Change the World MUN
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BACKGROUND GUIDE

SC II

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL

SECOND

CHANGE THE WORLD ACADEMY

The Biggest Model United Nations in the World

Distinguished Delegates,

Welcome to the 2026 Change the World Model United Nations (CWMUN).

As your committee Dais, we are looking forward to meeting you and hearing your ideas about how to solve international problems.

The United Nations (UN) depends on the cooperation and goodwill of its 193 member States. Because each State has unique interests and concerns, it is challenging to write, negotiate and pass resolutions. Every stage of the process demands creativity and diplomacy.

By reading this Background Guide, you are taking the first step in a journey that goes far beyond preparing for a conference. Over the coming weeks, you will analyse one of the most pressing global challenges of our time, understand how governments and international organisations respond to it, and learn how diplomats transform ideas into international action.
This guide is not meant to provide all the answers. Its purpose is to help you ask better questions, because diplomacy is not about knowing everything. It is about making responsible decisions with the best information available.

Remember: every solution begins with informed leadership.

You will be discussing this topic:

The Situation in Myanmar: State Sovereignty vs Responsibility to Protect

While we may all lead different lives and face different struggles, we have to bear in mind that we all share the same world and the same resources. Whether it is environmental problems or political unrest, what is happening in the world concerns all of us. Only through mutual understanding, unity, and collaboration can we lay the foundations of a worthier world.

As your committee Dais, we will work to keep the committees running smoothly. We will do our best to help you understand the procedures and to ensure that the perspectives of all delegates are heard and respected.

Sincerely,

The CWMUN Staff Board



What is this activity about?

The Change the World Model United Nations is a role-playing game. Your task is to impersonate a diplomat of the assigned Country and present the perspective of this Country's current government.

What should you do now?

Before the Simulation, you should:

- ☐ Create your handbook, a collection of relevant UN resolutions, reports, academic studies, and news from reliable media.
- ☐ Write the Position Paper, describing the position of your country on the topic you have been assigned to.
- ☐ Prepare some topics for Moderated Caucus debates, i.e. short formal debates which cover narrow aspects of each topic. For example, within the topic "Violence against women"; delegates can hold a caucus with the subtopic "Ways of preventing genital mutilation".
- ☐ Think about some ideas for the Resolution, at least two or three clauses that your State would like to include in the main body of the Resolution.
- ☐ Learn and practice the Rules of Procedure.

Why does this Background Guide Matters?

The strongest delegates are not those who memorise the greatest number of facts, but those who understand the issue from different perspectives.

As you read this guide, challenge yourself to think critically: ask why different countries defend different positions, identify competing priorities, question assumptions, and begin developing your own strategic understanding of the topic.

Remember: You are not preparing to pass an exam; you are preparing to participate in an international negotiation.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this experience, you should be able to:

- Understand the international context surrounding the topic
- Explain your country's official position
- Develop evidence-based policy proposals
- Negotiate with other delegations
- Build consensus
- Translate ideas into diplomatic action
- Think like an analyst, not just a reader.

Tips (!)

Before attending the simulation, go beyond this Background Guide. Explore official UN documents, government statements, reports by international organisations, academic research, reliable news sources. Ask yourself: has the situation changed since this guide was written? Real diplomacy requires continuous learning. Learn about your Country from the official website of your State's permanent mission to the United Nations, and from other government websites (for example, the website and social media profiles of the Royal Family or President, Prime Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs...). Make sure to know as much as possible about the foreign relations of your Country! Consider that at the United Nations, Countries generally lean towards their own geopolitical blocs: Western, Former Soviet, African, Middle Eastern, Asian, Latin American... Consider also organisations such as the European Union (EU), the African Union, the Arab League, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), the Union of South American Nations (USAN)...

REMEMBER!

Your task is to present the official position of your assigned Country. Misrepresenting this position and/or representing your private views is against the rules, even if you do not agree with your Country's position. In any case, you must not hyperbolize nor satirise the position of your Country. Humour, and especially sarcasm, is generally not typical for formal writing nor formal debates. Although MUN welcomes wit and smart puns, please always be extremely considerate when using humour.

Think Like a Diplomat

As you prepare for the conference, do not ask only: “What does my country think?”, but also ask: “Why does my country think this?”. And even more importantly: “How can different countries move from disagreement to cooperation?”. Because diplomacy is not about defending positions. It is about building solutions.

SECURITY COUNCIL II

Historical Background and Establishment of the SC

On January 1, 1942, the President of the United States, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Winston Churchill, Maxim Litvinov of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), and T. V. Soong of the Republic of China signed a brief document, later known as the United Nations Declaration.[1] In the following years, 26 other States ratified the Declaration, and by March 1st, 1945, 21 additional states had signed. At this point, the "Big Four", namely the four main Allied nations (the US, the UK, the USSR, and the Republic of China), who had envisaged the organisation first in 1942, became the foundation of the Security Council.

In mid-1944, the “Big Four” met for the Dumbarton Oaks Conference[2] to negotiate the structure of the United Nations. It was established that France, the Republic of China, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America would be the permanent members of the Security Council (also known as the “Big Five”, the “Permanent Five” or “P5”).

The Charter of the United Nations[3] was signed on 26 June 1945, at the end of the United Nations Conference on International Organisation in San Francisco, founding the United Nations. The Charter established the main bodies of the United Nations, among which is the Security Council.[4]

Later on, at the Yalta Conference in 1945, the American, British, and Russian delegations agreed that the permanent members of the Security Council could veto any council action, but the procedural resolutions.

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[1] http://www.ibiblio.org/pha/policy/1942/420101a.html

[2] Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopaedia (2022, August 14). Dumbarton Oaks Conference. Encyclopedia Britannica. https://www.britannica.com/event/Dumbarton-Oaks-Conference

[3] The Charter of the United Nations, October 24, 1945.

[4] Main Bodies. (n.d.). United Nations . https://www.un.org/en/about-us/main-bodies

The Security Council met for the first time on 17 January 1946 at Church House, Westminster, in London, United Kingdom, and adopted provisional rules of procedure. Since its first meeting, the Security Council has taken permanent residence at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.[5]

Each member of the Security Council has one vote and the Permanent Members are endowed with veto power.

Mandate, Structure and Core functions

The functions and objectives of the Security Council (SC) are established in Chapters V, VII, and XII of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Security Council of the United Nations is the body primarily responsible for maintaining international peace and security, according to the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter. All UN member states have agreed to accept and carry out the Council's decisions under the Charter.

When evaluating whether there is aggression or threat to the peace, the Security Council is in charge. It has the option of using sanctions or even approving the use of force to preserve or restore global peace and security.[6]

The Security Council investigates disputes or situations which might lead to international tensions, to determine the existence of any threat to peace and recommend what actions should be taken. It suggests methods of adjusting the terms of the settlement and recommends that parties to a conflict settle it peacefully. One of its functions is recommending methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of the settlement.

To promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security, the Security

[5] Security Council. (n.d.). United Nations . https://www.un.org/en/model-united-nations/security-council

[6] United Nations Charter, Chapter V: The Security Council. (n.d.). https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/chapter-5

Council formulates plans to be submitted to the Members of the United Nations to establish a system for the regulation of armaments.[7]

The Security Council is empowered to call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to stop aggression. Or else, it is empowered to take military action against an aggressor.[8]

Moreover, one of the functions of the Security Council is to recommend to the General Assembly the admission of new Members, the appointment of the Secretary-General, and, together with the Assembly, to elect judges of the International Court of Justice.

Lastly, the Security Council exercises trusteeship functions of the United Nations in "strategic areas", namely the performance of administrative and supervisory functions to maintain peace and security in such areas.[9]

Major Actions and Historical Impact

The Security Council has been particularly active after the Fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold War, mainly because of the lack of constant vetoes from the USSR or the US, as it had previously happened. Things changed, with the cooperation between East and West becoming a reality. During the Gulf War of 1990, the Security Council started to get together and meet continuously until today (in many different situations and with many contrasting positions among the permanent members).[10] Before the Fall of the Berlin Wall, the Council had used sanctions only twice: in 1966, enacting a trade embargo against Zimbabwe (former Southern Rhodesia)[11], and, in 1977, an arms embargo was imposed against South Africa during the

[7]United Nations Charter, Chapter V: The Security Council. (n.d.). https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/chapter-5

[8] United Nations Charter, Chapter VII: Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression. (n.d.). https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/chapter-7

[9]United Nations Charter, Chapter XII: International Trusteeship System. (n.d.), from https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/chapter-12

[10] Secretary General reviews lessons learned during "sanctions decade" in remarks to international peace academy seminar| UN Press. (n.d.)., from https://press.un.org/en/2000/20000417.sgsm7360.doc.html

[11] UN Security Council, Security Council resolution 232 (1966) [Southern Rhodesia], 16 December 1966, S/RES/232 (1966), available at: https://www.refworld.org/docid/3b00f23414.html

apartheid regime.[12] In the 1990s, starting with Iraq and the former Yugoslavia, the Security Council began to make recurrent use of sanctions. As of 2022, there are fourteen Security Council sanctions regimes in force, including more than six hundred individuals and almost three hundred companies.

The Security Council in its history has established sixty-two Peacekeeping operations and three advance or observer missions.[13] Peacekeeping is the UN's largest and most expensive endeavour, which can be divisive, particularly when "strong" operations involve the use of lethal force. Peacekeeping operations are overall aimed at “assisting conflicting parties in consolidating peace and national reconciliation, enhancing confidence-building, and creating an environment conducive to long-term stability, democratic development, and rehabilitation of the country”.[14]

Among such operations, it is worth mentioning the Iraq-Kuwait conflict in 1990, gathering all the SC means and modus operandi. It was a turning point, marking the beginning of the Security Council activism, not only on Peacekeeping missions but also in the use of sanctioning power. In dealing with the situation between Iraq and Kuwait, the SC has taken decisions under Chapter VII of the UN charter.[15] Under this chapter, conceived as a key element of the UN system of collective security, the Security Council "shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression and shall make recommendations, or decide what measures shall be taken in accordance with articles 41 and 42, to maintain or restore international peace and security". Such measures could include partial or complete interruption of economic relations and means of communication and the severance of diplomatic relations. Should those measures prove inadequate, the council can take "such action by air, sea or land forces as may be necessary to restore international peace and security”. The Security Council had adopted sixteen resolutions by 2002, and then Resolution 1441 was adopted, giving an ultimatum for disarmament to Saddam Hussein.[16]

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[12] UN Security Council, Security Council resolution 418 (1977) [South Africa], 4 November 1977, S/RES/418 (1977), available at: https://www.refworld.org/docid/3b00f16e30.html

[13] Peacekeeping Operations. (n.d.), from https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/repertoire/peacekeeping-missions#reg35

[14] UN Security Council, Security Council resolution 1118 (1997) [Angola], 30 June 1997, S/RES/1118 (1997), available at: https://www.refworld.org/docid/3b00f16f4.html

[15] United Nations, “Chapter VII: Action With Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression (Articles 39-51) | United Nations,” n.d., https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/chapter-7.

[16] https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/478123

The Council has authorised the use of force in two other prior situations, although Chapter VII of the Charter was not explicitly invoked in the enabling Resolutions. In 1950, as the Korean War began, the Security Council, with the USSR absent, recommended to all Member States to provide military forces and other assistance, placing them under a unified command under the US. Secondly, in the case of Congo in 1961, the SC, under exceptional circumstances, authorised the UN peacekeeping operation known as Opération des Nations Unies au Congo (ONUC) to use force as a last resort to prevent civil war in that country.[17]

The activism of the Security Council has also enlarged recognition of unprotected categories. SC Resolution 1325[18] (2000) was the first landmark resolution on women, peace, and security. It addresses the effects of war on women and the significance of women's full and equal participation in post-conflict reconstruction, peacebuilding, and peacekeeping efforts. The resolution also deals with the UN's gender-related obligations in many political and programmatic spheres and demands special steps to safeguard women and girls from sexual abuse associated with conflicts.[19]

Current Relevance and Ongoing Challenges

The international scenario has profoundly changed since the United Nations' establishment in 1945. However, the Security Council still reflects the balance of power which emerged at the end of the Second World War. In 1945, the UN had 51 members. The only reform in the composition took place in 1963, following the increase in the number of members to 117, and the non-permanent Members going from 6 to 10. In 1971, the People's Republic of China took the permanent seat previously held by the Republic of China (now Taiwan). Then, the Russian Federation replaced the USSR in 1991. Since then, the body's composition has remained unchanged. The United Nations now has 193 Member States, making the Council's existing seat distribution both numerically and geographically unbalanced to ensure adequate representation

[17] UN Security Council, Security Council resolution 161 (1961) [The Congo Question], 21 February 1961, S/RES/161 (1961), available at: https://www.refworld.org/docid/3b00f2bc1c.html

[18] UN Security Council, Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) [on women and peace and security], 31 October 2000, S/RES/1325 (2000), available at: https://www.refworld.org/docid/3b00f4672e.html

[19] Landmark resolution on Women, Peace and Security. (n.d.)., from https://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/

of the whole UN membership. Following the Fall of the Berlin Wall, the need to reform the Security Council was even clearer, with non-aligned nations leading the charge. The two main areas that need to be changed are the expansion of the membership and new working methods for better relationships between the members, especially concerning veto power.

The chances of significant reforms are viewed as remote since modifying the UN Charter requires a majority vote and domestic ratification by two-thirds of UN member states. This includes all of the permanent members of the Security Council endowed with veto power, who are unlikely to take actions to limit their authority. Although there is consensus among UN members that the Security Council's composition needs to be updated, each of the many reform ideas unavoidably leaves some aspirants dissatisfied.[20]

Regional powers, including Brazil, Germany, India, Japan, Nigeria, and South Africa have aimed to increase the size of the Council or win permanent seats for themselves. Following Brexit, some have demanded that France give up its permanent seat to the European Union, particularly when France and Germany opted to split the Council's two-month presidency in 2019.

Some initiatives call for more permanent members, while others propose a new class of elected seats with the possibility of re-election. Smaller states have pushed for procedural improvements, such as increased transparency and closer engagement with nations that provide troops, in the absence of charter amendments.

However, the questions have persisted over the years and continue to do so now, without coming to a resolution.

Future Outlook and Questions for Delegates

The Committee of the Security Council is committed to pursue its efforts in order to develop an efficient preventive approach in order to avoid tensions becoming an armed conflict from the beginning by fostering political dialogue and cooperation.

[20] https://research.un.org/en/docs/sc/quick/veto

Moreover, it will establish stronger ties with international and regional organizations (like ASEAN) to create region-specific peace initiatives and to promote accountability for violations of humanitarian law, ensuring protection to civilians and refugees.

It will take the commitment of supporting and promoting compliance with Security Council resolutions through monitoring mechanisms and regular reporting.

QUESTIONS:

- Should the Security Council prioritize accountability during an active conflict, or focus first on achieving a ceasefire?
- How can the Security Council adopt to guarantee safe humanitarian access throughout Myanmar?
- Are there (and, if yes, which) incentives can the Committee use in order for the parties to fulfill the commitments?
- How can the Committee strengthen ties with regional organizations like ASEAN while respecting national sovereignty?

The Situation in Myanmar: State Sovereignty vs Responsibility to Protect

Introduction and Context of the topic

Myanmar is a country facing a complex social and political crisis. It is fueled by the tension between the concepts of state sovereignty and the Responsibility to Protect (R2P). The R2P is an international norm which was enacted in 2005 in the framework of the UN World Summit Outcome Document[21] with the goal of ensuring that the world never again fails to halt mass atrocity crimes, as it happened for example in the context of genocide in Rwanda (1994) and in the former Yugoslavia (1990s).[22] The case of Myanmar raises a critical judicial and political question: to what extent can a de facto government exploit the principle of internal sovereignty and non-interference (Article 2(7) of the UN Charter) to reject external intervention while perpetuating human rights violations? [23]

This question is of outstanding relevance considering that the country is part of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) organization, based also on the principle of non-intervention in one nation's internal political affairs. This raises problems in the case of violation of human rights within one state borders, because no states can intervene to stop them.

In Myanmar, these violations have been existing for decades, since the time in which the country was a British colony and the first sense of division among population was born. Nowadays, the

[21] UN General Assembly, 2005. *World Summit Outcome*, A/RES/60/1, paras. 138-139.
[22] International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty (ICISS), 2001. *The Responsibility to Protect*. Ottawa: International Development Research Centre.
[23] United Nations, 1945. *Charter of the United Nations*, Article 2(7).

country is in a difficult situation of civil war and dictatorship of the military. The UN and the international community are trying to impose sanctions to weaken the military regime.

Root causes and Historical development

The suffering of the country started in 1948, the year of the country's independence from Britain and it is still happening. The military (called Tatmadaw) has been governing the country since 1962, when it seized power and established the Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP) to consolidate authoritarian control over a socialist state.[24] This socialist state was based on a hierarchical structure, a weak economy, political repression, and discriminatory policies toward ethnic minorities (as the Rohingya), ultimately leading to the social unrest of 1988 and the status of a "pariah state".

The roots of the actual demographic division can be traced back to the pre-1948 era, during the British colonial period (1824-1948). During their administration, the British adopted policies based on the 'divide et impera' model, giving priority to ethnic minorities in the access to administrative and police positions and leaving apart the ethnic majority named “Bamar”[25]. This discrimination created inequalities and exacerbated economic and social divisions. The social situation worsened in 1948, when the failure to reach an inclusive agreement between the center (with Bamar majority) and the peripheries (inhabited by ethnic minorities) impeded the creation of a cohesive unified state, triggering a series of civil conflicts.[26] The roots of the actual socio-political situation are to be found during the period of the British Colonial rule, which created the basis for the ethnic fragmentation. The logic behind the political management was the divide-and-rule strategy: in fact, the territory was split under different governors and divided between the Bamar-majority lowlands and the ethnically diverse Frontier Areas. Colonial authorities set policies that were intended to give priority to ethnic minority groups, granting them access to several types of position and excluding Bamar ethnicity from any type of

[24] Charney, M.W., 2009. *A History of Modern Burma*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
[25] Furnivall, J.S., 1948. *Colonial Policy and Practice: A Comparative Study of Burma and Netherlands India*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
[26] Walton, M.J., 2008. Ethnicity, Conflict, and History in Burma. *Journal of Burma Studies*, 12(1), pp.29-54.

advantage and possibility. This was the origin of the emerging and growing mutual distrust, preventing the emergence of a shared national identity[27].

The ethnic division increased when the country became independent from Great Britain. At the time of independence, competing political aspirations became increasingly evident, with the Bamar nationalist movement attempting to establish a centralized nation-state and many ethnic minorities which expected a federal system that would guarantee autonomy (as envisaged in the Panglong Agreement of 1947, signed between the Burmese government and the committee of the ethnic minority of Chin).

The expectations of the minorities were not met and this created social unrest and the emergence of prominent figures promoting human rights and democracy, such as Aung San Suu Kyi, whose assassination undermined trust between the central government and the ethnic peripheries. The political settlement was the developed version of the fragmented one created by the British and it impeded the creation of a cohesive unified state[28].

As a result, different social unrests and insurgencies continued, driven not only by identity-based grievances but also by disputes over political representation, territorial control, and access to natural resources. The situation worsened with the subsequent military coup of 1962, which further institutionalized Bamar dominance, fostering armed conflict and contributing still nowadays to one of the world's longest-running civil wars[29].

[27] Smith, M. 1999. *Burma: Insurgency and the Politics of Ethnicity*. London: Zed Books, pp. 30–55; Callahan, M.P. 2003. *Making Enemies: War and State Building in Burma.* Ithaca: Cornell University Press, pp. 17–39.
[28] Taylor, R.H. 2009- *The State in Myanmar*. London: Hurst, pp. 79–125
[29] Callahan, M.P. *Making Enemies: War and State Building in Burma. 2003.* I*thaca: Cornell University Press*, pp. 171–216; Martin Smith, *Burma: Insurgency and the Politics of Ethnicity*. 1999. *London: Zed Books*, pp. 105–218.

Current Situation and Actors

Despite a democratic window between 2011 and 2021, the military regime remained dominant until 2021, when power was transferred to Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing.[30] From this moment on, an unprecedented escalation started (which also involved the previously excluded peaceful central regions), leading to the rise of the People's Defence Forces (PDF) and a unified armed resistance of ethnic minorities and the Bamar majority against the junta.

A major cornerstone occurred in 2017 with the crisis of the Rohingya, a Muslim ethnic minority to which it was denied citizenship.[31] The regime pursued a repressive campaign causing mass flights (of 700,000 people) to the extent of leading the UN to categorize the events as ethnic cleansing.[32]

Still nowadays, violence against civilians continues, and military authorities (SAC) systematically deny to UN agencies and NGOs the right to access to conflict zones.[33]

The "National Unity Government (NUG)", an exiled government composed by ethnic minorities representatives[34], has democratic legitimacy and it also has an armed wing, called People's Defence Forces (PDF), and can rely on the help of the ethnic militias. The NUG has attempted to overcome historic differences between the ethnic majority of Bamar and the "Ethnic Armed Organizations" (EAOs), building a political-military coordination web of resistance reaching up areas next to the borders. This convergence between democratic struggle and autonomous ethnic instances represents the most significant challenge for the regime.

[30] UN Human Rights Council, 2021. *Situation of human rights in Myanmar*, Resolution S-29/1.

[31] Human Rights Watch, 2013. *All You Can Do is Pray: Crimes Against Humanity and Ethnic Cleansing of Rohingya Muslims in Burma's Arakan State*. New York: Human Rights Watch.

[32] UN Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar, 2018. *Report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar*, A/HRC/39/64.

[33] Human Rights Watch, 2023. *Myanmar: Junta Blocks Life-Saving Aid*. Available at: https://www.hrw.org

[34] National Unity Government (NUG), 2021. *Federal Democracy Charter*. Freedom from the Military Dictatorship.

International Response and Committee Action

Given this complex domestic context, the international response is limited and suffers from the diplomatic stalemate in the Security Council, limited by the veto power of the permanent countries in the adoption of coercive measures (Chapter VII).[35] Notably, Resolution 2669 (2022), addressing the social population in Myanmar, lacked coercive elements to avoid these vetoes.[36]

The legitimacy dilemma is another issue to be taken into account: at the UN, the state representation is held by the envoy of the exiled government (composed of members elected in 2020), which holds democratic recognition but does not control the territory. It represents a unique case since it is an exception to the Westphalian rule, according to which effective control of a territory is the sole prerequisite for state representation. Consequently, the UN credentials committee has maintained the delegate bound to the previous democratic government[37]. At regional level, on the other hand, ASEAN's "Five-Point Consensus" on Myanmar, which was drafted to address Myanmar challenges, remains largely unrealized due to the organization's core principle of non-interference.[38]

To circumvent Security Council paralysis, international response developed itself through unilateral actions by single States and organizations. Actors like the USA, EU, UK and Canada have implemented regimes of targeted sanctions aimed at isolating military groups without aggravating civil population conditions.[39] These measures have hit the top leaders of the State Administration Council (SAC), including the general Min Aung Hlaing. More recently, western governments have extended sanctions to Burmese state banks to cut to the regime the access to foreign currency with the intent of obstructing continuous air attacks of the military against civil

[35] United Nations, 1945. *Charter of the United Nations*, Chapter VII.
[36] UN Security Council, 2022. *Resolution 2669 (2022)*, S/RES/2669.
[37] UN General Assembly Credentials Committee, 2021/2022/2023. *Reports of the Credentials Committee*. New York: United Nations.
[38] ASEAN, 2021. *Chairman's Statement on the ASEAN Leaders' Meeting*. Jakarta: ASEAN Secretariat.
[39] European Council, 2023. *Myanmar/Burma: EU imposes 7th round of sanctions*. Brussels: Council of the EU.

areas.[40] These unilateral actions limit the army's operative capacity and try to compensate for the absence of a binding global resolution.

Future challenges and possible approaches

Moving forward, military intervention in the country is viewed as counterproductive, so it appears worthy to use other instruments like:

- Legal Instruments: The case brought at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) is vital. It relies on the "erga omnes" principle, which regards obligations owed to the entire international community, allowing any nation to hold another accountable for international crimes.[41]
- Economic Pressure: Hitting military finances without harming civil society by applying total embargoes and weapon-supply blockades
- Cross-Border Humanitarian Aid: Establishing cooperation with neighboring countries (Thailand, India, Bangladesh) and local civil society organizations (CSOs/CBOs) to deliver aid without relying on state consent.[42]

Every type of strategy must be pursued in balance with the principle of national sovereignty and this certainly represents the biggest challenge.

The overcoming of State-consent through borders of neighbouring countries is necessary to provide humanitarian aid, but it implies huge operative risks. Beyond the legal and political dilemma linked to violation of state sovereignty, humanitarian operators rely only on CSO and CBO, whose members operate in clandestineness. In addition, it is necessary to consider that the areas at the borders are plagued by the conflict and subjected to continuous airplane attacks by the Tatmadaw, which criminalizes the supply of unauthorized assistance, transforming in this

[40] US Department of the Treasury, 2023. *Treasury Sanctions Burma's Ministry of Defense and State-Owned Banks*. Washington: Department of the Treasury.
[41] International Court of Justice (ICJ), 2020. *The Gambia v. Myanmar: Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide*, Provisional Measures Order of 23 January 2020.
[42] Euro-Burma Office, 2022. *Options for Cross-Border Humanitarian Assistance in Myanmar*. EBO Briefing Paper.

way humanitarian operators into military targets, making the logistics complex and dangerous for the survival of those delivering aid.[43]

The efficacy of international pressure could change significantly considering the influence of non-ASEAN regional powers. Western sanctions risk being inefficient if the role of China and India is undervalued, since their economic and geostrategic interests offer a security web to the regime, guaranteeing the de facto survival.

[43] Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (AAPP), 2023. *Daily Briefing on the Situation in Myanmar*. Mae Sot: AAPP.

Annotated Bibliography

Hereafter, you can find some links that we think may be helpful to deepen your knowledge of both the committee and the topic you will be discussing.

- When talking about the UN, its official website is the most inspiring and complete: https://www.un.org/. Their Official Document System (ODS) is useful https://documents.un.org/prod/ods.nsf/home.xsp.
- The website of your committee is always a good place to start. In the case of the SC, it is the following: https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/;

When talking about the R2P, ICJ case and UN resolutions:

- UN World Summit Outcome Document (2005) — R2P foundation

Document Viewer

- UNSC resolutions on Myanmar (2017–2024) Myanmar | Security Council
- ICJ case: The Gambia v. Myanmar (2019) Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia v. Myanmar
- UN Human Rights Council, 2021. *Situation of human rights in Myanmar*, Resolution S-29/1. Situation of human rights in Myanmar :