



# **GOMUN 2024 OFFICIAL DOCUMENT**

## **Study Guide**

**Security Council**

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## **COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION**

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is the UN's fundamental body in charge of maintaining global peace and security. The United Nations Security Council, founded after World War II, is crucial to resolving international conflicts and situations of crisis. This committee will serve the delegates as a primary venue for collaboration, developing fruitful resolutions and collective solutions to key global issues.

## First Topic: The insurgency in Balochistan

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### INTRODUCTION

The insurgency in Balochistan is a complicated issue deeply enrooted in the region's history. Balochistan is Pakistan's largest province and has resources like natural gas and minerals, as well as the important Gwadar Port. However, despite these resources, the Baloch people feel left out and ignored by the central government. They argue that the profits from these resources are not helping them, and they do not see much development in their region. This feeling of has led many Baloch groups to demand more rights, autonomy, or even independence, which has caused several periods of unrest and conflict over the years.

Since the early 2000s, the conflict has escalated, with groups like the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) using guerrilla tactics to fight the Pakistani government. The situation worsened with the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), which brought huge projects to the area, but once again, the local population feels they are not benefiting from them. The Pakistani government's response has been mostly military, which has resulted in reports of human rights violations, like forced disappearances and killings, making the Baloch people even more frustrated.

This ongoing conflict threatens Pakistan's internal peace and the wider region because of its important location and the involvement of other countries like China. To resolve the issue, the root problems—such as economic exclusion and lack of political power for the Baloch people—must be addressed, while also protecting civilians and working toward peace.

## TOPIC OVERVIEW

The insurgency in Balochistan, a resource-rich but underdeveloped region of Pakistan, has roots back in the 1940s when Baloch leaders initially resisted the region's incorporation into Pakistan. Over time, the insurgency has been fueled by ethnic grievances, economic marginalization, and political repression.

The conflict has seen multiple phases, with major insurgencies in 1948, 1958-59, 1962-63, 1973-77, and the current wave, which began in the early 2000s. This latest insurgency is known and infamous for violent confrontations between the Pakistani military and various Baloch separatist groups, particularly the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA). The insurgents want either greater autonomy or outright independence for Balochistan. The development of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Gwadar Port has intensified the conflict, as local populations feel excluded from the economic benefits.

## TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS

**1947** - Partition and Accession to Pakistan: When British India was partitioned, Balochistan was made part of Pakistan. The Khan of Kalat, the region's ruler, initially sought independence but eventually agreed to accede to Pakistan in 1948 under pressure. However, this decision sparked the first wave of discontent and laid the foundation for future uprisings.

**1948** - First Baloch Uprising: Just months after Balochistan's accession to Pakistan, an armed rebellion led by Prince Abdul Karim, the younger brother of the Khan of Kalat, broke out. Karim opposed the annexation, seeking autonomy for Balochistan. The uprising was swiftly suppressed by Pakistani forces.

**1958** - Second Insurgency and Martial Law: Discontent grew over the years due to continued centralization policies by the Pakistani government. In 1958, Nawab Nowroz Khan, a prominent Baloch leader, launched another insurgency in response to the central government's dismissal of Baloch autonomy. Martial law was declared, and the Pakistani military crushed the uprising. Nawab Nowroz Khan was arrested, and his sons were executed, deepening the rift between Baloch nationalists and the central government.

**1962-1963** - Third Insurgency: The political situation remained tense, and another uprising emerged in 1962, again seeking greater autonomy and opposition to the One Unit policy, which merged Pakistan's four provinces into one entity, effectively diminishing provincial autonomy. This rebellion, like its predecessors, was militarily suppressed.

**1973-1977** - Largest Insurgency to Date: The dismissal of the elected government in Balochistan in 1973 triggered the largest insurgency in the region's history. This conflict was fueled by both political and economic grievances. The Pakistani government, under Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, launched a military operation in Balochistan, deploying over 70,000 troops and using heavy air bombardment.

Thousands of Baloch rebels fought against government forces, leading to significant casualties on both sides. The insurgency ended in 1977 after a coup by General Zia-ul-Haq overthrew Bhutto, and a general amnesty was offered.

**Early 2000s** - Resurgence of Insurgency: A new wave of insurgency emerged in the early 2000s, driven by growing Baloch dissatisfaction over economic marginalization, especially regarding the exploitation of Balochistan's vast natural resources (such as natural gas and minerals). The construction of mega-projects like the Gwadar Port, without local participation or benefits, further fueled the insurgency. Several separatist groups, including the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA), gained prominence during this period.

**2006** - Assassination of Nawab Akbar Bugti: One of the key moments in the modern insurgency was the killing of Nawab Akbar Bugti, a former governor and chief minister of Balochistan, during a military operation in 2006. His death sparked widespread protests and intensified the insurgency, with Bugti becoming a symbol of Baloch resistance.

**2010** - Increased Pakistani Military Presence: In response to growing insurgent attacks, particularly on infrastructure projects and security forces, Pakistan ramped up its military operations in Balochistan. Human rights organizations began reporting widespread abuses, including enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and torture of Baloch activists.

**2015** - Amnesty and Peace Talks: The Pakistani government announced a general amnesty for Baloch militants in 2015 and launched peace talks to end the insurgency. Some militant leaders entered into negotiations, but many separatist groups continued fighting, arguing that the government's economic projects were still excluding local Baloch populations.

**2020s** - Continuing Conflict and CPEC: The insurgency has continued into the 2020s, with Baloch separatist groups regularly carrying out attacks on Pakistani military forces and targeting Chinese nationals due to China's involvement in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). The conflict has shifted focus to economic and regional sovereignty, with the development of the Gwadar Port as a flashpoint.

## KEY TERMS AND CONCEPTS

**Balochistan** - A province of Pakistan; its historical borders also extend into the Iranian province of Sistan and Baluchestan and the Afghanistan Helmand province.

**Balochs** - The dominant ethnic group in the region, the Balochs population is estimated at around 5 million, 70% of which live in Pakistan. Their culture is diverse, with historical roots in nomadic herding. Despite this, a permanent agricultural existence is gradually becoming more common. They profess Sunni Islam.

**Brauhis** - A tribe closely related to the Balochs and Pashtuns made up mostly of nomadic goat herders in western Pakistan. Its members tally 1.5 million. They identify as Sunni Muslims.

**Baloch Nationalism** - A political movement advocating for the recognition of Baloch identity, culture, and language, often linked to demands for greater autonomy or independence from Pakistan.

**Insurgency** - A guerrilla-style uprising or rebellion against a centralized government. Different separatist organizations have carried out an insurgency against the Pakistani government in Balochistan.

**Separatism** - Political groups or organizations advocating for the separation of a region from a larger political entity. In Balochistan, separatist movements demand independence or greater autonomy for the Baloch people.



**China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)** - A flagship project under China's Belt and Road Initiative, which includes infrastructure development in Balochistan. The local population often views CPEC as a contributor to their economic marginalization.

**Gwadar Port** - A vital part of China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) via the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC); A strategically important deep-sea port in Balochistan. Tension arises from its development since the locals feel excluded from its advantages.

**Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA)** - An influential separatist faction engaged in the conflict that Pakistan and several other nations have designated as a terrorist organization.

**Ethnic Marginalization** - The sense of political, social, and economic marginalization experienced by the Baloch people, which fuels the conflict. This includes grievances over limited representation in government and unequal development.

**Federal Shariat Court** - The constitutional court of Pakistan guarantees that laws are consistent with Islamic law. Certain nationalist factions in Balochistan are against federal religion regulations having any sort of impact over their tribal and secular practices.

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**Self-Determination** - The idea that everyone should be free to select their political affiliation and pursue their own goals regarding social, cultural, and economic advancement. Baloch factions frequently bring this idea up in their bids for independence or autonomy.

## **PAST ATTEMPTS TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICT**

Various attempts have been made to resolve the Baloch insurgency, ranging from military crackdowns to political negotiations. The Pakistani government has offered political and economic incentives, but these have been seen as insufficient by insurgent groups.

One notable attempt was the 1973-77 period when the Pakistani military quelled a major insurgency but at the cost of long-term resentment among the Baloch people. In more recent years, Pakistan has implemented development projects, including CPEC, which are intended to integrate Balochistan economically with the rest of the country. However, these projects have been met with resistance, as the Baloch people argue they are being excluded from the economic benefits.

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## **COUNTRY POSITIONS**

### **United States of America:**

Regarding the Baloch conflict, the U.S. government has traditionally taken a neutral posture, placing greater emphasis on its strategic alliance with Pakistan in South Asia, particularly with regard to military cooperation and counterterrorism. On the other hand, Pakistan's treatment of the Baloch population has periodically prompted human rights concerns from the U.S. Congress and politicians. Although Pakistan was incensed by a 2012 congressional hearing on the insurgency, the U.S. government has not formally supported Baloch separatism.

### **China:**

Because of its large investment in the region through the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), China opposes the insurgency in Balochistan. Due to the location of the port of Gwadar, which is vital to the CPEC project, Balochistan is an important area. China, which sees the unrest as a danger to its investments and the stability of the area, supports Pakistan's efforts to put an end to the insurgency. Attacks by insurgents have targeted Chinese citizens, which has strengthened China's resolve to fight the insurgency.

**Russia:**

Although it maintains a strategic cooperation with Pakistan, Russia has not publicly taken a position on the insurgency in Balochistan. Russia's overall geopolitical policy of forging tighter ties with Pakistan, particularly with regard to Afghanistan and counterterrorism measures, shapes its approach. Despite its possible worries about instability in the region, Russia does not publicly back the insurgency and is unlikely to interfere with its developing ties with Pakistan.

**United Kingdom:**

Balochistan and the United Kingdom have historical relations because the area was formerly a part of British India. But at present, the government of the United Kingdom has adopted a neutral position regarding the insurgency. Tensions between Pakistan and the UK have periodically arisen as a result of exiled Baloch rebel leaders. Although the UK has not formally backed the insurgency, it has voiced concerns in a number of forums on violations of human rights in Balochistan.

**France:**

France has mostly abstained from making major pronouncements regarding the Balochistani insurgency and does not play a direct part in it. Like other Western countries, France does not openly support or oppose the insurgency, albeit occasionally voicing concerns about violations of human rights in the area. Trade and counterterrorism are the main areas of interest for France in Pakistan.

**Pakistan:**

The Baloch insurgency is fiercely opposed by Pakistan, which sees it as a major threat to both territorial integrity and national security. To combat the insurgency, the Pakistani government has sought both military and political solutions; nonetheless, it has come under fire for its harsh tactics, which have included claimed violations of human

rights. Pakistan believes that foreign entities are fueling the insurgency, at least partially, despite the fact that it has not provided strong proof to back up these accusations. The strategic location and abundant natural resources of Balochistan are reasons why Islamabad wants to keep control of the region.

### **Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:**

The complex connection that the Afghan government had with Pakistan frequently shaped how it saw the conflict in Balochistan. Although Afghanistan did not publicly back the insurgency, tensions with Pakistan resulted in claims of insurgent sheltering between the two countries. Although Kabul formally refuted these assertions, Pakistan has made allegations that Afghan intelligence had provided support to Baloch militant groups.

### **Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan:**

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Given Pakistan's role in the Taliban's ascent to power, the group has typically sided with Pakistan since taking over Afghanistan in 2021, at least in public. Given that the Baloch insurgency depends on Pakistan for political and financial backing, it is unlikely that the Taliban will back it. Even while the central Taliban government does not formally support Baloch militants, local contacts with them may be influenced by the complicated tribal and ethnic dynamics along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

These stances are influenced by the regional interactions of each nation.

## **QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION MUST ANSWER**

What measures should be taken to address the current humanitarian crisis?

How can sustainable peace and political stability be achieved in Balochistan moving forward?

How can the international community support the peace process and reconstruction efforts?

In drafting resolutions to address the ongoing insurgency in Balochistan, delegates should aim to create comprehensive proposals that tackle the root causes of the conflict, ensure the protection of civilians, and facilitate a pathway towards lasting peace and stability. Here are some pivotal questions that a resolution might consider:

### **Ceasefire and Peace Negotiations:**

How can a sustainable ceasefire be achieved among the conflicting parties?

What mechanisms can be established to facilitate peace negotiations and ensure the involvement of all relevant stakeholders?

### **Humanitarian Aid:**

How can humanitarian access be ensured to aid those affected by the conflict?

What measures can be taken to safeguard humanitarian workers and facilities?

**Protection of Civilians:**

How can the international community work to protect civilians from violence and human rights abuses?

What steps can be taken to address issues of displacement and support the safe return of refugees and internally displaced persons?

**Justice and Accountability:**

How can individuals responsible for war crimes and human rights violations be held accountable?

What mechanisms can be established to ensure justice for victims and promote reconciliation?

**Regional Sovereignty:**

To what extent should Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran grant sovereignty to the Balochistan region?

Under what circumstances and terms should sovereignty be granted?

**Economic Recovery:**

What steps can be taken to improve the economy and adequately ensure equitable access to resources?

How can the international community support economic recovery and development in Balochistan?



**Regional Stability:**

How can regional stability be maintained to prevent the spillover effects of the Balochistan conflict into neighbouring countries?

What role can regional organizations play in supporting peace and stability in Balochistan?

**International Cooperation:**

How can international cooperation be fostered to support peacebuilding efforts in Balochistan?

What mechanisms can be established to ensure effective coordination among various international, regional, and local actors involved in addressing the conflict?

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