



Study Guide

Committee: The United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

The question of disarmament and economic development in today's times with special emphasis on the Afghanistan crisis.

Letter from the chairs

Dear delegates,

If you hear the words, “Delegates we have a crisis update” followed by a unanimous awestruck “Oh my God!” chances are you’ve reached the United Nations Security Council at BDMUN.

Delegates, it is with great pride and ardour that we invite you to the Security Council, a constant at BDMUN. The ipso facto and premise of this SC is fast-paced, solution-oriented and crises-overloaded. Analogous to the SC in the United Nations, our simulation is a swivel-eyed committee with an aim to cultivate and test a delegate’s ability to think on their feet and dazzle unabashedly with their radical ideologies. In addition to that, this committee looks to use, in a skill of political diplomacy, a delegate’s articulate representation of their allocated nation, to cooperate and collaborate with others, to come up with plausible solutions favouring them. I look forward to chairing the SC, and developing constant riveting crises to ensure you have an indelible experience as a delegate!

My name is Aryaa Meghani, I have been relentlessly MUNing since the past 3 years. Although I may come off as intimidatingly bold in committee, my goofy and humorous personality (including some really bad puns) make me approachable to all. Outside the MUN, I genuinely care about anyone and everyone, despite what some may call my uncanny resemblance to the persona of a 5 year old. I have often been described as ‘the kind of girl who makes everyone laugh unintentionally and radiates warmth and happiness through her candour’. When it comes to the committee, work ethic is of utmost importance to me. I always strive to be a force to reckon with and try my best to drive each delegate to their maximum potential. My indefatigable nature and ability to read a person won’t allow you to slack or present any work that is not your best. I might be the epitome of sass and sarcasm, but feel free to reach out to me with your doubts on anything, be it procedure, the agenda or to know what music to listen to, the best way to increase your interest in photography or even when the best time to buy bitcoins is! I highly look forward to chairing at BDMUN 2021 and listening to some amazing arguments and points of views.

My name is Aahan Jhaveri. I am very enthusiastic about chairing at BDMUN 2021. I have been attending different MUN conferences ever since the eighth grade and this has benefited me in every single way possible. MUN has not only helped me with my speaking skills, social skills but has also changed the way I look at different situations. I have met people from various parts of India and around the world and this has shown me how to be co-operative and how to respect different opinions. Besides MUNing I love playing basketball and it’s safe to say that I am a huge LeBron fan (I assure you I’m not a typical sobo boy). I enjoy listening to rap and hip hop and like playing FIFA. I love exploring things

that I'm not aware of and I try to do something new everyday. I expect the delegates to be formal in the way they proceed during committee sessions. Being dominating over others isn't better than collaborating with others and that's what MUN is all about. Being well researched on the agenda at hand is vital and I expect to see each one of you to put your best foot forward and enjoy yourself over the course of the conference.

We eagerly look forward to seeing all of you take part with enthusiasm and determination!

Yours sincerely,

Aryaa Meghani & Aahan Jhaveri

Chairs of UNSC

BDMUN 2021

Background Information

During this period, the rest of the country was carved up among the various factions, with many mujahidin commanders establishing themselves as local warlords. Humanitarian agencies frequently found their offices stripped, their vehicles hijacked, and their staff threatened. [It may be worth emphasizing that this fragmentation was especially characteristic of southern Afghanistan, much less so of the north and west, which were governed more or less as mini-states by Ismail Khan, Dostum, and Hizb-i Wahdat]. It was against this background that the Taliban emerged. Former mujahidin who were disillusioned with the chaos that had followed their victory became the nucleus of a movement that coalesced around Mullah Mohammad Omar, a former mujahid from Kandahar province. The group, many of whom were madrasa (Islamic school) students, called themselves taliban, meaning students. Many others who became core members of the group were commanders in other predominantly Pashtun parties, and former Khalqi PDPA members. Their stated aims were to restore stability and enforce (their interpretation of) Islamic law. They successfully attacked local warlords and soon gained a reputation for military prowess, and acquired an arsenal of captured weapons. By October 1994 the movement had attracted the support of Pakistan, which saw in the Taliban a way to secure trade routes to Central Asia and establish a government in Kabul friendly to its interests. Pakistani traders who had long sought a

secure route to send their goods to Central Asia quickly became some of the Taliban's strongest financial backers. In September 1995, the Taliban took control of Herat, thereby cutting off the land route connecting the Islamic State of Afghanistan with Iran. The Taliban's innovative use of mobile warfare appeared to indicate that Pakistan had provided vital assistance for the capture of Herat. In September 1996, the Taliban took control of Kabul after Massoud was forced to retreat to the north. Sometime after Massoud's loss of Kabul, he began to obtain military assistance from Russia as well as Iran. The Northern Alliance was reconstituted in opposition to the Taliban. Osama bin Laden, who had left Afghanistan in 1990, returned in 1996, living first under the protection of the Jalalabad shura (tribal council), until the Taliban took control of Jalalabad and Kabul. In 1997 bin Laden moved to Qandahar where he developed a close relationship to Mullah Muhammad Umar, the head of the Taliban. His fighters fought alongside Taliban troops. In 1997, the Taliban renamed the country the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan; Mullah Omar assumed the title amir-ul momineen (commander of the faithful). In areas under their control, Taliban authorities enforced their version of Islamic law, enacting policies prohibiting women from working outside the home in activities other than health care, and requiring corporal punishment for those convicted of certain crimes. They prohibited women from attending universities and closed girls' schools in Kabul and some other cities, although primary schools for girls continued to operate in many other areas of the country under Taliban control. The Taliban also enforced a strict dress code for women, and required men to have beards and to refrain from Western haircuts or dress. Arguably the most powerful agency within the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, as the Taliban renamed the country, is the Ministry of Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice (al-Amr bi al-Ma'ruf wa al-Nahi 'an al-Munkir), which is responsible for the enforcement of all Taliban decrees regarding moral behavior. Through 1997 and 1998, the Taliban made repeated attempts to extend their control to the north of Afghanistan, where Dostum had carved out what amounted to a mini-state comprising five provinces which he administered from his headquarters in Sheberghan, west of the important city of Mazar-i Sharif. In Mazar-i Sharif, Dostum's forces controlled the city through an uneasy alliance with Hizb-i Wahdat, which had a stronghold in the large Hazara population in Mazar-i Sharif. On May 19, 1997, one of Dostum's deputies, Gen. Abdul Malik Pahlawan (generally known as "Malik"), who had a grievance against Dostum, struck an agreement with the Taliban and arrested a number of Dostum's commanders and as many as 5,000 of his soldiers. As the Taliban entered Mazar-i Sharif, Pakistan was quick to seize the opportunity to recognize the Taliban as the government of Afghanistan, as was Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. But the alliance with Malik quickly disintegrated when the Taliban attempted to disarm local Hazaras. Hundreds of Taliban soldiers were killed in the streets of Mazar-i Sharif, and some 3,000 were taken prisoner by Malik, and allegedly also by Hizb-i Wahdat, and

summarily executed. In August 1998 Taliban finally took control of Mazar-i Sharif and massacred at least 2,000 people, most of them Hazara civilians, after they took the city. In the aftermath, Dostum left Afghanistan for exile in Turkey; Malik also fled and has reportedly lived in exile in Iran since 1997. Shortly after taking control of Mazar-i Sharif, the Taliban took control of the town of Bamiyan, in the Hazara-dominated central highlands. Some time after this the erstwhile Northern Alliance enlisted the support of factions from outside their ethnic constituencies, including the Council of the East, a Pashtun group led by former members of the Jalalabad shura (council), and renamed themselves the United Islamic Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan, or United Front, for short. Rabbani remained the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. Dostum continues to command forces within the United Front; as does Muhammad Karim Khalili, head of Hizb-i Wahdat. Harakat-i Islami, another Shi'a party with significant Hazara support, is also part of the United Front. Sayyaf retains a leadership position within the United Front; many of his forces are believed to have joined the Taliban. In August 1998, the United States launched air strikes against bin Laden's reputed training camps near the Pakistan border. The strikes came in the wake of the bombings of the U.S. embassies in Nairobi and Dar es-Salaam. In October 1999 the U.N. imposed sanctions on the Taliban to turn over bin Laden, banning Taliban-controlled aircraft from takeoff and landing and freezing the Taliban's assets abroad. The Taliban's failure to hand over bin Laden led to an expansion of the sanctions regime on December 19, 2000, including an arms embargo on the Taliban, a ban on travel outside Afghanistan by Taliban officials of deputy ministerial rank, and the closing of Taliban offices abroad. Through 2000 and 2001, fighting continued in the northeast between Massoud's forces and the Taliban, with the Taliban taking control of Taloqan in September 2000, and driving the United Front further east to Faizabad. Fighting in the area, combined with the effects of a severe drought across the country, drove thousands of civilians into relief camps and into Pakistan. In the central province of Bamiyan, the forces of Hizb-i Wahdat and Harakat-i Islami, briefly took control of the town of Yakawlang in late December 2000, but lost it to the Taliban on January 8, 2001. After retaking the town, the Taliban massacred at least 178 civilians in reprisal. The town changed hands several times between January and June; during their last retreat from the area, Taliban troops burned down the town and many other villages in the district. In early 2001, Dostum returned to Afghanistan to meet with Massoud; his forces resumed guerrilla operations against the Taliban in mid-2001. At about the same time, the forces of Ismael Khan, the former Jamiat-i Islami governor of Herat who escaped from Taliban custody in 2000, also undertook guerrilla action against the Taliban in the center-west of the country. On September 9, 2001, Massoud was assassinated when suicide bombers disguised as journalists detonated a device hidden in a video camera. United Front leaders have claimed that the assassins were linked to bin Laden, and many observers believe that the

assassination was designed to deprive the United Front of its most effective leader in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Current Situation

The United States completed its military withdrawal ahead of its August 31 deadline, which had been set pursuant to an agreement with the Taliban signed in February 2020. Since the evacuation operation began on August 14, more than 123,000 people, most of them Afghans, have been evacuated, according to the U.S. government. But thousands more have been left behind, including Afghan interpreters and others who worked directly alongside U.S. military and government officials. In acknowledging that it did not get everyone out of the country that it wanted to, the United States has promised to find other ways for individuals to leave Afghanistan that do not require a U.S. military presence.

Even before the withdrawal of troops, the Taliban made it more difficult for civilians to flee the country and find safe harbor by erecting checkpoints and controlling access to Hamid Karzai International Airport and Afghanistan's land borders. Those who were able to reach the airport faced additional dangers of being crushed by crowds, abused by the Taliban, and targeted by terrorist attacks like the August 26 ISIS-K suicide attack that killed nearly 200 people.

With U.S. and allied forces now gone, the road to safety has gotten even more challenging. Despite this, thousands of people are continuing to search for pathways to safety.

Introduction to the topic

The coronavirus is throttling the global economy. In a matter of weeks, the highly contagious disease has pushed the world to the brink of a recession more severe than the 2008 financial crisis. The depth and duration of the downturn will depend on many factors, including the behavior of the virus itself, public health responses, and economic interventions.

Given the extraordinary nature of the pandemic-induced crisis, fiscal and monetary policymakers are working without a playbook. Many, however, are moving forward with stunning bailouts that could collectively top \$10 trillion.

Readings in April suggested the global economy was sailing into a colossal storm. “We anticipate the worst economic fallout since the Great Depression,” said Kristalina Georgieva, managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Meanwhile, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development said its indicators produced the strongest warning on record that most major economies had entered a “sharp slowdown.” The World Trade Organization, for its part, forecast that nearly all regions of the world would suffer double-digit declines in trade this year, with North American and Asian exporters hit hardest.

Many governments have effectively frozen social and economic activity in all or parts of their countries to contain the outbreak, shuttering nonessential businesses and ordering residents to stay at home for weeks or months. Billions of people worldwide remain under some type of lockdown. Major industries, especially airlines and other travel-related sectors, are on the brink of bankruptcy. The hope is that economies can power down without causing extreme disruptions, such as widespread business failures or joblessness, and then quickly get back up to speed after the pandemic abates.

Just how quickly governments should unshackle their economies is a matter of debate. Some governments in Asia and Europe that feel they’ve contained the virus have begun to slowly reopen their economies. Similarly, more than a dozen U.S. states are loosening restrictions, and President Trump did not renew federal social-distancing guidelines, which expired on April 30. But new outbreaks have already caused some countries to reimpose restraints.

For now, some economists hope for a strong global rebound in the third quarter, mirroring the recoveries in Asia after the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak of 2003. However, others warn that the pandemic could be far more economically destructive than any past outbreak, and caution that a recovery could take much longer.

In the meantime, many world powers are moving mountains to prop up their economies during the coronavirus downturn.

China: The world’s second-largest economy was stirring back to life in April after suffering a withering blow from the coronavirus, which originated in the city of Wuhan in Hubei Province in late 2019. Several weeks of government-imposed lockdowns on dozens of cities led to steep declines in factory output, retail sales, construction, and other economic activity. Overall, gross domestic product (GDP) dipped almost 7 percent in the first quarter, China’s first economic contraction in more than forty years. China’s leadership seems less inclined to spearhead a global economic recovery this time than it

did following the 2008 financial crisis, when it spent liberally on a stimulus package of more than a half trillion dollars. In the years since, China has roughly doubled its government debt—to about 60 percent of gross domestic product (GDP)—and many analysts think it cannot afford to spend so aggressively again. So far, China's central bank has taken relatively modest actions, reducing reserve requirements for banks, which will allow them to loan an additional \$80 billion to struggling businesses, and indicating that it will cut interest rates in the months ahead. "The normal monetary policy should be kept as long as possible," wrote central bank chief Yi Gang in late April. "The impact of the pandemic is temporary. China's economy has strong resilience and great potential, while the fundamentals for high-quality development won't change." Analysts say a major sign to watch will be Beijing's announcement of its annual growth target, which was postponed from March to May because of the virus. An ambitious goal of around 6 percent could signal that a hefty stimulus package is coming, while a more modest number, closer to 3 percent, would likely mean a continuation of the status quo. There is also a possibility that China may forgo setting a target for this year. To hit its long-held goal of doubling GDP between 2010 and 2020, China would have to grow at least 5.6 percent this year, a pace few economists think is possible.

Germany: The German economy is expected to shrink for the first time since 2009, anywhere from 3 to 10 percent this year. The government itself forecasted a contraction of just over 6 percent, which would be the economy's worst performance in decades. In March, nearly a half million German companies applied to have their employees join a short-term government work program intended to prevent mass layoffs. To counter the economic fallout from the coronavirus, Berlin is taking bold actions, abandoning its steadfast commitment to balanced budgets, known as *schwarze Null* or "black zero." It is allocating at least 350 billion euros—or about 10 percent of its GDP—to prop up the eurozone's largest economy. Funds will be spent to bail out struggling businesses, including by making unlimited loans and potentially taking equity stakes. "We're doing whatever is necessary," said Chancellor Angela Merkel, who also led the country through the 2008 crisis. "And we won't be asking every day what it means for our deficit." Officials note that Germany is poised to spend aggressively because the government has kept its finances in check in recent years, reducing its debt-to-GDP ratio from more than 80 percent in 2010 to below 60 percent today. After moving swiftly to control the outbreak within its borders, Germany announced in mid-April that it would slowly reopen its economy. However, Merkel cautioned state leaders—Germany has a federal system—to lift restrictions with great care.

Japan: Economists predict that Japan's export-driven economy will shrink by around 3 percent this year, which would be its worst performance since 2008. The deep impact from the pandemic comes on the heels of an economic slowdown from a sales tax hike last fall. The virus has also forced the government to postpone the Summer Olympics until next year. Like some of its peers in the West, the Japanese government has responded with a massive relief package, worth nearly \$1 trillion, to help the country through one of its most challenging periods in recent memory. The headline figure is equal to about 20 percent of Japan's GDP, but analysts say the actual spending impact will be much smaller. "It is no exaggeration to say that Japan's economy, and the world economy, is facing the biggest crisis since [World War II] right now. We will protect employment and life at all costs," said Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Bailout measures include cash payments to citizens and small and midsize businesses, interest-free loans, delayed tax payments, and travel and tourism coupons. Japan's central bank announced in late April that it was prepared to buy an unlimited amount of government debt and to double its purchases of corporate debt. However, some critics say the Bank of Japan has limited options after having kept interest rates next to zero for years.

United Kingdom: The pandemic is paralyzing the British economy just as its leaders are negotiating a post-Brexit relationship with the European Union. Prior to the outbreak, there were already concerns about a recession from a so-called hard Brexit. Economists say that the coronavirus pandemic could take a 5 to 10 percent slice out of the economy in 2020. The government is prepared to make interventions that would be "unprecedented in the history of the British state" to support the economy, finance minister Rishi Sunak said in early March. Among its emergency measures, the Treasury has pledged to pay 80 percent of workers' salaries for several months to keep companies from resorting to huge layoffs; offered to reimburse self-employed workers for lost wages; deferred tax payments; increased unemployment benefits; established a loan program for small and midsize companies; and provided rescue aid to charities. The Bank of England has dropped its benchmark interest rate to 0.5 percent, a record low, and loosened capital requirements for banks. In an extraordinary move in early April, the central bank agreed to directly finance the government's spending during the crisis, freeing it from having to issue debt in the bond market. All told, the rescue efforts could see Britain spend upward of 400 billion pounds, or about 15 percent of GDP.

United States: In a sign of the staggering toll the virus was taking on the U.S. economy, more than thirty million Americans—about one in six U.S. workers—have filed for unemployment since mid-March. Before this crisis, the highest number of filings in a single week was 695,000, in 1982. Economic output plunged by nearly 5 percent in the first three months of 2020, the steepest dive since 2008. Most analysts

expect the damage to be far worse in the second quarter, with some suggesting that the unemployment rate could reach as high as 40 percent, significantly higher than its peak of 25 percent during the Great Depression. While Washington has been criticized for mismanaging the public health response to the pandemic, it's also been credited with moving decisively to stabilize financial markets. In March, the Federal Reserve indicated that it will do anything within its power to support the economy and provide liquidity. Among the Fed's historic actions have been: cutting interest rates close to zero, reducing bank reserve requirements to zero, rapidly purchasing nearly \$2 trillion in Treasury bonds and mortgage-backed securities, buying corporate and municipal debt, and extending emergency credit to nonbanks. Meanwhile, on the fiscal side, lawmakers passed a \$2 trillion stimulus package in March that some analysts have characterized as a bridge loan to get the U.S. economy through the crisis. It includes direct payments of up to \$1200 to individuals, hundreds of billions of dollars in loans and grants to businesses, increases to unemployment benefits, and support for hospitals and health-care providers. "In effect, this is a wartime level of investment into our nation," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. A month later, Congress signed off on a second bailout package, this one totaling close to a half billion dollars and aimed at providing relief to small businesses and more aid to hospitals.

Multilateral Institutions

European Union: Eurozone finance ministers agreed to a 500-billion-euro package to provide emergency lending and other assistance to member countries, businesses, and workers. Christine Lagarde, president of the European Central Bank (ECB), has promised there will be "no limits" on the ECB's defense of the eurozone. The bank is set to buy up to 750 billion euros in additional bonds this year to help its members amid the downturn.

International Monetary Fund: The IMF has set aside \$100 billion to lend to member countries that are facing acute financial crises because of the coronavirus, with preference given to emerging economies. By early April, more than ninety countries had requested bailouts.

World Bank Group: President David Malpass said the bank was committing more than \$150 billion to counter the pandemic's effects. More than two dozen virus-related loan requests have been fast-tracked, with many more in the pipeline. Thus far, India has received the largest loan at \$1 billion.

Key Terms

Pandemic: A pandemic is defined as “an epidemic occurring worldwide, or over a very wide area, crossing international boundaries and usually affecting a large number of people”. The classical definition includes nothing about population immunity, virology or disease severity. By this definition, pandemics can be said to occur annually in each of the temperate southern and northern hemispheres, given that seasonal epidemics cross international boundaries and affect a large number of people. However, seasonal epidemics are not considered pandemics.

Epidemic: An epidemic is the rapid spread of disease to a large number of people in a given population within a short period of time. For example, in meningococcal infections, an attack rate in excess of 15 cases per 100,000 people for two consecutive weeks is considered an epidemic.

Economic Downturn: In economics, a recession is a business cycle contraction when there is a general decline in economic activity. Recessions generally occur when there is a widespread drop in spending.

Questions A Resolution Must Answer:

- 1) What led to the emergence of the Taliban in Afghanistan?
- 2) Could countries have approached the Afghan crisis differently?
- 3) Has COVID-19 impacted this move in any way?
- 4) Could the Afghan government have approached this situation differently?

General tips while debating and research

Come Prepared: Do not just come prepared with papers or speeches written down, but with your delegation's weaknesses, previous issues, economic weaknesses, and questionable actions about the case and prepare rebuttals for them. Anticipate attacks from other delegates, and come up with answers to refute them.

The best defense is a good offense: Start the criticism of opposing delegations with facts you have discovered weaken their stance. Demand that specific actions or statements of their country are explained.

Agree, and then refute: Start by agreeing with the other delegation, with what can be agreed with (and what won't hurt you) and then, refute it. It will make the power of your refute multiply.

Find a "universal principal" everyone agrees on: First, know your audience, then start your speech by stating a universal principle that everyone in the room will agree with. However, before you have started discussing your actual relevant points of debate, the entire audience will have for a moment, agreed with you.

Capitalize on your strengths: When in doubt, always remember your side's strengths, what good things you have, or did, or can do... And turn the focus on them.

Find common ground, and keep using it: When you find the debate is getting too overwhelming, and you need a certain delegation on your side, try to find something you both agree on, either from your foreign policy research or the other's speeches.

Admit fault: When necessary, when you are cornered, or when your side truly has made a mistake, admit the fault. Admitting fault in this little part in which you can no longer prove you were right, will actually strengthen your other arguments.

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