



MAYABMUN
MODELO DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS

SECURITY COUNCIL

DELEGATE HANDBOOK
MAYABMUN 2022



ANÁHUAC MÉRIDA



Letter from the Secretary General

The Anahuac Mayab University Model United Nations or better known as the MayabMUN, being the first of its kind in southeastern Mexico, has been for 18 years one of the key events of the School of Law and International Relations.

With a mission to train the next generation of international leaders who are not afraid to create the solutions the world needs, MayabMUN provides a platform where students can develop internationally and acquire the necessary knowledge and skills such as leadership, diplomacy, negotiation, public speaking and research to become successful professionals.

Students who know the trends, what is being done internationally and who have the ability to express an informed opinion and, better yet, solutions to these problems, will be more competitive and will be able to position themselves on the international scene.

I would like to invite you to make the most of this event and strengthen your skills to achieve the goals you are most passionate about.

Accept the challenge of public speaking, of researching a new topic, of contrasting opinions. When you have done so, you will realize that today we can all play an important role in the world.

I would like to welcome you to the project and invite you to be part of this new chapter in the history of MayabMUN!



Andrés Herrera Esquivel





Letter from the Chair

Dear delegates:

It is an honour and pleasure to welcome you to MAYABMUN 2022 in its 18th edition. We will be serving you as the United Nations Security Council chair. The Model United Nations simulations are visionary exercises with which you will be able to develop new abilities and grow as settled and empowered people. This is why, for the chair, your participation is a key element during this practice. It is doubtless that you will have a splendid experience, where you will not only enrich your knowledge, but will also gain or reinforce friendships.

It is fundamental for you delegates to acquire, in the first place, knowledge about the history, objectives, functionality and structure of the UN, including its main organs and commissions. You must also deeply investigate the history and the economic, social and cultural situations of the country that you will represent, as well as their national interests, international politics and relations, and their position on the topic that will be discussed. A solid preparation from all the participants from the Model United Nations is fundamental for the simulation's success.

Delegates must identify themselves as the representatives of their specific country at all times. Although it is natural and of great value for the delegates to form a personal opinion on the topics of debate, you must never lose sight of the fact that, during the simulation, you will defend the interests and points of view of the country that you will represent, not your own.

Lastly, we sincerely hope that, during the debate, skills such as dialogue, leadership and camaraderie prevail. You will leave the Model with an undeniable capability to better understand foreign conflicts and a susceptible perception about how the United Nations work. Have fun and enjoy the United Nations Security Council.

Truly yours,

Gonzalo Vargas Alonso,
Iralba Michelle García Canto,
Gabriela Cedeño Maineri

Security Council Chair



The UNSC is where the world powers convey

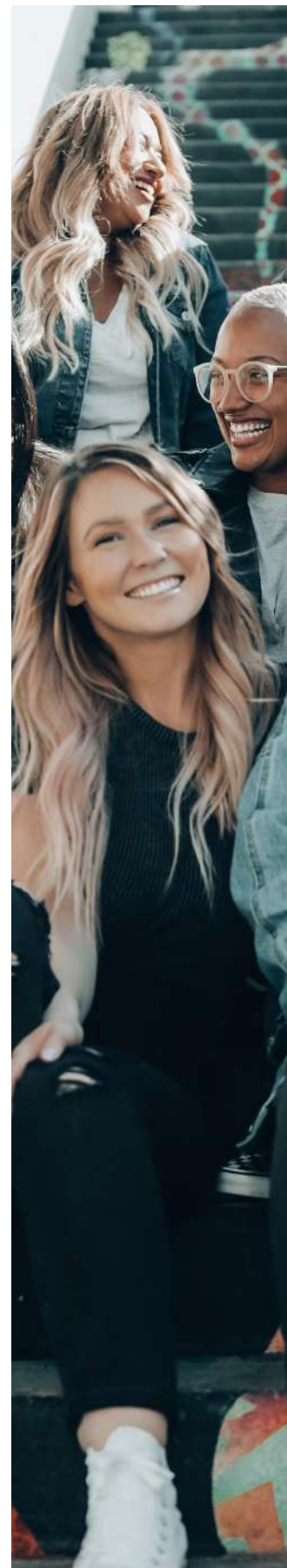
One of the six major organs of the United Nations. Its functions are to guarantee international peace and security.

Prior to the emergence of the United Nations, many legal frameworks such as treaty organizations and conferences took place in international politics which served as a mechanism to solve international conflicts in the international arena. A clear example is the League of Nations which was established in order to maintain friendship among nations. Aside from the fact that it helped to resolve some territorial disputes successfully, it failed to put itself in a firm position due to a lack of representation, particularly from countries such as Germany, the United States, Japan, and the USSR.

Just like the United Nations, the UN Security Council was created in the aftermath of World War II during the San Francisco Conference that took place on October 24, 1945. Its establishment had the core purpose of addressing the failures of the League of Nations in the means of maintaining global peace and security. After the Cold War, the Security Council held many special operations in various parts of the world, such as Namibia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, and Somalia.

The role that the United Nations takes when it comes to international collective security is defined by the UN Charter, which gives the Security Council of such an organization to investigate any circumstance that may threaten the global peace and security. The Security Council has the right to call upon other members to cut off—in a partial or full way—diplomatic and economic relations with a particular country, as well as sea, postal, air and radio communications, and conduct its decisions in a military way, if decided by the council itself. It could also be by any other means.

The United Nations Security Council is one of the six major organs of the United Nations. Its functions are to guarantee international peace and security, in accordance with the provisions of article 24 of the United Nations Charter. It is important to understand that the United Nations Security Council must proceed in accordance with the Purposes and Principles of the United Nations in order to comply with international law and order.



PICTURE:
JOEL MUNIZ

Main Focus



The composition of the Security Council consists of 15 Member States, from which 5 are known to be permanent members of such council. These 5 permanent members are: the United States of America, the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, the French Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. These are considered to be part of the P5 because they were the victors of World War II. They have the power to veto any substantive resolution, including those relevant to the admission of a new member to the United Nations or nominees for the office of the Secretary General. The remaining 10 members are elected on a regional basis for a term of 2 years and the presidency rotates monthly among its members.

Moreover, it is imperative to consider that all decisions taken in the committee are binding. This means that every Member State in this particular committee must follow and implement every decision that the committee itself takes.

It is the upright responsibility of the United Nations Security Council to respond and take action whenever a crisis persists in the international arena. This through an analysis and at the disposal of a variety of options. The Security Council is in charge of determining where and when the deployment of peacekeeping operations should take place.

In the need of a new peacekeeping operation, the UN Security Council needs to take into consideration many factors, such as the possibility of formulating a precise mandate for a UN peacekeeping operation.

The United Nations Security Council establishes peacekeeping operations through the adoption of a resolution. The UN Security Council permanently supervises the labor of peacekeeping operations, which includes periodic reports from the United Nations Secretary General and the celebration of special sessions dedicated to examine the work of specific operations. Likewise, resolutions of the United Nations Security Council are normally enforced by peacekeepers, which are voluntarily provided military forces by member states and are also funded independently of the United Nations budget.





MayabMUN is a two-day conference with 18 years of experience, bringing together more than 500 university and high school students to seek solutions to today's most important issues.

Our goal is to promote the development of knowledge and skills that favor the solution of global problems to create the next generation of international leaders who are not afraid to make change.

PICTURE: JED VILLEJO



PICTURE: MATTHEW TENBRUGGENCATE

Our Topic Introduction

West Africa and the Sahel: Security situation and future perspectives

Opération Serval, initiated back in January 2013, served as a way to expel Islamic militants from the north side of Mali.

This operation was conducted under UN Security Council Resolution 2085 and was requested by the interim government of Mali. Even though some of the Islamic leaders, such as Omar Ould Hamaha, were executed by the French army, the operation failed to comply with its main objective, thus causing the need to create a more robust military and political operation in the territory.

This would result in the creation of Operation Barkhane, which came to be a more sophisticated and multidimensional action against Islamist-related groups. This operation would not only focus on Mali itself, but on the former French colonies that span the Sahel, called the G5 Sahel, which are Mauritania, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad and, of course, Mali.

Nine years after the French intervention in Mali, extremism continues to spread in the Sahel region, portraying unprecedented resilience despite efforts to prevent and combat radicalism by local governments and international actors.

Jihadism, which seemed to be limited to northern Mali a few years ago, now extends to 75% of its territory, in addition to affecting Burkina Faso and Niger with an increase, in the Sahel as a whole, of 70% in the number of jihadist actions, and with Burkina Faso as the main focus.

In the latter country along with Niger and Mali, approximately 6,300 victims were executed between February 2021 and February 2022, making the Sahel a region where regional governments have failed to cope with the security challenges that the region itself presents, thus leaving terrorist groups the opportunity to grow the most in this specific area, with the Islamic State replacing the Taliban as the world's deadliest group...

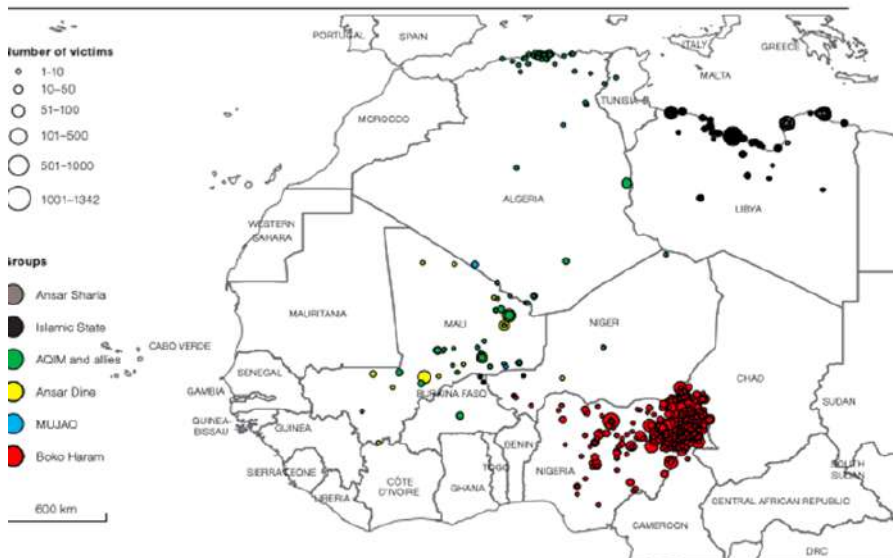
Our Topic Description

...The complicated situation in which the Sahel finds itself at a time when Operation Barkhane is called to come to an end in 2022 in favor of a new, more modest military deployment, makes us ask ourselves various questions about the future of security in the region. The security perspectives in the Sahel are still uncertain and jihadist groups have shown nothing but resilience in adapting to the operation dynamics in terrain. Everytime an African government claims a group has been destroyed, it is denied by facts. French and Local Forces military efforts have not given expected results and have not overcome jihadist groups in the means of providing reliable security and services.

Political violence and civil unrest has prevailed and taken different forms in the Sahel region. Chad, for instance, has had a significant history of rebellious conflict which continues to manifest in many insurgencies and patterns. Since the rebellion that took place in Chad in 2008, violence has spread across neighboring states.

Previous conflicts in the Sahel were based on an identity that sometimes took the form of separatist movements. An example could be Niger and Mali, where the Tuareg communities have increasingly rebelled and have been demanding for an independent state for their communities. The 2012 rebellion in Mali marks a new horizon for regional security in the Sahel. This because certain rebels defected from separatist movements and ended joining militant islamist groups. This marks a new phase in conflict in the Sahel, where insurgency is impregnated in islamist ideology.

Violent Extremism in the Sahara-Sahel, 2012-16



Source: Walther (2017)

Focal points

The amalgamation of the limited conflicts with islamist groups which are waiting for an opportunity to break the Malian state, has produced a devastating and long-lasting paradigm across the region. Some have argued that this conflict might have been avoided if the Malian government provided the fundamental public goods needed by communities in the country's northern and central regions. Likewise, the conflict in northeastern Nigeria led by Boko Haram has its roots in the failure and corruption of state representatives, and abuses by security forces. Over the last years, Boko Haram has been responsible for tens of thousands of killings and has displaced millions of people in the region, making it the deadliest conflict actor operating in these countries.

In other regions, found in northern Mali, western Niger and northern and eastern Burkina Faso, conflict continues to be conducted by militant Islamist groups or small insurgencies that usually target security officials and civilians themselves. Weak governance, general shortcomings from authorities, government inability to maintain and guarantee rule of law, along with abuses orchestrated by security forces, have mobilized these groups to take arms against the state...

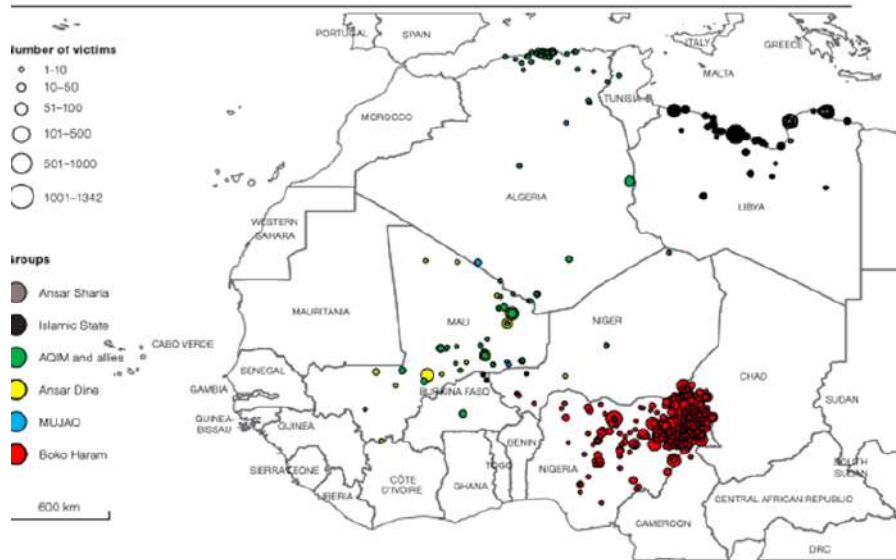
Our Topic Description

.. It is of paramount importance to take into consideration the fact that Islamist groups in the region have created unprecedented strategies and tactics that have been employed all over the region, making the nature of these conflicts to be multifaceted, ever-changing and transnational. The following map illustrates the transnational activity of these groups, which have orchestrated many attacks throughout the region since the rise of the war in Mali back in 2012.

Taking the transnational nature of these conflicts into consideration, responses have requested to develop a regional and transnational approach. Nonetheless, the unbalanced character of each insurgency's tactics permits the conflicts to shift in an effortless way. These shifts have made it difficult for local, regional and international efforts to restore peace and political stability. Moreover, it has made it very complicated to face and combat the spread of violent religious extremism in the region.

Current efforts to address militant Islamism focuses majorly on a security approach and on facing extremist Islamist ideology. Growing concerns over the deterioration of regional security have led to calls for coordinated action. Sahelian states have quickly responded and so did the French army, in its intervention in the state of Mali. This made it possible for the international community to counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Notwithstanding the fact that the combat against terrorism in the region has shown satisfactory results, the future of political and security stability in the region still remains uncertain. So far, these regional initiatives lack the policies and programs necessary to enhance and reform governance throughout the region.

Violent Extremism in the Sahara-Sahel, 2012-16



Source: Walther (2017)

The forces committed in this operation are mostly European, the Takuba Task Force (TF) in particular, which was established to assist the Malian Armed Forces. Their contributions engaged throughout the last two years come from Belgium, Netherlands, Czechia, Denmark, Greece, Romania, Sweden, Estonia, Portugal, and France, however, only the last one has permanently deployed. The TF is primarily formed by the Franco-Czech, being the ones expected to have a prolonged commitment to the force and, the Franco-Estonian units, yet the Swedish Rapid Response Force has been established in the region since the first quarter of 2021 and is ready to contribute and deploy if anything unforeseen happens.

Defense Ministers of the European Union all agree and emphasize on how they want the Sahel region to stabilize and enhance its security, as seen by the Greek Foreign Minister, who is preparing to unite with the French military forces to carry out anti-jihadist operations. Nonetheless, the Takuba TF is suffering from serious problems arising from the small number of troops and half of them being French, not to mention that they cannot operate in Mali, the place where this whole insurgency is taking place. But, even with all the problems concerning, they still are the most significant contribution to Sahel security. Although the TF has ended its mission in the past months, it will be futurely used for other operations for support...

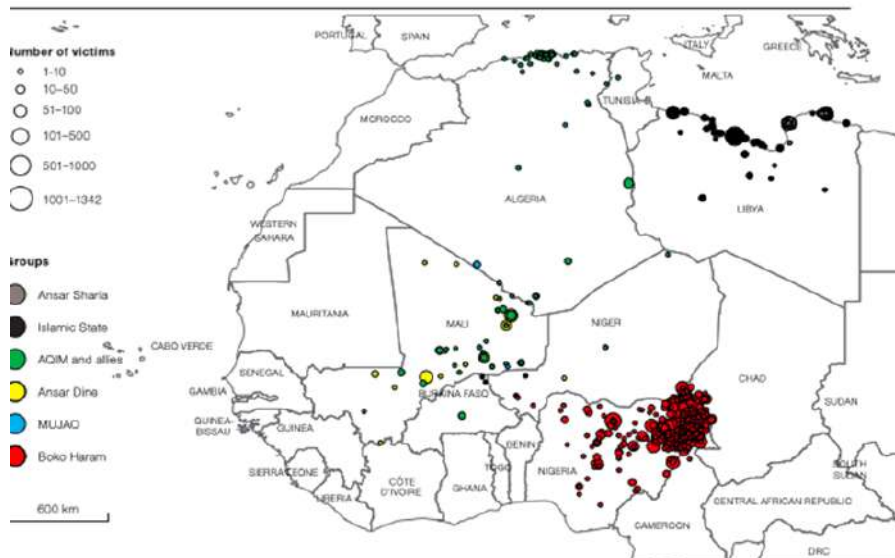
Our Topic Description

Russia is another actor strongly involved in the security arena in the past years. Vladimir Putin intends to extend its geopolitical influence in Africa, as seen in the Russian-African summit in 2019. Russia also led the disinformation campaign, in which they accused France troops of the major crimes happening in Western Africa. The French disagreement with the Malian government came after the 2020 dismissal of the country's democratically elected government. The junta regiment's decision to retain the services of the Wagner Group, a fledgling private security firm with ties to the Russian government, has angered the West, leading French President Emmanuel Macron to announce in February that the French troops withdraw from the country. Russia is now taking advantage of the French forces withdrawal from Mali and the insecurity in the region to replace their pledged partnership. This strategy is capitalizing the Françafrique sentiment at a time where French influence is all spread around the Sahel region.

Over the last years, it is clear that military strikes against jihadist groups usually displace them by forcing them to seek refuge in some other place. However, because the eradication of these organizations is not taking place, the latter always tend to come back stronger and expand further into different areas of the region.

This is why it is vital for the international community and locals to expand and improve its capabilities, especially those states in the region, because this will make it difficult for jihadist groups to continue operating in the zones under their control. Would it be really possible to cease jihadist hostilities in Sahel the region?

Violent Extremism in the Sahara-Sahel, 2012-16



Source: Walther (2017)

Conclusion

In conclusion, local and international response to jihadist menace has been intensifying throughout the years, but holds the necessity to create an inclusive and multidimensional solution, that goes beyond a military solution. It is imperative to approach economic, social and governance dysfunctions, created by annihilation. It is also important to robust the sovereign functions of Sahelian States, starting with the use of security forces and local public services. Nonetheless, this solution must maintain a military and police-related dimension in order to guarantee due respect to the rule of law in the face of unstable, incapable and dysfunctional Sahelian States. As we look ahead to the future, it is imperative that the international community along with regional governments manage to create and conduct programs, reforms and initiatives that guarantee not only lasting peace and security, but political, social and economic development.

Guiding Questions

- What type of measures is your country taking in order to face this paradigm?
- In what ways can the contributions and initiatives of your delegation help bring a more resilient and prosperous lifestyle in the region?
- In what ways can the international security system be more robust when facing multidimensional threats to global peace and security?
- What are the motivations of the Islamic State in West Africa and Sahel and how can the UN Security Council prevent them?
- What is the ongoing situation of the jihadist groups operating in the Sahel?
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- What will be the outcome of Operation Barkhane's withdrawal on regional security?
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- In what ways can regional governments respond to security challenges in a more efficient way?
- Is it necessary for the UN Security Council to act in a military-political way in order to reestablish peace in the Sahel and West Africa, and at the same time guarantee multidimensional development? If so, in what ways?
- What possible solutions can we take into consideration in the face of the deterioration of the region's security and on the arrival of exogenous actors such as Russia in orbit?
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- Do you think that other international actors have taken efficient measures in order to reestablish peace and security in West Africa and the Sahel? If not, what can they do?



Recommended Texts

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