SECURITY COUNCIL

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1. Introduction to the Security Council

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) plays a pivotal role in maintaining international peace and security, addressing global conflicts, and preventing threats to global stability. Established in 1945 as one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, the UNSC is tasked with the responsibility of addressing threats to peace, including armed conflict, terrorism, and violations of international law. Composed of 15 members, including five permanent members with veto power and ten rotating elected members, the Security Council is empowered to take a range of actions. These actions range from imposing sanctions and authorizing military intervention to establishing peacekeeping missions and mediating diplomatic efforts.

The Security Council's mandate also extends to preventing the escalation of conflicts and addressing the root causes of instability, such as human rights violations, resource scarcity, and geopolitical tensions. Through its resolutions, the UNSC works to create a framework for resolving conflicts peacefully, while ensuring accountability for perpetrators of violence and upholding international law. In its efforts to maintain global peace, the Security Council collaborates with other UN bodies, regional organizations, and humanitarian agencies to provide comprehensive solutions to complex security challenges. Through its actions, the UNSC seeks to protect human lives, promote peaceful coexistence, and foster a stable, secure international order where nations can coexist harmoniously.

2. Topic: The Situation in Yemen

2.1 Introduction to the Topic

The situation in Yemen is one of the most complex and devastating crises of the 21st century, marked by a brutal civil war that has caused immense human suffering, political instability, and a complete breakdown of governance. Since 2014, Yemen has been engulfed in a conflict between the Houthi rebels, who control large portions of the country, and the internationally recognized government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, supported by a Saudi-led coalition. What began as a political struggle for control of the government has escalated into a full-scale war involving regional powers, foreign interventions, and deeply entrenched local rivalries. The conflict has triggered widespread displacement, destruction, and a humanitarian disaster, leaving millions of Yemenis trapped in an ongoing crisis that shows no signs of abating.

At the heart of the crisis is the severe humanitarian toll, with over 20 million people—around two-thirds of the population—requiring humanitarian aid, and many living in conditions of extreme food insecurity, lack of clean water, and inadequate healthcare. According to the United Nations, more than 4 million people have been displaced internally, creating massive refugee-like conditions within the country. The violence has not only displaced millions but has also destroyed vital infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, and roads, making it nearly impossible for many communities to survive without outside assistance. The blockade imposed by the Saudi-led coalition and restrictions from Houthi forces have also hindered the delivery of essential aid, worsening the already dire situation. The involvement of external actors like Saudi Arabia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates has further complicated efforts to end the war. Yemen has increasingly become a proxy battleground for regional power struggles, particularly between Sunni-majority Saudi Arabia and Shia-majority Iran. This intervention has not only prolonged the conflict but also fueled sectarian tensions,

making a peaceful resolution even more elusive. With no resolution in sight and political negotiations stalled, Yemen's future remains uncertain, and the international community continues to face the challenge of addressing both the immediate humanitarian crisis and the deeper political, sectarian, and social issues driving the conflict. Without a concerted effort to bring all parties to the table and address the root causes of the war, Yemen risks becoming a failed state, further destabilizing the broader region.

2.2 Historical Context

The situation in Yemen is rooted in a complex history of political instability, regional conflicts, and socio-economic challenges. Yemen, located at the southern tip of the Arabian Peninsula, has a long history of divisions, with distinct northern and southern regions that were unified only in 1990. Prior to unification, the northern part of Yemen was a monarchy, while the south was a socialist state. Following unification, Yemen faced significant political tensions, economic difficulties, and social disparities, particularly between the northern and southern regions. In the years that followed, Yemen grappled with weak governance, corruption, and limited development, further exacerbated by external interference and regional rivalries, particularly between Saudi Arabia and Iran, who have supported different factions within the country. These underlying issues set the stage for the outbreak of the current conflict.

The current crisis in Yemen began in 2014, when the Houthi rebel group, supported by Iran, seized the capital, Sana'a, and later declared themselves the new government. This development was met with strong resistance from the internationally recognized government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, who fled to Saudi Arabia. In 2015, a

Saudi-led coalition, backed by several Arab states, intervened militarily in Yemen to restore Hadi's government. The conflict has since escalated into a full-scale humanitarian disaster, with millions of Yemenis displaced, thousands killed, and widespread famine and disease. The situation has been further complicated by the involvement of various local militias, including separatist groups in the south, creating a multi-dimensional conflict. Despite multiple rounds of peace talks, the war has continued for nearly a decade, resulting in a dire humanitarian crisis and significant regional instability.

Key Historical Milestones:

1962 Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen) Established: A military coup led to the establishment of the Yemen Arab Republic, ending the monarchy and initiating a republican government.

1967 The People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen): The southern part of Yemen gained independence from British colonial rule, becoming a Marxist state under the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

1990 Unification of North and South Yemen: North Yemen and South Yemen unified to form the Republic of Yemen, with Ali Abdullah Saleh as president.

1994 Civil War: Tensions between the north and south escalated into a brief civil war, which resulted in the defeat of the south and the solidification of the northern government's control.

2004-2010 Houthi Insurgency: The Houthi movement, originating from the northern Saada region, began a series of rebellions against the Yemeni government, citing marginalization and poor governance.

2011 Arab Spring Uprising: Widespread protests led by the Yemeni people against President Ali Abdullah Saleh's long-standing rule culminated in Saleh's resignation in 2012. His successor, Vice President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, took office in a transitional government.

2014 Houthi Takeover of Sana'a: The Houthi rebel group, supported by Iran, seized control of the capital, Sana'a, and later dissolved the government, leading to the resignation of President Hadi.

2015 Saudi-led Coalition Intervention: After Hadi fled to Saudi Arabia, a Saudi-led coalition of Arab states launched military operations in Yemen aimed at restoring Hadi's government, leading to the escalation of the conflict into a full-scale civil war.

2016 UN-brokered Peace Talks Begin: The United Nations facilitated peace talks between the warring parties in an attempt to bring an end to the conflict. These talks have been intermittent and largely unsuccessful in achieving a lasting peace agreement.

2017 Emergence of Separatist Movements: The Southern Transitional Council (STC), a separatist group in the south, began to assert control in southern Yemen, further complicating the conflict.

2018 Battle for Hodeidah: One of the most significant battles of the war occurred in the port city of Hodeidah, a vital entry point for humanitarian aid. This battle intensified the humanitarian crisis in the country.

2020 Riyadh Agreement: A peace agreement was signed between the Yemeni government and the Southern Transitional Council (STC), aimed at easing tensions in southern Yemen, although its implementation has been slow**.**

2.3 Current Situation

As of January 2025, Yemen remains embroiled in a protracted conflict that has precipitated one of the world's most severe humanitarian crises. The Houthi movement, which seized the capital, Sana'a, in 2014, continues to control significant portions of the country. A Saudi-led coalition has been engaged in military operations against the Houthis since 2015, aiming to restore the internationally recognized government. The conflict has resulted in widespread displacement, economic collapse, and critical shortages of food and medical supplies, leaving millions in dire need of assistance.

Recent developments have further complicated the situation. In January 2025, the United Nations suspended all travel into Houthi-controlled areas following the detention of additional U.N. staff members by the rebels, bringing the total number of detained personnel to 16. U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres has called for their immediate and unconditional release, condemning the arbitrary detentions that hinder humanitarian efforts. Concurrently, the U.S. administration re-designated the Houthi movement as a "foreign terrorist organization," imposing stricter economic penalties in response to the group's attacks on commercial shipping in the Red Sea. These actions have heightened tensions and pose additional challenges to delivering humanitarian aid to the Yemeni population.

2.4 Subtopic 1: The Humanitarian Crisis and Access to Aid in Yemen

The humanitarian crisis in Yemen remains one of the most severe in modern history, with millions of people facing acute food insecurity and the constant threat of famine. Prolonged conflict, economic collapse, and widespread displacement have left a significant portion of the population in desperate need of assistance. According to the United Nations, over 20 million Yemenis are in need of humanitarian aid, with over 4 million displaced internally. Ongoing hostilities between warring factions continue to endanger civilians, while airstrikes, ground offensives, and indiscriminate attacks on vital infrastructure—such as schools, hospitals, and markets—further deteriorate living conditions. These attacks have targeted civilian areas, exacerbating the suffering of non-combatants, particularly women and children, who make up a disproportionate number of the casualties.

The situation is further exacerbated by blockades and logistical barriers that severely restrict the delivery of humanitarian aid, preventing essential food, medicine, and supplies from reaching those most in need. The Saudi-led coalition has imposed a blockade on Yemen's ports, limiting the flow of humanitarian goods and fuel. Additionally, Houthi forces have also imposed their own restrictions, leading to significant delays and diversions of aid. These restrictions have led to dire shortages of food and medical supplies, hampering efforts to alleviate the suffering of the Yemeni people. The collapse of Yemen's healthcare infrastructure has compounded the crisis, leaving hospitals and clinics understaffed, under-resourced, and unable to address the growing burden of malnutrition, disease outbreaks, and war-related injuries. Medical staff face the immense challenge of treating thousands of patients with limited supplies and equipment, while many healthcare workers have been killed or displaced by the conflict. Limited access to clean water and sanitation has also led to the resurgence of preventable diseases, including cholera, diphtheria, and

respiratory infections, increasing mortality rates among vulnerable populations. Cholera, in particular, has been a recurring problem, with the World Health Organization reporting millions of suspected cases since the conflict began.

Without urgent international intervention and sustained efforts to facilitate humanitarian access, the crisis in Yemen is likely to worsen, further endangering millions of lives. Humanitarian organizations, including the United Nations and various non-governmental organizations, have called for a ceasefire to ensure safe delivery of aid and access to those in need, but such efforts have been repeatedly undermined by ongoing violence and political obstacles. The international community's failure to enforce lasting ceasefires and secure humanitarian corridors leaves the country in a perpetual state of suffering. Addressing the humanitarian crisis requires a multifaceted approach that includes securing unimpeded aid access, restoring basic services, and addressing the long-term needs of a population traumatized by years of war. Without these interventions, the Yemeni people will continue to endure an overwhelming humanitarian disaster.

2.5 *Subtopic 2:* Addressing Foreign Interventions and Proxy Conflicts

The ongoing conflict in Yemen is exacerbated by the involvement of external actors, who provide political, military, and financial support to rival factions, further entrenching the war and hindering prospects for a peaceful resolution. The Saudi-led coalition, which includes several Gulf states such as the United Arab Emirates, has been actively supporting the internationally recognized government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi since 2015. This coalition has conducted extensive military operations aimed at countering the Houthi insurgency, including airstrikes and ground battles. However, the military

intervention has not led to a decisive victory, and has instead caused a prolonged stalemate, with both sides suffering heavy casualties. Meanwhile, Iran has been accused of providing military and logistical assistance to the Houthis, including weapons, training, and strategic support. This Iranian backing has further fueled the conflict and deepened regional rivalries, especially with Saudi Arabia, which views the Houthis as an Iranian proxy in its wider struggle for influence in the Middle East.

These foreign interventions have not only prolonged hostilities but also deepened the geopolitical dimensions of the war, transforming Yemen into a battleground for broader regional rivalries. The Saudi-Iranian proxy conflict plays out in Yemen with devastating consequences, as both powers use the country as a stage to exert influence in the region. The ongoing military engagements, airstrikes, and proxy warfare tactics employed by external actors have resulted in widespread civilian casualties, the destruction of vital infrastructure, and a worsening humanitarian crisis. Millions of people face food insecurity, lack access to healthcare, and live in dire conditions due to the conflict. Furthermore, these interventions complicate diplomatic efforts, as competing interests among international and regional stakeholders create significant obstacles to negotiations and the establishment of a sustainable peace agreement. The involvement of external powers has polarized the political landscape, with each side accusing the other of destabilizing the region. Without a concerted effort by the international community to mediate these external influences, address the needs of the Yemeni people, and prioritize a diplomatic solution, the conflict is likely to persist, further destabilizing Yemen and the broader region. The challenge for international diplomacy lies in managing these proxy conflicts while pushing for a comprehensive and inclusive peace process that considers the complex web of local and international interests.

2.6 Key Terms

• *Houthi Movement (Ansar Allah):* A Zaidi Shia group and key faction in the conflict.

• *Hadi-led Government:* The internationally recognized government operating in exile.

• *Southern Transitional Council (STC):* A separatist group advocating southern Yemen's independence.

• *Proxy Conflict:* A conflict involving external powers supporting rival factions.

• *Cholera Epidemic:* A severe disease outbreak exacerbated by poor sanitation and limited clean water access.

• *Blockade:* Restrictions on Yemen's ports, hindering humanitarian aid and essential goods.

2.7 Guiding Questions

1. How can the Security Council ensure immediate, unhindered humanitarian access across Yemen?
2. What steps can limit foreign interference while fostering peace negotiations?
3. How should the Council address arms sales and support to warring factions?
4. What mechanisms can facilitate a lasting ceasefire and political resolution?
5. What measures can the Security Council implement to strengthen accountability for violations of international humanitarian law and human rights in Yemen?
6. How can the Security Council support the reconstruction of Yemen's economy and infrastructure to promote long-term stability?

7. What role should regional organizations and neighboring states play in facilitating diplomatic efforts and conflict resolution?
8. How can the Security Council enhance protections for vulnerable populations, including women, children, and internally displaced persons, amid ongoing conflict?

2.8 Positions:

The United States of America: The U.S. has been a key supporter of the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen, providing military and logistical assistance. However, its involvement has drawn criticism due to the humanitarian crisis caused by the conflict. While the U.S. has provided some humanitarian aid, there is growing domestic pressure for a shift in policy towards a more diplomatic approach.

European Union (various countries): The EU has pushed for a peaceful resolution to the Yemen conflict, offering humanitarian assistance and advocating for the protection of civilians. It has criticized Saudi-led airstrikes and emphasized the need for dialogue, but has faced challenges in pushing for a ceasefire due to regional political complexities.

Developing Economies (Brazil, India, South Africa, etc.): Developing countries like Brazil, India, and South Africa have supported humanitarian efforts in Yemen but have limited capacity to address the crisis. They have called for international cooperation and a more inclusive approach to providing aid, particularly for marginalized communities affected by the war.

China: China has maintained a neutral stance, providing humanitarian aid while avoiding direct involvement in the political or military aspects

of the conflict. It advocates for peaceful dialogue and respects Yemen's sovereignty, aligning with its non-interference foreign policy.

Russia: Russia has supported UN-led peace efforts but maintains close ties with Iran, backing the Houthi rebels. It opposes foreign intervention and advocates for a political solution, aligning with its broader strategy of expanding influence in the region while avoiding direct involvement in the conflict.

3. Useful Resources

- UN Security Council Resolutions on Yemen
  https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/
- UN Panel of Experts on Yemen Reports (Sanctions Committee 2140)
  https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sanctions/2140/panel-of-experts/reports
- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Yemen Updates
  https://reports.unocha.org/en/country/yemen
- UN Secretary-General's Reports on Yemen
  https://www.un.org/unispal/document/un-secretary-general-reports-on-yemen/
- UNICEF Yemen (Child Protection & Humanitarian Aid)
  https://www.unicef.org/yemen/
- UNHCR (Refugees & Internally Displaced Persons in Yemen)
  https://www.unhcr.org/yemen.html
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Yemen
  https://www.icrc.org/en/where-we-work/middle-east/yemen

- World Food Programme (WFP) Yemen Updates
  https://www.wfp.org/countries/yemen
- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) – Arms Transfers & Military Spending
  https://www.sipri.org/
- Control Arms – Reports on Arms Trade & Yemen
  https://controlarms.org/
- ACLED (Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project) Conflict Mapping in Yemen
  https://acleddata.com/
- Arab League & Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Statements on Yemen
  https://www.gcc-sg.org/en-us/

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