



**THE HYDERABAD PUBLIC SCHOOL
RAMANTHAPUR**

IPSCMUN

IPSC MUN 2024

**UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL(UNSC)
BACKGROUND GUIDE**

Be Vigilant

***Agenda: Addressing the Situation in the Middle East:
Conflicts, Peace Processes, and Humanitarian Concerns.***

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United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

Background Guide

1. Introduction to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

1.1 Overview of the United Nations

The United Nations (UN) was founded in 1945 after the end of World War II, with the primary aim of preventing such conflicts from occurring in the future. The UN is an international organization made up of 193 Member States, and it operates on the principles of peace, security, and international cooperation. The organization's structure is composed of several main organs, including the General Assembly, the International Court of Justice, the Secretariat, and the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

The UN's overarching mandate is to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations, achieve international cooperation in solving global problems, and promote human rights. The UNSC plays a central role in the fulfillment of these goals, particularly in maintaining peace and security.

1.2 The Mandate of the UNSC

The UNSC is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations and is charged with ensuring international peace and security. The Council has the authority to determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend or decide on measures to address these threats, including the use of force.

Under the UN Charter, particularly Chapter VII, the UNSC can take a range of actions, from imposing sanctions to authorizing the use of force through peacekeeping missions. The 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 for two-year terms.

1.3 Historical Role of the UNSC

The UNSC has been instrumental in addressing global conflicts since its inception. It has authorized peacekeeping missions in regions such as the Korean Peninsula, former Yugoslavia, and Rwanda. The Council has also been involved in addressing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, and humanitarian crises.

For example, the UNSC played a critical role in managing the Gulf War in 1990-91, where it authorized the use of force to expel Iraqi forces from Kuwait. In more recent years, the UNSC has been involved in complex and protracted conflicts such as those in Syria, Yemen, and Libya, where its resolutions have had varying degrees of impact.



2. Agenda Overview: Addressing the Situation in the Middle East

2.1 Background Overview of the Situation in the Middle East

The Middle East, a region with profound historical, cultural, and political significance, remains a focal point of international concern due to ongoing conflicts, complex political dynamics, and acute humanitarian crises. In recent years, the region has been characterized by protracted conflicts in Syria, Yemen, and Iraq; ongoing tensions in Israel-Palestine; and other geopolitical challenges that continue to impact regional stability. This overview provides a detailed context for understanding the dynamics driving these conflicts, peace processes, and the resulting humanitarian concerns.

Historical Context of Middle Eastern Conflicts :

The Middle East has been a region of significant geopolitical importance and persistent conflict, deeply influenced by its rich history, strategic location, and vast natural resources. The historical context of conflicts in the Middle East is complex, involving a mixture of ethnic, religious, and political factors, compounded by external interventions and internal power struggles.

- a. Colonial Legacy and Formation of Modern States:
 - The modern Middle Eastern states were largely shaped by the outcomes of World War I and the subsequent collapse of the Ottoman Empire. The Sykes-Picot Agreement (1916) between Britain and France divided the Ottoman territories into spheres of influence, leading to the arbitrary borders that largely disregarded ethnic and sectarian lines.
 - The creation of these new states, such as Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan, often led to tensions between different ethnic and religious groups, setting the stage for future conflicts. The British Mandate in

Palestine and the Balfour Declaration (1917) further complicated matters by promising a "national home for the Jewish people" in a region predominantly inhabited by Arabs.

b. Arab-Israeli Conflict:

- The Arab-Israeli conflict is one of the most enduring and complex conflicts in the region. It began with the establishment of Israel in 1948 and has led to multiple wars, including the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, the 1967 Six-Day War, and the 1973 Yom Kippur War.
- The conflict revolves around issues such as the status of Jerusalem, the right of return for Palestinian refugees, and the borders of Israel. Despite various peace efforts, including the Oslo Accords, the conflict remains unresolved, with periodic flare-ups of violence, such as the Gaza conflicts.

c. Cold War and Superpower Rivalry:

- During the Cold War, the Middle East became a battleground for influence between the United States and the Soviet Union. Both superpowers supported different states and factions, often exacerbating conflicts. The US supported Israel and conservative Arab monarchies like Saudi Arabia, while the USSR backed secular, socialist regimes like Egypt under Nasser and later Syria.
- This rivalry contributed to the militarization of the region and the escalation of conflicts, such as the Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988), which saw extensive external involvement and led to massive casualties and economic devastation.

d. The Iranian Revolution and Regional Shifts:

- The 1979 Iranian Revolution marked a significant turning point in the region. The overthrow of the Shah and the establishment of an Islamic Republic under Ayatollah Khomeini shifted the balance of power and introduced a new ideological element into regional conflicts.
- The revolution inspired Islamic movements across the region and led to the Iran-Iraq War, as Iraq, under Saddam Hussein, sought to curb the spread of revolutionary fervor. The revolution also exacerbated the Sunni-Shia divide, which has become a significant factor in subsequent conflicts, particularly in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen.

e. Gulf Wars and American Intervention:

- The invasion of Kuwait by Iraq in 1990 led to the first Gulf War, where a US-led coalition intervened to expel Iraqi forces. The war significantly altered the regional power dynamics and led to the imposition of severe sanctions on Iraq throughout the 1990s.
- The 2003 US-led invasion of Iraq, justified by the alleged presence of weapons of mass destruction, led to the toppling of Saddam Hussein's regime but also triggered a prolonged insurgency and sectarian violence. The destabilization of Iraq has had far-reaching consequences, contributing to the rise of extremist groups like ISIS.

f. The Arab Spring and its Aftermath:

- The Arab Spring of 2011 was a wave of pro-democracy uprisings that swept across the Middle East and North Africa. While some countries like Tunisia saw successful transitions, others, like Syria, Libya, and Yemen, descended into civil wars.
- The Syrian Civil War, in particular, has become one of the most devastating conflicts of the 21st century, drawing in regional and international powers and leading to a humanitarian catastrophe. The conflict has also exacerbated sectarian tensions, with Iran and Hezbollah supporting the Assad regime, while Sunni-majority states like Saudi Arabia and Turkey support various opposition groups.

2.1.1 Geopolitical Landscape

The Middle East's geopolitical landscape is shaped by its diverse political structures, ethnic and religious identities, and historical grievances. Key players in the region, such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey, Israel, and Egypt, pursue varied strategic interests that often conflict with one another, influencing the overall security dynamics.

2.1.2 Ongoing Conflicts:

- Syria: The Syrian civil war, ongoing since 2011, has resulted in over 500,000 deaths and displaced over 13 million people, both internally and externally (UNHCR, 2023). Despite the decline in large-scale hostilities, the conflict remains unresolved, with government forces, opposition groups, and international actors, including Russia, Iran, Turkey, and the United States, maintaining a presence. Humanitarian needs in Syria remain critical, with over 12.4 million people in need of assistance due to continued violence, economic collapse, and infrastructure damage (UN OCHA, 2024).
- Yemen: The conflict in Yemen, which escalated in 2015, has created the world's largest humanitarian crisis. Over 24 million people—about 80% of the population—require humanitarian aid (UN OCHA, 2023). The conflict between the Saudi-led coalition supporting the Yemeni government and the Houthi rebels, backed by Iran, has led to widespread famine, economic collapse, and the destruction of critical infrastructure, including hospitals and schools.
- Iraq: Iraq continues to struggle with instability due to the legacy of the ISIS insurgency, political fragmentation, and socio-economic challenges. Although ISIS has lost most of its territorial control since 2017, the group remains active through guerrilla tactics and maintains a significant ideological influence, particularly among marginalized communities (United Nations, 2023). Iraq also faces ongoing sectarian tensions, political instability, and challenges in governance, which further complicate peacebuilding efforts.
- Israel-Palestine Conflict: The Israeli-Palestinian conflict remains unresolved, marked by intermittent cycles of violence and failed

peace negotiations. Recent escalations in 2023, including clashes in the West Bank and Gaza, have resulted in over 230 Palestinian and 40 Israeli deaths (UN, 2023). The conflict has led to a dire humanitarian situation, particularly in Gaza, where over 2 million people face restricted access to essential services such as clean water, electricity, and healthcare.

2.1.3. Geopolitical Rivalries:

- The rivalry between *Saudi Arabia and Iran* continues to shape regional politics, particularly in conflict zones like Yemen, Syria, and Lebanon, where both countries support opposing factions. Saudi Arabia, representing Sunni Arab states, and Iran, as a Shia powerhouse, engage in proxy conflicts that exacerbate instability and hinder peace processes.
- **Turkey's Role:** Turkey has become increasingly assertive in its regional policies, particularly in Syria, Iraq, and Libya. It has expanded its military presence in Syria and northern Iraq under the guise of fighting terrorism while supporting opposition factions in Syria against the Assad regime. Turkey's actions have created tensions with other regional actors, including Egypt, Greece, and the Gulf States.

2.1.4 International Involvement:

The involvement of external powers, such as the United States, Russia, and the European Union, has further complicated the region's dynamics. The U.S. maintains a strategic military presence in Iraq and Syria and provides significant support to Israel. Russia, allied with the Assad regime in Syria, has sought to expand its influence in the region through military intervention and diplomatic engagement. The European Union focuses on humanitarian aid, refugee support, and efforts to mediate peace talks.

Humanitarian Concerns :

The conflicts in the Middle East have precipitated a multitude of humanitarian crises. In 2024, over 35 million people across the region are in need of humanitarian assistance, with millions displaced by violence and conflict.

1. Displacement and Refugees:

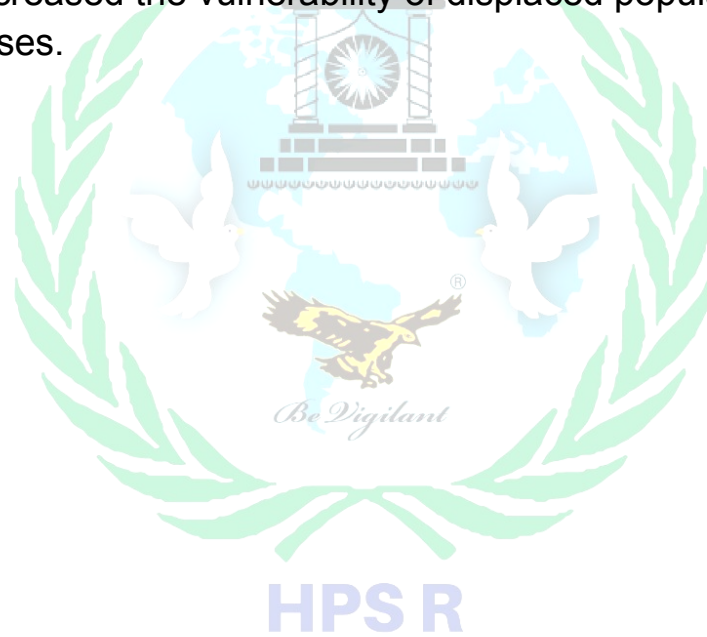
- The Middle East hosts some of the largest refugee populations in the world. As of 2024, Turkey hosts over 3.6 million Syrian refugees, the largest number globally, followed by Lebanon and Jordan, which host around 800,000 and 650,000 Syrian refugees, respectively (UNHCR, 2024). These countries face immense pressures on their economies, infrastructure, and social systems.
- Internal displacement remains a significant challenge. In Yemen, over 4 million people have been internally displaced, and in Syria, 6.8 million people remain internally displaced due to the conflict (UN OCHA, 2024). Iraq has nearly 1.2 million internally displaced persons (IDPs), mainly from areas affected by the ISIS conflict (IOM, 2023).

2. Humanitarian Access:

- Access to humanitarian aid is severely restricted in many conflict zones. In Yemen, for example, more than 50% of the population faces acute food insecurity, and over 17 million people do not have access to clean water and sanitation facilities (World Food Programme, 2023). Humanitarian organizations face significant obstacles, including blockades, bureaucratic impediments, and security risks, that limit their ability to deliver aid effectively.
- In Syria, cross-border humanitarian access has become a contentious issue, particularly in the northwest region, where millions of civilians rely on cross-border aid deliveries. The UN Security Council's periodic reauthorization of cross-border aid has been a point of intense negotiation, reflecting broader geopolitical divisions among member states (UN OCHA, 2024).

3. Impact on Health and Education:

- The conflicts have severely impacted health and education systems across the region. In Yemen, nearly half of the country's health facilities are either partially or completely non-functional, with only 50% of health centers providing full services (World Health Organization, 2023). In Syria, over 2 million children are out of school, and many educational institutions have been destroyed or repurposed for military use (UNICEF, 2023).
- The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated these challenges, stretching already fragile health systems to their limits. The pandemic has led to reduced humanitarian funding, limited mobility of humanitarian workers, and increased the vulnerability of displaced populations to infectious diseases.



Socio-Economic Challenges :

1. Economic Instability:

- The Middle East faces severe economic challenges due to conflicts, declining oil revenues, and the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Economic growth in the region is projected to remain low, with many countries facing high debt levels, inflation, and unemployment. In 2023, youth unemployment rates in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) were among the highest in the world, exceeding 25% in countries like Jordan, Tunisia, and Lebanon (World Bank, 2023).
- Economic sanctions, particularly on countries like Iran and Syria, have contributed to economic downturns, further exacerbating poverty and limiting government capacities to provide basic services and social welfare.

2. Energy Access and Security:

- The Middle East is a major player in global energy markets, but rising energy prices due to global supply chain disruptions and geopolitical tensions are affecting access to affordable energy. In countries like Lebanon, electricity shortages are widespread, with daily blackouts affecting over 80% of the population (World Bank, 2023). The rising cost of fuel and energy has increased operational costs for humanitarian agencies and reduced the affordability of basic goods and services for the local population.

2.2 Strengthening Young People's Resilience Against Violent Extremism:

The Middle East is home to a predominantly young population, with around 60% of its residents under the age of 30 (World Bank, 2023). This demographic presents both an opportunity and a challenge for the region. While youth represent a significant potential for economic growth, development, and innovation, they are also vulnerable to various forms of violent extremism. Multiple factors, including socio-economic marginalization, political exclusion, lack of education, and exposure to extremist ideologies, contribute to this vulnerability. To address these challenges, numerous international, regional, and local actors have initiated programs and policies aimed at strengthening young people's resilience against violent extremism. These efforts focus on empowering youth through education, economic opportunities, social inclusion, and counter-narrative strategies.

1. Education and Awareness Initiatives

Several education-focused programs have been launched to counteract the influence of extremist ideologies among young people in the Middle East. These initiatives recognize that education is a critical tool for promoting critical thinking, tolerance, and civic engagement.

- a. Global Citizenship Education (GCED): UNESCO's Global Citizenship Education program has been actively implemented in Middle Eastern countries to promote values such as peace, tolerance, and respect for diversity. The GCED curriculum includes content on human rights, conflict resolution, and the rejection of violence as a means of resolving disputes. In Jordan, for example, UNESCO partnered with local educational authorities to integrate GCED principles into school curricula, reaching over 1 million students in 2022 (UNESCO, 2023).

- b. Peace Education Programs: Various NGOs and international organizations have developed peace education programs tailored to the local contexts of conflict-affected areas. For example, in Iraq, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UNICEF collaborated to implement peace education curricula in schools in Mosul and Baghdad, targeting over 200,000 young people from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds (UNDP, 2023). These programs focus on teaching young people the skills necessary to peacefully resolve conflicts and build inclusive communities.
- c. Media Literacy and Critical Thinking Workshops: In response to the growing use of social media platforms by extremist groups to recruit youth, several initiatives have focused on enhancing media literacy and critical thinking. For instance, the European Union-funded project "STRIVE Global," which operates in Jordan, Lebanon, and Tunisia, includes workshops on media literacy to help young people identify and resist extremist propaganda (European Union, 2023). Participants are taught how to critically assess online content, recognize disinformation, and understand the tactics used by extremist recruiters.

2. Youth-Led Initiatives and Empowerment Programs

Empowering young people to take active roles in their communities and peacebuilding efforts has been a key strategy in preventing violent extremism. This approach recognizes that youth are not only potential victims of radicalization but also powerful agents of change who can contribute to stability and development.

- a. Youth, Peace, and Security Agenda (YPS): The UN's Youth, Peace, and Security agenda, initiated under Security Council Resolution 2250 (2015), has been a cornerstone of efforts to engage young people in peacebuilding. In Yemen, for example, UNDP supports youth councils and peace committees, which have mobilized young people to engage in dialogue with local authorities, resolve

community disputes, and promote social cohesion. These youth-led bodies have been particularly effective in reducing tensions in conflict-prone areas and fostering a culture of peace among young people (UNDP, 2023).

- b. Youth4Peace Initiative: Launched by the UN and its partners, the Youth4Peace initiative has created platforms for youth from the Middle East to engage in dialogue, share experiences, and participate in peacebuilding activities. In Lebanon, the initiative has facilitated inter-community dialogues between Lebanese youth and Syrian refugees to reduce tensions and promote mutual understanding. These dialogues have reached over 5,000 young people, helping to bridge divides and counter narratives of hate and intolerance (UN, 2023).
- c. Youth Empowerment Programs by Local NGOs: Local organizations, such as the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development (JOHUD), have launched programs aimed at building the capacity of young people to become active citizens. JOHUD's Youth Empowerment Initiative focuses on developing leadership skills, fostering civic engagement, and providing mentorship opportunities. Since its inception, the initiative has trained over 10,000 young Jordanians to take on leadership roles in their communities, promoting positive social change and countering narratives of exclusion and violence (JOHUD, 2023).

3. Economic Opportunities and Employment

Creating economic opportunities and enhancing livelihoods for young people are critical components of resilience-building strategies. High rates of youth unemployment, estimated at over 25% in many Middle Eastern countries, have been linked to increased vulnerability to extremist recruitment (World Bank, 2023). As such, various initiatives have focused on job creation, vocational training, and entrepreneurship support.

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- a. Youth Economic Empowerment Programs: The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other international bodies have implemented numerous youth economic empowerment programs in conflict-affected countries. In Iraq, UNDP's "Youth Employment and Resilience Programme" has provided vocational training and entrepreneurship support to over 5,000 young Iraqis, with a focus on marginalized communities in Mosul, Kirkuk, and Anbar. The program has helped to establish over 300 youth-led businesses, providing sustainable livelihoods and reducing the appeal of extremist groups that offer economic incentives to recruits (UNDP, 2023).
- b. Regional Economic Cooperation and Skill Development: The League of Arab States, in collaboration with the World Bank, launched the "Arab Youth Empowerment Initiative" to promote regional economic integration and skill development among young people. The initiative focuses on enhancing technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programs in Egypt, Jordan, and Morocco, preparing youth for jobs in sectors like technology, renewable energy, and digital services. In 2023, the initiative reached over 50,000 young people across the region, improving their employability and resilience against extremism (World Bank, 2023).
- c. Entrepreneurship Support and Innovation Hubs: Several countries in the Middle East have established innovation hubs and incubators to support youth entrepreneurship. In Palestine, the "Gaza Sky Geeks" initiative, funded by Mercy Corps, provides training, mentorship, and seed funding for young entrepreneurs, particularly in the tech sector. The initiative has supported over 1,500 young people in launching start-ups, creating jobs, and fostering a culture of innovation that counters extremist narratives by promoting economic opportunity and self-reliance (Mercy Corps, 2023).

4. Counter-Narrative and Online Engagement Strategies

Given the pervasive use of online platforms by extremist groups to recruit and radicalize young people, counter-narrative and digital engagement strategies have become essential tools in the fight against violent extremism.

- a. Counter-Narrative Campaigns: The UN Office of Counter-Terrorism (UNOCT) and other international partners have developed digital campaigns to counter extremist propaganda. One example is the "WeCAN" campaign in Jordan, which uses social media to promote messages of peace, tolerance, and inclusion. The campaign has engaged over 1 million young people through online videos, podcasts, and interactive content that challenge extremist narratives and highlight the dangers of radicalization (UNOCT, 2023).
- b. Online Engagement and Digital Literacy: The European Union and USAID have funded projects to enhance digital literacy among young people in Lebanon, Syria, and Iraq. These projects provide training on safe online behavior, critical analysis of online content, and digital communication skills. In Lebanon, for example, the "Digital Youth for Resilience" project has trained over 2,000 young people in digital storytelling and content creation to counteract hate speech and extremist propaganda (USAID, 2023).
- c. Youth-Led Online Platforms: Local youth organizations have also launched online platforms to engage their peers in countering extremism. For example, the "PeaceTech Lab" in Iraq supports young people in creating online content that promotes peace and counteracts hate speech. The platform has reached over 500,000 users, providing a space for young Iraqis to express their views, share their stories, and connect with others who are committed to peacebuilding (PeaceTech Lab, 2023).

5. Community-Based Approaches and Local Peacebuilding

Recognizing that violent extremism often stems from local grievances and socio-political exclusion, many programs have adopted community-based approaches to build resilience among young people. These efforts focus on addressing the specific local contexts that may contribute to radicalization.

- a. **Community Dialogues and Social Cohesion Projects:** Initiatives like "Search for Common Ground" have facilitated community dialogues in conflict-affected areas such as Yemen, Iraq, and Syria. These dialogues bring together young people, community leaders, and local authorities to discuss grievances, promote reconciliation, and develop locally-owned solutions to prevent radicalization. In Yemen, for example, such dialogues have involved over 10,000 young people and community members in discussions aimed at reducing sectarian tensions and promoting social cohesion (Search for Common Ground, 2023).
- b. **Sports and Cultural Activities:** Local organizations have used sports, arts, and cultural activities as tools to engage young people and foster social inclusion. In Lebanon, the NGO "Right To Play" uses sports-based learning to empower young refugees and marginalized youth, helping them develop leadership skills, teamwork, and resilience against extremist influences. Over 20,000 young people have participated in these activities, which have been shown to reduce feelings of marginalization and increase community trust (Right To Play, 2023).
- c. **Mentorship and Role Model Programs:** Local leaders and role models play a crucial role in building resilience among young people. Programs like the "Young Leaders Program" in Tunisia, supported by the African Development Bank, focus on identifying and training young leaders to act as role models in their communities. These young leaders are then tasked with mentoring their peers, promoting messages of peace and tolerance, and leading community projects.

2.3 Rising Energy Prices and Their Impact on Access to Energy in the Middle East

The Middle East, a region heavily involved in the global energy market both as a major producer and consumer, faces significant challenges due to rising energy prices. The increase in energy prices has been driven by several global factors, including geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, and the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. These price hikes have profound implications for the region's socio-economic stability, development, and humanitarian situation. This section explores the impact of rising energy prices on access to energy in the Middle East, highlighting the effects on both producing and non-producing countries and the broader socio-economic consequences without directly prescribing solutions.

1. Context of Rising Energy Prices

Global energy prices have surged over the past few years due to multiple factors. The Russian invasion of Ukraine in early 2022 resulted in a significant reduction in global energy supplies, particularly in Europe, leading to increased demand and price spikes in international energy markets. As of late 2023, crude oil prices remain above \$100 per barrel, and natural gas prices have reached record highs, particularly in Europe and Asia (International Energy Agency, 2023). These developments have had a cascading effect on energy prices worldwide, including in the Middle East.

- a. Factors Driving the Increase in Energy Prices:
 - Geopolitical Tensions: The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has disrupted global energy supply chains, particularly for natural gas, which has resulted in increased competition for alternative sources of energy, including oil and liquefied natural gas (LNG).
 - Supply Chain Disruptions: The COVID-19 pandemic caused significant disruptions to global supply chains, including energy

infrastructure, shipping routes, and production facilities, which contributed to the volatility in energy prices.

- Increased Global Demand: As economies recover from the pandemic, there has been a surge in demand for energy, particularly in Asia and Europe. This increased demand has outpaced supply, further driving up prices.

b. Middle Eastern Context:

- The Middle East is both a significant producer and consumer of energy. Major oil-exporting countries, such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, and Iraq, play a crucial role in the global energy market, while other countries, such as Lebanon, Jordan, and Yemen, are net importers of energy. Rising energy prices impact these countries differently, affecting their economies, public services, and access to affordable energy for households.

2. Impact on Energy-Exporting Countries

For major energy exporters in the Middle East, such as Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Kuwait, rising energy prices have both positive and negative effects.

- Increased Revenues: Higher oil and gas prices have led to increased revenues for energy-exporting countries. For example, Saudi Arabia's oil revenues surged by 89% in 2022, reaching \$326 billion, allowing the government to invest in domestic infrastructure, social programs, and economic diversification initiatives (Saudi Ministry of Finance, 2023). Similarly, the UAE and Kuwait have seen substantial increases in state revenues due to high oil prices.
- Economic Diversification Efforts: The additional revenue has enabled these countries to invest in economic diversification plans, such as Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030, which aims to reduce the country's dependence on oil by developing other sectors, including tourism, technology, and renewable energy (Saudi Vision 2030, 2023). The

UAE has also focused on expanding its renewable energy portfolio, including projects like the Noor Abu Dhabi solar plant, one of the largest in the world.

However, the benefits of increased revenues are accompanied by challenges:

- **Domestic Energy Subsidies:** High energy prices have increased the fiscal burden of maintaining domestic energy subsidies, which are common in many Middle Eastern countries. For example, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait spend a significant portion of their GDP on subsidizing fuel and electricity for domestic consumption. Rising prices have put pressure on these subsidies, leading to budgetary constraints and prompting discussions about subsidy reforms (International Monetary Fund, 2023).
- **Inflationary Pressures:** The increase in global energy prices has contributed to inflationary pressures across the region. For example, in Saudi Arabia, inflation rates rose to 3.1% in 2023, driven partly by higher fuel and transportation costs (Saudi Central Bank, 2023). Inflation affects the cost of living, including the prices of basic goods and services, which can have broader socio-economic implications.

3. Impact on Energy-Importing Countries

For energy-importing countries in the Middle East, such as Lebanon, Jordan, and Yemen, the rise in energy prices has had more severe and immediate consequences. These countries face significant challenges in maintaining access to affordable energy, which has repercussions for their economies, public services, and humanitarian situations.

- **Economic Strain and Increased Energy Costs:** Energy-importing countries have experienced a sharp rise in the cost of importing fuel and electricity. For example, Lebanon, which imports nearly all its energy, has faced a severe energy crisis due to rising fuel prices and

the depreciation of its currency. In 2023, the cost of electricity surged by over 30%, with many areas experiencing blackouts lasting more than 12 hours a day (World Bank, 2023). Similarly, Jordan's energy import bill increased by 40% in 2023, exacerbating its budget deficit and limiting the government's ability to provide basic services (Jordan Ministry of Finance, 2023).

- **Impact on Public Services:** Rising energy prices have strained public services, particularly in conflict-affected countries. In Yemen, where over 24 million people rely on humanitarian assistance, the cost of fuel has risen by 60% since 2022, severely limiting the ability of humanitarian agencies to deliver aid. Hospitals, schools, and water treatment plants, which depend on fuel for power, have been forced to scale back operations or shut down completely, worsening the humanitarian situation (UN OCHA, 2024).
- **Energy Poverty and Social Unrest:** Higher energy prices have increased the prevalence of energy poverty, particularly among low-income households in countries like Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt. In Lebanon, for example, over 80% of the population is estimated to be living below the poverty line, and many households cannot afford basic energy services, such as heating and electricity (UNICEF, 2023). This has contributed to social unrest and protests, as seen in Lebanon and Iraq, where citizens have demanded government action to address the rising cost of living and energy shortages.

4. Broader Socio-Economic Implications

The impact of rising energy prices extends beyond immediate access to energy, influencing broader socio-economic conditions in the region.

- **Impact on Food Security:** The rise in energy prices has a direct impact on food security in the Middle East. Higher fuel costs increase the cost of agricultural production, transportation, and storage, leading to higher food prices. In Yemen, for example, food prices

increased by 50% between 2022 and 2023, and over 17 million people are now facing acute food insecurity (World Food Programme, 2023). Similar trends are observed in Lebanon and Syria, where food prices have skyrocketed due to increased transportation and fuel costs.

- **Impact on Humanitarian Operations:** Humanitarian agencies operating in conflict-affected areas such as Syria, Yemen, and Iraq have reported increased operational costs due to higher fuel prices. These costs affect the delivery of essential services, such as water and sanitation, health care, and food distribution. In Yemen, the cost of delivering humanitarian aid rose by 20% in 2023, and agencies face significant funding gaps, threatening the continuation of life-saving programs (UN OCHA, 2024).
- **Impact on Renewable Energy Transition:** Rising energy prices have also highlighted the need for a transition to renewable energy sources in the Middle East. While this is primarily a long-term consideration, the current situation has accelerated discussions about energy diversification. Countries like Jordan and Morocco, which have limited fossil fuel resources, have increasingly turned to renewable energy sources to reduce their dependence on imported energy. For example, Jordan aims to achieve 50% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2030, driven in part by the rising costs of conventional energy (International Renewable Energy Agency, 2023).

5. Humanitarian and Developmental Consequences

The increase in energy prices has severe humanitarian and developmental consequences in the Middle East. For countries already grappling with conflict, economic instability, and political challenges, the additional burden of higher energy costs exacerbates existing vulnerabilities.

- **Health and Education Systems:** Rising energy prices directly impact health and education systems in conflict-affected countries. In

Yemen, hospitals and clinics face frequent power cuts due to fuel shortages, limiting their ability to provide care. Schools in Lebanon and Syria, many of which rely on fuel-powered generators, have been forced to reduce hours or close, disrupting the education of thousands of children (UNICEF, 2023).

- **Humanitarian Aid Delivery:** Higher energy prices increase the cost of humanitarian aid delivery in conflict zones. Humanitarian organizations face higher fuel costs for transport and logistics, reducing their capacity to reach affected populations. In Syria, for example, fuel costs for transporting humanitarian supplies have doubled since 2022, complicating efforts to provide assistance to 12.4 million people in need (UN OCHA, 2024).
- **Long-Term Development Goals:** The rising cost of energy poses a significant challenge to achieving long-term development goals in the Middle East. Energy is a critical enabler of economic growth, poverty reduction, and social development. However, rising energy prices divert government resources away from development priorities, such as infrastructure, education, and health, towards managing the immediate fiscal impact of higher energy costs.

Rising energy prices have profound implications for access to energy in the Middle East, affecting both energy-exporting and energy-importing countries. While exporters face challenges

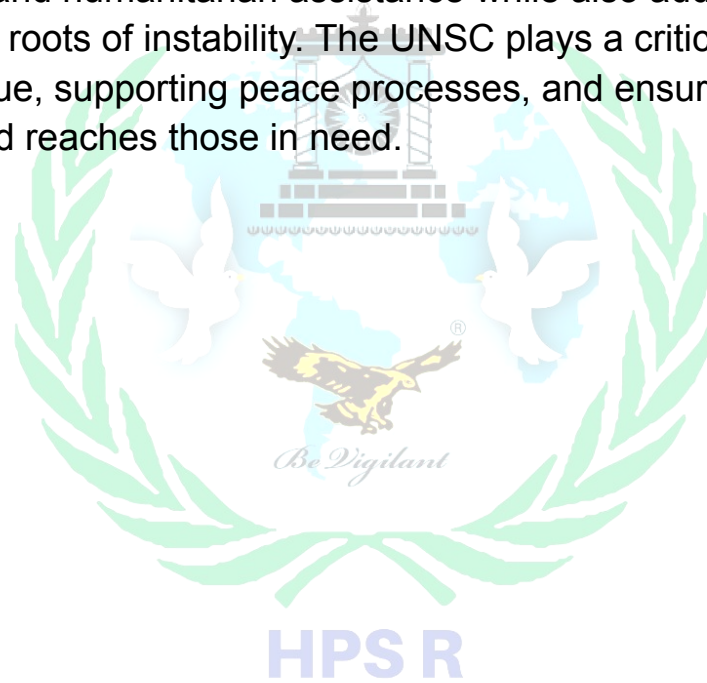
related to subsidy burdens and inflation, importers confront more severe consequences, including economic strain, social unrest, and increased energy poverty. The broader socio-economic impacts extend to food security, humanitarian operations, health, and education systems, highlighting the complex interplay between energy prices and regional stability.

Efforts to address these challenges require a coordinated approach that balances immediate needs with long-term development goals. However,

given the current geopolitical and economic landscape, ensuring access to affordable energy remains a critical concern for the Middle East, impacting its path toward sustainable peace and development.

Conclusion

The Middle East remains at the center of global geopolitical interest due to its complex political landscape, ongoing conflicts, and extensive humanitarian needs. Efforts to address these challenges require a coordinated international response that prioritizes conflict resolution, peacebuilding, and humanitarian assistance while also addressing the socio-economic roots of instability. The UNSC plays a critical role in fostering dialogue, supporting peace processes, and ensuring that humanitarian aid reaches those in need.



Note from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

As we approach the upcoming HPSR IPSC Model United Nations conference, we would like to emphasize the importance of thorough and comprehensive preparation. The background guide provided serves as an essential starting point for your research, offering foundational information on the topics of strengthening young people's resilience against violent extremism, rising energy prices threatening access to energy. However, it is crucial to recognize that this guide is only a base and should not be your sole source of information.

We strongly encourage each of you to conduct extensive research beyond the background guide. A well-rounded understanding of the issues at hand will be crucial for effective participation and debate. In addition to the content outlined in the guide, please ensure you explore recent developments, diverse perspectives, and the latest research related to the agenda items.

Furthermore, a deep understanding of foreign relations and the positions of various countries on these issues will enhance your ability to engage in meaningful discussions and negotiations. Familiarizing yourself with different national policies, international treaties, and geopolitical contexts will provide valuable insights and enable you to represent your assigned country's stance more effectively.

We look forward to your active participation and well-informed contributions at the conference. Thank you for your dedication to thorough preparation.

Best Regards,

The Executive Board (UNSC)

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