

Forum:	Security Council
Issue:	Cooperation between UN and regional and sub-regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security
Student Officer:	Paul Lambropoulos
Position:	Deputy President

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

Dear delegates,

My name is Paul Lambropoulos and I will be serving as your Deputy President in the upcoming 5th annual session of Platon School Model United Nations conference. Before this conference, I have participated in 13 others, including 2 PS-MUNs and 2 THIMUN conferences. Overall, this is my 3rd time chairing on a conference and my 5th time appointed on the Security Council. Having that in mind, I am well aware of what is necessary to be well-prepared for any MUN conference, both on the delegate's part and the student officer's part as well.

Being an IB student has taught me to manage my time efficiently and to complete all my obligations, first chance that I get. It has also given me the opportunity to participate in lots of heated debates, something which has attracted me to the Security Council.

As a student officer, I am hoping to give you all some food for thought as you're researching this year's three topics, as well as assisting you in to making this world a better place, through MUN. I urge you to research and contribute to all three topics equally. Please do not hesitate to contact me before or during the conference for any inquiries that may occur.

Best Regards,

Paul Lambropoulos

Deputy President of the Security Council

INTRODUCING TOPIC

Before the introduction to the topic, it is important to understand why it should be dealt with by the Security Council. This Council contains several key differences to other committees that help it tackle multi-dimensional issues that would otherwise require multiple General Assembly committees to fully cover.

Firstly, the UNSC is capable to table and vote upon binding resolutions, that cover many different aspects of a topic, as stated in Chapter VII of the UN Charter. Secondly, the right to veto by the P5 members of the Council adds an additional filter to all the solutions brought forward by the delegates. Lastly, the clause-by-clause debate, that only occurs in the Security Council, ensures that every clause submitted is equally discussed, thus ensuring the quality of any and all resolutions. For these reasons, the Security Council is suitable to discuss multi-dimensional issues such as the ones determined in the agenda of this conference (including this topic).

Regional and sub-regional organizations have been, on countless occasions, leverage to solve or alleviate any issues that may occur worldwide. What makes them so important is that, unlike the United Nations, such organizations have a more targeted approach to an issue, as their power is restricted to a specific geographical or geopolitical range.

In this sense, the UN has asked for the help of such organizations mainly for crisis prevention or de-escalation. On the rest of the study guide below, some of the biggest examples of the usage of regional and sub-regional organizations, as well as the establishment of such organizations will be mentioned.

DEFINITION OF KEY-TERMS

Regional (ROs) and Sub-regional organizations

Not to be confused with International Organizations, the mandate of Regional and Sub-regional organizations is restricted to a predetermined geopolitical or geographical extent. Such an organization is established when countries share a specific developmental, political or financial policy or when a set of countries are close together geographically and wish to create an alliance. The goals of such an alliance may vary from creating a unified military or naval defense force (e.g. NATO), to a financial support group (namely the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation or APEC). The greatest examples of regional organizations include the African Union (AU), the European Union (EU) and the Commonwealth of Nations.

UN Peacekeeping and peacekeeping operation in general

Peacekeeping and peace building operations involve an army of military, police and civilian personnel, otherwise known as the blue helmets. These organizations serve under the three main principles of UN peacekeeping. These are “Consent of the

parties; Impartiality; Non-use of force except in self-defence and defence of the mandate.”¹

Such operations can only be authorized by the Security Council, through a resolution specifying the exact mandate of the operation, the location where it will act, the amount of personnel that it will require and the sources of the personnel, equipment and funding.

Observer Status

When a country or an organization earns the observer status in the United Nations General Assembly, it means that they can participate in the debate of any/ all General Assembly resolutions, but they cannot vote upon them. The requirements in order to gain membership in United Nations are outlined in Article 4 of Chapter II of the United Nations charter. As of the date of writing of this study guide, only two sovereign states carry the status of “permanent observer”, those being the State of Palestine and the Holy See. All regional and sub-regional organizations that have applied have gained observer status to the UNGA; however they may not gain any status higher than that.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE UN CHARTER

The organizations in question and their usage is included in Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter. In summary, the chapter states in Article 52, Paragraph 2 *“The Members of the United Nations entering into such arrangements or constituting such agencies shall make every effort to achieve pacific settlement of local disputes through such regional arrangements or by such regional agencies before referring them to the Security Council.”*²

THE BEGINNING OF CO-OPERATION

To this day, the main use for these co-operations between the UN and such organizations is for peacekeeping and peace-building purposes. In other words, these organizations operated in accordance with the main principle of the Security Council, which is to establish international peace and security. Before them, the UN would enlist manpower from member states themselves in order to deploy peacekeeping missions. Initially that wasn’t a problem since until the year 1987 there was a maximum of five active peacekeeping operations running all around the world, including the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO) and the United

¹ What Is Peacekeeping? United Nations Peacekeeping." UN News Center. UN. Web. 24 Aug. 2014. <<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/peacekeeping.shtml>>

² Charter, United Nations, Chapter VIII: Regional Arrangements." UN News Center. UN. Web. 22 Dec. 2014. <<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter8.shtml>>

Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), both of which are active to this day.

The real issue arose during the 90s, when the number of active peacekeeping operations (measuring 18 active operations in 1994) and therefore the number of peacekeeping troops required, increased exponentially. The UN could not afford the manpower and financial cost, since the annual budget required in 1994 was 3.6 billion US dollars in order to sustain over 78,000 active peacekeepers and their equipment. Furthermore, at that time period, the role of such organizations was constantly expanding. *“Various factors contributing to the changing nature of peacekeeping operations include the intra-State nature of conflicts; the lack of full consent and cooperation of the parties; the breakdown of law and order and general banditry as a result of the emergence of indiscipline militia and armed civilians; the collapse of State structures; and the targeting of civilians in such conflicts, with consequential humanitarian disasters, including mass movements of people who become refugees and displaced persons.”*³ . Finally, several failures in the function of UN peacekeeping missions in Somalia, Rwanda and Bosnia (which can be put down to the ineffectiveness of diplomacy at times of civil war and the “forced neutral position” of the UN to any and all sovereign states), further degraded the image that UN peacekeeping had formulated up to that point.

All these factors led to a decline in quantity and quality of such operations until November 1998, where the number of active peacekeeping troops was estimated at 14,500. The UN Secretary General at the time, Boutros Boutros-Ghali warned for an imminent collapse of the structure of peace that was being built upon for over half a century.

During the same period of time, regional and sub-regional organizations were also suffering from the same constraints in resources during their peacekeeping actions worldwide. It was then agreed upon by the aforementioned organizations and the UN to co-operate and share resources, whenever they take on the identical peace-keeping missions.

One recent example of such a co-operation between the UN and ROs is the United Nations-African Union hybrid mission in Darfur (UNAMID). This is a peacekeeping mission which was initially established in the Darfur region of Sudan by the Security Council resolution 1769 (2007) and originally consisted of approximately 27000 troops, of which ~20000 were military troops and ~6500 were police personnel, both being deployed and funded by both the United Nations and the African Union. The operation’s goals include providing a secure path for humanitarian aid to enter the region and helping in the peace-building process of Sudan. In the middle of 2014, a new resolution from the Security Council (resolution no. 2173) decreased the amount

³ COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS/ARRANGEMENTS IN A PEACEKEEPING ENVIRONMENT." Global Policy Forum. Web. 22 Dec. 2014. <https://www.globalpolicy.org/images/pdfs/Security_Council/cooperation_UN_regional_organizations.pdf>.

of peacekeepers in the area to approximately 16000 military personnel and ~3500 police personnel.

A different example showcases that members of ROs can be appointed to leading positions in peacekeeping operations. The example mentioned concerns the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), a UN-mandated operation that aimed at supporting the government of Afghanistan from attacks by insurgents in the country. It also helped strengthen the Afghan government and military so that they can be ready to fend for themselves, once UN and NATO forces left the country. In August 2003, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization formally took over the leading positions of ISAF, dedicating a big part of their manpower and budget to this organization.

REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS INSIDE THE UN

Over the years, regional and sub-regional organizations have also earned the right to speak in the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) by earning the “observer status” by a relevant UNGA resolution. At that point, they may observe the debate of UNGA resolutions but may not vote upon them. Some of the most notable ROs that have gained this status include the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Organization of American States and the African Union

One special case worth mentioning is the one of the European Union. This organization gained its observer status in 1974 from resolution A/RES/3208. However, on the 10th of May 2011, it gained several additional rights, that normally only member states usually obtain. These rights include participating in the General Assembly debate, posing a Right of Reply and submitting oral amendments. The policy of this organization is formulated after it has been agreed upon by the members of the EU in prior official meetings and discussions. Furthermore, the European Union is the largest financial contributor of the UN by providing approximately (in 2007):

- 55% of the global development aid
- 39% of the total UN budget
- 40% of the total funds for UN peacekeeping and 13% for peacekeeping personnel

TIMELINE OF EVENTS

29 October 1945	The United Nations Organization (UNO) is established. Founding members include Argentina, Australia, Canada, China, Denmark, Egypt, France, Greece, Luxembourg, Mexico, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, United Kingdom, United States of America and more.
4 April 1949	The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is established.
1 January 1958	The European Economic Community (EEC) is established. Founding members are Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands.
1961	The Casablanca group, the first of two predecessors to the African Union is founded.
25 May 1963	The Organization of African Unity (OAU) succeeds the Casablanca group, after its merge with the Monrovia Group. This is the second predecessor to the AU, lasting a total of 38 years.
1 November 1993	The European Union (EU) succeeds the EEC after the treaty of Maastricht is signed.
26 May 2001	The African Union (AU) succeeds the OAU.
31 July 2007	The UNAMID peacekeeping operation is authorised after Security Council resolution 1769. It's possibly the first hybrid operation funded and manned by the UN and a regional organization (in this case the African Union)
23 September 2008	The Secretaries General of both the UN and the NATO come together and sign a declaration of cooperation that aims to enforce the bonds between them.
11 May 2011	UNGA resolution passes granting the European Union additional rights in the General Assembly. These rights include submitting oral amendments and making rights of reply.
27 August 2014	Security Council resolution 2173 reduces the operation size of UNAMID by nearly 7000 troops, from the original 21000.

MAJOR PARTIES INVOLVED ON THE ISSUE

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

The NATO has co-operated with the United Nations on many different occasions and, unlike other ROs, prefers to be more active outside of diplomatic discussions. Their shared work began as early as the 1990s, on operations such as the one in Yugoslavia, where naval supervision of the Adriatic Sea was backed by a UN-powered arms embargo and later on by other Security Council resolutions on different conflicts, such as the ones in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo. The biggest example of co-operation between the UN and NATO is in the situation of Afghanistan. It shows that regional and sub-regional organizations had the ability to be appointed to leading positions of UN-mandated organizations and operations, since its acquisition of control of ISAF; a peace-building operation that works closely with the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).

Despite the fact that this organization should be concerning countries in the “North Atlantic”, many countries from Europe (such as Greece, the Czech Republic etc) are joining the cause. Other countries that have joined include the USA, UK, Canada and Iceland.

European Union (EU)

The European Union is a diplomatic partner with the United Nations. It has held a permanent observer seat at the UN General Assembly for over 30 years. Ever since May 2011, this organization has gained additional rights at the GA that allow it to participate in debate, rather than simply observe.

As mentioned earlier, it is also the biggest financial contributor to the UN, surpassing even the United States in terms of contributing to the overall UN budget and to UN peacekeeping.

The organizations members are all situated in the European continent. On the other hand, 19 sovereign states haven't joined yet. These include Turkey, Norway, Vatican City, Lichtenstein, Iceland and more. The list of members includes Mediterranean states like Greece, Italy and Spain and Atlantic States like UK, France and Portugal.

African Union (AU)

When looking at the co-operation between the African Union and the United Nations we see a combination of elements found in both the EU and NATO. The AU holds a permanent observer seat at the UNGA, but may only observe the debate, unlike the EU.

The organization has also contributed to several peacekeeping operations, mandated and/or authorised by the UN. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) is a good example of such a co-operation.

The AU consists entirely of members from the African continent. Two UN recognised African member states are not members of the AU. The first one is the Central African

Republic, whose membership was suspended after a coup d'état and political unrest in the state. The second one is Morocco, which voluntarily left the AU after the organization accepted the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (now known as Western Sahara) as a member. The latter may re-enter the organization at any time.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

So far, the relations between the UN, regional and sub-regional organizations is relatively strong, but there is always room for improvement.

What we know up to now is that these organizations have a respectable amount of manpower and available financial aid. The Security Council is already using all of these resources as leverage for UN peacekeeping operations, such as UNAMID (see Security Council resolutions 1769 and 2173) and UNAMA/ISAF (All relevant documents here: <http://unama.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=12262&language=en-US>). What delegates could think about when trying to think of solutions is how to further implement these organizations in current or future peacekeeping operations.

Furthermore, organizations can only earn up to a “Permanent Observer” seat at the General Assembly. When finding solutions, delegates could figure out a way to involve these organizations more on the debate, for they can easily provide some support for most worldwide issues. One could suggest that Observer States receive the right to participate in debate, someone else could suggest the creation of a new type of seating altogether.

Lastly, what delegates should keep in mind is that every other regional and sub-regional organization has a different list of members, a different set of motives and a different preferred course of action, so no two organizations are exactly the same. The current status of relations between the UN and these organizations still renders some of them unable to aid in any endeavours for international peace and security. Figuring out ways to further incorporate these organizations in UN missions, resolutions and in other ways is a step in the right direction all delegates should take.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. "Regional Organizations and UN Peacekeeping." *Regional Organizations and UN Peacekeeping*. Global Policy Forum. Web. 27 Dec. 2014. <<https://www.globalpolicy.org/security-council/peacekeeping/regional-organizations-and-un-peacekeeping.html>>.
2. "COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNITED NATIONS AND REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS/ARRANGEMENTS IN A PEACEKEEPING ENVIRONMENT." Global Policy Forum. Web. 27 Dec. 2014. <https://www.globalpolicy.org/images/pdfs/Security_Council/cooperation_UN_regional_organizations.pdf>.
3. "Charter, United Nations, Chapter VIII: Regional Arrangements." *UN News Center*. UN. Web. 27 Dec. 2014. <<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter8.shtml>>.
4. "Charter, United Nations, Chapter II: Membership." *UN News Center*. UN. Web. 27 Dec. 2014. <<http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter2.shtml>>.
5. "Role of Regional Organizations in Peacekeeping and Security." FRANCE ONU. Web. 27 Dec. 2014. <<http://www.franceonu.org/france-at-the-united-nations/thematic-files/peace-and-security/role-of-regional-organisations-in/france-at-the-united-nations/thematic-files/peace-and-security/role-of-regional-organisations-in/article/role-of-regional-organizations-in>>.
6. "LIST OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS 1948 - 2013." United Nations. Web. 27 Dec. 2014. <<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/documents/operationslist.pdf>>.
7. "NATO to Take Command in Afghanistan." Global Policy Forum. Web. 27 Dec. 2014. <<https://www.globalpolicy.org/component/content/article/178/33188.html>>.
8. "UNAMID Facts and Figures - African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur." *UN Peacekeeping*. UN. Web. 27 Dec. 2014. <<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/unamid/facts.shtml>>.
9. "Security Council Resolutions." *UNAMA United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan*. UN. Web. 27 Dec. 2014. <<http://unama.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=12262&language=en-US>>.
10. "What Is Peacekeeping? United Nations Peacekeeping." UN News Center. UN. Web. 24 Aug. 2014. <<http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/peacekeeping.shtml>>.
11. "About Permanent Observers." *UN News Center*. UN. Web. 27 Dec. 2014. <<http://www.un.org/en/members/aboutpermobservers.shtml>>.

12. "NATO's Relations with the United Nations." NATO. Web. 27 Dec. 2014. <http://www.nato.int/cps/es/natohq/topics_50321.htm>.
13. "Member Countries." NATO. Web. 27 Dec. 2014. <http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/nato_countries.htm>.
14. "The EU's Relations with the United Nations." *European External Action Service*. European Union. Web. 27 Dec. 2014. <http://eeas.europa.eu/organisations/un/index_en.htm>.
15. "Intergovernmental Organizations Having Received a Standing Invitation to Participate as Observers in the Sessions and the Work of the General Assembly and Maintaining Permanent Offices at Headquarters." *Member States of the United Nations*. UN. Web. 27 Dec. 2014. <<http://www.un.org/en/members/intergovorg.shtml>>.
16. "Member States of the EU." *EUROPA*. European Union. Web. 27 Dec. 2014. <http://europa.eu/about-eu/countries/index_en.htm>.