**Metropolitan International**

**Model United Nations Conference**

30th Nov-02nd Dec 2012

**Study Guide:**

**United Nations Security Council**

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## Welcoming Words

Honourable Delegates,

As your Chair, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to the Security Council of MetiMUN.

Since I was first introduced to the world of MUN in Costa Rica almost 5 years ago now, I have always found the Security Council to be a particularly fascinating body of the United Nations. With a huge power and very few members discussions tend to be among the most heated but also most interesting of any UN council.

I very much hope that you will enjoy the conference and our committee sessions to the fullest.

*All the best*

Morten Munch Jespersen

Chair

Welcome delegates.

My name is Wilf Mountfield and it is my honour to serve you as one of the Security Council chairs at this MUN conference. Currently I'm studying International Relations at Queen Mary University of London and look forward to a fantastic year.

I have been doing MUN for 7 years now and this marks my 42nd conference in total. Whether it was in high school or at university, MUN has continued to offer an incredible opportunity for people of our age to interact with international issues on a global stage exploring both the finer points and the larger concepts at play in the international arena.

In addition to a wealth of knowledge, it has given me a large network of friends across the world and has truly shaped my outlook over the past few years. MUN is a truly amazing experience and I hope this conference both lives up to and surpasses your expectations. I look forward to seeing the delegates in action and co-chairing what I'm sure will be a fantastic committee.

See you all very soon!

Wilf Mountfield

## About the Security Council

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is unique in a number of ways that are crucial to the structure. It is therefore important that you please pay close attention to the following.

**Of the 15 members of the council 5 are permanent (colloquially the “P5”)**

These countries are: The United States of America, The United Kingdom, The Republic of France, The Russian Federation, and the People’s Republic of China

Uniquely these members have a **veto power** over all resolutions in the Security Council

If wishing to use veto power the P5 in questions **must have** responded, “present and voting”[[1]](#footnote-1) at the initial row call. This however, forces the country to either vote *for* the resolution or *veto* the resolution, as abstentions are not in order when a country is present and voting.

While the other 10 members **do not** have veto power, they also surrender the right to abstain if responding, “present and voting”, although their voting no will not by default cause the resolution to fall like the veto would.

It is therefore very important that you decide whether to respond “Present” or “Present and Voting” in the Security Council.

## A note on parliamentary courtesy

Please note that the use of computers, mobile phones, tablets etc. is **not allowed** *except under unmoderated caucus*. This is not only a way of showing respect to your fellow delegates, but will also ensure that all eyes are directed on the delegate speaking to ensure a better and more engaging debate.

Please make sure to arrive early to ensure that the committee sessions can start promptly.

Please familiarise yourself with the building to avoid wasting time getting around the building to find a toilet for instance. Information on the venue will be provided when you arrive.

Lastly, passing of notes is of course allowed, but be sure to please do this in an orderly and discrete fashion.

## Topic A: The Sino-Japanese Island Disputes.

The Sino-Japanese Island Disputes are centred around the group of islands known in Japan as the Senkaku Islands, in the People’s Republic of China (PRC) as the Diaoyu Islands, and in the Republic of China (ROC) (Taiwan) as the Tioyutai Island.[[2]](#footnote-2)

While the islands are uninhabited and very small in size (approx. 7 km2) they have played a key role in Sino-Japanese as well as Taiwan-Japanese relations for many years.

As seen on the above map[[3]](#footnote-3) the borders, and hence the Japanese claim to the islands is disputed by the PRC and ROC. Japan, however, does not recognise the existence of any such dispute as it considers the Senkaku Islands to be an integral part of Japanese territory.

At the centre of the discussion is the question of the legitimacy of the claims of the respective countries. Fundamentally the question comes down to whether Japan’s historical arguments, PRCs reference to the Potsdam Declaration, or ROCs geopolitical and historical claims on the island will prove strongest.

This, in essence, is what this Security Council will be discussing.

**Brief outline of recent history[[4]](#footnote-4)**

 January:

* + On 1 January, four members of the Ishigaki municipal assembly visited Uotsuri Island. Ishigaki's mayor, however, stated that the four may have acted without proper authority and people wishing to visit the island should first obtain permission from the Japanese central government. In response, a group of Chinese activists from Hong Kong attempted to sail to the islands to protest the Japanese actions, but were blocked by Hong Kong-based coast guard authorities and forced to return to port.
	+ On 16 January, Japan announced that it would name 39 previously unnamed, uninhabited islets that it claims in the East China Sea, including four in the Senkaku Island chain. In response, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman [Liu Weimin](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Liu_Weimin&action=edit&redlink=1) stated: "Our stance is very clear on the issue of the Diaoyu Islands. China has indisputable sovereignty over the Diaoyu Islands that have been an inherent part of China since ancient times." Japan completed naming all the islands by 3 March 2012, including [Hokusei Kojima](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Hokusei_Kojima&action=edit&redlink=1) and three other islets near the Senkakus.[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senkaku\_Islands\_dispute - cite\_note-122](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senkaku_Islands_dispute#cite_note-122) In response, China gave its own names to the previously unnamed islets and PRC foreign minister [Yang Jiechi](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yang_Jiechi) urged Japan to "'fully recognise' the complexity and sensitivity of issues concerning history and the Diaoyu Islands" and "'properly handle these sensitive issues' based on the overall interests of the China-Japan relationship." Taiwan responded by disagreeing with both the PRC's and Japan's naming of the islands, with foreign minister [Timothy Yang](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timothy_Yang) stating that Taiwan would handle the matter according to its own national interests.
	+ On 21 January, Diet lawmakers [Koichi Mukoyama](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Koichi_Mukoyama&action=edit&redlink=1) and [Yoshitaka Shindō](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yoshitaka_Shind%C5%8D) surveyed the islands by ship and later stated that the islands, several of which are still private property of Japanese citizens, needed to be fully nationalized. Their visit was the first by national politicians since 1997.
	+ March: On 16 March, the PRC sent maritime patrol boats Haijian 50 and Haijian 66 to patrol near the Senkaku Islands, with foreign ministry spokesman Liu Weimin announcing that the move was to help safeguard the PRC's territory and that the islands were part of PRC's territory. The crew of a nearby Japanese coast guard vessel stated that the Haijian 50 entered Japanese territorial waters for 25 minutes and warned the ship to leave. A Japanese government spokesman later stated that the ship had not actually entered Japanese waters, but the Japanese government lodged an official protest with the Chinese ambassador to Japan, [Cheng Yonghua](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Cheng_Yonghua&action=edit&redlink=1). According to the [People's Daily](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/People%27s_Daily) 21 March 2012, an unnamed official of the State Oceanic Administration stated that the PRC intends to patrol the Diaoyu Islands in order to challenge a potential future Japanese claim to the islands based on the international 50-year standard "statute of limitations" for claiming possession of a territory.
* July:
	+ On 4 July, Coastguard vessels from Taiwan and Japan collided in waters near a disputed island chain Wednesday, as the Taiwanese vessel was escorting activists to the area.
	+ On 7 July, the Japanese Prime Minister stated that these islands are an integral part of his country and the Government is considering their purchase from the Japanese owner.
	+ Three Chinese patrol vessels entered the disputed waters around these islands on 11 July 2012.On 15 July 2012, Japan recalled their ambassador to China to work on the response to the transgression. In late July, Japanese officials have raised alarms regarding increased [Chinese military expansion](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Modernization_of_the_People%27s_Liberation_Army).[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senkaku\_Islands\_dispute - cite\_note-134](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senkaku_Islands_dispute#cite_note-134)
	+ The events would eventually escalate and lead up to [widespread protests in China](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2012_China_anti-Japanese_demonstrations).
* August
	+ On 8 August, after a meeting between the [Japanese Defense Minister](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Satoshi_Morimoto) and the [American Defense Secretary](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leon_Panetta), it was announced that UAVs would be used to conduct surveillance around Okinawa, which will include the Senkaku Islands.
	+ On 15 August, ships carrying activists from Hong Kong approached the islands, but were stopped by the [Japan Coast Guard](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Japan_Coast_Guard). Seven activists jumped from the ships to swim ashore, five of whom reached the island; the other two turned back to the ships. The activists and their ship were detained by Japanese authorities.[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senkaku\_Islands\_dispute - cite\_note-137](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senkaku_Islands_dispute#cite_note-137) The detained activists were deported two days later.
	+ On 18 August, a flotilla of four boatscarrying about 150 Japanese activists organized by right-wing group [Ganbare Nippon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ganbare_Nippon) arrived at the islands. The activists stated that they wished to commemorate Japanese [World War II](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_War_II) deaths in the area. When the activists were denied permission to land, several of them swam to the islands. Ten activists swam to the islands and made an unauthorized landing on Uotsuri, where they raised [Japanese flags](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Flag_of_Japan).
	+ China’s Foreign Ministry protested the event before it happened saying that unilateral action by Japan on the islands "is illegal and invalid." China also lodged a formal complaint,[[vague](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wikipedia%3AVagueness)] and urged Japan to prevent frictions from escalating more. The flotilla arrival at the archipelago also set off anti-Japanese rallies in more than 25 Chinese cities, and 100 people gathered near Japan's consulate in the southern Chinese city of [Guangzhou](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Guangzhou) to demand that the Japanese leave the islands. Chinese protestors overturned Japanese-branded cars and smashed windows of Japanese-themed businesses.

**Essential information**

In preparation for your participation in this committee session it is crucially important to study the **history** of the islands, as this is at the centre of the arguments of all three sides. Especially focus should be directed at the Potsdam Declaration and the US-Japan Security Treaty.

Another vital detail is the **diplomatic recognition** between the countries;

1. The People Republic of China does not recognise the Republic of China (Taiwan) as an independent country.
2. Japan, likewise, does not recognise the Republic of China
3. The Republic of China is with resolution 2758 only recognised by 22 UN Member States.[[5]](#footnote-5)
4. While PRC does not recognise the ROC, the PRC has attempted to fight a “common battle” together with ROC against Japan

What must also be considered are the geopolitical reasons the respective countries are interested in the very small and uninhabited islands. In relation to this it is crucial to note that large oil and gas reserves were allegedly found in the immediate surroundings in 1969. While there is uncertainty as to the amount, the potential existence of oil and gas reserves plays a key part in the discussion.

Important, also, is the position of the Islands. With the Islands Japan has close and easy access to the Chinese and Taiwanese mainlands. This would be a source of great influence and prestige for the Japanese government.

Likewise, China has had a strong desire to manifest its claim on the parts of its area which is disputed by other states or nations. This has also been seen in the huge protests which have been going on in certain larger cities on the Chinese mainland. As far as it can be measured the public opinion in China seems to be that Japan’s claim on the islands are unjust and illegitimate.

Lastly, and importantly, there have as shown in the historiography above of 2012, been situations of great tension between especially Japan and PRC. Japan has used its navy to actively to enforce its naval supremacy in the area, as was the case on the 11th of July when Chinese patrol vessels entered the disputed waters, resulting in the withdrawal of the Japanese ambassador to China. The Japanese navy has likewise stopped activists, and both countries have very large navy concentrations in the area

With a large concentration of naval force in the area military conflict could therefore become a reality with very short notice.

Will the parts reach an agreement or might military conflict arise?

*Morten Munch Jespersen*

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## Topic B: Controlling Drugs Consumption and the use of legalisation.

“The [European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_Monitoring_Centre_for_Drugs_and_Drug_Addiction) (EMCDDA) defines decriminalization as the removal of a conduct or activity from the sphere of criminal law; depenalisation signifying merely a relaxation of the penal sanction exacted by law. Decriminalization usually applies to offences related to drug consumption and may include either the imposition of sanctions of a different kind (administrative) or the abolition of all sanctions; other (noncriminal) laws then regulate the conduct or activity that has been decriminalized. Depenalisation usually consists of personal consumption as well as small-scale trading and generally signifies the elimination or reduction of custodial penalties, while the conduct or activity still remains a criminal offence. The term legalization refers to the removal of all drug-related offences from criminal law: use, possession, cultivation, production, trading, etc.”

As a concept, the legalisation of drugs is a very big step. Many nations in the world have gone so far as to decriminalize or depenalise various drugs and drug related crimes, but the issue of legalisation, or what is sometimes referred to as re-legalisation remains a very big issue.

The drugs trade itself is one of the largest and most profitable illegal operations in the world, second to arms trading. Worth an estimated US$321.6 billion in 2003 alone, it accounted for almost 1% of world expenditure and wealth. As such as large business, and indeed an illegal business, it has long been the goal of nations to alleviate the problems that it causes and negate the consequences of its existence. As can be seen from the map, the drugs trade is a very international operation. South America and central Africa are both hotbeds for production as are large parts of Southern Asia. Inevitably, the USA, Europe and Australia are generally the primary victims of illegal drug trading and their markets are flooded with illegal narcotics from all over the globe.

There has long been an international debate over whether the legalisation of drugs would control the consumption of narcotics. Recently, there have been two notable examples of legalisation. In both Colorado and Washington, two states in the U.S.A., cannabis was made a legal substance to possess and use[[6]](#footnote-6). Criticism has been levied against these states most notably for the phenomenon that means cannabis use still violates federal law. But the United States is not the only location where cannabis can now be found legally. In Amsterdam, ‘coffee shops’ offer recreational amounts of the drug to residents and tourists alike[[7]](#footnote-7). Aside from these three prominent examples, many nations in the world have decriminalized possession of the drug in small amounts. Some nations have gone so far as to effectively de-criminalise it. In Cambodia for example many restaurants offer food cooked with marijuana.

But beyond the legalisation of cannabis, little support has been found, especially on a national scale, for the legalisation of alternative drugs. Cocaine, LSD, ecstasy, heroin, magic mushrooms, amphetamines and Ritalin remain firmly illegal in almost all nations in the world. Additionally, little pressure has been put on governments, especially from the scientific world, to legalise the drugs. The only support for doing so comes from economists who claim that drug legalisation and regulation by nations would improve the economy, minimise violent drug-related crime and crush illegal cartels operation all over the globe bringing enormous sums of money back to national governments.

However, moving away from the benefits that drug legalisation would bring, a greater focus on the question can now be attained: drug legalisation for the purposes of *controlling* *consumption*. In Colorado, Washington, Cambodia, the Comoros Islands and a few others, cannabis is legal to possess and cultivate. However, legally, the persons in possession of such narcotics are subject to legal maximums. The idea behind limiting the possession of drugs is that as a direct consequence, consumption will be limited by supply. Assuming that this model works, the logical conclusion is that to control intake, a control of the supply must be ascertained. This is where a legal framework and structure is vitally important.

By legalising a drug, you hand control of production, movement, distribution and prices to the government. In doing so, you remove those methods of control from the drug cartels that previously held them. Now, if a government is in charge of distribution, then a method of accurately distributing legal maximums to residents or tourists in the country or state must be enforced. By doing so, the legal limit for each individual can be monitored and indeed measured. To look at the results of this, we have to look at examples, the best of which is Portugal.

10 years ago Portugal decriminalised all drugs. In doing do, they opened the markets to all forms of drug use and distribution. Interestingly, despite legalising all drugs, drug abuse is down. Not only is overall usage down but there was a marked reduction in drug related deaths, drug use among 13-15 year olds, drug-related criminal justice workloads, and also a generally significant decline in street prices for drugs. While some issues have been levied against Portugal in its implementation of policy, a general trend has emerged from the country. Life-time drug users increased by just under half, but overall consumption decreased dramatically.

This then offers an interesting question. While many countries see the legalisation of cannabis to be a first step towards drug control and consumption control, many have yet to make that step. Those that have experience lower levels of drug use, reduced street prices and fewer drug related incidents in their area of control. It offers the argument that if Portugal has achieved such promising results, why has the rest of the world not followed suit.

“The 1988 [United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Convention_Against_Illicit_Traffic_in_Narcotic_Drugs_and_Psychotropic_Substances) made it mandatory for the signatory countries to “adopt such measures as may be necessary to establish as criminal offences under its domestic law” all the activities related to the production, sale, transport, distribution, etc. of the substances included in the most restricted lists of the 1961 [Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Single_Convention_on_Narcotic_Drugs) and 1971 [Convention on Psychotropic Substances](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Convention_on_Psychotropic_Substances). Criminalization also applies to the “cultivation of opium poppy, coca bush or cannabis plants for the purpose of the production of narcotic drugs”. The Convention distinguishes between the intent to traffic and personal consumption, stating that the latter should also be considered a criminal offence, but “subject to the constitutional principles and the basic concepts of [the state’s] legal system.””

This shows us why. In 1988 almost all nations signed an agreement to criminalize the use, possession, etc. of drugs. In doing so, the prison population increased dramatically, the number of drug users increased dramatically, and drug related incidents increased as well.

 Surely if the world is responsible for this increase, we can be equally responsible for its reduction? Is the correct course of action the legalisation of all drugs, or is there a middle ground, an alternative possibility?

*Wilf Mountfield*

1. At the beginning of the discussion of each topic there will be a row call, where countries can either respond “Present” or “Present and Voting”. Responding, “Present” allows you to abstain on substantive motions, but also means that you cannot veto a resolution as a P5. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Important: As the islands are usually called by their Japanese name of Senkaky in the English literature we will refer to the islands as such for the purpose of this simulation. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Source: The Guardian Ltd. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Source: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Senkaku\_Islands\_dispute [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
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