

SNISMUN 2023

Background Guide

United Nations Security Council

Agenda

***Albanian Civil War, 1997***

***Freeze Date - March 19, 1997***

Executive Board

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*Dear Delegates,*

*Welcome to the United Nations Security Council Committee at SNISMUN 2023. You will be gathering for a formal conference over two days, representing different countries and hopefully, coming to a conclusion. To help you with your research, we have prepared this background guide for you so that you are familiar with the agenda. Please note that this guide, as the name suggests, is to merely provide you with a basic idea regarding the agenda, so it is a must that you go beyond this guide and research well.*

*SNISMUN has been one of the biggest MUN conferences in Bangalore for the past 4 years and has a reputation for having the most innovative committees with unique solutions. We truly hope that in our committee, this reputation is upheld and we get to see some very exciting debates with unique, concrete points brought out on both days of committee sessions.*

*The UNSC, being a committee with the most power in the UN, and you being a delegate in it, bear in mind the responsibility you have to represent your country to the best of your ability. As the UNSC has been put in precarious positions in the past, we have hand-picked this agenda to facilitate a fast-paced semi-crisis committee with entertaining, constructive, and substantial debate.*

*The agenda you will be discussing for 2 days will be pertaining to the Albanian Civil War, which will serve as a semi-crisis committee so that you can first destroy the world, and then rebuild it. We hope for you to represent your countries with pride and set out to achieve your countries' goals. Remember, maintaining diplomacy is a key to a successful committee and it is every nation's responsibility to come to a peaceful solution in the UN. We are looking forward to having you in our committee and hope that you find this study guide helpful for your extensive research. For any clarifications from the Executive Board regarding anything committee specific please feel free to contact us via email for assistance. We are extremely excited to see what you can do in committee and make SNISMUN 2023 a grand success.*

*Sincerely,  
The Executive Board,  
Sidhant Roy  
Yash Iyer  
Vighnajith Reddy*

**S N I S M U N**

## Introduction to Committee

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the principal organs of the United Nations (UN) and holds a central role in maintaining international peace and security. Established in 1945, shortly after the end of World War II, the UNSC was designed to prevent the recurrence of global conflicts and promote collective security among nations.

The UNSC is composed of 15 member states, of which five are permanent members with veto power, while the remaining ten are elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms. The permanent members, often referred to as the "P5," are the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom. This exclusive group of nations wields significant influence and can veto any substantive resolution brought before the council, making their cooperation crucial for effective decision-making.

The primary responsibilities of the UNSC include:

1. **Maintenance of Peace and Security:** The UNSC is tasked with identifying and responding to threats to international peace and security. It can take various measures, such as imposing sanctions, authorizing military interventions, or deploying peacekeeping missions, to address conflicts and crises around the world.
2. **Resolution of Disputes:** The council serves as a forum for member states to bring disputes to peaceful resolutions. Through diplomacy, mediation, and negotiation, the UNSC seeks to prevent conflicts from escalating into full-scale wars.

3. **Authorization of Military Action:** The UNSC has the authority to authorize the use of force when necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security. This is typically done through resolutions, as seen in instances such as the Gulf War in 1990-1991 and international interventions in places like Kosovo and Libya.
4. **Sanctions:** The council can impose economic and diplomatic sanctions on nations or entities that violate international norms and endanger global stability. Sanctions are used as a non-military means to exert pressure and encourage compliance with international law.
5. **Peacekeeping:** The UNSC may establish and oversee peacekeeping missions in regions affected by conflicts. These missions are composed of international troops and personnel who work to stabilize post-conflict areas, facilitate humanitarian aid, and support political transitions.

## Introduction to Agenda

The Albanian civil war of 1997, often referred to as the "Albanian Rebellion" or "Pyramid Scheme Crisis," was a period of political and social upheaval in Albania that occurred in the first half of 1997. This crisis was marked by widespread civil unrest, violent clashes, and a collapse of law and order in the country. It was primarily triggered by a combination of economic, political, and social factors, with the collapse of fraudulent investment schemes known as "pyramid schemes" being the immediate catalyst.

Here's a brief overview for you of the key events during the Albanian civil war of 1997:

1. **Pyramid Schemes:** In the early 1990s, Albania experienced a period of rapid economic and political change following the fall of communism. During this time, various investment schemes, often referred to as "pyramid schemes," promised high returns to investors. Many Albanians, hoping to improve their financial situation, invested their savings in these schemes. However, these schemes were unsustainable and essentially Ponzi schemes, leading to a massive financial collapse when they crumbled in early 1997.
2. **Widespread Unrest:** As the pyramid schemes collapsed, thousands of Albanians lost their life savings, leading to widespread anger and frustration. Protests and demonstrations erupted across the country, and the situation quickly escalated into violence. Citizens looted weapons from army depots and police stations, and armed gangs took control of various regions.
3. **Government Collapse:** The government of President Sali Berisha faced intense pressure, and he declared a state of emergency in early 1997. However, his government was unable to control the situation, and there were allegations of electoral fraud, which further fueled public anger. Eventually, Berisha's government fell, and a transitional government was established.
4. **International Involvement:** Albania's crisis had significant implications for regional stability, particularly in the Balkans. Neighboring countries were concerned about the flow of arms and refugees across borders. Italy and Greece, in particular, were directly affected by the situation in Albania. The international community, including the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), initiated efforts to provide humanitarian aid, support a peaceful resolution, and restore order.

5. **Role of the UNSC:** The United Nations Security Council played a role in addressing the Albanian civil war by passing Resolution 1101 on May 28, 1997. This resolution expressed deep concern about the deteriorating situation in Albania and called for a peaceful resolution of the crisis. It also authorized the deployment of a multinational protection force in Albania, which came to be known as the Multinational Protection Force (MPF). The MPF, composed of troops from several countries, was tasked with providing security and stability, facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid, and supporting the restoration of law and order. However, the freeze date for this committee is set before this date, it is still important for historic committees to know what happened as well, however, do not let this prejudice you in committee.

## **Build Up the War and its Initial Stages**

The Albanian civil war of 1997 was a complex and rapidly evolving crisis with a multitude of causes, both short-term and long-term. Here is a detailed timeline of events leading up to and including the initial stages of the war:

### **Long-Term Causes:**

**Communist Era (1944-1992):** Albania was ruled by a repressive communist regime under Enver Hoxha for nearly five decades. This period isolated the country from the rest of the world, leaving it with a weak economy and a lack of political pluralism. We recommend you read more about this.

**Transition to Democracy (early 1990s):** Following the fall of communism in the early 1990s, Albania embarked on a path toward democratic reforms and a market economy. However, this transition was challenging and marked by political instability.



**Pyramid Schemes (early 1990s):** In the 1990s, fraudulent investment schemes, commonly known as "pyramid schemes," proliferated in Albania. These schemes promised high returns and attracted a significant portion of the population to invest their savings, creating a financial bubble.

### **Short-Term Cause:**

**Economic Collapse (late 1996 - early 1997):** By late 1996 and early 1997, the pyramid schemes began to collapse, resulting in the loss of savings for many Albanians. This triggered widespread public outrage and protests.

### **Timeline of Events:**

**January 1997:** Protests and demonstrations erupted in various Albanian cities as people realized the pyramid schemes were fraudulent and unsustainable.

**February 1997:** The government, led by President Sali Berisha, declared a state of emergency in response to the escalating unrest.

**March 1997:** The situation deteriorated further, with widespread looting, armed gangs taking control of towns and cities, and clashes between protesters and security forces.

**March 11, 1997:** The Berisha government ordered the military to suppress the unrest, resulting in numerous casualties.

**March 13, 1997:** President Sali Berisha announced his willingness to hold new elections and invited international assistance to restore order.



**March 19, 1997:** The Berisha government fell, and a transitional government was formed. Berisha agreed to step down as president. [WE FREEZE HERE]

**April 1997:** International organizations, including the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), initiated efforts to provide humanitarian aid and mediate a resolution to the crisis.

**May 28, 1997:** The United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1101, authorizing the deployment of a Multinational Protection Force (MPF) in Albania to restore security and support humanitarian efforts.

**June 15, 1997:** The Multinational Protection Force (MPF), comprising troops from various countries, began deploying to Albania. Their primary mission was to provide security and stabilize the situation.

**July 1997:** The MPF played a crucial role in restoring order and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid. The situation gradually improved, although pockets of instability persisted in some areas.

Post this, there is an array of incidents and events that occurred in the war, however, we will not be dealing with them. We do advise you to read up on them and know about everything that happened in the war, all the way up to 11th August 1997.

## Key Legislation on the Agenda

- **International Humanitarian Law (IHL):** IHL, often referred to as the laws of armed conflict, provides a framework for the protection of civilians and combatants during armed conflicts. Key principles include the distinction between combatants

*and non-combatants, the prohibition of indiscriminate attacks, and the humane treatment of prisoners of war.*

- **United Nations Charter:** *The UN Charter outlines the principles and purposes of the United Nations and sets limitations on the use of force. It prohibits the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, except in cases of self-defense or when authorized by the UN Security Council.*
- **Resolution 1101:** *UN Security Council Resolution 1101, passed in the context of the Albanian civil war of 1997, authorized the deployment of the Multinational Protection Force (MPF) to Albania. Understanding the terms and conditions of this resolution is crucial for those involved in the mission. Note: this cannot be brought up in committee as relevant precedence or documentation as at the time, it does not exist.*
- **Geneva Conventions:** *The Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols establish the legal framework for the protection of war victims, including wounded soldiers, prisoners of war, and civilians. These conventions outline the rights and responsibilities of parties involved in an armed conflict.*
- **Human Rights Law:** *International human rights law applies at all times, even during armed conflicts. It protects fundamental human rights and prohibits actions such as torture, arbitrary detention, and summary executions. Ensuring the rights of individuals, especially civilians, is essential.*
- **International Refugee Law:** *In conflicts, there may be a displacement of populations. Understanding international refugee law, particularly the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol, is crucial for addressing the needs of refugees and asylum-seekers.*

- **UN Resolutions and Mandates:** Familiarity with relevant UN Security Council resolutions and mandates related to the specific conflict is essential. These resolutions may authorize peacekeeping missions, sanctions, or other actions that have legal implications.
- **Customary International Law:** Customary international law consists of practices and norms accepted as legally binding by states. It can include principles related to the conduct of armed conflicts, the treatment of prisoners, and the protection of civilians.
- **International Criminal Law:** Individuals who commit serious international crimes, such as genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, can be held accountable under international criminal law. The International Criminal Court (ICC) is the primary institution responsible for prosecuting such crimes.
- **National and Domestic Laws:** Understanding the domestic legal framework of the country involved in the conflict is important. This includes its constitution, criminal laws, and regulations governing the conduct of military and security forces.

Without the understanding of these legalities, we would have a very slow, stagnant, and non-competitive committee. These legalities will help you further your speeches will substantive knowledge, give you ideas for solutions, and help you with raising points as well. Hence, we would highly recommend learning them.

## **Crisis Formats**

## **Directives**

Directives are the main tools that delegates will use to carry out actions in committee.

There are two types of directives:

- a. Covert Directive: An action or order a delegate wants to carry out without notifying the entire committee. These directives are only read by the EB and are not announced if passed.
- b. Overt Directive: An action or order like creating a treaty/alliance, reaching a peace deal, launching a multilateral operation of some sort, reaching a trade agreement, and more. These directives are publicly implemented and the committee will be aware of these actions.

## **Communiqué**

A delegate can send a formal message (not simply a note) to delegates who are not part of the committee. The formal message will be handled by the EB who will respond to it.

- The EB may also send communiqués to delegates with new information or other intelligence, along with instructions on how to use that information.
- Communiqués sent collectively by the committees must first be approved through a vote.

## **Press Releases**

An update from a delegate that they wish to share with the general public (including members of the committee)

## **Recommended Formats**

### **Directives:**

**Covert/Overt Directive 'xyz'**

**Authors** - 'Delegate A, Delegate B'

**To** - The Executive Board

**Aim** - (Goal of the Directive)

**Materials Required** - (Not compulsory but encouraged to mention; features all items required to execute the mission eg: no. of troops, aircraft, tanks)

**Plan of Action** - ( A step-by-step detailed plan of how you want the mission executed, creativity and details need to be displayed here)

**Outcome** - (Your assumptions of the aftermath post the execution of your directive)

## **Bloc Formations**

Considering how there are no definite limitations to the number of blocs or leaders of blocs, there is nothing the Executive board can do to spoonfeed you how to work in unmoderated caucuses. However, as this is a committee with a significant number of first-timers, it is within our limits to ensure that you are aware of a few things.

Firstly, do remember that as this is a historic committee, your country's previous stance may differ from your country's current stance, especially if there was another government in power. We highly recommend you look into this and make your decisions and actions on your past foreign policy and not your current one.

Secondly, on the basis of bloc formation, lobbying from experienced delegates to first-timers might always include relations, etc. While this is important, it is important to note that you should try not to stray away from the side or stance you took on this particular conflict. Hence, while country X might help country Y in a conflict between countries A and B, it doesn't mean that they have the same stance on the Albanian Civil War, and their being in the same bloc may be a foreign policy violation which the

executive board will frown upon, especially after we have mentioned this in the background guide.

Thirdly, neutral countries do not need to be pressured into joining action-taking blocs, however, as you are a delegate in the UNSC, this position of neutrality can always be changed as you have the power to do so. This means that you can always take action against a particular country or a group in relation to the agenda, as long as you have enough legal backing to take it. Again, this is not a compulsion and neutral blocs will still be accepted.

### **Questions A Resolution Must Answer and Structure of Committee:**

After the first few crisis updates, you will have the liberty of, as a committee, setting a sub-agenda on the Albanian Civil War. The agenda selected will be on the basis of a committee-wide vote, the QARMAs will be given to you then.

As you may have noticed, through this format, we are encouraging you to develop both research skills and the ability to think and make decisions on the spot. Hence, as a final note, I would like to add that we will accept no prewritten directives and no plagiarized documentation, both of which will have serious consequences.

We will be more crisis-heavy on day 1, where the committee will almost serve as a CCC, however, still with structured debate. As we move on to day 2, a sub-agenda will be set, with which, the GA portion of the committee will commence and the documentation will be presented. Hope you enjoy this relatively newer, unique, and more exciting format of a UNSC in the Bangalore circuit, we intend to make this MUN like none you have ever seen before.

Signing off, for now, your executive board.



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