



Background Guide

# WSO MUN

GEMS Wellington Academy Model United Nations

March 22nd - 24th

**COMMITTEE: Security Council**

*Lead The Change...*

## Welcome Letter from the Secretary General

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Distinguished delegates of the Security Council,

It is my absolute honor to invite you to the second largest high school Model UN in the country; the first edition of the WSO Model United Nations conference held at the GEMS Wellington Academy - Dubai Silicon Oasis. I am beyond ecstatic and humbled to serve in the capacity of Secretary-General for this year's conference. In order to ensure that our conference's quality is of the highest caliber on an international scale, we have set up ideals and standards that orient us towards our goal while also providing us with the dedication necessary to make a difference. Our conference aims to engage and encourage the youth to participate and to share their ideas and beliefs about different and various global issues. The aim of our conference is to give students a unique experience where they are able to harbour their diplomatic skills and explore current affairs through a simulation of the United Nations. We strive to help students foster skills necessary for every day life, and provide education beyond the desk as practice is the best way to process theory.

Everything changes; but change itself is the only thing that doesn't. Remembering that nothing remains the same and even in the worst situation we face, we can and should rely on the fact that change is the constant. Throughout the conference, our aim is to develop solutions to issues which we currently face and widen our vision, while using the idea of change to our advantage. WSO Model united nations possesses an unique ability to bring forth students from diverse backgrounds to collectively work towards a cohesive and united goal. WSOMUN welcomes young leaders to portray onto a platform, values to be abided by, in order to create a change in the international community.

To this end, the members of the Secretariat have been working painstakingly, around the clock, to ensure that you enjoy every breath of this conference experience. I assure you that the final step of this journey will draw a higher academic and organizational line to satisfy all your expectations.

Looking forward to welcoming you this March!

With Best Regards,

**Varsha Venkatraman**

Secretary General

WSOMUN 2018

## Welcome Letter from the Dias

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Greetings delegate,

The dais of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is pleased to have you as a member of the preeminent committee of WSOMUN. The UNSC forum deals with the various geo-political security issues plaguing the world ranging from inter-state conflicts to addressing the threat that non-state actors pose to peace. In order to be an effective delegate in the committee you should undertake adequate research to have knowledge about your nation's position on the topics to be discussed and possess a wealth of knowledge on the economic and political relationships between the various nations.

The journey towards acquiring this knowledge will be one wherein you learn about perspectives of different nations along with the history of the issues and the previous actions that have been taken. Based on this you as a delegate will for considering the nature of the problem in order to craft solutions to ensure the appropriate action is taken.

Overall we hope that you have an enriching experience delegating in UNSC for WSOMUN 2018!

**Chair:** Ishan Raj

**Co - Chair:** Vaibhav Gadhalay

**Co - Chair:** Joel Mathew Cherian

## United Nations Security Council



Under the Charter, the Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions. The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.

The Security Council also recommends to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and the admission of new Members to the United Nations. And, together with the General Assembly, it elects the judges of the International Court of Justice.

**Source:** <http://www.un.org/en/sc/>

# AGENDA 1

## Territorial Disputes in the South China Sea



### Introduction to the topic

#### Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ):

An area which has a length of 200 nautical miles from the baselines where states have “sovereign rights for the purpose of exploring and exploiting, conserving and managing the natural resources, whether living or non-living, of the waters superjacent to the seabed and of the seabed and its subsoil, and with regard to other activities for the economic exploitation and exploration of the zone, such as the production of energy from the water, currents and winds”

Extending from the Strait of Taiwan in the north-east to the Strait of Malacca in the South west the South China Sea has more than 500 million individuals from the nations of Brunei, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam live within 100 miles of its coastline. It is one of the world’s busiest sea-lanes as roughly half of global trading ships and oil tankers pass through the waters every year.

The territorial disputes in the South China Sea are a focal point for the possibility of conflict between many nations in Southeast-Asia. The many claims in the area has led to a situation wherein the parties involved have to come to a consensus which each other collectively rather than bilateral agreements between the relevant nations.

The nature of the issue means that such consensus is difficult to create and therefore other more innovative solutions would have to be implemented.

Due to the history of the issue dating back to the 1960s the timeline of events can become difficult to follow. However the overall issue at hand boils down to the interpretation and application of customary international law in regards to the claims nations have made in the South China Sea. The struggle between 'historical ties' and legal boundaries is at the core of the dispute and must be aptly considered during any discussions of the issue.

### **History of the topic**

In 1947 China, under the Kuomintang, produced a map of the South China Sea indicating the land under its control with included the nine-dashed line encompassing most of the South China Sea. Since then the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Republic of China (ROC) both continue to attest their parallel claims that the area within the nine-dashed line is a part of their maritime waters. This lies in odds with the 1978 claim by the Philippines in a presidential decree on the Spratly islands. Furthermore the nations of Vietnam, Malaysia Brunei and Indonesia have also asserted claims within the nine-dashed line from 1996 onward.

Conflicts have occurred in the sea as is the case in 1974; when the PRC and Vietnamese troops clashed over the Parcel islands resulting in the PRC taking control of most of the Parcel Islands. In addition there have been a variety of incidents involving fishermen who, due to the vague nature of the maritime boundaries in the area, fished outside waters of their nation and paid a heavy price for it.

As per the comprehensive United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) inside a nation's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) the commercial rights to fishing and mining are solely given to the nation. Therefore the South China Sea with its large potential for economic activity would be awarded to nations based on their EEZ which in this case is overlapping in multiple places as well as intersecting with the PRC's and ROC's nine-dashed line. The economic importance of the region is underscored by the fact that in 2012 the fishing in the area accounted for 12% of global catches worth approximately \$21.8 billion dollars. Moreover there is an estimated 11 billion barrels of oil is present in the region which only compounds the value of the overlapping claims of nations in the region.

Area of Dispute	Chi na	Tai wan	Indo nesia	Vietn am	Philip pines	Malay sia	Bru nei
Nine-Dash line	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Vietnamese coast	✓	✓		✓			
North of Natuna Islands	✓	✓	✓				
West of Palawan and Luzon	✓	✓			✓		
Sabah			✓		✓	✓	
Luzon Strait	✓	✓			✓		
South china sea Islands	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	
North of Borneo	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓

### **Discussion of the topic**

The situation in the South China Sea escalates with every passing day as the tension between the various claimants rises which is only exacerbated by the involvement of Non-claimant nations such as the United States of America(USA).The UNCLOS is at the heart of dispute with various perspectives regarding the convention The application of the UNCLOS in regards to this specific issue is fairly murky as there is weight to arguments that state that the convention does not cover issues of where the sovereignty of nations can extend to but rather how the sovereign area can be exploited by the nation. However credence for the argument that UNCLOS is applicable in the situation is favoured by the majority of analysts who study the issue.

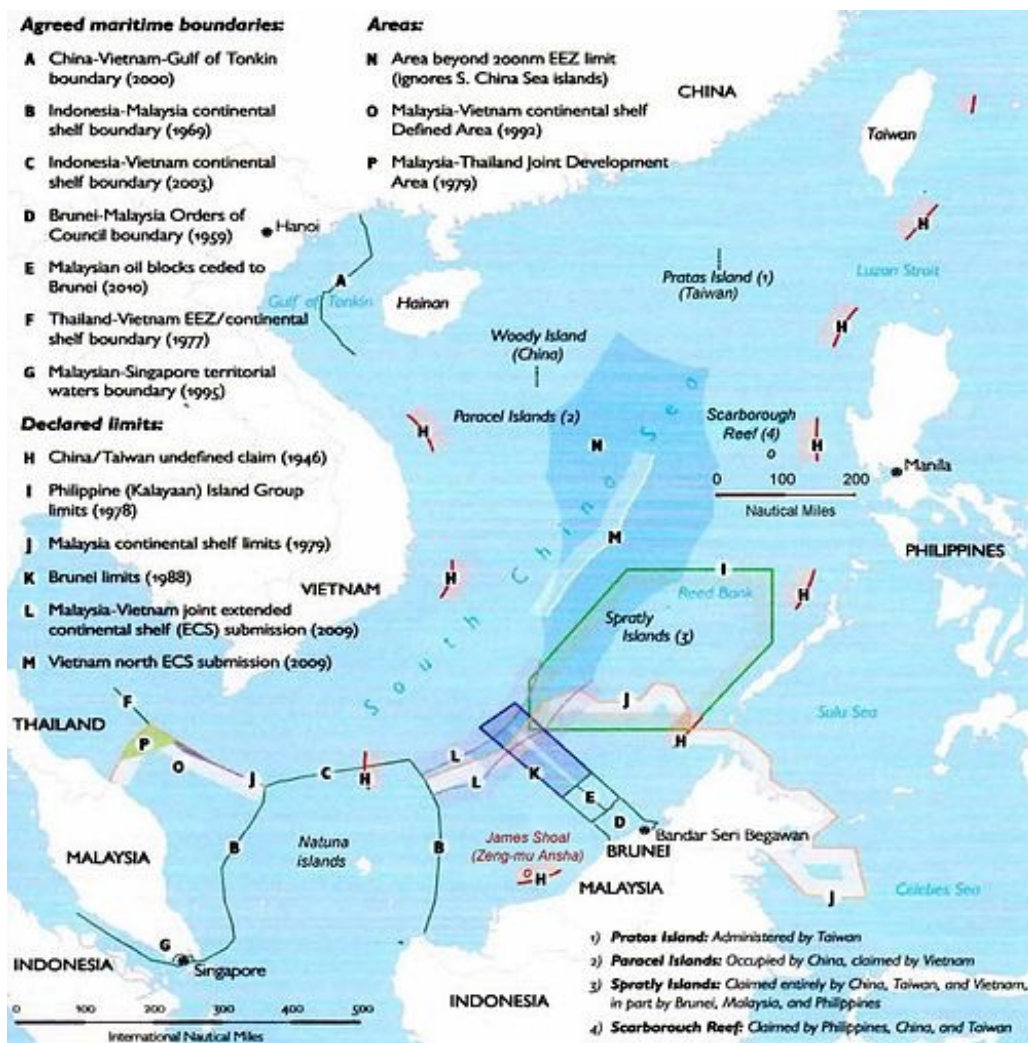
In addition the application of UNCLOS has been further complicated by the land reclamation that the PRC has undertaken since 2013 in the Spratly islands. The result of the extensive reclamation is a total of 3000 acres of land created along with various weapons systems such as anti-aircraft and anti-missile systems on the reclaimed land. The building of these islands was purported to be an attempt by China to strengthen their claim on the area which hoped to create a battle ready network of military defences to shore up the security of their claims.



Adding on to the escalation in the Spratly islands caused by the reclamation, the ecological impact of the reclamation on surrounding coral reefs is devastating as the fragile ecosystems have now been buried under 40-50 million cubic metres of sand. The irreversible damage has drawn widespread condemnation from nations regarding PRC's island building.

Attempts for ending the conflict have been met with denial of the outcome of such investigations, as was the case with China refuting the decision by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the case Philippines v. China. The court ruled that the historical claims of China to the area enclosed within the nine dashed line was not admissible

Many nations wish to impose their sovereignty upon large parts of this key sea due to the large benefit the exploitation rights would give to the nations due to the area being oil rich and teeming with fishing grounds. Due to this lust for natural resources the overall tone of the issue is one of distrust and anger at perceived violations of nation's sovereign realm.



Map of various agreements and claims in the South China Sea



## **Bloc Positions**

Nations that have a claim in the South China Sea should be grouped along with fellow nations who support their claims. Furthermore, if the disagreements between certain claimants is minimal, then two or more claimant nations can form a block together.

Ideally, there should be at least two blocks for this issue, with one block advocating for the status quo, ensure trade remains open through the area, to remain peaceful, while the other block proposes solutions to deal with the impasse caused by the various claims in the region.

## **Questions to consider**

1. How strong are the numerous assertions by the nations of the rights to the South China Sea?
2. What is your nation's stance on the issue?
3. Does your nation have a policy regarding the economic activities in its waters?
4. To what extent has your nation attempted to resolve the issue?
5. How strong is the Nine-dash line claim of China?
6. What are possible short-term and long-term solutions to the problem?
7. Does the UNCLOS need to be renegotiated to address unclear aspects of the Convention?

## **Further Research**

1. Text of UNCLOS - [http://www.un.org/depts/los/convention\\_agreements/texts/unclos/unclos\\_e.pdf](http://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/unclos_e.pdf)
2. Interactive map of territorial disputes - <http://graphics.straitstimes.com/STI/STIMEDIA/Interactives/2016/02/turf-wars-on-the-south-china-sea/index.html>

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3. Clive, et al. "Fishing, Not Oil, Is at the Heart of the South China Sea Dispute." *The Conversation*, 18 Feb. 2018, [theconversation.com/fishing-not-oil-is-at-the-heart-of-the-south-china-sea-dispute-63580](http://theconversation.com/fishing-not-oil-is-at-the-heart-of-the-south-china-sea-dispute-63580).
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8. Phillips, Tom. "Images Show 'Significant' Chinese Weapons Systems in South China Sea." *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 15 Dec. 2016, [www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/15/images-show-significant-chinese-weapons-systems-in-south-china-sea](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/dec/15/images-show-significant-chinese-weapons-systems-in-south-china-sea).
9. "What China Has Been Building in the South China Sea." *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 31 July 2015, [www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/07/30/world/asia/what-china-has-been-building-in-the-south-china-sea.html](http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2015/07/30/world/asia/what-china-has-been-building-in-the-south-china-sea.html).

## AGENDA 2

### Addressing North Korea's right to Nuclear power



#### Introduction to the topic

North Korea and its nuclear capabilities is a fact acknowledged by many countries around the world. This development has its roots dated back to the end of World War II and has seeped into the twenty first century as a threat to the security of many countries around the world.

The heart of North Korea's dispute lies with the US, and the relations between these countries never stood on stable ground. It went from war to friendly ties, which eventually broke and led to threatening till finally negotiations began again. While this cycle continues the twenty first century sees countries attempting to stunt North Korea's nuclear programme by imposing sanctions on the country. However North Korean cooperation and response to these sanctions have not been positive and the thought of reconsidering sanctions is not unfounded.

It is only recently that the North Korea, South Korea and the US have decided to meet to resolve issues however the results of this meeting are varied and unpredictable.

So to conclude, starting as a fight between Communism and Capitalism, North Korea has moved a long way by conducting six nuclear tests and launching numerous missiles. It is important to realize the two voices in this conflict that is the voice of North Korea that blames the insecurity it experiences due to other dominant countries as to be the reason for its nuclear programme and the second voice of countries like the US which sees these statements as to be mere excuses and hence chooses to impose more sanctions in hope that one day North Korea will lay down its nuclear weapons and free the Korean peninsula of what handicapped it for many decades.

### **History of the topic**

The dispute with North Korea dates back to the time when Korea was a colony of Japan. Following the end World War II Korea was surrendered to the allied powers of Russia and the US. The United States took control over the southern half of Korea and Russia over the northern half, both halves were divided by the 38th parallel. However neither sides accepted the new borders making this a site of conflict. The US stood for capitalism and Russia for communism and the Korean War was a result of the clash between these ideologies. Initially North Korea successfully pushed US and South Korea beyond the 38th parallel and almost gained control over the entire country. Seeing this the US along with the UN began supporting South Korea and pushed North Korea beyond the 38th parallel.

It was at this time that contentions began between President Truman and General Douglas Mac-Athur of the USA, Arguments within US and Chinese funding helped North Korea push the South beyond the 38th parallel again. Chinese Involvement in the war helped North gain an army large enough to balance the UN forces moreover the US did not want to enter into an all-out war with China because of which the war ended in a stalemate. Eventually The Korean War ended with the Military Generals and delegations from both countries meeting at Panmunjom and signing an Armistice Agreement.

Although the war ended North Korea still feared that Washington would attack them one day and worked with its allies in developing nuclear power. Initially North claimed that their nuclear complexes were for peaceful purposes and it became a party to the nuclear non-proliferation treaty(NPT). However scrutiny on North Korea by other international agencies were followed by North Korea threatening to withdraw from the NPT.

In early 1994, North Korea threatened to reprocess fuel rods from its nuclear reactor, a step that would give it enough weapons grade plutonium for five or six nuclear weapons. The then President of America wanted to adopt a more cooperative approach towards North Korea and began to negotiate with North Korea. These negotiations led to a deal that saw a cooperative face of North Korea but changes in presidency eventually led to the breakdown of this deal. The new administration adopted a hard-line approach towards North Korea which deepened issues. Seeing the withdrawal of North Korea the US began a six party talks to bring back peace that was developing during the previous presidency. However lack of proper implementation led to break down of these negotiations as well. Eventually North Korea got their hands on nuclear power and began to run tests after tests putting the lives of innocent people at risk and hence the twenty first century so North Korea's rise to nuclear power.

### **Discussion of the topic**

The current hardline approach towards North Korea is not welcomed with open arms everywhere. Some argue that the current, imposing of sanctions over sanctions is fueling nothing but hate and showing no solid returns in terms of ending of missile launches and denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. While others hold the view that sanctions may be defunct in some areas however it is the only safe approach of attempting to drain North Korea of resources so badly that they have no choice but to denuclearize.

As North Korea comes to the end of its sixth nuclear test concerns grow of North Korea and its nuclear capabilities. North Korea in its path of perfecting the hydrogen bomb joins what is called a select class of five countries that has successfully tested this Bomb, which is over hundred times more powerful than the atomic bomb. It must also be noted that North Korea's growing cyber capabilities have not failed to gain international attention.

In the wake of North Korea's growing power countries have become critical in recognizing supporters of North Korea and raising allegations against them for such a paltry act. Some countries do deny some allegations while others argue as they express their viewpoint. Understanding your countries stance is crucial in finding a solution to this issue in accordance with your countries policies.

Is North Korea genuinely concerned about its security or is it using US's 'Hostile Policy' as an excuse to conduct missile or nuclear test? This dilemma is the heart of why North Korea's rise to nuclear power is a gamble. Hence the expression of the side each country has chosen in this gamble is a vital part of the discussion of this topic.

## **Bloc Positions**

Nations that already have a confirmed stance for or against the agenda should align with the countries with a similar stance as theirs. Countries that do not have a definitive stance should focus on their involvement in different Nuclear treaties and pacts and should form blocs with their ally nations on this agenda. Ideally, there should be at least 2 blocs, one for and one against the Nuclear Power of DPRK so that there is constructive debate and a consensus can be reached.

## **Questions to consider**

1. What is your nation's stance on the issue?
2. What effort/action has been taken by your country regarding the agenda?
3. What are the possible short-term or long-term solutions to be taken to arrive at a consensus?
4. How does the committee aim to effectively balance the need to stop the Nuclear Power of DPRK and the misuse of this agenda by capitalist countries against the functioning of the DPRK?
5. Does your country support the frequent nuclear development tests conducted by DPRK ?
6. Has your country signed the NPT (Non Proliferation Treaty) and/or the CTBT (Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty)?
7. Does your nation have any relations with DPRK and its Nuclear Programme?
8. Is North Korea genuinely concerned about its security or is it using US's 'Hostile Policy' as an excuse to conduct missile or nuclear test?

## **Further Research**

North Korea's rise to Nuclear Power requires a thorough understanding of North Korea and its formation moreover studying North Korea's nuclear tests, Sanctions imposed on North Korea, North Korean retaliation to these sanctions and resolutions passed in the UN are important this can be done through the following sources:-

1. <http://www.bbc.com/news>
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3. <https://edition.cnn.com/>
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