

**XXVIII**

**TECMUN Jr.**

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United Nations Security  
Council

XXVIII TECMUN Jr.  
**Horario de sesiones**

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**Miércoles 18 de noviembre**

Ceremonia de Inauguración	9:00 – 10:00 h.
Receso	10:00 – 10:30 h.
Primera Sesión	10:30 – 12:00 h.
Receso	12:00 – 12:30 h.
Segunda Sesión	12:30 – 14:00 h.
Comida	14:00 – 15:00 h.
Tercera Sesión	15:00 – 16:30 h.

**Jueves 19 de noviembre**

Conferencia Magistral	8:30 – 9:30 h.
Receso	9:30 – 10:00 h..
Cuarta Sesión	10:00 – 11:30 h.
Receso	11:30 – 12:00 h.
Quinta Sesión	12:00 – 13:30 h.
Comida	13:30 – 14:30 h.
Sexta Sesión	14:30 – 16:00 h.

**Viernes 20 de noviembre**

Séptima Sesión	8:00 – 9:30 h.
Receso	9:30 – 10:00 h.
Octava Sesión	10:00 – 11:30 h.
Receso	11:30 – 12:00 h.
Novena Sesión	12:00 – 14:00 h.
Comida	14:00 – 15:00 h.
Ceremonia de Clausura	15:00 – 17:30 h.
TECMUN GLOOM <sup>1</sup>	18:00 – 19:00 h.

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<sup>1</sup> TECMUN GLOOM es una experiencia únicamente para los delegados donde habrá actividades en las que los delegados y las mesas se podrán conocer.

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**Agenda**

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*Secretaria General: Nuria Vidal Castillo*

**ASAMBLEA GENERAL**

*Subsecretaria General: Aiko Valeria Aguilar Jiménez*

**Sesión Plenaria de la Asamblea General**

*Presidente: Javier Márquez Saucedo*

- A) Medidas para controlar la creciente crisis social en Estados Unidos de América con enfoque al reciente movimiento *Black Lives Matter*
- B) Estrategias para la erradicación de los combates en el territorio de Libia provocados por los grupos del Gobierno de Acuerdo Nacional y el Ejército Nacional Libio

**Primera Comisión de Desarme y Seguridad Internacional**

*Presidenta: Daniela Mejía Salgado*

- A) Medidas para regular la fabricación, comercialización y el uso de armas letales autónomas (LAWS) para evitar una futura carrera armamentística a través de un marco legal a nivel internacional
- B) Estrategias para evitar la militarización del océano Ártico como producto de nuevas rutas de navegación

**Organización Internacional para las Migraciones**

*Presidente: Manuel Alejandro Rosales Portillo*

- A) Medidas para asegurar la integridad del pueblo migrante de Rohingya en su proceso de traslado hacia Bangladesh
- B) Problemáticas de la migración norcoreana causadas por el gobierno de la República Popular Democrática de Corea

**United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

*Presidente: Germán Osvaldo Nuñez Benitez*

A) Suppression from the government of the People's Republic of China upon human rights, focusing on the use of economic power, censorship, indoctrination and heavy surveillance in Xinjiang

B) Oppression of women, the LGBT+ community and civil society activists in Iran, focused on the extreme measures applied by the national penal code and the Supreme Court

### **Organización Mundial de la Salud**

*Presidente: Ángel Daniel González Jasso*

A) Estrategias para una segura reactivación de la economía en países de América Latina y El Caribe ante la reciente crisis causada por el COVID-19

B) Medidas para mejorar los servicios de salud pública en Yemen a causa de la presente catástrofe humanitaria

### **United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space**

*Presidenta: Alejandra Bañuelos González*

A) Measures for the regulation of space tourism and passenger safety

B) The increasing threat to the global astronomic and space observation community from the rise of satellite constellations and the number of space debris

### **CONSEJO ECONÓMICO Y SOCIAL**

*Subsecretario General: Armando Daniel Navarro Sánchez*

### **Fondo de las Naciones Unidas para la Infancia**

*Presidenta: Sofía Victoria Solís Uribe*

A) Estrategias para brindar apoyo y medidas adecuadas de salubridad y nutrición a niños desterrados a causa del conflicto bélico en la República Árabe Siria

B) Medidas para prevenir la existencia del matrimonio infantil forzado y sus consecuencias en las niñas con enfoque en África Occidental

## **Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente**

*Presidente: Arturo Rubio Díaz Vázquez*

- A) Medidas para evitar la sexta extinción masiva de fauna silvestre con énfasis en los incendios del bosque tropical de la Amazonia y el bosque de Malacura en Australia
- B) Medidas para disminuir la pérdida de agua potable causadas por el fenómeno de la industria de la moda rápida en la República Popular China y la República Popular de Bangladesh

## **International Criminal Police Organization**

*Presidenta: Andrea Michelle Martínez Lozano*

- A) Measures to contain and dismantle the triads, the Korean criminal organizations, and groups of organized crime in the Golden Triangle
- B) Strategies to prevent radical acts that involve the use of chemical and nuclear weapons by extremist groups, focusing on the Middle East

## **Commission on the Status of Women**

*Presidenta: María Fernanda Casillas Monroy*

- A) Measures for the attention of female victims of acid attacks due to its accessibility in the Middle East and United Kingdom with emphasis on the social consequences
- B) Measures to provide opportune prevention and support for women affected by female genital mutilation as sexual repression in regions of Northern and Western Africa

## **Organización de las Naciones Unidas para la Educación, la Ciencia y la Cultura**

*Presidenta: Samaria Sánchez Ramírez*

- A) Acciones para garantizar un avance en materia de equidad e igualdad de género educativa ante situaciones de crisis en países de América Latina y el Caribe
- B) Medidas para asegurar la libertad de expresión y estabilidad artística, como parte de la diversidad cultural, ante la pandemia de COVID-19 con enfoque en América Latina y el Caribe

## **United Nations World Tourism Organization**

*Presidenta: Rebeca Ávila Delgado*

- A) Measures to improve the development of alternative touristic areas in Latin American local communities and get rid of overtourism
- B) Measures to reactivate the Latin American tourism sector after the global pandemic caused by the spread of COVID-19

## **Commission Économique des Nations Unies pour l'Europe**

*Presidenta: Lianny Hernández Pérez*

- A) Stratégies pour la protection et le placement des réfugiés Syriens en Europe pour éviter des problèmes sociaux et économiques dans l'Union Européenne, en mettant l'accent sur la République Fédérale d'Allemagne
- B) Le développement des politiques pour soutenir la promotion de l'indépendance économique des femmes et l'éradication du fossé salarial dans les pays sous-développés de l'Europe du sud-est

## **AGENCIAS ESPECIALIZADAS Y ORGANISMOS REGIONALES**

*Subsecretaria General: Montserrat Olivas Ramos*

## **Organización de los Estados Americanos**

*Presidenta: Paola González Zapata*

- A) Repercusiones sociales y políticas tras la censura de medios de comunicación en México, con énfasis en la persecución de periodistas por grupos de narcotráfico
- B) El neocolonialismo como un obstáculo para el desarrollo económico de las comunidades indígenas en América Latina

## **Comisión de Prevención del Delito y Justicia Penal**

*Presidente: Victor Daniel Meza Castillo*

A) Estrategias para mejorar el estado de derecho y reducir la impunidad de las autoridades latinoamericanas con enfoque en la violación de derechos humanos y la ineficacia de las garantías constitucionales presentes en los movimientos sociales

B) Medidas para erradicar las prácticas de tortura en las cárceles africanas con base en Las Reglas Mínimas de las Naciones Unidas para el Tratamiento de Reclusos

### **United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation**

*Presidente: Santiago Makoszay Castañón*

A) Measures to ensure radiation protection in case of a nuclear reactor accident. A study based on novel information on the effects and risks of radiation exposure due to the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station

B) Assessment of the biological mechanisms relevant to the inference of cancer risk after exposure to low-dose radiation

### **North Atlantic Treaty Organization**

*Presidenta: Mariana Cortés Gallardo*

A) Political and military measures to prevent further naval and territorial conflicts between Ukraine and Russia

B) Reaffirm diplomatic and military strategies to increase the security of Afghanistan's inhabitants facing the current terrorist attacks by the Taliban

### **Security Council**

*Presidenta: Vanessa Arroyo Jerez*

A) Strategies to suppress the resurgence of the Islamic State in the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Iraq

B) Prevention mechanisms against the illicit trafficking of nuclear material within the Black Sea region

### **International Court of Justice**

*Presidenta: Carolina Elizabeth Vásquez Regalado*

- A) Relocation of the United States Embassy to Jerusalem (Palestine v. United States of America)
- B) Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (The Gambia v. Myanmar)



*“Make the most of yourself by fanning the tiny, inner sparks of possibility into flames of achievement”.*  
-Golda Meir.

Delegada/o, Ministra/o, Juez,

Lo peor que puedes hacer es subordinarte al contexto en el que resides. Esta es tu oportunidad de demostrarte que por medio de tu investigación, ideas, trabajo e innovación puedes y vas a cambiar al mundo. Entre más conocimiento adquieres, más te das cuenta de que la sociedad en la que vivimos está lejos de ser perfecta. Lo que necesita un mundo en crisis es a personas como tú que están dispuestas a alzar la voz en contra de injusticias, violencia, inequidad, fobias, machismo, entre muchas otras cosas. Necesita a personas que, a pesar de vivir durante una pandemia mundial, toma tres días para participar en un modelo en línea. Sé esa persona que el mundo anhela, esa persona que va siempre un paso más allá.

Este modelo es una muy pequeña representación de lo que en verdad está sucediendo alrededor del mundo y que decidimos ignorar porque vivimos en una posición de privilegio donde podemos asumir que nada ni nadie nos va a hacer daño; Sin embargo, como el último año nos ha demostrado, esto puede cambiar en cuestión de segundos. Así que aprovecha y toma ventaja de tu posición de privilegio y de todas las oportunidades que se te presentan gracias a ella. Porque si decides ignorar los problemas, te conviertes en una gran parte de ellos. Pelea con todo lo que tengas por lo que crees y sé la voz por los que son silenciados. Cualquiera puede quitarte lo que sea, menos el poder de alzar tu voz.

Delegada/o Ministra/o, Juez, es tu oportunidad de pensar fuera del estatus quo, de romper tus estándares y esos de toda la gente que te rodea, de ser tú misma o mismo, de romper o mejorar el sistema, de expresar tus ideas únicas y creativas y de salir de tu zona de confort que lo único que te está haciendo es nublarlo. Sí, da miedo, pero no dejes que esos pensamientos frenen tu capacidad de expresarte; Úsalos a tu favor y véncelos, porque la falta de confianza, la duda y el miedo siempre van a ser las cosas más difíciles de sobrellevar, pero, el hacerlo genera el verdadero cambio. Espero que confíes en el modelo y en el Secretariado, pero especialmente, espero que confíes en ti, que abras tu mente, que aprendas sobre una gran variedad de temas, que salgas de este modelo con una visión completamente distinta del mundo a la que tenías antes. Quiero que salgas con la capacidad de analizar críticamente y empatizar con otras personas y situaciones para que llegues a tener la habilidad de resolver estos problemas de la mejor manera posible no solo dentro de las salas de debate, sino en la vida real.

Finalmente, quiero que aproveches el momento, tu momento. Lucha contra el problema y haz la diferencia en esa sala de debate, porque esta es una simulación del mundo real, y lo que hagas ahí dentro representa lo que haces y harás por el mundo si no permites que se quede en esas 4 paredes. Recuerda que no hay experiencias que se repitan dos veces y que la que estás a punto de vivir, te marcará de por vida. Confío en ti y en tu capacidad, porque estás aquí por una razón; porque hay una chispa en ti esperando ser encendida y puede que esta sea tu única oportunidad de hacerlo. El mundo está en las manos de ti, de la juventud; si no aprendemos a tomar ventaja de esto y hacer del planeta un mejor lugar, nadie lo va a hacer. Encuéntrate en esta experiencia y cree en ti, en lo que puedes aportar al modelo y en el gran impacto que esto tendrá en las personas, porque yo te aseguro que confío ciegamente en ti.

Nuria Vidal Castillo  
Secretaría General para el  
XXVIII TECMUN Jr.

“Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better, It's not.”

-Dr Seuss, The Lorax.

Dear judges, delegates, ministers and doctors,

Welcome to another edition to the best thing that happened in my life, another edition of a model that marks paths in the life of many ones that are or were part of it, another edition of the forum where you can raise your voice and advocate for a better world, welcome to TECMUN. Thank you all for being here in the AEOR division, the most unique part that this model has. Prepare yourself to take on this new challenge. During three days in these virtual mode, you are going to be the agent of change that is going to make a difference. They are so many atrocities occurring nowadays. Crimes against humanity, genocides, war crimes and aggression happening in Sudan, Peru, Colombia, South Africa, Mexico, and all around the world, reflect what we as human beings are doing wrong. Now is the time change, to take the reins, step out of our comfort zone and do something to fix our mess up world.

“There comes a time when we hear a certain call when the world must come together as one [...]” Few people listen to this call, and fewer are the ones that answer to it. As individuals with privileges, it's our duty to attend this call, to stand for rights things and fight for it, to make a better place for both weak and strong. Maybe sometimes we feel minuscule compared to the magnitude of the atrocities or simply unable to solve them. Sometimes we feel that our voice will not be heard or that our actions aren't going to transcend and we are not going to make a change. Throughout my short life, I discover that we are the only ones that limit our potential, maybe for others we are like superheroes at the time we think we aren't enough. It's only when someone believes in us and gave us support, at that moment we recover our confidence, we open our eyes and have faith in ourselves. We start to make a change because we know we are enough and capable of it. In this moment for these three days I want to be that someone for you, you are immense to me. You just have to believe in yourself to begin the change. Take advantage of the privilege you were born with and make more people have the same opportunities that you have now. Don't let all your work on a resolution paper or an empty verdict, attend the call. I really hope you are ready to face this big challenge, becoming the responsible one of our world and reality.

Montserrat Olivás Ramos

Subsecretary for the Special Agencies and Regional Organisms

for the XXVIII TECMUN Jr.

Delegate,

One of humankind's biggest flaws relies on the constant egoistical thought that other people's problems are not our own. Our society is full of selfishness and little to none interest in getting involved in worldwide concern topics. Abuse, violence, inequality, discrimination, intolerance, as well as indifference, are normalized and even justified daily concepts to which we are enslaved to overcome without questioning. A privileged position is a blinding tool, it enables us from realizing that we are exposed to the same obstacles and that we shall show empathy towards others. TECMUN works to demonstrate that no matter how far away a problem might seem, there is still something you can do about it. We work to prove that there is no age to realize you can make a difference, and that small voices united can become a strong cause. For the past three years, TECMUN has endorsed my personal growth by offering me something new to hold on to in each one of my experiences. As a delegate, I found my passion not just for debate, but for sharing whichever little knowledge I got to those who did not. As chair, I understood the importance of speaking up, and for fighting for what my ideals dictate as right. As a president, my biggest aspiration and learning relies on you, delegate. For the following three days you'd be given the chance to represent not just a delegation, but yet another crucial element inside our world, people. I hope you'll realize that real change ain't in the hands of those who are at the top but in those who day to day face the cruel reality of what our world has become. My role as president begins and ends with you carrying much more than a prize, I expect for you to carry hope in-kind souls who do look for betterment and courage to stand up for injustice. The floor is yours, so make sure to live TECMUN as that once in a lifetime opportunity regardless of how many times you've been here before. Remind yourself you can be the revolution the world's been waiting for, and that it is never too late to learn, unlearn, and relearn. Finally, I would like to thank you for being my spark of hope for a better now and the reason TECMUN stays strong.

Vanessa Arroyo Jerez

President of the United Nations Security Council for the

XXVIII TECMUN Jr



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# United Nations Security Council

## Background

The Security Council (SC) has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of the international peace and security. There are fifteen Council members; five of these (United States of America, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, People's Republic of China, French Republic, and the Russian Federation) are permanent members, also known as P5; in addition to the other ten which are elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms. The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. And it is mainly focused on facing situations related to the changing nature of armed conflicts, the surge of terrorism and foreign fighters, the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and the persistence of intra-state conflicts.

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### Faculties

The Security Council's central objective consist on reaching an agreement by peaceful terms and bring disputes to a rapid conclusion. In order to accomplish the aforesaid the functions and powers of the Security Council are:

- Investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction and recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
- Formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments;
- Call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression;
- Take military action against an aggressor;
- Exercise the trusteeship functions of the United Nations in "strategic areas".



## Topic A

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Strategies to suppress the resurgence of the Islamic State in the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Iraq.

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*By: Vanessa Arroyo Jerez  
Paula Inclan Villamil  
Mayca Coyman Morales Rico*

## ***Introduction***

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) is an insurgent paramilitary<sup>2</sup> terrorist group which in 2014 controlled more than 34,000 square miles from the Mediterranean coast to south of Bagdad. The United States of America (U.S.), with its partners in Europe and Iraq, succeeded in causing the Islamic State to lose territory. According to Zachary Cohen and Ryan Browne (CNN journalists), 2016 reports the group has lost up to 40 % of its domains in Iraq and 20 % in Syria since the summer of 2014. Throughout most of the 2019 and 2020 reports of a resurgence of the Islamic State began to represent a threat to Iraq and Syria's security situation as well as an international risk.

After preserving a more or less low level of operations over the winter of 2019, ISIS has promptly raised the scale of insurgency<sup>3</sup> in Iraq and Syria. Fighters of the Islamic State indomitable by the collapse of the terror group's self-declared caliphate in Syria and Iraq, are growing fearless and more dangerous. The group has been more settled in pockets of Syria since the second quarter of 2019 as these efforts have advanced, conducting more brazen<sup>4</sup> attacks against Syrian security forces. Some appraisal<sup>5</sup> suggests it has increased its manpower and resources while opposing foreign forces have pulled back or curtailed their capabilities. The situation in Syria, particularly with American disengagement in the north and recent Syrian deployments to defend Kurdish regions against Turkish attacks, has allowed the Islamic State to regain territory. ISIS has declared an increasing number of efforts in opposition to the members of the Iraqi security forces. In Iraq, the group operates as small,

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<sup>2</sup> **Paramilitary:** similar to an army, but not official and sometimes not legal.

<sup>3</sup> **Insurgency:** an occasion when a group of people attempt to take control of their country by force.

<sup>4</sup> **Brazen:** obvious, without any attempt to be hidden.

<sup>5</sup> **Appraisal:** the act of examining someone or something in order to judge their qualities, success, or needs.



largely autonomous *guerrilla*<sup>6</sup> units spread across the country's most inhospitable terrain, including its mountains and deserts. From these hideouts, ISIS militants emerge to prey on rural areas, kidnapping and extorting residents as well as murdering state representatives.

Since the first quarter of 2020, there has been an increase in the tactical sophistication of ISIS operations in Iraq. This attack reflects a desperate attempt to capitalize on the political rivalries that have to disrupt the formation of a new government that works to protect and give security to its citizens. Publicly trackable data indicates that ISIS's armed movements heightened by at least 69 % in April 2020 (171 attacks); a considerable increase that comes amid U.S. military withdrawals from remote but strategically key posts in Iraq, the arrival and challenges posed by COVID-19 to the region, and continuing political stagnation<sup>7</sup> in Baghdad. The United Nations Security Council has highlighted the need to hold those responsible, organizations, funders and sponsors of these condemnable acts of terrorism accountable and brought to justice, since any act of terrorism is criminal and inexcusable, regardless of its motivation and where, when and by whom it is committed.

### ***Background***

ISIS is a militant jihadist religious group of civilians that affirm possessing military, political, and religious jurisdiction over all Muslims. ISIS was founded in 1999 by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, emerging out of al-Qaeda in Iraq as a response to the U.S. invasion in 2003. For years, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria terror group garnered the world's attention for its swift conquests, its willingness to find a new state in the Middle East, and its unprecedented brutality. Also, because ISIS managed to cross the borders of his so-called

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<sup>6</sup> **Guerrilla:** a member of an unofficial military group that is trying to change the government by making sudden, unexpected attacks on the official army forces.

<sup>7</sup> **Stagnation:** a situation in which something stays the same and does not grow and develop.

“caliphate” in Syria and Iraq violence escalated and the country descended into civil war as rebel brigades were formed to battle government forces for control of cities, towns, and the countryside.

After a sequence of terrorist assaults coordinated by the Islamic State across Europe in 2015, the United States, the United Kingdom, and France with the support of Turkey, Saudi Arabia, and other Arab associates broadened their air campaign in Iraq to include Syria. The reconquest led by the armed forces in Iraq, and the opposing militia of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and the Bashar al Assad regime in Syria, began soon after. Between 2016 and 2019, ISIS’s overall territorial control across Syria and Iraq was nearly eliminated. Consequently, the end of the so-called "caliphate" was proclaimed, although many factions that pledged allegiance to ISIS and control small portions of territory in Egypt, Afghanistan, Libya, and Nigeria remain active and have to deal with the end of the central project from the Islamic state, while at the same time the group's ability to launch terrorist attacks underground, including in Syria and Iraq, remains a threat.

### ***The air campaign and military intervention***

The air campaign was an effort to “defeat and degrade” ISIS, beginning in 2014 the United States, assisted by a handful of other Western and Arab countries, launched thousands of bombing raids and cruise missile attacks against ISIS targets in Iraq and Syria. The Iraqi government had assent<sup>8</sup> the foreign military action within Iraq’s territory, meanwhile, the Syrian government did not. Syria objected that the airstrikes in the country's territory were groundless violations of international law. The United States claimed the airstrikes targeted to ISIS were advocated by several rights, including the right of humanitarian intervention, and

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<sup>8</sup> **Assent:** official agreement to or approval of an idea.

the right to use force in the territory of failed states, before establishing on the argument that the airstrikes in Syria were permissible actions of collective self-defense on the favor of the government of Iraq. The international law establishes a State can use military force in another State's territory in three situations: (1) with the latter's consent, (2) with Security Council's authorization, or (3) when acting in self-defense against an armed attack. However, this was not initially accepted by the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, and even the United Kingdom, which initially refused to support the United States in bombing ISIS targets.

Nevertheless, without Security Council's authorization or Syria's consent, on September 23, 2014, United States started airstrikes on ISIS targets within Syrian territory supported by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, and Bahrain. From August 2014 to August 2015, the U.S. led coalition struck more than 5,500 airstrikes on ISIS targets resulting in the deaths of over 15,000 ISIS fighters. Despite the existing claims of success from British and American forces, ISIS grew to over 31,500 militants during the bombing period, with a steady increase of recruits from around the world, replacing the ones lost in casualties. On October 31, 2015, ISIS bombed a Russian jetliner, and killed 224 passengers, closely followed by the attacks in a rock concert and sporting event in Paris on November 13 of the same year, resulting in 130 casualties and 368 injured. Concerned by such situations, on December 2, 2015, the Security Council adopted unanimously the Resolution 2249, which called for "all necessary measures to eradicate the haven<sup>9</sup> (ISIS) established".

In September 2015, the Russian military intervention in Syria began. The decision to intervene with the overt use of military force was made in the spring of 2015 when ISIS

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<sup>9</sup> **Haven:** a safe or peaceful place.

seized the Syrian city of Palmyra at the same time that a loose coalition, assembled by the extremist group Jabhat al-Nusra, launched an assault on the regime in northwest Syria. The emergence of ISIS in Syria and Iraq amplified Russia's threat perceptions. Russia is home to the largest indigenous Muslim population in Europe, around 16 million (approximately 11–12 percent of the country's population). ISIS's declared objective of establishing a caliphate was precisely the kind of extremist religious vision that resonated with some of Russia's disenchanting Muslim population and those in neighboring states.

Several military factors specific to Syria were key enablers for the intervention. Four were necessary preconditions: air access to the theater, permission to use facilities, partnership with the various forces on the ground in Syria, and lack of U.S. contestation of the airspace. Russia was able to secure overflight rights through Iraqi and Iranian airspace, enabling access to Syria for the airframes that would be based there, as well as for the missions launched from airbases in Russia to attack targets in Syria and to resupply the expeditionary force. Interviewees consistently emphasized that the Russian leadership believed the regime would have fallen in months, if not weeks, had Russia not intervened. Valery Gerasimov, chief of the Russian General Staff aforesaid "If we had not intervened in Syria, what would have happened? Look, in 2015 just over 10 percent of the territory remained under government control. A month or two more, by the end of 2015, and Syria would have been completely under ISIS rule".

### ***ISIS activity throughout 2019-2020***

In January 2019, just 121 conflict events linked to the group were recorded around Syria and Iraq. This contraction in events correlates to the fragmentation of ISIS' territorial control and "state" in Syria. By February 2019, the group's last remaining area of control

along the banks of the Euphrates River in the southeast, less than one percent of its 2014 size. Since March 2019, ISIS intensified and expanded its resurgent attack campaign targeting the rear areas of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) in Northern Syria. ISIS concentrated its attacks along two primary sections of the ground line of communication between Deir ezZor Province and Hasaka Province in Eastern Syria. In Iraq growing indications that the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) group was re-organizing, two years after losing the last of its territory in the country. The group reestablished a support zone in the southwest quadrant of the Baghdad Belts to link its operations in Anbar Province to Baghdad and Southern Iraq. The militants are now more proficient and dangerous than al-Qaeda, according to Lahur Talabani, a top Kurdish counter-terrorism official. "They have better techniques, better tactics, and a lot more money at their disposal," he said. "They can buy vehicles, weapons, food supplies, and equipment. Technologically they're savvier<sup>10</sup>. It's more difficult to flush them out."

Throughout 2020 ISIS has carried out a series of large-scale and coordinated attacks in parts of Syria and Iraq. The spike in attacks has revived concerns about the group's resurgence, a year after the disintegration of its physical caliphate in eastern Syria and only six months after the assassination of its former leader, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi. The earliest notable attack happened on 9 April 2020, between the group and Syrian regime forces near Palmyra in the Syrian desert. The incursion appeared refined, as the group ambushed regime forces and brawled with them for several hours. Later that month, Isis directed several attacks in Kirkuk, Diyala, and Salah ad-Din. Such attacks included the attempted ripping of the counter-terrorism and intelligence administration in Kirkuk and several coordinated assaults in Salah ad-Din. On May 1, a bus full of Syrian troops was ambushed on a key highway

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<sup>10</sup> **Savvy:** practical knowledge and ability.

running through the desert, killing seven militants. ISIS has also escalated its attacks in southern Syria's Daraa Governorate, claiming at least seven targeted assassinations, ambushes, and bomb attacks. The assaults were among the most sophisticated in years.

The most striking recent growth in ISIS activity has come in Iraq, where the group has notably heightened assaults in Kirkuk and Diyala with almost daily assaults. ISIS attack on May 2 left at least 10 Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) militiamen dead, after ISIS units attacked the Mekeeshfa area on at least four separate axes, sparking a four-hour battle. Numerous additional attacks took place throughout a campaign in which ISIS is now seen to be embracing more sophisticated night-time tactics, suicide bombings, and multi-pronged coordinated incursions, a marked difference from its preceding drive-by shootings, kidnappings, and deadlock mortar attacks. Video footage has also shown ISIS operating in larger numbers, indicating increasing confidence in the Iraqi military's inability to detect enemy movement and to coordinate a rapid deterrent response through intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance. According to The New York Times, ISIS through 2020 can be defined as low-tech, low-cost, rural, but still dangerous. And while it has not executed attacks on the scale that it did a few years ago, the number of strikes has begun to increase again.

***What impulses the resurgence of ISIS in Iraq and Syria?***

Nauro F. Campos, former chairman in the UK Department of Economics and Finance, aforesaid "Civil Wars and *guerrilla* warfare are robustly associated with various aspects of international terrorism and this association is even stronger for fatalities than for the number of attacks, the explanatory power of escalation does not seem to decrease over time" (2009). The main strategy used by terrorist groups has to do with learning-by-doing and the

accumulation of terrorist human capital. Terror requires schooling and sophisticated training. Politically unstable countries offer opportune conditions. It has been recognized that extremist groups operate human resources policies that benefit better educated or economically better<sup>11</sup> individuals. Additionally, the human capital required for terrorism involves a complex mix of skills that are costly to achieve and preserve.

According to the empirical literature<sup>12</sup>, one main cause of terrorism is democracy. Societies lacking democratic liberties constrain<sup>13</sup> political protest into clandestine and often violent forms, among them terrorism. Poverty has also been proven to be a reason for the raising of extremism, low levels of per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Studies made by Cambridge academics Philip Keefer and Norman Loayza (2008) have proven different aspects such as levels of per capita GDP, growth rates, and the role of recessions<sup>14</sup>, the Human Development Index, as well as various measures of government expenditures<sup>15</sup> on health and education and foreign aid inflows, have also been used showing per capita GDP to be important determinants of terrorism meanwhile government expenditures on health and education and foreign aid, respectively, tend to reduce the incidence of terrorist attacks. Another commonly investigated reason is country size, often measured as total population and/or as a percentage of the total population living in urban areas. The justification is that larger fractions of the population in urban centers make terror attacks more deadly, all else equal.

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<sup>11</sup> **Baller:** a successful person, especially one who is rich, lives well and buys expensive things.

<sup>12</sup> **Empirical literature:** the “facts and figures” statistics that describe the social, economic, and psychological factors that have an impact on the well-being of a community or other population group.

<sup>13</sup> **Constrain:** to control and limit something

<sup>14</sup> **Recession:** a period when the economy of a country is not successful and the conditions for business are bad

<sup>15</sup> **Expenditure:** the total amount of money a government spends

ISIS benefited from the security vacuum and curtail tensions in both countries. Iraq has been ravaged<sup>16</sup> in recent years by cycles of warfare, an internally displaced persons (IDPs) crisis, and most destructively, a three-year campaign to drive ISIS from a third of the country is controlled. Iraq continues to endure severe challenges including resolving the political, sectarian, and tribal conflicts that incited the proliferation of terrorism and its entanglement in regional rivalries. Iraqis have made some improvements in building their government, approving a new constitution, and holding successive elections for parliament and provincial governments. Still, enhancing governance, undertaking corruption and economic reforms linger critical to the country's and region's long-term stability. In Syria, protesters are back on the streets, where the insurrection against President Bashar al-Assad started in 2011. War is not over and it has already lasted almost as long as both World Wars combined. The United Nations estimates that 700,000 people have been killed and that 90 % of the survivors inside Syria live in poverty. Food is more than twice as expensive as it was last year. The global slump caused the pandemic is an increasingly serious reason.

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<sup>16</sup> **Ravage:** to cause great damage to something



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## **Topic B**

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Prevention mechanisms against the illicit trafficking of nuclear material within the Black Sea region.

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## *Introduction*

The Black Sea region is a significant strategic intersection between Europe, Asia, Transcaucasia, Russia, and the Middle East, and has been used for the trafficking of licit and illicit appurtenances<sup>17</sup>, including nuclear material in the past two decades. Over 630 nuclear smuggling events were reported in the Black Sea states. As people, both involved and uninvolved in the nuclear sector, seek for new ways to make a living, some individuals began to explore illegal trade of nuclear material, and the first prosperous thefts of uranium and plutonium occurred. Smuggling in nuclear and other radioactive material became perceived as a potential threat to international security and the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in the early 1990s. Therefore, the efforts to counter nuclear trafficking in the Black Sea region must be continued and enhanced.

With this unique geographical location and thousands of kilometers of hard-to-protect coastlines, the Black Sea has been used for the smuggling of various illicit appurtenances for hundreds of years. These activities, ranging from contraband goods to human and drug trafficking, persist to this day, making the region one of the most attractive to transnational<sup>18</sup> organized crime. In 2018 reports found a total of 156 incidents of nuclear or other radioactive supplies outside of regulatory control, taking place in 23 countries. Incidents involving nuclear materials (especially certain isotopes<sup>19</sup> of uranium and plutonium) are of special concern, because of the threat of these being used in an Improvised Nuclear Device (IND). As in past years, the Center for Nonproliferation<sup>20</sup> Studies (CNS) Global Incidents and

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<sup>17</sup> **Appurtenances:** an accessory or other item associated with a particular activity or style of living. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

<sup>18</sup> **Transnational:** going beyond national boundaries. (Merriam-Webster Dictionary, n.d.).

<sup>19</sup> **Isotope:** a form of an atom that has a different atomic weight from other forms of the same atom but the same chemical structure. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

<sup>20</sup> **Nonproliferation:** The prevention of an increase or spread of something, especially the number of countries possessing nuclear weapons. (Lexico, n.d.).

Trafficking Database researchers identified that an alarming number of incidents occur while nuclear and other radioactive materials are in transit. In 2018, 68 incidents (41 % of total incidents) occurred during transport, consistent with similarly high rates in previous years. Of the incidents that cropped up during material transport, 25 were confirmed thefts, consistent with previous years. In many cases, radioactive or biological supply theft may have been accidental to the thief's attempts to steal other valuable equipment. Nonetheless, the occurrence of heists<sup>21</sup>, while the material is in transit, represents perhaps the most dangerous nexus for incidents in the database. The United Nations Security Council possesses responsibility for nuclear energy security threats, meaning nuclear material trafficking is considered an extremely important problem that requires immediate resolution.

### ***Nuclear and other radioactive materials***

In 2018, the Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) global review of open-source reports found a total of 156 incidents of nuclear or other radioactive components outside of regulatory control, occurring in 23 countries. Between 2013 and 2018, 41 states reported incidents involved nuclear material, accounting for 3.9 % of all reported events. An improvised nuclear explosive device (IND) requires the acquisition of large quantities of weapons-usable nuclear material, such as highly enriched uranium or plutonium. Whereas nuclear weapons are typically only made from uranium or plutonium, radiological weapons could employ a wide range of nuclear or non-nuclear radioactive materials, and do not require fissile<sup>22</sup> material. Although many types of radioactive materials exist, only about a dozen exhibit characteristics that qualify them as serious security threats, in terms of their half-lives, radioactivity, portability, dispersibility, and availability.

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<sup>21</sup> **Heist**: a crime in which valuable things are taken illegally and often violently from a place. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

<sup>22</sup> **Fissile**: able to product nuclear fission. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

Non-nuclear biological materials incidents also carry significant safety and security concerns. In contrast to an IND, radiological weapons such as radiological dispersion devices (RDDs) can be made with a wide variety of radioactive materials. RDDs use conventional explosives to disperse radioactive material over a wide area, this and other forms of radiological terrorism are frequently referred to as “weapons of mass disruption,” because they generate widespread fears of radiation to instill<sup>23</sup> terror and panic disproportionate to their lethality. From 2013 to 2018, approximately 50% of cases in the IAEA’s database entangled at least one material of principal RDD concern. Given the potential for significant societal disruption and a large number of annual materials losses useable in radiological devices, radiological attacks pose a serious societal threat. However, to date, the most widely-publicized attacks using radioactive materials are what has been recognized as “inhalation, injection, and immersion attacks”. These attacks have tended to target individuals for assassination, as opposed to large groups of people or high-value areas. The most well-known example of this type of attack involved the assassination of Russian dissident Alexander Litvinenko using Polonium-210 in 2006.

### ***Smuggling routes***

The Black Sea is the core of the world’s nuclear black market, the region encompasses over a dozen countries with diversifying political, economic, ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds, this being the following ones: Bulgaria, Romania, Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Greece, Serbia, Albania, and Turkey. With these countries sharing thousands of kilometers of Black Sea seaboard, the availability of both overland and seagoing

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<sup>23</sup> **Instill:** to put a feeling, idea, or principle gradually into someone's mind, so that it has a strong influence on the way that person thinks or behaves. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).



trafficking passages makes the Black Sea region notably suitable for smuggling<sup>24</sup> activities. The maritime seizure<sup>25</sup> is consistently more likely to be larger than a seizure involving overland or air transport, meaning there are particular difficulties in identifying smuggled nuclear and radiological material in the maritime environment. Small volumes, such as those associated with biological or radioactive material, are easier to conceal<sup>26</sup> and harder to detect on a large barge than on a truck or a passenger car. Furthermore, sea consignment is barely monitored for radioactivity.

The largest number of arrests has been documented in the Georgian port of Batumi, which is located in Adjara near the Turkish outskirt. The local law enforcement authorities have intercepted eight trafficking attempts in Batumi since 1999, all of them involving people seeking to peddle<sup>27</sup> radioactive material. Another possible maritime route runs southward from the Ukrainian port of Odessa, which is notorious for its centuries-long smuggling tradition and uses as a hub for human trafficking to Turkey and the Middle East. Turkey sees itself as a pure transit country that is used by nuclear smugglers due to its geographical location and the number of commercial activities between the neighboring countries. Identifying precise routes for nuclear trafficking has been proved to be a challenging task due to the relatively low number of relevant seizures. Nevertheless, the Balkan route and other routes also operate in reverse for smuggling illicit goods that originate in Europe to destinations in the East.

### ***The participation of organized crime***

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<sup>24</sup> **Smuggle**: to take things or people to or from a place secretly and often illegally. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

<sup>25</sup> **Seizure**: The action of confiscating or impounding property by warrant of legal right. (Lexico, n.d.).

<sup>26</sup> **Conceal**: to prevent something from being seen or known about. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

<sup>27</sup> **Peddle**: Try to sell (something, especially small goods) by going from place to place. (Lexico, n.d.).

The offenders entangled in nuclear smuggling cases are normally referred to as ‘amateurs’ due to the absence of knowledge they possess on the use and hidden value of the material they commerce or try to sell. Although this may be correct in many cases, it is important to remain conscious of criminal involvement in the illegal nuclear trade. The degree of involvement of organized criminal groups in nuclear smuggling may be underestimated, not only because professional traffickers remain ‘invisible’ to law enforcement, but also because apprehended criminals are rarely recognized as representing organized crime. There are several reasons to dread<sup>28</sup> such connection, going from financial means available to organized crime syndicates and their capabilities to move almost any illegal supplies across numerous international borders undetected, to their growing associations with terrorist networks. The combination of international terrorist groups with transnational organized crime is one of the most significant threats society faces today. Extremist and criminal organizations depend on the same global transportation, communication, and financial frameworks for illegal maneuvers.

The UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime defines an organized crime group (OCG) as ‘a structured group of three or more persons, existing for some time and acting in concert to commit one or more serious crimes or offenses to obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefits’. According to the Database on Nuclear Smuggling, Theft and Orphan Radiation Sources (DSTO) data, three or more offenders were embroiled in 82 out of 330 trafficking incidents (25 %) that were documented in the Black Sea region between 1991 and 2012. The largest numbers of such criminal groups and smuggling rings were apprehended in Ukraine (27), Georgia (18), Turkey (16), and Romania

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<sup>28</sup> **Dread:** to feel extremely worried or frightened about something that is going to happen. (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.).

(12). In Russia, 55 of almost 300 trafficking cases involved groups of three or more people. The majority of the intercepted groups were supply-driven, trafficking in both uranium and radioactive sources. Given the excessive profits organized crime makes from their conventional criminal activities, such as narcotics or people smuggling, nuclear trafficking may not be its first choice. Nevertheless, it can be considered as a sideline activity, if the criminals conclude it can be profitable.

### ***The risk of nuclear terrorism***

Nuclear and other biological components have favored a society in areas of medicine, agriculture, industry, and the provision of energy. However, there is a threat that nuclear or other biological supplies could be used in terrorism or other criminal acts. The detonation of an improvised nuclear device (IND), radiological dispersal device (RDD), or the placing of a radiological exposure device (RED) would drive to severe consequences. Such incidents would harm human health and the environment, create consternation, and affect economic and political stability. Since 1993 the IAEA has reported 175 cases of nuclear trafficking, 18 involving highly enriched uranium or plutonium. Mohamed ElBaradei, former IAEA Director-General, said: "We are not just dealing with the possibility of governments diverting nuclear materials into clandestine weapons programs. Now we have been alerted to the potential of terrorists targeting nuclear facilities or using radioactive sources to incite panic, contaminate property, and even cause injury or death among civilian populations." (2001). Nuclear terrorism is a severe and credible threat in the Black Sea due to the significant number of trafficking incidents occurred in the area.

Although extremist groups have never used a nuclear or biological weapon, IAEA reports that some terrorist groups, particularly al-Qaeda, have attempted to acquire nuclear material, turning this into a theme of great concern. Since 2001 Al-Qaeda has tried to obtain

uranium from South Africa, and have made repeated trips to three central Asian states to try to buy weapons-grade material or complete nuclear weapons. A considerable number of the trafficking incidents in the Black Sea region have been transnational, meaning they have involved material that either originated in, or was on its way to, a foreign country, or both. Nuclear terrorism can also be found in other forms, for example, extremist groups could attack a city with a “dirty bomb” in which radioactive material is dispersed by conventional explosives, or lay out an attack on a nuclear power plant or other nuclear installation could result in a massive release of radioactive material. The destruction of equipment and infrastructure during conflict has been one factor degrading the quality of nuclear security. The loss of facilities and personnel that played an important role in national nuclear security training and equipment repair and maintenance have also contributed to the deterioration of security, and the increasing risk of nuclear terrorism.

### ***The role of IAEA & previous international efforts***

Several international programs and initiatives on nuclear security and combating trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive material exist that are active in the Black Sea region countries. One of the most important is the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Nuclear Safety & Security program. The IAEA has been in charge of nuclear security since 1957. Meaning the agency plays a central role in strengthening this Framework, by assisting the Member States in building sustainable national competences and capabilities. It also encourages, through committed knowledge networks, the exchange of knowledge from countries with mature nuclear energy programs to countries that have only just started to commence on such programs. The IAEA establishes and preserves the guidance series as part of its central role in handing nuclear-security related international support and coordination.

Nuclear security work aims to prevent, or identify and counter, to intentional malevolent acts involving radioactive substances or directed against facilities or activities where such substances are used.

In the same mean of importance, there also exists the International Counterproliferation Program (ICP); the Group of Eight's Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction; the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism (GICNT); United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540; and Interpol's Operation Fail Safe initiative. The European Union (EU), as well, runs several assistance and cooperation projects to counter nuclear smuggling, improve export controls, and strengthen border controls in the Black Sea region. The EU Border Assistance Mission to Moldova, and Ukraine, which has been ongoing since 2005, is such a program. The EU has also initiated a chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) Centres of Excellence initiative that covers southeast Europe, the Southern Caucasus, Moldova, and Ukraine under the EU Instrument for Stability. These programs have dedicated significant resources to non-proliferation, and border security priorities in the Black Sea region and have delivered assistance to all its countries.

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***Preambulatory Phrases***

*Preambulatory Phrases are used at the beginning of every Resolution Paper in order to give context about the resolutions made for the topic. Preambulatory Phrases must be written in italics followed by a sentence that gives said context. For each Resolution Paper there must be five sentences beginning with a Preambulatory Phrase.*

Affirming	Desiring	Noting with deep concern
Alarmed by	Emphasizing	Noting with satisfaction
Approving	Expecting	Noting further
Bearing in mind	Expressing its appreciation	Observing
Believing	Fulfilling	Reaffirming
Confident	Fully aware	Realizing
Contemplating	Further deploring	Recalling
Convinced	Further recalling	Recognizing
Declaring	Guided by	Referring
Deeply concerned	Having adopted	Seeking
Deeply conscious	Having considered	Taking into consideration
Deeply convinced	Having examined	Taking note
Deeply disturbed	Having received	Viewing with appreciation
Deeply regretting	Keeping in mind	Welcoming

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***Operative Clauses***

*Operative Clauses are used at the beginning of every resolution within the Resolution Paper on the debated topic. It must be written in italics and bold.*

Accepts	Endorses	Notes
Affirms	Draws the attentions	Proclaims
Approves	Emphasizes	Reaffirms
Authorizes	Encourages	Recommends
Calls	Expresses its appreciation	Regrets
Calls upon	Expresses its hope	Reminds
Condemns	Further invites	Requests
Confirms	Further proclaims	Solemnly affirms
Congratulates	Further reminds	Strongly condemns
Considers	Further recommends	Supports
Declares accordingly	Further requests	Takes note of
Deplores	Further resolves	Transmits
Designates	Has resolved	Trusts