

AUS MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY 5
GENERAL ASSEMBLY 5

Introduction

Director's Welcome letter

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Dear delegates,

I am honored to welcome you to AUSMUN 2024, where you will play an essential role in shaping global discourse about world issues. This year's conference is set to be a platform for innovation, collaboration, and meaningful dialogue. Here we will explore global issues, analyze the complexities of the same, and propose solutions that satisfy the varying perspectives of countries in the international community.

It is important to remember that you think critically, engage in constructive debate, and seek to achieve common ground with your fellow delegates. At AUSMUN, we encourage you to approach this experience with an open mind and a commitment to finding a solution. This conference is not only a simulation but also an opportunity for you to develop skills that benefit your academic, professional, and personal lives. It is a chance to form connections with individuals who share a similar passion for global issues and diplomacy. I encourage you to make the most of this unique experience and to challenge your limits by thinking beyond the ordinary. Together, we will all contribute to the legacy of excellence that AUSMUN is known for.

I look forward to meeting you all and witnessing the remarkable contributions each of you will make to our conference.

Welcome to AUSMUN 2024, and let us embark on this enriching journey together.

Warm regards,

Sarvagya Sharma

Director of Research

AUSMUN 2024

Moderator's Welcome Letter

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Dear Esteemed Delegates,

Welcome to AUSMUN 2024!

It is with great pleasure that we extend our warmest greetings to all participants of the General Assembly's Fifth Committee (GA-5), the Administrative and Budgetary Committee. As one of the six main committees of the United Nations, GA-5 holds a pivotal role in addressing crucial matters related to the administrative and budgetary aspects of the organization.

We encourage all delegates to delve deeply into the intricate details of the agenda items outlined for the upcoming conference. Your meticulous research and thoughtful insights will be crucial in shaping meaningful discussions and formulating comprehensive solutions to the challenges before us. This background guide serves as your initial guide in preparation for the conference. We anticipate engaging and insightful deliberations, and we look forward to your active participation. Should you have any questions or require further clarification, do not hesitate to reach out to us at Ga5ausmun24@gmail.com. Additionally, kindly submit your position papers to this email address

We eagerly anticipate the gathering of minds and the exchange of ideas in February. Let us collectively work towards fostering cooperation, understanding, and effective resolutions.

Best regards,

Sarah AlFarra, Khaleel AlZamgan, Lilian Al Armouti, and Atena Heidari

Committee Chairs, GA-5, AUSMUN 2024



Sarah AlFarra



Lilian Al Armouti



Khaleel AlZamqan



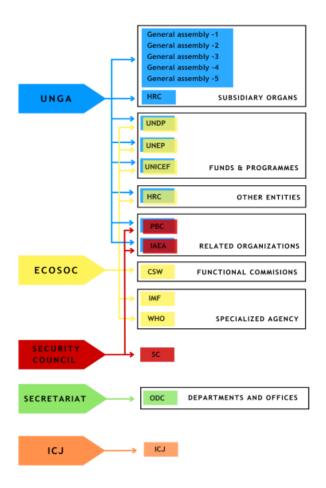
Atena Heidari

Brief About Committee

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The Administrative and Budgetary Committee is a vital component of the United Nations General Assembly. Established in 1945, the committee's roots lie in the immediate post-World War II era when the UN was founded. With a primary focus on financial matters and administrative affairs, its formation aimed to ensure the effective functioning of the organization. GA-5 is funded through the regular budget of the UN. This budget is funded by contributions from UN member states based on the United Nations scale of assessments, which takes into account each member state's capacity to pay. The scale of assessments is determined by the General Assembly and is reviewed periodically to ensure that the financial burden is distributed as fairly as possible among member states.

This diagram visually represents the UN system and corresponds to AUSMUN. It reflects the relationships between committees and clearly demonstrates the committee's position, significance, and powers as defined under the UN charter.



The Function of the Committee

This committee was formed to address financial and administrative matters within the United Nations. Its functions include reviewing and approving the UN's budget, managing administrative and personnel issues, assessing program coordination, and reviewing financial reports. GA-5 plays a vital role in ensuring that the UN operates efficiently and effectively by making crucial decisions related to budget allocations and administrative processes. Throughout its sessions, it focuses on a spectrum of topics, ranging from program budget implications and financial management to human resources and the overall functioning of the UN. The committee's discussions contribute significantly to the organization's fiscal responsibility and effectiveness.

The Fifth Committee operates on a consensus basis whenever possible, striving to achieve unanimous agreement on budgetary and administrative matters. If consensus cannot be reached, decisions are generally made by a two-thirds majority vote of the member states present and voting. This voting procedure underscores the importance of collective decision-making and equitable resource allocation within the UN system.

Topic 1: Preventing Nations from Influencing the UN or its Agencies through their Budgetary Contributions.

Summary & History

The United Nations (UN) is primarily funded through contributions from its member states. Member states are assessed dues based on their capacity to pay, which is determined by their gross national income (GNI). The UN's regular budget covers its core activities, such as peacekeeping operations, political affairs, and international cooperation programs. In addition to the regular budget, there are separate budgets for peacekeeping operations and specialized agencies. The contributions from member states are not voluntary, but rather obligatory. The scale of assessments is determined by the General Assembly (UNGA), where member states negotiate and agree on the budget and the apportionment of expenses. The largest contributors, such as the United States (US), China, and Japan, bear a significant portion of the financial burden

The UN has always been greatly influenced by its individual member nations. Not every UN member state is created equal; whether due to their size, strength in the armed forces, or ability to negotiate internationally, certain nations have greater influence on the organization than others. Multilateralism is inherently characterized by the supremacy of individual powers, but this is especially evident in the UN system(Lehmann & Mcclella, 2006). The UN has adopted the one-country, one-vote in the General Assembly and the concept of sovereign equality, with the intention of reducing the dominance of individual superpowers and fostering a fairer global system. However, in practice, the presence of power imbalances linked to the P5, economic disparities, and financial contributions can, at times, result in multilateralism's framework producing unequal consequences and a deficiency of mechanisms to hold powerful nations accountable.

Financial contributions wield a significant influence on decision-making within the UN. As member states contribute both voluntary and assessed funds, they gain the capacity to shape the priorities and activities of specific UN agencies and programs. Major contributors leverage their financial support as a strategic tool in negotiations, aligning decisions with their policy preferences. This financial influence extends to securing enhanced access to information, participation in leadership positions, and active involvement in decision-making processes. Some countries employ conditionality in their funding, attaching specific criteria to shape outcomes. In 2018, the United States made the controversial decision to halt its financial support for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), a move that was widely perceived as a means to exert pressure on the UN and to influence the Israeli-Palestinian

conflict. The decision drew criticism from various quarters, as it jeopardized critical humanitarian aid and services provided to Palestinian refugees. While the United States argued that it sought to encourage reforms within UNRWA, the move raised concerns that it could exacerbate the already dire living conditions of Palestinian refugees and hinder the prospects for peace in the region (Beaumont & Holmes, 2018).

The veto powers held by the five permanent members, which also align to be of the UN's largest financial contributors, – China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States – exert a profound influence on the UN. Endowed with the authority to veto any substantive resolution, these nations can block decisions regardless of the level of support from other member states. This power grants them considerable political leverage, allowing them to shape the UNSC's agenda and outcomes to align with their national interests. The veto system has been criticized for its potential to impede effective responses and for reflecting the geopolitical realities of a bygone era. Spain's delegate highlighted that "the veto power is an error" and that it should "disappear." She expressed support for the France-Mexico veto effort, which has the backing of 106 countries, and stated that strengthened multilateralism must include Council reform (General Assembly delegates call for breaking new ground on Security Council reform, with many denouncing unfettered veto use, lack of transparency | UN press). As such, calls for reform persist to address the unequal influence of veto powers and better represent the contemporary global landscape (Tsebelis, 2010).

Key terms:

- Multilateralism: it indicates a form of cooperation between at least three States
- Political leverage: ability of an individual, group, or entity to influence or control political decisions and outcomes in their favor
- Sovereign equality: equal rights and duties and are equal members of the international community, notwithstanding differences of an economic, social, political or other nature

Discourse on the issue

Examining how large funding contributors affect the UN's decision-making is crucial for ensuring fairness, independence, and transparency within the organization. This encourages member nations to share financial responsibilities fairly, coordinating resources with the most pressing demands of the global community. By understanding the relationship between funding

and decision-making, discussions can focus on accountability mechanisms to prevent the abuse of financial power and foster a sense of responsibility among member states. The disproportionate influence of powerful nations can result in biased outcomes, impacting issues ranging from global governance and human rights to geopolitical tensions. The UN's effectiveness in promoting international cooperation and addressing pressing global challenges relies on striking a balance between the interests of powerful states and the broader needs of the international community.

For example, during his presidency, former U.S. President Donald Trump threatened United Nations member states that voted against the U.S.'s recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel to reduce aid provided, some of which are through UN agencies. In this case, the U.S. utilized its financial contributions to influence the voting decisions of other countries, thereby disrupting a United Nations peacekeeping effort (Rampton & Nichols, 2017). While financial contributions provide avenues for influence, the challenge lies in balancing this influence with the principles of sovereign equality and ensuring that decision-making remains inclusive and reflective of the diverse interests of all member states (Browne, 2022). This is a prime example showcasing how nations can utilize their financial contributions to impact UN outcomes, even on globally significant issues like recognizing a city as a capital. Such unethical acts undermine international solidarity and the effectiveness of the United Nations, potentially complicating peace processes. Such tactics may lead to shifts in alliances and diplomatic isolation, affecting long-term relations, and having adverse effects on global development initiatives. In essence, the employment of budgetary contributions as political tools has the potential to disrupt international diplomacy, jeopardize cooperation, and reshape global power dynamics.

Beyond the political dimension, preventing the financial influence on the UN has significant social and economic repercussions. Positively, such measures uphold the sovereignty of member states, ensuring that decisions are made on principles of equality and inclusivity. This fosters fairer, more equitable decision-making, benefiting countries irrespective of their financial contributions and promoting global equity. However, there are also negative consequences to consider, including the potential for reduced financial support for crucial UN programs, which may affect humanitarian, health, and development initiatives. Moreover, measures to mitigate monetary influence may face resistance from wealthier nations, possibly leading to a backlash. Striking a balance is essential to ensure the UN remains an effective and representative global organization.

Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments

The UN utilizes many strategies to protect itself against excessive dominance by powerful nations. The UN Charter guarantees that every member state, regardless of size, power, and monetary contributions, has an equal voice in the General Assembly. For example, Article 2(1) of the UN Charter emphasizes the principle of sovereign equality of all member states. This means that regardless of their size, wealth, or military power, all member states have equal rights and status within the organization. Another would be Article 2 (7) of the UN Charter, it places a strong emphasis on non-interference in a member state's internal affairs. This idea aims to stop strong countries from using the UN to meddle in the domestic affairs of weaker or smaller countries. The UN itself has a history of dealing with financial matters and sovereignty concerns. The UN has previously addressed concerns related to financial contributions and influence. The GA and its subsidiary bodies have discussed budgetary issues and the impact of financial contributions on decision-making. Resolutions have been passed to ensure that countries' financial contributions do not unduly influence the decision-making process.

One key resolution related to financial contributions and their influence within the UN is Resolution 41/213 (1986), which adjusted the scale of assessments for the UN's regular budget, aiming to achieve a fair distribution of the financial burden among member states. It sought to address concerns about the disproportionate influence of major contributors. Other key resolutions are Resolution 61/243 (2007), Resolution 64/248 (2010), Resolution 67/242 (2012) and Resolution 74/223 (2020). These resolutions were effective in promoting transparency and fairness in financial matters within the UN. However, their limitations primarily stem from the voluntary nature of contributions, as member states are not legally bound to pay the assessed contributions. Some countries may delay or reduce their payments, which can impact the UN's operations and decision-making processes. Additionally, there are challenges in ensuring that financial contributions do not lead to undue influence on the UN's policies and decisions.

The UN continues to address the issue of financial influence. The Fifth Committee of the GA, responsible for administrative and budgetary matters, reviews the scale of assessments (the formula for sharing the UN's budget) and discusses ways to prevent undue influence from large contributors. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank are not direct UN agencies but are involved in international financial matters. They have their governance structures and financial contributions, which can also influence policy decisions (IMF, 2022). Additionally, Major contributors to the UN budget, like the United States, Japan, China, Germany, and France, are actively engaged in discussions on budgetary contributions.

Questions that the Committee and Resolutions Should Address

- 1. How have other countries' budgetary contributions affected the peacemaking attempts in regard to world conflicts?
- 2. What effects, if any, have there been on global affairs in terms of the political, social, and economic areas respectively?
- 3. What steps may be taken to improve transparency and accountability in member state budgeting procedures in order to stop contributions from being manipulated to influence UN agencies?
- 4. How can the UN increase the diversity of its financing sources to lessen its reliance on a small number of wealthy donors and encourage a more independent and balanced financial system?
- 5. Should the UN explore alternative funding mechanisms, such as a global tax or an international endowment, to reduce the influence of major contributors and ensure more equitable financial support?

Suggestions for Further Research

- UN enhancement of transparency and accountability in financial contributions and decision-making to mitigate undue influence and prevent hidden agendas.
- The ethics behind donor countries attaching conditions to their aid and the limits on how donor countries can use their financial leverage to advance their interests within the UN
- Security Council reform, particularly the veto power of the permanent members, to reduce the influence of a select few nations in shaping global policies.
- Consequences of reducing financial influence, and the UN ensuring that developing countries still receive the support they need to address critical issues like poverty, health, and education

https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/how-we-are-funded

https://betterworldcampaign.org/us-funding-for-the-un/un-budget-formula

Timeline of the Major Events

- 2003: Initial discussions within the UN about the need for financial reforms to reduce the influence of major contributors on decision-making processes.
- 2011: Growing concerns about the influence of major contributors call for increased transparency in budgetary processes.
- 2012: Member states discuss the establishment of an independent oversight body to review budgetary allocations and ensure fairness in decision-making.
- 2014: Pilot programs are initiated to test alternative funding mechanisms that reduce the reliance on voluntary contributions from individual nations.
- 2016: The UN General Assembly establishes a working group to explore ways to enhance the transparency of budgetary contributions and reduce potential undue influence.
- 2018: Pilot programs demonstrate the feasibility of alternative funding models, including pooled funds and earmarked contributions for specific projects.
- 2019: A comprehensive review of budgetary processes leads to recommendations for the establishment of an independent financing mechanism to fund core UN activities.
- 2021: Member states approve the establishment of an independent financing mechanism, with the goal of reducing the influence of major contributors on UN decision-making.

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Topic 2: Addressing the Allegations of Corruption and Assault against UN Peacekeepers

Summary and History

Accusations of any serious offense such as corruption or assault can be incredibly damaging to a person or organization's reputation. Allegations may not only be false but may also easily strain the trust built between two parties throughout time. This can be especially dangerous when appointed to prominent figures, political leaders, or – in this committee's concern – UN Peacekeepers.

UN Peacekeepers are individuals ranging from military personnel to regular civilians who serve under the UN flag (United Nations Peacekeeping, n.d.). They contribute to projects launched by the UN, such as monitoring a ceasefire in areas of conflict, and offer support to movements in order to impose and maintain peace. They are also often involved with hands-on services, some of which include protecting citizens, disarming combatants, and promoting just elections. Since they play such prominent roles in improving people's lives, UN Peacekeepers carry the responsibility of working ethically and morally. Therefore, the UN requires prospective Peacekeepers to complete a set of training sessions that tackle all sorts of issues and skills that they might encounter or need to obtain.

UN Peacekeeping training sessions cover the fundamentals and expectations of Peacekeepers' behavior and obedience of conduct, as well as social characteristics needed when working with the outside world. An official typology of 28 Peacekeeping corruption risks highlights the main threats that could possibly lead to corruption (Transparency International, 2020). However, the most crucial topic from that list explored in the pieces of training is sexual abuse. The United Nations Standards of Conduct state that there is zero tolerance for any form of abuse or sexual exploitation of minors, forced individuals, or desperate people under harsh conditions (*Standards of Conduct*, n.d.). Some examples include financial, political, or social benefits from exploitation, attempted abuse of vulnerability and trust, and transactional intercourse.

Furthermore, UN officials formed a system to manage allegations that surface of sexual assault or exploitation. The system comprises of a chain of actions, beginning with collecting sources of reports and claims. These reports may come from victims, witnesses, NGOs, media, or the mission team. Once the allegations reach the UN, the victim is assisted, and the data and information are investigated for accuracy and assessed for classification of the offense. The last

stage of this process determines the allegation's credibility and – if proven true – records it as sexual assault and exploitation in order for disciplinary action to be taken and assistance to be provided to the victim. Finally, the decision and actions are reported back to the original sources of the allegation to close the case.

The allegations management process was first initiated in 2006, and the Misconduct Tracking System (MTS) in 2008 (*Standards of Conduct*, n.d.). Numerous factors led to the launch of these two systems. For instance, in the case of truthful allegations, the UN is required to hold accountability for its personnel's actions and then issue consequences as appropriate through the use of the aforementioned systems. This comes from the need to work by the UN's ethics and values and to ensure it is trusted as a peaceful and reliable organization. Another factor, in the event of false accusations, is the need to direct resources to the actual victims. Allegations may surface to benefit from compensations provided by the UN, and so the systems must determine their accuracy first.

Key Terms

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- UN Peacekeepers: individuals who serve under the UN flag.
- **Exploitation:** abuse of vulnerability, usually in a sexual manner.
- **Transactional intercourse**: exchange of sexual activity for survival necessities (water, food, etc.).
- **Standards of Conduct**: rules and expectations UN Peacekeepers must follow.

Discourse on the Issue

Allegations against UN Peacekeepers heavily endanger the trust countries and civilians have towards the UN, as well as the civilians themselves. Acts of misconduct lead to major consequences, both directly and indirectly. Directly, the issue harms people under the services: citizens, other Peacekeepers, and UN staff, as well as the nation and its political leaders. Indirectly, the allegations bring forth negative media coverage, protests and outbursts, and doubt among members of an organization that is supposedly peaceful.

Misconduct – specifically in the form of abuse of power – is a serious violation of the UN Charter. Several articles prove the severity of this issue, some of which include Article 73 sub point A which states that UN members hold the responsibility "to ensure, with due respect for the culture of the peoples concerned, their political, economic, social, and educational advancement, their just treatment, and their protection against abuses" (United Nations, n.d.). The claims would also violate the UN Charter-based on Article 1 sub point 1 which states, "To

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develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace" (United Nations, n.d.).

This matter could result in perilous outcomes. Not only would the United Nations anger the media, but it would also lose the support of its host countries and their funding. Abuse and corruption are not limited to any specific nation, however, the highest cases of Peacekeeper misconduct occurred in areas such as Cambodia, Bosnia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In a recent committee session, the delegate of Malaysia warned that "distrust will increase in host countries" if these allegations persist (*UN Press*, 2023).

Past International Organization (IO) Actions & Latest Developments

Numerous IOs investigate claims of brutality and corruption at the hands of UN Peacekeepers. Among them are regional organizations such as the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) of the United Nations and the African Union (AU). The "Zero Tolerance Policy" from 2003 and UN Security Council Resolution 2272 (2016) are just two of the policies and resolutions that the UN has put into effect. Investigations, responsibility, and victim justice remain problems in spite of these efforts. Immunity and variances in legal frameworks impede progress, thus it is a constant battle for the entire world community to address and resolve these serious problems in a thorough and efficient manner.

The UN's continued commitment is demonstrated by the 2017 Secretary-General's Bulletin on Special Measures for Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. The organization's commitment to resolving these concerns is demonstrated by the appointment of a Special Coordinator. Nonetheless, obstacles to attaining uniform compliance with standards throughout missions continue, in part because of the disparate customs of the countries that provide troops. Moreover, regional institutions like the AU actively back the UN's endeavors by lending vital support, such as, information sharing, logistical support, and legal assistance to probes and sanctions against peacekeepers stationed in their areas. This multifaceted strategy shows the determination of the international community to address these intricate issues jointly, guaranteeing a more secure and responsible atmosphere for peacekeeping operations.

Important players include host nations with UN operations, such as Haiti, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), and South Sudan, as well as troop-contributing nations like India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan. GA-5's mandate focuses on financial and administrative issues, and it

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has jurisdiction over resource allocation and budget approvals. By authorizing the finances and resources needed for these reasons, it supports the larger UN initiatives to address accusations of corruption and assault against UN Peacekeepers. Other specialized UN committees and organizations are primarily in charge of investigating and addressing these allegations.

Questions that the Committee and Resolutions Should Address

- 1. How can GA-5 ensure adequate budgeting for addressing misconduct allegations involving UN Peacekeepers?
- 2. What measures, within the mandate, enhance accountability and disciplinary actions for peacekeepers involved in misconduct?
- 3. How do we standardize policies across UN peacekeeping missions for uniform adherence to "Zero Tolerance"?
- 4. How can GA-5 improve cooperation with regional organizations to address allegations against peacekeepers?
- 5. How do the policies and practices of nations providing troops to UN Peacekeeping missions impact accountability for allegations of corruption and assault?

Suggestions for Further Research

- How much accountability and responsibility do these nations have for the deeds of their peacekeepers?
- Determining which should come first in the wake of accusations of misbehavior, and striking a balance between the two.
- To guarantee consistent adherence to conduct standards, all UN peacekeeping missions must follow the same rules and procedures.
- The efficacy of procedures designed to protect whistleblowers in promoting reporting and guaranteeing responsibility.
- Particular problems that gender-based misconduct presents and how to solve them.

Timeline of Major Events

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- 1992: First allegations of sexual assault against UN Peacekeepers in Cambodia, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Haiti, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), and East Timor.
- **2006:** Increased allegations of sexual exploitation, 357 in total and 252 substantial enough to require investigation.

 Initiation of record-keeping and data tracking of allegations of misconduct.
- 2007: Retaliation of James Wasserstrom for raising concerns about corruption.
- 2008: Launch of Misconduct Tracking System (MTS).
- 2014: Sexual abuse allegations against UN Peacekeepers in Central Africa.
- 2015: Publishing of sexually abusive Peacekeepers' nationalities.

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