



WCDMUN 2023 Briefing Papers

Security Council





Topic 1: TQO Diplomatic Relations with the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, emerging from the Taliban's violent takeover in August 2021, has sparked a reassessment of the reality of diplomatic relations with the country across the international community. To comprehend the current diplomatic and political landscape, it is essential to acknowledge Afghanistan's historical context. The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan faces numerous challenges, including economic instability, humanitarian crises, and is a focal point of global concerns such as terrorism and human rights abuses. Currently nearly 30 million people are in need of humanitarian assistance and more than 8 million have been forced to flee Afghanistan. These factors contribute to an out of control refugee and humanitarian crisis which needs direct attention. This is a shared responsibility to prevent a humanitarian catastrophe and alleviate the suffering of the Afghan people. Given Afghanistan's historical association with terrorism, international cooperation is imperative to prevent the resurgence of extremist groups. Diplomatic efforts should focus on fostering collaboration in intelligence sharing, border security, and countering radicalisation to ensure regional and global security. As well as this, due to Afghanistan's near total lack of centralised security forces and political isolation, the status of these potentially dangerous groups is unknown.

Diplomatic engagement should emphasise the importance of protecting human rights, particularly for vulnerable groups such as women and minorities. The question of recognising the Taliban as the legitimate government of the Emirate poses a diplomatic dilemma for many nations. Balancing diplomatic engagement and condemnation of the Taliban's actions with the need to address human rights concerns will require nuanced, strategic, and creative approaches. Afghanistan's national stability is closely linked to regional dynamics within the Middle East. Currently Afghanistan's economic wealth is severely diminished and this impacts the lives of its citizens on a day to day basis. Since the US withdrawal from the region in 2020 Afghanistan's GDP has fallen by more than 25%. It is possible that with an improvement in foreign relations with Afghanistan we could also see an economic boost due to foreign trade and investment. Despite this relief friendlier diplomatic relations may bring, some member states still hold reservations due to the previously mentioned human rights abuses as reported by Amnesty International. There are also tensions between the Taliban and many western nations due to the Taliban's extreme interpretation of Islam and their previous military action against the US and other coalition partners during their invasion of Afghanistan.



Topic 2: TQO External Influence in the Israel-Hamas Conflict

The Israel-Palestine conflict is a longstanding and complex geopolitical issue marked by historical, religious, and territorial disputes. Beyond the heavy direct involvement of both the Israel and Palestinian factions, external actors play a significant role in shaping the unique, complicated dynamics of the conflict. The United States has historically been an ally of Israel since the state's inception in the 1940s, providing consistent high levels of military aid and diplomatic support. This can be seen by the nearly \$4 billion in aid packages sent to Israel annually. This support has massively influenced the balance of power in the region. In the past, due to this unique role of support and influence over the Israeli government and military, the U.S. have played a pivotal role in brokering peace talks and influencing international resolutions. The Islamic Republic of Iran, in contrast, has consistently been a prominent and key supporter of Palestinian groups such as Hamas. Hamas is classed as a terrorist group by almost all Western nations, but decree themselves as freedom fighters seeking to liberate Palestine. Through financial aid and weapons supply Iran has sought to counterbalance Israel and the United States' influence in the region. Hezbollah, a Lebanese militant group backed by Iran, also plays a major role within the conflict, occasionally escalating tensions by launching attacks against Israel, or aiding Hamas in their violent resistance in Gaza, thus further complicating the situation.

The European Union has consistently advocated for a two-state solution and has engaged in diplomatic efforts to mediate between Israel and the Palestinians. While the EU does not have the same military influence as the U.S., its economic ties and diplomatic initiatives contribute to shaping the international response to the conflict. The effectiveness of the UN is often hindered by geopolitical divisions, with major powers such as Russia and the United States using their veto authority in the Security Council, preventing any real cohesive international action. Activist movements and civil society organizations also contribute to international pressure on governments to take specific positions or actions, often more on the pro-Palestine front. Recently we have seen large-scale protests in major cities protesting the humanitarian and political situation in the Gaza Strip, calling for Palestine to be recognised as an individual state, and liberated from what they see as Israeli oppression. These protests have been most commonly seen in European cities such as London and Dublin, where thousands of people have made their voices heard. This appears to be usually out of step with many governments approach to the topic, which tends to be moderately pro-Israel within these nations, particularly across Europe. External influences in the Israel-Palestine conflict are highly complex, with many different international actors pursuing their own agendas in the region. Achieving any lasting peace in the region will require a comprehensive understanding of these layered external dynamics and a commitment to diplomatic solutions that address the concerns of all parties involved.