

# SECURITY COUNCIL STUDY GUIDE

# CS MUN





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## 1. Welcoming Letter

Dearest delegates,

It is a pleasure for us, Fatima Serhan and Ilana Garza to welcome you to CSMUN X. For us it is a great satisfaction to have you participate in this version of the United Nations Security Council. As the Security Council, it is our duty to solve the world's biggest conflicts while working with every nation involved. It is the goal of this committee to bring a resolution to one of the most complex conflicts in the present day. The Israel-Palestine conflict is one of intricate development and high tensions. Having been in dispute for such a long time, the international community has decided to intervene to make this conflict come to an end as soon as possible. It is your job, delegates, as the international community to make sure this goal is fulfilled and the conflict is brought to a peaceful end. We hope that in these three vigorous and enriching days of debate your goals as the international community and as individual nations are complete.

We hope that through the development of this committee you are able to learn and participate to the best of your abilities. So delegates, we invite you to participate in the forming of the future. These days of debate are there for you to take advantage of to the fullest extent, and we are here to help you as your presidents though any doubt or concern you have. We truly hope that this committee is a success and that all of you are part of it. We wish you the best of luck, and please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sencierly,

Fatima Serhan & Ilana Garza  
Security Council Presidents





## 2. Introduction to the committee

### a. History of the Committee

The United Nations came together in January 1942 when 26 countries, concerned about the ongoing World War II, signed a short document written by representatives from the so called “Four Policemen” (The United States, China, the Soviet Union and the United Kingdom). This document would later be known as the United Nations Declaration. Later, in 1943 the Moscow Declaration was signed, and this stated in its 4th clause the need of a “general international organization, based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all peace-loving states, and open to membership by all such states, large and small, for the maintenance of international peace and security.” (United Nations, n.d.). Afterwards, the high-ranking officials from the Four Policemen met to discuss the structure of the upcoming international organization in Washington DC. They also discussed its purposes and the roles from each country. However, the Voting Process from the Security Council wasn’t specified until the Yalta Conference in 1945. Finally, when the War ended the United Nations Charter was signed by 50 nations in San Francisco.

- That being stated, the Charter specifies that the main duties of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) were:
- Investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction;
- Recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
- Formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments;
- Determine the existence of threats to international peace and
- recommend what action should be taken;
- Call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures to prevent or stop aggression;
- Take military action against an aggressor;
- Direct Blue Helmet operations;
- Recommend the admission of new members;
- Exercise the trusteeship functions of the United Nations in "strategic areas" (United Nations, 1945).

The United Nations Security Council was officially created on October 24th, 1945, following the ratification of the UN Charter. In San Francisco, in 1945, which agreed to a more unified, diplomatic, and peaceful world, therefore agreeing to the creation of an additional branch of the Organization called the Security Council. It was established as one of the six main organs of the United





Nations. The committee held its first session on January 17th, 1946, at Church House, Westminster, London. Consequent to the importance they saw on the Council, the UNSC took a permanent settlement at the UN headquarters in New York City, and since then, establishing peaceful and long-lasting bonds between nations is the priority of the Council. One of the main terms for the creation of the United Nations during the San Francisco Conference was that the main founding members, the nations which came out victor from WWII, were to have some privilege inside the organization. This privilege was, thereafter to be known as the veto power. The Security Council became the only institution inside the United Nations, able to submit completely legally binding resolutions for all its members, therefore having a fundamental role in the development of international relations.

During the period known as the Cold War, subsequent to the creation of the UN and the UNSC, the division of the world and the ongoing proxy conflicts between the United States and the Soviet Union (both permanent members of the UNSC) made the Council to often find itself blocked, due to the fact that several resolutions presented by the members ended up vetoed by the affected party. The Council, nevertheless, kept submitting resolutions and working hard, but sometimes inefficiently, to maintain peace and security. Today, years after the fall of the USSR and the end of the Cold War, the UNSC keeps being a field of conflicts of interests but yet, a diplomatic scenario in which global powers are able to discuss and cooperate for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The main purpose of the Council is maintaining international peace and security, by taking the lead in determining any threat to peace or act of aggression. It recommends terms of the settlement and can take direct measures to enforce peace and security, measures that can range from economic sanctions to international military action. Following this purpose, the council establishes UN Peacekeeping Operations all throughout the globe and commands Special Political Missions. Additionally, the council strives to develop friendly relations among countries, based on human rights and the self-determination of peoples; reaching worldwide cooperation in order to find solutions to different international challenges; promoting human rights as well as being the center where nations can coordinate actions.

## **b. Members**

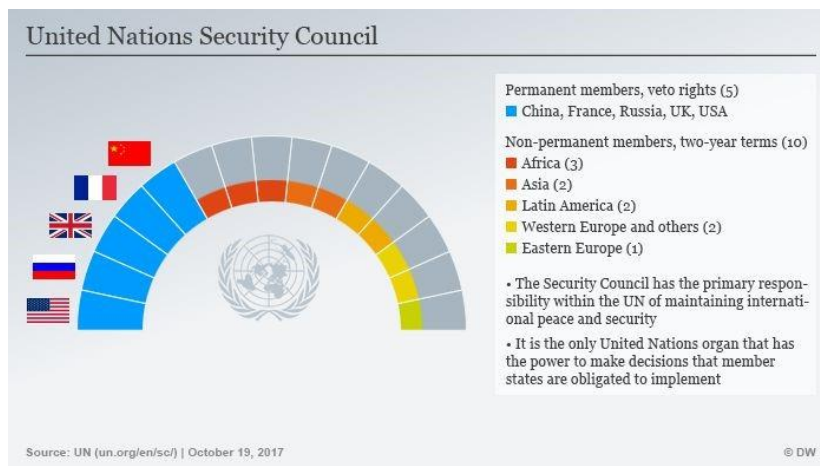




The United Nations Security Council is composed by 15 member countries of the United Nations. Five of them are permanent members (also known as “veto- powers “) which are:

- The French Republic
- The People's Republic of China
- The Russian Federation
- The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
- The United States of America

These are followed by 10 non-permanent members, chosen by the General Assembly for a period of two years (those elected for a term wouldn't be re-eligible for a consecutive term.) The Council strives towards having equal representation in itself which is why the 10 non-permanent members are chosen based on world regions, Africa (3 representatives), Asia (2), Latin America (2), Western Europe and others (2), Eastern Europe (1). This system of division does not always satisfy or correctly represent many points of view in the international community.



### c. Voting Process

The Security Council treats most international matters, such as peacekeeping operations, threats resembling terrorism, nuclear warfare, new forms of violent extremism and the systematic violation of human rights. In the 21st century, the Security Council has been losing its effectiveness, especially in areas in which conflict prevails, many countries consider that a reformation of the Security Council is in order, especially because of the poor representation in the Council.





The voting process of the UNSC is legislated by article 27 of the fifth chapter of the UN charter. That article states basically three main rules.

“Each member of the Security Council shall have one vote”;

Decisions of the Security Council on procedural matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members;

Decisions of the Security Council on all other matters shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members including the concurring votes of the permanent members; provided that, in decisions under Chapter VI, and under paragraph 3 of Article 52, a party to a dispute shall abstain from voting.” (United Nations, 1945).

Decisions concerning “other matters” known also as substantial matters will be taken into account with a minimum of 9 affirmative votes, which include the affirmative votes (or abstention) of all 5 permanent members. The 5 permanent members possess the power to veto any resolution passed inside the Council. This type of voting procedure, also known as constitutional voting, takes place for most of the substantial decisions taken by the Council, with some accountable exceptions.

Whenever there is a disagreement or doubt regarding whether an issue falls under the category of procedural or substantial, procedural voting takes place, asking the whole Council the preliminary question of “whether the issue is procedural or not.”.

#### **d. Procedure**

The Council will entertain periodical meetings in any place it desires. It has the power to establish its need for subsidiary organizations for the proper fulfillment of its work. It dictates its own method to elect a President. Any member of the UN can participate in the discussion without a right to vote if the Council finds it pertinent. Additionally, if any member of the UN is part of a dispute being discussed in the Council, it may take place in the meeting, following certain conditions established by member states.

More punctually, the UNSC has the power to investigate any situation that might lead to international disputes and furthermore formulate structured plans for its solving. It may call upon members to apply sanctions, take military action or stop aggression. Within its functions, it is that the Council may grant jurisdiction to the International Criminal Court to work inside any territory if it







deems it necessary, even if the state did not ratify the Rome Statute. It can recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General, and along with the Assembly, it elects the judges of the International Court of Justice.

The Security Council takes lead in determining the existence of a threat to peace or an act of aggression and usually, before taking measures, recommends the parties involved in the dispute to cease their hostilities. The Security Council has the power to impose 3 kinds of sanctions:

1. Military (Observers, peacekeeping forces, interventions, etc).
2. Economic (Embargoes, financial penalties, investment restrictions, etc).
3. Diplomatic (Dissolution of diplomatic ties, removal of embassies, etc).

### **3. Topic:**

#### **a. Introduction to the topic**

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one of the most complex on the international stage and the main key to instability in the Middle East. The territory known as Palestine has been the subject of a dispute for almost a century, and especially following the creation of the State of Israel in 1948 and a failure birth of the Palestinian Arab State. Many elements are combined in this conflict. It was born as the dispute for a territory between two national movements with different national projects. It provoked the interference of the powers during the Cold War. With time, it involved other regional actors, causing warlike conflicts and it became even more complicated when ideologies, religion, control of natural resources were intermingled.

Over the years, two equal forces have mainly confronted each other: the State of Israel and a national liberation movement, embodied for 30 years in the Palestine Liberation Organization. This inequality has allowed Israel to occupy the territory that could be the basis of the Palestinian State and to keep the indigenous Arab population under military control by violating their fundamental rights. The occupation of the West Bank and Gaza had earned Israel condemnation of the international community, even though it had been unable to impose its resolutions. Furthermore, the Palestinian issue had a regional dimension. The tension between Israel and its neighbours increased the security risk in the area, in the form of militarization, the presence of Palestinian refugees and the proliferation of armed groups.







## **b. History**

At the beginning of the 20th century the Zionist movement took hold in order to establish a state for the Jewish, who were suffering because of the anti-semitism in which they were in to. The region of Palestine, between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea, considered sacred for Muslims, Jewish and Catholics, belonged at that time to the Ottoman Empire and was occupied mostly by Arabs and other Muslim communities. But strong Jewish immigration, encouraged by Zionist aspirations, was beginning to generate resistance among the communities. During the First World War, the Ottoman Turkish Empire established an alliance with Germany. In consequence of Germany's defeat at the end of the war, the Ottoman Turkish Empire broke down and Palestine passed into hands of the French and the British Empire. During the war, The British had made various promises to the Arabs and the Jewish which they then failed to fulfil, not least because they had already divided the Middle East with France.

In 1917, the British Foreign Minister Arthur James Balfour and Lionel Walter Rothschild, a leader of the Jewish community in Britain, published the Balfour Declaration. "His Majesty's Government views with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object" (Balfour). According to this, Jewish could find a home in the Palestinian territory. "The Palestinians rejected the move but history was not in their favour" ("Israeli-Palestinian Conflict"). A 67 word document has been the recurring point of the conflict over the past 100 years. With this and the the horrors living by the Jewish during the Holocaust in the Second World War, increased the pressure to establish a Jewish state. The original plan expected a division of the territory controlled by the European power between Jews and Palestinians, but in November 29, 1947 the UN General Assembly performed the Palestine partition plan without the UK, due they could not carry the situation by themselves. The Palestinian territory was thus separated into a Jewish and an Arab state. Something that in practice was not fulfilled, since only Israel was born, because the Palestinians rejected the organization's plan. This is when we start talking about the Arab-Israeli conflict.

After Israel's founding on May 14, 1948, the tension shifted from a local issue to a regional one. The next day, Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Iraq invaded this territory. It was the first Arab-Israeli war, also known by the Jewish as the war of independence or liberation. After the conflict, the territory initially seen by the United Nations for an Arab state was halved. For the Palestinians, the Nakba or catastrophe began: the beginning of the national tragedy. Israel won the war





getting 78% of the territory and the 22% of it was divided between The West Bank and the Gaza Strip. 750,000 Palestinians fled to neighboring countries or were expelled by Jewish troops. Concluding the first of many wars these two communities had faced.



By the end of 1948, the Jewish were the majority of the population in Palestine. After the war, Jewish immigration continued and Israel soon became a state with high levels of education and institutional development. The Palestinians, for their part, created the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1964, with the aim of returning the borders to those of the time of the British mandate. Three years later, Egypt, Syria and Jordan attacked the territory of Israel starting the war of the six days in which Israel took away the West Bank and East Jerusalem and have been controlling them since then.

## i. The First Intifada

December 8, 1987 the first intifada started in the Javelin refugees camp, Gaza Strip, when an Israeli military truck collided with a civilian car, killing four Palestinians. The deaths caused a great stir, and soon after, hundreds of unemployed youth took to the streets to protest against Israeli violence and its total control of political, social and economic development. In response, Israel sent 80,000 troops to put an end to the proposals by torturing people and killing hundreds of Palestinians. In just one year, they killed 332 Palestinians, including 53 under 17; and 12 Israelis were killed. By the end of the intifada, in 1993, 1,489 Palestinians and 185 Israelis had been killed. This disproportionate violence and the number of Palestinian victims led to international criticism that influenced the UN Security Council to draft solutions 607 and 608, demanding that Israel stop deporting Palestinian. The first intifada ends with the first peace agreement called the Oslo Accord, where the Palestinian organization renounced "violence and terrorism" and recognized Israel's "right" to "exist in peace and security".





## **ii. The Second Intifada**

In September 2000 it emerged in the Occupied Territories (TTOO) as a spontaneous popular event (in mass mobilizations in the large Palestinian cities) under two converging slogans: against the Israeli occupation and against the Oslo Accord . The main reason why the second intifada began was because the then leader of the Israeli opposition, Ariel Sharon, stormed the Al-Aqsa mosque with armed Israeli police and soldiers, provoking a Palestinian uprising that lasted five years and killed more than 3,000 Palestinians and 1,000

### **c. Current problem**

Since the beginning of the Palestinian uprising in 2000, the Israeli Army has made numerous incursions into the Strip, set up checkpoints and restricted the movement of Palestinians. Twenty-one Jewish settlements were built in the area, where more than 8,000 people lived. Israel is building a wall over 700 kilometres long. Along its route, Israel is including the illegal settlements in the West Bank. Security measures are complemented by 550 checkpoints and blockades of Palestinians. In 2005, however, they were evacuated as a result of the Disengagement Plan. Following this evacuation, the Palestinian Authority (PNA) took control of Gaza and its government has been contested by two Arab political sides.

Following the military occupation of Gaza and the West Bank, Israel issued Proclamation No. 1, which clearly stated that Israeli army officers would be responsible for ensuring security and maintaining public order. Proclamation No. 2 of Israel stated that all powers of government, legislation, appointments and administration, with respect to the entire region and its inhabitants, belonged to the military governor, who was appointed to his post by the IDF. Having control over this land means that the government of Israel can maintain the security of its citizens. Its purpose was to prevent uprisings, wars, guerrillas or terrorism against Israel, from within Gaza and the West Bank. For this reason, in the 27 years of strict military occupation of these territories, the Israelis issued more than 1300 military orders that had an enormous impact on the Occupied Territories and their Palestinian inhabitants, even altering the legal status of the West Bank and Gaza during that period.

The current wave of violence began shortly after intense high-level negotiations to find a permanent solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. A summit meeting for peace in the Middle East was held at Camp David in July 2000, hosted by US President Bill Clinton and attended by Palestinian Authority





(PA) leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak. During the meeting, Israel expressed its willingness to make unprecedented and far-reaching compromises to reach a viable and lasting agreement. However, Yasser Arafat preferred to break off the negotiations without even offering any proposals of his own.

Consequently, the summit came to an end and President Clinton blamed Arafat for the failure of the talks.

The conflict still continues due the empowerment Israel has on Palestine settlements, the Gaza Strip, Jerusalem and the West Bank, which Palestine is claiming as theirs and demand the creation of an Arab State. The conflict gets worst by the collapse of the U.S.-sponsored peace talks and the declaration of a unity government between the Palestinian factions of Fatah and Hamas, considered unacceptable by Israel, an escalation of violence began. Hamas has been throwing rocket to Israeli territories the same way Israel launched air strikes on Gaza. For the last 20 years this conflict has provoked child violence, increasing numbers of refugees in neighbouring countries and terrorist attacks from both sides. For example, there was found three young Israeli men, who were kidnapped and the killed. Israel blamed Hamas. One day after the burial of the Israelis, a 16-year-old Palestinian was kidnapped in East Jerusalem and killed. Three Israelis were charged and from Gaza there was an increase in rocket fire into Israel. These several attacks are the main reason why the conflict has not come to an end. Both countries still are staying perseverant to get what they want, but none of the peace agreements had helped to make them stop the attacks.

### **i. Religious involvement**

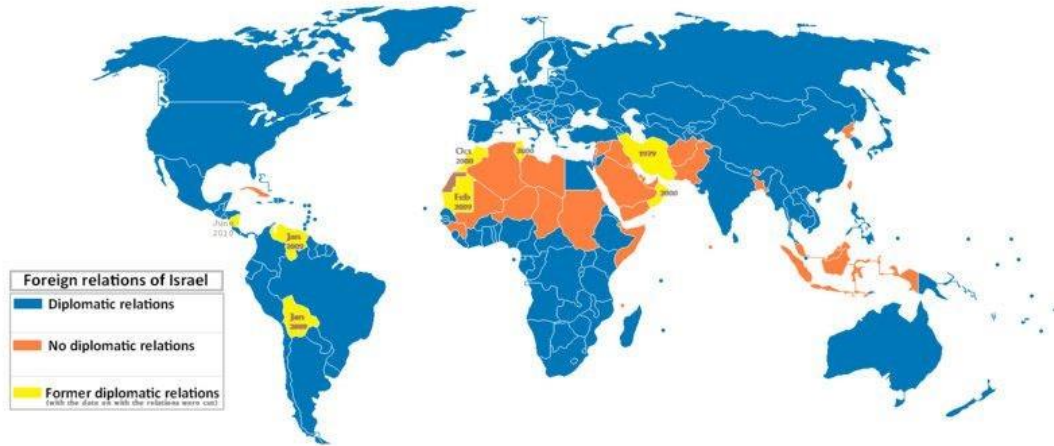
Muslims and Jewish religious ideologies are a main element in how they view their politics in relation to the Israel-Palestine conflict. Two sides fighting over the same piece of land also includes a religious and national geopolitical conflict. The whole conflict started when a small number of Jews moved to Palestine for religious reasons. But, the religious morale got strength after 1967 when Israel won over its Arab enemies. For them, all of their victories meant a sign from God that the Messiah was on His way. They believed that the land was part of ancient Israel, from the Mediterranean Sea to the Jordan. In the meantime, with the selective killing of the Jewish people during the Second World War, Germany's economic and war interests were subordinated to this racist ideology, against all economic, religious and military logic of conquest and expansion, diverting economic resources and military logistics in order to mass murder the Jewish. Even though the conflict between this two communities comes from a political reason, it has been involving grudge between both religions each one follows.





## ii. Worldwide thinking

Faraway countries from the Middle East are aware of Israel's legitimacy and have kept external relations with it, but still are against with Israel's treatment with the Palestinians and their occupation in the West Bank. Global thinking is more sympathetic to Palestine cause. The 83% of the world's countries and most of them non-arab recognizes Israel.



But according to a BBC poll of 22 countries, Israel was the fourth most dislike nation. The key cause of Israel's global reputation is formed by their West Bank settlements. For the world, the control Israel has over the West Bank is an unlawful military occupation and violate the Fourth Geneva Convention.

## iii. Zionist movement

The Zionism was first seen as a movement to establish a land for the Jewish. Nowadays, some identify it as a Jewish nationalism, but others say it is a violent expansionism movement. The Jewish government works together with the Zionist movements to promote the process of colonization in the occupied territories. There is mutual support between the two organizations to play a key role in financing and implementing the colonization project. The role of the World Zionist Organization is not confined to strategic planning. After 1967 the Jewish National Fund (JNF in English and KKL in Hebrew) was involved in the purchase of land in the occupied Palestinian territories through Himanuta (exclusively owned by a subsidiary of the KKL); murky land transactions have repeatedly led to accusations of corruption, falsification of documents and bribery.

On the other hand, the Zionist settler movements, who are waging daily struggle on the ground, work together with the World Zionist Organization,







which provides the money and infrastructure, to employ force behind the colonization of the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights. This is the partnership that is still in place. All the protagonists not only invoke Zionism as the ideological framework for their joint actions, but are part of the Zionist movement and its institutions.

#### iv. Possible solutions

Spite of everything, there exists a possible solution that could bring peace to the conflict. Called “the two-State solution that will divide the territory in an Israeli State and a Palestinian State, accepting the agreement left after the six-days war in 1967 with the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem as part of the new Palestinian State. This solution has been accepted by the United Nations, Arab League, the European Union and Russian Federation. However, the expansion of the wall built by Israel, in addition to the increasingly frequent settlements occupying Palestinian territories, has made the alternative practically unviable, as long as Israel does not make a radical change in its policy. Anyways, if the two-state solution could not be achieve, it exist the possibility of building a Binational State to give the same citizenship and rights to all residents of Israel and Palestinian territories.



#### 4. QARMAS

1. Who has been involved in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?
2. How has your country been involved in the conflict?
3. Why did the Jewish come to Palestine?
4. Why does Palestine not recognize the Jewish State?
5. According to your delegation's position, why has peace not been achieved?
6. How peace will be achieve according to your delegation?





7. What is your country's position regarding the Jewish State?
8. Has your country taken legal action to support this position? If so, how?
9. Has your country been involved in the issue militarily?
10. If it has, what have been the major things your country contributed?
11. In what way does your country hope or plan to help?
12. What have been the wars that both country had faced between each other?
13. How is Israel controlling Palestine?
14. What is doing Palestine to protect their land from Israel?
15. Is your delegation in favor or against of the colonial settlements? Why?

## 5. Useful Links

<https://palestinalibre.org>

<http://andaluciasolidariaconpalestina.org/actores-del-conflicto/>

[https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/1397\(2002\)](https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/1397(2002))

[https://undocs.org/es/S/RES/1515\(2003\)](https://undocs.org/es/S/RES/1515(2003))

[https://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2334%282016%29](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2334%282016%29)

<https://www.cfr.org/interactive/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/israeli-palestinian-conflict> <https://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sc12126.doc.htm>

Australia: <http://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/resource/australias-position-on-palestine-incongruence-and-internal-division/>

<https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/australias-israel-palestine-conflict> Iraq:

<https://digitalcommons.macalester.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1211&context=macintl> Afghanistan:

<https://www.wrmea.org/002-march/witnessing-a-war-for-peace-in-afghanistan-and-a-war-for-conquest-in-palestine.html>

[https://www.vice.com/en\\_us/article/yw4k3v/why-is-afghanistan-sending-aid-to-gaza](https://www.vice.com/en_us/article/yw4k3v/why-is-afghanistan-sending-aid-to-gaza) Algeria:

<https://www.middleeasteye.net/features/between-algeria-and-palestine-there-much-more-politics>

Bahrain: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/06/led-bahrain-workshop-palestine-latest-updates-190>







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## 7. List of Countries

1. Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
2. People's Democratic Republic of Algeria
3. the Commonwealth of Australia
4. Kingdom of Bahrain
5. People's Republic of China 6. Republic of Cuba
7. the Arab Republic of Egypt
8. French Republic
9. Federal Republic of Germany
10. the Islamic Republic of Iran
11. Republic of Iraq
12. State of Israel
13. the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
14. Lebanese Republic
15. State of Palestine
16. The State of Qatar
17. Russian Federation
18. Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
19. The Syrian Arab Republic
20. Republic of Turkey
21. United Arab Emirates
22. United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.
23. United States of America
24. Republic of Yemen

