

Security Council Topic Summaries

Topic A: Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

The 2000 *Report on the Panel of Peace Operations*, commonly known as the *Brahimi Report*, describes peacebuilding as a variety of measures meant to prevent countries from entering new conflict or reigniting existing conflicts by engaging in activities to establish a foundation for peace.¹ This type of conflict prevention requires continuous engagement as well as different kinds of involvement depending on the State and nature of conflict.² In 2016, both the General Assembly and the Security Council passed resolutions calling for a more comprehensive approach to address conflict, including *A/RES/70/262* and *S/RES/2282*, both of which emphasize the need to prevent conflict from happening rather than only respond after a conflict has begun.³ In 2017, United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres called on the Security Council to focus its efforts on the prevention of conflict and creation of trust between governments and people and among Member States.⁴ Since the adoption of the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, the Security Council has recognized its importance in the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG16, the goal dedicated to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies. Outside the Security Council, the Peacebuilding Commission and the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund actively support peace efforts around the globe.⁵ International discussions on how to improve peacebuilding efforts are ongoing and regularly occur under the auspices of the Security Council.

Topic B: Enhancing the Effectiveness of UN Sanctions

Sanctions have long been used by the United Nations to address a variety of issues, including to deter illegal regime changes, to protect human rights, and to promote non-proliferation.⁶ The *Charter of the United Nations* grants authority to the Security Council to impose sanctions under Chapter VII, specifically Article 41. There are currently thirteen sanction regimes imposed on different entities.⁷ In 2015, pursuant to a Security Council resolution, there was a high-level review of the effectiveness of sanctions. The report gave 150 recommendations, many of which were for the Security Council, including recommendations to extend sanctions regimes and increase the resources made available for enforcement.⁸ On August 3, 2017 the Security Council held a briefing on the effectiveness of sanctions, at which Assistant Secretary-General Tayé-Brook Zerihoun stated that sanctions are one part of a broader strategy to promote peace and prevent conflict and that one way to enhance the effectiveness of UN sanctions is to better involve Member States.⁹ He also called for support from across United Nations bodies to improve the effectiveness of sanctions.¹⁰ Discussions regarding how to improve the effectiveness of sanctions are ongoing, as are analyses of how to improve the effectiveness of other United Nations efforts, including mediation.¹¹

¹ <https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/193085/PolBrief78.pdf>

² http://www.academia.edu/31016531/UN_manual_for_conflict_prevention.pdf

³ <https://www.un.org/pga/72/wp-content/uploads/sites/51/2017/11/Concept-note.pdf>

⁴ <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12673.doc.htm>

⁵ http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2282.pdf

⁶ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2017/08/562792-un-sanctions-formidable-instrument-global-peace-and-security-security-council>

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ http://www.onpcsb.ro/pdf/HLR_Compendium_2015.pdf

⁹ <http://www.un.org/undpa/en/speeches-statements/03082017/sanctions>

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ <https://unu.edu/sanctions-and-mediation>

Topic C: The Situation in Ukraine

The current situation in Ukraine began in 2014 when Russia entered Crimean territory, shortly before the people of Crimea voted for independence and asked to be a part of Russia in March that same year.¹² In response, the General Assembly adopted *A/RES/68/262* in April 2014, which addresses the issues in Crimea and expressed the international community's commitment to the territorial integrity of Ukraine.¹³ The situation in Ukraine has not been resolved in the time since and major concerns remain for both the government of Ukraine and the international community.¹⁴ There have been numerous cease-fire violations as well as thousands of deaths, including civilians.¹⁵ The situation in Ukraine is not exclusively related to violence, as there are human rights and socio-economic issues as well; many people have been displaced by the fighting or are unable to lead normal productive lives.¹⁶ In 2017, the government of Ukraine and the United Nations created a five-year partnership which focuses on democratic governance and human security, especially in eastern Ukraine.¹⁷ On March 15, 2018, the Security Council had an Arria-Formula meeting regarding Crimea. At this meeting, Member States discussed how the Security Council can better respond to this situation including what measures can be taken.¹⁸ The Security Council also issued a press release in January 2017 expressing their concern about violence in eastern Ukraine.¹⁹

¹² <https://www.rt.com/news/crimea-referendum-results-official-250/>

¹³ http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/262

¹⁴ <https://ukraineun.org/en/ukraine-and-unscc/our-priorities/>

¹⁵ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2017/06/559322-conflict-ukraine-enters-fourth-year-no-end-sight-un-report>

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/government-ukraine-united-nations-partnership-framework-2018-2022-enuk>

¹⁸ <http://www.whatsinblue.org/2018/03/crimea-arria-formula-meeting.php>

¹⁹ <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12700.doc.htm>