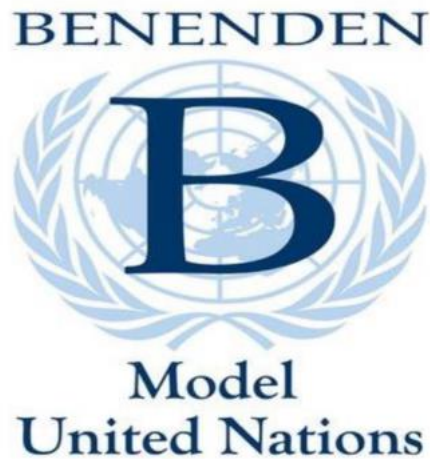




Security Council: The Question of Examining the Involvement of Government-Backed Terrorist Groups in Proxy Warfare.

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to Security Council! My name is Tireni Akinsete, and I will be your Head Chair at BMUN XVIII. I am currently Deputy Secretary General at Benenden, and this is my second year as a Head Chair and so, I am very much looking forward to some interesting and productive debate!

MUN is an incredible opportunity for so many reasons—it allows you to sharpen your public speaking, build confidence, and expand your understanding of global current affairs. Beyond these skills, it's a chance to connect with new people from different schools and even different countries.

I wish you the very best as you prepare for the conference and I urge you all to make the most of every moment—whether it's submitting a resolution, delivering a speech, or passionately debating an amendment.

Looking forward to effective debates and best wishes,

Tireni :)

Head Chair of Security Council

Introduction to the Committee

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six main organs of the United Nations, with its primary responsibility being the maintenance of international peace and security under the UN Charter. Unlike other UN committees, the Security Council can make binding decisions that member states are obligated to follow. These include imposing sanctions, establishing peacekeeping operations, or authorising the use of force to address threats to global stability.

The Security Council consists of 15 members: five permanent members with veto power (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) and ten non-permanent

members, elected by the UN General Assembly for two-year terms. Resolutions require at least nine affirmative votes to pass, but any veto from a permanent member can block a resolution.

Since its foundation in 1946, the Security Council has grown largely in importance, evolving into a key crisis-management body in the post-Cold War era. However, its effectiveness is often challenged by the increasing use of the veto.

General Overview and Historical Background

The involvement of government-backed terrorist groups in proxy warfare reflects how states use non-state actors to advance their geopolitical interests indirectly. By funding, arming, or training militant groups, governments can influence conflicts and destabilize adversaries while maintaining plausible deniability and avoiding the costs of direct confrontation. This practice blurs the line between state aggression and terrorism, posing major challenges to international law, state sovereignty, and global security.

Examples include Iran's support for Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Houthis in Yemen, and Shiite militias in Iraq and Syria; Pakistan's backing of groups such as Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) in its conflict with India; and even U.S. partnerships with Kurdish groups like the YPG in Syria to combat ISIS. While proxy warfare reduces the financial and political costs of conflict, it also creates long-term instability, as proxies often act independently and escalate tensions beyond their sponsors' control.

Proxy warfare gained prominence during the Cold War, when superpowers like the United States and the Soviet Union supported rival factions across Asia, Africa, and the Middle East to expand influence without engaging in direct confrontation. The end of the Cold War did not end the practice; instead, regional powers such as Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey adopted similar strategies to pursue dominance through non-state actors. Today, government-backed groups continue to shape conflicts in Syria, Yemen, and Ukraine, showing that proxy warfare remains a defining feature of modern international relations.

Key Terms

Proxy Warfare: conflict in which a state uses third parties (often non-state actors or militias) to pursue its strategic interests without direct involvement

Non-State Actors (NSAs): groups or individuals not affiliated with any government but influential in international relations (e.g. militias, rebel groups, terrorist organisations)

Hybrid Warfare: the combination of conventional warfare, irregular tactics, and cyber or information warfare

Asymmetric Warfare: conflict between actors with unequal military power, where the weaker side uses unconventional tactics

Responsibility to Protect (R2P): a UN doctrine stating that states have a duty to prevent mass atrocities; can be invoked in debates on intervention or state negligence

UN Charter (Article 2(4)): a core principle of the UN Charter that prohibits the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state

Considerations for debate

- Defining what constitutes government-backed terrorism in the context of proxy warfare.
- Assessing the role of state accountability with supporting terrorist groups under international law and UN mechanisms.
- Considering the impact on regional stability and civilian populations.
- Exploring potential UN mechanisms—such as sanctions or investigations—to deter and respond to such practices.

Useful Websites

- <https://scholarhub.ui.ac.id/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1132&context=jts>
- <https://georgetownsecuritystudiesreview.org/2018/06/05/strategic-divergence-a-problem-with-proxy-warfare/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State-sponsored_terrorism
- <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/why-engage-in-proxy-war-a-states-perspective/>
- <https://www.cescube.com/vp-proxy-warfare-in-the-21st-century-instruments-actors-and-implications-for-international-security>
- <https://www.numberanalytics.com/blog/evolution-proxy-wars-cold-war-present-day>