

BALMUN'26

H - U N S C

STUDY GUIDE

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1. Letter from the Secretary-General

Esteemed Participants of BALMUN'26,

It is my utmost pleasure to welcome you to this year's annual session of BALMUN. It is truly an honour to host a platform where passionate minds gather to engage in a meaningful debate, diplomacy, and cooperation. BALMUN is not merely a conference; it is a created space where ideas are challenged, and perspectives are broadened.

My journey in this club began on the day that I stepped into this school. I started as a bot delegate, continued as an academic assistant, and now stand proudly as the Secretary General of this year's annual session. Our team has been working meticulously to ensure that this MUN offers not only a rigorous academic experience but also an inspiring and memorable one. We have overcome plenty of different challenges, but all of them have made us stronger than ever to mark our target. We have poured relentless effort into this conference.

With a highly dedicated academic and organizational team, we proudly present twelve committees, including two General Assembly committees, six Special committees, and four Crisis committees. Each committee is carefully designed to encourage critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration. Over the course of three days, you will be able to defend your ideas, listen to opposing views, and seek compromise in the pursuit of meaningful solutions.

I hope that BALMUN'26 serves as a reminder that true leadership lies not in dominance, but in dialogue and not in certainty, but in openness to learning. As the academic and organizational team of BALMUN, we eagerly look forward to witnessing the ideas you will bring to life and the impact you will create throughout the conference.

Your Sincerely,

Kerem Kılıç
Secretary General of BALMUN'26

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2. Letter from the Under-Secretary-General

Dear Delegates,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the Historical United Nations Security Council committee addressing the First Chechen War. As you enter one of the most volatile conflicts of the post–Cold War era, you will assume the responsibility of confronting a crisis that has deeply affected regional stability, international norms, and the lives of countless civilians. The conflict between Russia and separatist forces in Chechnya is not merely a regional dispute; it raises fundamental questions about sovereignty, self-determination, humanitarian protection, and the limits of international intervention.

I encourage you to approach this committee with both urgency and critical thought. Decisions made within the Security Council carry significant authority and consequences, whether in shaping diplomatic pressure, facilitating negotiations, or responding to humanitarian concerns arising from the devastation of cities such as Grozny. As delegates, you will be tasked with navigating competing interests, geopolitical realities, and the complex balance between state sovereignty and international responsibility.

While this study guide serves as an introduction to the topic, I strongly encourage you to conduct further research, explore the perspectives of the actors involved, and remain flexible as the situation evolves throughout committee proceedings.

I am confident that your preparation and engagement will lead to a dynamic and thoughtful debate. Your actions in committee will play a crucial role in determining whether this conflict escalates further or moves toward a path of negotiation and stability.

I hope this guide assists you in beginning your preparation. Should you require any additional information or have any questions, please feel free to contact me at saniyar.safari@capamun.org or +905518125774.

Sincerely,

Saniyar Safari

Under-Secretary-General of H-UNSC

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3. Letter from the Under-Secretary-General

Dear Delegates,

It's my sincere pleasure to welcome you to the H-UNSC committee in BALMUN'26. I don't doubt that this committee will both excite and develop you all, with its crises and endless discussions. We prepared the committee in the best and clearest way possible with my worthy CO-USG. We prepared this study guide by including everything you will discuss, or may discuss, in the committee. So this study guide is the most accurate and logical resource for preparing for the committee. I kindly request that you all read the study guide. If you have any questions, you can reach me at arasakkan11@gmail.com or +905394203223. See you at BALMUN'26.

Sincerely,

Aras Akkan

Under-Secretary-General of H-UNSC

4. Introduction to the Committee: United Nations Security Council

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is responsible for maintaining international peace and security, as outlined in Article 24 of the United Nations Charter. The UNSC is one of the six main organs of the United Nations and was established in 1945 in response to the devastation caused by World War II. The primary responsibility of the UNSC is to address threats to international peace and security and to take action to prevent conflict or resolve it when it occurs.

4.1. Mandate

The Security Council has in its mandate to furnish matters pertaining to disarmament, peacekeeping missions, protection of human rights, political deliberations and humanitarian crises.¹ Currently, the mandate of the United Nations Security Council has been modified, especially after inculcating the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) to discuss the parallel between sustainability, peace and security.² The same has been discussed at the meeting on 17 November 2015 as the Security Council focused upon refining its goals post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals.³ United Nations Security Council mainly discusses issues relevant to sustainable development, protection of human rights and protection of civilians during conflict zones, prevention of conflict and prevail peace through protecting humanitarian rights⁴. Security Council decisions are obligatory in nature as Article 25 of the United Nations Charter gives power to the Security Council to draft binding resolutions which become a requisite to be necessarily followed by all the member states or concerned member states⁵. The Council's position may be addressed by the President of the Security Council through Press Release⁶ to address essential concerns and recommend possible solutions concerning the current situation or crisis⁷.

1: Council on Foreign Relations, CFR Backgrounders: The UN Security Council, 2015; Encyclopaedia Britannica, United Nations Security Council, 2014. 2: UN General Assembly, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (A/RES/70/1), 2015; UN DPA, Politically Speaking, Sustaining peace, Conflict Prevention, Human Rights and Sustainable Development High on Agenda for New Security Council Members, 2018. 3: Lebada, UN Security Council Discusses Links with 2030 Agenda, SDG Knowledge Hub, 2015. 4: UN DPA, Politically Speaking, Sustaining Peace, Conflict Prevention, Human Rights and Sustainable Development High on Agenda for New Security Council Members, 2018. 5: UN Security Council, What is the Security Council? 2018; Charter of the United Nations, 1945, Art. 25. 6: NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, Mapping Women, Peace and Security in the United Nations Security Council: Report of the NGOWG Monthly Action Points, 2009-2010, 2010, p. 11. 7: *ibid.* p.15.

4.2. Structure

The United Nations Security Council consists of 15 members. Out of these 5 are permanent members, they are also known as “Veto Owners” or “P5 Nations”. These permanent members are: the USA, France, China, Russia and the UK. Alongside these 5 member states, there are 10 non-permanent member states appointed for the tenure of 2 years by the United Nations General Assembly. These nations represent their region and foreign policies exhibiting leadership on an international platform. The presidency of the Security Council is held by each member for one month in alphabetical order. The Security Council can be convened anytime by the president at the request of the member states. Consequently, the president also holds the power to call upon member states for a meeting in an urgent crisis, emergency or dispute situation. The member states could extend an invitation to the observer nations who are not allowed to vote but could submit their proposals or draft resolutions. The observers are also welcomed to apprise the council regarding any contemporary issue ongoing in their territory.

The United Nations Security Council has established various subsidiary bodies under Article 29 of the UN Charter comprising: the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, sanctions committees, and ad

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hoc committees, such as the Ad Hoc Sub-Committee on Namibia, etc. The Security Council is also responsible for the supervision of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC). Each nation is granted one vote, and it requires a special majority (2/3) to pass a resolution. However, if any P5 nation says no, the resolution won't pass, this is known as the exercise of "Veto Power".

4.3. Functions and Power

Knowing the functions and powers are extremely important to know what and in which manner could the Security Council perform in order to drive the required possible solution which must also be considered while delegates write their draft resolution. The powers and functions of UNSC are mentioned in Chapter V, VI, VII, VIII and XII of the UN Charter. These could be understood as follows;

- Submit a special annual report to UNGA for consideration to maintain international peace and security. (Art. 24)
- UNSC could investigate any issue which might endanger maintenance of international peace and security. (Art. 34)
- UNSC could call upon the parties to settle disputes amicably through alternative dispute mechanisms, the procedure for such adjustments could also be provided by UNSC. (Art. 33 & 36(1)) The case could again be referred to UNSC and if the dispute still persists, the parties could settle as it may be considered appropriate. (Art. 37)
- UNSC shall determine and make recommendations for threat to peace, breach of peace and act of aggression. (Art.39) UNSC would also ensure the adherence to such measures. (Art. 41) without the use of arms but would include complete or partial interruption of economic relations and of rail, sea, air, postal, telegraphic, radio, and other means of communication, and the severance of diplomatic relations. (Art. 41) In case of further failure UNSC could take actions such as demonstrations, blockade, and other operations by air, sea, or land forces of Members of the United Nations. (Art. 42)
- UNSC may deliberate upon any dispute occurring, and has been reported by member or non-member nations. (Art. 35)

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- UNSC could refer legal disputes to the International Court of Justice. (Art. 36)
- Member states of the UN could facilitate UNSC with special agreement or agreements, armed forces, assistance, and facilities, including right of passage, necessary for the purpose of maintaining international peace and security. (Art. 43)
- UNSC is responsible for formulating, with the assistance of the Military Staff Committee referred to in Article 47, plans to be submitted to the Members of the United Nations for the establishment of a system for the regulation of armaments. (Art.26)
- Member states could assist UNSC for employment of contingents of that Member's armed forces in case of necessity of use of force (Art. 44). UNSC could also take Military Measures and application of Armed Forces with assistance from the Military Staff Committee. (Art. 45,46 & 47)
- UNSC could make recommendations for pacific settlement by itself or by regional agencies of dispute in case alternative dispute settlement or legal settlement is not available. (Art. 38 & 52)
- UNSC shall approve the terms of Trusteeship agreements and assist the Trusteeship Council, in return the Trusteeship Council would undertake its obligation towards UNSC. (Art. 83 & 84)
- UNSC could utilize regional arrangements or agencies for their enforcement and ascertain information in such regards to maintain international peace and security. (Art 53 & 54)

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) stands as a paramount force on the global stage, holding significant influence in matters concerning international peace and security. Established as a central organ under the United Nations Charter, the UNSC plays a pivotal role in addressing complex geopolitical challenges. With its inception dating back to the foundation of the United Nations, the UNSC is steadfast in its dedication to maintaining global stability, preventing conflicts, and fostering sustainable development. Covering a spectrum of issues, including diplomatic resolutions, peacekeeping operations, and crisis

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management, the UNSC strives to uphold its fundamental objective, ensuring peace and security worldwide through collaborative and decisive action.

4.4. Key Terms and Definitions

Security Council: The principal organ of the United Nations responsible for maintaining international peace and security.

Permanent Members (P5): The five countries with permanent seats on the UNSC - the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom.

Veto Power: The authority of any of the P5 members to block a substantive resolution, regardless of the level of international support for it.

Peacekeepers: Individuals or groups that are tasked with maintaining peace and security in conflict zones through monitoring, protection, and support activities.

5. Introduction to the Agenda Item: First Chechen War (1994-1996)

Following Dzhokar Dudayev's declaration of Chechen independence, Russian President Boris Yeltsin ordered military intervention in the area aiming to restore federal control. The conflict can be summed up by heavy casualties, destruction and allegations of human rights violations. The signed peace treaty only granted de facto independence, with the final political status being left hanging.

5.1. Key Terms and Definitions

Memorial Human Rights Defence Centre: Major Russian human rights organization founded in 1989 as part of the wider Memorial movement, originally wishing to document political repression under the Soviet Union. After the collapse of the USSR, its focus expanded to monitoring and reporting on contemporary human rights violations within the Russian Federation. During the First Chechen War (1994–1996), the organization played a crucial role in documenting war crimes, civilian casualties, enforced disappearances, torture, and abuses committed by both Russian federal forces and Chechen fighters. Memorial became one of the most important independent sources of information on the conflict, particularly regarding conditions in detention centers and the impact of military operations on

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civilians. Due to increasing pressure from the Russian government and broader restrictions on civil society, the organization was formally dissolved by the Russian Supreme Court in 2021.

Dzhokhar Dudayev: Former Soviet general who declared Chechnya independent from Russia in 1991.

Boris Yeltsin: President of Russia who authorized the invasion.

Grozny: Capital of Chechnya.

Urban vs Guerrilla Warfare: Urban warfare is conducted in densely populated cities using heavy weapons and armored units; in the First Chechen War, Russian forces stormed Grozny in large-scale assaults that resulted in devastating street battles and major casualties. Guerrilla warfare on the other hand is irregular, small-unit tactics such as ambushes and hit-and-run attacks used against a stronger army; in the conflict, Chechen fighters shifted to mountain and rural operations to wear down Russian forces over time.

Khasavyurt Accord: Ceasefire predominantly ending the conflict, postponing the situation to 2001.

De Facto vs De Jure Independence: De facto independence refers to a region which has authority over its internal affairs while depending on the mainland for its external efforts due to not being an internationally recognized state. De Jure independence however is when a country is independent and recognized internationally

5.2. Historical Background

5.2.1. Russian Imperial Expansion in the Caucasus (19th Century)

In the 19th century, the Russian Empire carried out long-term military operations to bring the Caucasus under control. The entirety of these, namely the Caucasian Wars of 1817-1864, laid the foundations of tension for the First Chechen War. The Chechens and the people of the North Caucasus defended the region for a long time by using the advantages of the geography. Even though the Russian Empire took control of the region with high military pressure and restructuring. These events created distrust, fear and uncertainty between Moscow and Chechnya in the 19th century.

5.2.2. Soviet Rule and the 1944 Deportation

When Chechnya was under the Soviet administration, it was organized as the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic (ASSR). During World War II, Joseph Stalin deported the Chechen and Ingush people to Central Asia in 1944, with the accusation of “collaboration with the Nazis.” In this deportation, approximately half a million people were forcibly sent. In 1957, Chechens were allowed to return. This deportation created an increase and a reminder effect in the tension between the Chechens and the central state and administration.

5.2.3. Soviet Federal Structure and Legal Ambiguity

The biggest reason that laid the basis for the war and caused crises to break out was the complex structure of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union was a union with a multi-layered federal structure and with different administrative units whose constitutional statuses were different from each other. This difference was the most distinct foundation of the crisis after 1991.

- **Union Republics (Soviet Socialist Republics - SSRs)**

SSRs were constitutionally sovereign units. According to the 1977 Soviet Constitution, these countries, which had the right to secede from the Soviet Union, based the declaration of their independence on a legal ground during the dissolution of the Soviet Union in the 1990–1991 period. Therefore, union republics such as the Baltic states gained international recognition more quickly.

- **Autonomous Republics (ASSRs)**

ASSRs were not directly connected to the Soviet Union, but a union republic. Likewise, the Chechen-Ingush, which was also an ASSR, was connected to the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic. They didn't have a constitutional right to secede. This distinction was in a critical place in the occurrence of crises. Chechnya wasn't a union

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republic, but an autonomous republic connected to Russia. For this reason, when the Soviet Union dissolved in 1991, Chechnya didn't have the same legal status as Ukraine or Lithuania.

When the Soviet Union fell apart, the SSRs were able to justify their independence on constitutional grounds, since they officially had the right to secede. Because of that, they moved relatively quickly into the process of international recognition. Meanwhile, Russia was treated as the legal continuation of the Soviet Union, and the autonomous republics inside the federation were regarded as remaining under Russian sovereignty. Chechnya was one of those autonomous republics, and it did not possess a constitutional right to break away. Despite this, the Chechen political leadership went ahead and declared independence. At that point, the situation was no longer just a political dispute. It became a deeper legitimacy crisis centred on how sovereignty and state continuity were meant to be understood after 1991. That unresolved tension gradually set the stage for the outbreak of war.

5.2.4. Perestroika, Glasnost, and the Weakening of Central Authority

In 1985, with Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms, a political and economic transformation process began in the Soviet Union. These reforms strengthened political mobilization in ethnic republics and led to the rise of nationalist movements. Perestroika implemented reforms that weakened central authority, while Glasnost increased freedom of expression. In Chechnya, the demands for independence by local leaders grew stronger and the population's distrust of the center became more evident. Glasnost and Perestroika acted as a trigger that increased the political and social tension forming the backdrop of the First Chechen War. Chechen leaders took advantage of the weakened central authority to move toward declaring independence.

5.2.5. The Collapse of the Soviet Union (1991)

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In 1991, the Soviet Union dissolved. The dissolution of the Soviet Union and the crisis in Russia created the tensions that produced the legal and physical vacuum leading to the First Chechen War. Because of this, the Russian Federation faced very large political and economic crises. Economic decline and internal disorder caused the central authority to lose power in managing the region. This weakness facilitated Chechnya's declaration of independence. The poor state of the central authority prevented Moscow from intervening in the situation, and Chechnya broke away from Russia.

5.2.6. **Dudayev and De Facto Secession (1991–1994)**

In 1991, former Soviet general Dzhokhar Dudayev seized control of the Chechen government and declared independence. Dudayev's declaration of independence formed the center of the direct historical tension and structural conflict that led to the outbreak of the First Chechen War. This situation was a move that directly challenged Moscow's authority. Moscow did not recognize the independence and still considered Chechnya constitutionally part of Russia. However, due to the weak state of the Russian Federation and its internal crises, there was no effective conflict. This event demonstrated that issues of sovereignty and territorial integrity remained unresolved in the post-Soviet period.

5.3. **Timeline of Key Events**

1991: Dzhokhar Dudayev declares independence for Chechnya following the collapse of the Soviet Union, creating tensions with Russia.

199-1994: Internal conflict grows in Chechnya as Moscow backs opposition forces against Dudayev.

December 11, 1994: Russian President Boris Yeltsin orders federal troops into Chechnya, officially beginning the war.

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December 1994 - January 1995: Russian forces launch a massive assault on Grozny; the initial New Year's Eve attack results in heavy Russian casualties.

March 1995: Russian troops capture most of Grozny after intense urban fighting.

June 1995: Chechen fighters led by Shamil Basayev seize a hospital in Budyonnovsk, taking hundreds of hostages and forcing temporary negotiations.

Late 1995: Fighting spreads into rural and mountainous regions; Chechen forces shift to guerrilla warfare tactics.

April 1996: Dudayev is killed in a Russian missile strike, but Chechen resistance continues.

August 1996: Chechen forces retake Grozny in a surprise offensive, inflicting major losses on Russian troops.

August 31, 1996: The Khasavyurt Accord is signed, ending large-scale hostilities and postponing Chechnya's final political status decision.

5.4. International Policies

5.4.1. Argentina

Argentina maintained a neutral position regarding the First Chechen War and generally supported the territorial integrity of the Russian land, though also emphasizing the need for a peaceful resolution and humanitarian protection for the civilians in Chechnya.

5.4.2. Brazil

The stance Brazil adopted was non-interventionist in line with its foreign policy. While recognizing the conflict as an internal matter, Brazil expressed concerns for the human rights and stability in the region.

5.4.3. China

As a usual supporter of Russia, China strongly supported territorial integrity and sovereignty and framed the war as a domestic operation against separatist forces, opposing any international interference.

5.4.4. Egypt

Although publicly avoiding direct involvement and staying neutral, Egypt generally supported Russia's right to maintain the unity of its territories, though encouraging negotiations to reduce violence.

5.4.5. France

Albeit formally recognizing Chechnya as a part of Russia and advocating for diplomatic negotiations, France criticized the scale of Russian military operations and civilian casualties.

5.4.6. Georgia

Georgia closely monitored the conflict due its proximity to the North Caucasus and despite staying officially neutral, it faced the inevitable spillover risks with the movements of the fighters and refugees along its borders.

5.4.7. Germany

Germany was strongly concerned over destruction and violations of human rights in Chechnya and maintained diplomatic relations with Russia while supporting negotiated settlement efforts.

5.4.8. India

India fully supported Russia's territorial integrity and any measure necessary to counter what it considered separatist moves, consistent with its own stance against separatist movements.

5.4.9. Japan

Japan criticized the humanitarian impact of the conflict in Grozny while also maintaining relations with Russia and supporting peaceful negotiations.

5.4.10. Memorial Human Rights Defence Centre

Despite major efforts by Russia to shut it down, Memorial Human Rights Defence Centre actively documented human rights violations, civilian casualties, disappearances and abuses committed by both Russian federal forces and Chechen fighters during the war.

5.4.11. Nigeria

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Nigeria maintained its neutrality and aligned with international norms, those being supporting state sovereignty whilst expressing concern over consequences of the conflict humanitarian wise.

5.4.12. Russia

Russia launched military intervention in December 1994 under Boris Yeltsin with the aim of restoring federal authority over Chechnya. Large-scale operations were conducted including the assault on Grozny prior to the Khasavyurt Accord in 1996.

5.4.13. South Africa

South Africa maintained a neutral and diplomatic stance upon the crisis and emphasized peaceful conflict resolutions without challenging Russia's sovereignty claims.

5.4.14. Turkey

Regardless of its initial concern for the Chechen population while also being faced with domestic pressure from ethnic Caucasian diaspora communities, Turkey eventually felt obligated to officially recognize Russia's territorial integrity but was still advocating for negotiations.

5.4.15. United Kingdom

The United Kingdom criticized Russia's military tactics and civilian casualties while still recognizing Chechnya as a part of Russia and supporting diplomatic solutions to end the conflict.

5.4.16. United States

The United States condemned the humanitarian impact and the scale of destruction caused by Russian operations though largely treating the conflict as an internal issue and urged Russia to pursue political settlement immediately.

6. Questions to be Answered

- **To what extent should the United Nations Security Council intervene in what a member state considers an internal conflict, particularly when large-scale civilian casualties are reported?**

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- **How can the international community address alleged human rights violations committed during the conflict in Chechnya without infringing upon the sovereignty of Russia?**
- **What mechanisms could the Security Council employ to facilitate negotiations or ceasefire agreements between Russian authorities and Chechen separatist forces?**
- **Should international monitoring missions be deployed to assess humanitarian conditions and potential war crimes during the conflict?**
- **How can the Security Council balance the principles of territorial integrity and self-determination in the case of Chechnya?**
- **What measures should be taken to protect civilians and ensure humanitarian aid access during large-scale urban combat, particularly in cities such as Grozny?**
- **What role should international organizations play in documenting and responding to human rights violations reported by groups such as the Memorial Human Rights Defence Centre?**
- **What long-term political arrangements could stabilize the North Caucasus while preventing further escalation of violence?**

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