

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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TOPIC B:

“Crisis in South Sudan”

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“There is no military solution to South Sudan’s problems, there is only a political solution. The more that military activity goes on, the likelihood of trying to get a political progress together that works and builds a country that really feels like a country, becomes a more distant dream.”

-David Shearer

Luis C. Bosques Carmona
Undersecretary of General Assembly

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Crisis in South Sudan

The General Assembly is the main deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the UN. All 193 Member States are represented in the General Assembly, making it the only UN body with universal representation. Decisions on important questions, such as those on peace and security, admission of new members and election of judges and members, etc. are taken on the Assembly.

South Sudan is a very young country, the country gained its independence in 2011 as the outcome of the 2005 Agreement in which the Government of Sudan (GoS) signed a preliminary peace accord with the rebel south that brought a temporary end to one of Africa's longest-running civil wars. The Agreement granted the right to self-determination. The civil war between In Sudan was ethnic-related, as the different tribes and Christian religious minorities felt segregated from the Muslim- Arabs based in northern Sudan.

Soon after the independence, Salva Kiir - a Dinka, was elected President, and Riek Machar - a Nuer, South Sudan's second biggest ethnic group within the country was given the Vice Presidency. South Sudan's main political conflict began in 2013, when Salva Kiir ordered the arrest of Machar, accusing him of plotting a coup to overthrow him. Since then, Machar founded the Sudan People's Liberation Movement - In Opposition (SPLM-IO), mostly formed by Nuers to combat Kiir's Dinka-composed Sudan's People's Liberation Movement Army (SPLM/A).

This political conflict, blended by an economical crisis caused by several factors, including the fact that war left the country in a situation of poverty, has caused massive displacement, raging violence and food shortages.

South Sudan's food crisis is the worst in the world, the UN Security Council has warned, calling for urgent action. More than a million people have fled the country searching for the promise of a better life. People are living in terrible sanitary conditions, without any food, and completely exposed to the violence that has erupted the past few months in South Sudan. Over 5.1 million people are in need of aid, and 4.8 million are facing hunger. Due to economic collapse and three years of poor agricultural conditions, areas of South Sudan are now experiencing extreme famine.

Jean-Pierre Lacroix, the Under Secretary General of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, called upon the leaders of South Sudan to “bring the country back from the impending abyss.” The UN is deeply involved, with programs such as the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), a peacekeeping mission mandated to protect civilians and deploy humanitarian assistance, unfortunately both sides refuse to cooperate with international stakeholders, as Kiir accuses UNMISS to destabilize South Sudan while working with the opposition.

At least 200,000 South Sudanese are sheltering at United Nations peacekeeping bases in countries like the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Central African Republic, Sudan and Uganda.

Clashes and battles between the Government and rebel

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groups have taken place in Raga, Waat, Wunkur and Tonga, major cities within South Sudan. It's necessary to precise that most of the violence is taking place in regions where the largest oil fields are and where the rebels struggle for control.

Genocide and crimes against humanity allegations by NGO's and the UN concern the International Community; the war has claimed the life of 50,000 - 300,000 people.

Points to address:

- The General Assembly **doesn't** have any jurisdiction on peacekeeping missions, only on budgetary matters.
- Alleged crimes against humanity and genocide.
- The collapse of South Sudan's economy, and future resilience.
- Protection of civilians, refugees, IDP's.
- Ethnic tensions, both Machar and Kirr have exploited historic rivalry between them.
- The political situation and future. Elections are scheduled on July 9, 2018.
- End of hostilities and peacebuilding.
- Human Rights' violations.
- Famine.
- How can the International Community, alongside South Sudan's leaders may come to a political settlement?
- What must be done in order to reduce tensions between ethnic groups that are currently battling?

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