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Study Guide

SECURITY COUNCIL

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

(UNSC) STUDY GUIDE

Agenda Items: The Election of the United Nations Secretary-General, the Greenland Issue between the United States and Denmark, and Security in the Arctic Region

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1. Opening Letters

1.1 LETTER FROM SECRETARY GENERAL

To Our Distinguished Participants and Esteemed Delegates,

It is my greatest honor to welcome you all to first ever LeadersMUN'26. On behalf of the entire Secretariat team, I am thrilled to invite you to join us for what promises to be an inspiring and incredible conference.

We find ourselves in an era where unprecedented global challenges face us. From the intricacies of climate change to the subtleties of international security, the world does not simply need conversation; it needs cooperation, it needs innovation. This conference is intended to be an environment in which your voices matter, your solutions weigh heavily, and your diplomacy creates the future.

Remember that diplomacy begins with the courage to speak, the patience to listen and the determination to seek solutions even when challenges seem impossible.

As the Secretary General it is my privilege to say that I have such amazing friends by my side. We went through the good and bad times together. I am excited to see the outcome of our effort.

I am looking forward to witnessing the spectacular debates and resolutions that will emerge from your committees.

Best Regards,
Elvin HANCI
Secretary-General of LeadersMUN'26

For contact, elvinhanci09@gmail.com

1.2 LETTER FROM UNDER-SECRETARY-GENERAL

Esteemed delegates of UNSC committee,

As your Under Secretary General I'm so honored to welcome you with such an amazing and unusual committee!

I would like to start off by introducing myself, my name is Mehmet Hakan Karakaya. I am currently a 10th grade student at Samsun Garip Zeycan Yıldırım Fen Lisesi. In the due time, I have participated in many conferences which helped me to gain lots of experiences to come this far and I finally got the chance to be here as your USG right now. In this committee, you will learn about an unusual procedure, new functions, things that you didn't know that you didn't even know. I wish for this committee to be such an academic and an entertaining experience simultaneously. If you have any questions, I'm at the distance of a mailbox. I cannot wait to see you while choosing you on motions! Warm regards,

Mehmet Hakan KARAKAYA

Under-Secretary-General of UNSC

For Contact: mhakankarakayaffel@gmail.com

2. Introduction to Committee

2.1 HISTORY OF UNITED NATIONS

The United Nations (UN) was created to prevent another global war and encourage international cooperation, for being the successor of the failed project League of Nations after WWII. Infrastructure of the UN has made with important declarations and conferences such as the Atlantic Charter which was announced by the President of USA Franklin D. Roosevelt and Prime Minister of England Winston Churchill in 1941 and the “United Nations Declaration” that 26 ally countries promised to keep fighting against the Axis powers in 1942. In 1944, USA, United Kingdom, USSR and China delegates gathered to prepare a draft of a new international organization at Dumbarton Oaks Conference and this frame developed even more at Yalta Conference in 1945. After the approval of “United Nations Charter” which is the foundational treaty of the UN and signed by 51 countries in the San Francisco Conference, the UN was officially established on 24 October 1945.

Structured around six principal organs -the General Assembly, the Security Council, the International Court of Justice, the Secretariat, the Economic and Social Council, and the Trusteeship Council- was designed to create balance among great powers’ detention with broad representation and gave veto right to five permanent countries (United States of America, Soviet Union, United Kingdom, China and France) of the Security Council. During the Cold War period the UN became a scene of an ideological rivalry with using the veto rights often that limited the security preventions; but still played crucial roles on peacekeeping missions, decolonisation progresses and humanitarian aid. After the Cold War era, the peacekeeping operations and intervention to conflicts among countries has been expanded and with the expert establishments such as World Health Organisation and UNESCO they started to focus more on human rights, sustainable development and global health. Nevertheless the criticisms on bureaucratic inefficiency, financing problems and geopolitical deadlock (especially in Security Council) the United Nations still playing a

central role on global diplomacy, solving conflict, humanitarian aid, climate negotiations and promoting international justice and constantly progressing in order to address the newly formed international problems such as terrorism, epidemic diseases and climate change.

Principal Organs of the United Nations



The United Nations has 6 principal organs:

- General Assembly
- Security Council
- Secretariat
- Economic and Social Council

-Trusteeship Council

-International Court of Justice

2.2 INTRODUCTION TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly has all of the member states so it is the most democratic organ of the United Nations. Although the great powers see the General Assembly as a lightweight work, its actions reflect the will of the world's people the best. That's why various reform initiatives have had suggest precaution in order to strengthen and enhance its effectiveness.

The primary strength of the General Assembly lies with the excellent capability of gathering countries' delegates from all over the world. With that, it provides a platform where the countries can find joint solutions to global problems and present their concerns to the international society.

Thus, the General Assembly stands out as the symbol of solidarity. At the same time, it can be through struggles on the functions because of the structure of its own. When the truth of there are 193 delegates from all countries, constantly renewed agendas and every year delegates being united in the General Assembly for meetings and debating being considered, it becomes clearly an understandable situation that it is precisely hard to have meaningful arguments and decisions. Even though there are some disadvantages as it has been mentioned, it should not be a limit to the delegates in the General Assembly for maintaining global security.

There are six main committees in the General Assembly:

- First Committee – Disarmament & International Security
- Second Committee – Economic & Financial
- Third Committee – Social, Humanitarian & Cultural
- Fourth Committee – Special Political & Decolonization
- Fifth Committee – Administrative & Budgetary
- Sixth Committee – Legal

Lastly, the General Assembly works with the Security Council in many parts; when taking a crucial decision or action(as stated in the Article 11 of UN Charter: “Any such question on which action is necessary shall be referred to the Security Council by the General Assembly either before or after discussion.”), making a call to security council when the situations are potentially a threat to international peace and security, electing the secretary general and some other functions that can not be specified in this paragraph.

2.3 INTRODUCTION TO SECURITY COUNCIL

The Security Council is one of the six principles of the United Nations, it has gathered and held its first session on 17 January 1946 at Church House, London. The Council plays a crucial role in maintaining world peace and security, and directly aims to preserve global stability. The committee is being gathered when there are some global issues in order to not only talk, but also to take actions about it; such as wars, conflicts, crises, etc. However, the Security Council has quite a few things that are very different from other committees in the United Nations. These procedures may look up to you a little confusing; but well, you have my guide to show you.

2.3.1 FRAMEWORKS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

Delegates:

The Security Council has 15 countries, 5 permanent countries and 10 non-permanent countries. Five permanent countries are in order: the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Russian Federation, People's Republic of China and the French Republic. Non-permanent countries are being elected according to the geographic distribution. There are 10 seats that are determined in order: 3 seats for African group, 2 for Asian-Pacific group, 2 for Latin America and Caribbean group, 1 for Eastern European group, 2 for Western Europe and Others group. The countries(delegates) that are being placed in the groups are getting there with the elections in the General Assembly. This replacement of non-permanent countries happens every 2 years, each country has their own two year period.

Veto Right:

Veto right is given to specific countries in the Security Council. Those Countries are in order:

- the United States of America
- the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- the Russian Federation
- People's Republic of China
- French Republic

which are the same countries that have been mentioned as “the Permanent Countries”.

The Veto Right basically has the power of being able to block an action unilaterally, even though every other permanent country has approved the proposal. This right is so powerful, yet, if you use it in a crucial agenda, it accuses the Council of being stunned. The resolution wouldn't pass, any action could not be taken and so on. For a

resolution to be passed super majority is required. Therefore 9 countries, P5 and 4 non-permanent, should approve the form.

In order to access other details about the functions, you should examine the United Nations Security Council handbook [that has been given as an appendix](#).

2.3.2 UN CHARTER

The Charter of the United Nations is the founding document of the United Nations. It was signed on 26 June 1945, in San Francisco, at the conclusion of the United Nations Conference on International Organization, and came into force on 24 October 1945.

The United Nations can take action on a wide variety of issues due to its unique international character and the powers vested in its Charter, which is considered an international treaty. As such, the UN Charter is an instrument of international law, and UN Member States are bound by it. The UN Charter codifies the major principles of international relations, from sovereign equality of States to the prohibition of the use of force in international relations.

Since the UN's founding in 1945, the mission and work of the Organization have been guided by the purposes and principles contained in its founding Charter, which has been amended three times in 1963, 1965, and 1973.

Find the full text of the UN Charter, or read about the history of its making. Listen to a reading of the Preamble.

3. Agenda Items

3.1 FIRST AGENDA: THE ELECTION OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL

Every 5 years countries in the Security Council come together in order to elect the new Secretary-General of the United Nations. In this section the information about the Secretary General will be given; about what is their responsibility, what they should and shouldn't do, how to select them.

3.1.1 ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL

The Secretary-General is the chief administrative officer of the organization. Secretary-General role is of great importance and requires efficiency, competence, honesty and a strict loyalty to purpose and principles of the United Nations Charter. They should prove themselves in leadership and administration, having inclusive experience on international interactions and a strong diplomatic side, containing strong communication skills and ability in multiple languages. A candidate who has the features that has been mentioned can be a great option during the election.

The Secretary General can bring any agenda that they think could affect world peace and the maintenance of global security.

The Secretary-General should not seek or receive instruction from a country, organization or any external authority.

3.1.2 FUNCTIONS OF THE ELECTION

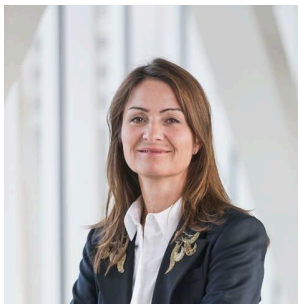
For electing the Secretary-General of the United Nations debates should be done, candidates should be shown and the united decisions should be taken. The process works and rules are as follows:

- There should be candidates whether chosen from delegates or the ones who are already exist
- If a delegate nominates a candidate, they should give a detailed form that includes every information of the nominee.
- The candidates should be nominated by one Member State or by a group of Member States; each Member State may nominate only one candidate, individually or jointly with other Member States.
- Informal meetings are allowed out of the committee until it's the time for voting.
- Countries can always withdraw the candidate until voting. If they change their minds before the voting time, they can nominate the same candidate again.

- With the end of debates and the selection of the candidates, the voting procedure starts.
- The voting procedure proceeds with simple majority, which means that P5 members can not use their veto power.
- After the voting procedure, delegates should write a resolution paper which informs the reader that the Secretary-General has been elected.
- The resolution paper should be approved by the President of the General Assembly.

In committee, it is highly desired for delegates to debate on the election.

3.1.3 SECRETARY-GENERAL CANDIDATES



Christina Markus Lassen - December 17, 1970

Currently the Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations in New York. Born in Denmark, studied at Copenhagen Business School, Sorbonne University, American University, Harvard University. Started her diplomatic career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Copenhagen, then continued with being the first secretary at the Danish Embassy in Washington. After the September 11 attacks, she became the ambassador of Denmark in Syria which made her the youngest female ambassador in the history of Danish foreign service. By the time she returned to Copenhagen, she served in several senior roles in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, such as the Director for Public Diplomacy and the Director for Stabilization and Security Policy. From 2015 to 2019 she was the Ambassador and Head of the European Union Delegation in Lebanon, later her appointment as Political Director and Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Policy in Denmark's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2022 she became Denmark's Ambassador to the United States and in 2023 she was appointed Denmark's Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. Native in Danish, fluent in English and sufficient in French.



Michael George Glen Waltz - January 31, 1974

Mike Waltz is currently the Permanent Representative of the US to the United Nations. Before entering Congress, Waltz served as a U.S. Army Special Forces officer and later worked at The Pentagon as a defense policy director. During the administration of George W. Bush, he served as a counterterrorism advisor to Vice President Dick Cheney, where he contributed to U.S. policy coordination on counterterrorism and security cooperation with international partners. Then, Waltz continued working on global security in the private sector and policy institutions, until being elected to the United States House of Representatives in 2018. As a member of the congress, he actively worked in the House Armed Services Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee, attended diplomatic negotiations on NATO, India-Pacific Security and U.S. relations with countries such as China and Russia. With these meetings Waltz contributed for the US Foreign Policies and with allies of the US to their formation.



Pascale Baeriswyl - born in April 4, 1968

Currently the permanent representative of Switzerland to the United Nations in New York. Born in Bern, Switzerland, studied law, history, and French literature at the University of Basel, with further studies at the University of Geneva and the Sorbonne in Paris. She began her professional career as a researcher for the Swiss National Science Foundation and served as an ordinary judge at the Basel Civil Court before entering the Swiss diplomatic service in 2000. Her early career included postings at the Swiss Embassy in Hanoi and the Swiss Mission to the European Union in Brussels, where she managed foreign and security policy. Between 2008 and 2013, she headed the political team at the Swiss Mission to the United Nations in New York, focusing on the Security Council, before returning to Bern as Vice-Director of the Directorate of International Law. In 2016, she made history as the first woman appointed State Secretary and chief diplomat of Switzerland, a role in which she oversaw over 70 bilateral negotiations and managed Switzerland's "Protecting Power" mandates between nations like Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Canada. From 2020 to 2025, she served as the Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the UN in New York, where she represented her country during its first-ever term on the UN Security Council and chaired the Council in May 2023 and October 2024. Following her influential role in brokering the 2026 Davos Framework during the Greenlandic crisis, she was appointed Switzerland's Ambassador to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg. She is a native speaker of German and fluent in English, French, Italian, and Spanish.

3.2 SECOND AGENDA: THE GREENLAND ISSUE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND DENMARK, SECURITY IN THE ARCTIC REGION

There are some global rumors about the US government wanting to take Greenland these days, which are true; but, it is way more and more old than that. Many people think it all started with Donald Trump's advocating on purchasing Greenland in 2019, but it is not. The US government wanted to take Greenland very much earlier than 2019. "1951?" no, "1946?" no, "1916?" no. It was from "1867". There were meetings in the United States government about purchasing Greenland in 1867, advocated by the Secretary of The State William H. Seward and again in 1910 by the US ambassador. In 1916, the US proclaimed that they would recognize the sovereignty of Denmark on the Greenland region as a condition for purchasing the Danish West Indies, which is now called "the Virgin Islands", the agreement settled under the name of "Treaty of the Danish West Indies" in exchange for USD25.000.000 in gold. During WWII, America occupied Greenland in order to prevent German use. Since then, the United States has had at least one military presence in Greenland, including Thule Air Base. When it was 1946, the US government secretly offered Denmark to buy Greenland but it was rejected; nevertheless, the Joint Chiefs of Staff came up with purchasing the island in 1955. Greenland's geopolitical location, the strategic significance for the US lands and the abundant natural resources in it has fulfilled the intentions of the US government on obtaining the island. Lastly, in 2019 and 2026 the US president Donald Trump is still talking about Greenland, that they should take it for the security of their nation. Greenland is actually in danger right now in the 21st century but this will be specified in the forthcoming pages.

3.2.1 HISTORICAL VIEW ON GREENLAND

The island was first migrated by the arctic people from what is now northern Canada around 4.000-5.000 years ago and time by time multiple Inuit cultures have settled there and adapted to the difficult arctic conditions. In the late 10th century Norse explorer Erik the Red, after being exiled from Iceland, made settlements in southern Gronland. These Norse people have survived for a couple centuries by trading with Europe. But somehow they instantly disappeared in the 15th century leaving the island no one but the Inuits. In 1721 a Danish missionary Hans Egede started a new colonizing phase under the name of Denmark-Norwegian Kingdom and this was the beginning of the official control of Europe and the start of spreading christianity. Then, Greenland became a Denmark colony and kept the connection tied up with Denmark even after the union with Norway ended in 1814 (Treaty of Kiel). During World War II, when Nazi Germany occupied Denmark, America took the defence of Greenland on their own and built several military bases because of the strategic arctic location of the island. After the war Greenland was terminated from being a colony and became a part of Denmark officially in 1953. From 1953 until 1979 Greenland was in control of Denmark. In 1979 after a referendum to Greenlanders, the Home

Rule Act came into effect and Greenland became officially an autonomous area. With this reform Greenland Parliamentary and local government was created and the first parliamentary election was held in the same year. By the time it was 2009, the Self Government Act came into effect. It gave Greenland greater autonomy and control on things such as policing, the court system, and natural resource management. With that, Greenland also was able to use benefits from the island's natural resources.

3.2.2 INTENTIONS, ACTIONS AND REASONS OF THE USA ON GREENLAND - ACTIONS OF DENMARK

Despite some actions of the USA have been mentioned, they will be written here as a list and a short summary of them is going to be at the end.

- 1867 - The US Federal Government meetings on purchasing Greenland,
- 1910 - A proposal for acquisition of Greenland was discussed within the American government by United States ambassador to Denmark Maurice Francis Egan,
- 1916 - Treaty of Danish West Indies: acquiring the Danish Virgin Islands, accepted by Denmark,
- 1941(WWII) - Occupation of Greenland by the US in order to secure the area from the Nazi's,
- Post WWII - the US forces didn't leave the territory; Denmark attempted to take them out which ended as a failure,
- 1946 - the US government offered Denmark \$100 Million worth gold bullion for Greenland; rejected by Denmark,
- 1951 - the USA and Denmark signed the Greenland Defense Agreement: the post-war Denmark was unable to protect the lands 5 times bigger than themselves. With this, the US government could keep the military bases on the island officially
- 1955 - Joint Chiefs of Staff suggested that the US should purchase Greenland from Denmark but the State Department rejected it due to the potential harm on the relations with Denmark and the US,
- 21st century - in 2010 and 2019, the US government was still making statements about acquiring the island,
- Donald Trump's Presidency - the US government under the Trump administration keeps the intentions on Greenland consistent and it seems they are constant on their purpose. Denmark finds these requests "absurd" and says "Greenland is not for sale."

The main reasons for the US to obtain Greenland are as follows; because of the climate change, ice in arctic regions are melting down and this makes the lands suitable for having military bases and access to rare earth elements(uranium and iron). These reasons make Greenland an open threat from other great powers rather than the USA and so America finds the island as a "national security concern" and demands to take it.

3.2.3 DENMARK'S PERSPECTIVE

Under the Self Government law, Greenland citizens are able to hold a referendum on independence. A poll that was made in January 2025 resulted %85 of citizens of Greenland not wanting their homeland to become a part of the US. Shortly after when the conflict had shown up Denmark took serious actions on strengthening military forces in Greenland with many soldiers, war technologies and so on. In January 2026, Denmark sent reinforcements to Greenland and then it became known that both Sweden and Norway sent military forces to support the Danish Defence in Protecting Greenland. Later, it turned out that the increased military presence also had support of the NATO allies. By 18 January 2026 deployments and contributions from Belgium, France, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Finland, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Estonia, Slovenia, and Iceland were included in the name of “Operation Arctic Endurance”; however Estonia's deployment was yet to be executed. Shortly afterwards Trump threatened definite EU countries in response to “Operation Arctic Endurance”, the countries which contributed with Denmark and joined the operation. He stated that he would increase those tariffs by 25% until they support the USA seizing Greenland. On January 21, after meeting with the secretary general of NATO, he announced he would not impose the sanctions. After Trump talked about tariffs, the EU terminated approval of the EU-US trade agreement. Also; in January 6, whitehouse threatened Denmark and stated that using the US military to do so is always an option. In response the prime minister of Denmark said it would be the end of NATO in such action. To all actions of the US, the Prime Minister of Greenland said “We deserve to be treated with respect”. Lastly, every time America came up with acquiring Greenland, Denmark and Greenland always said that it is not for sale; although these statements are defined as a rejection of giving the island legally, we don't know if the US will take an inappropriate action about the crisis.

3.2.4 THE ARCTIC COUNCIL

The Arctic Council was established in 1996 with the Treaty of Ottawa which was signed by the following countries: Canada, the Kingdom of Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, the Russian Federation, Sweden, and the United States. The Council's activities have a wide broad diversity from climate change to emergency intervention, from mental health to sustainable development. The Council is currently guiding its work towards the Arctic in the name of "Strategic Plan 2021-2030" which is for making the Arctic area a better place. It may have some significant turns during the committee but since the committee is the UNSC, the detailed information about it will not be given. The guide of the council has been given in the appendix part.

3.2.5. KEY COUNTRY ROLES

People's Republic of China:

China publicly supports Denmark's sovereignty on Greenland and is looking for economic cooperation. They declared themselves as a "near-Arctic state". China is aware of the natural earth elements and potential oil/gas reserves; they see Greenland as an important point for "Arctic Shipping Routes"-unofficially known as "Polar Silk Road"- which saves costs and time on travel between Europe and China. Because of the "Polar Silk Road" project, those countries who are included in this conflict should be aware of China.

the Russian Federation:

Russia finds these tensions useful for a change of the collapse of NATO. Also they are hesitating the USA to take over control of Greenland because this situation might increase American anti-balistic missile defending capabilities in a significant measure. Although the Prime Minister of Russia considers Greenland as "it is not a natural part of Denmark, just a remnant of colonial history.", Russia officially acknowledges Greenland as Denmark's land. The Russian government is also cooperating with China on the "Polar Silk Road" project.

the United Kingdom:

The United Kingdom is supporting the sovereignty of Greenland and rejects the US attempts to buy the territory. There is a maritime choke-point between Greenland, Iceland and the UK called GIUK gap; which could be useful for the United Kingdom to monitor Russian and Chinese ships and submarines. They keep the connections strict with Denmark to strengthen the arctic security.

France:

Emmanuel Macron, the President of France, states that Greenland is not for sale and Greenlanders will decide their own future. France is standing with Denmark and saying they should support the secure of the arctic region because of potential Russia and China risk. They joined the “Operation Arctic Endurance” as mentioned.

4. Questions to be Concerned

- What types of precautions can the Security Council take in order to secure the arctic region and strengthen keeping its collaborative side?
- What kind of law enforcement can be done to monitor the “Polar Silk Road”?
- What can be done to prevent abuses of rare earth minerals and gas/oil reserves?
- What types of prevention can be taken for a potential war that will come from the Greenlandic crisis?

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