



*Boston University Academy Model United Nations Conference VII*

*Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019*

*Boston University Academy*

*Boston, MA*



***UNSC***

Hello Delegates!

My name is Kaly Glavas, I am a senior at Boston University Academy, and I will be your chairwoman for BUAMUN 2019! This is my second year participating in BUAMUN, and I was a JCC vice chair last year. This year, your vice chair will be Christopher Glynn, who is also a senior at BUA. We are beyond excited to host you and we are looking forward to a great conference!

At BUAMUN 2019, we will be simulating the United Nations Security Council, a committee established by the UN Charter to maintain harmony among nations. You will be writing position papers, representing a country, and debating each other in committee. To succeed at BUAMUN, I recommend coming prepared: if you do your research and get well-acquainted with your topic, you will have an advantage in the debate and your hard work will not go unnoticed.

Christopher and I are very excited to meet you all and we eagerly anticipate a rigorous, engaging, and exciting conference this year! If you have any questions about position papers, research, or anything pertaining to BUAMUN, feel free to email me.

Best,  
Kaly Glavas  
kglavas@bu.edu



### **Committee Information**

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was formed in order to uphold both international peace and security. Established by Chapter V of the Charter of United Nations, the Council is expected to make decisions on behalf of the UN in accordance with the Charter. It is also responsible for working with the Military Staff Committee to regulate armaments. The Security Council is made up of a total of fifteen Members. Five of these Members hold permanent spots in the Council: The People's Republic of China, the United States, France, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK). These members have a veto power over the decisions of the Council. The other ten memberships are decided by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA). Each elected Member, chosen from more than 180 member states, serves on the UNSC for a two-year term. The president of the committee is selected each month by the Council. For the purpose of the simulation, there will be no president, as the chair will be directing debate.

The Security Council is different from the other assemblies of the United Nations in that member states of the UN are obligated to carry its resolutions. Additionally, the Council's members are required to be prepared to meet at any time, usually at the UN's headquarters in New York City. The Council handles a variety of issues, such as the Libyan uprising and civil war and the status of North Korea's nuclear program. The Council has passed more than two thousand resolutions since its inception in 1946, all of which are made available online. More information about the Security Council and the whole UN can be found in the UN's charter, also available online.

### **Position Paper Information**

We will require a formal position paper from each one of you for BUAMUN this year. Position papers are 1-2 page essays, double spaced, about a delegate's stance on the topics. These papers are an important part of the conference, as they contribute to the chair's overall assessment of your performance. Well-written or well-thought out position papers can even earn you an award, but note that the lack of a position paper disqualifies you from earning awards. The header should appear as follows (with the appropriate information). Again, feel free to email me with any questions about researching and writing.

Delegate: Kaly Glavas

School: Boston University Academy [your school here]

Committee: United Nations Security Council

Country: USA

## **Background Information**

### Topic 1: Iran Deal

The Iran Deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is an agreement created in 2015 between the UNSC, Germany, the EU, and The Islamic Republic of Iran regarding the production of nuclear weapons. Enforced mainly by the United States of America, the contract aims to monitor and restrict nuclear research and nuclear bomb production. Iran actively did research with nuclear power plants until the 1970s, when the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) was instituted, promoting international nuclear disarmament and peaceful uses for nuclear energy. The treaty was negotiated by the Eighteen Nation Committee on Disarmament (ENCD), which was a United Nations sponsored committee consisting of eighteen members, as well as by another UN-funded group in Switzerland. The treaty's three main requirements are non-proliferation, disarmament, and using nuclear energy in a harmonious way. The NPT was indefinitely extended in 1995, subjecting Iran to the monitoring of The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

The Iran Deal attempts to regulate the production of nuclear bombs in Iran through four main categories: enrichment, reprocessing, monitoring, and sanctions. In the enrichment section of the agreement, the capacity and stockpile of nuclear materials are restricted by the UNSC. No facilities are allowed to be in production except for the Fuel Enrichment Plant in Natanz, and Iran is allowed to continue development on their nuclear research as long as they follow the guidelines in the JCPOA. Also, one of Iran's nuclear enrichment centers, Fordo, was converted into an internationally collaborative nuclear, physics, and technology center. Next, the reprocessing section states that the fuel used in the production of nuclear products will be exported from Iran instead of repurposed, and that the "heavy water" powered nuclear facility in Arak (IR-40) will produce no weapon byproducts. Furthermore, the monitoring section enforces that the IAEA will follow Iran's progress in nuclear activity, and also implements Code 3.1 of the Subsidiary Arrangements to Safeguards Agreement, which requires that Iran immediately alert the IAEA of any plans to construct any nuclear facilities. Finally the sanctions section maintains that once the IAEA verifies Iran's cooperation, the EU and US will end all nuclear sanctions and the UNSC will resolve to end all previous nuclear resolutions.

Once the JCPOA came into effect in 2015, the United States, led by President Barack Obama, terminated their nuclear sanctions on Iran. As a result, it was much more difficult for Iran to gather materials to build a nuclear bomb or to produce plutonium and uranium, which could have been used for extremely dangerous weapons. Additionally, through the UNSC, IAEA heavily monitored Iran's nuclear activities to a degree that the White House described as "extraordinary and robust".

As of now, the US reserves the right to attack Iran's missile development programs, censorship policies, and human rights violations, as well as the authority to restrict their interactions with various regions, including Syria and Yemen. In 2017, President Trump announced that the US would withdraw from the Iran Deal, claiming that the US "will not

continue down a path whose predictable conclusion is more violence, more terror and the very real threat of Iran's nuclear breakout".

Iran and Turkey formed an agreement in 2010 that began an exchange of uranium to Turkey in return for fuel used in Iranian reactors. This proposal was praised by Arab leaders and China, but they have not fully clarified their stance on the Iran Deal.

### **Questions to Consider**

1. How will this affect trade deals between Iran and other countries? How great will the impact be on Iranian trade?
2. Are there any amendments that should be made to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action? If so, how will other countries receive them?
3. Should the US rejoin the JCPOA? What are the benefits and costs to them? What about the benefits and costs to others?
4. What are the responsibilities of countries besides Iran and the United States? How do they affect the relationship between these two countries?

### Topic 2: Syrian Civil War

Syria has been an independent nation since 1946, when France granted it autonomy. Since then, the region has survived many periods of strife, culminating in the rule of the Ba'ath party and the Assad family. In 1963, the Military Committee of the Ba'ath party took control of the government in a coup d'état, establishing a state of emergency and a ruling council. Hafez al-Assad took single control as president in 1970.

In 2000, Hafez died, making Bashar al-Assad, his son, the president. Bashar supposedly ascended to the presidency with over 95% of the popular vote in that year, and was re-elected again in 2007 under similar results. The state of emergency was never lifted, and Bashar has imprisoned his political opponents prolifically. Starting in 2008, websites such as Wikipedia and Facebook were blocked, and all chat conversations in Internet cafes were and continue to be recorded and monitored. Bashar is widely known to use the military and secret police to enforce his will against the opposition.

Assad has been accused by the United States and the EU of providing monetary and arms support to militant groups that are active against Israel. Due to these accusations, the United States has held sanctions on Syria since 2005. Syria maintains diplomatic relations with the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), Iran, and Russia, though many of its fellow Arab states have recently faced deteriorating relations. In 2007, during the Cedar Revolution in Lebanon, Bashar al-Assad's involvement in Lebanon also faced opposition.

In the larger context of the Arab Spring, a civil war erupted in Syria in March of 2011 between the Syrian government and rebel groups, notably the Free Syrian Army and the Syrian Liberation Army. Popular demonstrations evolved into rebellion as protesters continued to seek

to remove Bashar al-Assad and the Ba'ath Party from power. The Syrian military fired on protesters, a policy condemned by the majority of their Arab and international peers.

In April of 2012, former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan enabled a ceasefire to take place, though both the rebels and the military violated the terms of the agreement, and the ceasefire ended in June, as did the United Nations mission in Syria. After the Houla massacre in May of 2012, where 108 people were executed, the ceasefire deteriorated and the Free Syrian Army openly attacked government troops across the nation.

The rebels began to be arrested in 2013, but many continued to rebel against the government. Initially the rebel offensive was successful, and notably captured the regional capital of Raqqa. The rebel advance was arrested as the Syrian Arab Army reorganized and became offensive. Conflict on the Lebanese border increased and the Hezbollah group of Lebanon crossed the border to join the conflict. Pro-Assad forces controlled the Southwest region of Lebanon. The subsequent civil war continued as a stalemate until the emergence of Daesh (The Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant). All forces concentrated their efforts on Daesh, which became dominant throughout the eastern region. Rebel forces secured the Damascus region, but military chemical attacks exterminated their forces. The use of chemical weapons has drawn outrage from the international community. The Syrian army, with support from Hezbollah and al-Abas, then launched an offensive against Daesh in Damascus and Aleppo. Opposition forces managed to retake Raqqa and Aleppo in January 2014. Both opposition and military armies gradually retook territory from Daesh.

In June 2014, the first “free” election was held in Syria. Assad won 88.7% of the 12 million votes. No independent presence monitored the polls and media reported that the government compelled votes. Fewer than 6 million eligible voters were estimated to still live in the region. 60% of the country could not vote.

Throughout the summer of 2014, conflict between Daesh, the Free Syrian Army, Hezbollah and government forces escalated. In September the US and Saudi Arabia began a campaign of air strikes through the country against ISIL. The war continued with meagre advances on each side, until ISIL captured the city of Aleppo. In an effort to recapture the city, Russia began military support against ISIL and rebel forces. Obama then directed the CIA to supply Kurdish and other rebel forces with military supplies. Generally US and Russian forces coordinated their attacks and avoided conflict with each other, but on several occasions forces on either side shot down planes which violated the other’s airspace. In the most strained episode, Turkey shot down Russian forces which crossed the border, killing the pilot. The US and Russia coordinated a ceasefire which lasted from August to October 2016.

Since the beginning of the civil war, over 30,000 people have been killed, as much as half being unarmed civilians. Additionally, millions of Syrians have been displaced from their homes, causing an influx of refugees into neighboring nations. It should be noted that the International Red Cross has designated the conflict as a civil war, and thus *both* sides are subject to the humanitarian policies set forth by the Geneva Convention.

International response has generally been in condemnation of Syria and al-Assad. However, Russia and China refuse to accept sanctions on Syria, and Iran supports Assad. Turkey has offered support directly to the rebels, partly due to concerns over violence spilling over their borders. Meanwhile, Russia has supplied the Syrian military with weapons and has trained Syrian soldiers, actions that have been widely criticized by the rest of the world. Iran has sent troops to support the Syrian government, another action condemned by the international community. Due to the complexity of the international response, as well as obstruction from Russia and China in the Security Council, violence has escalated in Syria.

### **Questions to Consider**

1. Does the Syrian government have a legitimate claim to the region? Do its actions warrant the uprising? Do the elections reflect a legitimate claim to power?
2. If the government lacks a claim to rule, what could resolve the situation?
3. Should the international community support the rebels? How should it proceed, given Russia and China's repeated sanctions.
4. Should the UN mission intervene in Syria to minimize civilian violence and casualties?
5. Should the rebels be condemned for their actions?

### **Bloc Positions**

**While these are generally what is going to be expected from the various groups, know that your answers to the above research questions and your country's unique situation will be far more important as to what facets of which bloc position you want to push for. Creating your own, unique solution can be essential to productive debate.**

#### **United States of America**

Currently, the United States has withdrawn from the Iran Deal, as of June eighth, 2017. They have imposed sanctions back onto Iran. President Trump, the current representative for the US, has claimed that the agreement is weak and needs to be improved before America returns to the JCPOA. In the Syrian Civil War they have supplied weapons to rebels and carried air campaigns against ISIL.

#### **EU**

The EU has provided aid to the Syrian rebels,, but not including military support. It has openly denounced the Syrian government and is a leader in the opposition.

#### **Iran**

Iran supports the Assad regime and Hezbollah in Lebanon. They have provided military support for both groups. Their support for these groups has caused Arabian countries to fear Iran's growing influence in the region. They continued to develop Nuclear weapons until the institution

of the Iran deal, which lifted sanctions off the country, in exchange for cessation of nuclear development. There has been much tension between them and the US. Iran has also openly supported Syria.

### **Syria**

Syria has been provided with support from Iran.

### **Arab League (Turkey/Saudi Arabia/Libya/Morocco):**

The Arab League has supported the rebels through military campaigns and provided weapons to rebels. They ally with the US and European states against Iran. The Arab League fears “expansionism” by Iran and their development of nuclear weapons. In terms of the Iran Deal, Turkey and Iran formed an agreement in 2012 that involved Iran sending low-grade uranium to Turkey in return for fuel for their reactors.

### **China**

China supports Iran and the Assad regimes. It has repeatedly vetoes sanctions on the nations, despite evidence of the development of nuclear weapons and the use of chemical weapons. It has also fought against sanctions on Syria.



## Resources

<https://www.state.gov/e/eb/tfs/spi/iran/jcpoa/>

<http://www.un.org/en/sections/un-charter/chapter-v/index.html>

<http://www.acronym.org.uk/old/directory/building-security/united-nations-conference-disarmament/un-security-council-un-general-assembly>

<https://news.sky.com/story/what-is-the-iran-nuclear-deal-11362807>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syrian\\_Civil\\_War](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syrian_Civil_War)

<http://www.aljazeera.com/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-17258397>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/sy.html>

