



WrightMUN

High School Model UN Conference Guide

Saturday, April 13, 2024

Wright State University

White Hall

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Conference Timeline (BRIEF)

8:00-9:00am	Arrival, Sign-In and Continental Breakfast
9:00am	Opening Ceremony
9:30am	Committee Session 1
12:00-1:00	Lunch
1:00pm	Committee Session 2
4:00pm	Closing Ceremony

Conference Timeline (DETAILED)

8:00-9:00am **Arrival, Sign-In and Continental Breakfast**

9:00am **Opening Ceremony** (White Hall Gandhi Auditorium)

 *Drs. Shannon and Anderson Welcome and Announcements

 *SecGen and Deputy SecGen overview of conference and Rules of Procedure

9:30am Committee Session 1

- UNEA in White Hall Rm 101 (Gandhi Auditorium)
- SC in White Hall Rm 120 (McGee Auditorium)

12:00-1:00 **Lunch**

1:00pm Committee Session 2

- UNEA in White Hall Rm 101 (Gandhi Auditorium)
- SC in White Hall Rm 120 (McGee Auditorium)

4:00pm **Closing Ceremony** (Gandhi Auditorium)

Conference Staff and Roles

Staff

Secretary General **Angie Loyd**

Deputy Secretary General **Crystal Burns**

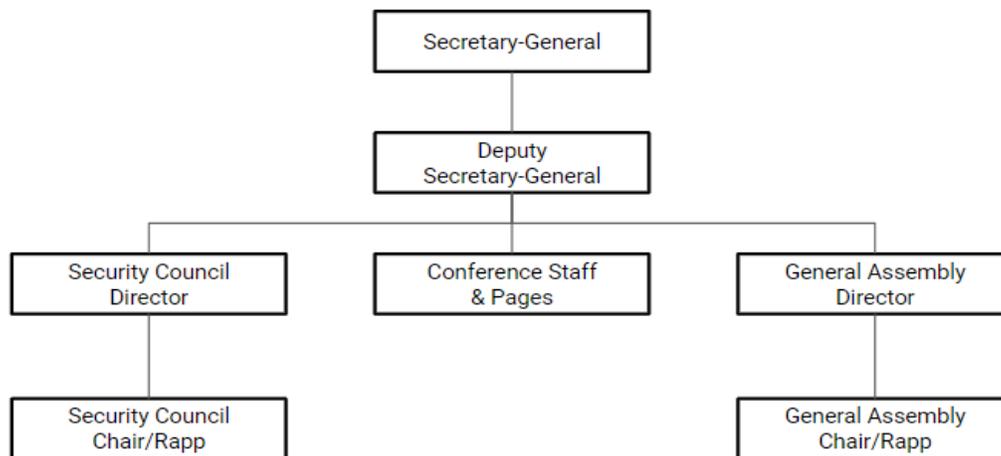
UNEA Director **Marwah Almuzoughi**

Chair **Destiny Mullen**

Security Council Director **Eliza Hendrix**

Chair **Murphy Vanbalen**

Faculty Advisers **Liam Anderson and Vaughn Shannon**



Secretary-General (SG): Head of the conference staff and assists the Faculty Advisers in conference preparation. The SG is available to all students, staff, and faculty advisors for any questions or concerns.

Deputy Secretary-General (DSG): Assists the SG in all conference matters.

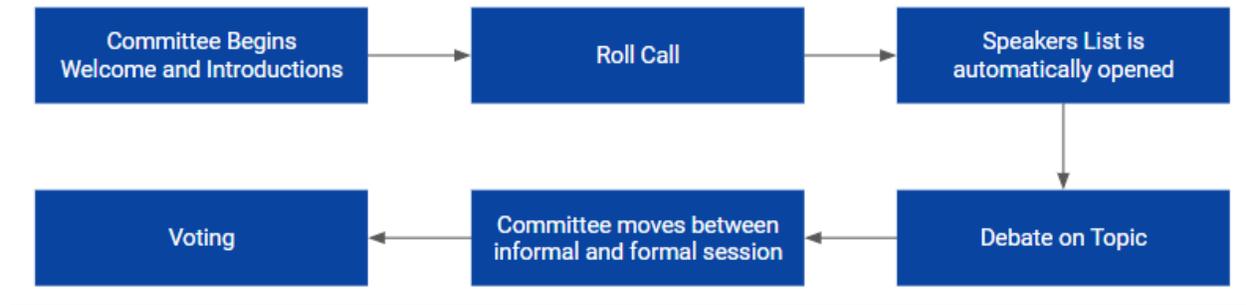
Committees are composed of a Director and Chair, collectively known as the Dais (*Day-us*).

Dais: Table at the front of the conference room where the Director and Chair are located.

Director: Staff member that is responsible for the committee. The Director decided the committee topics and wrote the associated Background Guide.

Chair: Staff member in charge of leading the committee in formal session in accordance with rules of procedure.

How Committee Works



Committee flows between formal and informal sessions. During formal session, decorum must be maintained as a sign of respect for fellow delegates and staff. It is important to note that in order to be recognized in formal session delegates must raise their placard.

The following activities occurring during formal session:

- Rules and procedures are enforced by the Dais
- Decorum must be maintained
- Professional conduct is always required
- Speakers' list is managed
- Policy speeches are conducted
- Delegates may not work on working papers during formal session
- Delegates may pass notes as a form to communicate with other delegates;

While in a formal session, delegates are not allowed to speak; however, they are allowed to pass notes. Notes are subject to inspection by the Dais at any time and all notes passed must be committee relevant and appropriate. Informal session is when the committee has suspended formal session for a granted period of time voted on by the committee.

Informal session is for the creation of working papers and negotiating between delegates. Delegates will negotiate policy and collaborate to generate working papers that outline the solutions to the topic before the committee. Once accepted by the Dais, a working paper becomes a Draft Resolution. During voting session, Draft Resolutions are voted on. If the Draft Resolution obtains the required votes then it becomes a Resolution. Only the SC has the ability to create legally binding resolutions.

Conference Rules and Procedures

Rules and Procedures are critical to maintain order and the flow of the committee. Delegates are to raise their placard to be recognized by the chair to make a motion, to vote, or during roll call. Understanding rules and procedure is critical for delegates. Please refer to the following for a list of motions that can be made in committee with an explanation as to the purpose and associated voting. For your convenience, a short form summary sheet of motions is included.

WrightMUN Rules of Procedure (Long Form)

Motion	Purpose	Debate	Vote	Explanation
Point of Order*	Correct an error in procedure	None	None	Refers to specific rule
Appeal of the Chair*	Challenge an initial decision of the Chair on a Point of Order	None	Majority	Question the Chair's ruling on a Point of Order
Suspension of the Meeting	Recess meeting for a defined period	None	Majority	Used to go into informal session or break for a given amount of time
Adjournment of the Meeting	End Meeting	None	Majority	Used only on final day; End committee for the year
Adjournment of Debate	End debate without substantive vote	2 in Favor 2 Against	Majority	Ends debate on the topic; Requires a recorded vote
Closure of Debate	Vote on all Draft Resolutions; Moves committee immediately into voting procedure	2 Against	2/3 Majority	Ends all discussion on current topic

Division of the Proposal (Used in voting only)*	<p>Consider clause(s) separately from rest of draft resolution to create an annex</p> <p>Part I: Procedural vote on if this motion should be considered.</p> <p>Part II: Substantive vote to accept or reject separate clauses</p>	<p>2 in Favor</p> <p>2 Against</p>	Majority	<p>Voted on in order of the most to least disruptive change to the document</p> <p>If passes: Annex passes</p> <p>If fails: Clause(s) discarded and no longer part of any draft resolution</p>
Request Recorded Vote (Used in Voting only)*	Document the votes of committee members; The default is to adopt by consensus	None	None	Granted upon request without deliberation, electronic voting replaces Roll Call votes; other motions may still be considered
Reconsideration	Reopen debate on an issue (Motion must be made by Member who voted in favor of Adjournment of Debate)	2 Against	2/3 Majority	Reopen debate on a topic that was previously ended by Adjournment of Debate
Set the Speaker's Time	Set or change the time allotted to each speaker	<p>2 in Favor</p> <p>2 Against</p>	Majority	Prior approval from Dais required or may be ruled out of order; never permitted during the first committee session

Close the Speakers List	No additional speakers may be added to the list	None	Majority	No additional speakers may be added to the list and once it is exhausted, committee will go into voting procedure
Reopen the Speakers List	Open a closed list	None	Majority	Reopens the speakers list allowing more speakers to be added
Adoption of the Agenda	Approval of agenda order	None	Majority	Sets the order in which topics will be discussed

WrightMUN

Rules of Procedure (Short Form)

Motion	Debate	Vote
Point of Order*	None	None
Appeal of the Chair*	None	Majority
Suspension of the Meeting	None	Majority
Adjournment of the Meeting	None	Majority
Adjournment of Debate	2 in Favor, 2 Against	Majority
Closure of Debate	2 Against	2/3 Majority
Division of the Proposal (Used in voting only)*	2 in Favor, 2 Against	Majority
Request Recorded Vote (Used in Voting only)*	None	None
Reconsideration	2 Against	2/3 Majority
Set the Speaker's Time	2 in Favor, 2 Against	Majority
Close the Speakers List	None	Majority
Reopen the Speakers List	None	Majority
Adoption of the Agenda	None	Majority

UN Environment Assembly Background Guide

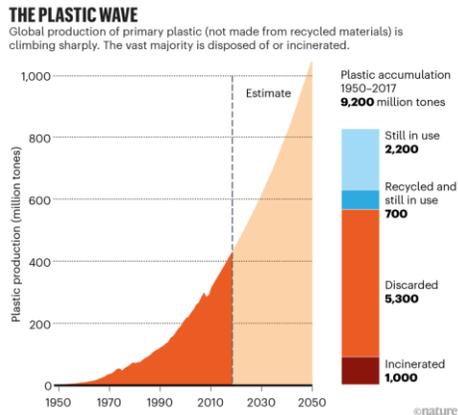
Topic: Plastic Pollution and a Global Plastic Treaty

Introduction

Plastics have been around since the 1940s, and have become ubiquitous in products pervasive in society. While most recognize some benefits of plastics in terms of cost and durability, they also come with liabilities. Chief among the concerns is that plastic takes at least 400 years to break down so, once created, it remains (ie. every plastic ever created still exists!).¹ Since plastic does not go away, vastly increased production has led to increased disposal and waste. UNEP estimates about 400 million tons of plastic waste is generated every year.² Very little is recycled (about 9%), so the rest is either gathering in landfills, incinerated or “improperly” discarded (see Figure 1 below).³ Plastic pollution in the oceans, in rivers and on land is affecting not just the aesthetics of the environment but the health and wellness of human and animal life.

Some plastic products are seen as more “problematic and avoidable” than others.⁴ Short-lived and single-use plastics common in the food and beverage industries are included in this category, as are products with intentionally added microplastics. Microplastics aren’t just created but also are the result of the breakdown of plastic into parts smaller than 5mm. The presence of microplastics (and even smaller nanoplastics) are adding to problems of pollution and potentially animal health as they are ingested and passed through the food chain. Chemicals that go into production are also seen as problematic to health and environment.

Figure 1. Global Plastic Production and Disposal



¹ https://www.unep.org/interactives/beat-plastic-pollution/?gad_source=1&qclid=CjwKCAiA_tuuBhAUEiwAvxkgThOaErAowrfU5fHS_xcJC8_IRgpeX--5srFqkm6ifuNyTvPCYwZcxxoC6mMQAvD_BwE

² https://www.unep.org/interactives/beat-plastic-pollution/?gad_source=1&qclid=CjwKCAiA_tuuBhAUEiwAvxkgThOaErAowrfU5fHS_xcJC8_IRgpeX--5srFqkm6ifuNyTvPCYwZcxxoC6mMQAvD_BwE

³ <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-022-03793-3>

⁴ “Removing Avoidable and Problematic (Plastic) Packaging. ERM Sustainability Institute <https://www.sustainability.com/thinking/removing-avoidable-and-problematic-plastic-packaging/>

In 2022, the UN Environment Assembly called for the creation of an internationally legally binding instrument (ILBI) on plastics pollution by the end of 2024. UNEA’s call started a process of successive meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INCs) to End Plastic Pollution. This UNEA committee session will address those efforts to conclude a treaty based on the latest developments towards a treaty from the INC-3 in Nairobi, Kenya. The so-called “Zero Draft” (see below) serves as a common reference and point of departure for the UNEA simulation,⁵ but the body is free to discuss other aspects of plastic pollution, or incorporate discussions based on prevailing and updated national, regional or international policies and agreements. UNEA may agree to endorse the Zero Draft as is, or offer recommendations for its alteration in the next negotiations (INC-4) later in April in Canada.⁶

Should the Member States wish to move beyond the contents of the INC deliberations, separate issues with a tie-in to plastic pollution could be considered that would be either narrower than a full treaty or wider and more encompassing. Arguments for action addressing plastic pollution can address multiple Sustainable Development Goals (see Figure 2 below). Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13, Climate Action, focuses on combating climate change and its impacts.⁷ Other connections to plastic pollution may include SDG 14 related to life below water, owing to the pollution in the oceans and in marine life. SDG 15, pertaining to life on land, touches on matters of pollution and quality of life. SDG 12, Responsible Consumption and Production, has a potential link to the life cycle of plastic, should Member States seek to make a connection.

Figure 2. The Environmental SDGs



Such separate issues can include, among others: Waste exports, Climate change and Health considerations. Given the enduring nature of plastic and the limited nature of recycling, the issue of plastic (and waste) export and import is an important consideration. Some countries are net exporters and others net importers in ways raising health and environmental concerns in receiving countries (see Figure 3 below).⁸ This has led some countries to begin to “say no” to

⁵ <https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/44526/RevisedZeroDraftText.pdf>

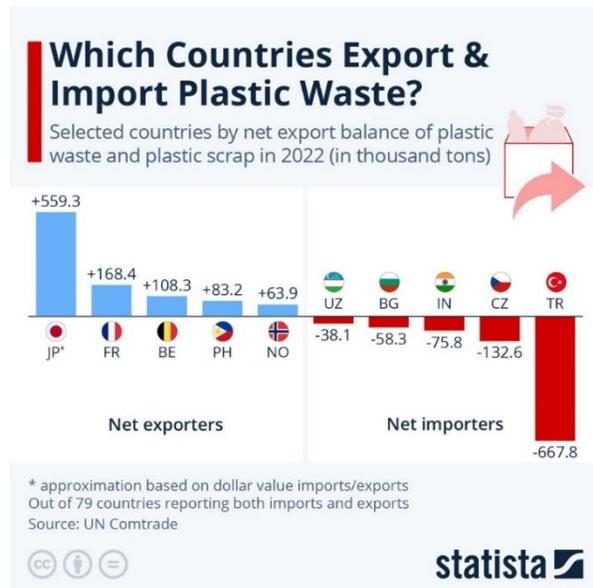
⁶ <https://www.unep.org/inc-plastic-pollution/session-4>

⁷ <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal13>

⁸ <https://www.statista.com/chart/18229/biggest-exporters-of-plastic-waste-and-scrap/>

plastic and broader waste imports, making the disposal question an increasing problem for the producing and exporting countries.⁹

Figure 3. Net Exporters and Importers of Plastic Waste



Because 99% of plastics are produced from petroleum and other non-renewable fossil fuels,¹⁰ the includes implications of plastic production to broader climate change. The UN defines climate change as “long-term shifts in temperatures and weather patterns. These shifts may be natural, such as through variations in the solar cycle”.¹¹ Humans are both impacted negatively by climate change and also contribute by burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gas. The continued rising global temperatures, CO2 emissions, and large-scale disasters increase levels of risk of human rights abuses, impacting livelihoods, displacement of persons, and threatening the lives of persons.¹² Petroleum products provide the basis for most plastics, and fossil fuels are at the heart of the man-made contribution to climate change. The WHO has called for the health consequences of both climate change and plastics pollution, the latter surrounding especially the chemicals behind plastic production and the health effects of improper disposal.¹³

Existing Frameworks and Initiatives

Prior to UNEA Resolution 5/14 (2022), Plastic Pollution has been directly or indirectly addressed in previous arenas and initiatives including United Nations Environment Programme UNEP/EA.4/Res.6 on Marine plastic litter and microplastics (2019). The World Health

⁹ See, for example, China’s “National Sword Policy (2017) <https://www.centerforecotecnology.org/what-is-the-national-sword/>

¹⁰ “Plastic Pollution in the Ocean: 15 Dirty Facts You Should Know.” *Eco Redux* <https://www.ecoredux.com/plastic-pollution-in-ocean>

¹¹ <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change>

¹² <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/ClimateChange/COP21.pdf>

¹³ Elaine Ruth Fletcher. “WHO Asks Member States: Join Talks on Global Plastics Treaty, Up Game in Climate Action for Health.” *Health Policy Watch*, January 27, 2024 <https://healthpolicy-watch.news/who-asks-member-states-to-join-talks-on-global-plastic-treaty-and-up-the-game-with-climate-action/>

Organization identified that drinking water was laced with microplastic, calling for more research into the possible adverse health effects.¹⁴ The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal, of which 187 countries were party by the end of 2020, restricted transboundary movement of hazardous and other wastes that – while not including plastic – applied to some chemical components of plastic.¹⁵

The founding document for a treaty process to address plastic pollution is UNEA resolution 5/14 (2022)¹⁶, which called for an internationally legally binding instrument on plastic pollution by the end of 2024. That process has yielded interim progress at various “INC” meetings. INC-1 took place in Uruguay late 2022, INC-2 was held in Paris May-June 2023, and INC-3 in Kenya last November (see Figure 4 below).¹⁷ Reference to the “Zero Draft” document refers to the draft treaty from INC-3, found here: <https://www.unep.org/inc-plastic-pollution/session-4/documents>.

From these initial rounds there arose different camps in the plastics pollution debate. A “High Ambition Coalition” (HAC) sees plastic pollution as a “planetary crisis” necessitating an end to plastic pollution by 2040.¹⁸ Others calling themselves the “Global Coalition for Plastics Sustainability” are calling for more nationally determined metrics and goals and the management of plastics.

Figure 4. The Negotiation Timeline for a Plastic Pollution Treaty



The content of the “Zero Draft” document after INC-3 centers around clarifying the objectives of the Instrument as well as the core Obligations and Measures to be expected of signatories. The issues contained in the Zero Draft document relate to the following stages in the plastic product life cycle: Production, Transportation, Consumption and Disposal.

¹⁴ “Microplastics in Drinking-Water.” WHO Technical Document, 28 August 2019

<https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789241516198>

¹⁵<https://www.basel.int/TheConvention/Overview/tabid/1271/Default.aspx> and <https://www.epa.gov/hwgenerators/international-agreements-transboundary-shipments-hazardous-waste#basel>

¹⁶<https://wedocs.unep.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.11822/39764/END%20PLASTIC%20POLLUTION%20-%20TOWARDS%20AN%20INTERNATIONAL%20LEGALLY%20BINDING%20INSTRUMENT%20-%20English.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

¹⁷ While in the “real world,” an INC-4 is slated for April in Canada ahead of a final session in South Korea October-November 2024, we will treat this simulation as the culminating session to finish an instrument for adoption by the international community.

¹⁸ [High Ambition Coalition to End Plastic Pollution \(hactoendplasticpollution.org\)](https://hactoendplasticpollution.org)

In addition to consulting the Zero Draft of the Plastic Pollution Treaty, Member States should consult domestic laws and policies as well as regional and other international agreements, treaties and policies addressing plastic production, transport, consumption and disposal.¹⁹

Should Member States seek to tie in broader issues such as climate change, it must be in explicit context of the effects of plastic production, transportation, consumption and disposal. Relevant recent instruments related to climate change include the Paris Agreement (2015), a multilateral Agreement legally binding Member States to combat climate change and its associated effects.²⁰ The Paris Agreement focuses on the mitigation of climate change damage, climate-oriented monetary aid, and harm avoidance through the reduction of greenhouse gasses.²¹ The goal of the agreement is to keep the global temperature rise below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius.²² Each State party to the agreement is required to create strategies to cut emissions and adapt to climate impacts, these strategies are nationally determined contributions (NDCs), to be updated every five years and assessed at that mark.²³

Questions to Consider

Below are suggestions for research and cooperation in committee. Consider what effective action UNEA can accomplish to promote solutions to the plastics pollution problem.

- 1. What national, regional and global plastic laws has your state adopted? (Consult the Global Plastic Laws database for assistance: <https://www.globalplasticlaws.org/>)**
- 2. Is your Member State a member of the High Ambition Coalition, or the Global Coalition for Plastics Sustainability?**
- 3. Is your Member State an exporter or importer of plastic waste? Does your country benefit from these exports and imports? What options does it have to ameliorate the economic impact of reducing plastic intake? <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/cp/charting-the-movement-of-global-plastic-waste/>**
- 4. Is your country or its industries a producer of primary plastics, the chemicals behind plastics production, or the fossil fuels behind 99% of plastic production? What options does it have to ameliorate the economic impact of reducing plastic production?**
- 5. How does plastics pollution fit into the broader issue of climate change? What initiatives does your Member State have to combat climate change and contribute to SDG 13?**

¹⁹ See the Global Plastic Laws Database: <https://www.globalplasticlaws.org/>

²⁰ <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement>

²¹ https://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol

²² <https://unfccc.int/most-requested/key-aspects-of-the-paris-agreement>

²³ <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/all-about-ndcs>

Security Council Background Guide

Topic: Yemen and the Red Sea

Introduction

The crisis in the Red Sea is both narrow and broad. In essence, a violent nonstate actor, Ansar Allah (called “the Houthi”) has been attacking ships transiting the Red Sea from its positions in northwest Yemen since the Fall of 2023.

The declared reasons for the Houthi’s actions relate to the broader conflict involving Israel and Hamas in Gaza begun October 7, 2023. Further complicating the situation, the Houthi’s are part of a broader regional competition between the US, Israel and Sunni Arab states in the Middle East and an Iran-led coalition calling themselves the “Axis of Resistance.” Iran’s partners include Lebanon’s Hizb’allah, Palestinian Hamas, various militias in Syria and Iraq, and the Houthi in Yemen.

How narrow or broad you wish to tackle the problem in committee is up to you, Delegates. Minimally, the shipping question in the Red Sea needs to be addressed. If there is time and interest, discussions can broaden to the political situation in Yemen, where an uneasy truce exists between the Houthi and the “Internationally Recognized Government”. An ambitious Security council could broaden deliberations further to the conflict in Gaza and broader Israel-Palestine conflict.

Background

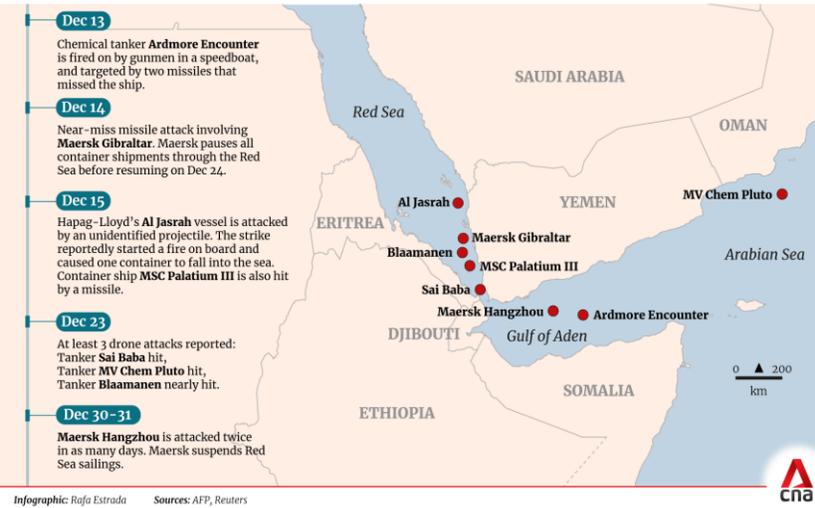
Yemen was one of several countries that succumbed to the turbulence of the Arab Spring. Long-standing authoritarian President Ali Saleh faced increasing protest to his rule in 2011. The Saudis brokered a UN-endorsed deal whereby Saleh stepped down and was replaced by his Vice President, Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi, who would lead a UN-endorsed “National Dialogue” towards a more inclusive Yemen.

The imperfect process gave way to a civil war in 2014, when the Houthi rebellion launched from the north in alliance with the disgruntled former President Saleh. Iran armed and aided the Shi’a group’s efforts as they swept through the capitol, Sana’a, sending the Hadi government south to Aden. In 2015, a Saudi-led coalition intervened in the Yemeni civil war on behalf of the Hadi regime. A civil war and proxy war continued for several years until, in April 2022, a truce went into place among the warring factions.

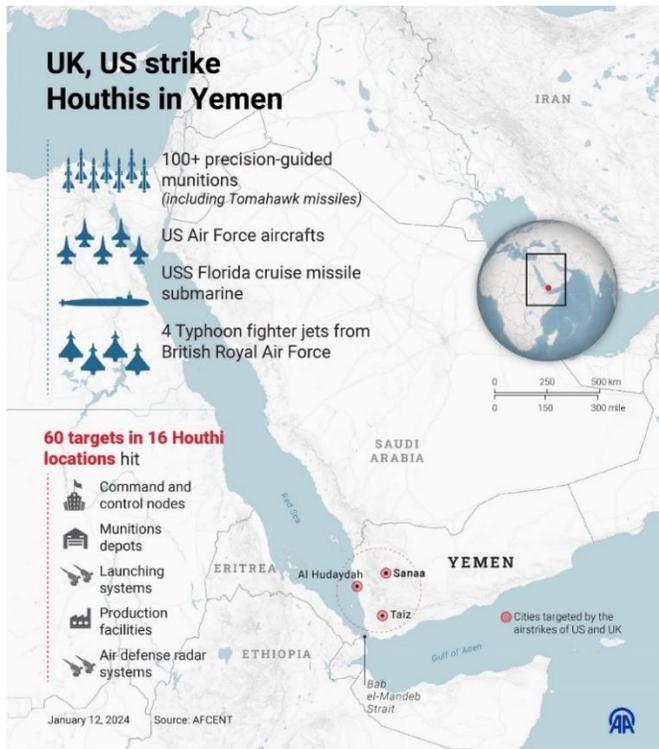
On October 7, 2023, in another part of the region, Hamas attacked Israel in a brazen raid that killed 1200 and captured over 200 hostages. Israel’s response was swift and fierce against the group based out of the territory known as Gaza Strip. In support of Hamas and the Palestinians, and in opposition to Israel’s aggressive advances in Gaza, the Houthi took it upon themselves to enter the fray, launching attacks against ships in the Red Sea it identified as on the side of Israel.

Attacks on ships in the Red Sea

Since Nov 19, there have been more than 20 attacks on merchant ships by Houthi militants in the Red Sea. Here are some of the major attacks:



The US and UK have led others in retaliatory strikes on the premise of deterring further attacks and securing international shipping. Such actions also risk a wider regional war.



The Houthi, among other things, are part of what Iran calls an “Axis of Resistance,”²⁴ a network of violent non-state actors in Gaza, Lebanon, Syria and Iraq (see table below). Attacks on the Houthi could bring retaliation and escalation beyond Yemen to other areas of the Middle East,

²⁴ Brian Katz, “Axis Rising: Iran’s Evolving Regional Strategy and Non-State Partnerships in the Middle East.” CSIS, October 11, 2018 <https://www.csis.org/analysis/axis-rising-irans-evolving-regional-strategy-and-non-state-partnerships-middle-east>

where Iranian proxies have already committed violence in Iraq, Jordan and Israel. Whether the Security Council takes on broader regional security issues, members should be mindful of the potentialities of a wider conflict in their deliberations.

FROM AXIS TO ALLIANCE		
The strengthening of individual resistance axes and their evolving ties to Iran suggest a patron-proxy model is insufficient to capture the dynamics between Iran and affiliated groups. Blending military interdependence, mutual commitment, and individual motivations, the axis is better conceptualized as an alliance. Though imperfect, an alliance model more effectively captures the axis's strategic concept, disposition, and roles and missions.		
CONCEPT		
Like most alliances, the axis serves to balance the threat of common adversaries: Israel, the United States, and Saudi Arabia. ¹²⁸ The axes are committed to collective security and mutual defense but also maintain unique security goals. Iran serves as security guarantor for the alliance, while allies provide Iran extended deterrence. ¹²⁹ The axis embodies several historical motivators of alliance formation, such as shared external threat perception and ideological solidarity. ¹²⁰		
	DISPOSITION	ROLES AND MISSIONS
	The axis bloc is centered on extended deterrence arrayed over multiple, non-contiguous fronts.	Axis warfighting doctrine centers on the projection of expeditionary power. Member roles are determined by military capabilities and proximity to adversaries.
IRAN 	Bloc bastion, holding the bulk of the alliance's conventional strength and its missile and defense architecture needed to deter major military action. ^{122,122}	Primary role is as expeditionary ally, to train, equip, advise, and enable other partners. ¹²²
HEZBOLLAH 	Iran's forward defense, primary front against Israel and, along with the Syrian regime, the alliance's base of power projection into the Levant and Eastern Mediterranean. ¹²⁴	Plays a similar paramilitary and advisory role to Iran while also being the main combat element against Israel. ^{125,126}
IRAQI PMF 	Provides strategic depth for Iran and potential thoroughfare to the Levant. ^{127,128}	Conduct expeditionary operations—particularly AAH, HHN, and KH—and pressure U.S. forces in Iraq. ^{129,130}
HOUTHIS 	Forward flank to contest Saudi Arabia and adversaries' sea lines of communication. ¹³¹	Apply pressure to Saudi Arabia, dislocate Saudi and Gulf combat strength, ¹³² and disrupt their and U.S. maritime activity as needed. ¹³³
PROXIES 	Ready-reserve militia forces in their host countries—e.g., Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan—or forward deployed with Iran. ^{134,135}	Comprise a "foreign legion" of additional manpower Iran can deploy across theaters for operations or protect Iranian interests in their home countries. ^{136,137,138}

Existing frameworks

The Narrow Question: International Waters and Violence in the Red Sea

Attacks on international shipping have long been forbidden. International waters, that is, those not belonging to any national government, are subject to freedom of navigation against piracy and harm by the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea.²⁵ As early as 2016, the matter of international shipping through the Red Sea has gained the attention of the Security Council. A 2016 Security Council Press Statement "strongly condemned an attack by Houthi forces on a UAE vessel operating near Bab al-Mandeb," signaling that members of the Council "take threats

²⁵ https://www.un.org/depts/los/convention_agreements/texts/unclos/unclos_e.pdf

to shipping around Bab al-Mandeb...seriously” and stressing “that the continued exercise of freedom of navigation in and around Bab al-Mandeb strait” must be upheld.²⁶

After numerous attacks by the Houthi on shipping, Security Council Resolution 2722 (2024) demanded the group “cease its brazen” attacks, citing UNCLOS and freedom of the seas.²⁷ Still, as of early February, attacks had continued, numbering at least 29 ships and including 13 struck by drone or missile.²⁸

The Houthi attacks aren’t the only side of the crisis drawing international attention. In mid-February Russia and China called the retaliatory strikes by the US and UK “illegal” since the UN Security Council had not authorized military action.²⁹ Others note that the shipping disruption has not only economic costs but humanitarian costs as well. The International Rescue Committee lamented that humanitarian shipments to Sudan (itself suffering from civil war) “now take months to reach us” due to the delays associated with avoiding the Red Sea.³⁰

Should addressing the shipping attacks be tied back to the political stalemate in Yemen, it should be noted that the UN Office of the Special envoy of the Secretary General for Yemen brokered a truce in 2022 that included:

- A halt to military operations and a freeze in current military positions in Yemen
- Resumed fuel shipments to Yemen through the port at Hodeida
- Resumed commercial flights in and out of Sanaa Airport
- An agreement to engage in meetings on steps towards ending the war³¹

The three main parties in conflict at the time were the Hadi government, known as the “Internationally Recognized Government,” the Houthi, and a secessionist in the south/southeast known as the Southern Transitional Council.³²

Previous UN documents on the Yemen civil war included a December 2018 ceasefire for humanitarian reasons,³³ and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs’ “Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan 2021” for addressing refugees and famine amidst the civil war.³⁴ The Security Council endorsed the Saudi-led Transition plan of 2011 (S/Res/2014), and deplored the Houthi’s actions to dissolve the Yemeni government in 2015 (S/Res/2201).³⁵ Subsequent resolutions demanded a Houthi withdrawal from seized areas combined with an

²⁶ Security Council Press Statement on Yemen, October 4, 2016 <https://press.un.org/en/2016/sc12541.doc.htm>

²⁷ <https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15561.doc.htm> and

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n24/009/28/pdf/n2400928.pdf?token=kVFCtKbD7xrxq0X4Ei&fe=true>

²⁸ Simon Scarr et al. “Red Sea Attacks.” *Reuters*, February 2, 2024 <https://www.reuters.com/graphics/ISRAEL-PALESTINIANS/SHIPPING-ARMS/lqvdnngeyvo/>

²⁹ Edith Lederer. “Russia and China clash with US and UK over Attacks on Yemen rebels.” *Associated Press*, February 14, 2024 <https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/russia-china-clash-us-uk-attacks-yemen-rebels-107247927>

³⁰ Fred Harter. “Houthi Attacks in Red Sea Having a ‘catastrophic’ effect on aid to Sudan.” *The Guardian*, February 16, 2024.

³¹ “UN Initiative for a Two-Month Truce.” OSEGGY <https://osesgy.unmissions.org/united-nations-initiative-two-month-truce-0>

³² Mohammed Sameai. “After 9 Years of War, control of Yemen remains divided among 3 Sides.” *Anadolu Ajansi*, December 4, 2023 <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/after-9-years-of-war-control-of-yemen-remains-divided-among-3-sides/2870283>

³³ <https://yemen.un.org/en/about/about-the-un>

³⁴ <https://reliefweb.int/report/yemen/yemen-humanitarian-response-plan-2021-march-2021-enar>

³⁵ https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2201.pdf and <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/YEMEN%20S%20RES%202014.pdf>

arms embargo (S/Res/2216 of 2015), followed by sanctions for their non-compliance in 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021.³⁶

In response to the crisis begun Fall 2023, the UN special envoy for Yemen, Hans Grundberg, announced efforts to recommit parties to the ceasefire and engage in a UN-led peace process, which was endorsed by the internationally recognized government.³⁷

The Broader Question: Regional Security and the Israel-Hamas War

Should students wish to address the broader issue behind the Houthi's declared motives, there is ample ground for the Security Council to address the Israel-Hamas war and broader Israel-Palestine conflict.

The UN proposed a two-state solution in Palestine as far back as 1947 (UN General Assembly resolution 181). It has been engaged in the Palestine problem since the 1948 war in which Israel gained independence, setting up the UN Relief Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees still in operation in Gaza and other adjacent territories to Israel.

UN General Assembly resolution 194 called for the refugees' "Right of Return." In the later Six Day War of 1967, Israel sieged and claimed the so-called "occupied territories" of Gaza, West Bank, East Jerusalem, Golan Heights and Sinai Peninsula. UN resolution 242 (and later resolution 338) have called for the return of lands in exchange for recognition and peace in the area.³⁸ Egypt and Israel exchanged land for peace in the 1978 Camp David Accords, but a Palestinian land for peace deal has yet to be negotiated despite the many efforts of the "Oslo peace process" of the 1990s.

After the failure of Oslo and resumption of violence between Israel and Palestinians in Gaza and West Bank, the UN endorsed the so-called "Quartet Road Map for Peace,"³⁹ a vision for a two-state solution with Israel and Palestine living "side by side in peace" (UN resolution 1515).⁴⁰ The Annapolis conference of 2007 was the last multilateral attempt at negotiations.

Unilateral and bilateral attempts at solutions have been attempted by the US and others. Donald Trump relocated the US Embassy to Israel to Jerusalem, despite the lack of international recognition of that territory as Israeli.⁴¹ President Trump also offered an "ultimate deal" for Israel and Palestine that was rebuffed by the Palestinians.⁴² The 2020 Abraham Accords brought recognition of Israel by Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. The Saudis were seen as on the verge of normalization as well when the October 7, 2023 attack occurred. With the region's

³⁶ Security Council resolutions on the issue of Yemen can be found here:

https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un_documents_type/security-council-resolutions/page/2?ctype=Yemen&cbtype=yemen#038:cbtype=yemen

³⁷ "Yemen government welcomes UN Road Map to End War." VOA, December 24, 2023 <https://www.voanews.com/a/yemen-government-welcomes-un-road-map-to-end-war-/7410569.html>

³⁸ Security Council resolutions on the "Palestine Question" can be found here: <https://www.un.org/unispal/document-category/resolution/>

³⁹ <https://peacemaker.un.org/israel-palestine-roadmap2003>

⁴⁰ <https://press.un.org/en/2003/sc7924.doc.htm>

⁴¹ See for example S/Res/446 (1979) on Jerusalem, occupied territories and settlements

<https://documents.un.org/doc/resolution/gen/nr0/370/60/pdf/nr037060.pdf?token=62OCR90qfMz6OjRupW&fe=true>

⁴² Chris McGreal. "How Jared Kushner Crafted his Middle East 'peace' Plan." *The Guardian*, January 28, 2022 <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jan/27/jared-kushner-israel-palestine-peace-plan>

public opinion inflamed against Israel, the Saudis have backpedaled and indicated there will be no normalization with Israel without action on a Palestinian state.⁴³

Beyond the question of the military situation in Gaza and a broader political solution to the Question of Palestine, other UN General Assembly and Human Rights Council have addressed human rights matters in the 2023 war and prior, related to matters of Israeli occupation and collective punishment.⁴⁴ The International Court of Justice took up the question of the Gaza War and genocide, ruling among other things that Israel shall “take all measures within its power” to prevent (a) the expulsion and forced displacement of Gazans from their homes; (b) the deprivation of access to food, water, medical supplies and humanitarian assistance; and (c) the destruction of Palestinian life in Gaza.⁴⁵

Questions to Consider

Below are suggestions for research and cooperation in committee. Consider what effective action the Security Council can accomplish on narrow or broader aspects of the Red Sea crisis.

- 1. What is your Member State’s position on the law of the sea and international commerce? What have been the effects on international shipping and yours?**
- 2. What is your Member State’s position on taking military actions against the Houthi in the name of international shipping rights?**
- 3. What is your Member State’s position on Yemen, the civil war and humanitarian consequences, and the truce in place since 2022?**
- 4. What is your Member State’s position on Israel, the Palestinians, and the 2023 Gaza War? Considerations of a broader peace for Israel-Palestine may be in order, so what is your country’s views of the Quartet Road Map to Peace and the idea of a two-state solution?**

⁴³ Aziz el Yaakoubi and Parisa Hafezi. “Saudi Arabia puts Israel deal on ice amid war, engages with Iran, sources say.” *Reuters*, October 13, 2023 <https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/saudi-arabia-puts-israel-deal-ice-amid-war-engages-with-iran-sources-say-2023-10-13/>

⁴⁴ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/co-israel/index> and <https://www.un.org/unispal/291591-2/>

⁴⁵ ICJ. “Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip (South Africa v. Israel).” January 26, 2024 <https://www.icj-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/192/192-20240126-sum-01-00-en.pdf>