



SECURITY COUNCIL

Dear Delegates,

My name is Sienna Iniestra, and I am thrilled to be your Chair of the Security Council. I am 16 years old and a junior at International American School of Cancun. My plan for the future is to study business or medicine in Europe, in which case I would like to specialize in pediatric surgery. I deeply enjoy cooking and baking, as well as spending time with my friends and family.

This will be my 7th MUN conference. I have previously participated in conferences like GUAMUN, LASALLECUNMUN, PLAYAMUN, and CancunMUN. Last year I had the pleasure of being Co-Chair of WHO; however, it has always been my goal to be Chair of the Security Council. The Security Council is one of the six main organs of the United Nations. In this committee we will be discussing international peace and security issues.

This year my expectations for all delegates is that you will take on this conference with seriousness. I also expect all delegates to do as much research as possible to have a rich debate. Please remember that the background guides should not be your only source of information. Having extra research on your country and other countries participating will help you in the debate! Despite this being a serious conference, I have hopes that you will have fun while also learning. Any doubts you may have please do not hesitate to contact me at sienna.iniestra@ciac.edu.mx
Wish you the best of luck and see you soon!

Sienna Iniestra, Chair
Security Council

Dear Delegates,

My name is Isabella Astudillo, and I'm pleased to be your co-chair of the Security Council this year. I am 17 years old and a junior at International American School of Cancun. In my spare time I enjoy hanging out with friends, listening to music, dancing ballet and reading. Moreover, I am interested in studying engineering in agrobiotechnology or related fields in Europe.

Along the past years I have participated in several MUN conferences, making this one my sixth. I have been a delegate of CancunMUN in committees such as the General Assembly, and World Health Organization, La Salle's MUN in the Security Council, as well as PLAYAMUN. During these conferences I have gained vast experience, and this year I finally have the honour of being your Co-Chair of the Security Council. This Committee is one of the main six organs of the United Nations and it mainly discusses the preservation of peace and security.

For this conference, I expect all of my delegates to be prepared, confident and more importantly excited. Remember that this committee is one of the most challenging ones; therefore, I expect a rich, serious, and enjoyable debate. We remind you that we have provided you with reliable resources. Any concerns or questions feel free to contact me at isabella.astudillo@ciac.edu.mx Wish you the best of luck during the conference!

Isabella Astudillo, Co-chair

Security Council



COMMITTEE MISSION

The Security Council, as one of the main six organs of the United Nations, carries the responsibility of maintaining international peace and security. The deployment of peacekeeping missions, imposition of sanctions, and use of force when necessary, are all countermeasures to accomplish its duty. Through its authority and protective protocols, this council aims for a diplomatic environment where dialogue dominates to ensure that disputes and conflicts are solved peacefully.

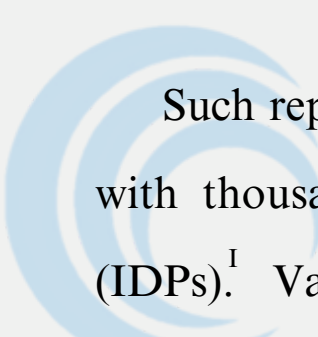
The Security Council's mission of peacekeeping includes tackling emerging problems such as terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and effects of climate change. This council works alongside regional organizations, member nations, and other UN agencies to quickly adapt strategies to respond to the development of conflicts. The Security Council safeguards sovereignty, protects vulnerable populations, and promotes international order through cooperation. Its ultimate goal is to promote world peace and respond rapidly to emergencies that jeopardize world peace through the use of its distinctive power.

Topic A: Addressing the Rwanda-Congo Conflict

Introduction

The Great Lakes region of Africa is enduring a serious threat to its peace and stability due to the ongoing conflict between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The conflict, fueled by historical injustices and political and economic interests, has resulted in extensive violence, displacement of civilians, and grave human rights violations. Despite international efforts to conciliate peace, tensions remain high, aggravating instability in the region. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is one of the most geopolitically important countries in Central Africa, sharing borders with nine other countries. International interest and exploitation have been drawn to the region's abundant natural riches, which include minerals such as diamonds, gold, and coltan.

The security dynamics of the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo have been significantly shaped by Rwanda, a smaller but strategically significant neighbor. Tensions have increased as a result of reports that Rwanda is involved in Congolese affairs, especially through claimed support for armed organizations such as the March 23 Movement (M23). Furthermore, one of Rwanda's biggest security concerns is the existence of rebel groups like the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), which is made up of Hutu extremists who committed the 1994 Rwandan genocide.



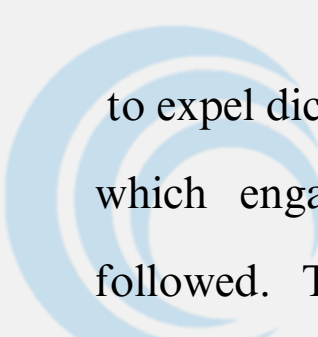
Such repetitive violence has resulted in an extreme humanitarian crisis, with thousands of deaths and millions of internally displaced people (IDPs).^I Various attempts to address the conflict through peace agreements and intervention forces have been made by international communities, but the reawakening of armed groups highlights the limitations of past diplomatic efforts. The Security Council must evaluate the historical context, current developments, and possible strategies for a long-term resolution to this protracted conflict. The existing conflict between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda, fueled by past hatred, competition over natural resources, and the presence of armed groups, must be dealt with using a mix of regional diplomacy, economic cooperation, and international intervention if long-term security and stability are to be achieved in the Great Lakes region.

History

The Rwandan-Congo conflict resulted from the 1994 Rwandan genocide that claimed the lives of over 800,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutu. After the genocide, roughly 1.2 million Rwandan Hutus, including those who had participated in the killings, spilled into the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, fuelling ethnic disharmony and triggering insecurity in the zone. The presence of these refugees and these armed movements helped spark what became the First Congo War (1996–1997), where Rwandan and Ugandan troops backed Congolese insurgents

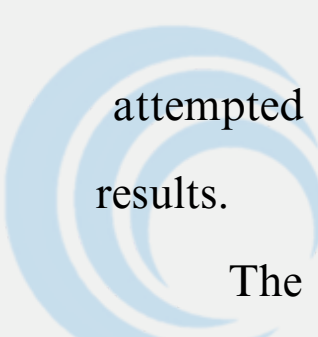
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Internally displaced people (IDPs) have been forced to flee their homes by conflict, violence, persecution or disasters, however, unlike refugees, they remain within their own country.



to expel dictator Mobut Sese Seko. The Second Congo War (1998-2003), which engaged several African countries and armed groups, soon followed. The presence of the FDLR (Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda) was still a security concern for Rwanda, which was still exercising a great deal of influence far into the eastern Republic of the Congo. The above took place during the Congo War in which the Congolese government clashed with several rebel groups backed by Rwanda and Uganda with the assistance of Angola, Zimbabwe and Namibia. This was one of the worst wars since the Second World War, with a toll of over five million deaths. The region was still unstable, despite attempts of international mediation. The M23 rebel group, composed primarily of Tutsi fighters, staged an armed rebellion and captured Goma in 2012.

Despite M23 losing to the Congolese army in collaboration with the United Nations in 2013, it would come back to the Congo over a decade later in 2022, raising already high tensions between Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo to a new level. Since 1999, the United Nations has been the largest peacekeeping force in history. The United Nations Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) is on a mission to protect civilians and end armed groups; however, the efforts have faced criticism. Having failed to bring stability, and in the face of allegations of negligence, its effectiveness has been called into question. While the African Union (AU) and the Eastern African Community (EAC) and other international actors have



attempted to broker a peace deal, few efforts have yielded meaningful results.

The Rwanda-Congo clash traces back to the events that followed the 1994 Rwandan genocide, when more than 800,000 Tutsi and moderate Hutu were slaughtered. After the genocide, around 1.2 million Rwandan Hutus—and among them, many were perpetrators—were driven into eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). This increased ethnic tensions and created instability in the region. The influx of such refugees and their based militia is believed to have partly precipitated the First Congo War (1996–1997), in which Rwandan and Ugandan forces supported Congolese rebels to overthrow dictator Mobutu Sese Seko. Shortly after, several African nations and dozens of armed factions took part in what became the Second Congo War (1998–2003).

Rwanda maintained its influence in eastern DRC and justified its actions for security issues related to the presence of the FDLR. The Congolese government, aided by Angola, Zimbabwe, and Namibia, fought with rebel groups supported by the Rwandan and Ugandan governments during this time. It was the most lethal conflict since the Second World War, claiming over five million lives. No amount of international mediation could pacify the region. In 2012, a militia composed largely of Tutsi fighters called the M23 launched a rebellion, capturing the city of Goma. M23 then reappeared in 2022, after being defeated by the Congolese army with backing from the United Nations



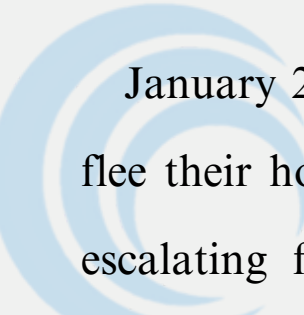
in 2013, and the latest insurgency has exacerbated Rwanda-DRC tensions.

The MONUSCO (United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo) has operated since 1999 and has focused on civilian protection and disarmament of armed groups. But its functionality was put to doubt by continuous instability and even claims of corruption in recent times. While efforts have been made by the African Union (AU), the East African Community (EAC) and international players to secure peace, progress has been limited. Human Rights Watch, the International Crisis Group and other NGOs also recorded evidence of war crimes, use of child soldiers and sexual violence by armed groups. Numerous peace agreements have been launched in response, including the Nairobi and Luanda processes. Although these initiatives have secured temporary ceasefires, violations remain an unfavourable reality, exposing these schemes as ineffective in establishing lasting peace.

Current Situation:

Numerous peace agreements have been launched in response, including the Nairobi and Luanda processes. Although these initiatives have secured temporary ceasefires, violations remain an unfavourable reality, exposing these schemes as ineffective in establishing lasting peace.

As of 2025, violence in eastern DRC has escalated significantly, fighting resumed between the Congolese army (FARDC) and M23 rebels. The United Nations has put the death toll due to intensified fighting since



January 2025 at more than 7,000 with about 450,000 people forced to flee their homes. The humanitarian situation continues to worsen, with escalating food insecurity, sexual violence and displacement of large numbers of people, reaching a critical level. Many civilians trapped in the conflict zones have faced difficulty to be able to access very basic services, and life-saving humanitarian assistance.

However, Rwanda has denied the accusation, and diplomatic tensions have remained between Kinshasa and Kigali over whether the DRC was itself supporting M23 activists diplomatically. Regional mediation has sought to bring about ceasefire agreements in these conflicts, but these have broken down time and again. The UN Security Council has adopted resolutions denouncing the violence, slapped targeted sanctions against M23 commanders, and called on Rwanda to stop any support to the rebels in return.

MONUSCO is still present in the DRC, but its future is in question, given that the Congolese authorities have requested a gradual withdrawal of the force. There is a regional force deployed by the East African Community to help the Congolese military, but it has struggled to make an impact. In the meantime however, aid organizations still can not deliver aid in safety due to insecurity.

The Security Council should start talking about how it might enforce ceasefires, bolster regional diplomacy, and hold human rights violators accountable. Long-term peace requires addressing the root causes of the conflict, which include resource exploitation, the Juba-based

regime's creation and manipulation of ethnic divisions, and ongoing regional power struggles over the politics of the South, East, and Great Lakes regions.

This information is updated up to the 7th of March. We encourage all delegates to further investigate up to the date of the conference as this is an ongoing conflict.





Points to consider:

- How does this conflict affect your country's national interests and regional stability?
- Who are your country's allies and adversaries in this debate, and how can you build diplomatic support?
- What are the main causes of the Rwanda-Congo conflict, and how have they evolved over time?
- How has the presence of armed groups, such as the M23 rebels and FDLR, impacted the security situation in eastern Congo?
- What role do natural resources and illicit trade play in fueling the conflict?
- What are the key humanitarian concerns, including displacement, human rights violations, and refugee crises?
- What are the main security threats in the region (rebel groups, border tensions, civilian casualties)?
- How does this conflict contribute to human rights violations and refugee crises?
- What are the roles of MONUSCO and other security efforts?



Useful links:

<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents>

<https://usun.usmission.gov/explanation-of-vote>

<https://press.un.org/en/2025/sc16004.doc.htm>

<https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un-documents/democratic-republic-of-the-congo/>

<https://monusco.unmissions.org/en>

COUNTRY BOX

China

Democratic

Republic of Congo

Egypt

France

Germany

Iran

Iraq

North Korea

Russia

Rwanda

Syria

Tanzania

Uganda

United Kingdom

United States of

America



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[/summaries/entity/forces-democratiques-de-liberation-du-rwanda-%28fdlr%29](http://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/sanctions/1533/materials/summaries/entity/forces-democratiques-de-liberation-du-rwanda-%28fdlr%29).


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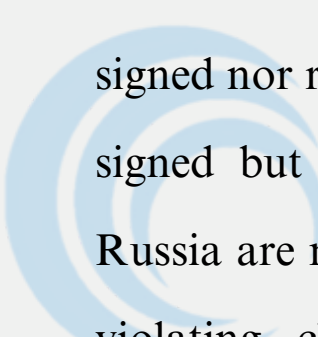
BBC, 16 Feb. 2025, www.bbc.com/news/articles/cgly1yrd9j3o

Topic B: Use of Chemical Weapons in Warfare

Introduction:

The use of chemical weapons pose one of the most serious threats to global security and has been widely condemned as a violation of international humanitarian law. Chemical weapons, as defined by the Chemical Weapons Convention, are any type of toxic chemicals and their precursors used to cause intentional death or harm through their toxic properties. These weapons have been previously used in various conflicts, leaving devastating impacts on people and civilizations. Consequently, these weapons have been banned under several international treaties and agreements. Despite these prohibitions, current conflicts and war zones still use chemical weapons, raising concerns regarding international security and its threat to human rights.

Chemical weapons have been utilized in regions such as the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and various zones of Europe, frequently targeting civilians. China faces accusations of supplying dual-use chemicals, chemical² weapons, and production equipment to unidentified states widely believed to be North Korea and Iran, who have been previously involved in chemical weapon usage and stockpiling, still, it denies any involvement in chemical weapons production. Various countries in Africa face potential risks from chemical weapons due to terrorist groups or other militant groups and the illicit arms trade, due to their internal conflicts. Along with North Korea, Egypt has neither

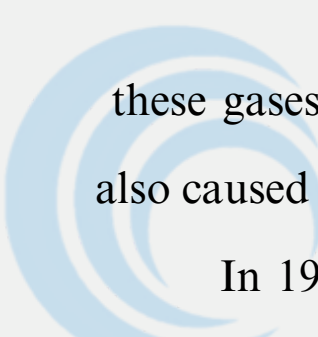


signed nor ratified the Chemical Weapon Convention, and only Israel has signed but not ratified the Convention. Countries such as Syria and Russia are member states of the CWC; however, they still are accused of violating chemical weapons bans, and there are accusations and confirmations that both nations have used these weapons in their current conflicts, highlighting the challenges in enforcing the Convention and ensuring compliance of those who are members.

Despite various measures taken regarding these weapons, recent incidents demonstrate their continuous threat to security. The UN Security Council, Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), and Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) are all international bodies that continue to seek prevention, verification and response of the use of these weapons. Recent statistics show the increase of chemical weapons usage, particularly in conflict zones such as Syria, demonstrating the need for strengthened global efforts, strategies to prevent their deployment, and the insurance of global compliance with international treaties, which will all ultimately lead to global security.

History:

The use of the chemical weapons began in World War I, where it left devastating consequences and created a long-term worldwide problem. In April 1915, the German army released 160 tons of chlorine gas, causing over 1,000 deaths and 4,000 injuries to the French lines. During the war, other chemicals were employed, including phosgene and mustard gas, resulting in nearly 100,000 deaths due to these weapons. The impact of

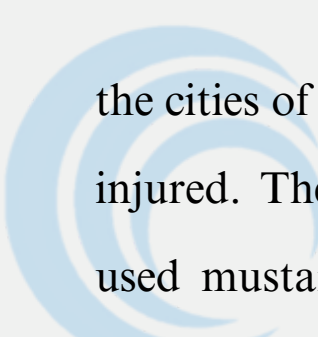


these gases led to the development of protective masks against gas and also caused fear and panic among troops and civilians.

In 1925, the signing of the Geneva Protocol prohibited the use of chemical weapons. This agreement prohibited the use of chemical and biological weapons in warfare; however, it did not prevent their development or stockpiling. This was the first ever major international effort to ban the use of these weapons. During World War II these chemicals were not deployed on battlefields, but they were used in Nazi concentration camps and by the Japanese in Asia.

Since the end of the war in 1945, there have been a few reports regarding the usage of chemical weapons, including the Yemen war of 1963-1967, in which Egypt bombed Yemen villages, resulting in 1,500 deaths. The United States utilized herbicides in the Vietnam War, and Iraq used chemical weapons in the Iran-Iraq war in 1988. These events caused public outrage against the deadly effects of chemical weapons. During the Cold War, the Soviet Union and the United States kept large stockpiles of chemical weapons. By the 1970s, approximately 25 nations were developing chemical weapons, increasing the concerns and efforts to eliminate these weapons. The CWC was signed in 1993 and implemented in 1997, forcing all signatories to destroy their stockpiles of chemical weapons and abstain from utilizing them.

The use of chemical weapons by militant groups and the government, is a growing concern due to the multiple conflicts by these groups and weapons. In 1994 and 1995, the Japanese cult Aum Shinrikyo attacked



the cities of Japan using sarin gas, killing 19 people and leaving thousands injured. The terrorist group ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham) used mustard gas for attacks in Iraq and Syria. Iraqi insurgents have attempted to use chlorine gas for bomb attacks, and reports suggest that the Taliban and Turkish forces may have used chemical weapons. Terror groups such as al Qaeda, have threatened to use these weapons. Attacks during the Syrian Civil War, such as the 2013 attack in Ghouta, and Khan Shayhun in 2017, have led to reports by The United States, United Kingdom and France, towards the Assad regime.

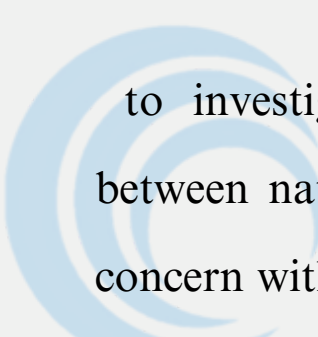
The UN and OPCW have confirmed that the Syrian government and ISIS³ have utilized chemical weapons for attacks between 2014 and 2017, and more reports are still emerging. North Korea and Russia have recently used nerve agents⁴ to kill individuals. The poisoning of Sergei Skripal in 2018, a Russian spy and Alexei Navalny in 2020 with Novichok, a nerve agent, raised concerns about the use of CW outside warfare. Although these attacks are an ongoing concern, geopolitical tensions and the use of the veto power by certain permanent members, prevent the UN Security Council from reaching a permanent and effective solution.

Current situation:

Despite all the efforts done to address this issue, as of 2025, chemical attacks continue to be reported in conflict zones. The OPCW continues

³ Islamic State of Iraq and Syria, is a Sunni jihadist group with a violent ideology that calls itself a caliphate and claims religious authority over all Muslims.

⁴ Nerve agents are highly toxic chemical weapons that disrupt the nervous system by inhibiting acetylcholinesterase, leading to paralysis and death



to investigate these incidents with the help of intelligence-sharing between nations, and other international bodies. Even so, it remains a concern with several challenges and conflicts affecting the abolishment of these weapons.

The Syrian conflict remains a main hub of the use of chemical weapons in warfare. As of 2025, the Fact-Finding Mission⁵ has investigated and covered 21 reports containing 74 instances of presumed chemical weapons use. Out of these 21 reports, the FFM confirmed 20 of them with chlorine being the most used, 14 cases, followed by three sarin cases, and three mustard gas attacks. The OPCW's Investigation and Identification Team has successfully detected perpetrators of chemical weapons attacks. The IIT further detected the Syrian Arab Armed Forces as the responsible of several chemical attacks, giving the UN, OPCW, CWC, and other nations enough evidence to take accountability measures and penalizing the perpetrators of these attacks. On March 5, 2025, Syria's Minister, Asaad Hassan al-Shinani, declared the country's commitment to dismantling chemical weapons from the Assad regime and sought international assistance for this process. Nevertheless, Syria's commitment is still questioned by international bodies and nations.

Quick technological advancements are creating greater problems since globalization and technological progress makes chemical substances more accessible. By abusing data, access to more advanced resources, and the use of artificial intelligence, chemical weapons users can

⁵ Investigative body established by international organizations, to collect impartial evidence on specific issues.

generate undercover strategies and access to more information, making it easier for them to plan and carry out attacks. All these advancements and new technologies cause more problems but also allows more opportunities to inform, fight, and prevent chemical weapons proliferation.

The international community faces challenges to address this topic due to several reasons, Russia's veto power in the UN Security Council has blocked and prevented many resolutions from happening, all these resolutions aiming to sanction all those who utilize these weapons and to place regulations regarding the usage of these chemicals. Members of the UN Security council and other international bodies must find a way to combat these challenges while addressing the ones that are still emerging with the new advancements made. While most chemical weapons stockpiles have been destroyed, conflict zones still suffer from these attacks and many civilians are suffering from the effects of these lethal weapons.





Points To Consider:

- How can the international community ensure compliance with chemical weapons treaties while respecting national sovereignty?
- What role should the OPCW and other monitoring organizations play in preventing chemical weapon attacks?
- How should the Security Council address the involvement of non-state actors in the use of chemical weapons? What strategies can be employed to prevent them from acquiring chemical weapons?
- What are the most effective mechanisms for holding perpetrators accountable while maintaining global stability?
- What measures can be taken to strengthen the Chemical Weapons Convention and its implementation?
- How should the UN Security Council address ongoing challenges related to chemical weapons in Syria and other conflict zones?
- How can international cooperation in chemical safety and security be enhanced to prevent the misuse of dual-use chemicals?



Useful links:

<https://www.opcw.org/>

<https://disarmament.unoda.org/wmd/chemical/>


[https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/chemical-weapons-frequently-asked-](https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/chemical-weapons-frequently-asked-questions#:~:text=Chemical%20weapons%20are%20considered%20weapons,choking%20agents%2C%20and%20blood%20agents.)

[questions#:~:text=Chemical%20weapons%20are%20considered%20weapons,choking%20agents%2C%20and%20blood%20agents.](https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/chemical-weapons-frequently-asked-questions#:~:text=Chemical%20weapons%20are%20considered%20weapons,choking%20agents%2C%20and%20blood%20agents.)

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The main objective of the Security Council is to maintain peace and security worldwide.

