

SRI SRI ACADEMY, KOLKATA
MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2021



United Nations General Assembly – SPECPOL
(Special Political and Decolonization Committee) -
Discussing viable solutions to resolve the Israel-
Palestine Conflict

SSMUN'21 STUDY GUIDE

UNGA SPECPOL

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General Instructions

- Use the United Nations Charter and the Study Guide to enhance your performance in committee
- We will be following UNA -USA rules of procedure in committee. All your doubts about this simulation will be clarified to you on the first day of committee.
- Your performance in the committee will mainly depend on how much you have researched on the agenda, therefore be well researched.
- Be particular about your country's foreign policy, the best way to do that is by following your country's ministry of external affairs website.
- Even though the simulation is like an online event, I recommend you to refrain from simply reading out research. Try to deliver your points using Layman's language to create more impact.
- Try to cover and explain more than three points in one speech pertaining to the topic of discussion.
- Please do not leave the committee without informing the Executive Board.
- We expect you to switch on your cameras while speaking however we will overlook it for the delegates who have network issues.
- Any form of nuisance or vulgarity shall not be tolerated in the committee. The consequences of such actions will be as severe as they can possibly be.
- Chill! We will also have a lot of fun during the course of the committee.

-Aman Sinha (Chairperson)

Paramount Sub-Topics that Must be Covered by the Committee

1. Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank
2. Viability of Jerusalem to be an international city
3. Territorial and Administrative control over the Gaza Strip
4. The impartment of autonomy to the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO)
5. And at last, the question of a Palestinian State.

Committee Overview:

United Nations General Assembly – Fourth Committee, referred to hereafter as the Special Political and Decolonization Committee or SPECPOL for short, has a somewhat more fragmented mandate than other committees of the General Assembly, such as DISEC, ECOFIN, or SOCHUM.

The UN itself describes the committee as concerning itself “with a variety of subjects which include those related to decolonization, Palestinian refugees and human rights, peacekeeping, mine action, outer space, public information, atomic radiation and [the] University for Peace [sic]”.

In short, SPECPOL covers both the issue of decolonisation, as suggested by its full name, as well as any other political issues not directly dealt with by the mandates of any other UN General

Assembly committee. It should also be noted that, as this is a General Assembly committee, all resolutions are nonbinding.

What this means is that operative clause language which is more indicative of a Security Council resolution (e.g. ‘Demands’) should not be used, with non-binding language (e.g. ‘Urges’, ‘Recommends’) being used instead.

This also means that any peacekeeping operations or punitive measures (such as economic sanctions) cannot directly be authorised by this committee, although it is within the committee’s power to suggest or recommend that the Security Council take these actions in a manner stipulated by the committee. It is still acceptable, however, to refer to resolutions passed previously by non-General Assembly committees (including the Security Council) in the perambulatory clauses of a resolution.

Timeline:

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1987 December

First Intifada uprising starts in Occupied Territories. Muslim Brotherhood in Gaza structures Hamas movement, which quickly goes to brutality against Israel.

1988 September

Israel becomes one of just eight nations at an opportunity to have the ability to freely to launch satellites with Ofek reconnaissance probe.

1990

Soviet Union permits Jews to emigrate, prompting around 1,000,000 ex-Soviet residents moving to Israel.

1991 January

Gulf War. Iraq fires 39 Scud missiles at Israel in bombed endeavour to regionalise struggle. Israel avoids reacting at US demand.

1994 May-July

Israel pulls out from the greater part of Gaza and the West Bank city of Jericho, permitting Yasser Arafat to move PLO organization from Tunis and set up Palestinian National Authority.

1995 September

Mr Rabin and Yasser Arafat consent to Interim Arrangement for transfer of additional force and domain to Palestinian National Authority. Structuring reason for 1997 Hebron Protocol, 1998 Wye River Memorandum and universally supported "Road for Peace" of 2003.

1996 May

Likud gains back control under Benjamin Netanyahu, vows to stop further concessions to Palestinians. Regardless signs Hebron Protocol and Wye River Memorandum. Settlement expansion resumes.

2000 May

Israel pulls out from southern Lebanon, in spite of the fact that Lebanon questions status of Shebaa Farms region.

2000 July

Talks between Prime Minister Barak and Yasser Arafat separate over planning and degree of proposed further Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank.

2004 July

International Court of Justice issue's advisory opinion that West Bank barrier is unlawful.

2005 September

Israel pulls out every Jewish pilgrim and military staff from Gaza, while holding command over airspace, coastal waters and border crossings.

2008 December

Israel launches month-long full-scale invasion of Gaza to prevent Hamas and other groups from launching rockets.

2009 January

Discovery of major offshore natural gas deposits.

2010 September

Direct discussions continue among Israel and the Palestinian Authority, just to vacillate over the topic of settlements.

2017 February

Parliament passes a law which retroactively legitimizes many Jewish settlements based on private Palestinian land in the West Bank.

2017 June

Work starts on the first new Jewish settlement in the West Bank for quite a long time.

UNESCO votes to announce the Old City of Hebron a Palestinian World Heritage site, a move that Israel whines disregards the city's Jewish legacy.

2017 December

US President Donald Trump perceives Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, disturbing the Arab world and some Western partners.

The next March, he perceives Israeli sway over the Golan Heights, which Israel seized from Syria in the 1967 conflict and later attached. The international community does not recognise Israeli sovereignty.

2018 July-November

UN and Egypt endeavour to handle a long-haul truce among Israel and Hamas in the midst of an upsurge in violence on the Gaza strip from March.

2019 November

US says it no longer considers Israeli settlements on the West Bank to be unlawful.

2020 April

Benjamin Netanyahu and Benny Gantz agree to form a national unity government to deal with the Covid-19 pandemic.

2020 August

The United Arab Emirates become the first Gulf state to establish diplomatic relations with Israel.

2021 May

Unrest over constrained removals of Palestinians in east Jerusalem prompts conflicts with Hamas and communal violence in Israeli cities.

2021 June

Naftali Bennett of the Jewish nationalist Yamina party forms a broad coalition to oust Benjamin Netanyahu.

Introduction

The Gaza Strip –

An independent international commission of inquiry mandated to investigate the demonstrations that began on 30 March 2018 at the separation fence between Gaza and Israel, the response of Israeli security forces thereto, as well as the impact on civilians in Gaza and Israel. The Commission found reasonable grounds to believe that during these weekly demonstrations, the Israeli Security Forces (ISF) killed and gravely injured civilians who were neither participating directly in hostilities nor posing an imminent threat to life.

Among those shot were children, paramedics, journalists, and persons with disabilities. 183 people were shot dead and another 6,106 were wounded with live ammunition. The demonstrations were organized by a ‘Higher National Committee,’ whose members came from all sectors of Palestinian society, including civil society, cultural and social organizations, students unions, women’s groups, eminent persons, members of clans and representatives of several political parties.

While the demonstrations were civilian in nature, bringing them under a law enforcement legal paradigm, they were at times violent, including throwing stones, cutting through the separation fence, and launching incendiary kites and balloons. The Commission found, however, that the use of lethal force in response was rarely necessary or proportionate. For lethal force to be permissible, the victim must pose an imminent threat to life or limb. The ISF violated international human rights law in most instances the Commission investigated.

In the current situation, supporters of the status quo tend to focus on the fact that Hamas started lobbing rockets into Israel, and they argue that Israel has no choice but to retaliate, as any other country would. Some even suggest that the Israeli army is historically unparalleled in its efforts to spare civilian casualties. This line of argument, however, does not tend to offer many details on how this latest conflagration came to be. Why is all of this happening now? Wars and skirmishes don't occur in a vacuum; they are the result of an accumulation of actions and reactions over years, if not decades. A potential reputational cost attends even asking these questions. Those who do are often accused of justifying or supporting Hamas's actions.

The West Bank –

In a newly developed action and in the frame of the Israeli Hydro-Political Policy to continue sovereignty and control on the Palestinian water resources and to extend its area further to the east inside West Bank, the Israelis started erecting the Separation Apartheid Wall inside West Bank under alleged security reasons. The erection of this wall will cause great negative impact that have strategic dimensions on the Palestinian being erected on the best utilization areas of the Western Aquifer Basin which forms the most important basin for current and future utilization and thus proceeding any future peace negotiations that might be held between the two sides by implementing the de-facto policy and to impose the Israeli claims that there is no more water in the basin to negotiate on.

In addition to the loss of more than 160 thousands dunums of the best agricultural lands in this stage of the wall, around 23 Palestinian wells pumping around 6.5 MCM/Yr which forms around 30% of the Palestinian share in the Western Aquifer Basin were lost inside the wall as being located to the western side of the wall and east to the 1967 borders due to the access problems and the separation of these wells from the irrigated lands and the communities are supplied from,

another 40 wells will be affected of being located in the security zone extending up to hundreds of meters to the east inside the West Bank.

It should be clearly stated here that the political security concept of cooperation will not build real cooperation and will not attain water security.

While the West Bank has been under Israeli military administration since its capture from Jordan in the 1967 Arab-Israeli War, its status has been different from Israel proper (the territory Israel controlled before the war). In addition to the specific territorial and administrative impact of annexation, it could more broadly affect Palestinian national aspirations and the future of the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and Gaza, Israel's efforts to reconcile its actions with its self-proclaimed identity as both a Jewish and a democratic state, and Israeli and Palestinian security concerns.

Jerusalem –

Jerusalem, one of the oldest cities in the world, is not only a Holy City and a religious centre for the three monotheistic faiths, but it has also been the focus of national aspirations and represents one of the keys to any political resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, as well as a decisive factor in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict and shaping relations between Israel and the Arab/Muslim countries. On November 29, 2012, the United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly voted to recognize Palestine as a non-member state in the UN on the basis of the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

This new status now has to be translated into reality. The vote took place 65 years after the historic UN General Assembly Partition Resolution 181, calling for the establishment of a Jewish and an Arab state, with Jerusalem as being under an international city. Resolution 181 served as the international legitimacy for the creation of the State of Israel. The Israeli government decided to punish the Palestinians

for their UN application by declaring its plans to intensify settlement activities in East Jerusalem, including a plan to develop the terrain for building new homes in the critical E-1 area between Jerusalem and the settlement of Ma'aleh Adumim, which will cut off East Jerusalem from the West Bank hinterland.

Few months ago, the Israeli authorities had given permission to the Jerusalem Day march, traditionally taken out by far-right Zionists through the Arab Quarter of the Old City. Ahead of the march on May 10 (which was rerouted given the tensions), Israeli armed forces stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque with rubber bullets, stun grenades and tear gas to evict Palestinians, who Israel said had camped with stones and Molotov cocktails. Hamas issued an ultimatum to the Israeli troops to stand down from Al-Aqsa. By the evening, they launched rockets. Israeli air strikes followed.

The Palestinian leadership across the political spectrum have maintained that they would not accept any compromise formula for the future Palestinian state unless East Jerusalem is its capital.

Question of a Palestinian State –

During the period under consideration, the United Nations conferred additional rights and privileges upon Palestine in its capacity as observer. Since 1976, the Security Council has invited the Palestine Liberation Organization to take part in its deliberations on the situation of the Middle East and the question of Palestine.

By January 1989, the Council had accepted Palestine's request to speak directly to the Council on other issues, on the same basis as Member States. For instance, in February and September 1999, Palestine participated in the Security Council debate on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, a debate which, according to Palestine, was clearly congruent with the numerous appeals made by it and others for the respect and enforcement of instruments of international law, international humanitarian law and United Nations resolutions.

In the second half of the decade, from 1996 until 2000, the General Assembly annually adopted resolutions on the permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, over their natural resources (resolutions 51/190, 52/207, 53/196, 54/230 and 55/209). On its part, in resolution 1989/34, the Economic and Social Council, under the agenda item entitled “The situation of Palestinian women”, declared that Palestinian women, as an integral part of a nation whose people were prevented from exercising their basic human and political rights, could not fully attain the objectives of the Forward-looking Strategies – equality, development and peace – without realizing their inalienable rights of return, self-determination and establishment of an independent State in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions.

As negotiations move forward, a settlement freeze will be an important act of good faith from the Israeli government. For Palestinians, a settlement freeze builds trust and confidence, which have been lacking after more than twenty years of talks. It also preserves the possibility of a two-state solution and allows for meaningful improvements on the ground and infrastructure development that will be immediately felt by Palestinians. This will shore up Palestinian support for both the two-state solution and for the current Palestinian leadership. For Israelis, a settlement freeze would allow negotiations to move forward, and alleviate concerns by the international community that Israel intends to annex the West Bank and indefinitely deny Palestinians political rights.

A settlement freeze facilitates a realistic adjustment in the expectations of the settler community and establishes certain geopolitical realities between Palestinians and Israelis that support a two-state solution.

Finally, peace achievement between nations and states is not only an ethical or a humanitarian issue, it is a very complex process that has to achieve an accepted balance between the interests and demands of both sides and between the two-faced power elements, otherwise, the achieved peace becomes not ethical or humanitarian and it cannot be called peace, it will be the silence that is being forced by the oppression on the oppressed.

All the best Delegate! May the best person win and the wisest one inspire.

The logo for SSMUIIN is centered on the page. It features a laurel wreath that encircles the text. At the top of the wreath, there is a stylized 'S' in blue and red. Below the wreath, the text 'SSMUIIN' is written in a large, serif font. Underneath that, 'SIXTH EDITION' is written in a smaller, all-caps serif font. At the bottom of the logo, the tagline 'Broaden your vision, deepen your roots' is written in a cursive script.

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CITATIONS

1. UNGA Documents: [General Assembly - Question of Palestine \(un.org\)](#)
2. UN Digital Library on Israel-Palestine: [israel palestine - Search Results - United Nations Digital Library System](#)
3. Scholarly Artcles: jstor/scribd
4. BBC Timeline on Palestine: [Palestinian territories - Timeline - BBC News](#)

