



United Nations Security Council

**THE CIVIL WAR IN
SOUTH SUDAN: INTERNATIONAL SO
LUTIONS**



NMUNC' 2019 STUDY GUIDE

1. Presentation
 - a. Letter from the National MUN Team
 - b. Chairs letters

2. Introduction
 - a. Introduction to the topic
 - b. Introduction to the committee
 - i. Veto power

3. Conflict in South Sudan and a general scenario
 - a. Importance of the discussion
 - b. Complexity in South Sudan
 - i. Ethnic tension
 - ii. Humanitarian issues: Sexual violence and child soldiers

4. South Sudan Civil war
 - a. Historic retrospective and origin of the problem
 - b. Interventions of the State
 - c. International interventions
 - d. United Nations Involvement

5. Further useful information

1. Introduction

Dear delegates, this is the Study Guide for the **United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on the topic of “*The civil war in South Sudan: international solutions*”** which will be simulated during the third edition of the National Model United Nations Conference (NMUNC), from the 11th to the 13st of October 2019.

As you probably know, MUN is a simulation of the United Nations (UN) that is done at a high school and university level. MUN aims to educate participants about civics, effective communication, globalization and multilateral diplomacy. In MUN, students participate as “delegates” from the UN Member States and simulate UN committees. From this experience, you will not only get involved and debate today’s pressing current issues, but also be given a chance to broaden your world view and knowledge of international relations and the UN, allowing you and all delegates to develop critical thinking and soft skills whilst discussing the most amazing topics that are on our International Agenda nowadays (and hopefully make new friends from all across the world!).

Before the Conference it is very important to investigate the position of the country you will represent on the topic that will be discussed. For that, we advise you to not only look for multiple media sources that refer to your countries position, but also to look for official documents of the government, past declarations (either at the UN or official statements) and the International Alliances/Opposition the country will face in the Committee (remember that lobbying with other Member States is also part of the MUN experience).

Furthermore, do not forget to pay attention to the relation of the country's official position/diplomatic speech and the real interests it has behind that position (States and their representatives are not always crystal clear with their interests, try to read in between the lines of the diplomatic speeches!). In order to have a great performance (which we are sure you all will) it is imperative to understand the relation between the speeches you will give as a representative of that State and the interest you will pursue in the final Resolution. If you understand the position of your country and its interests, this will be a very easy task.

Moreover, the final goal for the committees during the Conference is to get a majority to vote in favour of a resolution that hopefully creates real, effective and creative

solutions for the topic discussed. As a delegate of a Country, your personal goal should be that the Resolution you support and that integrates your State's goals for that committee should be the one approved. We remind all of you that the solutions presented on the Final Resolution should be applicable in the real world, within the limits to the UN power and innovative (think outside of the box!). It is always a good idea to see what other past resolutions the UN has passed on that topic. Additionally, try integrating into specific clauses UN offices/departments/services or International NGO's that could help reach that specific goal.

We know that probably by now this experience may sound very overwhelming, but **don't worry!** We assure you that during the committee sessions this will all feel very natural and remind you that nobody expects that everything is absolute perfect. MUNs are, above all, a learning space for everyone.

Please note that this is **only** a study guide. This does not include the comprehensive research on the topic, it is not enough by itself to prepare you to debate. You will have to do your own research, not only on the topic but also on the position that your country takes on the matter.

Having all of that said, we sincerely hope that this will be a memorable experience and that you have an amazing time learning about international issues that affect our society. Above all else, this event is an opportunity to meet people with the same interests (they are all curious and passionate about MUN and they all have creative and empowering ideas to make the world a better place!). Last but not least, don't forget to have **FUN and enjoy the Conference!**

Sincerely,
National MUN Conference Team

Hello delegates!

My name is Nicole Esposito, and with Margarida we will host Security Council as chairs in LisboMUN. I'm 20 years old, brazilian, but I'm living in Portugal for almost two years studying law in University of Lisbon, and that happened because of my MUN experience.

My first MUN experience was in 2015. In that time, I was very confused about what I was going to do related with my future profession, and my first simulation helped me a lot. In the end of my first MUN I decided what I wanted to do for sure. Since then, I didn't stop and I have participated in MUN several times.

Regarding my MUN experiences, I have done as delegate: Security Council (two times) and United Nations of Human Rights here in Lisbon as my first international experience and I can say that's why I have a special feeling for LisboMUN: I'm so honored to chair one of them committees for the second time, which I have participated as delegate once. As a chair I have done: European Council, NATO, Counter Terrorism Committee and Security Council. I could say that I loved all my experiences and wish you the best of luck, but most importantly: have fun and met new people! MUN debates also comes with good friends and incredible moments...

Best regards,

Nicole Esposito

Honorable delegates,

Welcome to the Security Council Committee at the National Model United Nations Conference!

My name is Margarida Vidal Sampaio and I will be serving as your chair. I am currently studying Law at University of Lisbon. This is my first time being a chair, but not my first time in a Model United Nations. I started these experiences with ELSA LX MUN, and then two years in a row at RomeMUN. I cherish my MUN experiences very much and hope to motivate you in this committee and pass on this passion to every participant. Not only MUN made me improve my knowledge and research skills on world affairs, but also made value different perspectives on the same topic, as it gave me new great friendships.

For this conference we will be discussing a very important topic: the Civil War in South Sudan. In December 2013, due to a political struggle between President Salva Kiir and opposition leader Riek Machar, a violent conflict began between guard soldiers from

the two biggest ethnic groups in South Sudan. Since then, over 400.000 people were killed and about 2.27 Million are now refugees and asylum seekers. I look forward to meeting you all and to hear all your arguments and proposals!

Your sincerely,

Margarida Vidal Sampaio

a. Introduction to the topic

“The civil war in South Sudan: international solutions”

The African continent has a huge issue to solve since the independence of their countries. Ethnic and religious civil wars were arising after their recognition as an independent country, and South Sudan was not an exception, because during the war they have joined forces (north and south sudanese parts) to fight a major enemy: Britain. After independence from Britain on January 1, 1956, the southern sudan region mostly black remained united with the North of the Sudan which is Arab and Muslim. Therefore, the religious presence was mixed with two large majorities, animists and christianisms and a minority of 7-8% of muslims, which resulted in the gradual imposition of the Sharia law by he North, causing two long years war that ended with agreements signed in Nairobi in 2005.

The resulting embryonic process of democratization peaked four years later in 2011. In that year, there was the January 9-15 plebiscite referendum in favor of secession , and 98.83 % of the citizens voted for independence! South Sudan conquered their independence on July 9, 2011, and became the 54th country in Africa and 193rd in the world to achieve it.

After four years of belligerence, Machar agreed to return to Juba in April 2016 to really think and sign a Peaceful Agreement, that was signed in August 2015, which included his opposition group’s participation in the Government of national unity. In a former to show how the country was united, the government of South Sudan was

composed by the President Salva Kiir, which is a Dinka and his Vice President at the time, Riek Machar which is a Nuer. However, these crucial events, aiming to unite the people, have been completely undermined by the 2013 outbreak of a bloody inter-ethnic war that is still ongoing.

The two major protagonists are the largest ethnic communities: the Dinka, the largest in numbers, and the Nuer. The political struggle for power between President Salva Kiir (Dinka) and his rival, former vice President Riek Machar (Nuer), is at the root of the civil conflict that began in December 2013. The deal was broken in July 2016, after five days of fierce combat between two military factions in the capital Juba. Opposition troops by Machar were defeated due to imbalance of forces and weapons in the field. However, there have been huge losses of soldiers on both sides (more than 1000, although the official figure reported by the Government is 300 dead). At the end of September 2016, from Khartoum – where Machar had found shelter after several vicissitudes – he urged all South Sudanese citizens to arm themselves to fight the Government of President Salva Kiir. The veteran dissident politician Lam Akol started a new rebel group called the National Democratic Movement in opposition to the current Government, and not necessarily in support of Riek Machar.

Although, the conflict has suffered many interventions, any of them resulted in a practical change for the citizens that live in South Sudan. In this session of the Security Council, you'll be discussing humanitarian and military issues caused by the Syrian war, the effects of civil war on civilians, trade and effects of weapons, external financing of these weapons, the consequences that it all has on the refugee crises, and military interventions (taking into account the scope of Security Council). What can be done to tackle international solutions and what short and long term solutions can be set to avoid further actions leading to cause the same result, will be the common goal of the committee.

The floor will soon be open for points or motions!

b. **Introduction to the committee**

The United Nations Security Council is established by Chapter III of the United Nations Charter. Article 24¹ determined the UNSC's main goal to be the maintenance of international security and peace.

This Committee is organized in a way in which there are 5 permanent countries, also known as the P5 (China, France, The Russian Federation, The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, The United States of America), and 10 rotating members holding a 2-year mandate that are elected by the United Nations General Assembly. The particularity of the Security Council lies on the fact that the P5s hold veto power, as defined by chapter V article 27², meaning that unanimity amongst the P5 is compulsory in order to pass a resolution. In the event the P5 do not reach unanimity, the General Assembly shall consider the matter immediately and issue any necessary recommendations to restore international peace and security.

The countries that will be holding this session of the United Nations Security Council are:

- **P5:**
 - French Republic
 - People's Republic of China
 - Russian Federation
 - United Kingdom
 - United States of America
- **Rotative:**
 - Belgium
 - Côte d'Ivoire
 - Dominican Republic
 - Equatorial Guinea
 - Germany
 - Indonesia

¹ United Nations Charter, Chapter V, Article 24 [<http://legal.un.org/repertory/art24.shtml>]

² United Nations Charter, Chapter V, Article 27 [<http://legal.un.org/repertory/art27.shtml>]

- Kuwait
- Peru
- Poland
- South Africa

Veto power

The **United Nations Security Council "veto power"** refers to the power of the five **permanent members** of the **UN Security Council** to veto any resolution. However, a permanent member's **abstention** or absence does not prevent a draft resolution from being adopted, for example China used it plenty of times. This veto power does not apply to "procedural" votes, as determined by the permanent members themselves.

The most important in the debate is the rotative countries impose their ideas and stimulate the P5 to not use their veto power to control the debate.

3.Conflict in Sudan in the General Scenario

a. Importance of the discussion

In 2018, the South Sudanese conflict in its fifth year of conflict, this discussion tackle the issue to not only examine the status of the civil war that has engulfed the youngest nation on earth but to also discuss the evolving narratives of its causes and provide policy recommendation to actors involved in the peace process. The South Sudan faces a continuously failing peace treaties, and a conflict that has become more a war between two people and two ethnic groups then an independence movement. Women and children are facing a brutal life, which motivate countries to gain forces and stimulate them to provide solutions to the crisis and a new approach. Examining the causes and solutions to the problem focusing in the importance of the discussion, is therefore, necessary.

Besides ethnic animosities and rivalry that are a key underlying cause that has transformed political rivalry into a deadly ethnic dispute through vicious mobilisation and rhetoric, the international community are still complacent with the conflict, almost encouraging this religious fight, providing weapons and external financing. Therefore, it

recommends a comprehensive peace approach that will address the political aspects of the conflict and propose restructuring South Sudan's administrative, economic and social spheres in order to curb further manipulation of the ethnic differences. The importance of the discussion remains on the fact that how international community can solve a problem that was caused by one of the members of the Security Council? Will the countries be able to transcend colonization aspects and understand the importance of the demilitarization of the civil war?

So, administrative, economic and social aspects of the South Sudan need to be restructured in order to reestablish peace and stability for the innocents and civilians. The states need to understand the necessity of the extraction of the civilians, the main victims of the country. However, to make it possible, Security Council have to reach an agreement on how and in what terms this intervention will be done.

b. Complexity in South Sudan

Ethnic tension

Since independence of Sudan (when it does not exist the north and south parts), the country always had the religious component splitting the state: the north region was predominantly Muslim, while the south region was Christian or follow other traditional religion. However, this division became violent in the 1950's, shortly after Sudan gained independence from British and Egyptian rule. The tension goes deeper than just a religious fight, this conflict involve religion and politics, because originally the political power always was conceded to northerners and the southerners started to join themselves into small groups of elites. Naturally, a predatory government emerge, serving only to enrich its members and ignoring the sudanese people.

After the Peace Agreement, the referendo to vote for the idea of the South Sudan independence, and the positive result of it, supported by United Nations, United States of America and the international community, everything fall apart. South Sudan contains more than 60 ethnic groups, that have putted aside their differences during the independence war to achieve the same goal. The two largest groups are the Nuer and the Dinkas, and besides they fought together to one war, after the goal was achieved, old tensions and retaliations emerged, transforming the

country into a battlefield, fueled by hate speeches, military intervention, fierce competition over resources, and the heavy flow of weapons into the region.

Humanitarian issues: Sexual violence and child soldiers

According to Human Rights Watch Report on South Sudan, all parties to the conflict committed serious abuses, including indiscriminate attacks against civilians including aid workers, unlawful killings, beatings, arbitrary detentions, torture, sexual violence, recruitment and use of child soldiers, looting and destruction of civilian property. Some of the abuses constitute war crimes or crimes against humanity. All parties to the conflict restricted access for the United Nations (UN) mission, those providing humanitarian assistance, and ceasefire monitors.

In the Greater Equatoria region clashes between government and rebel forces and criminality along the main roads continued throughout the year, killing civilians and forcing people to flee to refugee settlements in Uganda or the bush. An October UN report documented the abduction of 900 civilians and other abuses by rebel and government forces in Western Equatoria between April and August. Members of all parties committed acts of sexual violence against women and girls during armed attacks on their homes, while they were fleeing attacks or when they went to buy or search for basic necessities such as food and firewood around UN sites. Perpetrators of sexual violence crimes were rarely held accountable.

All sides recruited and used children despite repeated promises to stop. In January, the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring Mechanism (CTSAMM) released a report indicating that “the recruitment and employment of child soldiers goes on throughout the country.” The UN reported that 6500 children were recruited and used as fighters by armed groups between October 2014 and June 2018, and were victims of other abuses such as abductions, killing, maiming and sexual abuse.

4. South Sudan Civil war

Historic retrospective and origin of the problem

The South Sudanese Civil war is a current conflict in South Sudan between government forces and opposition forces.

In December 2013, due to a political struggle between President Salva Kiir and opposition leader Riek Machar, a violent conflict began in South Sudan's capital Juba, between guard soldiers from the two biggest ethnic groups in South Sudan. Since then, over 400.000 people were killed and about 2.27 Million are now refugees and asylum seekers.

In 2013, after President Salva Kiir accused the former vice-president Riek Machar of plotting to overthrow him, rebel factions seize control of regional towns, getting thousands killed.

Riek Machar denied those accusations and fled to lead the **Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) – in opposition (SPLM-IO)**, also known as the anti-governmental forces. Violence broke out between the **Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM)** and SPLM-IO, initiating the civil war. At this time, the Ugandan troops were sent to fight alongside the South Sudanese government forces.

Internacional interventions

UNMISS is the United Nations Mission in South Sudan, which main purpose is to “consolidate peace and security, and help establish conditions for development in the Republic of South Sudan, with a view to strengthening the capacity of the Government of South Sudan to govern effectively and democratically and establish good relations with its neighbours.”³

Shortly after the violence broke out, the relationship between the Sudanese Government and UNMISS started to become tense, since there were allegations that the UNMISS was being partial by aiding anti-government forces. After some hostile public comments were made, the action of the UNMISS was constrained. In addition, there were several demonstrations against the United Nations, through several state capitals.

³ In <https://unmiss.unmissions.org/background>

In 2013, through the resolution 2132, the Secretary Council approved the Secretary-General's recommendation to increase the troops of the Mission, adding about 6,000 security forces to the 7,600 peacekeepers already in the country. Although this measure was temporary, later on, in 2014, the Secretary-General recommended that it was of major importance to keep this capacity for at least a year, and so the Security Council voted and, by prioritizing civilian protection, it authorized UN troops to use force.

The Secretary-General believed that, due to recent events, the UNMISS should prioritize the protection of civilians, human rights' assurance and creation of a safe environment in order to deliver humanitarian assistance to the most affected areas, other than focusing primarily and mostly on state-building and peacebuilding.

In January 2014 the first ceasefire agreement was reached. Nevertheless, conflicts kept going, and other ceasefire agreements followed. The negotiations were mediated by "IGAD +" (which involves the eight nations that compose the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, as well as the African Union, the UN, China, the EU, the USA, UK and Norway).

A peace agreement known as the "**Compromise Peace Agreement**" was signed between Kiir and Machar, in August 2015, and it established the Joint Monitoring and Evaluation Commission (JMEC), that was responsible for monitoring and overseeing implementation of this same agreement. Following this peace agreement, on the 20th of October of 2014, Uganda announced that it would withdraw its own soldiers from South Sudan.

After this assignment, there was a violence break out between the government and opposition forces.

Later on, President Salva Kiir and first Vice-President Riek Machar ordered a ceasefire after days of intense violence. Due to these events, Machar left Juba. As Kiir gave an ultimatum to Machar in order for him to return, the SPLA-IO in Juba appointed Taban Deng Gai to replace Machar and the government confirmed him as acting vice-president. Machar claimed those negotiations would not be legal, since Taban Deng Gai had been fired. Following this, the UN assisted Machar in going to exile, firstly to Kinshasa, then to Sudan and after to South Africa.

In 2016, the UN authorized the deployment of four thousand more peacekeepers as part of a regional protection force in 2016, although they only arrived in 2017.

Although there were peace agreements previously signed, in 2017 and 2018, several cease-fires were negotiated and then violated.

In June 2018, Salva Kiir and Riek Machar signed the Khartoum Declaration of Agreement, which included a cease-fire and a pledge to negotiate a power-sharing agreement to end the war, although some violations to the agreement followed.

In August 2018, Salva Kiir and Riek Machar signed another cease-fire and power-sharing agreement. Following this agreement, there was another one signed - **Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan** -, which pretended to end the civil war, and was signed not only by the government forces and Machar's party, but also by other rebel forces. This agreement was followed by a peace agreement to end the civil war signed by the government and Machar's opposition party, along with several other rebel factions.

Military Embargo

Following the unlawful killings and torture, in July 2018, the United States passed an arms embargo on South Sudan through UN Security Council. The arms embargo forbids the "supply, sale or transfer of arms and related material, and withholds training, technical, and financial assistance related to military activities or materials, bar a few clear exceptions."⁴ This was a very important step towards the protection of the civilians. However, it needs to be effectively implemented - also by the neighboring states (take for an example Uganda, that previously purchased weapons from various countries and then sent them to South Sudan's military and allies in Sudan, violating an European Union arms embargo in place since 2011).

Nevertheless, due to constant attacks, reports express their concerns that peace may not stand. And despite a peace deal signed in 2018, conflict has continued. Civilians continue to bear the brunt of armed attacks.

⁴ In <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/05/08/south-sudans-arms-embargo-flouted>

Violence has had repercussions on farmers' planting, resulting in food shortages nationwide. It reached the most critical point, when, in July 2014, the UN Security Council declared South Sudan's food crisis the "worst in the world." Famine was declared in South Sudan during the first few months of 2017, with nearly five million people at risk from food insecurity.

6. Further useful information

The first step for making a good intervention during the debate is to research the topic itself, in a more general way. Make sure to not only attend to not only statistics but also research information that identify the roots of the problems and effective policies that have been promoted both nationally and by the UN.

After getting a general idea on the topic itself, you should research your state's policy about it. It is crucial to know what your country's aspirations are, and what kind of measures can be put into practice. Besides that, political alliances are one of the master keys to make sure that your state's goals will be successful. How is your state in terms of diplomacy? Is it more bellicose, strategist and likes to be a leader? Or is it more peaceful and gentler, more like a follower, in an already formed block? These are some points that you should keep in mind to get information about the subject.

After that you need to have a **look in statistics, legal framework** and, maybe, try to find **interesting facts** and **stories** that capture the Committee's attention! That will help you to reach partners and political coalitions for your ideas. Because of that, we highly recommend delegates to check-out a **MUN application** available both on Google Play, App Store and <http://munapp.com/>. The application not only has an offline database of all States, but also provides general information on States' positions on different matters in the international scenario as well as a quick guide on rules of procedures.

The **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)** website can also be useful tools for your research since you can look for information on Draft Resolutions about this topic or related issues, and some official speeches from your state, explaining its position about this problem. Beyond that, and if you have curiosity, you can also see other state's speeches to have an idea of which are the ones that are on your side and the ones that you should convince with your views.

You should also keep in mind that not all sources are reliable. NGO's websites are always good choices for a good investigation because they usually have interesting articles and correct statistics. Then again, you must keep in mind that regarding social and political affairs, and particularly, if you search for media coverage, being impartial is almost impossible so it is likely to find more obstinate convictions about this topic. However, media articles are always very useful for your researches and you shouldn't forget to take a look at them too.

You, as a Delegate, are **an official representative of your State** in the UN. Therefore, you **must share its views as faithful as possible**. Unity makes strength so don't forget that consensus must be a goal, and this can only be achieved through dialogue and tolerance. Finally, if every delegate is open to new suggestions, the Debate will be much more successful – and even if we don't find a solution to the problem, we are making efforts to accomplish one soon.