



### Bridging Borders, Building Peace: Tackling Colombia's Conflict Through Unity and Reform

- Prarthana Bhat (I B.A.LL.B) and Vibha Kulkarni (I B.A.LL.B)

The UN Security Council session, responsible for maintaining international peace and security as well as conflict resolution through peacekeeping operations, focused on long-term peacebuilding in Colombia, emphasizing socio-economic stability, political representation, and addressing root causes of the conflict. The decades-long Colombian conflict is primarily between the government, paramilitary groups, and leftist guerrilla organizations like the FARC. Despite a historic 2016 peace deal with the FARC, violence persists due to dissident groups and organized crime. The delegates stressed adherence to UN Charter principles, with Venezuela citing Articles 33, 34, and 36 for peaceful dispute resolution.

Venezuela emphasized the burden of accommodating Colombian refugees, blaming the U.S. for eroding its sovereignty by sanctions and conditional recognition of leadership. Bilateral collaboration and humanitarian assistance were suggested. Algeria cited corruption,

drug trafficking, and poor governance as major impediments, promoting institutional reforms and anti-terrorist campaigns. A moderated caucus to identify and address the root causes of the conflict was tabled, and the delegation agreed on socio-economic inequalities, land reform conflicts, and political representation deficits as key drivers of conflict. France and Brazil focused on rural development, education, and equitable land reforms to address socio-economic disparities. Brazil emphasized outreach in conflict-affected regions, particularly targeting rural youth to prevent their recruitment into armed groups. Sierra Leone called for trust-building measures, referencing the 2016 peace agreement, while Panama prioritized human rights and resource management. Delegates also debated measures to curb the arms trade along the Venezuela-Colombia border and the role of the U.S. in addressing its demand for narcotics fuelling drug production in Colombia. The moderated caucuses concluded with proposals to strengthen inclusion in Colombian governance, provide alternatives for farmers reliant on illicit crops,

### UN Press Interviews

What concrete steps is Mexico taking to mediate a lasting resolution to the Colombian armed conflict and what lessons from Mexico's own struggles with organized crime and peace initiatives could it share?

Mexico is negotiating with FARC and ELN dissidents but has yet to find common ground. Opposing military occupation, it advocates civilian courts for justice and discourages militarization, emphasizing civilian-led efforts. If military deployment is needed, it calls for proper training, aligning with its "Hugs, not bullets" philosophy.

Does Mexico find the UN Verification Mission's mandate sufficient to address rising violence in Colombia, or does it recommend an expanded role?

The UN has supported Colombia and Mexico, including military and intelligence aid. However, Colombia has been accused of misusing U.S.-provided aid. Any mandate- be it short-term or long-term, must include clear guidance and oversight to prevent misuse.



and enhance bilateral cooperation to tackle transnational challenges. The committee demonstrated a strong commitment to multilateral efforts for sustainable peace and reaffirmed a renewed hope to reach a consensus.

The second day of the United Nation's Security Council began with a press conference by the international press, followed by a crisis simulation. The committee saw a wide polarization based on the argument favouring military intervention, with the opposite position arguing for diplomatic negotiation. The delegates from Ecuador, Argentina, Mexico, and Algeria, questioned the American military outcomes, claiming that they would aggravate the problem. The US defended with their Plan Colombia objectives and conflict resolution policies. There was an active debate mirroring worldwide concerns over the continuum of various perspectives on a dichotomy of interventionism and sovereignty.

As the crisis worsened, Colombia accused the ELN of waging attacks from Venezuela. The committee believed that it would lead to rising tensions. Colombia refuted the allegations, denying the existence of police corruption even in the

presence of overwhelming evidence contradicting this claim. The Russian representative also initiated the debate by questioning the UK about its colonial past and their commitment towards peace, to which the delegate responded by highlighting its financial aid despite their economic struggles. The UK accused Russia of its hypocrisy over the Ukrainian conflicts and its support for insurgent groups which were rejected by Russia. The committee was then required to divide into blocs to draft resolutions. Surprisingly, all the countries, except for the Republic of Korea and Russia aligned with Colombia. The Committee concluded with a moderated caucus during which delegates proposed utilizing technology and economic developments to bring an end to the Colombia conflict. They also recognized the importance of addressing inequalities and countering the drug cartels, suggesting improved conflict resolution mechanisms.

### UN Press Interviews

Are there parallels between US military aid in Colombia under Plan Colombia- linked to human rights violations- and its foreign policy in other conflict zones where aid primarily serves US interests?

The United States remains committed to promoting security and peace through its foreign aid initiatives. While we acknowledge the challenge have arisen, our focus has always been on fostering partnerships and upholding human rights.

How does the UK ensure its aid isn't influenced by politics or economics?

The UK's humanitarian aid prioritizes vulnerable populations, guided by transparency, impartiality, and accountability to ensure it remains free from political or economic influence and creates lasting impact.



### Sanctions, Strategies, and Silence: Women Lost in the Taliban Debate

- Urvi Lahoti (II B.B.A.LL.B) and Kashish Bansal (II B.B.A.LL.B)

As a body responsible for protection of human rights, the Human Rights Council of the 2nd ILS Inter-batch Model United Nations, 2025 convened delegates from 23 countries to discuss two agendas: (i) Implications of Recognizing States Controlled by Extremist Organizations, and (ii) Systemic Discrimination of Women in Afghanistan.

On the first day, the countries unanimously condemned the human rights violations prevalent under the Taliban government. However, opinions on recognition were divided. South Africa, France, and Germany opposed recognition, because of risks of legitimizing extremist activities, and while South Korea does not acknowledge the Taliban, it continues to provide aid and collaboration. Russia, China, Iran, and India supported conditional recognition with accountability checks, while Uzbekistan and China stressed the importance of regional stability in response to the countries proposing international isolation of Afghanistan. UAE,

Turkey, and Tajikistan stayed equivocal, with Afghanistan being the sole advocate seeking complete recognition under the Taliban government. When questioned whether initiatives like the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and trade relations prioritize economic goals over human rights and indirectly funded the Taliban; Uzbekistan, and China defended their stance, emphasizing the importance of such efforts for regional stability.

China was called out for violating the Uyghur Muslims, to which it took the defense of acting to protect its "sovereignty". Pakistan claimed 'non-recognition' to the existence of Tehreek-e-Taliban in the country, resembling a striking irony, given its history of harbouring the Taliban time and again. The recent attacks and retaliations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, with both nations failing to justify their actions, exposed a fragile bilateral relationship. Afghanistan's request for assistance was, again, contrary to its history of lacking collaboration when such support was extended. Later, the moderated caucus was a reiteration and vague discussion on the social implications of

### UN Press Interviews

Was there a funding bias to the US's deployment of funds especially because of the evident contrast to the funds contributed to Ukraine and Israel as opposed to contributions to the Taliban State, and was it influenced by geopolitical interests?

US: The United States has consistently prioritized funding international conflicts based on their perceived urgency and prolonged consequences. For instance, significant resources were allocated to the Russia-Ukraine war and the Israel-Palestine conflict. Similarly, during the Afghanistan unrest, the U.S. disbursed approximately \$83 billion for development before withdrawing its troops in 2021.

Do you think the premature withdrawal of the USA created a power vacuum and eventually led to the failure of your long term goal of democracy and fight against terror?

The delegate of the USA refuted this claim, asserting that withdrawal was necessary and measures were taken to ensure a smooth transition of power.



Taliban's extremism. Afghanistan's delegate attributed the state's education policy to cultural factors, blaming power-hungry nations for pursuing selfish interests leading to the eventual fate of the country. However, when questioned about the validity of this reasoning, the delegate shifted focus to infrastructural gaps.

The second day of the meeting observed a rather solution-oriented discussion. It commenced with a moderated caucus on the role of international organisations in resolving human rights violations. The delegate of Afghanistan made an attempt at incentivising countries by its strategic geographical location and the untapped potential of its natural resources, seeking investments as a two-way solution to bridge infrastructure gaps and address the 'temporary' implosion of human rights violations, particularly the oppression of women. In contrast, South Africa, Sweden, and France advocated for global pressure through sanctions. Iran, despite being the largest host of Afghan refugees, reminded the Council of the historical futility of sanctions and called for a more responsible approach. Meanwhile, Canada suggested consideration of

a legal route in line with Resolution 2681.

Finally, the Draft Resolution, majorly influenced by the U.S.'s proposals, recommended appointment of a Special Rapporteur on Extremist Governance, the expansion of the Rome Statute to criminalize Gender Apartheid, and the creation of a global Human Rights Rapid Response Team. The Resolution passed despite opposition from Pakistan and Afghanistan. Brazil's amendment to make education 'compulsory' was accepted, while Pakistan's proposal for an economic relief fund along the Iran-Pakistan border failed.

Overall, committee discussions largely focused on the first agenda, while the second agenda was insufficiently prioritised. Although the UNHRC is a recommendatory body, the true measure of success will depend on the commitment of signatories that have to implement the resolution.

### UN Press Interviews

How has Iran addressed concerns regarding the treatment of Afghan refugees, given the economic strain on the country?

Iran responded by stating that it has responsibly provided shelter to refugees until they are no longer at risk of persecution and are assured state protection by the Taliban. Iran emphasized its commitment to following UN Refugee and Human Rights principles, contrasting its approach with Pakistan, which has forcibly evicted refugees.



### From Conflict to Cooperation: Strengthening Disarmament Measures in Yemen

- Ganesh Inamdar (I LL.B) and Prakhar Kanungo (II B.A.LL.B)

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC), formally known as First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly is one of the six main committees of the UNGA. Its primary focus is on matters related to disarmament, international security and challenges to global peace and security.

The Committee met on 17 and 18th of January 2025 to discuss the challenges of enforcing Arms Embargoes and Ensuring Disarmament in Yemen. Over two days, delegates engaged in heavy geopolitical rivalries, but eventually managed to unite on a plan aimed at mitigating one of the world's most alarming humanitarian crises. The discussion launched with accusations from fellow delegates about US Military presence along the Red Sea, the Delegate of United States Acknowledging its military involvement in the area as a safety measure for trade along the Red Sea, the United States primarily accused Iran of supplying weapons to the Houthi rebels.

Saudi Arabia re echoed these claims, while Iran categorically denied any involvement. When pressed by the international press about its alleged ties to Hezbollah and the Houthis, Iran refrained from commenting thus triggering further speculations.

China criticized the US for being the largest arms supplier to the Middle East, highlighting the hypocrisy of its stance. It advocated the Belt and Road Initiative, its flagship infrastructure development initiative (i.e.BRI) as a potential long-term solution to Yemen's humanitarian crisis. It proposed investments through BRI in the Yemen region while emphasizing the importance of economic development and infrastructure investment for stability. Meanwhile, Oman called for a complete arms embargo in the region and pledged to take stricter measures to combat illegal arms trade through the Gulf of Oman when pressed by the press.

The committee introduced two working papers. The first was written jointly by the Delegates of the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and co-signed by the Delegates of Russia, Oman, and Iran. It

### UN Press Fact Check

Iran's involvement in the transfer of weapons to Yemen, was unequivocally denied

However, on further investigation a report was discovered where the US Navy had seized upwards of 1400 AK-47 and 226,000 rounds of Ammunition from a vessel originating from Iran. The ship was on a route commonly used to smuggle arms from Iran to the Houthis. This constitutes a major violation of the UN Targeted arms embargo. For more see [here](#)

**UK's supply of cluster munitions to Saudi Arabia in the Yemen Conflict.**

Cluster Munitions are dangerous as they indiscriminately harm civilians, leave behind unexploded ordinance, cause environmental damage, and create long-term humanitarian and economic challenges. The readers should be advised that the use of cluster ammunitions is prohibited under the Convention on Cluster ammunitions of which the UK is a signatory. For more see [here](#)



suggested the "establishment of a UN led mediation committee involving all Yemeni stakeholders facilitating peace talks" alongside a call for the "removal of all western military forces from the Gulf region to promote disarmament and peace". The paper ultimately failed to gather enough votes to pass.

The second was jointly authored by the United States of America and Saudi Arabia and co-signed by the delegates of Egypt, UAE and the UK. The paper proposed to "targeted financial sanctions on entities involved in arms trade"; a "UN led maritime initiative along with other regional players to dismantle smuggling networks specifically in the Red Sea Area" However the paper ultimately missed the 2/3rd majority required to pass the paper.

A breakthrough came when Oman, balancing its role as a mediator and a regional stakeholder, proposed critical amendments to the US-Saudi draft. These included phased disarmament over a period of ten years and enhanced enforcement mechanisms through periodic inspections along Yemen's coastline. This revised framework not only addressed concerns raised by China and Pakistan but also

struck a chord with undecided delegations, enabling its passage with the requisite majority.

The DISEC's collaborative effort highlights diplomacy's power in addressing Yemen's crisis through phased disarmament and strengthened enforcement measures for peace.

### Denial is a River in the UNW Committee

- Astha Ghule (I B.A.LL.B) and Radhika Dahalkar (I B.A.LL.B)

Betrayal, denial, and unwavering stances is what the two-day UNW committee saw. The heat of arguments, the accusations thrown wildly and the shift in loyalties over the promise of mere sponsorship fired up the UNW committee in the 2nd Inter-Batch MUN. The agenda, providing relief for displaced women and children in view of the Sudanese conflict brought out various opinions and stances of countries on the same.

The delegate of Sudan answered the questions posed by the IP with an unwavering rejection of the RSF, (Rapid Support Forces) a paramilitary organisation (formerly the janjaweed rebels) who are the

### UN Press Fact Check

#### Sudan's Use of International Funds Amid Crisis

During discussions on the Sudanese conflict between the RSF and SAF, Sudan's delegate asserted that international funds were fully utilized to protect refugees. When questioned on transparency and accountability, they cited collaborations with organizations like the Women's Peace Humanitarian Fund and Sudan Transitional and Recovery Support for infrastructure and aid efforts. However, they shifted focus to the ongoing crisis, highlighting arms supplies to Sudan and urging regional cooperation while stressing adherence to the UN arms embargo. This response deflected blame and momentarily diverted scrutiny from financial accountability.



direct cause of the conflict in Sudan. Sudan rejected the RSF as a government organisation. Further, they strengthened their stance with the multi funding project that the country takes part in. The delegation also defended fiercely by drawing all the members' attention repeatedly to the "root cause" of the conflict. Whereas the Delegate of UAE, when faced with the allegations of supplying the RSF with arms and ammunition denied all the claims and continued to do so throughout the committee's two-day meet.

South Sudan's silence when questioned about revenge attacks and safety of the Sudanese refugees, echoed throughout the room. On the other hand, France, who faced criticism from the IP, from the other delegates and the Chair herself about their weapon supplying schemes, didn't waver from their stance. USA, held a neutral stance neither supporting the government of Sudan, nor supporting the militant forces. The lines of USA's loyalties in the conflict blurred as they sanctioned both the parties causing the conflict in Sudan (i.e. the RSF and the SAF) and when questioned, were only able to provide two sided answers .

The delegate of Djibouti on the other hand, charged fully into the debate, pointing fingers at all other delegates involved with strong factual arguments, but failed in defending their own country when questioned about the mass Female Genital Mutilation Rate and Laws surrounding women in the country. Saudi Arabia advocated women's rights throughout and not one delegate was able to question the delegate of Saudi Arabia, who stood their ground firmly. When questioned, the delegation responded with "The women of our country are happy with the legislation and find no fault in them" The first day looked bleak with 5 failed motions but game-changing events that took place on the second day that made the meet captivating, even for the Chair.

Two major blocs formed on the second day of the committee, with both contending for the passage of their respective resolution. Searing hot negotiations took place between the delegates with finally, one bloc, based on Sudan and the European countries funding all the refugee programs in Sudan and the other bloc, based on South Sudan and all the countries bearing the brunt of the refugee

### Upcoming Activities

**Call For Papers: 2nd GNLU GCESCJ International Conference On Climate Justice And Sustainable Environment (ICCJSE):**

The Centre for Environment, Sustainability and Climate Justice established by GNLU (GCESCJ), offers to study, research, and provide expert consultation in environmental matters. The Centre aims to provide a platform and voice to all stakeholders, including people at the grassroots, the government, industries, experts and administrative authorities. Submit your abstract by 20 February, 2025. For more information, view [here](#).



influx were formed. Both the blocs scrambled to form the majority. Just when we thought there would be no conclusive win, the tables had turned as the delegates of Egypt and Qatar shifted allegiances from the Sudan bloc to the South Sudan bloc, lured in by the greed of sponsorship in the Resolution passed by the committee. The committee was finally a success with the South Sudan bloc taking the majority and passing the resolution "ITS TIME FOR AFRICA".

### Upcoming Activities

International Conference on Law, Human Rights and Cultural Studies:

International Conference on Law, Human Rights and Cultural Studies , on 12th Feb 2025 at Satara, Maharashtra, India . ICLHRCS will provide an excellent international forum for sharing knowledge and results in Law, Human Rights and Cultural Studies. The aim of the Conference is to provide a platform to the researchers and practitioners from both academia as well as industry to share cutting-edge development in the field. This event will be organized by Techno Conferences at the city of Satara, Maharashtra, India. For more information, view [here](#).

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