BACKGROUND MATERIALS

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United Nations Security Council

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MIDWEST MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Gateway to Diplomacy

United Nations Security Council

Mandate of the United Nations Security Council

Introduction

In the aftermath of World War II, the United Nations (UN) framework was negotiated and created by the allied nations to develop a more representative international system.[1] As one of the five main organs, the UN Security Council is the primary body for addressing matters of international peace and security.[2] Unlike other UN bodies, such as the General Assembly, measures decided by the Security Council are legally binding under international law, meaning that Member States of the UN agree to carry out the Council's decisions, as mandated by Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations (UN Charter).[3] If the UN Security Council cannot come to an agreement, then it may issue a non-binding resolution agreed by some, but not all of its permanent voting members.[4] Functions and powers entrusted to the Security Council include, but is not limited to: authorizing peacekeeping operations in Member States that will have them; sanctions against Member States in breach of international peace and security; investigating disputes or situations which might lead to international friction; and offering methods of negotiation and conflict de-escalation.[5]

Membership

The Security Council is comprised of 15 Member States including the five permanent members: China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States.[6] Often referred to as the permanent five (P5), they have the authority to veto any substantive decisions.[7] The other ten Member States serve two-year rotating terms and are elected by the General Assembly.[8] The current 10 rotating members are Albania, India, Ireland, Kenya, Gabon, Mexico, Ghana, Brazil, Norway, and United Arab Emirates.[9] The P5 can veto the final passage of any resolution with a no vote.[10] There has been controversy and debate in recent years over the need for veto power reform and more regional representation from its historical start.[11] The UN Security originally consisted of the P5 of which China was represented by the Republic of China, and the

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[1] United Nations. "United Nations Charter, Chaver V: The Security Council." 1945.

[2] Ibid.

[3] Ibid.

[4] United Nations Security Council. "Functions and Powers".

[5] Ibid.

[6] Publantz et al. "Encyclopedia of the United Nations, Second Edition." 2008.

[7] Ibid.

[8] Ibid.

[9] Ibid.

[10] Ibid.

[11] Publantz et al. "Encyclopedia of the United Nations, Second Edition." 2008.

Russian Federation represented by the Soviet Union, of which neither holds those seats any more after being replaced by The People's Republic of China in 1971, and The Russian Federation in 1991, respectively.[12] There were originally only 6 rotating members on a two-year term that was amended to the modern 10 rotating members in 1965.[13] Since the 1950s there have been many debates concerning how to apportion membership among regional groups.[13] In recent years, some Member States have called for Security Council reform, specifically expanding representation in the P5 to include underrepresented regions such as Africa and removing the veto power of the permanent members.[14]

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[12] Ibid.

[13] Britannica. "The United Nations Security Council". Encyclopedia Britannica.

[13] Ibid.

[14] United Nations Department of Global Communications. "Member States Call for Removing Veto Power, Expanding Security Council to Include New Permanent Seats, as General Assembly Debates Reform Plans for 15-Member Organ." 2018.

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https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-
8CD3CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/Chap%20VII%20SRES%2083.pdf

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https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/content/subsidiary-organs-branch

Security Council South

Topic I: The Situation in Somalia

Introduction

The situation in Somalia is one that has seen both successes and setbacks. Somalia had a civilian government from 1960 until civil war broke out in 1991.[1] Since that time, the United Nations Security Council has been involved to promote peace, stability, and protect the citizens of Somalia. In recent years, Somalia has started to see more stability such as new elections, but work remains in other areas such as infrastructure to ensure that Somalia is able to secure a stable government and human rights.

Background

A civilian government was created in Somalia in 1960.[2] The country was under the rule of dictator Mohammad Siad Barre beginning in 1969 and ending in 1991, which was the beginning of civil war in the country.[3] Siad Barre was overthrown, and rival clan leaders fought for control of the country resulting in civil war.[4] Somalia has strong clan identity which motivated some of the fighting.[5] At this time, a region in the northwest broke away from Somalia and created Somaliland.[6] This region has not been formally recognized which contributes to the difficulty of the situation.[7] An additional region in the north, Puntland, also separated from Somalia in 1998.[8]

The Somalia civil war began in 1991 and the region has continued to see conflict. Multiple peace conferences were held but they did not result in a civilian government until 2000.[9] These peace talks continued until the establishment of a Transitional National Government in 2002.[10] This government was given authority through 2012.[11] However, the conflict in Somalia meant that the government could not be based in that country. In 2004, a transitional parliament was inaugurated in Kenya.[12] The government meet in Somalia for the first time in 2006.[13] As the mandate for the transitional government was set to expire in 2012, the transitional government got to work on

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[1] Janzen, Jörg A and Ioan M. Lewis. "Somalia." Britannica. 2022.
[2] Janzen, Jörg A and Ioan M. Lewis. "Somalia." Britannica. 2022 .
[3] Ibid.
[4] BBC. "Somalia Country Profile." 2022.
[5] Janzen, Jörg A and Ioan M. Lewis. "Somalia." Britannica. 2022.
[6] Mucher, Benno. "Somaliland: A Pocket of Stability in a Chaotic Region." NPR. 2012
[7] Ibid.
[8] Janzen, Jörg A and Ioan M. Lewis. "Somalia." Britannica. 2022 .
[9] Ibid.
[10] Ibid.
[11] Ibid.
[12] Ibid.
[13] Ibid.

creating a lasting governmental system that resulted in a provisional constitution.[14] Somalia recently inaugurated its tenth president under this new constitution.[15]

As this region has seen conflict, the international community has responded to create stability and secure humanitarian assistance. Specifically, the Security Council has authorized three operations in Somalia beginning with the United Nations Operation in Somalia.

The first two operations were focused mainly on humanitarian assistance and peace keeping. At the beginning of this conflict, the Security Council adopted many resolutions to address the conflict based on recommendations by the Secretary-General at the time.[16] As the situation changed, the Security Council changed their goals and actions.

UNOSOM I

The United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNSOM) was established on April 24, 1992 by Resolution 751 (1992).[17] The Security Council called upon the Secretary-General to deploy 50 observers to monitor the cease-fire in the capital and to additionally deploy a security force to the region.[18] During this time, the Secretary-General and UNSOM forces were focusing on peace negotiations.[19] At this time, humanitarian aid was being provided by six UN agencies and more than thirty non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to address the dire hunger situation due to the conflict and drought.[20] However, it became clear that the humanitarian situation in Somalia required more attention and action to ensure that aid was reaching the people who needed it.[21] While different agencies such as the International Red Cross, World Food Programme, and United Nations Children Fund in addition to other NGOs were providing aid, that aid was not able to reach the people who needed it.[22] Resolution 775 (1992) increased the strength of UNOSOM and called upon relevant actors to ensure that humanitarian aid was being safely provided to those in need.[23] Unfortunately, insurgent groups did not agree to the presence of UNSOM personnel to secure humanitarian aid[24]. While there was plenty of aid, it was not leaving the warehouses.[25] Resolution 794 (1992) expanded the power of UNOSOM to, "take all measures necessary," to secure humanitarian aid.[26] This resolution also called on willing Member States to become involved to secure

[14] Ibid.

[15] UNSOM. "Newsletter." 2022.

[16] United Nations. "Somalia – UNOSOM I Background." Accessed 29 July 2022.

[17] Security Council. "Resolution 751 (1992) / adopted by the Security Council at its 3069th meeting, on 24 April 1992." S/RES/751(1992). 1992.

[18] Ibid.

[19] United Nations. "Somalia – UNOSOM I Background." Accessed 29 July 2022.

[20] Ibid.

[21] Ibid.

[22] Ibid.

[23] Security Council. "Resolution 794 (1992) / adopted by the Security Council at its 3145th meeting, on 3 December 1992." S/RES/794(1992). 1992

[24] United Nations. "Somalia – UNOSOM I Background." Accessed 29 July 2022.

[25] Ibid.

[26] Security Council. "Resolution 794 (1992) / adopted by the Security Council at its 3145th meeting, on 3 December 1992." S/RES/794(1992). 1992

humanitarian aid.[27] This led to the creation of the United Task Force (UNITAF).[28] While UNITAF was able to secure humanitarian aid, it became clear that a different program would be needed going forward to unite the efforts of UNITAF and UNOSOM to create peace in the region.[29]

UNOSOM II

Beginning in March 1993, the Secretary-General called upon the Security Council to transition from UNITAF to UNOSOM II.[30] Resolution 814 (1993) expanded the mandate of UNOSOM and created UNOSOM II.[31] One of the main focuses of UNOSOM II was disarmament and the creation of peace. This goal was met with resistance and resulted in violence.[32] Following these attacks, the Security Council adopted Resolution 837 (1993) which once again confirmed the ability for UNOSOM II to use military force.[33] UNOSOM II did use this force in response to the attack on June 5 in addition to coercing disarmament.[34] Throughout this period, the Secretary-General was monitoring the situation. It became clear that UNOSOM II was not able to achieve its objectives because of its use of force between June and October 1993.[35] As a result of ongoing investigation and consideration, the Security Council passed Resolution 897 (1994) which reduced the size of UNOSOM II and limited its ability to use force.[36] As 1994 continued, the situation in Somalia did not improve, so the Secretary-General and Security Council continued to consider what the role of UNOSOM II should be.[37] In Resolution 954 (1994) the mandate was extended for UNOSOM II for the final time.[38] UNOSOM II forces had been removed by the beginning of March 1995.[39]

Current Situation

The situation in Somalia today has improved somewhat from when UN forces left in 1995. However, it continues to struggle to sustain democratic institutions and care for its citizens.

Humanitarian Issues

[27] Ibid.

[28] United Nations. "Somalia – UNOSOM I Background." Accessed 29 July 2022.

[29] Ibid.

[30] United Nations. "Somalia – UNOSOM II Background." Accessed 29 July 2022.

[31] Security Council. "Resolution 814 (1993) / adopted by the Security Council at its 3188th meeting, on 26 March 1993." S/RES/814(1993). 1993.

[32] United Nations. "Somalia – UNOSOM II Background." Accessed 29 July 2022

[33] Security Council. "Resolution 837 (1993) / adopted by the Security Council at its 3229th meeting, on 6 June 1993." S/RES/837(1993). 1993.

[34] United Nations. "Somalia – UNOSOM II Background." Accessed 29 July 2022.

[35] Ibid.

[36] Security Council. "Resolution 897 (1994) / adopted by the Security Council at its 3334th meeting, on 4 February 1994." S/RES/897(1994). 1994.

[37] United Nations. "Somalia – UNOSOM II Background." Accessed 29 July 2022.

[38] Security Council. "Resolution 954 (1994) / adopted by the Security Council at its 3447th meeting, on 4 November 1994." S/RES/954(1994). 1994.

[39] United Nations. "Somalia – UNOSOM II Background." Accessed 29 July 2022.

Since the beginning of Security Council involvement in Somalia, humanitarian concerns have been a major area of focus.[40] Conflict has an impact on humanitarian aid by preventing workers from having access to conflict areas, violent attacks, and even direct attacks on aid depots.[41] All of these factors have impacted the quality and longevity of life for the people of Somalia.

The last official census was conducted in 1975, which makes it difficult to determine how many people live in Somalia.[42] A total of 85% of the people in Somalia are ethnically Somalian[43]. The average life expectancy is in the mid-fifties.[44] This is caused by a variety of factors. For instance, according to the World Health Organisation, barely more than 39% of people have access to basic sanitation.[45] Since Sustainable Development Goal 6 relates to clean water and sanitation, this will be an ongoing concern.

In addition to access to water and sanitation, Somalia has many internally displaced peoples. There are approximately 2.9 million internally displaced persons in Somalia who are living in over 2,000 camps.[46] One of the contributing factors to this displacement, in addition to ongoing conflict, is extreme draught and heavy rain.[47] Some regions have received no rain which prevents food from growing while other regions are experiencing flooding.[48] Given the large number of internally displaced people, it is hard to ensure that everyone is getting the assistance they need.[49] Internally displaced people often live in camps where there is poor access to sanitation and health services which has resulted in illness such as Covid-19 spreading.[50] When camps are full, internally displaced people turn to private land where they often forcibly removed.[51]

Refugees

While the majority of those who are displaced in Somalia stay in the country, 750,000 Somalians are refuges in other countries particularly Yemen, Ethiopia, and Kenya.[52] Many of these refugees are in a protracted refugee state where they are living in the same refugee camp for more than five years.[53]

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[40] United Nations. "Somalia – UNOSOM I Background." Accessed 29 July 2022.
[41] Security Council Report. "Briefing on the Protection of Humanitarian Space." 2021.
[42] CIA. "Somalia" CIA. 2022.
[43] Janzen, Jörg A and Ioan M. Lewis. "Somalia." Britannica. 2022.
[44] The World Bank. "Life Expectancy at Birth, Total (years) – Somalia." Accessed 29 July 2022.
[45] World Health Organization. "Somalia." Accessed 29 July 2022.
[46] Hujale, Moulid. "Displaced Somalis and Refugees Struggle to Recover as Climate Change Brings New Threats." United Nations High Commission on Refugees. 2021.
[47] Ibid.
[48] United Nations High Commission on Refugees. "Somalia Refugee Crisis Explained." 2020.
[49] Hujale, Moulid. "Displaced Somalis and Refugees Struggle to Recover as Climate Change Brings New Threats." United Nations High Commission on Refugees. 2021.
[50] Amnesty International. "Somalia: Internally Displaced People Surviving by 'The Grace of God' Amidst COVID – 19." 2020.
[51] Ibid.
[52] United Nations High Commission on Refugees. "Somalia Refugee Crisis Explained." 2020.
[53] Ibid.

After UNSOM II ended, the number of people in Somalia who were impacted by conflict rose.[54] In 1991, a refugee camp was established in Dadaab, Kenya.[55] This is a complex that consists of three camps.[56] While the number of people who live in refugee camps changes, the refugee camps in Kenya that shelter many Somalians are some of the world's biggest.[57] Given the instability in the region, the organization al-Shabaab has taken control of some regions in Somalia.[58] Since Kenya contributes soldiers to the African Union mission that fights against al-Shabaab, the group has retaliated against Kenya.[59] All of this leads to discrimination against Somalians in Kenya in addition to the difficulties that come with hosting a large refugee population.[60]

The situation in Ethiopia is impacted by a conflict between Tigrayan People's Liberation Front and the national military.[61] Additionally, the large influx of refugees since the beginning of the civil war has had an environmental impact.[62] Addressing the situation in Somalia will mean that these refugees and internally displaced people can return to their homes and will ease some of the issues in neighboring countries.

African Union Transition Mission in Somalia

The African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) began as the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM).[63] AMISOM started with 1,700 troops from Uganda in 2007.[64] From the beginning, AMISOM was endorsed by the Security Council, specifically endorsed in Resolution 1774 (2007).[65] While AMISOM and ATMIS work with the UN, it is primarily a programme of the African Union. AMISOM was able to achieve several major objectives including pushing back the terrorist organization al-Shabab and protecting the Somali government.[66] ATIMIS became operational in April of 2022 under the auspices of the African Union and United Nations Security Council.[67]

UNSOM

In light of the recent progress in Somalia thanks to the African Union Transition Mission and concerns regarding humanitarian issues, the Security Council created United

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[54] Sohns, Antonia. "Somalia Refugees: Between Shelter and Discrimination." Our World. 2016.

[55] Ibid.

[56] United Nations Commission on Refugees. "Dadaab Refugee Complex." Accessed 21 August 2022.

[57]Hale, Enrique. "The 7 Largest Refugee Camps in the World." Refugee Council USA. 2020.

[58]Sohns, Antonia. "Somalia Refugees: Between Shelter and Discrimination." Our World. 2016.

[59] Ibid.

[60] Ibid.

[61] CIA. "Ethiopia". 2022.

[62] IRIN. "Ethiopia-Somalia: The Cost of Being a Good Neighbor." Refworld. 2012.

[63] African Union Transition Mission in Somalia. "About ATMIS." Accessed 29 July 2022.

[64] Strength For Peace. "Lessons learned in Somalia." Council on Foreign Relations. 2018.

[65] Security Council. "Resolution 1774 (2007) / adopted by the Security Council at its 5633rd meeting, on 20 February 2007." 2007.

[66]Ambassador Francisco Caetano Madeira. "Exit of AMISOM: Consolidating Gains and Charting New Trajectories in the African Union Presence in Somalia." ACCORD. 2022.

[67] African Union Transition Mission in Somalia. "About ATMIS." Accessed 29 July 2022.

Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM).[68] The primary focus of UNSOM is providing assistance of the Federal Government and AMISOM as it relates to peacebuilding and creating government institutions.[69] The mandate for UNSOM has been updated multiple times since 2013 and is set to expire in October of 2022.[70]

Future Outlook

The situation in Somalia continues to change. The mandate for UNSOM will expire before the end of the year, so what the Security Council will do going forward is unknown.

Relations with neighboring countries will be a concern in the future since Somalia's recently elected president snubbed Ethiopia on more than one occasion[71].

al-Shabaab will be also an ongoing issue in the region as it perpetrates attacks not only against Somalia but against neighboring countries such as Ethiopia and Kenya. Given that al-Shabaab has a foothold in Somalia, it bears much of the frustration regarding on-going attacks by the group. Continuing climate change such as drought will continue to impact communities and displace people who are already living in a region of conflict. This will be an issue not only for Somalia, but its neighbors as well which will impact local citizens and the refugees in many of these countries.

Focus Questions

- How can the Security Council address the prevalence of non-state actors in the situation?
- How can the United Nations include regional organizations with the conflict within Somalia?
- What are options that the United Nations has to support those internally displaced people within Somalia due to the crisis?

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[68]Security Council. "Resolution 2102 (2013) / adopted by the Security Council at its 6959th meeting, on 2 May 2013" S/RES/2102 (2013). 2013.
[69] United Nations Assistance Program in Somalia. "Mandate." Accessed 29 July 2022.
[70] Ibid.
[71] Hahi Ingiriois, Mohammed. "Alarm Bells as Somalia's New President Sours Relationship with Ethiopia." The Conversation. 2022.

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United Nations Security Council

Topic II: Utilization of Regional Organizations in the Maintenance of International Peace and Security

Introduction

Throughout the history of the United Nations (UN), the task of maintaining international peace and security has evolved from preventing another World War, to deescalating the Cold War, to navigating independence movements from colonized states throughout the Global South, to now focusing on solving problems and issues that Member States face in a sustainable and inclusive manner. As Member States have developed and become more interconnected, the importance of regional organizations has increased. Regional organizations can be economic or political in nature such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) or European Union (EU); they can focus on celebrating a shared history such as the Commonwealth of Nations; they can form from a shared a language or religion such as the International Organization of La Francophonie or the Arab League; they can serve as a military organization such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; or act as a forum for the largest bloc of nations within the UN to increase cooperation like the African Union currently does. Regardless of their purpose or history, regional organizations are a crucial component in the maintenance of international peace and security in the 21st century serving as a crucial form for multilateral cooperation.

Background

During the formation of the United Nations, Member States ensured their right and ability to cooperate and work together regionally to maintain international peace and security with the text of Chapter VIII of the *Charter of the United Nations.*[1] Through Chapter VIII, Member States are allowed to utilize regional arrangements or agencies to uphold the principles of the UN with the Security Council able to utilize such regional arrangements or agencies to enforce actions adopted by the UN.[2] The importance and role of regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security was further expanded upon in *S/RES/24111, An Agenda for Peace,* a report by Secretary General Boutros-Ghali.[3] Within this document, Boutros-Ghali recognized the struggle Member States faced when attempting to utilize regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security throughout the Cold War. However, Boutros-Ghali pointed out several ways that regional organizations can help Member States address multiple thematic areas in the maintenance of international peace and security, such as preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping, and post-conflict peacebuilding.[4] By focusing Member States' attentions on regional actions, there is an

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[1]United Nations. "Charter of the United Nations". 1945.
[2]Ibid.
[3]United Nations Security Council. "An Agenda for Peace." S/24111, A/47/277. 1992.
[4]Ibid.

increased amount of decentralization, delegation, and cooperation between Member States and their regional partners maximizing participation, consensus, and democratization in international affairs rather than resolving issues unilaterally.[5]

As the Cold War neared its end, the United Nations encouraged Member States to increase their utilization of regional organizations to solve various problems that arose, with the UN facilitating cooperation and dialogue between regional organizations to maintain international peace and security.[6] This can be seen in the work done In Somalia following the 1991 coup by the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the League of Arab States, and the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation working together and with the UN to increase stability, uphold the rule of law, and refocus on good governance.[7] Another example includes the efforts of the Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the negotiations at an international conference in Paris to facilitate dialogue and negotiations for peace between Cambodia and Vietnam, resulting in nineteen countries signing and agreeing to the *Comprehensive Cambodian Peace Agreements* resolving the Cambodian-Vietnamese War that lasted from 1978 to 1989.[8] Further efforts included the General Assembly asking the Secretary-General to encourage collaboration and cooperation by: directly assisting the OAU and other subregional organizations in Africa in establishing logistics assessment teams; encouraging Member States to contribute to the OAU Peace Fund; requesting the establishment of partnerships between States and regional and subregional organization involved in peacekeeping operations; and inviting further cooperation, consultation, and dialogue between the UN, the OAU, and other regional and subregional organizations.[9] These actions, beliefs, and requests were codified in *S/RES/1318*, with the Security Council calling for a strengthening of cooperation and communication between the UN and regional or subregional organizations or agreements in respect to peacekeeping operations.[10]

The emphasis on the utilization of regional and subregional organizations can be seen in the Millennium Development Goals' specific inclusion of regional economic commissions for Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific, and Western Asia.[11] As the Millennium Development Goals ended and were replaced with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the importance of regional organizations was increased, with sustainable development serving as a key driver for the maintenance of international peace and security.[12] With regional organizations able to serve one or multiple roles for Member States, such as a translating role, a

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[5]Ibid.
[6]Ibid.
[7]United States Institute of Peace Asia Center. "The 30th Anniversary of Cambodia's Paris Peace Agreements." United States Institute of Peace. 2021.
[8]United Nations Peacekeeping. "Somalia – UNOSOM I." United Nations. 2003.
[9]United Nations Security Council. "The situation in Africa". S/RES/1197. 1998.
[10]United Nations Security Council. "Adopting the declaration on ensuring an effective role for the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security, particularly in Africa." S/RES/1318. 2000.
[11]United Nations General Assembly. "United Nations Millennium Declaration." A/RES/55/2. 2000.
[12]United Nations General Assembly. "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." A/RES/70/1. 2015

supporting role, a coordinating role, and/or a monitoring role, Member States can receive increased support in accomplishing the actions necessary to fulfilling the SDGs.[13]

Current Situation

Regional organizations have increased in importance, especially as the UN and the globe has shifted their actions to be more proactive and address the root causes of many issues. Root causes of instability and conflict range from resource scarcity to weak enforcement of the rule of law to food insecurity. Many root causes are addressed by the SDGs, with goals focusing on poverty, hunger, education, water, decent work, climate action, and peace, justice, and strong institutions.[14] By focusing efforts from the UN and Member States in maintaining international peace and security on the regional level, Member States can better resolve both disagreements between each other, increasing participation and providing better outcomes for all. Increased regional participation can be seen in every region of the globe through various resolutions passed in the 76th session of the General Assembly including *A/RES/76/43*, which asks for increased confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context, and *A/RES/76/61*, which focuses on the importance of UN Regional Centres for peace and disarmament and their roles in implementing disarmament, arms control, and non-proliferation activities.[15]

Addressing Root Causes

In promoting international peace and security, the UN has shifted in recent years to addressing root causes that contribute to conflict and violence. With the passing of *A/RES/70/1*, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, the SDGs became the UNs global development framework after the end of the MDGs with the 17 Global Goals including 169 targets and 232 indicators for Member States to achieve a better and more sustainable future for the globe.[16] Goals such as "No Poverty", "Zero Hunger", "Quality Education", "Clean Water and Sanitation", "Affordable and Clean Energy", "Decent Work and Economic Growth", "Reduced Inequalities", "Climate Action", and "Peace Justice and Strong Institutions" all have targets and indicators that can help prevent conflict by addressing the root causes that drive people towards violence.[17] As Member States work towards the goals, targets, and indicators of the SDGs, the utilization of regional organizations is increasingly common.

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[13]Marx, Pertiwi, Depoorter, Hoornick, Mursitama, Ottebrun, & Arnakim. "What role for regional organizations in goal-setting global governance? An analysis of the role of the European Union and ASEAN in the Sustainable Development Goals." Global Public Policy and Governance. 2021.
[14]United Nations General Assembly. "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." A/RES/70/1. 2015.
[15]United Nations General Assembly. "Confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context." A/RES/76/43. 2021.; United Nations General Assembly. "United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament." A/RES/76/61. 2021.
[16]United Nations General Assembly. "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." A/RES/70/1. 2015.
[17]Ibid.

The European Union (EU), AU, ASEAN, Organization of American States (OAS), and many other regional organizations all have dedicated departments to the accomplishment of the SDGs. This is due to the reality that each region, and each Member State, faces its own distinct problems and struggles that other regions and Member States do not have to work through. With each region of the globe facing its own unique struggles, implementing a UN system-wide "one size fits all" approach is not conducive to fulfilling the SDGs. For example, Member States in the Middle East and those in the Pacific have dramatically different needs that must be addressed in different manners; this is outlined in High-Level Political Forum's thematic review session on "Implementing the SDGs: Lessons from the regions".[18] Regional organizations can help ensure that Member States and regional partners have solutions that are specifically tailored to counteract or resolve the regional or national struggles Member States face in their goal of achieving the SDGs by guiding policy-making, providing model legislation, and sharing pertinent data. The EU in particular works to ensure that European Member States are all making progress towards the SDGs while also partnering with other countries from other regions to participate in North-South and Triangular Cooperation to help developing countries through financial assistance, technical support, and other means. Similarly, ASEAN has multiple SDG initiatives, including the SDGs Frontrunner Cities Programme, which aims to raise the capacity and profile of 27 ASEAN cities to develop and scale up multi-dimensional benefit model practices/policies towards clean and green sustainable development, which can be utilized by other regions as a model framework upon which local perspectives can modify an existing plan.[19] The OAS Sustainable Destinations Alliance for the Americas takes an integrated approach to destination stewardship by educating and empowering local leaders to improve the management of tourism to ensure that necessary policies, programs, plans, and systems are in place for the long term through the increase in local capacity with the full and proper implementation of the Destination Stewardship toolkit.[20]

Maintenance of International Peace and Security

In attempting to maintain international peace and security, the UN relies on several regional organizations. One such organization is the African Union (AU) which utilizes a holistic approach to international peace and security focusing on strategies revolving around preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping, and post-conflict peacebuilding. The AU and the UN have cooperated and collaborated multiple times in the maintenance of international peace and security with the UN Security Council authorizing the AU to conduct the African Union Mission to Somalia.[21] Alongside the AU, the EU has contributed to the situation in Somalia through the EU Training Mission in Somalia which aimed to strengthen the Somali federal defense institutions by providing training, mentoring and advice tailored to the Somali National Army in

[18]High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. "2018 HLPF Background Note - Implementing the SDGs: Lessons from the regions." United Nations. 2018.

[19] United Nations. "ASEAN SDGs Frontrunner Cities Programme." United Nations. n.d.

[20] United Nations. "Sustainable Destinations Alliance for the Americas." United Nations. n.d.

[21] AMISOM African Union Mission in Somalia. "Homepage." AMISOM. 2022.

securing the national capital and establishing a transitional government.[22] The UN Security Council then authorized the first ever joint UN/AU peacekeeping mission, United Nations–African Union Mission in Darfur, beginning on Dec 31, 2007 and ending on Dec 31, 2020 with a total of about 20,000 personnel serving in the peacekeeping mission with roughly 90% of mission personnel coming from African nations, showcasing multiple benefits and positive outcomes that come with the utilization of African peacekeepers from the AU.[23]

Elsewhere in Africa, the Multinational Joint Task Force and the Sahel Joint Force are both examples of subregional arrangements between countries in the effort of maintaining international peace and security.[24],[25] In the Multinational Joint Task Force, Cameroon, Chad, Nigeria, Niger, and Benin operation within a mandate from the AU Peace and Security Council authorizing the creation of a safe and secure environment and the facilitation of stabilization in the area by countering activities of Boko Haram.[26] The Sahel Joint Force, which includes Burkina Faso, Chad, Mauritania, Niger, and (until a May 2022 withdrawal) Mali, was formed to respond to the expansion of armed and violent extremist groups and authorized by the United Nations Security Council in 2017.[27] After the authorization, the UN provided support through the Department of Peace Operations, Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Office of Legal Affairs, and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights highlighting the positive relationship that exists between regional organizations and the UN.[28]

Regional participation in maintaining international peace and security isn't limited to Africa as illustrated by the OAS Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia with the OAS providing comprehensive transitional justice mechanisms in Colombia.[29] Within the Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia, the OAS has been able to make recommendations to increase and strengthen justice mechanisms, contribute to the rebuilding of the rule of law in Colombia, increased Colombia's capacity to provide and protect victims' rights, supported marginalized groups such as indigenous peoples and women, and directly provided peacebuilding support through disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of paramilitary groups in Colombia back into society.[30]

<u>Future Outlook</u>

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[22] EUTM-Somalia. "Homepage." EUTM-Somalia. 2022.

[23] United Nations. "UNAMID: United Nations – African Union Hybrid Mission in Darfur." United Nations. 2022.

[24] Multinational Joint Task Force. "Homepage." Multinational Joint Task Force. 2022.

[25] ACCORD. "The Joint Task Force of the G5 Sahel." ACCORD. 2018.

[26] Ibid.

[27] United Nations Security Council. "On providing operational and logistical support through the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali to the Group of Five for the Sahel Joint Force." S/RES/2391. 2017

[28] Ibid.

[29] Organization of American States Permanent Council. "Support to the Peace Process in Colombia." CP/RES/ 859 (1397/04). 2004.

[30] Inksater and Jiménez. "The Organization of American States Mission to Support the Peace Process in Colombia." International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. 2016.

As Member States increasingly use and rely on the support of regional organizations, the UN has become an important ally to both the organizations themselves and Member States, serving as a facilitator, financial benefactor, and broker. This leads to positive outcomes with Member States receiving the necessary individualized support and problem-solving that UN bodies cannot always provide in their missions to solve global issues. Focusing on local expertise, regional perspectives, and moving towards an increasingly decentralized system has many benefits, but there are also drawbacks to operating outside of the United Nations system. Transparency, financing, and reform are issues the UN has had to deal with since its formation with many Member States still calling for various changes. As Member States increase their reliance and usage of regional organizations, what calls for changes will occur within the regional organizations themselves regarding these issues? When Member States discuss regionally specific issues and solutions with their regional neighbors outside of the UN system, there can be both a more democratic conversation and a less inclusive conversation with Member States development status, economic strength, language, religion, and other factors potentially leading to certain Member States having drastically more influence in the decision making processes in comparison to others.

Focus Questions

1. What regional and subregional organizations does your State belong to?
2. How does your State utilize or contribute to the regional organizations that they are a part of? Do they contribute to regional organizations they are not a part of?
3. Are there concerns your State may have regarding to the utilization of regional organizations rather than United Nations bodies, programmes, and agencies that needs to be addressed? How would this be resolved?
4. What barriers exist that must be addressed prior to seeing increased cooperation between various regional organizations when working alongside each other?
5. Can the United Nations do anything more to facilitate cooperation between regional organizations and United Nations bodies, programmes, and agencies?

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