Study Guide
UNSC

United Nations Security Council

Universidad de Navarra | FACULTAD DE DERECHO | UNMUN MODEL OF UNITED NATIONS

Welcome Letter from the Chair:

Dear Delegates,

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the United Nations Security Council of the University of Navarra Model United Nations 2025. Before delving into the study guide we would quickly like to introduce the leadership of the committee. Panos Vakirtzis from Greece will be the President, Txell Reguant from Spain will be the Vice-President and Samuel Torres from Colombia will be the Secretary.

In this committee we will be dealing with topics of high importance for the international community whose regional and global implications need to be considered in your attempt to come up with viable and innovative solutions. More specifically, this committee will be discussing the following two topics:

1. Pirate activity in the Gulf of Guinea
2. Assessing the role of the international community in regards to the Haitian Crisis

Bearing in mind the high complexity and diversity of the abovementioned topics, delegates will need to extensively research and prepare for the conference beyond this study guide to properly understand the social, political and humanitarian implications of the two topics. At the same time, it needs to be clear that these topics are meant to be discussed in accordance with your assigned country's position, interests and policies. We expect all delegates to attend all UNMUN 2025 commitments, before and during the conference as well as to prepare adequately and engage in a fruitful debate. As mentioned previously, further research is encouraged and a number of additional resources are at your disposal in this study guide. We also urge you to follow the news in case of any developments on either topic before the conference.

If any questions, doubts or comments come up during your preparation we are more than happy to assist you and you are more than welcome to contact us on our emails that are listed below:

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Lastly, we encourage you to make the most of this valuable experience and enjoy it. Open up to meeting new people from all around the world and listen to their perspectives. We are very excited to embark on this journey and we will meet you all in Pamplona very soon.

Best,

Your Chairs

About the Committee: United Nations Security Council:

The Security Council is one of the six main organs of the United Nations, as established by the United Nations Charter. The Security Council, which can convene whenever peace is in danger, is primarily responsible for upholding international peace and security.

As stated in the Charter, the United Nations has four key purposes:

- to uphold peace and security on a global scale;
- to foster amicable relationships between countries;
- to work together to address global issues and to advocate for the protection of human rights and;
- to serve as a hub for coordinating the efforts of different nations.

All United Nations members are committed to implementing the decisions of the Security Council. The Security Council is the only organ of the United Nations with the authority to make decisions that member states are required to follow under the Charter, while all other organs can only make recommendations to member states.

The first session of the Security Council took place on 17 January 1946 at Church House, Westminster, London. From its initial gathering, the Security Council has been permanently based at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. It also visited various cities, conducting sessions in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in 1972, in Panama City, Panama, and in Geneva, Switzerland in 1990.

Each member must have a representative present at UN Headquarters at all times so the Security Council can convene as necessary.

Under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, the Security Council has the authority to take measures to uphold or reinstate global peace and security. The sanctions measures, as outlined in Article 41, include a wide variety of enforcement options that do not require the use of military force. There have been 31 sanctioned regimes established by the Security Council since 1966.

Various objectives have led to the implementation of different types of Security Council sanctions. A variety of measures have been implemented, including broad economic and trade sanctions, as well as more specific actions like arms embargoes, travel bans, and restrictions on financial or commodity transactions. The Security Council has implemented sanctions in order to assist in peaceful transitions, prevent unconstitutional changes, combat terrorism, uphold human rights, and encourage the prevention of nuclear weapon proliferation.

Topic A: Pirate Activity in the Gulf of Guinea

Introduction

Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea has emerged as a persistent and complex challenge, leading to a precarious maritime habitat along the West African coast. There has been a rise in pirate activities in the area, marked by a variety of criminal acts targeting cargo vessels. The attacks have had an impact on fishing vessels, commercial ships, and vessels transporting oil. The usual elements include abductions, thefts, and unauthorized seizure of vehicles. The Gulf of Guinea is widely recognized as one of the most hazardous areas for sailors and maritime vessels. In the escalation of piracy in the region, deficiencies in maritime law enforcement capabilities, economic difficulties, and political instability all contribute to the phenomenon.

The coastal nations' political landscapes are often characterized by instability and governance issues, creating opportunities for criminal organizations to thrive. Economic difficulties and disparities in wealth contribute to the sense of urgency that drives certain individuals to resort to piracy as a means of financial support. In addition, pirate groups can operate relatively freely in the Gulf of Guinea because of the lack of effective law enforcement and naval patrols.

The pirates often employ devious tactics, including the use of firearms, fast watercraft, and at times collaboration with corrupt authorities. In addition to inflicting immediate financial consequences, piracy has far-reaching implications for both regional stability and global trade routes. In response to the increasing threat of piracy, international and regional efforts have been implemented to address the issue within the Gulf of Guinea.

Examples of cooperative efforts aimed at enhancing the maritime security capabilities of affected nations include heightened naval patrols, the sharing of intelligence, and the implementation of capacity-building programs. The challenge persists despite these efforts, underscoring the need for comprehensive and enduring strategies to address the root causes of piracy and enhance security along this critical maritime pathway. The region has experienced significant consequences due to the menace of piracy, including loss of life, destabilization, and an annual financial toll exceeding $1.9 billion.

Keywords/Concepts

1. <u>Hijacking</u>**:** An act of unlawfully seizing an aircraft, vehicle, or ship while in transit
2. <u>Piracy</u>**:** Piracy involves the criminal act of stealing from ships through violent attacks. Piracy remains prevalent in various maritime areas, including the Gulf of Guinea. Piracy commonly occurs with the intent of unlawfully acquiring natural resources, such as oil and gas, that are being transported through the area.
3. <u>Insurgency:</u> Condition of revolt against a government that is less than an organized revolution and that is not recognized as belligerency
4. <u>The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND</u>): decentralized militant group in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria.
5. <u>Hydrocarbon reserves:</u> amount of fossil minerals in the Earth's subsurface, identified during geological exploration and specifically determined at the beginning of production.

Background & Historical Context

The prevalence of modern maritime piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea began to increase in the mid-2000s, corresponding with the rise of insurgency in the Niger Delta region of southern Nigeria during the same time period. The insurgency's geographical and political context is intertwined with the region's oil exploration and production processes. The Gulf of Guinea includes two significant oil and natural gas producers, Nigeria and Angola, together accounting for approximately 3% of worldwide oil production, and collectively holding a comparable portion of confirmed natural gas reserves. The Niger Delta, which is rich in resources, became a focal point for insurgency after foreign investments and oil and gas companies were attracted to the region.

The Gulf of Guinea is an essential maritime route for the shipping of goods[1] between Europe and Asia, as well as for global fishing operations. Furthermore, it also has a crucial impact on the process of extracting and transporting oil and gas. Almost 20 commercial seaports are

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[1] "The rise of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea." 2022. GIS Reports. https://www.gisreportsonline.com/r/piracy-gulf-guinea/.

located in the region, which accounts for a quarter of the maritime traffic in Africa. The primary pathway for entering and leaving Nigeria and Angola, two of Africa's top oil-producing nations, is through this particular route.

Around 30% of the oil brought into the US goes through this specific region in terms of geography. Other nations, including France, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands, are also actively involved in the exploration of oil and gas reserves.

According to a report published by the United Nations Development Programme in 2006, the instability was largely exacerbated by a combination of systemic issues such as high levels of unemployment, poverty, social deprivation, and administrative neglect, which were ongoing challenges for the local population. Energy companies that obtained permits for oil exploration and production, caused disturbances to the economic activities of local communities, particularly in relation to agriculture and traditional fishing. The emergence of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta led to a loose coalition of militant groups. These groups initiated operations in the Niger Delta region to disrupt various facets of the oil industry, including extraction, production, transportation, and offshore activities.

Current Situation:

In 2020, the Gulf of Guinea, a region comprising 11 nations and known for its significant oil reserves and production capacity among five of its member states, was identified as the most perilous maritime area globally. The depiction illustrates the consequence of a surge in attacks on oil tankers. Many governments in the region continue to struggle with efforts to contain the incidents. In emulation of the actions of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta. The Gulf of Guinea holds significant importance as a zone for international fishing.

In 2021, the total Gross Domestic Product of Benin, Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Gabon, Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Togo, and the archipelago of Sao Tome and Principe

collectively amounted to $866.343 billion[2], representing over 45% of sub-Saharan Africa's GDP. The region holds significant economic interests for Angola, Cameroon, Senegal, and Nigeria, which is widely regarded as the dominant economic power in Africa. International investors are beginning to take notice of Benin, Ghana, Ivory Coast, and Togo as flourishing economic centers. The region is rich in natural resources, including fisheries and hydrocarbon reserves. Over the past 15 years, the region has become a prominent area for maritime piracy, surpassing the Horn of Africa and the Gulf of Aden, which were previously known for Somali pirate activities[3]. A shift in conditions resulted in a significant increase in piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, as the situation on the east coast improved.

The frequency of attacks utilizing weapons, hijackings, shipboard incursions, kidnappings, and crew member assassinations has seen a notable increase. In 2020, the Gulf of Guinea experienced a significant increase in marine kidnappings, accounting for 130 out of 135 incidents reported globally. This represents a record high for the region in terms of maritime abductions. Furthermore, apart from these extra attacks, the region accounted for 95% of abduction incidents and almost 43% of all documented pirate incidents globally in the preceding year[4].

Piracy in the region initially emerged in the 1980s; however, it did not escalate into a global concern until approximately 2011 when the number of attacks on ships reached a peak with 996 sailors being targeted.

According to the 2023 data from the International Maritime Bureau[5] the region had a success rate of slightly over 75% for perpetrators boarding seafaring vessels. During the initial stages of maritime piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, pirates would predominantly hijack ships and abscond with their plunder. Until the middle of the 2010s, the majority of successful attacks led to the hijacking of oil tankers, which were then taken to pre-arranged locations on land.

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[2] Greminger, Thomas. 2022. "Maritime Security: Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea | GCSP." Geneva Centre for Security Policy. https://www.gcsp.ch/publications/maritime-security-piracy-gulf-guinea.

[3] Greminger, Thomas. 2022. "Maritime Security: Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea | GCSP." Geneva Centre for Security Policy. https://www.gcsp.ch/publications/maritime-security-piracy-gulf-guinea.

[4] "PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS." n.d. PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS. https://www.icc-ccs.org/reports/2020_Annual_Piracy_Report.pdf.

[5] "Live Piracy Map." n.d. International Maritime Bureau.https://www.icc-ccs.org/piracy-reporting-centre/live-piracy-map

Starting in 2016, due to the decline in worldwide oil prices, there has been a change in the primary strategy employed by pirates, who now focus on kidnapping crew members in exchange for ransom.

Based on the 2022 report on piracy from the United Nations Secretary-General, it is estimated that the total annual costs of piracy and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea region equate to approximately $1.9 billion, encompassing both direct and indirect expenses. According to recent statistics, the collective annual payments made to pirate groups amount to approximately $4 million. Concurrently, the overall worth of merchandise, predominantly oil, that has been pilfered in instances of hijacking has exhibited a decline. In the early 2010s, the estimated value per attack ranged from $2-6 million, but this figure has evidently decreased to less than $1 million on an annual basis as of 2021[6].

Main Actors & Stakeholders:

Overall, all countries along the coast of the Gulf of Guinea stretching from Senegal all the way to Angola have been affected politically and economically from the instability created by the piracy problem. The following countries and international organizations have been the most influential and involved stakeholders of the topic.

-Nigeria

The Federal Republic of Nigeria is the most populous and influential country in the region. It is also worth noting that it is one of the two oil producers in the GoG region (alongside Angola). When oil was discovered in Nigeria many ethnic and religious minorities in the region of the Niger Delta were forcibly relocated to pave the way for international

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[6] "PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS." n.d. PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS. https://www.icc-ccs.org/reports/Q1%202022%20IMB%20Piracy%20Report.pdf.

corporations to operate in the region. Therefore, many sought violent means to protect their land, including piracy, creating vast political instability in the region[7].

It is in Nigeria's interest for piracy to cease to exist in the region since it will bring more business in the region. To combat piracy, Nigeria was one of the first countries in the region that aimed to follow the Yaoundé Code of Conduct and as of now piracy has dropped significantly. Nonetheless, Nigeria needs to take into account the ethnic minorities such as the Ogoni and the Biafran peoples and find ways to promote everlasting peace and instability in the region.

-China

Chinese economic presence in West Africa has skyrocketed in the last decade leading the country to play a greater role in regional matters. It is in China's interest for piracy to stop since it has invested heavily in the creation of transportation infrastructure across the region while it also has ownership (full or partial) of certain key ports including Lagos in Nigeria and Lomé in Togo[8]. Lately, China has also been trying to establish itself as a key military force in the region with reports that the Chinese navy will soon open naval bases in Equatorial Guinea and Gabon while it also plans on engaging in military exercises in West Africa in the near future[9].

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[7] Williams, Max. "Gulf of Guinea Maritime Security: Lessons, Latency, and Law Enforcement." War on the Rocks, May 15, 2024. https://warontherocks.com/2024/05/gulf-of-guinea-maritime-security-lessons-latency-and-law-enforcement/#:~:text=Almost%201000%20seafarers%20and%20local.

[8] Laifer , Alan . "Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and the Effects of Unstable Governance - Security Outlines." Security Outlines , March 11, 2024. https://www.securityoutlines.cz/piracy-in-the-gulf-of-guinea-and-the-effects-of-unstable-governance/.

[9] Laifer , Alan . "Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and the Effects of Unstable Governance - Security Outlines." Security Outlines , March 11, 2024. https://www.securityoutlines.cz/piracy-in-the-gulf-of-guinea-and-the-effects-of-unstable-governance/.

-The European Union

The European Union and especially countries like France still maintain a lot of political and economic influence in West Africa. The EU is to this day one of the biggest donors in most countries of the region while it also maintains strong links partially due to colonialism. However, due to the rise of authoritarianism in the region after a series of successful coups the West has lost its grip in West Africa with more and more countries seeking closer partnerships with Moscow and/or Beijing[10]. The West needs to demonstrate that democratic means can better tackle the issue at hand as well as other connected issues the region faces such as poverty, corruption and unequal distribution of wealth.

-Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

ECOWAS is a political and economic regional union of 15 West African countries, aiming to achieve "collective self sufficiency". For ECOWAS to achieve its goal of raising the level of affluence and guarantee sustainable economic development in the region, piracy needs to be brought to a standstill. ECOWAS aims to do so through a series of institutional changes on a national level and greater cooperation among member states. Since 2020, its efforts have been proven effective since piracy levels have dropped. It is also noteworthy to mention that piracy in the Gulf of Guinea has "moved eastwards" towards coastal member states of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) where less action has been taken to fight piracy on a legal and institutional level.[11]

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[10] Lynch, Suzanne , Clea Caulcutt, and Douglas Busvine. "Europe's Plan to Stabilize West Africa Erupts — Again." POLITICO, July 29, 2023. https://www.politico.eu/article/europe-plan-stabilize-west-africa-erupts-niger-military-coup-wagner-group/.

[11] Laifer , Alan . "Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and the Effects of Unstable Governance - Security Outlines." Security Outlines , March 11, 2024. https://www.securityoutlines.cz/piracy-in-the-gulf-of-guinea-and-the-effects-of-unstable-governance/.
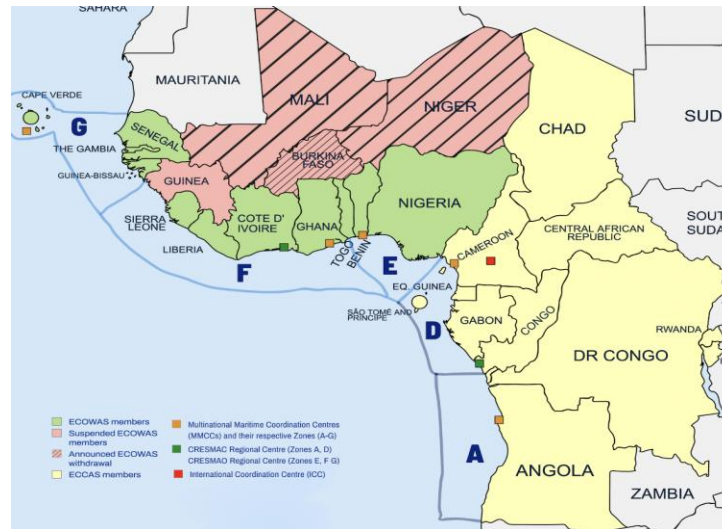
Case Study: The Yaoundé Code of Conduct

Figure 1: Outline of the regional organizations and maritime operation centers established under the Yaoundé architecture

In June 2013 the leaders of the ECOWAS, ECCAS and the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC) gathered in the capital of Cameroon, Yaoundé, and agreed on the establishment of a mutual regional strategy to combat criminal activity in the Gulf of Guinea. The negotiations were deemed to be successful and the efforts of the Yaoundé summit were praised by the international community. The three following mechanisms were created during this summit[12].

1. The Yaoundé Code of Conduct
2. The Heads of States Declaration
3. Memorandum of Understanding between the three regional organizations

The Yaoundé Architecture is an elaborate ecosystem of interregional institutions that connect the ECCAS, GGC and ECOWAS. The most important organizations are the Interregional Coordination Center (ICC) which is responsible for creating an information-sharing layout connecting the Regional Maritime Security Centre for Central Africa (CRESMAC) and the

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[12] YARIS (Yaoundé Architecture Regional information Centre). "What Is the Yaoundé Architecture." Accessed July 14, 2024. https://yaris.site/en/yaounde-architecture/.

Regional Maritime Security Centre for West Africa (CRESMAO). As demonstrated in Figure 1, above, the seaboard of the Gulf of Guinea has been split into 5 operational maritime zones where schemes are coordinated by 5 Maritime Multinational Coordination Centres (MMCCs)[13].

Undertakings have also been implemented on a national level with the establishment of Maritime Operational Centers (MOCs) in each member state. The MOC is responsible for assembling the main stakeholders associated with the action of state and sea (customs, maritime police, fisheries, environmental protection and national navies).[14] Figure 2, below, visualizes the operation of the Yaoundé Architecture.
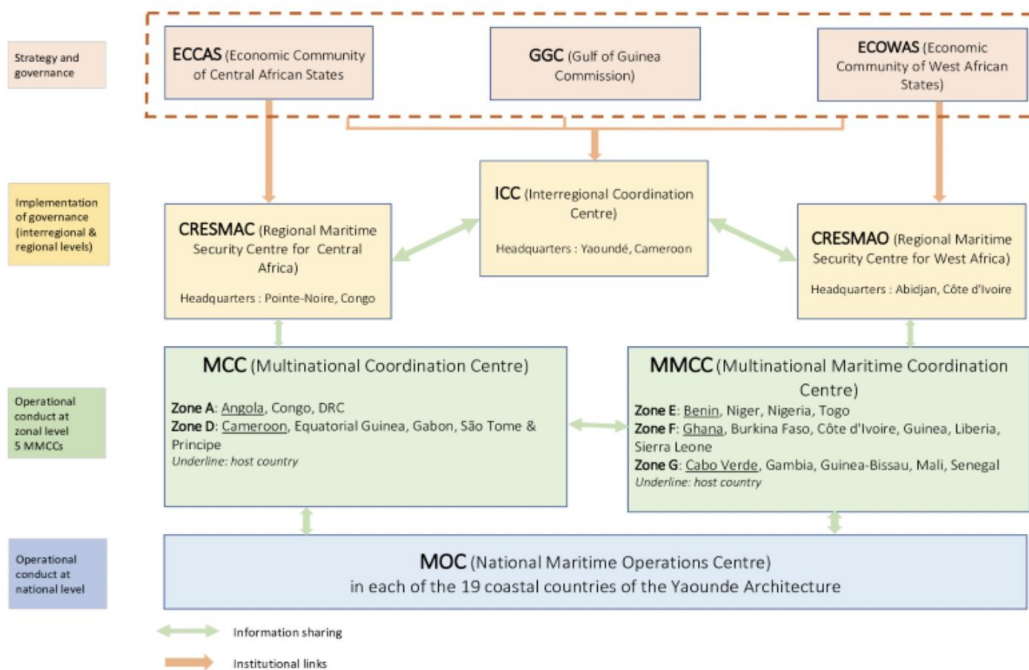

Figure 2: Mapping of the organizations that make up the Yaoundé Architecture[15]

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[13]YARIS (Yaoundé Architecture Regional information Centre). "What Is the Yaoundé Architecture." Accessed July 14, 2024. https://yaris.site/en/yaounde-architecture/.

[14]YARIS (Yaoundé Architecture Regional information Centre). "What Is the Yaoundé Architecture." Accessed July 14, 2024. https://yaris.site/en/yaounde-architecture/.

[15]YARIS (Yaoundé Architecture Regional information Centre). "What Is the Yaoundé Architecture." Accessed July 14, 2024. https://yaris.site/en/yaounde-architecture/.

The Yaoundé architecture is an important aspect of this topic since it clearly showcases the willingness of all states involved to find a common strategy to combat the problem of piracy in the Gulf of Guinea which equally devastates all parties involved. In general, its efforts have proven to be successful since internally most states, especially in West Africa, have passed necessary legislation that criminalizes and prosecutes piracy. Nonetheless, low levels of trust in cross-border cooperation feed into the problems of understaffing and insufficient funds. Many governments in the region remain reluctant to finance the operations of the ICC because they are hesitant to cede a part of their national sovereignty[16].

Important support material / references for investigation:

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[16] Laifer , Alan . "Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and the Effects of Unstable Governance - Security Outlines." Security Outlines , March 11, 2024. https://www.securityoutlines.cz/piracy-in-the-gulf-of-guinea-and-the-effects-of-unstable-governance/.

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Laifer , Alan . "Piracy in the Gulf of Guinea and the Effects of Unstable Governance - Security Outlines." Security Outlines , March 11, 2024.

https://www.securityoutlines.cz/piracy-in-the-gulf-of-guinea-and-the-effects-of-unstable-governance/.

Lynch, Suzanne , Clea Caulcutt, and Douglas Busvine. "Europe's Plan to Stabilize West Africa Erupts — Again." POLITICO, July 29, 2023. https://www.politico.eu/article/europe-plan-stabilize-west-africa-erupts-niger-military-coup-wagner-group/.

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Topic B: Assessing the role of the international community in regard to the Haitian crisis

Introduction

Since 2010, the Republic of Haiti has entered a nonstop humanitarian and institutional crisis. The earthquake 14 years ago unveiled the existing inequality, poverty, hunger and a major unconformity with the government of the day. This cycle of relatively "calm" instability concluded in 2021 with the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse, a promoter of reforms and who set a firm stance on cartels with the promise of dismantling organized crime on the island. Murdered by drug cartels and criminal organizations, the assassination of Moïse has led the country to complete chaos and humanitarian crisis. The images of Port Au Prince display nothing more than a complete loss of the rule of law, order, and peace. The videos and messages from cartel leaders threatening the government are the centerpiece of the horrors in which Haitian citizens live today.

After being threatened and forced by criminal organizations, current President Ariel Henry, was exiled to the US, while seeking aid in Guyana and Kenya. In April 2024, Henry resigned, in the light of a transitional presidential council, yet said council had not occurred. Today, the governmental structure of Haiti is lacking and unclear, with no sworn president and no interim prime minister.

Moreover, the Haitian crisis goes further than governance struggle. The combination of civil unrest, natural disasters, political assassinations and a weak government are the cooking pot for a threat to international security. Although there is no intention in launching international aggressions, cartels, violence and drug trafficking affects neighboring countries, increases the number of refugees and worsen the already deplorable living conditions of the Caribbean Island.

Understood as a threat to international security and Latin American stability, Haiti's situation has to be addressed and tackled in order to restore rule of law, democracy and overall stability for the people of this half of La Hispaniola. The question of a failed state has also prompted the analysis of the crisis. If Haiti is a failed state, in both the philosophical and empirical sense, what should the international community do to foster peace and welfare in the country?

To address the Haitian crisis, deep and thorough analysis must be made by each of the delegates, understanding what are the main and underlying causes that led to this anarchy-like situation. Approaches, both comprehensive and authoritarian, on how to deal with a society governed by criminal groups, will come up in the debate. In the light of this uncertainty, one thing remains clear, ignoring or bypassing the serious situation in Haiti will only lead to a severe humanitarian crisis around the Caribbean and an international expansion of crime.

Keywords/Concepts:

1. Organized Criminal Group[17]
   a. A structured group of three or more persons;
   b. The group exists for a period of time;
   c. It acts in concert with the aim of committing at least one serious crime;
   d. To obtain, directly or indirectly, a financial or other material benefit.

2. Rule of Law[18]
   a. The rule of law is a durable system of laws, institutions, norms, and community commitment that delivers four universal principles: accountability, just law, open government, and accessible and impartial justice

3. Refugee[19]
   a. Refugees are people forced to flee their own country and seek safety in another country. They are unable to return to their own country because of

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[17] United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime [UNODC], "Definition in the Organized Crime Convention."

[18] World Justice Project, "What Is the Rule of Law?"

[19] UNHCR - The UN Refugee Agency, "Refugees | UNHCR."

feared persecution as a result of who they are, what they believe in or say, or because of armed conflict, violence or serious public disorder.

4. Humanitarian Crisis[20]

   a. Any circumstance where humanitarian (e.g. food security, health, dignity, privacy) needs are sufficiently large and complex to require significant external assistance and resources, and where a multi-sectoral response is needed, with the engagement of a wide range of international humanitarian actors.

5. Failed State[21]

   a. A state that is incapable of carrying out the two fundamental functions of a sovereign nation-state in the contemporary international order:

      i. Assert control over its people and territory

      ii. Defend its national boundaries and sovereignty

   A failing state's ability to govern is diminished to the extent that it is unable to offer rudimentary public services and carry out organizational and administrative duties essential to maintain its grip of power. Its legitimacy in the eyes of the international community as well as the citizens of said state plummets and often causes further chaos and instability.

Background / Historical context

The crisis in Haiti is not a mere product of modernity, but finds its roots over 40 years ago with the coup and resignation of Haitian oligarch Jean-Claude Duvalier, who inherited the title from the XXth century dictator Francois Duvalier. The Duvaliers' government, initially supported by the United States, ruled the country like any Latin American dictatorship, stealing millions of dollars in international aid, running sham elections, and foreshadowing

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[20] United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund [UNICEF], "Core Commitments for Children | SCOPE | Humanitarian UNICEF."

[21] Naazneen H. Barma, "Failed State | Government," in *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 2019, https://www.britannica.com/topic/failed-state.

paramilitary groups that incurred in child recruitment. In 1986, Jean-Claude Duvalier escaped Haiti after economic turmoil and huge domestic opposition, fleeing to France with aid from the US.[22]

With Duvalier out of the country lieutenant Henri Namphy, a Duvalier hardliner, reached power and his administration was even harsher than the previous one, with more killings, massacres and one coup against 1988 election winner Leslie Manigat. Yet, Namphy's government was overturned by the self-declared president Prosper Avril, who also fled in 1990 to the US. After a series of coups Jean-Bertrand Aristide won ⅔ of the popular vote, he was overturned but then returned to power with aid of the United States. In 1995 the arrival of René Préval was the first peaceful transfer of power in Haitian history, yet his government failed too with a series of coups.[15]

It was until 2004 that the UN aimed to stabilize Haiti, the mission was plagued with corruption and accusations of sexual misconduct committed by U.N. peacekeepers. The UNSC then established the MINUSTAH (United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti in French) through resolution 1542 of 2004[23]. The main purposes of the MINUSTAH were stabilization, disarmament of guerrilla and criminal groups, promotion of free and informed elections and promotion of the institutional and economic development of Haiti. The MINUSTAH lasted until 2017, with an apparent peak of stability and overall consensus during Jovenel Moïse's presidency.

Yet in January 2010 a 7.0-magnitude earthquake struck Haiti, leaving thousands of deaths, and hundreds of thousands homeless in the capital. The UN and the international community as a whole aided Haiti in the recovery of the earthquake. The MINUSTAH played a key role in the recovery of the country, protecting human rights, assuring sanitary conditions, and reconstructing Port-Au-Prince. In the following years the mandate of the MINUSTAH was adjusted by the Security Council to fit the circumstances of the country[15-24].

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[22] Pietsch, "Crisis in Haiti Comes After Decades of Turmoil: A Chronology."

[23] United Nations [UN], "MINUSTAH Fact Sheet."

[24] United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights [UNHCR], "Haiti, 2010."

In 2015 the new candidate Jovenel Moïse won the majority of the votes by relating to the majority of Haitians who lived in poverty. Moïse promoted agriculture as the key asset to change the country and pave the way out of poverty. He promoted a new constitution that would increase the presidency's power and secure himself more terms. International organizations and observers accused him and his government with embezzlement from Venezuela, planning civilian killings, and dictatorship-like tendencies. The constitutional reforms and elections were delayed due to the pandemic and rising insecurity in the country[18].

However in 2021 Moïse was assassinated in Port-Au-Prince by Colombian nationals backed by local guerrilla and criminal organizations. Moïse's assassination resulted in the ultimate loss of public order, with gangs demanding a coup d'état and threatening genocide and civil war. Before his assassination he named Ariel Henry as next prime minister, and he ruled the country until April 2024. In the light of public chaos in the capital Henry appealed to the international community to restore order. He sought aid from Kenya and Guayana to deploy a police force, but domestic legal issues were an obstacle to this mission. Henry's government lacked legitimacy from the people, which heated the situation even more; and the dire security situation ultimately led him to flee the country and find asylum in Puerto Rico.[15-25]

Current Situation:

After reviewing the long political turmoil, Haiti's situation today is nothing less than uncertain and alarming. Henry resigned in exile in Puerto Rico, unable to return and denied entry in the Dominican Republic. In April 2024 Henry renounced seeking a transitional council that will bring stability to the country. The council is meant to represent all sectors of Haitian society, including those of former presidents outed in previous coups. The council has not occurred or sat whatsoever.[26]

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[25] Robles, "He Went From Banana Exporter to President: 'I Am Not a Dictator.'"

[26] TLDR News Global, "What Happens Now Haiti's a Failed State?"

The power void created after Henry's resignation, has only been filled with gangs and criminal organizations taking over the capital. There is no Prime Minister or president appointed and elections are not planned any time soon. The National Assembly is not working after the threats of criminal gangs to bomb the legislative and the high courts have no power whatsoever with the massive police desertion. Haiti's political institutions have virtually no control over the frightened population, who today live in a Reign of Terror. Criminal groups led by Jimmy Chérizier (alias *Barbecue*) and Guy Phillipe have led prison breaks, closed schools, and attacked police stations. Barbecue has made clear he does not wish any international involvement and that illegitimate governments both successors of Henry or products of the CARICOM talks would lead the country to genocide and civil war[27].

Some data about the Haiti crisis:

- Only last year more than 4,300 homicides and 2,500 kidnappings were reported[19].
- More than 313,000 have been internally displaced, some even seeking fleeing to Jamaica or the Dominican Republic[19]
- 101,685 people from Haiti fled in 2023 and applied for asylum in other countries.[28]
- Haiti remains the poorest country in the Latin America and the Caribbean region and among the poorest countries in the world.[29]
- In 2023, Haiti had a GDP per capita of US$ 1694.1[21]
- Gangs control over 80% of Port-Au-Prince, the capital, with approximately 1.5M people.[19]
- Haiti is susceptible to natural disasters:
    - Since 2022 seven hurricanes have passed Haiti

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[27] CBC News, "Snapshot: The 'failed' State of Haiti in 2024 | About That."

[28] "Refugees From Haiti: Figures and Development."

[29] World Bank Group, "The World Bank in Haiti - Overview."

- On average an earthquake will hit near Haiti roughly every 11 days.[30]
- The 2023 UNODC estimated that there could be as many as 500,000 legal and illegal weapons in the country as of 2020.[31]

Main Actors & Stakeholders:

-Haiti

The Republic of Haiti, is the central and most important stakeholder that is directly affected by the ongoing calamity. The multidimensional crisis it is currently experiencing affects explicitly the general populace of the island nation which is currently enduring some of the worst living conditions on the planet. The constant state of violence and instability hinders any possibility of economic growth and prosperity, disincentivizing international corporations to invest in the country which could kickstart high levels of economic expansion. In addition, more than 300.000 people are internally displaced, as of December 2023,[32] creating a massive refugee crisis further fueling the problems of poverty, unemployment, crime and vulnerability to the climate crisis.

**-*Dominican Republic*

Despite sharing the island of Hispaniola, the relationship of the two countries has always been characterized by enmity and conflict. The ethnic, cultural and developmental differences of the two sides of the same island can easily be explained if we look back to their colonial past and post-independence paths. Haiti after gaining independence from

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[30] "The Complete Haiti Earthquake Report (Up-to-Date 2024)."

[31] Kestler-D'Amours, "'A Criminal Economy': How US Arms Fuel Deadly Gang Violence in Haiti."

[32] reliefweb.int. "Haiti: More than 60% of Forced Displacements Happened in 2023, a Year of Growing Brutality - Haiti | ReliefWeb," January 25, 2024.https://reliefweb.int/report/haiti/haiti-more-60-forced-displacements-happened-2023-year-growing-brutality-0#:~:text=As%20of%20December%202023%2C%20more.

France was trapped in a vicious circle of debt impoverishing the island state, accompanied by a series of corrupt regimes and violent coups. The Dominican Republic, on the other hand, had a completely different experience. After Trujillo's military and highly exploitative regime ended in 1961, the DR managed to establish functioning democratic institutions and transform into one of the fastest growing economies in the region.

The economic divide of the two parts of the island has led to vast waves of migration from the Haitian side of the island, which has fostered a prejudice towards Haitians in the Dominican side, the sentiment of 'antihaitianismo'[33]. Since 2013, Santo Domingo passed legislation denying citizenship to Dominican-born ethnic Haitians, rendering them stateless. The current strategy of the DR seems to be more non-interventionist and focuses more on reinforcing its border security capabilities.

-*Caribbean Community (CARICOM)*

The Caribbean Community is an intergovernmental economic and political union of 15 member states that was founded in 1973 aiming to encourage closer cooperation among the nations and dependencies of the Caribbean Sea. Haiti has been a full member of the organization since 2002 and CARICOM has been one of the key stakeholders trying to mediate the crisis by providing a forum for all involved parties to negotiate and providing aid to the most vulnerable people in Haiti. The UNSC recently recognized and praised CARICOM's efforts to conciliate the calamity.

-*United States of America*

The USA being the dominant power of the Western hemisphere is also involved in the Haitian crisis. Even though it lately does not intervene directly in the crisis, it receives a large influx of legal or illegal immigrants from Haiti trying to escape the turmoil in their home country.

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[33] Global Americans Staff. "Explaining and Predicting: The Dominican Republic's Response to the Haitian Crisis." Global Americans, March 28, 2024. https://globalamericans.org/explaining-and-predicting-the-dominican-republics-response-to-the-haitian-crisis/.

According to CIS, there are more than 700.000 Haitians residing in the US legally or illegally, a number that is consistently rising to this day[34]. The Biden administration has distinctly stated that it does not intend to authorize a moratorium on deportation and would not extend the Temporary Protected Status to more Haitians.[35] Nonetheless, it seems that Washington does want to guarantee a safe democratic transition for Haiti which is why it is involved in negotiations related to the topic like the ones organized by CARICOM earlier this year.

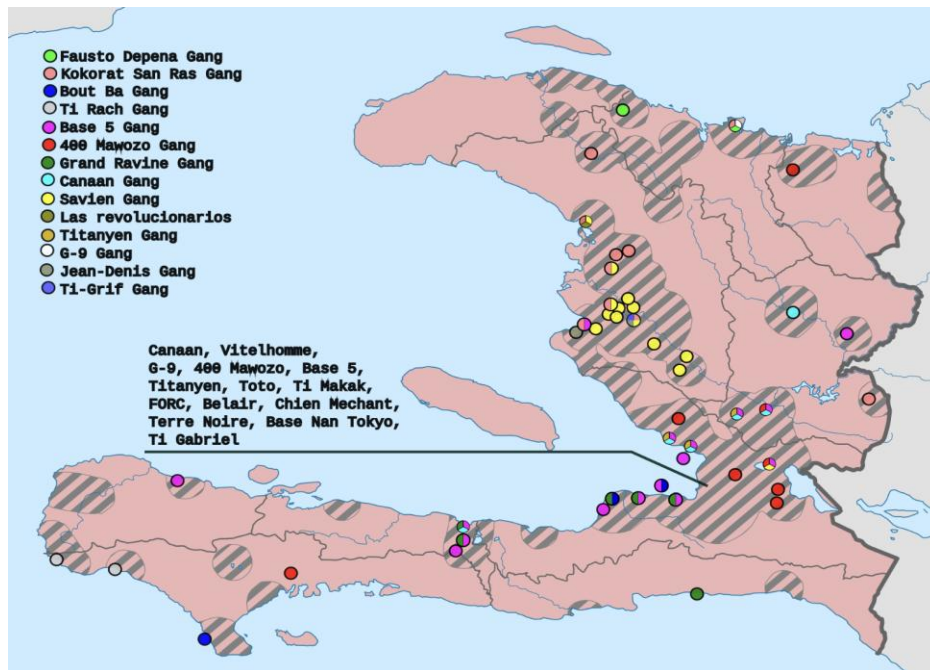**Case Study: Gang war in Haiti & the Multinational Security Support Mission in Haiti**

Figure 3: Map showcasing the territory controlled by gangs in Haiti

[34]Camarota , Steven . " Fact Sheet on Haitian Immigrants in the United States." Centre of Immigration Studies (CIS), April 10, 2024. https://cis.org/Camarota/Fact-Sheet-Haitian-Immigrants-United-States#:~:text=The%20Census%20Bureau's%20much%20larger,2000%20and%20224%2C000%20in%201990..

[35]Global Americans Staff. "Explaining and Predicting: The Dominican Republic's Response to the Haitian Crisis." Global Americans, March 28, 2024. https://globalamericans.org/explaining-and-predicting-the-dominican-republics-response-to-the-haitian-crisis/.

Gang violence in Haiti has exponentially intensified in the last couple of years creating an unsafe and unstable setting which hinders economic, social and political prosperity. Non-state actors involved in criminal activities have been firmly established in the country since the 1950s, further fueling the already corrupt and rocky environment of the country. Gang violence severely intensified when Port-au-Prince became the battlefield of two major gang/criminal groups and their allies trying to expand their territorial control over the country's capital: G9 and the G-Pep. The Haitian government has been struggling to hold its grip of power with gangs controlling 90% of the capital's territory, as of last year[36], and clashes leading to multiple civilian deaths, and internally displaced. Human rights organizations have pointed out that kidnappings and homicides have been on the rise since 2020 with a 17% increase in incidents while sexual violence is also used against victims mainly women[37]. This has resulted in the creation of vigilante groups, like the bwa kale[38], operated by civilians aiming to secure non-combatant areas from gang clashes.

The huge power vacuum that has been created by Haiti's incompetent and corrupt leadership has led to a situation of complete anarchy and lawlessness. On October 2, 2023 the UN Security Council approved the deployment of an international police force, the Multinational Security Support (MSS) Mission in Haiti, aiming to restore law and order in the country.[39] The mission is coordinated by Kenya which has partnered with the Haitian National Police. Personnel and funding has been vowed by CARICOM and various Caribbean and African countries such as Jamaica, Bahamas, Guyana, Senegal and Chad have deployed personnel on

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[36] Partners In Health. "Chaos in Haiti Escalates as Gang Violence, Fuel Shortages Threaten Access to Health Care," n.d. https://www.pih.org/article/chaos-haiti-escalates-gang-violence-fuel-shortages-threaten-access-health-care.

[37] Da Rin , Diego. "New Gang Battle Lines Scar Haiti as Political Deadlock Persists." International Crisis Group, July 27, 2022. https://www.crisisgroup.org/latin-america-caribbean/haiti/new-gang-battle-lines-scar-haiti-political-deadlock-persists.

[38] Chéry, Onz. "Bwa Kale: Protests Still Draw People Fed up in Haiti, despite Risks." The Haitian Times, November 18, 2022. https://haitiantimes.com/2022/11/18/bwa-kale-protests-still-draw-people-fed-up-in-haiti-despite-risks/.

[39] United Nations. "Security Council Authorizes Multinational Security Support Mission for Haiti for Initial Period of One Year, by Vote of 13 in Favour with 2 Abstentions | UN Press." press.un.org, October 2, 2023. https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15432.doc.htm.

the island. It is yet to be determined whether the mission succeeds in reinstating social order in Haiti but as of now the political deadlock persists to this day.

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