



United Nations General Assembly Handbook

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United Nations General Assembly (GA)



It is an honor for the members of this committee that you have decided to join the General Assembly Committee at MAZEMUN, we want to give you a warm and friendly welcome, hoping that within this three days of hard work you will manage to grow personally and learn a lot from this amazing experience.

We exhort to all the delegates to represent and defend the postures of all the countries assigned, to make the debate more entertained and hoping that you will be prepared for the occasion and make this debate more interesting.

The General Assembly has full confidence in your negotiation skills, work and enthusiasm in order to make the discussion fruitful. We are completely at your disposal at any time prior to and during the debate.

Nowadays the problems that surround us are very important and difficult to the world, giving you the opportunity to collaborate and explore new ways to better the world and change history, with the participation of all the members of the committee and the board, we want to make this three day the best experience, so that when you leave, you will have attained a new mind set about the global problems that surround us and someday hoping that you will make a difference.

- Juan Carlos Villarreal, President of General Assembly



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Topic A: Reform of the United Nations Security Council

The Security Council is the United Nations' most powerful body, it has primary responsibility for the maintenance of the security and international peace. The security council recommends the General Assembly the admission of new members and together they elect the judges for the International Court of Justice.

To resolve international conflicts, the Security Council sometimes imposes sanctions. The Council also frequently deploys Peacekeeping missions that bring soldiers and police directly into conflict zones. Peacekeeping is the UN's largest and most expensive activity and it can also be controversial, especially when hard or difficult operations apply lethal force.

One of the key reform issues is *the veto*. The five permanent members gave themselves this right when the UN was set up in 1945 and have clung to it ever since. An issue is not just the veto, which is rare, but the "Hidden Veto" which is used constantly by permanent members as a threat to get their way. Every member has a different perspective and they'll do everything that is on their possessions to defend their thoughts and achieve their goals.

The Council is composed of 15 Members:

Five permanent members:

China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly:

- Angola (2014-2016, President: Argentina)
- Egypt (2015-2017, President: Spain)
- Japan (2015-2017, President: Spain)
- Malaysia (2014-2016, President: Argentina)
- New Zeland (2014-2016, President: Argentina)
- Senegal (2015-2017, President: Spain)
- Spain (2014-2016, President: Argentina)
- Ukraine (2015-2017, President: Spain)
- Uruguay (2015-2017, President: Spain)
- Venezuela (2014-2016, President: Argentina)¹

¹ UNSC Members (2015)



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Statements created by different representatives of some countries:

- **Statement by the African group (March 4, 2009)**

The African group says that the current membership in the Security Council is unacceptable. It argues that Africa should have no less than two permanent seats with all the privileges of the current five permanent members. The group claims that better African representation in the Council will contribute to the maintenance of peace and security in the continent. ²

- **Statement by H.E. Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti on Security Council Reform at the Seventh Round of Intergovernmental Negotiations (March 2, 2011)**

This statement stresses that the negotiating text still needs to be condensed. Furthermore, it emphasizes that member states must take the initiative to keep the reform movement moving forward. (Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations)³

- **Statement by Chinese Li Baodong**

This statement focuses on reform of the working methods of the Security Council. It recommends further strengthening of “communication and interaction” with non-Council members. Little attention is paid to the other main issues in Council reform, including membership changes. (Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations)⁴

- **Statement by Colombia and Italy on Security Council Reform (April 20, 2009)**

To Create a more efficient Security Council, Columbia and Italy propose either to eliminate the veto or to limit the extent of its power. In addition, the participation by non-permanent members ought to be enhanced. The two countries also criticize the current balance between the main bodies of the UN, arguing that the Security Council is not accountable to the General Assembly and increasingly undertakes tasks originally assigned to the larger body. (Permanent Mission of Colombia to the UN)⁵

² Permanent mission of the republic of sierra leone to the united nations 245 East 49th Street, New York NY 10017 By H.E. Mr. Shekou Momodu Touray

³ Permanent Mission of Brazil to the United Nations, March 2, 2011 By Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti

⁴ Permanent Mission of the People's Republic of China to the United Nations, April 22, 2010 By Li Baodong

⁵ Permanent Mission of Colombia and Italy to the United Nations, April 20, 2009 By H.E Ambassador Claudia Blum



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- **Statement by Mr. Gérard Araud, Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations (November 11, 2010)**

In this statement, Ambassador Araud stresses the need to focus on creating a workable text from the text that Ambassador Tanin of Afghanistan compiled from the positions of the member states. (Permanent Mission of France to the UN)⁶

- **Letter Submitted by the Germany to the Open Ended Working Group of the Security Council (March 31, 2000)**

A proposal from Germany for Council members to explain reasons for casting a veto. Germany argues that for veto members of the Council, justifying their actions might make it more difficult for them to cast a veto. In an ideal scenario, they might even refrain from using the veto altogether.⁷

- **Statement by Pakistan Ambassador on Security Council Reform (July 11, 2005)**

In his statement to the General Assembly during the debate on the Group of Four's draft framework resolution, Pakistani Ambassador Munir Akram warns that Brazil, Germany, India and Japan have "hijacked" the important goal of strengthening the UN. Using strongly critical language, Akram says the G-4's drive for permanent Security Council seats is purely a selfish move, and "to add insult to injury, self-interest has been portrayed as altruism." Akram instead endorses the proposal of the Uniting for Consensus group.⁸

- **Russian Deputy Granovsky , (June 22, 1999)**

We hope political means in the Kosovo crisis settlement under the aegis of the UN and with the central role of the Security Council, achieved with great difficulty will help to learn appropriate lessons from the past and restore the relevant role and prestige of the Council. Finding a truly viable formula of Security Council enlargement which is based on the broadest possible agreement, including support on the part of all five permanent members of the Security Council is to serve this purpose.⁹

⁶ Permanent Mission of France to the UN, November 11, 2010 By Mr. Gérard Araud

⁷ From the Permanent Representative of Germany to the President of the General Assembly, Dated 31 March 2000

⁸ Permanent Mission of Pakistan to the United Nations, July 11, 2005, Statement by Ambassador Munir Akram

⁹ Permanent Mission of Russia to the United Nations, June 22, 1999, By Deputy Granovsky



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- **UK/French Position on Reform of the United Nations Security Council (March 1, 2010)**

This position paper was written in response to Ambassador Zahir Tanin’s request for member-states’ positions on the issue of Security Council Reform for the Open Ended Working Group. The position paper mainly discusses membership issues and the possibility of intermediate solutions for immediate reform to allow progress as negotiations for permanent reform continue.¹⁰

- **Statement by Ambassador Susan E. Rice, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations, (February 19, 2009)**

In this statements, Ambassador Rice highlights the need for Security Council reform to make the Council representative of a 21st century world, and expresses US support for expansion as long as it does not reduce the effectiveness or efficiency of the body. The US also sees Council reform as a separate issue from more general UN reform. (US Mission to the UN)¹¹

These statements mention the constant inconvenience of both the permanent membership of the countries as well as The Veto, which limit the actions that can be taken by the United Nations Security Council.

Fig.1 Use of Veto by the Five Permanents

	1946	1950	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2015
Russia	41	25	13	6	3	2	4	5	2
U.S.A	0	2	0	20	41	2	10	1	0
England	0	2	1	10	14	0	0	0	0
France	0	0	0	7	7	0	0	0	0
China	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	6	0

¹⁰ Permanent Mission of UK to the United Nations, March 1, 2010 By H.E Ambassador Zahir Tanin

¹¹ Mission from the United States to The Uniddet Nations, FebruRY 19, 2009 By Susan E. Rice



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Topic B: Minsk protocol

Representatives of Ukraine, the Russian Federation, the Donetsk People's Republic (DPR), and the Lugansk People's Republic (LPR) signed the Minsk Protocol, this was an agreement made in order to stop and prevent the war in the Donbass region of Ukraine. On September 5 of 2014 the agreement was signed in Minsk, Belarus, with the cooperation of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

After more than 16 hours of negotiations in Minsk, the leaders. In a joint declaration, Angela Merkel, François Hollande, Vladimir Putin and Petro Poroshenko stated their commitment to respecting Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The document states that regular meetings will be held to ensure the fulfilment of the Minsk agreements.

International reactions were cautiously optimistic. As EU leaders gathered in Brussels for an informal European Council meeting, world leaders welcomed the agreement, saying it gave 'hope', while at the same time emphasising the importance of implementing the deal on the ground.

Background: Crisis in Ukraine

The crisis started after President Viktor Yanukovich refused to sign the Association Agreement in november, 2013 with United States, at the same time searching for closer ties with Russia. After some groups like the pro-Western, started protesting, this caused Yanukovich to fled from Ukraine to Moacow Russia, which responded by annexing Crimea, at the same time the pro-Russian separatists got control of Donetsk and Luhansk. The Association Agreement was signed by Eu and Ukraine s elected president Petro Poroshenko.



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The text of the protocol consists of twelve points:

1. To ensure an immediate bilateral ceasefire;
2. To ensure the monitoring and verification of the ceasefire by the OSCE ;
3. Decentralisation of power, including through the adoption of the Ukrainian law "On temporary Order of Local Self-Governance in Particular Districts of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts";
4. To ensure the permanent monitoring of the Ukrainian-Russian border and verification by the OSCE with the creation of security zones in the border regions of Ukraine and the Russian Federation;
5. Immediate release of all hostages and illegally detained persons;
6. A law preventing the prosecution and punishment of persons in connection with the events that have taken place in some areas of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts;
7. To continue the inclusive national dialogue;
8. To take measures to improve the humanitarian situation in Donbass;
9. To ensure early local elections in accordance with the Ukrainian law "On temporary Order of Local Self-Governance in Particular Districts of Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts";
10. To withdraw illegal armed groups and military equipment as well as fighters and mercenaries from Ukraine;
11. To adopt a program of economic recovery and reconstruction for the Donbass region;
12. To provide personal security for participants in the consultations.¹²

¹² BBC, Ukraine Ceasefire: The 12-point plan, 2015



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There were many violations of the ceasefire shortly after the Minsk Protocol was signed by both parties of the conflict, then the Second Battle of Donetsk Airport broke out and both parties continued to accuse each other of violations towards the protocol. By January 2015, the Minsk Protocol ceasefire had collapsed, followed by the separatist victory at Donetsk International Airport in defiance towards the Protocol.

After these attacks, the DPR leader stated that there would not be any further attempts of ceasefire with the LPR, even after there was another attempt to talk about the Minsk Protocol and the new implementations that could be added to the Protocol.¹³

A month later, a new draft of the Minsk Protocol called *Minsk II* was written and submitted by the leaders of Belarus, Russia, Germany, France and Ukraine. This new Minsk Protocol aimed towards the assurance of the ceasefire of both sides of the conflict, also to focus on full restoration towards economic and social connections in Donetsk and Luhansk.

The final problem between these two parties was the 2015 Ukrainian elections: while the DPR leader Alexander Zakharchenko issued a decree that both individual districts of Donetsk and Luhansk would be on temporary self-rule according to the Minsk Protocol.

Elections were postponed for 2016 by the influence of all present countries douring the Minsk II Protocol agreement so that no party would seem to have an unilateral manner in the elections.¹⁴

¹³ The Guardian (2015)

¹⁴ Reuters (2015)



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