DISARMEMENT
And International Security Committee

CHAIR- Minnila Nalluri

<u>Agenda:</u> Discussing the threats to maritime peace and security in the Red Sea

## <u>Letter from the Executive Board</u>

Dear Delegates,

I am beyond elated to serve you as the chairperson of DISEC in this edition of Viva model united nations. I as your chairperson expect utmost diplomacy and commitment from your end. I truly value productive debate and sharing of ideas above all else. I hope for a vibrant debate floor full of captivating and intriguing ideas that are set to become distinguished solutions for the global public through your draft resolutions. When you walk through the committee's door, I want you to embody your role as the delegate representing your allocated country; Hold your country's values and foreign policy close to you on the debate floor. Stay relevant to the agenda with your speeches and introduce new perspectives through them. I want you to own the bubble of reality I will be creating inside the committee room where you adhere to your country's principles all the while foraging for ways to do your country's part in providing viable solutions in your capacity for the Red Sea conflict. With all that being said, I am ecstatic to meet and interact with you on conference day. I am eagerly looking forward to hearing all your innovative and inventive ideas and perspectives on things. Don't be afraid to get creative and experiment with your speeches and style of diplomacy and finally, remember to make sure to leave a mark on the committee!

YoursSincerely,

Minnila Nalluri - Chairperson

Rules of Procedure (RoPs)
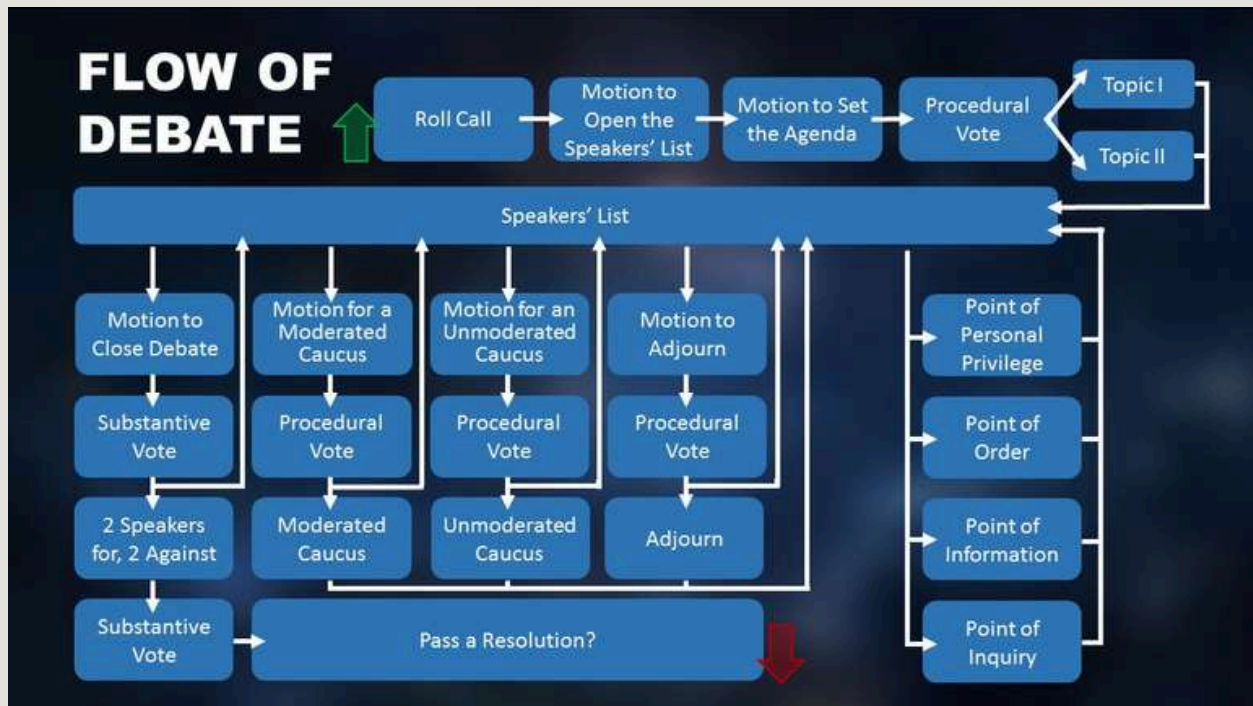
Roll Call

Roll Call is when the Chair calls each country to determine if they are present in the room. This is done in alphabetical order. When you hear your country called, you should raise your placard and answer "Present" or "Present and voting". "Present'' - You can abstain when voting on a draft resolution. "Present and Voting" You have to vote either "Yes" or "No" for every draft resolution that is voted on. Roll Call is done at the start of every committee session to make sure there is a quorum. Quorum refers to how many Member States are needed for the Chair to open debate. ⅓ of the committee members are needed to open the committee, and a simple majority (½ +1) is needed to pass a draft resolution.

Setting the Agenda

Setting the agenda is done when there is more than one topic in the study guide. In such cases the committee would need to determine which topic would be discussed first. If there is only one topic in the study guide, the agenda-setting phase is skipped and the committee will go directly into opening statements. When there is more than one topic, ½ is needed to set the agenda. If ½ are not reached, the committee can open a General Speaker's list for the delegates to explain why one topic is preferable. After this, another vote should be taken. If ½ is still not reached, the chair can return to the speaker's list and allow for moderated and unmoderated caucuses, until

such time as the ½ majority is reached. After the Agenda has been set, a "Motion to open debate" should be offered and the debate will officially start.

General Speaker's List

After the agenda has been determined, one continuously open speakers' list will be established for the purpose of general debate of the agenda item under consideration. Speaker's time will be set at the discretion of the Director. The motion to change the speaker's time requires a second, and a simple majority of present and present and voting to pass. The speakers' list will be followed for all debates on the agenda item, except when superseded by procedural motions or debates on amendments. Delegates may speak generally on the agenda item being considered and may discuss any resolution or working paper currently on the floor. Separate speakers' lists will be established as needed for procedural motions and debate on amendments. Any Member State or Non-Member may add its name to the speakers' list by submitting a request in writing to the Director or, at the discretion of the Director, by raising their placards when asked. Once the end of a speakers' list has been reached, debate is considered automatically closed.

Yields

Yield time to the Chair- If you have time left for your speech, and decide not to yield time to another delegate or questions, your remaining speech time should be yielded to the chair and nothing is done with this time.

Yield time to another Delegate- If you have time left for your speech, you can yield your time to another delegate and they can speak however the other delegate must be informed of this beforehand.

Yield time to Points of Informations- Yielding to PoIs allows other delegates to ask you questions based on your speech.

Moderated and Unmoderated Caucuses

These require a motion to enter either unmoderated or moderated caucus is in order at any time when the floor is open. The delegate proposing the motion must briefly explain its purpose and specify a time limit for the caucus, not to exceed thirty minutes. A motion to enter moderated caucus additionally requires a specified topic and a speaker's time limit.

A moderated caucus is when delegates deliver speeches on a specific sub-agenda under the main agenda. Moderated caucuses have a set total time period and an individual time period for delegates.

An unmoderated caucus is when delegates can freely move around and lobby or talk to each other. There is a set total time period but no individual time period for delegates.

Right of Reply

A delegate whose territorial integrity has been insulted by another delegate may request a right of reply. The request must be made in writing and submitted to the executive board without delay. The decision to grant the right of reply is at the discretion of the executive board and is not open to appeal. The executive board shall determine an appropriate time limit for the reply, not exceeding 1 minute.

Points

Point of Personal Privilege- Whenever a delegate experiences personal discomfort, which impairs his or her ability to participate, he or she may rise to a point of personal privilege. While a point of personal privilege may interrupt a speaker, delegates should only do so with the utmost discretion and only with reference to the audibility of the speaker unless in exceptional circumstances.

Point of Order- A delegate may rise to a point of order to indicate an instance of improper parliamentary procedure or for a factual inaccuracy. A delegate shall, in rising to a point of order, clarify the substance of the point. The executive board, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, will immediately rule upon the point of order.

Point of Parliamentary Procedure- A delegate may rise to a point of parliamentary procedure to request clarification from the executive board regarding the rules. A point of parliamentary procedure shall not relate to a substantial issue under discussion and it may not interrupt a speaker.

Point of Information- A delegate may rise to a point of information in order to question another delegate based on what they delivered in their speech.

Introduction to the Committee

General Assembly 1st Committee Disarmament and International Security (DISEC), was created under Chapter IV of the United Nations Charter in 1952, and it remains one of the main GA committees. As the First Committee of the General Assembly with all 193 members of the UN, DISEC deals with many issues resulting from heightened tensions, such as nuclear warfare, disarmament, and international conflict. DISEC was at first a political committee but was later adapted to be a peacetime and disarmament committee. Today, the First Committee on Disarmament and International Security provides a forum for states to discuss their differing perspectives on disarmament matters and work together to reach compromises or pass resolutions that provide tools to better understand and approach disarmament and international security concerns. DISEC's mandate is as follows: first, to consider and make recommendations on the various problems in the realm of disarmament; second, to follow up on the implementation of the General Assembly's decisions and resolutions related to disarmament; and third, to deliberate on the elements of a comprehensive program for disarmament. The committee gives states the opportunity to reach a consensus on issues. It aims to provide solutions so that states no longer ensure "security" for themselves by increasing the size of their arsenals but rather negotiate cooperative security arrangements that reduce weapon spending, arms production, trade, and stockpiles.

Introduction

The Red Sea region has become a rising spot of geopolitical tensions and security threats in recent years, posing significant challenges to regional stability and international maritime security. Since November 2023, the Houthis have carried out a series of attacks on cargo ships and oil tankers transiting the strategic waterway. According to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), at least 10 merchant vessels have been targeted in the Red Sea since the start of 2024, with several ships sunk or damaged. These attacks have not only endangered the lives of seafarers but also threatened the free flow of essential goods, including food and fuel, to Yemen and the broader Horn of Africa region.

The conflict in the Red Sea has disrupted global trade, with the Suez Canal accounting for around 10% of seaborne trade globally. The volume of trade through the Suez Canal has been significantly impacted, leading to sustained delays and disruptions in trade, along with surging shipping costs. The conflict has also brought massive carbon emissions increases in ocean freight container shipping, with the Xeneta and Marine Benchmark Carbon Emissions Index (CEI) hitting 107.4 points in Q1 2024, the highest since the index began in Q1 2018. For containers being shipped via ocean from the Far East to Mediterranean, carbon emissions increased by 63% in Q1 2024 compared to Q4 2023, while from the Far East into North Europe, carbon emissions increased by 23%.

Due to the threat of attack by Houthi militia, most ocean freight container services have avoided the Suez Canal. As a result, cargo from the Far East is now arriving via ocean at ports such as Jebel Ali in the Arabian Gulf before being flown out of Dubai Airport for onward transportation to Europe and North America, leading to a 190% increase in air cargo demand from Dubai Airport to European destinations in March compared to the same month in 2023.

The United Nations has warned that the crisis in the Red Sea poses a "direct threat to international peace and security". In response, the United States has established a multinational task force to deter and counter Houthi attacks, but the high costs involved have raised doubts about its long-term viability. The United Nations and other international organizations have been working to mediate a ceasefire and political settlement in Yemen, but progress has been slow and fragile. The conflict has also heightened tensions between regional powers like Iran and Israel, further complicating the geopolitical landscape.

Houthi Rebel Attacks

Since the start of the Israel-Gaza conflict in October 2023, the Houthis have launched over 40 attacks on commercial vessels in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, according to data tracked by the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED). The Houthis' tactics have involved firing ballistic missiles and drones against maritime traffic in the Red Sea, as well as forcibly boarding and taking control of ships using small boats and even a helicopter. The sophistication of their arsenal has raised suspicions of Iranian involvement in arming the rebels. As a result of the attacks, shipping volumes through the Red Sea have declined by 60-70%, with vessels forced to take longer routes around the Cape of Good Hope, adding 7-20 days to transit times and significantly increasing fuel consumption and operational costs. Container rates from Asia to the US East and West Coasts have surged by 146% and 186% respectively due to the supply chain disruptions caused by the attacks, according to data from the Associated Press. The Houthis' missile supplies are dwindling, leading to a rise in drone and boat attacks, and companies are increasingly rerouting their ships away from the Red Sea, opting for longer and costlier journeys around Africa's Cape of Good Hope. Despite airstrikes by the US and UK to weaken the Houthis' military capabilities, the rebels maintain the ability to target ships, posing an ongoing threat to commercial shipping in the region.
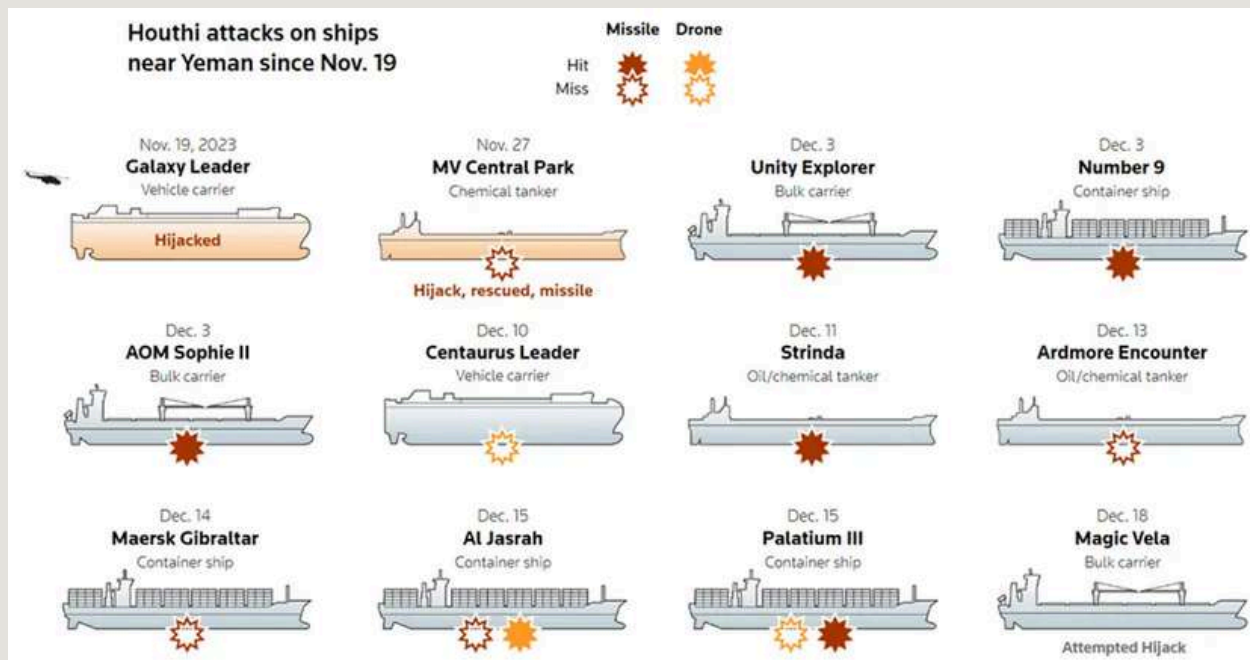
A pictorial representation of a few of the attacks/hijacks conducted by the Houthi rebels

History of the Conflict

The Red Sea has been a vital waterway since ancient times, connecting the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean. The strategic importance of the Red Sea was recognized by various empires, including the Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans. The Suez Canal, established in 1869, significantly enhanced the Red Sea's role in global trade by providing a shorter route between Europe and Asia, bypassing the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa.

The modern era has seen the Red Sea plagued by conflicts and piracy. In the 1990s, the collapse of the Soviet Union led to a surge in piracy in the region, with Somali pirates hijacking ships and holding them for ransom. This period of industrial-scale hostage-taking by pirates was a significant challenge to global shipping.

In 2014, the Yemeni Civil War spilled into the Red Sea after the Houthis captured the capital Sana'a and dissolved the parliament. This marked the beginning of a prolonged conflict that has had far-reaching implications for the region and global trade. The Houthis have launched a series of attacks on commercial ships, including cargo vessels and oil tankers, in response to the war in Gaza and US support for Israel.

Since November 2023, the Houthi organization has intensified its attacks on commercial ships, targeting vessels as they pass through the Suez Canal. These attacks have disrupted global trade, with the Suez Canal accounting for around 10% of seaborne trade globally. The volume of trade through the Suez Canal has been significantly impacted, leading to sustained delays and disruptions in trade, along with surging shipping costs.

Past Actions

The Suez Canal Convention (1888)

The Suez Canal Convention, signed in 1888, was an international agreement that established the Suez Canal as a neutral waterway open to ships of all nations in both war and peace. This convention was significant in establishing the Suez Canal as an international waterway, free from blockade or interference, even in times of war. This convention was significant in establishing the Suez Canal as an international waterway, free from blockade or interference, even in times of war. It helped cement the canal's strategic importance and neutrality, which would later become a point of contention during conflicts in the region, including the Suez Crisis of 1956.

The key points include:

- The Suez Canal shall always be free and open to vessels of commerce or of war, without distinction of flag
- The High Contracting Parties agree not to interfere with the free use of the canal in times of war or peace.
- The canal shall never be subjected to the exercise of the right of blockade.
- The High Contracting Parties undertake to respect the plant, establishments, buildings, and works of the Maritime Canal and the Fresh-Water Canal.
- Vessels of war of belligerents shall not re-victual or take in stores in the canal and its ports of access, except as strictly necessary, and their transit shall be effected with the least possible delay.

The Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Cooperative Agreement (1981)

The Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Cooperative Agreement, signed in 1981, established a regional organization to promote cooperation and development in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden area.

The key points include:

- It aimed to facilitate cooperation in economic, social, cultural, scientific and technical fields among the member states.
- The agreement established the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Commission to oversee regional cooperation efforts.
- Areas of cooperation included maritime transport, fisheries, tourism, environmental protection, and joint development projects.

- This agreement was an important step in fostering regional cooperation and stability in the Red Sea area, which has been an important maritime trade route historically. However, ongoing conflicts and tensions in the region, such as the Yemeni civil war and the recent Red Sea crisis, have challenged the implementation of this agreement.

Jeddah Peace Agreement (2019)

The Jeddah Peace Agreement, also known as the Jeddah Agreement, was signed in 2019 between theYemenigovernmentandsouthernseparatistgroups,primarilytheSouthernTransitional Council (STC).

The key points include:

- It aimed to end the conflict between the Yemeni government and southern separatists, who had been fighting for autonomy or independence for southern Yemen.
- The agreement called for the formation of a new government that would include southern representatives.
- It stipulated the withdrawal of forces from Aden and other southern provinces and the handover of military camps to the government.

Riyadh Agreement (2019)

The Riyadh Agreement, signed in 2019, was another attempt to resolve the conflict between the Yemeni government and southern separatists. It was signed in the Saudi capital Riyadh and built upon the earlier Jeddah Peace Agreement. Like the Jeddah Peace Agreement, the Riyadh Agreement faced challenges in its implementation, with both sides accusing each other of violating the terms. The conflict between the government and southern separatists continued, hampering efforts to resolve the broader Yemeni civil war.

The key points include:

- It called for the formation of a new government with equal representation from the north and south of Yemen.
- The agreement stipulated the withdrawal of forces from Aden and the handing over of military camps to the government.

- It called for the appointment of a governor and security director for Aden, as well as the formation of a joint military force.

Djibouti Code of Conduct (DCoC)

The Djibouti Code of Conduct, also known as the Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in the Western Indian Ocean and the Gulf of Aden, is a regional agreement that was adopted in 2009.

The key points include:

- It was established under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
- The objective of the DCoC is to facilitate cooperation among the signatory states in repressing piracy and armed robbery against ships in the Western Indian Ocean and Gulf of Aden.
- Under the DCoC, the signatory states agree to cooperate in areas such as the investigation, arrest and prosecution of suspected pirates, interdiction and seizure of suspect ships, and rescue of ships and personnel subject to piracy.
- The DCoC is implemented through a governance framework that includes a Steering Committee, a Working Group on Information Sharing, and a Working Group on Capacity Building Coordination.

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), also known as the Law of the Sea Treaty, is an international agreement that establishes a comprehensive legal framework for the world's oceans and seas.

The key points include:

- It establishes rules governing all uses of the oceans and their resources, including navigation, overflight, resource exploration and exploitation, conservation and management of living marine resources, and the protection and preservation of the marine environment.
- UNCLOS defines the rights and responsibilities of nations in their use of the world's oceans, establishing guidelines for businesses, the environment, and the management of marine natural resources.
- It defines different maritime zones, including territorial seas, contiguous zones, exclusive economic zones, and the high seas.

- UNCLOS provides a mechanism for the settlement of disputes through the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS).

International Maritime Security Construct (IMSC)

The International Maritime Security Construct (IMSC) is a multinational maritime security initiative established in 2019 to promote the free flow of commerce and deter threats to shipping in key waterways in the Middle East region.

What IMSC does:

- It was formed in July 2019 in response to increased threats to freedom of navigation for merchant ships in the Strait of Hormuz, Gulf of Oman, Red Sea, and Bab el-Mandeb Strait. The IMSC's operational arm is the Coalition Task Force (CTF) Sentinel, which monitors
- maritime activity in the region and coordinates responses to threats. The IMSC's mission is to promote the free flow of commerce, deter threats to shipping, and enhance maritime
- domain awareness and surveillance in the region. This includes activities such as maritime patrols, information sharing, and coordination with regional partners to address issues like
- piracy, smuggling, and attacks on merchant vessels. The IMSC was formed in the context of heightened tensions in the region, including attacks on oil tankers and other commercial ships, as well as the Houthi rebels' attacks on shipping in the Red Sea. The IMSC's
- establishment and operations are seen as an important effort to uphold freedom of navigation and protect commercial maritime traffic in the strategically vital Middle Eastern waterways.
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The Tripartite Agreement of 1957

The Tripartite Agreement of 1957 was a treaty signed between Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Sudan that established joint administration over the Red Sea islands.

The key points include:

- The agreement established a joint commission to administer the Red Sea islands, which had been a source of dispute between the three countries.
- The three signatories agreed to jointly manage the islands and their surrounding waters, including issues related to navigation, fishing rights, and resource exploitation.

- The Tripartite Agreement was an important early effort to promote regional cooperation and stability in the Red Sea, which was becoming an increasingly strategic waterway.
- TheTripartiteAgreementlaidthegroundworkforsubsequentregionalagreements,such as the 1974 Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Agreement, which aimed to further develop cooperation in the Red Sea basin.

The Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Agreement (1974)

The Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Agreement was signed in 1974 between Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Yemen. It was an important regional agreement that aimed to promote cooperation and development in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden area.

The key points include:

- It established a joint commission to manage the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, with representatives from the four signatory countries. The commission was tasked with
- coordinating policies and activities related to the use and development of the region's maritime resources, including fisheries, shipping, and environmental protection. The agreement called for the member states to share information, coordinate research and
- development efforts, and work together to address common challenges in the region.

The Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative (2011)

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Initiative was a political agreement brokered in 2011 to help resolve the political crisis in Yemen following the Arab Spring uprisings.

The key points include:

- The agreement called for a peaceful transfer of power from President Ali Abdullah Saleh to his deputy, Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi, who would then lead a two-year transitional period.
- During the transitional period, a national dialogue conference was to be held to address key political, economic and social issues, and pave the way for a new constitution and elections.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2216 (2015)

UN Security Council Resolution 2216, adopted in April 2015,sought to pressure the Houthi rebels to engage in the political process, while also imposing sanctions and an arms embargo to limit their ability to continue military operations.

The key points include:

- It demanded that the Houthi rebels withdraw from all areas they had seized, relinquish arms taken from military and security institutions, and cease actions undermining the authority of the legitimate Yemeni government.
- The resolution called on the Houthis to fully implement previous UN resolutions on Yemen.
- It imposed an arms embargo on individuals and entities designated by the UN Sanctions Committee, including Houthi leaders and those undermining the stability of Yemen.
- The resolution reaffirmed support for the UN-brokered political transition process in Yemen, as outlined in the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative and the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference.
- The resolution condemned the growing threats and attacks by Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) in the context of the deteriorating security situation.
- It stressed the importance of the UN's close coordination with regional partners, particularly the Gulf Cooperation Council, in contributing to a successful political transition in Yemen.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2451 (2018)

UN Security Council Resolution 2451, adopted in December 2018, was an important step in supporting the fragile ceasefire and political process in Yemen, following the Stockholm Agreement.

The key points include:

- The resolution welcomed and endorsed the Stockholm Agreement reached between the Yemeni government and Houthi rebels in December 2018.
- The Stockholm Agreement included a ceasefire in the port city of Hodeidah and the surrounding governorate, as well as a prisoner exchange and a statement of understanding on Taiz.
- Resolution 2451 called on all parties to the conflict to fully respect the ceasefire in Hodeidah and to withdraw their forces from the city and its ports.

- It urged the parties to abide by their commitments under the Stockholm Agreement.
- The resolution authorized the Secretary-General to establish and deploy, for an initial period of 30 days, an advance monitoring team to support and facilitate the immediate implementation of the Stockholm Agreement.
- This laid the groundwork for the establishment of the UN Mission to Support the Hodeidah Agreement (UNMHA).

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2586 (2021)

UN Security Council Resolution 2586 adopted on July 14, 2021 was an important step in supporting the fragile ceasefire and political process in Yemen, following the Stockholm Agreement.

The key points include:

- The resolution extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission to Support the Hodeidah Agreement (UNMHA) until July 15, 2022.
- The resolution reaffirmed the importance of the ceasefire in Hodeidah and the surrounding governorate, as agreed upon in the Stockholm Agreement.
- It authorized the Secretary-General to establish and deploy an advance monitoring team to support and facilitate the immediate implementation of the Stockholm Agreement.
- The resolution called on all parties to the conflict to fully respect the ceasefire and to withdraw their forces from the city and its ports.
- The resolution reaffirmed the Security Council's commitment to a peaceful, inclusive, and politically-negotiated solution to the conflict in Yemen.
- It emphasized the importance of the UN's close coordination with regional partners, particularly the Gulf Cooperation Council, in contributing to a successful political transition in Yemen.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2722 (2024)

UN Security Council Resolution 2722 adopted on March 30, 2024 was a response to the escalating Houthi attacks on merchant ships and aimed to uphold the principles of freedom of navigation and international law in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden region.

The key points include:

- The resolution condemned the Houthi attacks on merchant ships in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, which had escalated significantly since October 2023.

- It reaffirmed the importance of freedom of navigation and the need to protect commercial maritime traffic in the region. The resolution emphasized the need for all parties to respect
- international law, including the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and to refrain from any actions that could undermine maritime security. The resolution expressed support for the ongoing efforts of the UN Mission to Support the Hodeidah
- Agreement (UNMHA) in maintaining stability and promoting a peaceful solution to the conflict in Yemen.

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 2014 (2011)

UN Security Council Resolution 2014, adopted in October 2011, was an important step in the international community's efforts to support a peaceful political transition in Yemen, following the popular uprisings against the regime of President Ali Abdullah Saleh. However, the subsequent failure of the GCC Initiative to bring about a stable transition would lead to the outbreak of the Yemeni civil war in 2014.

The key points include:

- The resolution endorsed the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) Initiative and the implementation mechanism agreement signed in Riyadh on 23 November 2011. It
- welcomed the peaceful transfer of power in Yemen in accordance with the GCC Initiative. The resolution supported the political transition process in Yemen, including the holding of
- early presidential elections and the convening of an inclusive national dialogue conference. It called on all parties in Yemen to implement the GCC Initiative and the outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference. The resolution strongly condemned the human rights
- violations and excessive use of force by Yemeni authorities against peaceful protesters and civilians. It demanded an immediate end to all human rights violations and called for those
- responsible to be held accountable. The resolution imposed targeted sanctions, including asset freezes and travel bans, on individuals undermining the political transition in Yemen.
- It established a sanctions committee to oversee the implementation of these measures.

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Timelines

Before the conflict started:

1st Century AD: The Red Sea region is an important trade route, with ports like Adulis (in modern-day Eritrea) and Myos Hormos (in Egypt) facilitating commerce between the Mediterranean world, India, and East Africa.

6th Century AD: The Byzantine Empire and the Sasanian Persian Empire vie for control of the Red Sea, with both empires establishing naval bases and trading outposts along the coasts.

7th Century AD: The rise of Islam leads to the gradual Arabization of the Red Sea region. The Umayyad and Abbasid caliphates establish their influence over the sea and its trade routes.

10th Century AD: The Shia Fatimid dynasty in Egypt challenges the Sunni Abbasids, leading to a struggle for control of the Red Sea and its trade.

16th Century: European powers like Portugal, the Netherlands, and Britain begin to establish trading posts and colonies along the Red Sea coast, competing with the existing Arab and Ottoman influence in the region.

19th Century: The opening of the Suez Canal in 1869 further increases the strategic importance of the Red Sea, leading to intensified colonial rivalries between European powers

1888: The Suez Canal Convention is signed, guaranteeing free passage through the Suez Canal in times of war and peace.

1957: The Tripartite Agreement is signed between Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Sudan, establishing joint administration of the Red Sea islands.

1974: The Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Agreement is signed between Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Yemen, establishing a joint commission to manage the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

1981: The Red Sea and Gulf of Aden Cooperative Agreement is signed between Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen, establishing a regional organization to promote cooperation and development in the region.

2011: The Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative is signed, outlining a political transition in Yemen.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 2014 is passed, endorsing the Gulf Cooperation Council Initiative.

2015: United Nations Security Council Resolution 2216 is passed, demanding the Houthis withdraw from seized areas in Yemen.

2016: The Saudi-led coalition announced that the Houthi (Ansar Allah) group targeted the commercial vessel, the Swift, in one of its usual voyages to and from Aden as it transited medical and relief aid and evacuated military and civilian casualties to get medical treatment abroad.

The US Navy spokesperson announced that two missiles were fired from Houthi-controlled areas in Yemen towards an American warship, USS Mason, as it sailed in international waters off the coast of Yemen.

2018: United Nations Security Council Resolution 2451 is passed, welcoming the Stockholm Agreement and calling for a ceasefire in Hodeidah.

2019: The Jeddah Peace Agreement is signed between the Yemeni government and southern separatists, aiming to end their conflict.

The Riyadh Agreement is signed between the Yemeni government and southern separatists, aiming to end their conflict.

The Houthi authorities announced that they seized three ships, one of them was the Saudi vessel Rabi' 3, in the southern Red Sea. The group said that the ship entered the territorial waters without prior notice and refused to heed the call of the Yemeni Navy in a "clear defiance to all international naval laws and a violation of Yemeni sovereignty," according to a statement issued by the Houthi group.

The Saudi-led coalition considered the incident "an act of armed hijacking" that constitutes "a real threat to international navigation and global trade, and a criminal precedent for the security of the Bab al-Mandab Strait," according to the official Saudi Press Agency at the time.

2021: United Nations Security Council Resolution 2586 is passed, renewing the mandate of the UN mission in Yemen.

2022: The Houthis detained a UAE-flagged commercial vessel as it sailed off the coast of Yemen. In a tweet on X, Houthi military spokesman Yahya Sarea said that the ship was carrying "military equipment" and "entered Yemeni waters without any license."

The Houthi leader, Abdulmalik Al-Houthi, announced that his group would get involved in the Gaza-Israel war with missiles, drones, and other military options if the United States intervened in the Israeli war on Gaza.

The Red Sea crisis begins as the Iran-backed Houthi movement in Yemen launches missiles and drones at Israel, demanding an end to the invasion of Gaza. At the same time, US officials said USS Carney shot down three cruise missiles and several drones fired toward Israel by the Houthis in Yemen. This was the first measure by the US military to defend Israel since the outbreak of the war. It was later reported that the ship downed four cruise missiles and 15 drones. Reportedly, Saudi Arabia intercepted another missile.

Since the conflict started:

October 30, 2023: Houthi forces conducted a military maneuver called Al-Aqsa Flood. It said that the goal of the maneuver was to prepare for supporting the Gaza Strip in its war with Israel.

October 31, 2023: Houthi forces officially announced entry into the war to support Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. The Houthis military spokesman announced that the group military launched a large number of ballistic and cruise missiles and drones on Israel.

November 8, 2023: Houthi air defenses shot down an American MQ-9 Reaper over Yemen's territorial waters and accused it of carrying out hostile work and surveillance.

November 9, 2023: The Houthi armed forces announced launching a batch of ballistic missiles on targets in southern Israel and said that the attacks resulted in casualties. The Israeli army announced the interception of a ballistic missile fired from Yemen before it entered the airspace of Israel. It said that an unidentified drone hit a building in the southern Israeli city of Eilat.

November 14, 2023: The Houthi armed forces launched several missiles, one of which targeted the city of Eilat. The missile was intercepted by an Arrow missile, according to Israeli officials.

November 15, 2023: The USS Thomas Hudner shot down a drone launched from Houthi-controlled areas in Yemen. The drone was shot down over the Red Sea.

November 16, 2023: The US Department of Defense announced that the USS Thomas Hudner shot down a drone that was headed toward it over the Red Sea.

November 19, 2023: The Houthi forces seized Galaxy Leader, with 25 individuals on board. According to the ship owner, the ship was then moved to the Yemeni port of Hodeidah.

November 22, 2023: The Houthi forces launched a Cruise missile on Eilat. Israeli officials said that an F-35 fighter shot down the missile.

November 23, 2023: US officials claimed that USS Thomas Hudner shot down drones launched from Yemen.

November 24, 2023: The Israeli military announced that an Israeli army fighter downed a drone that was heading towards Israel over the Red Sea. Explosions were also heard in the city of Eilat.

November 25, 2023: Fighters, believed to be Houthis, seized the "Israeli-owned Malta-flagged" container ship while transiting in the Red Sea.

November 26, 2023: The Liberian-flagged MV Central Park, an oil tanker managed by Zodiac Maritime, was seized off the coast of Yemen in the Gulf of Aden. It carried a full cargo of phosphoric acid with 22 crew members consisting of Russian, Vietnamese, Bulgarian, Indian, Georgian and Filipino nationals. The destroyer USS Mason secured the release of the Central Park and captured the hijackers on the ship. Later, it was revealed that the hijackers were Somali nationals. The Houthis denied any connection to the attack on the ship.

November 29, 2023: The American destroyer USS Carney intercepted missiles fired from Yemen. The USS Carney shot down a Houthi drone headed towards the destroyer at Bab al-Mandab Strait.

December 3, 2023: The Houthi forces announced targeting two ships in the Red Sea after the two vessels declined to heed warnings. An anti-ship missile was used to target the first ship, and a drone to target the second. The US Department of Defense stated that the USS Carney was attacked in the Red Sea by drones and ballistic missiles fired from the Houthi-controlled areas in Yemen.

December 5, 2023: The United States said it was holding talks on the establishment of a multinational naval coalition to counter the attacks by the Houthi armed forces in the Red Sea and that 38 countries had expressed their willingness to join the maritime coalition.

December 6, 2023: The Houthi forces announced their bombardment of military targets in Umm Al-Rashrash area with multiple ballistic missiles.

The Israeli army stated that it intercepted a ballistic missile that was heading towards the city of Eilat using the Arrow missile defense system.

December 8, 2023: The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) stated that an entity declaring itself the Yemeni Authorities ordered a vessel south of the Red Sea to alter course.

December 10, 2023: The French Ministry of Armed Forces announced that a French frigate in the Red Sea downed two drones that were launched from Yemen and stated that the interception process took place 110 km off the coast of Yemen near the city of Hodeidah.

December 15, 2023: The British Maritime Security Company, Ambrey, said that the Liberian-flagged MSC Alanya was ordered to alter course towards Yemen by individuals on a boat who said they were from the Yemeni Navy.

December 23, 2023: The Houthis launched two anti-ship ballistic missiles on international shipping lines in the southern Red Sea from Houthi-controlled areas in Yemen. No ships were reported to be affected by the ballistic missiles.

December 24, 2023: Operation Prosperity Guardian, which Washington announced, shot down 4 drones launched by the Houthi group in Yemen towards the international shipping lanes in the Red Sea.

January 4th , 2024: Houthi forces launch an explosive-laden sea drone detonating in international shipping lanes

February 1st, 2024: Two Houthi anti-ship ballistic missiles impact in the water near the Liberia-flagged, British- operated Koi container ship

US forces strike a Houthi drone ground control station and 10 Houthi one-way drones

February 2nd, 2024: The Chinese Navy begins escorting Chinese cargo ships through the Red Sea

USS Laboon and F/A-18s shoot down seven Houthi drones

February 3rd, 2024: Joint US-UK strikes hit 36 Houthi targets in 13 locations, including underground storage, command and control, radars, and helicopters

February 6th, 2024: Houthi forces launch three anti-ship ballistic missiles at the Barbados-flagged, British-owned Morning Tide cargo ship, causing minor damage

Houthi forces launch three anti-ship ballistic missiles at the Marshall Islands-flagged, Greek-owned Star Nasia bulk carrier, causing minor damage

February 8th, 2024: US conducts a cyberattack against the Behshad Iranian spy ship for allegedly gathering naval intelligence for the Houthis

February 9th, 2024: US forces strike two Houthi drone boats, four anti-ship cruise missiles, and one land-attack cruise missile prepared to launch into the Red Sea

February 12th, 2024: Houthi forces launched two missiles at the Marshall Islands-flagged, Greek-owned Star Iris bulk carrier, causing minor damage

February 14th, 2024: US forces strike seven Houthi anti-ship cruise missiles, three drones, and one explosive drone boat prepared to launch in the Red Sea

February 15th, 2024: Houthi forces launch an anti-ship cruise missile at the Barbados-flagged, British-owned Lykavitos bulk carrier, causing minor damage

February 16th, 2024: Houthi forces launch at least three anti-ship cruise missiles at the Panama-flagged, Greek-owned Pollux crude oil tanker, causing no damage

Houthi forces attack the al-Alb Axis base in Baqim district but are repelled after several hours of fighting

A UVIED explosion targets an STC-affiliated security officer in Aden, killing his son and a guard

The US listing of the Houthis as a Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT) group comes into action

February 18th, 2024: Houthi forces hit the Belize-flagged, British- owned Rubymar cargo ship with an anti-ship ballistic missile, forcing the crew to abandon ship

February 19th, 2024: The EU launches its defensive naval mission Aspides to protect commercial shipping in the Red Sea area

US aircraft and/or warships and the French frigate Languedoc shoot down Houthi drones targeting US warships

Houthi de facto authorities designate the US and UK as enemies of the state

February 19th, 2024: Houthi forces claim to have killed a number of IS militants in a preemptive campaign in al- Qurayshi district

USS Laboon intercepts a Houthi anti-ship cruise missile fired toward the Liberia-flagged MSC Silver Il cargo ship

February 20th, 2024: A suspected AQAP roadside IED blast kills one STC-affiliated Shabwa Defense Forces soldier and a civilian bystander in al-Musaynia

Two AQAP IED detonations kill a civilian and injure four SDF soldiers in al-Said district.

February 23rd, 2024: Houthi forces shell a checkpoint on the Marib-Sanaa road, killing one soldier

February 27th, 2024: US aircraft and a coalition warship shot down five Houthi one-way attack drones in the Red Sea

Bloc Positions

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states, led by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, have a strong interest in the Red Sea and have established a Red Sea Forum to address issues like piracy, smuggling, and marine resource management. However, the GCC is divided, with Qatar and Oman taking a more neutral stance. Iran, a regional rival of the GCC, has been accused of supporting the Houthi rebels in Yemen, who have attacked shipping in the Red Sea.

The African Union (AU) has also sought to play a role, with the former AU Commissioner for Peace and Security proposing the creation of a "Red Sea Arena" diplomatic forum to include all countries with interests in the region. However, the AU's Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) bloc is deeply divided, hampering its ability to take a unified stance.

The United States has also been involved, convening a bipartisan "senior study group" in 2020 that warned of the threats to US national security posed by conflicts in the Red Sea region and called for a high-level US envoy with a broad mandate. However, the Biden administration later downgraded the position, a move criticized as "strategic neglect."

China, meanwhile, has been accused of taking a more passive approach, criticizing the US role but offering few diplomatic proposals of its own. China has significant economic interests in the region, with the Houthis receiving an estimated $100 million per year from Iran, whose trade with China is a third of its worldwide total.

Russia has also been active in the region, with warships operating in the vicinity and seeking to establish naval bases.Russia has aligned itself with Iran and the Houthi rebels in Yemen, providing political and military support. This has put Russia at odds with the U.S.-led coalition seeking to counter Houthi attacks on shipping.

The European Union (EU), through its Operation Atalanta, has deployed a naval force to combat piracy in the region. The EU has sought to take a more neutral stance, focusing on securing trade routes rather than taking sides in the broader geopolitical conflicts. However, individual

European countries like the UK and France have contributed ships and personnel to the U.S.-led coalition.

Turkey has also emerged as a key player, establishing a military base in Somalia and aligning itself with Qatar in the regional power struggle. Turkey has criticized the U.S. and Saudi-led intervention in Yemen, positioning itself as a broker between different factions.

When, How and Where of Researching

When: We recommend you to start researching as soon as you get the chance to! As topics that we would be discussing in committee require deep understanding of several pre-requisite subject areas to properly understand the nuances of the research you would be needing to do for the main agenda, starting as soon as possible gives you the time to ruminate with the ideas and solutions you have got in mind and would help in constructing well thought out resolutions.

How: For a start, you must first familiarize yourself with the Red Sea conflict and what has happened and what is happening. Read up on all the new information from verified sources regarding news in the conflict zone and develop a clear understanding of the aforementioned conflict's history and its intricacies that can be brought up in committee. This would ensure that you are knowledgeable on vital sub-topics with regards to the agenda. Make the effort of educating yourself about your country. This would mean their stance with regards to issues pertaining to the agenda, the blocs they are part of, the measures or actions they have taken. Make sure your research is oriented with great respect to your foreign policy, nuance, and consideration for the agenda. Also, keep yourself up to date with the international response to the issues under the agenda, whether it be the actions by the international community, or the UN. This could be in the form of reports, letters from the secretary general, or dialogue.

Where: Read resolutions on both the specific agenda at hand, and also ones that touch upon the sub-themes within your agenda. At this stage, consolidate quotes, facts, and solutions from these resolutions you come across while scouring the committee website. There is no better source than the committee website itself, and once you mine these resolutions for such information - it will not only make sure you have a chunk of relevant information with valid sources, it will also ensure you're well-versed in the perspective held by key countries involved. Including yours of course. A simple purview of the website will help you understand what the committee is currently focusing on. Keep your current news restricted to the 2 years prior to your MUN, to avoid getting lost in a wormhole of information. Refrain from using websites like Wikipedia

which have no validity since they are open sourced and easily manipulated. We advise you to use official United Nations websites and your country's government websites as acceptable sources