

GOMUN 2026 OFFICIAL DOCUMENT

Study Guide

Security Council

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COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION

The UN's Security Council is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations. It serves an important role in peace and international security. The council consists of 15 members. The first five are permanent members: the United States of America, the United Kingdom, France, the Russian Federation and China. These countries, now called the P5, were the great powers of the Allies in World War II. The rest are non-permanent countries, which are elected for a two-year term by the General Assembly. To keep the council regionally balanced, non-permanent seats are distributed by geography. Africa holds three seats, Asia-Pacific two, Latin America and the Caribbean two, Western Europe and Other States two, and Eastern Europe one.

The Security Council has wide-ranging powers. It can investigate disputes, recommend ways to settle them peacefully, impose sanctions, authorize the use of force, and establish peacekeeping missions. Unlike the General Assembly, whose resolutions are recommendations, Security Council decisions are legally binding on all UN Member States under the UN Charter. Decisions on substantive matters require at least nine affirmative votes out of fifteen, and none of the P5 may cast a negative vote. This last rule is known as the veto power: a single "no" from any permanent member blocks a resolution or an amendment, even if all other members support it.

Topic: Possible approaches to stabilizing the Middle East region

TOPIC INTRODUCTION

The Middle East has entered one of the most volatile periods in its modern history. Over the past two years, the region has moved through a sequence of interlinked crises: the Gaza war and its fragile, repeatedly violated ceasefire; the collapse of the Assad government in Syria and an uncertain political transition; a renewed Israel-Hezbollah war in Lebanon; and, most consequentially, a direct war between Israel, the United States, and Iran that began in February 2026 and remains a live conflict as of this writing.

Each of these crises is distinct, yet they are bound together by shared drivers: contested borders and occupations, the proliferation of non-state armed actors, competition between regional powers for influence, the unresolved status of the Palestinian people, and the question of whether Iran will be permitted, prevented, or provoked into acquiring a nuclear weapon.

Because these conflicts now overlap militarily, diplomatically, and economically, the Security Council can no longer treat them as separate agenda items. A missile fired from Yemen affects shipping in the Red Sea; a ceasefire violation in Lebanon affects negotiations in Gaza; sanctions on Iran affect oil markets that shape the economies of Gulf states which are, in turn, being courted to normalize relations with Israel. Delegates in this committee are asked to think about the Middle East as an interconnected security system rather than a set of isolated disputes, and to design approaches to stability that account for these linkages.

This guide does not take a side in any of the region's disputes. It presents the historical background, the current facts on the ground as best they can be established, and the range of positions held by the major state and non-state actors, so that delegates can debate the merits of different approaches to stabilization on their own terms. Given how quickly the situation is changing, delegates are strongly encouraged to follow reputable news sources for developments between now and the conference.

KEY TERMS

Ceasefire – A formal or informal agreement to halt hostilities. In this topic, several ceasefires (Gaza, Lebanon, Iran) have been announced but only partially implemented, and the term should not be read as synonymous with an end to violence.

Apartheid – A term originating from South Africa, defining the institutional regime of oppression and domination by one racial group over another. It is a serious human rights violation that is prohibited under International Law. In this context, it refers to the oppression of Palestinians.

Normalization – The establishment of formal diplomatic, economic, and security relations between Israel and an Arab or Muslim-majority state, most often discussed today in the context of the Abraham Accords framework.

Snapback sanctions – A mechanism under the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement (JCPOA) and UN Security Council Resolution 2231 allowing UN sanctions on Iran to be automatically reimposed if Iran is found in violation of its commitments. Their legal status has been disputed by Russia and China.

Proxy conflict / Axis of Resistance – A term used by Iran and allied officials to describe the informal coalition of Iran, Hezbollah (Lebanon), Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (Gaza/West Bank), the Houthi movement (Yemen), and various militias in Iraq and Syria, coordinated to varying degrees against Israel and the United States.

Interim/transitional government – A government installed after a regime change that is intended to govern temporarily while a new political order (constitution, elections) is established, as in Syria since December 2024.

Strait of Hormuz – A narrow waterway between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula through which roughly a fifth of global oil consumption passes; a frequent flashpoint because Iran has threatened to restrict or close it during periods of escalation.



Houthi movement (Ansar Allah) – An armed Zaidi Shia movement controlling much of northern Yemen, allied with Iran, which has attacked commercial and military shipping in the Red Sea and launched missiles at Israel in connection with the Gaza war.

UNIFIL – The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, tasked with monitoring the Israel-Lebanon border area; its mandate has been extended for a final time and is set to conclude by the end of 2026.

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) – The UN body responsible for verifying and monitoring states' compliance with nuclear non-proliferation commitments, including inspections of Iranian nuclear sites.

OVERVIEW OF THE TOPIC

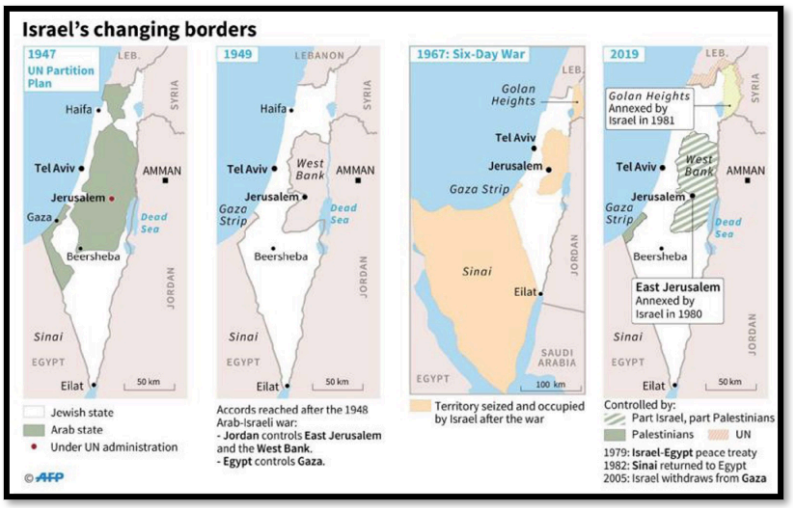
Historical Context

Much of the current instability in the Middle East can be traced back to the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, the end of European colonial rule, and the conflicts that followed throughout the twentieth century. The establishment of new states and borders, combined with competing nationalist movements and the increasing involvement of foreign powers, contributed to political tensions that have continued for decades. Among the most significant developments were the Arab–Israeli wars, the conflicts in the Persian Gulf, and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, all of which influenced regional alliances, security policies, and the emergence of armed groups.

Arab-Israeli conflict

The Arab–Israeli conflict became one of the central sources of regional instability following the establishment of Israel in May 1948. The first Arab–Israeli war broke out shortly afterwards, involving Israel and several neighbouring Arab states, including Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon. The conflict resulted in Israeli territorial gains beyond those proposed under the 1947 United Nations partition plan and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, an event known as the Nakba. Further confrontations followed, particularly the Suez Crisis of 1956 and the Six-Day War of 1967, during which Israel occupied the West Bank, East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, the Sinai Peninsula, and the Golan Heights. The 1973 Yom Kippur War, launched by Egypt and Syria in an attempt to regain territories lost in 1967, further demonstrated the extent to which the conflict could threaten regional and international security.

Although diplomatic efforts eventually led to peace agreements between Israel and Egypt in 1979 and Israel and Jordan in 1994, the broader Israeli–Palestinian conflict remained unresolved. The Oslo Accords of 1993 and 1995 established a framework for limited Palestinian self-government but failed to produce a permanent settlement. Disagreements over Palestinian statehood, Israeli settlements, refugees, security arrangements, and the status of Jerusalem continued to prevent a comprehensive peace agreement. The repeated conflicts also contributed to the emergence of armed organizations, including Hezbollah in Lebanon during the 1980s and Hamas in the Palestinian territories in 1987, both of which later became important actors in regional confrontations involving Israel.



Iranian revolution

Another major turning point was the Iranian Revolution of 1979, which overthrew the Western-aligned monarchy of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and established the Islamic Republic under Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. The revolution significantly changed Iran's foreign policy and its relations with the United States, Israel, and neighbouring Arab states. In September 1980, Iraq, under Saddam Hussein, invaded Iran, beginning the Iran–Iraq War, which lasted until 1988. The conflict caused hundreds of thousands of deaths, placed considerable pressure on both countries' economies, and threatened oil production and maritime trade in the Persian Gulf. Several Gulf monarchies provided financial support to Iraq, while international powers became increasingly involved in protecting shipping routes and preventing the conflict from spreading further.

Iraqi invasion of Kuwait

Regional tensions escalated again in August 1990, when Iraq invaded Kuwait, prompting international condemnation and a series of United Nations Security Council resolutions demanding its withdrawal. Following Iraq's refusal to comply, a United States-led coalition launched a military operation in January 1991, eventually expelling Iraqi forces from Kuwait. Although the war restored Kuwait's sovereignty, Iraq remained subject to international sanctions and weapons inspections throughout the following decade. The United States-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, justified partly by allegations that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction, resulted in the removal of Saddam Hussein's government. However,

the subsequent occupation and political instability contributed to sectarian violence, armed insurgencies, and the eventual emergence of extremist organizations, including the Islamic State.

Soviet invasion of Afghanistan

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979 also had significant consequences for the wider region. The Soviet Union intervened to support Afghanistan's communist government against growing armed opposition, triggering a conflict that lasted nearly a decade. Afghan resistance groups, commonly known as the mujahideen, received support from the United States, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and other countries seeking to limit Soviet influence during the Cold War. Following the Soviet withdrawal in 1989, Afghanistan experienced further civil conflict, eventually contributing to the rise of the Taliban during the 1990s. The war also helped create conditions in which transnational militant networks, including al-Qaeda, developed, with consequences extending beyond Afghanistan and influencing international security policies in the following decades.

20th century

The beginning of the twenty-first century brought further instability, particularly following the Arab uprisings of 2011, which challenged established governments across the Middle East and North Africa. While political transitions developed differently across the region, several countries experienced prolonged conflict, most notably Syria and Yemen. In Syria, protests against President Bashar al-Assad developed into a civil war involving government forces, opposition groups, extremist organizations, and foreign powers, including Russia, Iran, Turkey, and the United States. In Yemen, political instability contributed to a civil war involving the Houthi movement, the internationally recognized government, and a Saudi-led military coalition. Both conflicts caused extensive humanitarian crises and demonstrated the growing influence of regional rivalries and external intervention.

At the same time, competition between Iran, Israel, and several Arab states increasingly shaped the regional security environment. Iran expanded its influence through political and military relationships with armed groups in Lebanon, Iraq, Syria, and Yemen, while Israel and several Gulf states viewed Iran's regional activities and nuclear program as major security concerns. The 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), intended to restrict Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for sanctions relief, represented an attempt to address part of these tensions through diplomacy. However, the United States' withdrawal from the agreement in 2018 and the subsequent deterioration of its implementation increased uncertainty over Iran's nuclear program and the future of regional security arrangements.

Together, these historical developments established many of the political, territorial, and security disputes that continue to affect the Middle East. Repeated wars, foreign military involvement, unresolved questions of sovereignty, and competition between regional powers have complicated efforts to establish lasting peace. They have also contributed to the growing role of non-state armed groups and the difficulties faced by the United Nations Security Council in responding to regional crises, providing the historical background for the developments examined in the following section.

Current situation

As of September 2026, the Middle East remains in a state of overlapping and unresolved conflict, with tensions between regional powers continuing to threaten international peace and security. The most serious active crisis is the direct confrontation between Iran and the United States–Israeli coalition, which began with coordinated strikes against Iranian military and nuclear facilities on February 28, 2026. The conflict has since developed into a prolonged confrontation involving military strikes, economic pressure, and disruptions to maritime trade. Although diplomatic efforts resulted in a memorandum of understanding in June 2026, hostilities resumed within weeks, leaving the prospects for a lasting settlement uncertain.

Iran's nuclear program remains one of the central issues in the conflict. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has reported serious limitations in its ability to verify Iran's nuclear activities and account for its stockpile of enriched uranium, raising concerns over the effectiveness of existing international monitoring arrangements. At the same time, disagreements over the legal status of sanctions linked to the 2015 nuclear agreement have complicated diplomatic efforts, with Western powers, Russia, and China maintaining conflicting positions. The continued instability around the Strait of Hormuz, a major route for international oil shipments, has also raised concerns about energy security and the economic consequences of further escalation.

In Lebanon, the ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah remains fragile following the resumption of large-scale fighting in March 2026. The Lebanese government has continued efforts to bring weapons under state control, particularly in southern Lebanon, while Hezbollah has resisted demands for broader disarmament. Israel has continued military operations on Lebanese territory, which it maintains are necessary to prevent Hezbollah from rebuilding its military capabilities, while Lebanese authorities have raised concerns over violations of sovereignty. The situation has been further complicated by uncertainty surrounding the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), whose mandate is scheduled to end on December 31, 2026, with withdrawal taking place

during 2027. The absence of an agreed replacement mechanism raises questions about future ceasefire monitoring, border security, and the capacity of the Lebanese Armed Forces to maintain control over southern Lebanon.

In Gaza, the ceasefire that took effect on October 10, 2025, remains formally in place, but its implementation has been limited by continuing violence and disagreements over disarmament, Israeli withdrawal, and future governance. The humanitarian situation remains severe, with large parts of the territory facing extensive destruction, damaged infrastructure, and persistent shortages of essential resources. According to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), continued strikes, restrictions on humanitarian supplies, and shortages of fuel and medical equipment have significantly limited relief operations. Reconstruction efforts remain insufficient to address the scale of destruction, while thousands of displaced civilians continue to live in temporary shelters or damaged buildings. The unresolved question of Palestinian governance and the absence of a comprehensive political settlement continue to complicate efforts to achieve long-term stability.

Syria continues to face significant political and security challenges following the fall of Bashar al-Assad's government in December 2024. The transitional authorities under President Ahmed al-Sharaa have pursued diplomatic engagement with Western and Gulf states while attempting to consolidate control over the country's territory and institutions. However, sectarian tensions, economic difficulties, and disagreements over political representation have complicated the transition. The integration of Kurdish-led forces and institutions into the central government remains an important issue for national unity, while concerns over minority protections and accountability for violence continue to affect domestic stability. Reconstruction and the return of displaced populations remain dependent on sustained international assistance and the establishment of effective state institutions.

Elsewhere, the Houthi movement in Yemen continues to present a threat to regional security through attacks on maritime shipping and missile launches toward Israel and neighboring states. These activities have disrupted commercial routes through the Red Sea and the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, increasing shipping costs and raising concerns over the security of international trade. Yemen's internal conflict also remains unresolved, with political divisions and the continuing humanitarian crisis limiting prospects for a comprehensive peace agreement. Diplomatic efforts to reduce tensions have been complicated by the Houthis' involvement in wider regional confrontations, particularly those involving Iran and Israel.

Alongside these conflicts, regional diplomacy has continued, although progress remains limited. The Abraham Accords, which established normalization agreements between Israel and several Arab states beginning in 2020, remain an important part of regional diplomatic relations. However, efforts to expand normalization, particularly to Saudi Arabia, continue to face obstacles over the question of Palestinian statehood and the ongoing conflict in Gaza. Gulf states have also sought to balance security cooperation with the United States against efforts to avoid further confrontation with Iran. As a result, regional governments remain divided over how to address immediate security threats while pursuing longer-term diplomatic arrangements.

The current situation therefore presents several interconnected challenges for the United Nations Security Council, including the prevention of further military escalation, the protection of civilians, the implementation of ceasefire agreements, and the future of international monitoring mechanisms. The continued involvement of state and non-state actors, combined with unresolved territorial and political disputes, makes a comprehensive regional settlement difficult to achieve. Any lasting improvement in regional stability will depend on coordinated diplomatic efforts, respect for international law, and the willingness of the parties involved to address both immediate security concerns and the underlying causes of conflict.

TIMELINE OF THE TOPIC

- **1979** – Iranian Revolution establishes the Islamic Republic, reorienting Iran's regional posture.
- **2011** – Arab uprisings begin; Syrian civil war starts.
- **2015** – Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) signed, limiting Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief.
- **2018** – United States withdraws from the JCPOA and reimposes sanctions on Iran.
- **2020** – Abraham Accords signed by Israel, the UAE, and Bahrain; later joined by Morocco and Sudan.
- **October 7, 2023** – Hamas-led attack on Israel; Gaza war begins.
- **2024** – Hezbollah-Israel war in Lebanon; direct Iran-Israel missile exchanges; Israel-Hezbollah ceasefire (November).
- **December 2024** – Assad government falls in Syria; Ahmed al-Sharaa emerges as transitional leader.

- **June 2025** – Joint U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities (the "Twelve-Day War").
- **October 10, 2025** – Gaza ceasefire and twenty-point peace plan take effect.
- **January 2026** – Lebanese Armed Forces announce completion of first phase of Hezbollah disarmament south of the Litani River.
- **February 28, 2026** – Renewed U.S.-Israeli strikes on Iran begin, opening the 2026 Iran war; Iran's Supreme Leader is killed.
- **March 2, 2026** – Large-scale fighting resumes between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon.
- **April 2026** – Ceasefires announced in both the Iran and Lebanon conflicts.
- **June 2026** – U.S.-Iran memorandum of understanding signed, aiming for a formal end to the conflict.
- **July-August 2026** – Lebanon ceasefire and Iran memorandum both effectively collapse amid renewed strikes; SDF dissolves and integrates into the Syrian government.
- **September 2026** – Conflict with Iran continues as a war of attrition; disputes over renewed UN sanctions and disarmament verification in Lebanon remain unresolved.

PAST ACTIONS

UN Security Council Resolution 242 (1967)
Adopted following the Six-Day War, Resolution 242 established the principle of achieving peace through Israeli withdrawal from territories occupied during the conflict and the recognition of every state's right to live within secure and recognized boundaries. It became one of the foundations for later Arab–Israeli peace negotiations, although disagreements over its interpretation and implementation have continued.
https://docs.un.org/en/S/RES/242(1967)?utm_source

Camp David Accords (1978)
The Camp David Accords, mediated by the United States, established a framework for peace between Egypt and Israel, eventually leading to the signing of a peace treaty in 1979. Egypt became the first Arab state to formally recognize Israel, while Israel agreed to withdraw from the Sinai Peninsula. Although the agreement significantly reduced tensions between the two countries, it did not resolve the broader Israeli–Palestinian conflict.
https://history.state.gov/milestones/1977-1980/camp-david

Oslo II Accords (1995)
The Oslo II Accords were a crucial agreement in the Israeli–Palestinian peace process, dividing the West Bank into three administrative areas and granting the newly established Palestinian Authority (PA) varying degrees of administrative control. The arrangement was intended to be temporary until a permanent peace agreement could be reached, but the division into Areas A, B, and C has largely remained in place, with no final settlement achieved.
https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-185434/

UN Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006)
Adopted following the 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah, Resolution 1701 called for a cessation of hostilities, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon, and the deployment of the Lebanese Armed Forces alongside the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). It also called for the establishment of an area between the Blue Line and the Litani River free of armed personnel and weapons other than those of the Lebanese government and UNIFIL. However, repeated violations and disagreements over Hezbollah's disarmament have limited its effectiveness.
https://unsco.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/s_res_17012006.pdf

UN Security Council Resolution 2216 (2015)
Adopted during the civil war in Yemen, Resolution 2216 demanded that the Houthi movement withdraw from seized territories, surrender weapons taken from state institutions, and cease actions undermining the country's political transition. It also imposed targeted sanctions and an arms embargo on designated individuals and entities. Despite these measures, the conflict continued, with repeated diplomatic efforts failing to produce a comprehensive political settlement.
https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/s/res/2216-%282015%29-0

UN Security Council Resolution 2231 and the JCPOA (2015)
The 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and its associated Security Council resolution placed restrictions on Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief. However, the agreement began to unravel following the United States' withdrawal in 2018 and Iran's subsequent reduction of its commitments. Disagreements over sanctions, nuclear inspections, and the legal status of the agreement's remaining provisions have complicated efforts to restore a similar diplomatic framework.
https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/2231/background

The Abraham Accords (2020–present)
The Abraham Accords established a U.S.-brokered framework for normalizing relations between Israel and several Arab states, beginning with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, followed by Morocco, while Sudan also agreed to pursue normalization. Unlike earlier Arab peace initiatives, the agreements did not require the prior establishment of a Palestinian state. Although they expanded

diplomatic and economic cooperation between participating countries, they did not resolve the Israeli–Palestinian conflict, and efforts to extend normalization to Saudi Arabia have faced significant obstacles.
https://www.state.gov/the-abraham-accords

UN Security Council Resolution 2728 (2024)
Adopted in March 2024, Resolution 2728 demanded an immediate ceasefire in Gaza during Ramadan, the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, and the expansion of humanitarian assistance to civilians. Although it represented an important Security Council response to the humanitarian crisis, the resolution did not result in a lasting ceasefire, and military operations continued beyond the period specified.
https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/080/81/pdf/n2408081.pdf

UN Security Council Resolution 2735 (2024)
Resolution 2735 endorsed a three-phase ceasefire proposal for Gaza, including an initial cessation of hostilities, the release of hostages and Palestinian prisoners, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from populated areas, and the eventual reconstruction of Gaza. The resolution also emphasized the need for a permanent end to hostilities and a political settlement. However, disagreements over implementation prevented the proposal from producing a sustained resolution of the conflict.
https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/165/11/pdf/n2416511.pdf

The Gaza Ceasefire and Twenty-Point Peace Plan (2025–present)
The U.S.-brokered twenty-point peace plan provided a framework for ending the Gaza war through a ceasefire, hostage and prisoner exchanges, expanded humanitarian access, and a phased arrangement for post-war governance and reconstruction under international oversight. Although a ceasefire took effect in October 2025, implementation has remained partial and contested, particularly regarding Hamas's disarmament, Israeli withdrawal, and the future administration of Gaza.
https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c70155nked7o

UN Security Council Resolution 2803 (2025)
Adopted in November 2025, Resolution 2803 endorsed the U.S.-brokered twenty-point peace plan for Gaza and authorized the establishment of an international Board of Peace and a temporary International Stabilization Force (ISF). The resolution aimed to support the implementation of the ceasefire, facilitate reconstruction, establish transitional Palestinian governance, and oversee the demilitarization of Gaza. However, disagreements over disarmament, Israeli withdrawal, and the future political administration of Gaza have complicated its full implementation.
https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n25/316/36/pdf/n2531636.pdf

MAJOR PARTIES AND THEIR VIEWS

State of Israel
Israel regards Iran's nuclear and missile programs, Hezbollah's arsenal, and Hamas's continued existence as an armed force as existential threats that justify sustained military action, including strikes beyond its borders. Israel supports continued normalization with Arab states through the Abraham Accords framework but has largely rejected preconditioning that process on Palestinian statehood. It maintains that a full withdrawal from Gaza and southern Lebanon should follow, not precede, the disarmament of Hamas and Hezbollah.

Islamic Republic of Iran
Iran describes the February 2026 strikes as an act of aggression and has framed its retaliation and continued missile and nuclear-adjacent activity as defensive and sovereign rights. Officials have said Iran has not decided whether to withdraw from the Non-Proliferation Treaty but warn that continued attacks could push it in that direction. Iran continues to support allied armed groups in Lebanon, Yemen, and Iraq as a central pillar of its regional strategy, while facing a weakened economy and reduced regional influence compared to before 2024.

United States of America
The United States has stated that preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon is its central objective in the conflict and has combined military action with economic pressure aimed at denying Iran the resources to rebuild its nuclear program. It remains Israel's principal military and diplomatic backer, has brokered the Gaza and Lebanon ceasefire frameworks (with mixed success), and has pushed for Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, to join the Abraham Accords. U.S. domestic public opinion on unconditional support for Israel's regional actions has become more divided than in the past.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Gulf Cooperation Council States
Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states seek to protect their economic development plans from regional instability and generally favour de-escalation, including of the Iran conflict, given their proximity and exposure to Iranian retaliation. Saudi Arabia has continued to condition full normalization with Israel on meaningful progress toward Palestinian statehood, while deepening security and defence cooperation with the United States. Qatar and Egypt have played central mediating roles in Gaza ceasefire negotiations.

Syrian Transitional Government
Syria's post-Assad leadership under President Ahmed al-Sharaa seeks international recognition, sanctions relief, and reconstruction financing, and has distanced itself from Iran while emphasizing counter-terrorism cooperation and the reintegration of Kurdish-led areas. It faces significant internal challenges in addressing minority rights, transitional justice for crimes committed under the Assad government and during the transition itself and consolidating a functioning state security apparatus.

Russian Federation and People's Republic of China
Russia and China have generally opposed unilateral military action against Iran and have disputed the legal basis for reimposing UN "snapback" sanctions, arguing that the relevant provisions of the 2015 nuclear agreement framework have expired. Both maintain economic and, in Russia's case, historical military relationships with Iran and Syria, and have called for negotiated rather than military solutions to regional disputes, while continuing to pursue their own strategic interests in the region.

United Nations and International Humanitarian Organizations
UN bodies and organizations such as the IAEA, UNIFIL, and various humanitarian agencies have called for verified de-escalation, unimpeded humanitarian access, and a return to diplomacy on Iran's nuclear program. Human rights organizations have documented abuses by multiple parties across the region's conflicts and have called for accountability mechanisms independent of the political negotiations.

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION SHOULD ANSWER

- How can the Security Council encourage a durable end to hostilities between Iran, Israel, and the United States while addressing underlying proliferation concerns?

- What role, if any, should international verification or peacekeeping forces play in overseeing the disarmament of non-state armed groups such as Hezbollah?

- How should reconstruction and humanitarian assistance be structured and financed in Gaza, Lebanon, and Syria, and who should administer it?

- What steps could support Syria's political transition, including accountability for past and ongoing human rights violations, without destabilizing the current government?

- How can freedom of navigation in the Red Sea and the Strait of Hormuz be protected without further militarizing the region?

- What incentives or guarantees might advance further normalization between Israel and Arab states while addressing Palestinian political aspirations?
- How should the Council address disputes over the legal status of sanctions mechanisms tied to the 2015 nuclear agreement?

- What accountability mechanisms, if any, should apply to violations of international humanitarian law committed by state and non-state actors during these conflicts?

CONCLUSION

Delegates are encouraged to consult the following for further background and up-to-date developments:

- Council on Foreign Relations, Global Conflict Tracker (Syria, Gaza, Iran, Lebanon entries)

- UN Security Council Report, monthly forecasts on Syria, Lebanon, and the Middle East

- International Atomic Energy Agency reports on Iran's nuclear program

- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Gaza and Yemen updates

- Reuters, Associated Press, and Al Jazeera live coverage of the Iran and Lebanon conflicts

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