



# UNSC

## BACKGROUND GUIDE

*The situation relating to  
Afghanistan*



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## Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings Delegates,

We are delighted to have you on board at the United Nations Security Council being conducted at Meridian Model United Nations 2021. We trust that this letter finds you mutually excited about this conference.

## Research Tips

1. Read the agenda guide prior to the conference and make a note of everything that needs to be understood. Do read the background guide thoroughly and use it only to supplement your research.
2. Google/search everything and find related documents (UN news articles, scholarly articles) for whatever was not really understood.
3. The next step would be to try understanding your allotted country's perspective on the agenda.
4. Make the stance in accordance with the country's perspective on the agenda which shall also define your foreign policy. For this extensive country based research has to be done.
5. Understand the cues and hints that are given in detail in the background guide that may come handy while presentation of contentions in committee.
6. Take a good look at the mandate of the council as to what you can discuss and what you can do in this council. Mandate in simple words is the powers and functions of the committee. The mandate of the committee is available in this background guide.
7. Follow the links given alongside and understand why they were given. Read the endnotes and references.

8. Predict the kind of discussions and on what sub topics can take place, thereby analyzing the sub topic research you have done and prepare yourself accordingly. Make a word/pages document and put your arguments there for better presentation in council and bring a hard copy of it to the committee.
9. Ask the Executive Board your doubts, if you have any, before the conference by means of the given Email ID and make sure to not disclose your allotted country, until you want to understand the policy of your country.
10. Download the United Nations charter and the charter for the SOCHUM.
11. Ask questions regarding procedure, if you have any, on the day of the conference.

## Introduction to the United Nations Security Council

The **United Nations Security Council (UNSC)** is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN), charged with ensuring international peace and security, recommending the admission of new UN members to the General Assembly, and approving any changes to the UN Charter. Its powers include establishing peacekeeping operations, enacting international sanctions, and authorizing military action. The UNSC is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions on member states.

The Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions.

The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.

## Functions and Powers

Under the United Nations Charter, the functions and powers of the Security Council are:

- to maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations;
- to investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction;
- to recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
- to formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments;
- to determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken;
- to call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression;
- to take military action against an aggressor;
- to recommend the admission of new Members;
- to exercise the trusteeship functions of the United Nations in "strategic areas";
- to recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and, together with the Assembly, to elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice.

## Current Members

### Permanent and Non-permanent members

*The Council is composed of 15 Members:*

Five permanent members: China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly (with end of term year).

### Non-Council Member States (observers)

More than 50 United Nations Member States have never been Members of the Security Council.

A State which is a Member of the United Nations but not of the Security Council may participate, without a vote, in its discussions when the Council considers that country's interests are affected.

Both Members and non-members of the United Nations, if they are parties to a dispute being considered by the Council, may be invited to take part, without a vote, in the Council's discussions; the Council sets the conditions for participation by a non-member State.

## Mandate

The United Nations Charter established six main organs of the United Nations, including the Security Council. It gives primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the Security Council, which may meet whenever peace is threatened.

*According to the Charter, the United Nations has four purposes:*

- to maintain international peace and security;
- to develop friendly relations among nations;
- to cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights; ●
- and to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations.

All members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, only

the Security Council has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.

Detail: <https://archive.unu.edu/inter-linkages/docs/IEG/Elliott.pdf>

Mandate over Afghanistan: [https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/unsc-extendsmandate-of-united-nations-assistance-mission-in-afghanistan-121091701370\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/unsc-extendsmandate-of-united-nations-assistance-mission-in-afghanistan-121091701370_1.html)

## Maintaining Peace and Security

When a complaint concerning a threat to peace is brought before it, the Council's first action is usually to recommend that the parties try to reach agreement by peaceful means. The Council may:

- set forth principles for such an agreement;
- undertake investigation and mediation, in some cases;
- dispatch a mission;
- appoint special envoys; or
- request the Secretary-General to use his good offices to achieve a pacific settlement of the dispute.

When a dispute leads to hostilities, the Council's primary concern is to bring them to an end as soon as possible. In that case, the Council may:

- issue ceasefire directives that can help prevent an escalation of the conflict;
- dispatch military observers or a peacekeeping force to help reduce tensions, separate opposing forces and establish a calm in which peaceful settlements may be sought.

Beyond this, the Council may opt for enforcement measures, including:

- economic sanctions, arms embargoes, financial penalties and restrictions, and travel bans;
- severance of diplomatic relations;
- blockade;



➤ or even collective military action.

A chief concern is to focus action on those responsible for the policies or practices condemned by the international community, while minimizing the impact of the measures taken on other parts of the population and economy.

## Timeline

Following the withdrawal of Soviet forces and the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Najibullah's pro-communist government crumbles. He is blocked from leaving Afghanistan and takes refuge at the Kabul United Nations compound, where he remains for more than four years. Mujahideen leaders enter the capital and turn on each other. Refugees continue to flee in huge numbers to Pakistan and Iran. Kabul, largely spared during the Soviet war, comes under brutal attack by forces loyal to mujahideen leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. Much of the city is left in rubble. The national museum is rocketed and looted. Some 50,000 people are killed.

### 1994

The Taliban, ultraconservative Afghan student-warriors emerging from mujahideen groups and religious seminaries in Pakistan and Afghanistan, take over the southern Afghan city of Kandahar, promising to restore order and bring greater security. They quickly impose their harsh interpretation of Islam on the territory they control.

### May 1996

Saudi-born al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden arrives in Afghanistan after being expelled from Sudan, and eventually ingratiates himself with the one-eyed Taliban supreme leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar. Bin Laden had previously aided Afghan mujahideen forces during the

Soviet war years as one of many so-called "Afghan Arabs" who joined the anti-Soviet fight.

### **Sept. 26, 1996**

The Taliban take over Kabul. They capture Najibullah, the former president, from the U.N. compound, kill him and hang his body from a lamppost.

### **1997-1998**

Gaining control over most of the country, the Taliban impose their rule, forbidding most women from working, banning girls from education and carrying out punishments including beatings, amputations and public executions. Only three countries officially recognize the Taliban regime: Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. In August 1998, the U.S. launches cruise missile strikes on Khost, Afghanistan, in retaliation for al-Qaida attacks on U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

### **1999**

The U.N. Security Council imposes terrorist sanctions on the Taliban and al-Qaida. In December, an Indian Airlines passenger jet, bound from Kathmandu to New Delhi, is hijacked to Kandahar. The Taliban serve as mediators between the hijackers and Indian authorities, who decide to free three terrorists from Indian prisons and hand them over to the hijackers in exchange for the passengers' safety.

**March 2001**

Rejecting international pleas, the Taliban blow up two 1,500-year-old colossal Buddha statues carved into a mountainside in Bamiyan, saying the statues were "idols" prohibited under Islam.

**August 2001**

The Taliban put a group of Western aid workers on trial, accusing them of preaching Christianity, a capital offense. Two American women are among the accused.

**September 2001**

Anti-Taliban Northern Alliance leader Ahmad Shah Massoud is assassinated on Sept. 9 by alQaida operatives posing as TV journalists. After al-Qaida's Sept. 11 attacks in New York City and Washington, the U.S. demands that the Taliban hand over bin Laden. They refuse.

**The U.S.-led invasion****Oct. 7, 2001**

A U.S.-led coalition launches Operation Enduring Freedom, targeting the Taliban and alQaida with military strikes.

**November-December 2001**

The U.S.-backed Northern Alliance enters Kabul on Nov. 13. The Taliban flee south and their regime is overthrown. In December, Hamid Karzai is named interim president after Afghan

groups sign the Bonn Agreement on an interim government. Under that agreement, some warlords are named provincial governors, military commanders and cabinet ministers, as are members of the Northern Alliance. The NATO-led International Security Assistance Force is established under a U.N. mandate.

## **2003**

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld signals an end to "major combat activity" in Afghanistan, saying, "We clearly have moved from major combat activity to a period of stability and stabilization and reconstruction and activities."

## **2004**

Afghanistan holds a presidential election, won by Hamid Karzai.

## **2005**

Afghanistan's parliament opens after elections bring in lawmakers including old warlords and faction leaders.

## **The Taliban reemerge**

## **2006**

The Taliban seize territory in southern Afghanistan. NATO's ISAF assumes command from the U.S. in the south, something the NATO secretary general calls "one of the most challenging tasks NATO has ever taken on."

## 2009

Karzai is reelected president. The U.S. "surge" begins after President Barack Obama orders substantial troop increases in Afghanistan. Obama says that U.S. forces will leave by 2011.

## 2012

NATO announces it will withdraw foreign combat troops and transfer control of security operations to Afghan forces by the end of 2014.

## 2013

The Afghan army takes on security operations from NATO forces. The Obama administration announces plans to start formal peace talks with the Taliban.

## 2014

After a disputed election, Ashraf Ghani succeeds Karzai as Afghanistan's president. Ghani's rival, Abdullah Abdullah, is named chief executive. At the end of the year, U.S. and NATO forces formally end their combat missions.

## 2015

NATO launches its Resolute Support mission to aid Afghan forces. Heavy violence continues as the Taliban step up their attacks on Afghan and U.S. forces and civilians, and take over more territory. At the same time, an Afghan ISIS branch also emerges. Taliban members and Afghan officials meet informally in Qatar and agree to continue peace talks. The Taliban make publicly known that Mullah Omar, the group's founder, died years earlier. Mullah Akhtar

Mansour is named as the new leader. He is killed the following year in a U.S. drone attack in Pakistan.

## 2016

The Afghan government grants immunity to former mujahideen leader [Gulbuddin Hekmatyar](#), known in the civil war years as the "butcher of Kabul."

## 2017

Fighting continues between government forces and the Taliban, and attacks attributed to the Taliban and ISIS convulse the country.

## The U.S. endgame 2018

President Donald Trump appoints former U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad as his special representative to negotiate with the Taliban.

## 2020

After another disputed election in 2019, Ghani is declared president and Abdullah as head of the government's peace negotiating committee in early 2020. Violence increases in Kabul. ISIS claims responsibility for some attacks, while others are never claimed. Journalists and rights activists are assassinated. Other targets include a maternity hospital and a girls' school. The U.S. and the Taliban [sign a peace agreement in Doha, Qatar](#), on Feb. 29. The two sides agree on terms including for the U.S. withdrawal of troops and the Taliban to stop attacks on Americans. Direct [Taliban-Afghan government negotiations](#) begin in Doha in September, but quickly stall and never resume in a serious way.

## April 14, 2021

President Biden announces the withdrawal of remaining U.S. troops by Sept. 11. **May**

## 2021

The Taliban begin gaining territory in the north.

## July 2021

U.S. troops leave the Bagram Airfield, the key hub for the American war.

## August 2021

The Taliban seize control of key cities and provinces, often without a fight. Within days, the only major city not under their control is Kabul. Ghani flees, the government collapses and the capital comes [under Taliban](#) control on Aug. 15. Chaos erupts at the Kabul airport as desperate Afghans try to leave the country. At a press conference on Aug. 17, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid promises an inclusive government, security for aid agencies and embassies and women's rights to work and go to school — within his group's interpretation of sharia law. A suicide bombing takes place on Aug. 26 outside Kabul's international airport as the chaotic evacuation of tens of thousands of Afghans, Americans and others continues. The attack, claimed by the Islamic State's Afghan affiliate, known as ISIS-K, kills nearly 200 Afghans and 13 U.S. service members. On Aug. 29, the U.S. carries out its second drone strike on suspected ISIS-K suicide bombers since the airport attack. An Afghan family says 10 relatives, including children, were killed in the strike. The Pentagon is investigating. On Aug. 30, U.S. Central Command Gen. Frank McKenzie announces the last planes have departed, marking the end of the military evacuation effort — and America's war

in Afghanistan. The Taliban celebrate what they call "full independence." And for many Afghans — especially those wanting but unable to leave the country — a new era of painful uncertainty begins.

## Research Help

### How to Research after Reading the Timeline

After reading your topic background guides, your objective is to gain a better understanding of the topic, your country's policy on the topic, and what your country wants to do about the topic. You're going to dive into many different websites and research sources. You need a way to organize all your sources or else you will lose track of your research. One of the best ways to organize your research is to create a research binder.

You should have one research binder that includes sources for each of your topics. For each topic, you can organize your binder into 4 sections:

- **Topic Background:** This section should include your background guide and other sources that describe your topic in general, including Wikipedia pages, news articles, and reports produced by the United Nations and other organizations.
- **Past International Action:** This section should include information on your committee and what it has already done about the topic. This section should also include primary sources, such as resolutions, treaties/conventions (a convention is a type of treaty), and international policies and campaigns (like the Millennium Development Goals), as well as other important sources that describe how the UN is trying to address the topic.



- **Country Policy**: This section should include sources about your country (such as the CIA World Factbook) and your country's position on the topic. This can include speeches made by your political leaders and papers produced by your government.
- **Possible Solutions**: This section should include sources on what the UN should be doing to address the topic. This can include recommendations by UN bodies, experts (like professors), and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Having a well-organized binder will make it easier for you to understand your research and write a position paper.

**To help you get started with your research binder, here is a list of different sources and websites that you should visit:**

### **Topic Background**

- **Background Guide**. Either you, another delegate, or your chair will inevitably refer to something written in the committee's background guide during a conference. Also, what your chair has written about is what he'll focus on in committee. Use that knowledge to craft speeches and operative clauses that grab the chair's attention.
- **Wikipedia**. Information on your country's history and its recent controversies. There should be articles on your topic, too. Wikipedia might not be edited as rigorously as a print publication, but you are not writing an academic research paper – you're attending a Model UN conference. Just take note of any potential issues that are listed at the topic of Wikipedia pages, e.g. "This article needs additional citations for verification."

- **News Articles.** You want to know the latest news on your topics, as well as your own country. The simplest way to do this is to run searches on Yahoo! News and Google News, and print out the headlines. BBC Online also features easy-to-use timelines and profiles on your issues and country. Large publications like the New York Times and Wall Street Journal also have in-depth coverage on their websites.

## Past International Action

- **Your committee's actual UN website.** The goal of a committee is to pass a resolution, which depends on what a committee can and cannot do. You want to understand your committee's mandate (why it was created), powers (what it can do), organization (how it fits into the UN and the larger international community), and membership (who's in it).
- **The UN Charter.** If you are in a GA, ECOSOC, or Security Council committee, then the source of your committee's power is the UN Charter. If you are in a regional organization like NATO or OAS, then you are still affected by the Charter, particularly Chapter VII on international security and Chapter VIII on regional arrangements.
- **Resolutions, Treaties, and Conventions:** Before you can do anything on the topic, you need to know what's already been done. You can find past resolutions through the UN documentation center, although it can be difficult to navigate. Once you've found the latest resolution, the preambulatory clauses should direct you to other resolutions. The most relevant piece of international law on your topic might not be a past resolution, but instead a treaty or convention.

## Country Policy

- **CIA World Factbook.** Every MUNers go-to source for essential information on their country. You want to know your country's location, neighbors, population size, type of government, type of economy, trade partners, and the international organizations it's a part of. Not knowing this information as your country's representative can be potentially embarrassing.
- **Speeches and Press Releases.** These are the ways that policy-makers set policy. Be sure to use speeches and press releases from people in the executive branch of your country's current government (President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister / Secretary of State, Ambassadors). Legislators and judges may say something different, but as a representative of your country, you work for the Head of State / Head of Government. Start with the website for your country's Ministry of Foreign Affairs / Department of State.
- **Voting Record.** Actions speak louder than words. If your country's leaders have not clearly articulated a policy on your topic, then you can infer it from how your country has voted on past resolutions, treaties, and conventions (or whether they were even present). Note that recent speeches may indicate a change in policy away from however your country has voted in the past, especially if your government has changed administrations. Nonetheless, you still want to know how your country's past actions on the topic, for your own knowledge, and in case anyone asks.

## Possible Solutions

- **UN Reports:** Many times, the United Nations has produced reports on what they believe needs to be done next on the topic. They may be referred to as a report of the Secretary- General, recommendations by a high-level panel, or an outcome document of a conference.
- **Think Tanks.** Organizations like RAND are paid to come up with solutions to the topics you discuss in Model UN. Think tank publications have more depth and evidence than an opinion article, but they're typically not as dense as an academic paper. They might also be pushing a certain agenda, so be aware of that. Otherwise, they are a great starting point for proposing potential solutions.
- **Your Ideas.** Include in your binder your position papers, working papers, notes, thoughts, as well as blank lined paper – Don't rely on a conference to bring enough paper for draft resolutions and note passing. You can do all the research you want, and you can be really fast and efficient at it, but none of that matters until you boil down what you've read into ideas that you can explain in your own words.

# Sources to Use

## STRUCTURE AND PUBLICATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS

- [United Nations Main Page](#)
- [UN Charter](#)
- [UN Systems](#)
- [UN Overview](#)
- [UN Treaties](#)
- [UN Library](#)
- [UN Members](#)
- [UN Journal](#)
- [UN Wire](#)
- [UN Research Guide](#)
- [UN Cyber Schoolbus](#)
- [Permanent Missions to the UN](#)
- [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)
- [Issues on the UN Agenda](#)
- [WWW Virtual Library: the United Nations](#)
- [UNA-USA's MyDiplomat App](#)

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES AND MAIN UN ORGANS

- [General Assembly](#)
- [First Committee: Disarmament and International Security](#)
- [Second Committee: Economic and Financial](#)
- [Third Committee: Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural](#)
- [Fourth Committee: Special Political and Decolonization](#)
- [Sixth Committee: Legal](#)
- [Economic and Social Council](#)
- [Security Council](#)

- [Security Council Resolutions](#)
- [International Court of Justice](#)

## UN SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, PROGRAMS, AND FUNDS

- [UN Children's Fund \(UNICEF\)](#)
- [UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization \(UNESCO\)](#)
- [UN Development Programme \(UNDP\)](#)
- [UN Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#)
- [UN High Commissioner for Human Rights](#)
- [UN High Commissioner for Refugees \(UNHCR\)](#)
- [UN Center for Regional Development](#)
- [UN Commission on International Trade Law](#)
- [UN Conference on Trade and Development \(UNCTAD\)](#)
- [UN Commission for Social Development](#)
- [UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice \(CCPCJ\)](#)
- [UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs](#)
- [UN Commission on Sustainable Development](#)
- [UN Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW\)](#)
- [UN Commission on Population and Development](#)
- [Food and Agricultural Organization \(FAO\)](#)
- [International Atomic Energy Agency \(IAEA\)](#)
- [International Civil Aviation Organization \(ICAO\)](#)
- [International Criminal Court \(ICC\)](#)
- [International Fund for Agricultural Development](#)
- [International Labor Organization \(ILO\)](#)
- [International Maritime Organization \(IMO\)](#)
- [International Monetary Fund \(IMF\)](#)
- [International Telecommunication Unit](#)
- [UN Industrial Development Organization \(UNIDO\)](#)
- [International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women](#)
- [UN Center for Human Settlements](#)
- [UN Office on Drugs and Crime \(UNODC\)](#)

- [UN Information Center](#)
- [World Bank](#)
- [World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)
- [World Intellectual Property Organization \(WIPO\)](#)
- [World Meteorological Organization](#)
- [World Trade Organization \(WTO\)](#)
- [UN Statistics Division](#)
- [Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS](#)

## COUNTRY PROFILE LINKS

### General Research on Countries

- [Check out our New Country Policy Profile and Policy Map](#)
- [CIA World Factbook](#)
- [US State Department Background Notes](#)
- [List of Governmental Websites](#)
- [List of International Governmental Organizations](#)
- [Foreign Governments Comprehensive Web Site Listings](#)
- [Library of Congress Country Studies](#)
- [The Lincoln Library](#)
- [The Electronic Embassy](#)
- [Country Watch](#)
- [The Economist Country Briefings](#)
- [Government and Legal Structure by Country](#)
- [UN Maps](#)
- [Atlappedia](#)
- [InfoNation](#)
- [BBC Country Profiles](#)
- [Group of 20](#)
- [World Bank Data and Statistics](#)
- [NGO Global Network](#)
- [Wikipedia](#)

## African Countries

- [African Union \(AU\)](#)
- [African Development Bank](#)
- [The Economic Community of West African States](#)
- [The Economic Community of Central African States](#)
- [South African Development Community](#)
- [WWW Virtual Library: Africa](#)

## Asian & Middle Eastern Countries

- [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation \(APEC\)](#)
- [Association of Southeast Asian Nations \(ASEAN\)](#)
- [Shanghai Cooperation Organization \(SCO\)](#)
- [League of Arab States](#)
- [Organization of the Islamic Conference \(OIC\)](#)
- [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation \(SAARC\)](#)
- [WWW Virtual Library: Asia](#)

## European Countries

- [European Union \(EU\)](#)
- [North Atlantic Treaty Organization \(NATO\)](#)
- [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe \(OSCE\)](#)
- [Council of Europe](#)
- [Western European Union](#)
- [Policies of the European Union](#)
- [WWW Virtual Library: European Union](#)

## North & South American Countries

- [Organization of American States \(OAS\)](#)
- [North American Free Trade Agreement \(NAFTA\)](#)
- [South American Common Market](#)
- [Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean \(ECLAC\)](#)
- [Latin American Economic System](#)
- [Pan American Health Organization](#)



- [Small Islands Developing State Network](#)
- [Caribbean Community and Common Market](#)
- [Andean Community](#)
- [Council of Canadians](#)
- [WWW Virtual Library: Latin America and the Caribbean](#)

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

- [The White House](#)
- [Library of Congress](#)
- [WWW Virtual Library: American Foreign Policy](#)

## **LINKS BY TOPIC CATEGORY**

#### **Peace and Security**

- [UN Peace & Security Page](#)
- [UN Disarmament Page](#)
- [Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons](#)
- [UN Institute for Disarmament Research](#)
- [Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization](#)
- [International Atomic Energy Agency](#)
- [Nuclear Threat Initiative](#)
- [UN Peacekeeping](#)

- [Global Security](#)
  - [Carnegie Endowment](#)
  - [Crisis Group](#)
  - [United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs](#)
  - [United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research](#)
  - [US National Counterintelligence Executive](#)
  - [US National Security Agency](#)
  - [International Relations and Security Network](#)
  - [UN Mine Action Service](#)
  - [Adopt-a-Minefield](#)
  - [International Campaign to Ban Landmines](#)
  - [WWW Virtual Library: Peace and Security](#)
- 
- [UN Development Page](#)
  - [UN Development Programme](#)
  - [World Trade Organization](#)
  - [International Monetary Fund External Country Information](#)
  - [World Bank External Country Information](#)
  - [International Fund for Agricultural Development](#)
  - [UN Conference on Trade and Development](#)
  - [UN Global Issues](#)
  - [Division for Sustainable Development](#)
  - [International Labor Organization](#)
  - [UN Industrial Development Organization](#)
  - [High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries, and Small Island Developing States](#)
  - [Council for a Community of Democracies](#)
  - [Debt AIDS Trade Africa \(DATA\)](#)

## Development: Economic and Environmental

### UN Framework Convention on Climate Change

- [UN Convention to Combat Desertification](#)
- [UN-Habitat](#)
- [Ecolex- Environmental Law Information](#)
- [EcoNet](#)
- [European Environmental Law Page](#)
- [Geneva Environment Network](#)
- [United Nations System- Wide Earth Watch](#)
- [World Resources Institute](#)
- [United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change](#)
- [WWW Virtual Library: International Development](#)

## Development: Humanitarian and Health

- [UN humanitarian affairs page](#)
- [UN Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization](#)
- [Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria](#)
- [UN Division for the Advancement of Women](#)
- [UN International Training Institute for the Advancement of Women](#)
- [Americans for UNFPA – One Woman Can](#)
- [Child Rights Information Network](#)
- [Database on Research and Information on Children’s Rights](#)
- [Childwatch International Research Network](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [UN Children’s Fund](#)
- [Children in Conflict](#)
- [UN Youth](#)
- [Women Watch](#)
- [UNAIDS](#)
- [United Nations Population Fund](#)
- [Population Action](#)

- [World Health Organization](#)  
[Global Health](#)  
[Oxfam](#)
- [World Food Programme](#)
- [Food and Agricultural Organization](#)
- [International Committee of the Red Cross](#)
- [Doctors Without Borders](#)
- [UN High Commissioner on Refugees](#)
- [UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#)
- [UNICEF in Emergencies](#)
- [Relief Web](#)
- [Federation of American Scientists](#)
- [WWW Virtual Library: Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs](#)

## **Human Rights**

- [UN Human Rights Page](#)
- [UN High Commissioner on Human Rights](#)
- [Human Rights Watch](#)
- [Amnesty International](#)
- [Freedom House](#)
- [Human Trafficking](#)
- [US Department of State Human Rights Reports](#)
- [Bayefsky List of UN Human Rights Treaties](#)
- [Project DIANA at Yale – Human Rights Documents](#)
- [Center for the Study of Human Rights](#)
- [Human Rights First](#)
- [Human Rights Internet](#)
- [International Human Rights Law Institute](#)
- [International League for Human Rights](#)
- [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)
- [50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#)
- [University of Minnesota Human Rights Library](#)

## International Law

- [UN International Law Page](#)
- [International Court of Justice](#)
- [International Criminal Court](#)
- [International Law Commission](#)
- [World Intellectual Property Organization](#)
- [World Trade Organization's Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights](#)
- [WWW Virtual Library: International Law](#)

## NEWS SOURCES

- [UN News](#)
- [Google Scholar](#)
- [Google News](#)
- [Google News Alerts](#)
- [Al-Jazeera](#)
- [BBC](#)
- [CNN](#)
- [Financial Times](#)
- [International Herald Tribune](#)
- [Le Monde Diplomatique](#)
- [New York Times](#)
- [The Economist](#)
- [The Times of London](#)
- [The Wall Street Journal](#)
- [Washington Post](#)
- [WWW Virtual Library: News Sources](#)
- [WWW Virtual Library: International Radio and Television](#)
- [WWW Virtual Library: International Relations Journals and Magazines](#)

## THINK TANKS & POLICY GROUPS

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