

RENMUN VII

Peace in Permanence



March 5-6, 2022

Chair Report

Chair Introduction

Dear delegates,

Welcome to the UN Security Council! We're Justin Cheng, 16, a junior at Diocesan Boys' School, and David Won, a sophomore at German Swiss International School, and we're delighted to have you for this conference. We look forward to the fruitful debate and hope that delegates can engage in an immersive and engaging debate. Having been involved in a number of MUN conferences over the past few years, we hope we'll be able to set an enjoyable yet professional tone for the seventh interaction of RENMUN this year.

The United Nations Security Council is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, charged with ensuring international peace and security, as well as other roles; a committee we've both liked for its nuance and fast pace. As such, we've chosen the situations pertaining to Russia and South Sudan as the two topics for the council, which we believe encapsulates some of the best parts of the SC, as they are both still changing and evolving over time.

Being an advanced committee, delegates are expected to thoroughly research the topic and be prepared for debate, not only using this chair report but also other independent means. Should you have any questions, feel free to reach out! That being said, don't stress yourself out too much for the conference; after all, having fun is also very important. Apart from awards and glory, we personally really hope all delegates would be able to make new connections and just have fun over the conference, and I'm looking forward to fruitful debate and dialogue.

I wish you the best of the luck in the conference!

Best wishes,

Justin Cheng (chengjustin333@gmail.com)

David Won (205925@learning.gsis.edu.hk)

Addressing the South Sudanese Conflict

On July 9th 2011, South Sudan marked its long-fought independence from Sudan, overwhelmingly supported by 99% of the populace at the time. Since then, the new-formed country descended into a bloody seven-year civil war, and while a peace deal was inked by warring parties in 2018, a myriad of conflicts rage on. As such, blatant breaches of human rights, localized ethnic and intercommunal violence, as well as abysmal humanitarian, food security, and economic conditions all have been prominent within the country, calling for an urgent address by the UN Security Council.

While South Sudan's bloody history stretches back decades, many current issues essentially stem from the civil war. This was fought between the government forces of President Salva Kiir, armed opposition group Sudan People's Liberation Movement-in Opposition (SPLM-IO) led by current first vice president Riek Machar, and other armed groups and affiliated militias, originally due to growing dissension within the then ruling party. Such simmering distaste soon escalated to conflict, as, in late December of 2013, gunfire erupted between those loyal to Kiir and those loyal to Machar, causing Kiir to accuse Machar and ten others of attempting a coup d'état. Denying the allegations, Machar fled to lead the SPLM – in opposition (SPLM-IO). Fighting broke out between the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) and SPLM-IO, igniting the civil war. Subsequently, Ugandan troops were deployed to fight alongside the South Sudanese government, and United Nations peacekeepers as part of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).

In the following years, attempts would be made to enforce ceasefires. As the ceasefires continued to be broken, a coalition government was ultimately formed by Kiir and Machar, through a unity deal, officially ending the South Sudanese Civil War with the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity. However, in spite of such endeavors, disputes still occur, as the tenuous Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) continues to be delayed. Moreover, the humanitarian crisis has only been exacerbated in recent times due to the ongoing pandemic.

Key Terms

Term	Definition
Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS)	The second of the two power-sharing agreements that have been signed since civil war broke out in South Sudan in December 2013. Signed in September 2018, the R-ARCSS continues to experience implementation challenges and ceasefire violations, while some of the parties declined to sign it.
Intergovernmental Authority on Development + (IGAD+)	A body made up of an eight-country trade bloc in Africa, as well as African Union, United Nations, China, the EU, USA, UK and Norway, which mediated the 2014 ceasefire negotiations
United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)	A United Nations peacekeeping mission for South Sudan which aims to foster longer-term statebuilding and economic development, support the Government of the Republic of South Sudan in exercising its responsibilities for conflict prevention, mitigation and resolution and protect civilians, among other goals.
Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)	The Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) is a political party in South Sudan, originally founded as the political wing of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) in 1983. Factionalism in the party occurred due to the civil war, with then President Salva Kiir leading one such faction.
Sudan People's Liberation Movement Opposition (SPLM-IO)	South Sudanese political party and rebel group that split from the SPLM in 2013, due to political altercations between the then-president Salva Kiir and Riek Machar. Its ideology (or in some cases, the lack thereof) is essentially identical to the SPLM, and differs solely in ethnic matters.
Sudan People's Liberation Army-in Opposition	Aligned with the ruling party splinter group, the SPLM-IO, the SPLA-IO is the military force of the

(SPLA-IO)	SPLM-IO are known as and consist of deserters from the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), alongside the private armies of rebel warlords and tribal militias. The group is led by Riek Machar.
-----------	--

Background Information

In context to the situation described in the topic introduction, the government formed in 2011 to lead South Sudan was weak from its formation. Although the referendum that led to independence from Sudan resulted from a peace process that ended one of Africa's longest wars, it did not account for the years of brutality all sides committed against civilians, as well as to address the deep disenfranchisement and grievances of many in the south that were already creating new armed insurgencies. Moreover, altercations between ethnic groups would result in hundreds of deaths in some cases.

Timeline

Date	Event
July 9th 2011	Independence day—South Sudan officially declares independence from the Republic of the Sudan.
Aug 2011 - 2013 June	A myriad of conflicts between ethnic rivals, the Sudanese army and rebels, as well as over oil production occur, resulting in 600 deaths and the displacement of more than 100,000.
Dec 2013	Civil war erupts and rebel factions seize control of several regional towns; thousands are killed and many more flee. Uganda troops intervene on the government's side.
Jan 2014	A ceasefire agreement is made but is continually broken, and further talks in February fail to put an end to the war that displaces more than 1,000,000 by April.
Apr 2014	Some UN reports detail pro-Machar forces sacking the oil town of Bentiu, causing the death of hundreds of civilians.
Aug 2014	The Ethiopian capital hosts peace talks in light of the now almost year long civil war, but conflict continues.
Apr 2016	Riek Machar returns as first vice-president in a new unity government - but is promptly sacked and goes back into exile in July after further conflict.

Nov 2016	Kenyan troops are withdrawn from the UNMISS after the Kenyan commander is sacked, and Japanese troops arrive at the scene, being the first in over 70 years that Japan has deployed its soldiers overseas with a mandate to use necessary force.
Dec 2016	President Kiir denies claims of a process of ethnic cleansing by a UN commission on human rights.
Feb 2017	Due to the civil war and economic collapse, famines are declared in parts of South Sudan.
May 2017	National dialogue is finally launched with President Kiir calling for a ceasefire, but refugees continue to flee the violence to Uganda.
July 2018	The United States successfully passes an arms embargo on South Sudan through the UN Security Council, following a 2016 failure, with Russia and China abstaining from voting.
Sep 2018	President Kiir signs R-ARCSS with Riek Machar and other opposition groups in an effort to end the war.
Feb 2020	It is announced that South Sudan will return to 10 states in addition to three administrative areas.
Mar 2021	After two and a half years since the 2018 peace deal, the dissolution of parliament in order to bring a new parliament that shares power with the rebel groups occurs.

Status Quo

While not depicted in the timeline, as stated before, intercommunal violence has taken a rise since the peace deal of 2018, in part due to spillover grievances from the war and competition over resources, resulting in the deaths or displacement of thousands. Political and military leaders have added to the violence by supplying weapons to communities. The slow and selective implementation of R-ARCSS is also an issue that plagues South Sudan, as well as recent flooding which is estimated to be the worst in 60 years. Moreover, the region must meet security, procedural and logistical requirements to create an enabling environment for elections in South Sudan.

Potential Clashes

Sanctions

A potential clash could be to do with sanctions on South Sudan, perhaps in the form of military sanctions. Given the nature of the situation, this could scale down the violence in the South Sudan region, potentially saving thousands of lives and allowing a smoother implementation of R-ARCSS. However, due to the strong opposition that would occur, as well as a strong backlash, the practicability of this solution can be called into question.

Violence against UN workers

Yet another potential clash has to do with the feasibility of the deployment of UN personnel in South Sudan. It has been said that with increased tension with the UN and outside powers over the government's actions has given rise to a new shift in violence by the government against foreign peacekeepers, aid workers and diplomats. Likewise, this extends to NGOs and international workers, as seen time and time again, such as the multitude of gang rape cases in 2016 by 80 - 100 South Sudanese troops. Nearby peacekeepers from China even refused to help the victims. A World Food Programme warehouse was ransacked in July of the same year, and stole roughly thirty million dollars worth of food. As such, this must be considered when developing solutions for the crisis.

UNMISS Reform

Finally, as suggested below in the potential solutions section, and detailed in the past actions section, while the reform of the UNMISS could be a route to be pursued in an effort to better the situation at hand, it brings up some clashes. Critics of the UNMISS have suggested the "autonomous recovery" of South Sudan, leaving the nation to solve their conflict autonomously, due to the UNMISS' supposedly questionable handling of the situation in the past. Whether a reform is a viable solution, or perhaps a dissolution and redevelopment of the UN Mission, with different procedures in helping South Sudan, is a better option is a question that should be considered carefully.

Key Stakeholders

Stakeholder	Involvement with the Issue
SPLM-IO	Being the face of the rebels, and a South-Sudanese political party led by Riek Machar, SPLM-IO is deeply connected to the issue, and is claimed to be supported by Sudan by the South Sudanese government.
SSPDF	Formerly the SPLA, the SSPDF is the army of the Republic of South Sudan, and is supplied by a myriad of countries, namely, Russia, China, Ethiopia, the USA, and others.
IGAD+ (Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya, China, USA, UK, Norway, and others)	The mentioned countries have all demonstrated some degree of interest in a ceasefire, as seen by their mediation of the 2014 ceasefire agreement negotiations.
USA	The USA has been the largest donor of humanitarian assistance to Sudan and South Sudan for more than a quarter century.
United Kingdom	In 2017, the United Kingdom began Operation Trenton, a deployment of over 300 personnel to support UNMISS, showing a willingness to protect South Sudanese civilians.
South Sudan	Being at the center of the conflict itself, South Sudan is very much invested in the issue, not only having state allies such as Egypt, and allegedly Uganda.
Egypt, Uganda	Both states have shown support to South Sudan, and were allies in the South Sudanese Civil War. The Egyptian and South Sudanese Presidents met last year in October to enhance bilateral relations at the political, economic and security levels, while Sudan-Egypt relations have deteriorated due to conflict at the border in October of 2020, in the form of South Sudan's

	army accusing the Ugandan army of making a “major incursion” into its territory that led to fighting in which two South Sudanese soldiers were killed.
--	--

Possible Solutions

A potential solution to alleviating the impacts of this issue could include a reform to the UNMISS such that civilian protection may be executed in a timely and effective manner, as opposed to its current performance. This can be in the form of a change in how peacekeeping or humanitarian aid missions are carried out in South Sudan to reduce violence both to civilians and UN workers, an extension of the UNMISS Mandate to incorporate broader areas of focus, or increased manpower or funding to the UNMISS. This solution may serve as a short term fix to the problem, but not prevent future conflict from occurring, as it is only a mitigation measure. Another consideration could be in the light of neo-trusteeship: peacekeeping efforts should be oriented towards state building under the coordination of a leading (outside) state. Specifically, this would pertain to increasing the governance capacity of the country, for instance through increasing its capability to collect taxes. An international framework to oversee such action, serving as a more concrete and future-proof measure. Most notably, it is crucial to develop a solution that not only better the status quo, but prevents conflict altogether in the future.

Another solution could be a negotiated implementation of R-ARCSS in order to curb the ongoing violence in South Sudan. Being one of the key issues in solving both the humanitarian and political situation in South Sudan, countries may accept terms through debate, or even adapt some conditions to reflect on the current status quo. This will most likely serve as a long-term solution, and bar future conflicts to an extent.

Finally, halting the atrocities occurring in South Sudan and providing humanitarian aid in an effort to facilitate a recovery from the civil war (for example addressing the food security in the nation) could also serve as a potential solution. This would allow for a short-term recuperation in the county, but more long-term measures will have to be employed alongside this solution to prevent future conflict. For instance, humanitarian aid could take the form of stabilizing food security, energy security, as well as the expansion of temporary shelter and medical facilities in the region. Again, delegates will have to consider the potential drawbacks of taking heavy intervention, such as strong retaliation with more violence.

Past Actions

Since its inception, the UN has been highly involved with South Sudan, namely in the form of the UNMISS. As of March 2021, it consists of 14,222 military personnel, 1,446 police, and 2,228 civilian workers, as well as small contingents of experts and volunteers. From the independence of South Sudan, UN Mission camps would be set up to shelter civilians from the violence occurring in the country. Despite such efforts, as demonstrated throughout the mission's history, a multitude of incidents have pointed towards an inability of the UN Mission to protect civilians, calling into question its efficacy; some even advocate for a system of neo-trusteeship, in which, under the coordination of an outside state, peacekeeping efforts should be more oriented towards state building.

Guiding Questions

- How can nations deal with the humanitarian issues at hand stemming from the conflict, and curb the ongoing violence?
- How can nations prevent the possibility of South Sudan breaking yet again into war?
 - ◆ What policy measures and frameworks can be implemented to facilitate this?
- Should a reform of the UNMISS be considered in order to better the situation in South Sudan?
 - ◆ How can the past peacekeeping “fiascos” be avoided?
 - ◆ Should the UN Mission be dissolved in entirety, or can it still be bettered?
 - ◆ Is neo-trusteeship a feasible alternative solution?
- Given South Sudan’s bloody status quo, how can nations effectively intervene without worsening the situation and potentially harming civilians?

Bibliography

- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Sudanese_Civil_War
- <http://bbc.com/news/world-africa-14069082>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Mission_in_South_Sudan
- <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/07/09/south-sudan-crossroads>
- <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/civil-war-south-sudan>
- <https://www.britannica.com/place/Sudan/Conflict-with-South-Sudan>