



**United Nations
Security Council**

Letter from the Secretariat

Delegates,

Welcome to the background guides for MiniMUN 2017! Whether it is your first or third Model United Nations conference, it is our hope at MiniMUN that you will continue to further expand your knowledge of MUN, world issues, and the UN itself.

The purpose of this background guide is to introduce the committee and the topic, as well as help you write your position paper. Details on position paper and submission are available under the Position Paper tab on our website:

<http://chsminimun.weebly.com/position-papers.html>

The topics and committees were chosen to reflect the problems that our world leaders face. As a delegate, you will be stepping into the role of world leaders. You will take on perspectives different from your own, and you will push for what your country believes to be right.

We have diligently worked to make this year's topics even more captivating and advanced than previous years. If at any time, you are having trouble understanding the background guide, finding information on the topic, or writing your position paper, please contact your chairs for help. They are more than willing to assist you to make MiniMUN a productive and engaging conference!

We are very excited to see you at MiniMUN 2017!

Rogan Munro-Foulis and Christine Pang

Secretary-General and Director-General, MiniMUN 2017



Description of Committee

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six main organs of the United Nations and is charged with the maintenance of international peace and security. Its powers include the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the establishment of international sanctions, and the authorization of military action through Security Council resolutions; it is the only UN body with the authority to issue binding resolutions to member states. The Security Council held its first session on 17 January 1946.

The Security Council consists of fifteen members. The great powers that were the victors of World War II— Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States — along with France and China, serve as the body's five permanent members. These permanent members can veto any substantive Security Council resolution, including those on the admission of new member states or candidates for Secretary-General. The Security Council also has 10 non-permanent members, elected on a regional basis to serve two-year terms. The body's presidency rotates monthly between its members. Security Council resolutions are typically enforced by UN peacekeepers, military forces voluntarily provided by member states and funded independently of the main UN budget. As of 2013, 116,837 peacekeeping soldiers and other personnel are deployed on 15 missions around the world.

UNSC: <http://www.un.org/en/sc/>

Topic A: The Status of Iran's Nuclear Project

Iran's nuclear programme has constantly been the focus of the world's attention for more than two decades. Whilst the Iranian government has, repeatedly, insisted that it has never engaged in the manufacturing of nuclear weapons nor enriched uranium for non-peaceful purposes, its persistent refusal to open itself to international, unbiased inspections among other aspects has contributed to the formation of an international feeling of mistrust towards Iran. After more than thirty years of negotiations, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the international community agreed to resolve this dispute through the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which in short- lifted all UNSC, multilateral and national nuclear related sanctions in exchange for Iran's commitment to abstain from seeking, developing or acquiring nuclear weapons. Prominent Middle Eastern powerhouses, such as Israel and Saudi Arabia have since voiced their discontent with the agreement, arguing that Iran poses a perpetual threat to the stability of the region and that the Agreement could trigger the dawn of an arms race in the Middle East. Recently, the Agreement has been plagued by a series of concerns, ranging from accusations of non-compliance by Iran against the USA to missile tests conducted by Iran.

Timeline of Events

1950s

- Shah Mohammed Reza commissions civilian nuclear programme
- Deal struck with the USA to provide nuclear research to Tehran under 'Atoms for Peace' programme

1960s

- Iran signs NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty), they are bound by the treaty to never acquire nuclear weapons

1970s

- The Shah establishes the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, an educational programme which trains Iranian engineers abroad
- A West German corporation constructs the first nuclear power plant in Iran
- The USA suspects that Iran might harbour an interest in nuclear weapons
- The Shah is forced to flee the country with the onset of the Islamic Revolution (1979)

1980s

- Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhitiar assumes power and halts the construction of the nuclear power plant
- USA stops supplying enriched uranium as a result
- The Iran-Iraq war and Saddam Hussein's pursuit of nuclear weapons prompts Iran to reconsider its nuclear programme, Ayatollah Khomeini recommences Iran's nuclear activities in secret with the help of the West German company

1990s

- Iran signed a contract with a Russian investor to complete one of the nuclear reactors, originally constructed by the West German Company
- The United States appeals to the international community to refrain from selling nuclear technology to Iran
- The United States imposes sanctions upon Iran, believing it to harbour intentions to construct nuclear weapons
- President Mohammad Khatami makes an official state visit to Saudi Arabia (the first in decades) and expresses his concerns over Israel's nuclear programme

2002

- The UN receives information on several clandestine nuclear programmes whose existence was previously unknown to the world community
- Iran agrees to inspections by IAEA but also takes steps to accelerate the construction of the nuclear power plant by the Russian investor in Bushehr
- The United States accuses Tehran of pursuing weapons of mass destruction after satellite pictures confirm the existence of two nuclear sites, Natanz and Arak ZZ

2003

- The Bush administration justifies the invasion of Iraq with reference to the possession of weapons of mass destruction
- Iran momentarily suspends its nuclear programme and signs the Additional Protocol, but continues to enrich uranium

- IAEA inspections conclude that Iran has been enriching uranium, Iran agrees to allow for more international controls and to terminate its uranium enrichment activities

2004

- Adul Qadeer, one of the creators of Pakistan's nuclear bombs, is said to have sold nuclear technology to Iran

- The IAEA urges Iran to reveal the full extent of its nuclear programme

2005

- Mahmoud Ahmadinejad becomes President, despite the UNSC's objections he encourages the expansion of Iran's nuclear programme

- He also calls for Israel to be "wiped off the map" and refuses to recognise the holocaust

- Iran allows for IAEA inspections at its plant near Tehran (Parchin)

- An independent investigation concludes that there is no conclusive evidence of Iran enriching uranium for the production of nuclear weapons and that the traces of "bomb-grade" uranium came from contaminated Pakistani equipment

2006

- Iran proceeds with its uranium enrichment programme at Natanz

- The IAEA approves a resolution to report Iran's nuclear programme to the UNSC, sceptic of whether these nuclear activities serve a peaceful purpose

- President Ahmadinejad approves plans for a plutonium production plant and appeals to the international community for assistance, the IAEA, the USA and the EU refuse, citing doubts over Iran's nuclear motivations

- The UNSC passes its first wave of sanctions against Iran, banning the import and export of technology used to uranium enrichment and the manufacturing of ballistic missiles

2008

- Israel becomes increasingly concerned over Iran's nuclear programme and, with the aid of the United States launches a wave of cyberattacks against the plant in Natanz

- Attempts to engage in diplomatic talks fail

2009

- Talks are resumed between Iran and the UNSC

- French, British and American Intelligence reveals that Iran has built a secret uranium enrichment plant within a mountain

2010

- The UN publishes data showing, for the first time that Iran has, either in the past or currently carried out activity with the aim of developing a nuclear warhead.

- The UNSC approves its 4th round of sanctions against Iran

2011

- Other major western powers begin to strategically isolate Iran from the international finance and trade system

2012

- Iran discloses plans to build 3,000 advanced uranium enrichment centrifuges at

Natanz

- The IAEA tries to gain access to carry out inspections at Parachin

- The EU places an embargo on Iranian oil

- In return, Iran intends to disrupt shipping traffic through the Strait of Hormutz

- The IAEA reports that Iran has installed 75% of the nuclear centrifuges required to complete an underground nuclear site near Qum

- Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu holds a speech at the UN, arguing that Iran must be stopped before they are in a position to make their first nuclear weapon

- Iran's currency tumbles after the effects of Western sanctions take full form

- The EU tightens its sanctions

2013

- The US imposes a new round of sanctions, requiring any nation which purchases Iranian oil to dispose payment in a local Iranian bank account, thus hindering Iran from making purchases outside the country

- Iran announces that it would implement a new generation of centrifuges, which are four to six times more powerful

- Iran participates in a multilateral round of negotiations with the P5, Germany and Kazakhstan but no specific agreement is reached.

- Iran announces that it plans to expand its uranium productions and claims advances in its nuclear programme

- The Obama administration escalates sanctions placed upon Iran
- Iran elects a new president who also installs a more moderate government
- The IAEA notes that inspections have shown that Iran has decelerated its accumulation of enriched uranium
- Iran and the UNSC engage in 'substantive' and 'forward looking' discussions, after two days of negotiations, the Iranian government and the EU issue a rare joint statement
- Iran agrees to IAEA inspections of two of its sites (excluding Parachin)
- The launch of an Accord between the UNSC and Iran, which temporarily freezes Iran's nuclear programme whilst negotiations commence (JPOA)

2014

- Iran agrees to move its stockpile of uranium to Russia to be transposed into specialized fuel rods for Iran's only commercial reactor

2015

- Relations between Iran and West thaw, as they begin to pave the way towards an Agreement in regards to Iran's nuclear future.
- On the 20th of July, the UNSC adopts a resolution which approves the JCPOA, this day becomes known as 'finalization day'

2016

- UNSC Resolution 1696, 1737, 1747, 1803, 1835, 1929 and 2224 are abolished
- Iran implements a wealth of means to modify existing nuclear facilities

- Iran resumes trade with a number of its once well established partners, including the United States (the controversial purchase of 32 tons of heavy water)

The Situation

In November 2013 Iran and the UNSC signed the JPOA, the Joint Plan of Action. In exchange for limited and temporary economic relief from Western sanctions, Iran agreed to cease the enrichment of uranium and to admit in depth inspections of its nuclear programme by the IAEA. In July 2015, the same parties strongly endorse the UNSC's JCPOA Resolution (S/Res/2231) which specified an observatory procedure for Iran's nuclear activities and adopted a roadmap for the eventual lifting of all nuclear related sanctions and economic restrictions. More specifically, Iran is obligated to reduce its low-enriched uranium by 97%, dispose of its medium-enriched uranium and curtail its centrifuge installation by 75% for the coming thirteen years. For the following fifteen years, Iran is only allowed to enrich uranium by 3.67% and to refrain from investing in heavy water facilities. In the event of non-compliance by Iran, economic sanctions would be automatically reemployed. The agreement sets to reduce Iran's nuclear capabilities, from possessing enough nuclear material to produce ten weapons to falling short of satisfying the requirements for a single nuclear weapon. Jeffrey Lewis, the director of the East Asia Nonproliferation Program at the Monterey Institute of International Studies, appraised the Agreement as "a good deal because it slows down their nuclear program — which they say is for civilian purposes but could be used to make a bomb, and which we think was originally intended to make a bomb. And it puts

monitoring and verification measures in place that mean if they try to build a bomb, we're very likely to find out, and to do so with enough time that we have options to do something about it." In essence, the Agreement freezes Iran's nuclear capabilities and bars Iran from being able to produce nuclear weapons, which in turn reduced the threat of proliferation throughout the Middle East. Iran has, in accordance with the guidelines provided, disclosed its present and past nuclear activities in the face of any ambiguities. Including the EU, the programme has answered these questions accordingly. Meanwhile, the other parties to the Agreement have instigated the necessary domestic measures to lift all nuclear-related sanctions by 'implementation day' (January 16, 2016), these efforts and the corresponding date are referred to as "Adoption Day" (18 October 2015). The speedy transition of the JCPOA's preliminary practical steps took most international observers by surprise and was met with a favorable political climate in Iran, which led to the ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), the Convention on Nuclear Safety (CNS) as well as the IAEA's Additional Protocol. Although Iran was freed from its nuclear-related sanctions in February 2016, the economy has only slowly begun to show signs of recovery. Despite bank accounts and other assets having been released from their strictures in early 2016, the outstanding international debt Iran owes acts as a burdensome weight on the country's shoulders and impedes economic growth.

The Report

In July 2016, the Secretariat issued its report on the Implementation of the UNSC Resolution 2231, which had endorsed the JCPOA and was subsequently faced with heavy backlash from Russia and the United States. The UN Ambassadors to both respective nations argued that Secretary General Ban Ki Moon had overstepped his mark when he pointed to the struggling Iranian economy, the US established travel restrictions and the confiscations of Iranian bank assets by a US court order.

Churkin, the Russian UN Ambassador noted that "some of the provisions of the Secretary-General's report have no relation to his mandate, nor to the terms of reference of (the U.N.) resolution or the (nuclear deal)." More importantly however, was Ban's appraisal of Iran's ballistic missile programme, the Secretary General regarded the ballistic missiles launched by Iran in March as inconsistent with the spirit of the resolution but not necessarily as a violation. Instead he referred to the UNSC to decide on whether Iran's missile tests were in defiance of the UN Resolution 2231.

The Missiles

In March of 2016, Iran's Revolutionary Guard conducted two ballistic missile test (with a range of 300 -2,000km), arguing that the missiles were "conventional defensive instruments" used "merely for legitimate defence" and did thus not violate the nuclear deal Iran has secured under the JCPOA. Unsurprisingly, the remaining parties to the Agreement were not satisfied with Iran's intentions to, according to the foreign ministry "continue it's completely defensive and legitimate

missile programme” and released a joint letter between the US and its European partners denouncing the launch as a clear violation of UNSC Resolution 2231 (albeit not contravening the JCPOA). Both Russia and China have expressed their disdain for further economic sanctions as a result of the missile tests and supported the discontinuation of restrictions against Iran’s missile program during the nuclear Agreement’s negotiation rounds. Although the US, France, and the UK agreed that “the call for” Iran to refrain from ballistic weaponry activity for eight years is not a legally binding condition as such, it is nevertheless a “political obligation.” UNSC Resolution 2231, “calls upon” Iran to not engage in an activity related to “ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons.” Indeed, although the Agreement installed a cap in regards to Iran’s nuclear development, it did not expressly deem the continuation of Iran’s ballistic programme as a violation against international law nor against the JCPOA. On the contrary, the JCPOA initiated the lifting of a UN sanction (UNSC Resolution 1929) which had barred Iran from testing of ballistic missiles capable of carrying nuclear warheads. Although Iran has argued that, none of the missiles were designed to carry a nuclear warhead, Iran did contend that the missile tests were supposed to send a strong warning to Israel (with some reports suggesting that the missiles were annotated with Hebrew letters). Since the incident, France has suggested the invocation of unilateral European sanctions and the US has initiated a ‘crack-down’ against Iranian businesspersons and companies allegedly supporting the ballistic programme. The JCPOA has been fiercely criticized by nationals of all contracting parties, with Iranians arguing that

the country has submitted itself to too many unfavorable terms without receiving comparable benefits and the citizens of Western powers expressing their concerns over Iran's ballistic project. Rouhani has criticized the US for failing to comply with the nuclear Agreement in relation to the relaxation of economic restrictions and sanctions imposed upon Iran. In his speech in front of the UN General Assembly in September of this year, Rouhani denounced the "not ... very stellar report card by the United States when it comes to fulfilling the agreement." Although Iran was able to benefit from American export licenses to buy new commercial aircrafts, the single biggest transaction between Iran and a Western country in decades, the United States has refused to lift lingering restrictions on banking and dollar transactions within Iran, which remain unchanged despite the JCPOA. Moreover, Iranian entrepreneurs, businesses and banks have been deterred from the United States due to the threat of possible penalties stemming from American authorities. Over the past ten years some of the biggest international banks including BNP Paribas, HSBC and Deutsche Bank have paid billions of dollars' worth of fines for engaging in the Iranian economy, thus from an Iranian perspective little has been done to encourage investment within Iran. Facing parliamentary elections in late February of 2016 and presidential elections in 2017, the moderate, more western orientated pragmatist Rouhani is under immense domestic pressure to illustrate the beneficial aspects of the nuclear Agreement. Similarly, the recent result of the American presidential elections surely places the future of the JCPOA on shaky grounds, with President elect, Donald Trump calling the Agreement a "disaster" , "the worst deal ever

negotiated” which would eventually result in a “nuclear holocaust.” In addition, Trump has vowed to “dismantle the disastrous deal with Iran.” Richard Nephew, a former US negotiator of the Agreement has declared that “there is very little likelihood that it stays, either because of a deliberate decision to tear it up by Trump, or steps that the U.S. takes which prompt an Iranian walk back.” Iran’s oil based economy has been performing better than other comparable Middle Eastern economies, however the Agreement has not led to the promised boom of western investments, as was promised by Rouhani, in Iran. Opposition hard-liners, who stand to reap the benefits of Rouhani’s popular political decline, have been growing stronger as Iran continues to postpone the transitional jump with which it hopes to reintegrate itself into the global economy. However, Iran’s crude oil production has soared, with exports doubling to 2 million barrels a day in comparison to the amount produced a year ago. With Iran’s most important customer returning to the sales desk, experts expect Iran to regain its market share in a few years’ time.

Bloc Positions

The East

Russia was one of the driving forces behind negotiating the JCPOA and actively participated in the swift removal of 11 tons of low-enriched uranium from Iran, which is now being stored in Russia. This project has led to further Russian-Iranian cooperation, such as the Russian production of stable medical isotopes. China applauded the Agreement reached but has expressed its concerns in regards to the implementation of the Agreement. In relation to the missile tests conducted in

March, both Russia and China disagree with the Western powers' interpretation of Resolution 2231's alleged ban of missile related activity.

The West

In an unusually harsh tone, Britain's Foreign Secretary criticized Israel's hostility towards the Agreement, however following the Iranian ballistic missile tests; the UK took a cautious step back and together with the United States and other European powers urged Iran to comply with the UNSC Resolution, which it had arguably breached. The US, France, Germany and the UK have condemned the tests as "destabilizing and provocative." However, Europe has- unlike the United States not actively called for UNSC sanctions nor has it pledged to pursue these in the UNSC. The US Ambassador to the Security Council, has criticized Russia for "lawyering its way to look for reasons not to act" in the face of 'clear' breach of the Resolution. Although the US was a prime negotiator of the Agreement, it only agreed to lift secondary but not primary sanctions (with the exception of Boeing commercial aircraft deal) and remains broadly sceptic to the eventual full implementation of the JCPOA.

Points a Resolution Should Address

- Delegates are expected to determine whether the ballistic missile tests contravened the spirit of UNSC Resolution 2231 and thus breached the obligations contained within.
- Participants must consider the recent political domestic developments and how these might shape the future of the JCPOA.

- Delegates may wish to reconsider the levying of economic sanctions in response to the ballistic missile tests