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# *LMUN 2026*

A Background Guide for:

**Ad Hoc United Nations Security Council**



# LMUN 2026

**Ad Hoc UNSC | The South Sudan Humanitarian Crisis**

**Chair: Tomás Villalobos**

**Co-Chair: Tomás van der Laat**



## **Letter From Chairs**

Dear Delegates,

It is my absolute honor to welcome you to the Ad Hoc Security Council committee. This is a unique committee since it's unpredictable, complex, and demanding. Unlike other regular committees, you will not come in with weeks of preparation; instead, you will be facing a challenge to adapt to evolving crises. For me, this conference is particularly meaningful, as it will be my final Model UN. Over the years, MUN has shaped the way I think, debate, and collaborate. I couldn't have asked for a better way to end my MUN career than by being the committee director of such an intricate and difficult committee. Because of this, I have very high expectations. This committee is designed for advanced delegates, and I ask each of you to rise to the occasion. I hope to see profound arguments, innovative strategies, and, most importantly, diplomacy always based on respect and cooperation. The Security Council is charged with addressing the gravest threats to international peace and security; our committee deserves the same seriousness and dedication. I am excited to see the level of debate, strategy, and leadership this committee will bring to the table. Let's make this a truly unforgettable experience, not only for the delegates but also for me, as I conclude this chapter of my MUN career.

My name is Tomás van der Laat, and I will be the co-chair for the 2026 LMUN Security Council Committee. I am glad to welcome you to Lincoln-MUN's first edition Ad Hoc Security Council Committee, where we will be discussing and finding solutions to the concerning issue of the conflicts between Gaza and Palestine, or the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan. As this committee's co-chair, I am hoping for interactive and enthusiastic debate as well as well-written and interesting resolution papers that accurately resemble the dynamic of LMUN committees and effectively bring the committee to a consensus. As an MUN delegate with vast experience in many distinct areas and chair in past MUN conferences, I am sure together we can achieve a deeper and more meaningful depiction of the delegations you represent and the efficient roles as chairs that we intend to illustrate. Moreover, I would like to emphasize the important fact that in an MUN committee, we are all the same with one singular purpose that unites us, which is to find a viable and realistic solution to the topic's issues that can benefit every delegation. Lastly, I hope for creative and original solutions that will elevate the bar set by the chairs and delegates prior to us.



Sincerely,

Tomás Villalobos and Tomás van der Laat

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Chairs, Ad Hoc Security Council



## **Committee Overview**

The Security Council has, since the coalition of the United Nations, been a key player in maintaining international security and peace in line with UN principles and rules. That being said, having its first session in Westminster, London, in 1947, its main purpose is to investigate and bring to a consensus conflicting delegations on current disputes that could potentially lead to high-profile international conflicts.

With that in mind, according to the United Nations Charter, the Security Council has four main 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.

To do so, all members of the United Nations are obliged to comply with the Security Council. Unlike other organs of the UN that are only allowed to give suggestions to member states, the Security Council has access to obligate member states to compel to the decisions taken in the committee.

Moreover, the Security Council has a different structure compared to regular United Nations committees. For the most part, it has a total of 15 members, who are elected on two-year terms, except for five permanent members, those being China, Russia, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. That being said, speakers are allowed to join sessions to delegate for issues that concern their delegation. Although they cannot vote on decisions, they still play a crucial role in the decision-making of other voting members of the council. Additionally, for a decision to pass, the Security Council has to agree on nine votes in favor, it is discarded. Likewise, all five permanent members can “veto,” which rejects any resolution, no matter how many votes are a “yes”.

Lastly, the Security Council has many achievements to have a singular one to be categorized as most successful; nevertheless, as of recent accomplishments, on October 3, 2025, they were able to once again vote on the renewal of sanctions for another year on the authoritarian regime established in Haiti. Currently, the Security Council is prioritizing its attention on the Middle East due to the rising disagreement over recent international disputes



such as the Israel-Palestine conflict. Therefore, as of October 23, 2025, the Security Council has decided to hold its quarterly open debate on the topic of “The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question” with over 70 speakers.

*\*Sidenote: MUN Adhoc Security Council committees differ from regular MUN Security Council committees in the sense that the topic is given the day before the session begins. This is done to attempt to mimic how the real Security Council faces emergencies in real-time, which does not allow for much time to prepare. Nonetheless, function and debate-wise, it performs like any other Model United Nations Security Council.*

### **Topic Introduction**

The Republic of South Sudan, the world’s youngest nation, became an independent country in 2011 after decades of civil war. However, the promise of peace did not last very long. In 2013, political tensions between President Salva Kiir and former Vice President Riek Machar started a violent civil conflict along ethnic lines, primarily between the Dinka and Nuer communities. Ever since, South Sudan has faced one of the world’s largest humanitarian crises. Around 9 million people, almost 2 thirds of their population, require humanitarian assistance currently. Food insecurity remains catastrophic due to conflict, displacement, climate shocks, and the downfall of agricultural production. Repeated periods of violence have destroyed farmland, supply chains, and limited humanitarian access, leaving millions at risk of starvation.

The situation has been affected by unprecedented flooding in recent years, which has moved entire communities and overwhelmed already fragile infrastructure. Besides hunger, people continue to face human rights violations, including targeted killings, sexual violence, the forced recruitment of child soldiers, and restrictions on movement. With over 2 million displaced persons and another 2 million refugees in neighboring countries, the crisis has become a regional disaster. Humanitarian organizations struggle to reach populations in need due to insecurity and not enough funding. There was a revitalization of a peace agreement in 2018; despite this, the implementation remained slow and marked by power struggles among the political elites. Delays in security sector reform, transitional justice mechanisms, and the integration of armed groups have left communities vulnerable to local militias and intercommunal clashes. As South Sudan



approaches its long-delayed elections, concerns persist over renewed violence and the country's limited capacity to ensure stability.

### **Key Terms**

- **Humanitarian Crisis:** a situation in which a country or a large group of its population has its safety, health, or living conditions jeopardized by an event categorized as a crisis, such as an epidemic, such as Covid-19, natural disasters, or armed conflicts like the one currently occurring in South Sudan.
- **UNMISS (UN Mission in South Sudan)** is a UN *peacekeeping* mission to protect civilians and the people affected by the armed conflict, as well as to help create peace agreements and ensure their completion. UNMISS was established by the Security Council following South Sudan's independence on July 8th, 2011.
- **Internally Displaced Person (IDPs)** is a term used for individuals who are obliged to evacuate their place of residence due to disasters, violence, persecution, or conflict but do not exit their country's borders, unlike refugees. Likewise, the availability of UN humanitarian aid towards IDPs is much less than that of a refugee, thus making the process of aiding South Sudan much more complex due to the high number of IDPs currently within the borders.
- **Humanitarian Access:** How available is the aid given by organizations such as the UN to reach affected communities without being manipulated or interfered with? South Sudan is aiming to increase humanitarian access within its borders to increase the population being benefited by humanitarian aid and decrease the deaths of innocent civilians due to the inhumane living conditions.
- **Humanitarian Corridors** are designated routes, parallel and unrelated to the conflict or disaster creating the crisis, that allow for safe and unaffected humanitarian aid (food, evacuation, medicine) to be delivered. For many years, humanitarian corridors have been proposed and utilized in South Sudan; some were successful, and some were disrupted by the armed conflict.



- **Protection of Civilians (PoC)**, as defined by the UN, “The primary responsibility to protect civilians lies with the host state. Consequently, the first role of peacekeepers is to support governments in upholding their protection responsibilities.” In other words, a core UN peacekeeping mandate assigned by the Security Council that looks to prevent violence against innocent civilians.
- **Gender-Based Violence (GBV)** is a categorization of violent acts driven by and based on gender. That being said, the motive is gender based and usually includes sexual violence such as harassment and rape. Refugees and IDPs are vulnerable to GBV due to their scarcity of resources and fragile state.
- **Child Soldiers** is a term associated with children who are illegally recruited and taken advantage of by armed groups during conflicts such as the one occurring in South Sudan. By doing so, innocent children are directly or indirectly forced to participate in combat or other roles that become violent; most end up heavily injured or dead due to inexperience. Moreover, those who survive have to be reintegrated into society.
- **Ceasefire** is a term used to describe an agreement between two or more parties to temporarily suspend hostile interactions. This usually takes place during peace talks or when the United Nations intervenes to assist through humanitarian aid.
- **Arms Embargo** is a sanction that limits or completely forbids the use, sale, importation, or any other action that includes the dealing of weapons and military-related items in a specific country or region. These are designated and imposed by international entities such as the United Nations to provide a temporary ceasefire over violent conflicts and favor peaceful negotiations.
- **DDR (Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration)** is a UN-driven program specific to South Sudan whose purpose is to demilitarize, discharge, and reintegrate South Sudan into the world, subsequent to the current conflict that conditions them to poverty.
- **Chapter VII Measures** are obligatory enforcement actions that are designated by the Security Council under articles 39-51 of the UN Charter, whose purpose is to preserve or replenish peace.



- **SSPDF** or South Sudanese People's Defense Forces is the current name for the government military force of South Sudan. They are in charge of regional security operations.

### **History/Context (Past Solutions) and Timeline**

As mentioned previously, the war in South Sudan was initially caused by political and ethnic differences following their independence, which led to a series of power struggles that later escalated to a countrywide violent civil conflict. That being said, since the official start of the war in 2023, the UN has designated the conflict in South Sudan as a humanitarian crisis. This crisis has not only left millions of refugees being forced to flee to Uganda and Ethiopia, countries that are already struggling to provide food, shelter, and education to their own population, but also thousands of deaths in the region, especially in South Sudan, Sudan, and Chad, due to a cholera outbreak. Given the circumstances, the UN Secretary General called for the international community to urgently fund, through diplomatic action, a series of humanitarian aid policies to decrease the suffering of millions of Sudanese citizens and refugees due to hunger, violence, and displacement. Nonetheless, since 2011, the UN has established the UNMISS (UN Mission in South Sudan) to help reintegrate the country into society. With that in mind, in recent times, the UN has provided support through funding and giving access to humanitarian aid in the form of these resolutions:

#### **2023:**

- 15 March 2023: The UNSC votes on extending the peacekeeping mandate (UNMISS) until March 2024.
- 30 May 2023: The Security Council agreed to adopt Resolution 2683 to maintain the active arms embargo for another year in South Sudan.
- Late 2023: Humanitarian agencies devised an HRNP (Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan) to give humanitarian aid, such as food and basic resources, to help the 9 million refugees in need.
- November 2023: Conflict in the Abyei border region (disputed area between Sudan and South Sudan) broke out. 47 civilians and innocent villagers were killed, and 34 were wounded by *Twic Dinka* youth and SSPDF.



## 2024:

- May 2024: Severe rainfall caused major flooding that affected the population of South Sudan for several months and affected the hundreds of thousands of people who live in extreme poverty.
- Mid 2024: The UNMISS reported a 51% increase in violent incidents affecting civilians.
- September-October 2024: A state of emergency is called over the widespread flooding that has affected over 1.4 million people, destroying homes and farmland and compounding needs already generated by conflict.
- November 2024: A cholera outbreak spreads in the southern region of South Sudan, overwhelming the already stressed health services.

## 2025:

- March 2025: Vice President Riek Machar is ordered to be arrested by President Salva Kiir. This increases the civilians' fear of renewing the civil war. Likewise, the SSPDF confronted the Nuer White Army militia, which blocked humanitarian aid to 60,000 malnourished children.
- 3 March - 20 April 2025: Over 50,000 people were displaced in Nasir County due to conflicts between government forces and local militia. Consequently, the UNMISS unit set in Nasir had to evacuate.
- 3 May 2025: The SSPDF bombarded an MSF (Médecins Sans Frontières) hospital in the Fangak region. The bombing killed 7 people, left 27 injured, and destroyed the charity-based hospital. The UNMISS and the European Union heavily condemned these actions.
- 30 May 2025: The UNSC decides once again to extend the arms embargo and other sanctions for another year over the consistent and non-decreasing violent acts on civilians.
- September 2025: A cholera outbreak sickened over 80,000 people, over 130,000 people in the Upper Nile region were displaced, and famine in 11 of the 13 districts of South Sudan has reached an all-time high.
- November 2025: According to ACAPS, "Until 31 October 2025, floods affected over one million people across six South Sudan states, displacing 355,000. Jonglei and Unity were the hardest hit".



## 2026:

- 27 January 2026: The Akobo, Nyirol and Uror region was evacuated of civilians, UN workers and humanitarian staff due to fear of “mass atrocities being carried out. Likewise, in January “over 230,000 people had been displaced and humanitarian access to famine-prone (IPC Phase 5) areas is severely constrained, preventing aid organisations from storing critical supplies ahead of the rainy season” (APAC, 2026)
- 16 February 2026: As of the beginning of 2026, 280,000 people in the Jonglei region have been forced to move, 53% of whom were children. Additionally, approximately 800,000 children in the Jonglei and Eastern Equatoria region and other conflict states are dealing with acute malnutrition.
- March 1, 2026: 169 people were killed in a village close to Jub; 90 of the 169 people killed were civilians. UNMISS states the event as an act of sporadic violence that signals the creation of a “full-blown civil war” (AP News, 2026).

## **Current Situation**

As of 2026, South Sudan remains trapped in a cycle of political instability, which at this instance was declared a humanitarian crisis. Nearly 9 million people (approximately two-thirds of the population) require humanitarian assistance, making South Sudan one of the most severe crises in the world. Food insecurity has reached critical levels, with lots of regions facing emergency conditions due to conflicts, floods, and economic collapses. The Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity continues to work in a fragile and incomplete manner. Key provisions of the Revitalized Peace Agreement, including security sector reform, the unification of armed forces, constitutional drafting, and the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms, are far from being implemented. Repeated delays to national elections have increased political uncertainty and raised worries over new large-scale violence, particularly as armed groups and local militias continue to operate with limited oversight. UNMISS remains an important factor in protecting people, making humanitarian access easier, and monitoring human rights abuses. Nevertheless, the mission faces operational errors due to funding pressure and a complex security environment.

That being said, the future scope mandate of the UNMISS is under debate, specifically regarding the role that it plays in civilian protection and support for the following elections.



Climate-related problems are still ongoing since floods began in 2018; they have intensified humanitarian needs since they have destroyed multiple homes and farmland. These environmental issues are a big problem for the crisis since they are forcing people to constantly move from rural areas to look for food and shelter; this creates competition for resources, causing local conflicts. In summary, South Sudan is in a critical state. Without political intervention and sustained international engagement, there is a high chance that ongoing instability could get worse and turn into renewed national conflict. The Security Council must now decide how to balance sovereignty, accountability, humanitarian protection, and long-term peacebuilding to prevent further deterioration of the situation.

## **Case Studies**

### **Protection of Civilians (PoC) Sites under UNMISS**

One of the most important operational responses by the UN in South Sudan has been the establishment of protection of civilians (PoC) sites done by the UNMISS. This was started at the beginning of 2013, when thousands of people ran away from ethnic violence seeking shelter within United Nations bases, forcing UNMISS to adapt its mandate from the usual peacekeeping to a large citizen protection system. At their highest point, PoC sites hosted over 200,000 people, preventing mass murders during these violent times. While these sites saved tons of lives, they also revealed lots of structural difficulties. Overcrowded facilities, bad sanitation, and prolonged displacement created humanitarian risks and dependency. Also, PoC places became semi permanent sites, showcasing the UN's poor ability to provide long-term solutions.

### **Arms Embargo and Targeted Sanctions**

The United Nations Security Council imposed an arms embargo on South Sudan in 2018, accompanied by targeted sanctions on people who try to obstruct peace efforts. The goal was to limit the flow of weapons, making the conflict worse. Resolution 2683, made in 2023, extended these measures, reflecting a lot of concern over instability. The embargo had mixed results on one hand; it restricted access to heavy types of weapons and sent a message regarding accountability. On the other hand, enforcement has proven difficult due to complex borders, illegal weapon trafficking, and an inefficient monitoring capacity. Critics argue that the embargo has negatively affected the government's capability to secure territories.



## **Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan (HNRP)**

The humanitarian needs and response plan, also called HNRP, represents the United Nations framework to coordinate all of the humanitarian assistance in South Sudan. By the end of 2024, the plan aimed to address the needs of almost 9 million people through food assistance, healthcare, water, and sanitation. The HNRP prioritizes neutrality, impartiality, and cooperation between UN agencies, NGOs, and local sponsors. Despite its comprehensive design, the HNRP has faced funding shortages, leaving programs without resources. Insecurity and other impediments have restricted access to remote places, while floodings have destroyed infrastructure and delayed aid delivery. This case study demonstrates the limits of humanitarian action in the absence of political stability.

## **Climate-Induced Flooding and Disaster Response**

Since 2019, South Sudan has experienced a lot of unexpected floods, displacing a lot of citizens and creating more food insecurity issues. Entire towns have been submerged, farming lands have been destroyed, and a lot of diseases started transmitting way quicker. The UN collaborated with the South Sudanese government to launch emergency supply drops and shelters. However, repeated climate shocks have overwhelmed response capacity and expose lack of climate-resilient infrastructure. Short-term emergency aid has proven not sufficient in addressing long-term vulnerability, especially for rural communities.

## **Bloc Positions**

- **Western Allies:** Western permanent and non-permanent members usually emphasize human rights protection, people's safety, and accountability mechanisms in South Sudan. These states strongly support the regime of UNMISS, particularly in its intentions of protecting civilians, monitoring human rights abuses, and facilitating humanitarian access. They advocate for the reintegration of the arms embargo and targeted fees/sanctions, arguing that unchecked weapons worsen the violent conflict and undermine peace agreements.



- **China and Russia:** China and Russia have a strong focus on state sovereignty, non-interference, and government consent. They say that excessive sanctions and arms embargoes can weaken legitimate state authority and obstruct South Sudan's ability to maintain internal security. These countries often support a flexible style of restrictive measures, provided the South Sudanese government demonstrates a willingness to engage in dialogue and reform.
- **South Sudanese Government and Allied States:** The South Sudanese government, supported by certain allies, frequently argues that international measures such as sanctions and the arms embargo undermine sovereignty and state-building efforts. It emphasizes progress made under the revitalized peace agreement and calls for greater international support focused on development infrastructure and security capacity.
- **Humanitarian-Oriented and Neutral countries:** Countries with strong humanitarian profiles, including countries like Ireland, Switzerland, and other non-related countries with similar points of view. They focus on humanitarian access, protection of humans, and international humanitarian law. These countries often act as mediators, being the connections between opposing nations in the Security Council.
- **African Union members:** Regional actors, including members of the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), have prioritized the neighboring countries, which are countries directly affected by refugee flows and movements. These movements make stability in South Sudan a regional imperative.

### **Possible Solutions**

In terms of the humanitarian crisis in South Sudan, the Security Council should prioritize strengthening the human corridors and humanitarian aid through the reinforcement of the UN mandate and operational capacity of the UN charter in South Sudan, UNMISS. Additionally, the UNMISS should increase the Protection of Civilians (PoC) through a stronger and more punishing framework. Likewise, aid should be reinforced and improved in regions such as Jonglei and Upper Nile, which are considered high-risk, constantly in conflict, and contain significantly high child malnutrition percentages, with the use of rapid response units. Moreover, the Security Council should consider extending the active arms embargo, which has been crucial to diminishing violence levels and preventing high-profile conflicts, for another year since it



ends on the 30th of May 2026. Furthermore, additional human corridors should be created, supervised by international organizations in collaboration with the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), to reduce famine levels and unstable immigration.

On the other hand, the UNSC should also consider improving the long-term stabilization mechanisms and demilitarization of South Sudan. Renewed investment in the DDR (Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration) program is essential for the demilitarization and development of former militias and combatants. With that in mind, DDR programs should include methods that increase access to education and create vocational training to reintegrate soldiers, especially child soldiers, back into society. Climate-resistant and medical infrastructure is imperative for South Sudan's long-term reintegration; hence, the HNRP (Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan) could have an increase in funding through multi-year donor commitments. Lastly, to ensure sustainable peace, the works for the Revitalized Peace Agreements should be accelerated to enable an established justice system and transparent elections that return public trust to the civilians and prevent the future reestablishment of another civil war.

To synthesize, some possible solutions might include:

- Develop climate-resistant and medical infrastructure.
- Expand the operative capacities of the UNMISS, especially in regions with recurrent conflicts.
- Renew the active arms embargo to prevent the smuggling of illegal weapons.
- Strengthen and reinforce the DDR and HNRP through increased funding and supervision.
- Accelerate the development of the Revitalized Peace Agreement and create diplomatic dialogue.
- Collaborate with the African Union and neighboring countries to develop asylums for IDPs and refugees.

### **Questions a Resolution Paper Should Answer**



- How can consistent humanitarian aid be ensured for the civilian and affected population of South Sudan?
- How can humanitarian corridors, ceasefire windows, or other available methods improve humanitarian access?
- What actions have to be taken to guarantee the safety of civilians and IDPs?
- How is the mass displacement of refugees and IDPs going to be addressed by the Security Council?
- How will humanitarian priorities be funded or supported?
- How is political stability encouraged? Is the peace process being supported?
- Which strategies are proposed to improve the long-term condition of South Sudan?
- How often and which methods will be implemented to monitor progress?

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