



BACKGROUND GUIDE

CHANGE THE WORLD

EMIRATES 2025

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

HISTORICAL SC

CHANGE
THE
WORLD
ACADEMY

POWERED
BY



Diplomatici

Distinguished Delegates,

Welcome to the 2025 Change the World Model United Nations (CWMUN).

As your committee Dais, we are looking forward to meeting you and to hear your ideas about how to solve international problems.

The United Nations (UN) depends on the cooperation and goodwill of its 193 Member States. Because each State has unique interests and concerns, it is challenging to write, negotiate and pass resolutions. Every stage of the process demands creativity and diplomacy.

You will be discussing this topic:

The Border Conflict between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China - 1962.

Your specific committee is the HISTORICAL SECURITY COUNCIL, in this case, thus, you will roleplay as if you were an ambassador of the country you have been assigned to during this period of crisis.

Even though all the crises you will read about in this Background Guide have already been resolved in a way or another, your task will be that of pretending that you are still in that period and come up with possible solutions to the issues, especially related to economic diplomacy, and resource allocation.

You do not have to follow what was done in the past, but simply follow a course of action that would possibly align to your country's ideas.

While we may all lead different lives and face different struggles, we have to bear in mind that we all share the same world and the same resources. Whether it is environmental problems or political unrest, what is happening in the world concerns all of us. Only through mutual understanding, unity, and collaboration can we lay the foundations of a worthier world.

As your committee Dais, we will work to keep the committees running smoothly. We will do our best to help you understand the procedures and to ensure that the perspectives of all delegates are heard and respected.

Sincerely,

The CWMUN



What is this activity about?

The Change the World Model United Nations is a role-playing game. Your task is to impersonate a diplomat of the assigned Country and present the perspective of this Country's current government.

What should you do now?

Before the Simulation, you should write down and bring with you:

- **Handbook**, a collection of relevant UN resolutions, reports, academic studies, and news from reliable media.
- Write the **Position Paper**, describing the position of your country on the topic you have been assigned to.
- Some topics for **Moderated Caucus debates**, i.e. for short formal debates which should cover narrow aspects of each topic. *For example*, within the topic "Violence against women"; delegates can hold a caucus with the subtopic "Ways of preventing genital mutilation".
- **Ideas for the Resolution**, *id est*, at least two or three paragraphs that your State would like to include in the preamble and/or in the main body of the Resolution.
- You should also learn the **Rules of procedure**.

What will you do during the Simulation?

In the Moderated Caucus you will hold short formal debates on details of each topic. Delegates will present the policy and solutions of the represented States in very short (usually one minute) speeches. In the Unmoderated Caucus, you will informally engage with other Delegates to agree on your policies and solutions and to write draft resolutions together as a Coalition. Working Papers will be checked and possibly edited by Chair and Director to conform to all formal requirements and be described as Draft Resolutions. Eventually, Coalitions will present their Draft Resolutions to the whole Committee. Other Delegates will debate and then vote for or against. The scope for the Committee as a whole is to produce one or more Resolutions.

What is a Resolution?

A Resolution is a very specific document, built of Preambulatory and Operative clauses, expressing the will of a particular UN Committee agreed upon by its Member States. Resolutions are central to the UN and thus CWMUN gives all participants the opportunity to understand the process of creating them. Please seize this opportunity and prepare in advance at least one or two paragraphs per each topic! Sample resolution: [Resolution 2349 \(2017\)](#)¹

Tips (!)

Learn about your Country from the [CIA World Factbook](#)², from the official website of your State's permanent mission to the United Nations, and from other government websites (for example the website and social media profiles of the Royal Family or President, Prime Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs...). Make sure to know as much as possible about the foreign relations of your Country! Consider that at the United Nations, Countries generally lean towards their own geopolitical blocks: Western, Former Soviet, African, Middle Eastern, Asian, Latin American... Consider also organisations such as the European Union (EU), African Union, Arab League, Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), The Union of South American Nations (USAN)...

¹ UN General Assembly, 2017 ([https://undocs.org/S/RES/2349\(2017\)](https://undocs.org/S/RES/2349(2017)))

² CIA, 2022 (<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/>)

REMEMBER!

Your task is to present the official position of your assigned Country. Misrepresenting this position and/or representing your private views is against the rules, even if you do not agree with your Country's position. In any case, you must not hyperbolize nor satirise the position of your Country. Humour, and especially sarcasm, is generally not typical for formal writing nor formal debates. Although MUN welcomes wit and smart puns, please always be extremely considerate when using humour.

HISTORICAL SECURITY COUNCIL

1. Establishment of the Security Council

On January 1, 1942, United States' President Roosevelt, United Kingdom Prime Minister Churchill, Maxim Litvinov of the USSR, and T. V. Soong of the Republic of China signed a brief document, later known as the United Nations Declaration³. In the following years, 26 other States ratified the Declaration, and by March 1st, 1945, 21 additional states had signed. At this point, the "Big Four", namely the four main Allied nations (the US, the UK, the USSR, and the Republic of China) who had envisaged the organisation first in 1942, became the foundation of the Security Council.

In mid-1944, the "Big Four" met for the Dumbarton Oaks Conference⁴ to negotiate the structure of the United Nations. There it was established that France, the Republic of China, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America would be the permanent members of the Security Council (also known as the "Big Five", the "Permanent Five" or "P5").

The Charter of the United Nations⁵ was signed on 26 June 1945, at the end of the United Nations Conference on International Organization in San Francisco, founding the United Nations. The Charter established the main bodies of the United Nations, among which is the Security Council⁶.

Later on, at the Yalta Conference in 1945, the American, British, and Russian delegations agreed that the permanent members of the Security Council could veto any council action, but the procedural resolutions.

The Security Council met for the first time on 17 January 1946 at Church House, Westminster, in London, United Kingdom, and adopted provisional rules of procedure. Since its first meeting, the Security Council has taken permanent residence at the United Nations Headquarters in New York⁷.

³ (<http://www.ibiblio.org/pha/policy/1942/420101a.html>)

⁴ Britannica, T. Editors of Encyclopaedia (2022, August 14). Dumbarton Oaks Conference. Encyclopedia Britannica (<https://www.britannica.com/event/Dumbarton-Oaks-Conference>)

⁵ The Charter of the United Nations, October 24, 1945.

⁶ Main Bodies. (n.d.). United Nations (<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/main-bodies>)

⁷ Security Council. (n.d.). United Nations (<https://www.un.org/en/model-United-nations/security-council>)

Each member of the Security Council has one vote and the Permanent Members are endowed with veto power.

2. Functions and objectives of the Security Council:

The functions and objectives of the Security Council (SC) are established in Chapters V, VII, and XII of the Charter of the United Nations.

The Security Council of the United Nations is the body primarily responsible for maintaining international peace and security, according to the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter. All UN member states have agreed to accept and carry out the council's decisions by the Charter.

When evaluating whether there is aggression or threat to the peace, the Security Council is in charge. It has the option of using sanctions or even approving the use of force to preserve or restore global peace and security⁸.

The Security Council investigates disputes or situations which might lead to international tensions, to determine the existence of any threat to peace and recommend what actions should be taken. It suggests methods of adjusting the terms of the settlement and recommends parties to a conflict to settle it peacefully. One of its functions is recommending methods of adjusting such disputes or terms of the settlement.

To promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security, the Security Council formulates plans to be submitted to the Members of the United Nations to establish a system for the regulation of armaments⁹.

The Security Council is empowered to call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to stop aggression. Or else, it is empowered to take military action against an aggressor¹⁰.

Moreover, one of the functions of the Security Council is to recommend to the General Assembly the admission of new Members, the appointment of the

⁸ *United Nations Charter, Chapter V: The Security Council.* (n.d.) (<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/chapter-5>)

⁹ See 6

¹⁰ *United Nations Charter, Chapter VII: Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression.* (n.d.) (<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/chapter-7>)

Secretary-General, and, together with the Assembly, elect judges of the International Court of Justice.

Lastly, the Security Council exercises trusteeship functions of the United Nations in “strategic areas”, namely the performance of administrative and supervisory functions to maintain peace and security in such areas¹¹.

3. Important actions or projects of the Security Council until 1962:

By 1962, the United Nations Security Council had developed a modest track record in addressing global conflicts—most notably in Korea (1950-1953), Suez (1956) and the Congo (1960)¹². These interventions helped define the early post-war norms for international conflicts management. However, the UNSC’s response to the Sino-Indian War of 1962 illustrated the Council’s limitations when confronted with fast-moving, regionally contained crises between major powers¹³.

The conflict broke out in October 1962 over unresolved border issues along the McMahon Line and the then-undefined “Line of Actual Control” (LAC). Although the UNSC held emergency consultations, it did not adopt any resolution nor launch a peacekeeping initiative. This inaction was shaped by several factors:

- The People’s Republic of China was not yet represented at the UN: the seat was still held by the Republic of China (Taiwan), making direct engagement with Beijing diplomatically impossible.
- India, a leader of the Non-Aligned Movement, refrained from internationalizing the issue and preferred bilateral or regional mechanism.
- The brevity and intensity of the war made it ill-suited for the UN’s slower deliberative procedures.

Despite its passive stance, the UNSC’s prior experiences influenced international expectations regarding post-colonial borders and State sovereignty. Moreover, the conflict underscored systemic weaknesses in the Council’s structure.¹⁴

¹¹ *United Nations Charter, Chapter XII: International Trusteeship System. (n.d.)*
(<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/chapter-12>)

¹² *United Nations Official Records (UN Yearbooks)*
(<https://research.un.org/en/docs/sc/or>)

¹³ Hoover Institution: “The 1962 Sino-Indian War”. (<https://www.hoover.org/research/1962-sino-indian-war-and-cuban-missile-crisis>)

¹⁴ *E-International Relations – “Sino-Indian Border Dispute”*.
(<https://www.e-ir.info/2022/06/26/sino-indian-border-dispute-a-brief-introduction/>)

4. Challenges and important future projects:

The legacy of the 1962 conflict remains relevant today. The lack of a mutually agreed border between India and China, especially along the “LAC” in Ladakh and Arunachal Pradesh, continues to generate friction.

Future challenges are shaped by:

- Nuclear deterrence: both countries are now nuclear-armed, raising the stakes of even minor incidents.
- Technological escalation: surveillance drones, cyber tolls and rapid troop mobilization reduce the buffer time for de-escalation.¹⁵
- Nationalism and media: public opinion in both countries pressure governments into adopting assertive stances.

Given this dynamics, the UNSC must adapt its conflict management approach to address the complexity of modern border disputes. A priority could be the creation of updated monitoring mechanisms to observe military activity and reduce the risk of miscalculation along contested borders such as the Himalayas.¹⁶

The UNSC should strengthen its role in conflict prevention by promoting discreet and sustained forms of preventive diplomacy. This includes facilitating confidential dialogue platforms and technical working groups focused on sensitive issues. At the same time, the Council could act as a regional convener, working alongside organizations like ASEAN or the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation to support trust-building efforts. These may take the form of joint environmental monitoring in contested areas, advanced notification of military exercise, or initiatives involving scholars and civil society to rebuild narrative of cooperation.

¹⁵ *Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA)* (<https://www.idsa.in>)

¹⁶ *UNMOGIP Mission History*
(<https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/unmogip>)

The Border Conflict between the Republic of India and the People's Republic of China - 1962.

1. *A Mountain War That Shaped Asian Geopolitics.*

The 1962 Sino-Indian War was a short but pivotal conflict between two of Asia's emerging powers, fought across the inhospitable Himalayan terrain. Taking place from October to November 1962, the war erupted amidst growing tensions rooted in colonial-era borders, competing nationalisms and shifting Cold War dynamics¹⁷.

What made the conflict especially significant was its timing: India and China, both post-colonial States with grand strategic visions, found themselves in a confrontation that neither had fully anticipated nor was prepared to manage diplomatically.

The Chinese military quickly gained the upper hand, pushing Indian forces back in both sectors. Despite achieving tactical success, China declared a unilateral ceasefire on 21 November 1962 and withdrew from the NEFA region while consolidating control over Aksai Chin. Though brief, the war had a lasting impact: it reshaped India's defense policy, hardened Sino-Indian relations and revealed deep flaws in the mechanisms of international diplomacy.

2. *The Historical Context: Colonial Legacies and the Tibet Question.*

The origins of the border dispute trace back to the early 20th century, particularly the 1914 Simla Convention between British India and Tibet, which produced the controversial McMahon Line. China never accepted the convention, arguing that "Tibet lacked the sovereignty to sign international treaties."

With the communist victory in 1949, China reasserted control over Tibet. The PLA entered Lhasa in 1950 and in 1951 Tibetan leaders signed a 17-point agreement, formally integrating Tibet into the PRC. This eliminated the traditional buffer zone between China and India: tensions worsened after the 1959 Tibetan uprising, when the Dalai Lama fled to India, a move Beijing interpreted as a direct affront.

Strategically Aksai Chin became crucial for China, as it enabled overland communication between Xinjiang and Tibet. India's objections to the Chinese road

¹⁷ Britannica – "Sino-Indian War".
(<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Sino-Indian-War>)

built through this region highlighted the conflicting territorial claims. Despite the “Panchsheel Agreement” (1954) promoting peaceful coexistence, the lack of clear border demarcation, combined with deteriorating trust, set the stage for confrontation.

3. The Escalation: India’s Forward Policy and Chinese Response.

Throughout the late 1950s and early 1960s, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru adopted a “forward policy”, establishing military outposts in disputed border areas to assert Indian sovereignty. This was based on the assumption that China would not escalate militarily, especially given India’s perceived moral standing and non-aligned posture.

By late 1961 Indian troops were advancing into sparsely patrolled territories, including some that China claimed as its own. Indian forces began “probing” actions to test Chinese response: this culminated in plans to dislodge Chinese troops from positions like Thagla Ridge, considered part of Indian territory by New Delhi, but claimed by Beijing.

China interpreted these moves as direct provocations: on 6 October 1962 the Chinese leadership concluded that conflict was inevitable. On 20 October the “People’s Liberation Army” (PLA) launched a coordinated attack in both Aksai Chin and NEFA. India, ill-prepared for high-altitude warfare and caught off guard, suffered heavy losses. This military campaign was both punitive and strategic: it aimed to assert Chinese claims, respond to perceived Indian encroachments and reset the terms of bilateral engagement from a position of strength.

4. Initiatives, projects and actions made by the SC.

Despite the gravity of the conflict, the UNSC played no direct role in resolving the Sino-Indian War. This was due to various reasons.

First, the conflict coincided with the Cuban Missile Crisis, which absorbed the attention of the global community and the major powers within the Security Council¹⁸. The possibility of a nuclear confrontation between the US and the USSR left little room for diplomatic engagement in South Asia.

Second, the PRC was not yet recognized by the UN. The China seat in the UNSC was still held by Taiwan (Republic of China), meaning that the actual combatant had no voice in UN deliberations.

¹⁸ UN Digital Library (<https://digitallibrary.un.org>)

Third, India did not file a formal complaint to the UN during the hostilities. Consistent with its non-aligned policy, India preferred bilateral, or regional response over internationalization.

Consequently, no peacekeeping mission was deployed and no resolution was passed. The conflict was managed through direct communication between national governments, aided by informal diplomatic contracts, but without institutional mediation. This inaction highlighted the structural limitations of the UN in conflicts involving major powers.

5. Future challenges and possible solutions

Although the 1962 war ended with China’s unilateral withdrawal from NEFA, its consequences continue to shape Sino-Indian relations. The most pressing challenge remains the lack of a mutually agreed border, particularly along the “Line of Actual Control” (LAC)¹⁹

Current Challenges: tensions along the Sino-Indian border persist due to several interrelated issues. Foremost among them is the ongoing military buildup on both sides of the “LAC”, where new roads, airstrips and logistical networks have increased the potential for rapid escalation: this is compounded by a climate of nationalist rhetoric in both India and China. Another major challenge is the absence of robust regional mechanisms for mediation. Unlike in Europe, or Africa, South Asia lacks institutional frameworks capable of facilitating sustained dialogue, or de-escalation.²⁰

Proposed Solutions: resolving the India-China border dispute requires a balanced approach that combines high-level diplomacy with local engagement. Revitalizing the “Special Representatives Mechanism” could ensure structured dialogue, insulated from day-to-day political pressures. While full UN Peacekeeping is unlikely, limited third-party observation could improve transparency along the “Line of Actual Control”. Confidence-building measures such as military hotlines, mutual pullbacks and reaffirmation of no-firearms protocols remain essential to reduce escalation risks. Meanwhile, “Track II diplomacy” and civil society exchanges can help reshape national narratives, while deeper economic ties may contribute to long-term stability.

¹⁹ CFR, “The China-India Border Dispute: What to Know”.
(<https://www.cfr.org/in-brief/china-india-border-dispute-what-know>)

²⁰ India, China and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO).
(https://csdronline.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/CSDR_SCO_Report-1.pdf)

Annotated Biography

Hereafter you can find some links that we think could be helpful to deepen your knowledge on both the committee and the topic you will be discussing.

- The more inspiring and complete website when talking about the UN is their own: <https://www.un.org/>. Especially useful is their Official Document System (ODS) <https://documents.un.org/prod/ods.nsf/home.xsp>.
- The website of your committee is always a good place where to start, in the case of the SC, it is the following: <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/>.
- UN Peacekeepers Operations Overview covers historical and current missions, including observation efforts like UNMOGIP: <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/where-we-operate>.
- Ministry of External Affairs (India) <https://www.mea.gov.in> with official release, statements and treaty positions from India's foreign ministry.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs (China) <https://fmprc.gov.cn> with China's official positions on border disputes, diplomacy and UN involvements.



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