

Welcome Delegates to PANGEA 2020 and the United Nations Security Council

In 1945, following the end of World War II, the United Nations was created, with a Security Council, tasked with handling issues of international security concerns. The five victorious States from WWII – China, France, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the Soviet Union – became the permanent members, with veto power. In 1965, the number of non-permanent members was increased from 6 to 10. Non-permanent members are elected for two-year terms, with five seats changing on a rotational bases, with the stipulation that retiring members may no return for immediate re-election.¹ The full 15-member Council elects a president each month, following the English alphabetical order of the Member States' names. Decisions by the SC require at least nine votes, five of which must be from the permanent members, who have the power to veto.

Article 24 of the United Nations Charter states that the SC is authorized to make binding decisions, which other Member States must follow.² When seeking to maintain peace and security, the SC's first action focuses on reaching a peaceful consensus between disputing parties through an agreement, undertaking investigation and mediation, appointing special envoys, or requesting that the Secretary-General use his good offices to achieve a pacific settlement of a dispute. If the dispute should escalate, the SC's mission is to bring hostilities to an end, perhaps through ceasefire directives, or sending military observers. Sending peacekeeping forces is an option requiring consensus of the State to which the forces are sent. The SC may also implement economic sanctions, arms embargoes, financial restrictions, travel bans, and severing of diplomatic relations, blockades, and, if deemed essential, collective military action.

¹ <http://www.unfoundation.org>

² "Charter of the United Nations," The United Nations, June 26, 1945, <http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-v/>

The agenda for the Security Council is always open, as it must deal with what Member States in the Council regard as issues of international security concerns. Each State serving on the SC has the right to bring an issue to the agenda for discussion and action, and must garner support for this among a majority of the States on the SC.