

Security Council Simulation



The purpose of this simulation is for you to gain an appreciation for the UN and its processes, to practice your *realpolitik* skills, and to analyse critically the United Nations *vis-à-vis* its own stated goals as an international organization.

Preparation

A) Each student/group of students will be assigned a role of a participating member of the UN Security Council. The following roles are available:

- The Five Permanent Members: United States, France, United Kingdom, Russia, & China
- The Ten Current Non-Permanent Members: (www.un.org → Peace & Security → Security Council → Members)
- Interested Parties: India, Pakistan, Canada, Iran, and Afghanistan

B) Research your country and fill in the “Country Fact Sheet” (www.cia.gov → The World Factbook (under the Library & Reference heading)).

C) Prepare for the Simulation

1. Security Council (www.un.org → Peace & Security → Security Council)
 - a. Functions and powers of the Security Council & General Assembly
 - b. Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council
2. History of the Kashmir Dispute (www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/asia/india-pakistan)
 - a. See especially “Roots of Kashmir Conflict”

D) Read the “Situation Developing in Kashmir” Brief

E) Prepare a speech to be delivered to your fellow delegates at the Security Council. Your speech should:

1. Identify your delegation
2. Outline your response to the crisis and provide reasons for your country’s position
3. Propose solutions to the crisis from your country’s perspective
4. Be one page in length
5. Be submitted for evaluation at the conclusion of the session

The Simulation

1. The meeting will be called to order by the President of the Security Council (look at the Security Council’s official website to determine who is the President for this month)
2. The President draws the attention of the members to any correspondence from the United Nations Secretary-General (in this case, the brief mentioned in “D” above).

3. The representatives from each member country will be called upon to state its position on the crisis and to table any resolutions that may be appropriate to deal with the crisis. In addition, each of the interested parties may contribute opinions and suggestions, but not resolutions.
4. Each resolution will be debated in the order that they are proposed from the floor, after which a vote will be held before moving on to the next resolution. Remember, as in the real UN, much of the real politicking takes place in corridors and offices before the public meeting or during short recesses agreed to by the council.
5. For a vote to be passed by the Security Council, 9 of the 15 members (or 60% of the members voting on a particular motion) must agree to it **including all five permanent members**. Any member may ABSTAIN (not vote) on a particular motion, leaving the decision to the other members.
6. The simulation will conclude when all resolutions have been voted on, or the session's time expires, whichever occurs first.

Evaluation

1. **Multiple Choice Quiz** on the Functions and Structures, Provisional Rules of Security Council, and Knowledge of India/Pakistan Dispute – **15 Marks**
2. **Country Fact Sheet - 10 Marks**
3. **Position Paper - 15 Marks**
 - Communicated effectively
 - Presents a thorough overview of the major issues from country's perspective
 - Demonstrates a good knowledge of the history of the dispute
 - Provides a clearly stated position with adequate supporting details
 - Provides suggestions for conflict resolution
4. **Teacher Evaluation of Simulation Performance* – 10 Marks**
 - Provide a realistic portrayal
 - Demonstrates knowledge of dispute
 - Demonstrates knowledge of own country's position/history
 - Communicates effectively
 - Takes a position that well reflects country's interests/priorities

**N.B. As with all presentations, attendance is mandatory. No attendance equals no marks.*