



AMUN Conference Preparation Newsletter

23–26 November 2024

4 November 2024

Security Council Fall Update & Preparatory Tips

Greetings from the AMUN Secretariat. While this update is primarily for students that will be on one of our Security Council simulations, it contains information that is relevant to Security Council participants. Remember, even if your country does not have a seat on the Security Council, it may still be asked to appear there as a Party to the Dispute or be invited to speak if the Security Council holds an Open Meeting.

Updates to the Security Council Handbook Information

In preparation for the Conference, the Simulations Staff for the Contemporary Security Council have two short situation reports, or topic updates, to the Security Council chapter of the online [AMUN Handbook](#). These will be listed directly under the Security Council heading at the top of the page.

The first update, covering the situation in Sudan, is [available here](#). This update provides a brief synopsis on 10 million internally displaced peoples and the more than 700,000 facing a phase 5 famine.

The second update, regarding the situation in the Middle East including the Question of Palestine, is [available here](#). This update provides additional information to consider when debating the highly complex and evolving situation in the Middle East.

Understanding the Security Council Veto

One key difference between the Security Council and other UN bodies is the requirement for the consent of the Permanent Five Members, also known as the “veto”. Understanding the dynamics of the veto and how to work successfully in a room where one “no” vote can change the course of discussions is key to successfully navigating the UN Security Council. Read about the dynamics of the veto power in our *AMUN Accords* post, [Understanding the Security Council Veto](#).

Security Council Preparatory Research Tips & Suggestions

Part of the fun of being on the Security Council is the intense debates. The smaller membership size and the complicated topics make for engaging, and sometimes

heated, discussions. The best way to prepare to participate is to have your research done. If you're new to being on an AMUN Security Council, or more importantly, new to Model UN in general, here are some [key research tips](#):

1. **Read the Conference Materials** - AMUN provides topic briefs for all our simulations and the Security Council is no different. Find the Security Council topic briefs in the [AMUN Handbook](#).
2. **Understand how the United Nations Works** - Specifically, how the [Security Council](#) works, but having a deep understanding of the [UN Charter](#) and [Principal Organs](#) is also very helpful.
3. **Know Your Country** - You should, at a minimum, know and understand the basic contours of your country's population, geography, social and cultural structure, alliances and trade partners, and governmental system. The most helpful tools? The UN's [World Statistics Pocketbook](#), the BBC's [Country Profiles](#) and the CIA's [World Factbook](#).
4. **Do a Deep Dive on the Topics** - In the case of the Security Council, you should be intimately familiar with the topics outlined in the *AMUN Handbook*, position papers and also be well abreast of the current (or historical) events leading up to the Council start date.
5. **Make a Conference Game Plan** - In other United Nations bodies, representatives usually work in smaller groups to write resolutions that address the issues, and these resolutions and the ideas they represent are then debated. In the Security Council, representatives debate the issues and negotiate agreements, then formalize those agreements through written resolutions. Make sure your game plan focuses on negotiations with other representatives **and involved parties**. Know who has similar needs and wants and who approaches the issues differently than you. Know what you can compromise on and what you can't.

Realism in AMUN's Security Council

For AMUN, our conference is first and foremost an educational experience for all of our Conference attendees. The key to any educational simulation? Realism. Maintaining realism during a simulation is challenging, but nowhere more so than the Security Council. In the Security Council we have to balance our educational goals with the immediate impact on the simulation caused by Member States' actions.

To avoid frustration, we strongly encourage all Security Council participants to read our *AMUN Accords* post, [Why Realism Is Important: The Goals Of AMUN's Security Council Simulations](#) and understand AMUN's philosophies and goals behind running a realistic Security Council simulation.

Questions, Comments or Concerns?

If you have any questions about this email, please contact us directly at mail@amun.org and we will be happy to help. As always, if you are no longer the primary contact for your school's Model UN club or class, please contact us at mail@amun.org with updated contact information or fill out our [Change of Address/Contact](#) form online.

Good luck on your preparation,

Shannon L. Dunn
AMUN Executive Director

Madeline Glass
2024 Secretary-General

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