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*Security Council
Chair Report*

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WMUN 4.0 Security Council

Chair Report

“Settling Disputed Territories”

I. Meet the Security Council Secretariat

President of Security Council- Khaled Wahbi

Hello and welcome to WMUN 4.0! I'm Khaled Wahbi, the President of the Security Council. I'm 16 years old from Saudi Arabia and a junior at Kingdom Schools. I have always been intrigued by politics and foreign affairs from a very young age when my father -- a senior diplomat -- would tell me stories of the places he's been and the people he met as a Saudi political representative in the Saudi mission to the United Nations in New York. My interest was pushed further when in 7th grade, I joined my school's MUN club. That captivated me and opened the door to new horizons and seeing the world around me from a different perspective. Participating in MUN allowed me to hone my leadership skills, debating, public speaking, critical thinking, among several other valuable skills, and coming up with creative and out-of-the-box solutions. I am truly passionate about MUN, and in our age of misinformation, political extremes, and pandering, I believe that it is essential that everyone, especially the new generation, be aware of the political, economic, and social issues that plague our world for a brighter and more promising future. I can't wait to meet all of you at the conference and experience the compelling discussions and creative solutions you'll have.

Chairperson- Aisha Siddiqi

Hello everyone,

My name is Aisha Siddiqi and I am so delighted to chair for your conference this year. I am from Toronto, Canada but currently living in Saudi Arabia where I'm a junior at the American International School of Riyadh. I have been a member of MUN for about three years and the reason I joined this club is that I wanted to develop a broader understanding of our political and environmental world. I have acquired so much from this club and have developed as a leader, as a speaker, as well as a writer. Apart from MUN, I have a great passion for travelling and am a huge ocean-lover. Anyways, I can't wait to see the fabulous things you all will bring to the table during the conference!

Chairperson- Maryam Nagoor

Hello, delegates! My name is Maryam Nagoor. I am 16 years old and I am from Saudi Arabia, in my Junior year in school. I have been a part of my school's MUN club for 3 years and have attended a total of 22 conferences. I am excited as this is my 7th chairing experience. This committee has a very interesting topic at hand, and I am eager to watch you all have a heated debate. I am keen on seeing you all share your ideas on the topics and critique the resolutions to your country's needs and reach an acceptable solution between each other. Feel free to contact me on my email if you have any questions: mimonagoor@gmail.com

II. Committee Introduction

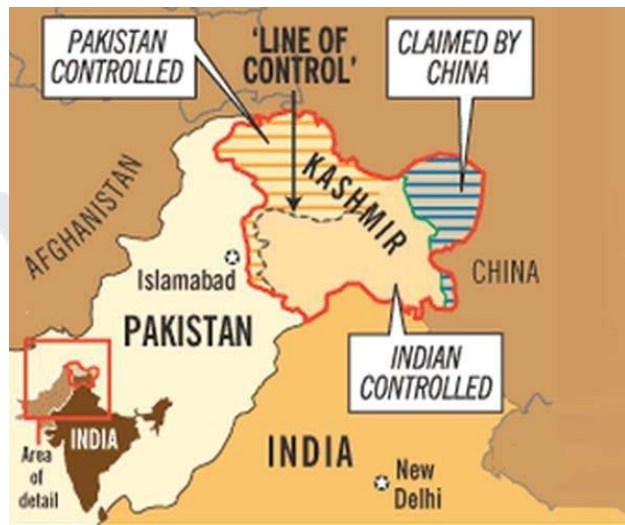
The Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions.

The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of the settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.

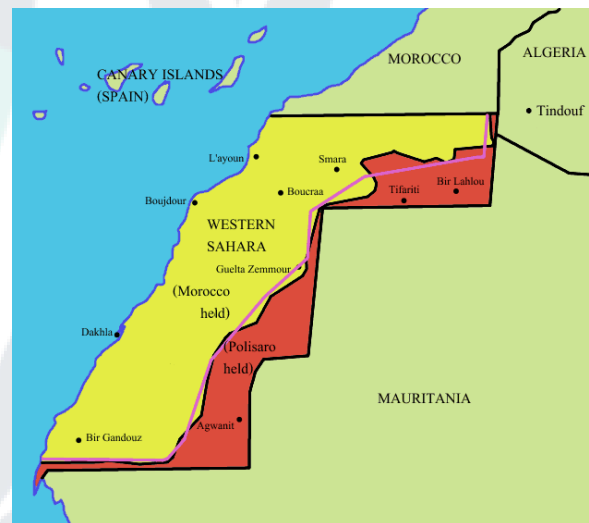
III. Topic Introduction (Disputed Territories)

When it comes to dealing with international relations, disputes are bound to emerge and among these disputes, territorial-related ones are one of the most complicated ones to solve. Defined by Oxford, a territorial dispute is “when official representatives of one country make explicit statements claiming sovereignty over a specific piece of territory that is claimed or administered by another country.” If these types of disputes are not resolved peacefully with the utmost professionalism, tensions may arise between the States leading to militarized conflicts, as happened in the past. Over the years, the United Nations has been called upon to settle certain territorial disputes and to ensure that States are obeying the United Nations Charter and solving their disputes by peaceful means in order to maintain international peace and security.

Ever since India and Pakistan gained independence from British rule, both these states have been disputing over the status of Kashmir. As shown in the figure to the left, Kashmir is currently divided into three parts; one part is claimed by China, another part is controlled by Pakistan and the last part is managed by India. Due to this territorial dispute, tensions have risen between the two States prompting four wars to occur on Kashmiri land threatening the security of this region.



Western Sahara is another disputed territory located in North and West Africa where ongoing conflicts occur between Morocco and the POLISARIO (the Sahrawi rebel movement) with the aid of Algeria. Currently, Western Sahara is divided into regions by the two States; the large western area belongs to the Moroccan government while the small eastern area is controlled by POLISARIO and Algeria. Even though this territorial dispute is “one of the longest, most intractable conflicts in Africa,” it has not been resolved yet (Mundy, 2009: 116).



The Crimean crisis began in March of 2014 when Russia illegally annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula claiming "it was protecting its port access to the Black Sea"



(TheBalance). Tensions grew between Ukraine and Russia and from 2014 to 2018, both States engaged in armed conflicts where thousands of people died. But as of today, Russia continues to illegally occupy the Crimean Peninsula.

Here is a list of other ongoing territorial conflicts:

- Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
- Gibraltar: British-Spanish Conflict
- Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands

To gain a better understanding of the territorial disputes listed above, read the links provided to you under the References section.

IV. Historical Background

Territorial disputes can last decades, potentially a century or more. Some of these disputes do not end even after a decisive war; the losing side in a military defeat may simply refuse to relinquish its claim. Countries are always willing to accept side payments to settle such disputes, despite significant costs associated with continued tension and the threat of war. In many long-running territorial disputes, states adopt an all-or-nothing position and are not willing to settle for any compromise solution. In the meantime, such claims often invoke a people's historical ownership of a disputed territory by a people rather than some physical property of a disputed territory that is not conducive to a bargaining solution. This suggests that if territorial indivisibility does play a role in a particular dispute, it works through individuals' belief that the historical experience of losing the territory was unjust and humiliating.

When it comes to the origins of territorial disputes around the world, historical claims of ownership are among the key arguments advanced by the parties. Historical significance to territorial disputes such as post-WWII years, colonialism and its legacies, the Cold War struggle between communism and capitalism, and the domestic politics of one or more of the parties involved, are of most importance for our understanding of their origins. All of these factors are obviously interrelated.

Given the abundance of evidence that disputed territory matters, we know remarkably little about the origins of territorial claims. It is argued that the presence of competing historical border precedents is central to the emergence of territorial claims. It is outlined why precedents provide opportunity to make claims and provide two possible explanations for

why leaders have incentive to claim along precedents. One possibility is consistent with the conventional wisdom that incentive derives from territorial characteristics such as natural resources or strategic significance. A second and more novel explanation is that the persistent coordination effects of historical boundaries provide the incentive to draw claims along them. They used new data on the location of historical boundaries from the peace of Westphalia until the start of the French Revolution to show that historical border precedents drive the emergence of territorial claims after the Congress of Vienna and that persistent coordination effects provide incentive to dispute historical precedents.

To conclude, throughout history, territorial disputes have lasted centuries and more, and some of these disputes did not even end after a heart wrenching war; the winning side in the military defeat can demand to have the losing side's territory. Many countries would gladly accept to settle territorial disputes with money negotiations, but the losing country might be threatened with another battle due to major damage caused in the winning country's land. The historical background of disputed territories vary; it could be due to world war conflicts, colonialism or even capitalism.

V. Key Terms

Traditional Security

“Traditional security issues are about the threats against the essential values of the state, territorial integrity, and political sovereignty.” Some means of traditional security are weapons, armament systems, and the military. Diplomatic relations such as alliances are also means of traditional security. As technology, innovation, and politics evolve, so does traditional security.

Nontraditional Security

“Non-traditional security issues have also been defined as those which are termed in contrast to traditional security threats and refer to the factors other than military, political and diplomatic conflicts.” But these issues can still pose threats to the survival and development of a sovereign state and humanity.

Hotspots

An area or region where violent political situations may erupt. These include wars, battles, revolutions. Territories like Kashmir and Western Sahara have become hotspots.

Irredentism

It is “a policy of returning land to a country that it belonged to in the past.” Some nations, like Russia, have made territorial claims over pieces of land, like Crimea, based on a national, cultural, and historical basis.

Disputed Territories

A disputed territory is a piece of land claimed by more than one sovereign nation

Permanent Members of the Security Council

The permanent members of the United Nations Security Council are the five sovereign states to whom the UN Charter of 1945 grants a permanent seat on the UN Security Council: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Non-Permanent Members of the Security Council

Along with the five permanent members, the Security Council of the United Nations has temporary members that hold their seats on a rotating basis by geographic region.

These ten non-permanent members are elected by the United Nations General Assembly for two-year terms starting on 1 January, with five replaced each year

Borders

Borders are geographic boundaries of political entities or legal jurisdictions, such as governments, sovereign states, federated states, and other subnational entities.

Maritime Boundary:

A maritime boundary is a conceptual division of the Earth's water surface areas using physiographic or geopolitical criteria. As such, it usually bounds areas of exclusive national rights over mineral and

biological resources. Generally, a maritime boundary is delineated at a particular distance from a jurisdiction's coastline.

Expansion

The political strategy of extending a state's territory by encroaching on that of other nations.

Aggression

Aggression, in international relations, is an act or policy of expansion carried out by one state at the expense of another by means of an unprovoked military attack.

Autonomous Region

An Autonomous Region is a subnational administrative division or internal territory of a sovereign state that has a degree of autonomy or self-governance. Autonomous regions are distinct from the constituent units of a nation (e.g. a state, or province) in that they possess unique powers for their given circumstances. Typically, it is either geographically distinct from the rest of the state or populated by a national minority.

VI. Guiding Questions to Help with Position Papers

- Which territorial disputes is/was your delegation directly involved in and how many?
- Is/Has your delegation been indirectly involved in territorial disputes?
- What has your delegation done to help with territorial disputes they are involved in?
- How can your delegation help the nation(s) in terms of your own country's policies in the future?
- Why does historical ownership lead to more hardened bargaining positions than in other territorial disputes?
- Do such uncompromising positions lead to more military conflict?
- Does historical ownership lead to a more hardline stance toward a territorial dispute? If it does, why?
- Do uncompromising stances, which resulted from historical ownership, lead to more military conflict?
- What determines the right to a territory?
- How can a nation with territorial disputes settle the matter peacefully?
- What is your delegation's stance on territorial disputes?
- What is the best way to solve a territorial dispute and why?
- What evidence does your delegation have to prove that the disputed territory is rightfully yours?

VII. References for Further Reading

<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text#:~:text=All%20Members%20shall%20refrain%20in,Purposes%20of%20the%20United%20Nations.>

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2019/ga12196.doc.htm>

Pakistani-Indian Conflict Over Kashmir

<https://www.arcgis.com/apps/MapTour/index.html?appid=bc0402a488134a3c85b790b2b748d00c>

https://www.bc.edu/content/dam/files/schools/law/lawreviews/journals/bcicl/27_1/07_FMS.htm

Western Sahara Conflict

https://exploringgeopolitics.org/publication_chitty_alex_western_sahara_territorial_dispute_self_determination_un_polisario_sahrawi_plebiscite_minurso_morocco_rio_de_oro_territory_algeria_mauritania/

Russian-Ukrainian Conflict Over Crimea

<https://www.ifimes.org/en/9035>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-18287223>

Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

<https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/israeli-palestinian-conflict>

<https://archive.globalpolicy.org/security-council/index-of-countries-on-the-security-council-agenda/israel-palestine-and-the-occupied-territories.html>

Gibraltar

http://mait.camins.cat/ET2050_library/docs/med/gibraltar.pdf

Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands

<https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/tensions-east-china-sea>

Here is a document you can review if you would like to familiarize yourself with the Security Council procedure.