 6 nuclear weapons and possibly up to 16.

"North Korea's nuclear weapons program is a direct and ongoing threat to international peace and security. Despite repeated UN Security Council resolutions, North Korea continues to develop and test nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles. 1 This poses a grave risk to the region and the world." - United Nations Security Council, Resolution 2329 (2016)

In September 2017, North Korea conducted its sixth nuclear weapons test, its most powerful test to date. It also claimed to have developed a hydrogen, or thermonuclear, bomb, which would represent further advancements in the nuclear program and the ability to build more powerful, higher-yield nuclear weapons. In the same year, the country conducted its first successful test of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), and U.S. intelligence agencies determined that North Korea could miniaturize its nuclear weapons to fit inside a missile. However, North Korea has not yet demonstrated that its nuclear warheads can withstand reentry into Earth's atmosphere.

In response to the increasing frequency of missile tests, the United States has deployed an anti-missile system in South Korea. The Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system is located in the Seongju region of South Korea, one hundred and fifty-five miles from the

northern border. Additionally, Japan, South Korea, and the United States maintain unilateral sanctions on North Korea, and the UN Security Council has passed harsh multilateral sanctions. In 2017, the United States placed North Korea back on a list of state sponsors of terrorism, a move that allowed additional sanctions.

In 2018, North and South Korea began a diplomatic rapprochement, and North Korean officials attended the Opening Ceremony of the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. Kim announced a freeze on weapons testing, attended three summits with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, and met three times with Donald Trump, who became the first U.S. president to step foot in North Korea. At their summits, Kim and Moon signed statements pledging to work toward denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and an official end to war between the two countries. Ultimately, though, nuclear negotiations with the United States reached a deadlock, and North Korea restarted weapons testing in 2019. In 2020, North Korea blew up a North-South liaison office, and Kim announced a new phase in relations, labeling South Korea an enemy.

In 2020, at the start of the pandemic, North Korea implemented one of the world's strictest border closures, further depressing the country's economy and exacerbating hunger. However, North Korea did not report any COVID-19 cases for months and in 2021 rejected foreign vaccines. Entry restrictions extended to foreign dignitaries, isolating North Korea almost completely. All of this is starting a conversation for the multiple violations of many restrictions that the UN Security Council impose on North Korea leading to being seen as a threat to the world.

3.2. Origin of the conflict

North Korea officially known as Democratic People's Republic of Korea, was established on September 9, 1948. Not long after the end of the Second World War , subsequently leading to the divisions of the Korea's, one side in the south protected by American Forces and the northern part occupied by the Soviet Forces. This division led to the creation of two separate governments, each of them on a way of ruling the nation.



(image from The New York Times)

The first major conflict that North Korea faced was 2 years later after its establishment, the Korean war reached international proportions in June 1950. When North Korea suddenly invaded the South with the help of the Soviet Union, The United Nations and the U.S joined forces for supporting South Korea, then China aided the North, this became a great war that had at least 2.5 million deaths, after this millions of casualties the war ended with Korea still divided into

two hostile states. Negotiations in 1954 produced no further agreement, and the front line has been accepted ever since as the de facto (De facto, a legal concept used to refer to what happens in reality or in practice, as opposed to de jure) boundary between North and South Korea.



(image from the BBC)

After that North Korea participated in many more conflicts such as: communist insurgency in Thailand, Vietnam war, Korean DMZ conflict, Ethiopian-Somali border war. This led to North Korea having to face many sanctions from the UN and the U.S, but North Korea didn't follow these sanctions and besides it constantly threatens Western Nation with missile attacks. This became a bad position for North Korea leading to have many enemies in the world

3.3. Development

The Kim dynasty has ruled North Korea for three generations. During the rule of Kim Jong Un, the current leader of North Korea, there have been multiple attempts at peace, none of

them being successful. With the election of South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak in 2007,



(image from Britanica)

mediation between its neighboring countries began. Progress was made, however, in March of 2010, the Ch'ōnan (South Korean Warship) exploded and sank near Paengnyōng Islands, close to the maritime border with North Korea. This event was later investigated and concluded that the explosion was caused by a torpedo fired by a North Korean submarine. As such, South Korea ended all trade relations with North Korea and resumed its propaganda broadcasts. North Korea denied its involvement in the event and severed all ties with South Korea.

North Korea's biggest world threat has always been its nuclear program and its fast development. Because of this, in 2012, North Korea and U.S. officials met in Beijing and ended



(image from The New York Times)

with an agreement where North Korea would cease all nuclear and missile testing and the enrichment of uranium in return for food aid from the United States. However, this wouldn't last, in April, yet again North Korea test-fired a rocket which led to the immediate cancellation of the previous agreement. At the end of 2012, North Korea successfully launched over Japanese airspace a long-range rocket that placed a satellite in Earth's orbit. These actions were condemned by the UN Security Council and were called a threat to regional security. North Korea continued to develop and test nuclear weapons causing tension between a neighboring country, China.

Later on, in 2016 North Korea claimed to have conducted their first hydrogen bomb test, of which the UN Security Council unanimously approved a dramatic expansion of the decade-old



sanctions against North Korea. Through the continuing efforts of North Korea to test and

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develop nuclear weapons, the UN continued to sanction the country. One of the most significant sanctions included restrictions on coal trade, which is North Korea's most significant export.

With the launch of ICBMs by North Korea into the waters off Guam (US territory), President Donald Trump responded to the actions by threatening to begin a war between the two countries. Then both presidents began to threaten and insult each other on the verge of a nuclear war. In 2018, after countless sanctions on North Korea, for the first time, Kim Jong Un and President Trump met face-to-face to resolve their issues. President Trump offered to retrieve their militia from nearing territory, an action that took everyone by surprise, and North Korea requested to lift the economic sanctions imposed on them, shortly after the formal discussion collapsed.

3.4. Previous Resolutions

Resolution 825 of 1993

The UNSC attempts to maintain the DPRK within the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, as the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the DPRK addressed to the President of the Council on which it conquered the intentions of the Government of the DPRK to withdraw from said treaty.

Resolution 1540 of 2004

Adopted on April 28, 2004, this resolution sought to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems by non-State actors. This resolution was adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. The resolution was mandated to all states, however, it had not much success in enforcing this resolution in Asian territory.

Resolution 1695 of 2006

The resolution submitted by Japan was quickly sponsored by the United States. This resolution banned all members of the UN from selling material or technology that could be used for missiles or weapons of mass destruction to North Korea. Also it is prohibited to receive missiles, banned weapons or technology from Pyongyang.

Resolution 1718 of 2006

The resolution enacted in 2006 included a variety of sanctions towards North Korea. This included assets freeze and travel ban on any person involved in the DPRK's nuclear programme. It also banned many imports and exports from North Korea, and most importantly prohibited the DPRK from conducting nuclear tests or launching ballistic missiles.

Resolution 2087 of 2013

After North Korea's first satellite launch, the UN enacted this resolution as a method to ensure that all UN members remain vigilant regarding any actions by North Korea. It also clarified the state's right to destroy and/or seize materials suspected to head or come from North Korea.

Resolution 2270 of 2016

The resolution was adopted after North Korea conducted a fourth nuclear test and launched a satellite for the second time. The resolution prohibited states from providing any type of teaching or training to any North Korean nationals in disciplines that could contribute to the development of weapons of mass destruction.

3.5. Expectations for the debate

We as a chair expect each delegate to complete the portfolio in a timely manner, abiding by the deadlines set, and completing it thoroughly and in detail. We will give you an example of a portfolio, however, we expect each delegate to surpass the example by completing extra research.

During the debate, we expect each delegate to follow all the bylaws enforced by COSMUN 2025, and we expect for each delegate to abide by the parliamentary procedure of the committee.

To rookie delegates, we expect each of you to take active participation in the debate and ask for feedback and ways to improve in the committee to the chair. To more experienced delegates, we expect you to help guide the debate with active participation, while also giving advice and chances to newer delegates.

During each session we expect clashing opinions and innovative solutions as the UNSC has already enacted multiple resolutions that were unsuccessful, so approach the topic in a new manner.

3.6 Useful resources

- North Korea's Nuclear negotiation timeline

(<https://www.cfr.org/timeline/north-korean-nuclear-negotiations>)

- United Nations Security Council

(<https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/>)

- North Korea

(<https://www.britannica.com/place/North-Korea>)

- Korean war Video

 The Korean War (1950–53)

- North Korea propaganda

(<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-44557818>)

- North Korea explained

 Understanding the Situation in North Korea

4. Topic B: Syria's chemical warfare and threats to its people and the world.

4.1. Introduction to the topic

Syria's chemical warfare has a long history that started in 256 AD when the first chemical attack took place in Rome when a type of chemical Gas was used against Roman citizens this gas was made up of a mixture of sulfur with fire, this sulfur was later found in the territory of Syria, many sites also suggest that many compounds that are needed to create a chemical weapon are found in Syria's soil. Coming into recent years in 2011 the war started to devastate Syria, with government forces, opposition groups, and extremist organizations vying for control.

Prior to this outbreak Syria had possessed a significant stockpile of chemical weapons such as Sarin, Mustard gas and VX nerve agents, besides the nation did not join The Chemical Weapon Convention (CWC), with this Syria, with government forces, opposition groups, and extremist organizations vying for control. Lead to mas outbreak in war. Reports of chemical attacks, including the use of sarin gas and chlorine, have emerged throughout the conflict, most notably in areas like Ghouta in 2013, this attacks had the deadliest uses of chemical weapons that the man has seen, it estimated that are 300 to 1,400 casualties. This attack triggered international outrage and lead into diplomatic efforts, such efforts were made by nations such as the United States and Russia brokered and agreement with Syria to joined the CWC, besides the organization for the prohibition of the Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in cooperation with the

United Nations, began overseeing the dismantling of Syria's declared chemical arsenal. By mid-2014, Syria declared that it had destroyed its chemical weapons, but subsequent investigations suggested that undeclared stockpiles remained.



(image extracted from the npr)

The OPCW has conducted several investigations into alleged chemical weapons use in Syria. While it confirmed the use of sarin and chlorine in various incidents, the identification of perpetrators has been politically contentious, particularly due to Syrian and Russian objections. From 2015 to 2017, the UN and OPCW established the JIM to identify those responsible for chemical attacks. It attributed several incidents to the Syrian government and others to ISIS. However, in 2017, Russia vetoed the renewal of the JIM's mandate, hampering efforts to hold perpetrators accountable.

4.2. Origin to the conflict

The Syrian Civil War began as a local uprising against authoritarian rule and quickly escalated into a complex, multifaceted conflict involving regional and global powers. The initial grievances, political repression, economic hardship, and demands for reform were met with brutal repression, leading to a militarized response and a descent into civil war. As the conflict evolved, it became a battleground for competing interests, with sectarian, ideological, and geopolitical dimensions all playing a role. The result has been one of the deadliest and most devastating conflicts of the 21st century, with millions of people displaced, hundreds of thousands killed, and the country left in ruins.

4.3. Development

On July 23, 2012, Syria officially confirmed that they possessed chemical weapons and assured that they were only going to be used against “external aggression.” Later the same year, President Barack Obama expressed his stance on said chemical weapons and said his calculations on a military response would change if the United States saw a large amount of movement of said weapons. In the same year a US State Department official confirmed the vast amount of chemical weapons in Syria’s power, and by the end of the year, the first chemical weapons allegations were reported by the death of seven people in Homs, however that report was dismissed by Tommy Vietor, a spokesman for the National Security Council.

During 2013, more countries began to report the use of chemical weapons by Syrian authorities. Multiple attacks on the Syrian opposition activists occurred using chemical weapons. As the allegations on these uses increased, multiple multinational organizations took part in the conflict. The United Nations with the help of the World Health Organization and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons began an in depth investigation regarding these matters. Through that year, the United Nations confirmed Syria's use of chemical weapons and enacted a timeline through the UN Security Council, which mandated all Syrian chemical weapons to be handed over by the end of 2013, but Syria missed the deadline,

In 2014, Syria had extensions to give up all of their chemical weapons, however they missed deadline by deadline. However, that year, the UN made progress by starting to get Syrian chemical weapons out of Syria. This became an everlasting cycle, attack after attack, Syria continued to use chemical weapons, while the UN continuous efforts to confiscate all of said weapons were ineffective. Syria's use of those weapons caused many deaths of both Syrian citizens and foreigners.

In 2019, the OPCW had more freedom on their search of Syrian chemical weapons, while the UN Security Council was enacting resolutions to further penalize the use and withholding of chemical weapons. The conflict has been in an endless cycle that has proven to be ineffective, however it has made some progress and gained the support of many countries.

4.4. Previous resolutions

Resolution 2118 of 2013

This resolution called for the elimination of Syria's chemical weapon stock. It mandated Syria to join the Chemical Weapons Convention and cooperation with the OPCW dismantling all chemical weapons in their power.

Resolution 2209 of 2015

This resolution extended the mandate of the OPCW-UN Joint Investigation Mechanism (JIM) to investigate and attribute the use of chemical weapons in Syria. Also, this resolution condemned the use of chemical weapons and sought accountability for those responsible.

Resolution 2235 of 2015

The resolution established JIM to investigate and identify the perpetrators that caused the chemical attacks within Syria.

Resolution 2371 of 2017

This resolution imposed sanctions on individuals and entities related to Syria's chemical weapons program.

Resolution 2401 of 2018

Although it had a primary target for cease fire and humanitarian aid, it addressed the need to ensure the safety of civilians from chemical weapons attacks.

4.5. Expectations for the Debate

As previously stated in topic A, we as a chair expect previous preparation for the committee, while also doing a thorough investigation regarding the topic, this should be sent to the committee email before the start date of COSMUN 2025. Yet again, every delegate must follow parliamentary procedure using the appropriate language during the debate and follow COSMUN and TCS bylaws.

Throughout the debate, we as a chair encourage active participation, even if you are a rookie, and if you have any doubts during or previous to the sessions don't hesitate to ask us.

As topic A, this topic has also been targeted by the UN for many years. Because of this, many resolutions have been taken with no significant level of success, as such, we expect each delegate to find elegant and new solutions that have a higher impact than previous resolutions. Therefore, you must be well aware of previous resolutions so the committee doesn't repeat already established UNSC resolutions.

4.6. Useful resources

- United Nations Security Council
(<https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/>)
- Arms Control Association
(<https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/timeline-syrian-chemical-weapons-activity-2012-2022>)
- Atlantic Council

(<https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/a-brief-history-of-chemical-weapons-in-syria/>)

5. QARMAS

5.1. *Topic A*

1. Has your delegation conflicted with North Korea?
2. How does North Korea affect your delegation?
3. Is your delegation enemies or allies with North Korea?
4. Has your delegation been at war with North Korea?
5. Does your delegation see North Korea as a threat?
6. Has your delegation received threats from North Korea?
7. Does your delegation have to do anything with North Korea?
8. What position does your delegation have with North Korea?

5.2. *Topic B*

1. What are the historical origins of Syria's chemical weapons program?
2. How have UN Security Council resolutions addressed Syria's use of chemical weapons?
3. What are the humanitarian consequences of Syria's chemical attacks?
4. What are the geopolitical implications of Syria's possession of chemical weapons?

5. How can the international community effectively prevent the use of chemical weapons in Syria and other conflicts?
6. How has your delegation responded to Syria's use of chemical weapons?
7. What are the primary goals of your delegation's foreign policy in Syria?
8. How has your delegation engaged with the UN Security Council on Syria-related resolutions?
9. What are the potential consequences of your delegation's continued involvement in Syria?

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