PACE MUN 2025
CONFLICTS TO CONSENSUS

BACKGROUND GUIDE

COMMITTEE: UNSC
AGENDA: Addressing the Escalation of
Proxy Conflicts in the Middle East and
Advancing Pathways Toward Regional
Stability

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

It is our privilege to welcome you to the United Nations Security Council at PACE MUN 2025. My name is Marc Ghazarian, and I have the honor of serving as your Head Chair, alongside my Co-Chair Moufeed. We are truly excited to guide you through what promises to be a challenging, thought-provoking, and impactful committee. This year's agenda, "Addressing the Escalation of Proxy Conflicts in the Middle East and Advancing Pathways Toward Regional Stability," focuses on one of the most pressing security issues of the 21st century. Over the past two decades, events such as the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq and the 2011 Arab Spring have intensified regional rivalries, sectarian divisions, and foreign interference. Conflicts in countries such as Syria and Yemen have become arenas for proxy dynamics, prolonging instability, worsening humanitarian crises, and deepening geopolitical tensions. As a committee, we will work together to navigate these complexities, address their root causes, and seek practical diplomatic solutions. We look forward to witnessing your critical thinking, collaboration, and leadership throughout the sessions and are confident this committee will be both memorable and impactful.
Warm Regards,
Marc Ghazarian- Head Chair (marclebanon5@gmail.com)
Moufeed Mwafaq- Co Chair (irsmoufeed8@gmail.com)

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The United Nations Security Council is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations and is the only UN body with the authority to make legally binding decisions on matters of international peace and security.

The primary responsibility of the UNSC is to maintain global peace and security. It addresses conflicts, threats to stability, terrorism, arms proliferation, and disputes between states. It also works to prevent wars, mediate peace processes, and authorize intervention when diplomacy fails. Under the UN Charter, especially Chapters VI and VII, the Security Council has the ability to:
- *Pass binding resolutions that member states must comply with.*
- *Impose sanctions (economic, travel bans, arms embargoes).*

•	*Authorize the use of force or military intervention when necessary.*
•	*Establish peacekeeping missions and observer forces.*
•	*Mediate disputes and call for ceasefires.*
•	*Form committees and monitoring bodies, such as sanctions committees or expert panels.*

A DELVE INTO THE AGENDA:

Proxy conflicts in the Middle East have intensified over the past two decades, largely due to geopolitical rivalries and sectarian divisions. Key turning points include the 2003 U.S. invasion of Iraq and the Arab Spring uprisings in 2011, which created power vacuums that external actors such as the USA, Russia, Iran, and Saudi Arabia exploited by supporting opposing sides in local conflicts. In Syria (2011–present), various states support different factions in the civil war, while in Yemen (2014–present), Iran backs Houthi rebels and Saudi Arabia leads a coalition supporting government forces.

The main subtopics of this agenda include:

External actors' involvement in domestic conflicts and their role in escalating proxy wars

Sectarian divisions between Sunni and Shia groups and their impact on regional instability

Geopolitical competition for regional dominance among major powers

Humanitarian consequences of prolonged conflicts, including displacement and civilian casualties

The current situation shows that these proxy wars continue to claim lives, destabilize the region, and hinder diplomatic solutions. Despite measures such as UN Security Council resolutions, arms embargoes, peacekeeping missions, and diplomatic mediation, rivalry-induced support for non-state militant groups remains a significant barrier to lasting peace. The committee will focus on exploring strategies to limit foreign interference,

encourage dialogue among regional rivals, and develop a sustainable security and peace framework to restore stability in the Middle East.

PAST ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE

The Security Council has addressed proxy conflicts in the Middle East (e.g., Syria) through the following means:

Resolutions:
Key resolutions such as 598 (Iran-Iraq), 2216 (Yemen) and 2254 (Syria) targeted the reduction of external military support, ceasefire implementation and political settlement advancement in these war-torn countries.

Sanctions and Embargoes:
The UNSC has imposed arms embargoes on non-state actors and state proxies in Yemen, Syria, and Iraq.

Peacekeeping and Monitoring Missions:
Missions such as UNDOF, UNAMI and UNMHA were launched to contain the threats of escalation and supervise ceasefires.

Diplomatic Mediation:
The Council has consistently backed the negotiation platforms such as the Geneva and Astana talks, the Stockholm Agreement on Yemen and other regional de-escalation efforts.

Counterterrorism Measures:
The resolutions targeting ISIS, Al-Qaeda and similar militias (2170 and 2249) to curtail the influence of armed proxies.

Despite these measures, external state actors' interference and rivalry-induced sponsorship of non-state militant groups threaten lasting peace in the region.

THINGS TO RESEARCH ABOUT

How has the involvement of external actors influenced the escalation of proxy conflicts in the Middle East?

What role do sectarian divisions play in fueling these conflicts, and how can they be addressed diplomatically?

How have key events such as the Iraq War (2003) and the Arab Spring (2011) shaped current regional dynamics?

What measures can the UNSC take to limit foreign interference and encourage regional stability?

How can sustainable ceasefires and peace negotiations be encouraged in conflict zones such as Syria and Yemen?

What strategies can be developed to address the humanitarian consequences of prolonged proxy wars?

How can regional powers and international actors cooperate to build long-term security frameworks?

QUESTIONS A RESOLUTION SHOULD ADDRESS

How can the UNSC reduce foreign interference in Middle Eastern conflicts such as Syria and Yemen?

What strategies can address sectarian tensions and promote political stability in affected countries?

How can peace negotiations and ceasefires be made more effective and sustainable?

What measures can limit support to armed non-state actors and prevent further escalation?

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Resolution 598 (1987) – Iran-Iraq Conflict
Calls for an immediate ceasefire, discontinuation of all military actions, and withdrawal of forces.

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GOOD LUCK DELEGATE!

See you at the Conference!