United Nations Security Council

Chairs:
Natalia Constantine
Katie Hamlin

Committee Topics:
Topic 1: Nuclear Weapons in North Korea
Topic 2: Syria Cessation of Hostilities
Topic 3: Senkaku Islands Dispute
Chair Biographies

Hello delegates! My name is Natalia Constantine and I’m in my senior year. I have been in MUN since 8th grade and this is my second time chairing, but my first time participating in Security Council. Besides MUN, I am on the tennis team, masque, and the school’s mathletics team. I am hoping for a fun and educational conference with resolutions passed, please do not hesitate in contacting me at natalia99constantine@gmail.com if you have any questions. See you all December 10th!

Good day delegates! I am Katherine Hamlin, and I am a Junior this year at New Hartford High School. I have participated in MUN since I was in 8th grade and this will be my first time serving as a chair. Outside of MUN, I am also a distance swimmer for our school’s Varsity Swim team, a member of our French and Latin clubs, and a member of our Students for Justice and Equality club. I am greatly looking forward to serving as a chair on Security Council, and I hope that it will be an interesting and productive committee. If you have any questions, please contact me at swimKSH@gmail.com See you in December!

Special Committee Notes

Our simulation of the Security Council will be run Harvard Style. This means that there will be NO pre-written resolutions allowed in committee. In light of this, we are asking delegates to prepare position papers on each of the three topics. Please bring at least 3 position papers on each topic to committee. Three Outstanding Delegate awards will be given: the Ethos award, the Logos award, and the Pathos award. These three awards (Ethos, Logos, Pathos) are based upon Aristotle’s Triangle of Rhetoric. More information can be found on the UMVMUN website. An award will also be given for Best New Delegate. Submission of position papers for ALL THREE topics is required for award consideration.
Nuclear Weapons in North Korea

Introduction:
The United Nations Security Council has tried to strengthen and improve sanctions on North Korea for continuing to develop its nuclear weapons program and called on Pyongyang to dismantle all its nuclear programs and refrain from missile tests. Resolutions were then called upon North Korea to rejoin the NPT but withdrew after the U.S. allegations that the country was chasing after an illegal uranium enrichment programs. To this day, the resolutions have been deemed largely unsuccessful and are now overseeing implementation and enforcement of sanctions against North Korea. The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea continued to defy Security Council resolutions by persisting with its nuclear and ballistic missile programmes.

Definition of Key Terms:

**NPT**: the Non-Proliferation Treaty is an international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology to promote peaceful uses.

**DPRK**: Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

**Pyongyang**: the capital and largest city of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea

**Six Party Talks**: involved China, Japan, North Korea, Russia, South Korea and the US. They had got North Korea to pledge to abandon all nuclear weaponry and have attempted to control the nuclear weapons in North Korea.

General Overview:
This is has been a constant problem threatening world place since the DPRK has an extremely active nuclear weapons program and has tested nuclear explosives in 2006, 2009, 2013 and twice in 2016. They are suspected to possess chemicals weapons in their programs and its not in the Chemical Weapons Convention. North Korea’s interest in nuclear weaponry goes back to the end of World War II. Pyongyang, the capital, has developed many threatening nuclear weapons like highly enriched uranium for weapons purposes. They have conducted nuclear weapons tests in 2006, 2009, 2013, and twice in 2016.

Within the council, there’s been a goal of denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula between North Korea, South Korea, Japan, China, Russia, and the United States. After the death of Kim Jong Il, Pyongyang agreed to suspend nuclear tests but after a dispute with the US after the launch of a rocket in 2012, North Korea declared that the agreement was void and conducted a nuclear test in 2013.

During that time, the United Nations Security Council has created 5 resolutions to impose and strengthen sanctions in North Korea and to call on Pyongyang to get rid of its nuclear program in an irreversible manner. Although this was the goal, they were passed unanimously by the Security Council under
Chapter VII, Article 41 of the United Nations Charter. One of the resolutions requested that North Korea rejoin the NPT which they did before they again withdrew as an effect of the US stating, “the country [North Korea] was pursuing an illegal uranium enrichment program”. They got around these negotiations through Six-Party Talks which included South Korea, North Korea, China, Japan, Russia, and the United States. Little progress was made until September 2005, when the six parties finally achieved steps for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. But then again, in April 2009, North Korea withdrew because of the international prevention of the launching of the satellite.

During Kim Jong Un’s December 2015 visit to the Pyongchon Revolutionary Site where he claimed to have thermonuclear capabilities. Then on January 2016, North Korea had a fourth nuclear test and there was a claim that it was a hydrogen bomb, despite this there were experts who continued to doubt North Korea’s abilities. The tests would unsettle North Korea’s surrounding countries like China who had always been a traditional ally. China had ended up endorsing a UN resolution in an effort to apply further sanctions against North Korea.

These tests and threats emitted by North Korea has damaged the peace and stability on the peninsula. As a result, it is Security Council’s duty to create a resolution to restore peace in North Korea and to prevent the surrounding countries and the rest of the world from feeling threatened.

**Major Parties Involved:**

*North Korea:* deployed short and medium range ballistic missiles and successfully launched long-range rockets in 2012 and 2016. They are also believed to possessing biological and chemical warfare.

*United States:* tried to negotiate an end to North Korea’s nuclear and missile development and its export of ballistic missile technology. They pursued many responses to the challenges North Korea gave. Many of these responses included U.S. allies in the region, wide-ranging sanctions and non-proliferation mechanisms

China, Japan, North Korea, Russia, South Korea and the United States were all involved in the Six Party Talks to resolve the crisis in South Korea.

**Timeline of Key Events:**

- **October 1994:** U.S. and North Korea Sign Pact
- **August 2003:** Six-Nation Talks Begin
- **September 2005:** North Korea Says It Will Abandon Nuclear Efforts
- **October 2006:** First Nuclear Test
- **October 2006:** Six-Nation Talks Resume
- **December 2009:** Six-Party Talks Collapse
- **May 2009:** Second Nuclear Test
- **June 2009:** New U.N. Sanctions
- **November 2012:** North Korea Shells South Korean Island
- **December 2012:** Successful Rocket Launching
● February 2013: A Third Nuclear Test
● March 2013: U.N. Council Orders More Sanctions
● April 2013: North Korea Threatens to Restart Nuclear Reactor
● August 2013: Study Suggests North Korea Is Doubling Area Devoted to Uranium Enrichment
● March 2014: North and South Korea exchange fire
● November 2014: North Korea threatens to conduct Nuclear Tests

Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue:
They got around these negotiations through Six-Party Talks which included South Korea, North Korea, China, Japan, Russia, and the United States. They had a critical breakthrough in 2005 when North Korea had pledged to abandon “all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs”. It wasn’t permanent since Pyongyang has stated that they weren’t going to return to the talks and that they wouldn’t be bound by their agreements. Little progress was made until September 2005, when the six parties finally achieved steps for the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula. But then again, in April 2009, North Korea withdrew because of the international prevention of the launching of the satellite.

During that time the United Nations Security has created 5 resolutions to impose and strengthen sanctions in North Korea and to call on Pyongyang to get rid of its nuclear program in an irreversible manner. Although this was the goal, they were passed unanimously by the Security Council under Chapter VII, Article 41 of the United Nations Charter. One of the resolutions requested that North Korea rejoin the NPT which they did before they again withdrew as an effect of the US saying that “the country was pursuing an illegal uranium enrichment program”.

Possible Solutions:
It seems as though Security Council came very close to finding a common ground with South Korea but then they had pulled out because they felt as though the Six Party Talks were taking advantage of them and they were going to be bound by the talks. China is also a powerful ally of South Korea so to create a resolution, sanctions must be created so China has to choose between America or North Korea because it can’t be on both sides.

Appendix:
1. Chronology of U.S.-North Korean Nuclear and Missile Diplomacy
2. North Korea’s Nuclear Program
3. Weapons of Mass Destruction

Bibliography:
http://www.nti.org/learn/countries/north-korea/

https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/UN-Security-Council-Resolutions-on-North-Korea
Syria Cessation of Hostilities

Introduction:
The amount of bloodshed that has happened in Syria has finally resulted in many agreements that were aimed in ending the 5 years of pain and suffering. It urged all Member States to use their influence to ensure that parties to the conflict fulfill their commitments and create conditions for a lasting and successful ceasefire. It offered a genuine opportunity to ease the most brutal conflicts in the world. It was practical, concrete steps to reduce the violence and wanted to ensure that the hostilities would be respected and held for the long term.

Definition of Key Terms:
Genocide: the deliberate killing of a large group of people, especially those of a particular ethnic group or nation

Joint Investigative Mechanism: led the elimination of Syrian chemical weapons which completed its mandate and its operations which drew to a close

Al Nusra Front: an organization fighting against the forces of the Syrian government in the Syrian Civil War whose aim is to establish an Islamic state in the country

OCHA: Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Associations

Overview:
Human genocide is the most serious crime impacting our world today. It happens all over world and it takes place in many parts of the world and needs to be stopped. The Syrian Civil War has resulted in about 250,000 deaths. After many years of finding ways to find peace, the Model UN Security Council was able to have the US and Russia agree on a “cessation of hostilities” between the Syrian government and the groups fighting in it.

The cessation of hostilities, as it is formally called, followed two weeks of negotiations between the United States and Russia. It was implemented to bring peace and the Syrian military have been attempting to enforce it but rebel groups are still guarded. Just as the ceasefire came into effect, the Syrian army announced a seven day “freeze” on military operations with the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring.

This was a big test for the US and Russia since Russia was President Bashar al-Assad’s ally and US wanted his immediate departure from the office. Ever since then, Russia was the most influential outside power in Syria with US and the Western allies struggling to keep up. If the truce holds then Jihadist groups like the so-called Islamic State and Jabhat Fateh al-Sham face the joined force of the Russian and US air forces. The rebels and civilians will no longer face the threat of the air strikes and President Assad
will be at a stronger position since US and Russia would be engaging its most effective military opponents while rebels observe the truce.

Syria has had a history of failed deals like the rejection of the new Arab League peace mission in June 2012, January 2014 and January 2016. There was a deal negotiated to strip the Syrian government of its chemical weapons in return for the US to back out of the air strikes. Even though there was this deal, the government has been repeatedly accused of using toxic chemicals against the rebel-held areas. Then the World Powers agreed to have a nationwide “cessation of hostilities” but there was no agreement in the US-Russian operations but it didn’t work since Assad promised to regain control of the whole country. As a result, President Putin pulled out the “main part” of Russia’s air army in Syria and Russian air strikes have continued ever since.

The UN Security Council unanimously approved of resolution 2268 which endorsed a Russian-American agreement from February 22nd. In an effort to promote a more implementation of the cessation of hostilities, the ISSG Ceasefire Task Force had been established under UN which included political and military officials from the co-chairs and other Task Force members. The US and the Russian Federation have took it upon themselves to call upon all Syrian parties to support the immediate cessation of violence and bloodshed in Syria.

**Major Parties Involved:**  
*Russia*: military intervention in the Syrian Civil War began in September 2015 after an official request by the Syrian government for military help against rebel and jihadist groups  

*USA*: supplied the rebels of the Free Syrian Army with non-lethal aid but quickly began providing training, cash and intelligence to many Syrian rebel commanders  

*France*: took in over 30,000 Syrian Refugees  

*UK*: brought in Syrian refugee children to be relocated  

*Doctors Without Borders*: calls on permanent UN security council member states involved in the Syrian conflict-specifically France, Russia, the UK and the US  

**Timeline of Key Events:**  
- *March 2011* Demonstrators demand the release of political prisoners but were shot dead by security forces  
- *April 2011* Syrian Uprising; 72 protesters were killed by security forces firing on crowds  
- *October 2011* Opposition groups formed the Syrian National Council and pledge to overthrow President Bashar al-Assad  
- *November 2011* The Arab League voted to suspend Syria saying that it failed to implement the Arab peace plan  
- *March 2012* Syrian forces began shelling the restive city of Homs
- **March 2012** The UN Security Council backed UN-Arab League envoy Kofi Annan’s peace plan to end all violence, provide safety and secure a peaceful transition of power. The Syrian government accepted this plan a couple days later
- **April 2012** The first UN observers began their work to monitor the situation on the ground as part of the Annan peace plan but the violence continued to escalate

**Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue:**
The peace process has been ravaging in Syria since 2011 and has spilled beyond its borders. The attempts to find a solution to the conflict began in late 2011 but there wasn’t much success. The Arab League had tried to accomplish an end to the Syrian government violence but that didn’t end well. In 2012, the Russian foreign ministry suggested a talk between the Syrian government and opposition but they had not received any formal invitation for such talk.

The Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect was established in February 2008 to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity. Many Syrian refugees were left without a home or split from their families so countries like France would take them in to be relocated.

**Possible Solutions:**
Since this issue has been going on for a long time and there’s been many attempts at resolving it with no avail, there are some solutions like how refugees are being relocated and how assistance like Doctors Without Borders. They get provided with medicine, clothing and food during this horrific times. Security Council must find a immediate resolution to help save these people and their homeland through stronger peace treaties.

**Appendix:**
1. [Al-Nusra Front](#)
2. [Security Council Mission](#)
3. [Chronology of Events in Syria](#)

**Bibliography:**


http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/chronology/syria.php
Senkaku Islands Dispute

Introduction:
Up until the 1970’s the small uninhabited chain of islands in the South China Sea, known as the Senkaku Islands to Japan, the Diaoyu Islands to the People's Republic of China, and Diaoyutai Islands to Taiwan, were largely ignored and undisputed in East Asian politics. However, after the UN Economic Council of Asia and the Far East conducted an academic survey in 1968 and found possible oil deposits, both the PRC (People’s Republic of China) and the ROC (Republic of China/Taiwan) started to question Japan’s previously unchallenged sovereignty.

Definition of Key Terms:
Sovereignty: the authority of a state to govern itself or another state

San Francisco Peace Treaty: the treaty served to officially end Japan's position as an imperial power, to allocate compensation to Allied civilians and former prisoners of war who had suffered Japanese war crimes during World War II, and to end the Allied post-war occupation of Japan and return sovereignty to that nation

Ryukyu Island chain: a chain of Japanese islands that stretch southwest from Kyushu to Taiwan, consisting of the Ōsumi, Tokara, Amami, Okinawa, and Sakishima Islands (divided into the Miyako and Yaeyama Islands), with Yonaguni as the southernmost isle.

General Overview:
Japan claims to have surveyed the islands for ten years back in the 1800’s, formally erecting a sovereignty marker on January 14, 1895 during the first Sino-Japanese War. It should be noted that in 1885, Japanese ministers declined from taking formal control of the islands, which at the time were on the Sino-Japanese border, as they already had Chinese names and they did not want to make the Qing Empire suspicious. After WWII (World War Two) Japan released all control over "islands appertaining or belonging to said island of Formosa" in the Treaty of Shimonoseki, as well as placing the Senkaku Islands under United States administration as part of the Ryukyu Islands in accordance to Article III in the San Francisco Peace Treaty. At the time, neither China nor Taiwan made any objections to this. In 1971, when the Senkaku Islands were returned to Japanese control from the U.S. things began to change. Both the PRC and the ROC began to claim sovereignty over the Senkaku Islands, which besides for oil are near important shipping lanes, have plentiful fishing grounds, and are also strategically located to aid in China’s search to enlarge their water borders.

China claims that the Senkaku Islands were known to them as early as 1372, and referred to as Chinese territory since 1534. The first written record of the ‘Diaoyutai’ is found in the book Voyage with the Tail Wind from 1403, and in the book Records of the Imperial Envoy’s Visit to Ryukyu written in 1534, one of the islands of Senkaku, Chihweiyu, is marked as the end of the Ryukyu Island chain. Thusly, the PRC and the ROC see this as evidence that the Senkaku Islands are not part of the Ryukyu Islands, as assumed by
the Japanese in the San Francisco Peace Treaty. Although the PRC offered to work with Taiwan against Japan in this dispute, Minister Lai Shin-yuan of the MAC (Mainland Affairs Council) stated that, "The ROC and Mainland China will not deal with the [Diaoyutai Islands] disputes together. Mainland China said the two sides should solve these issues together, but that is not the approach we are taking because [Taiwan and Mainland China] already have sovereignty disputes. We insist on our sovereignty."

Although Japan formally recognizes that “there exists no issue of territorial sovereignty to be resolved concerning the Senkaku Islands" China announced the creation of an air-defence identification zone referred to as "East China Sea Air Defense Identification Zone" which would require any aircraft in the zone to comply with rules laid down by Beijing, including a requirement that all aircraft entering the zone to submit radio frequency or transponder information and file a flight plan. This zone happens to include the Senkaku Islands. Japan labeled this as “unilateral escalation” but chose to ignore it in accordance to recommendations from current US President Barack Obama who stated that escalations of current tensions would result with harm on all sides. This is a particularly sensitive issue to the United States, as under the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan, the United States would have to defend Japan in the event of an attack, which President Barack Obama has already confirmed applies to the Senkaku Islands as well.

**Major Parties Involved:**

**United States:** Military defence of Japan promised in the Treaty of Mutual Cooperation and Security between the United States and Japan, would require the United States to get involved if it came to an armed conflict between China and Japan.

**People’s Republic of China:** Claim that the islands belong under their sovereignty and should be ‘returned’ to them from Japan.

**Taiwan:** Claims the islands on account of geographical location and proximity to Taiwan.

**Japan:** Claims to have scouted out the islands for ten years and determined them uninhabited and unclaimed before claiming them as property of Japan in the mid-1800’s.

**Timeline of Key Events:**

- **January 14, 1895:** The Japanese government formally obtains control of the Diaoyu (Senkaku) Islands. Japan asserts the islands were not owned by anyone prior to their occupation while China maintains it has sovereignty over the island chain for centuries.
- **September 2, 1945:** Diaoyu (Senkaku) Islands, as part of Ryukyu Islands, come under the US government's control after the surrender of Japan at the end of the second world war.
- **June 17, 1971:** The Agreement between Japan and the United States of America Concerning the Ryukyu Islands and the Daito Islands is signed between Japan and the US, returning the Senkaku Islands (as part of the Ryukyu Islands) to Japanese administration. This triggers the first anti-Japanese protests, led by Taiwan.
August 12, 1978: The Japan-China Peace and Friendship Treaty is signed between China and Japan, in which the dispute over the isles is put aside for future resolution.

July 14, 1996: Right-wing Japanese Youth Association members land and build a lighthouse on one of the islets, prompting a series of protests from mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

September 26, 1996: Hong Kong activist David Chan drowns after jumping into waters off the Diaoyu Islands during a pro-China protest.

September 29, 1996: Tens of thousands of people gather for a candlelight vigil in Victoria Park to mourn David Chan’s death and protest against Japan’s claim of the islands.

October 7, 1996: Three activists from Hong Kong and Taiwan land on the Diaoyu Islands.

March 24, 2004: Activist Feng Jinhua and six others from China land on the Diaoyu Islands, the first time mainland activists successfully land on the islands.

September 7, 2010: A Chinese trawler collides with Japanese patrol boats near the disputed islands and results in Japan arresting the Chinese skipper, Zhan Qixiong. The incident prompts a major diplomatic dispute between the two countries.

August 14, 2012: Hong Kong activists reach the disputed islands by sea for the first time since 1996, with seven activists disembarking onto the island.


September 10, 2012: Japan’s government says it has decided to purchase the disputed islands from a private Japanese owner in an effort, Tokyo claims, aimed at defusing territorial tensions.

September 14, 2012: Six Chinese surveillance ships sail into waters around the Diaoyu Islands to assert China’s territorial claims and for “law enforcement”, leaving after seven hours.

September 15, 2012: The biggest anti-Japanese protests since China and Japan normalised diplomatic relations in 1972 are held in cities across China. The Japanese embassy in Beijing is besieged by thousands of protesters throwing rocks, eggs and bottles.

September 16, 2012: Anti-Japanese protests break out in dozens of mainland cities for a second day. In some cities peaceful protests turn violent as protesters clash with policemen, attack Japanese made cars and smash up Japanese restaurants.

September 17, 2012: Some major Japanese firms such as Toyota and Honda temporarily shut factories and offices across China.

September 18, 2012: Two Japanese activists land on the Diaoyu Islands while widespread anti-Japanese protests have been held across China at the anniversary of Japan's invasion of Manchuria.

Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue:
While the UN has not had major interference with the situation in the Senkaku Islands since the academic survey done in 1968 by the UN Economic Council of Asia and the Far East, it has attempted several rounds of bilateral talks in preceding decades that have been largely unsuccessful. Any attempts made at compromises between PRC and Japan have at best been implemented agreements, and at worst raised tensions.

Possible Solutions:
There is at this moment no clear cut answer to this issue, as claims from the PRC put the starting point of this issue farther back in history than can be reasonably accounted for. However, it would be to great benefit for the region if all nations involved could recognize each other's claims, particularly Japan’s current legal holdings in the area.

Bibliography: