

# UNSC

## STUDY GUIDE

#ideasbeyondborders

Sevdenur ARSAL    H. Sare BEKDEMİR  
**Board Member**                            **Board Member**

Berker TEZER  
**Academic Assistant**



## **Letter From The Secretary General**

Dear Delegates,

It is my great honour to welcome you to the 7th edition of KAFMUN'26, which will take place from 13th to 15th February at Kocaeli Ali Fuat Başgil Social Sciences High School.

My name is Özkan Işıksoy, and I have been part of KAFMUN since 2023. In previous years, I have served as an Under Secretary-General and as an Academic Advisor, and it is now my privilege to serve as your Secretary-General. KAFMUN has provided me with invaluable experiences in leadership, international relations, awareness, and crisis management. Being part of this community has been both an honour and a source of personal growth.

Over the years, we have built a strong and collaborative community and established this distinguished conference as a proud tradition. I now invite you to continue this tradition and contribute to its legacy. KAFMUN'26 will host seven committees this year, including two of the six main United Nations committees, each prepared with challenging and meaningful agenda items. The world today faces numerous global instabilities; sustainable development goals remain unmet, and children continue to suffer from conflicts. As participants of KAFMUN'26, we will work together to address these complex issues and seek constructive solutions.

Our Academic and Organising Teams have worked tirelessly to provide you with a productive, comfortable, and memorable conference experience. I hope that during this conference you will enjoy both academic growth and meaningful engagement, and that you leave with valuable skills, insights, and connections.

I wish you all a successful and inspiring conference,

**Özkan IŞIKSOY**  
**Secretary-General**

## **Letter From The Academic Advisor**

Dear KAFMUN'26 Delegates,

I respectfully, warmly, and sincerely greet you all. Welcome to the KAFMUN'26 Conference, which will be held for the seventh time between February 13 and 15 at Kocaeli Ali Fuat Başgil Social Sciences High School.

My name is Berker Tezer, and I have been honored to be a part of the KAFMUN family since 2023. Prior to this conference, I have served in various roles at KAFMUN and at different Model United Nations conferences. At this conference, I stand before you as an Academic Advisor. Throughout my time within the KAFMUN family, I believe that I have significantly developed both socially and academically. The experiences I have gained have enabled me to acquire numerous skills such as crisis management, public speaking, and leadership, and have greatly contributed to my personal development.

Through years of dedication and the conferences we have organized, KAFMUN has been consistently sustained for seven years, becoming a culture and a brand of our school. I once again welcome and congratulate you for being part of such a well-established and meaningful organization. The primary aim of this conference is to contribute to your academic and social development, to help you view the world from different perspectives, and to raise awareness about global issues.

In line with this objective, we have worked diligently and thoroughly with the academic team to provide you with the best possible conference experience. Throughout the conference, I have no doubt that everyone involved will do their utmost to fulfill their responsibilities.

I wish you all a successful and enriching conference,

**Berker TEZER**  
**Academic Advisor**

## **Letter From The Crisis Director**

Dear Delegates and Valued Contributors,

I sincerely greet you all and extend my respectful regards. Welcome to KAFMUN'26, the seventh edition of our conference, which will be held on 13–15 February 2026 at Kocaeli Ali Fuat Başgil Social Sciences High School. Hello, my name is Hamza Duruk, and I am the Crisis Director. My KAFMUN journey, which began in 2023, has continued since 2024 through my continuous involvement in the crisis team. Alongside this, by taking part in various conferences and debate events, I have had the opportunity to develop myself and demonstrate my expertise and interest in many fields. In activities that bring together young individuals who will change the world on common grounds of consensus, my sole objective has always been to improve myself and the communities I am part of, and to organize them in order to make the world a better place and contribute to ensuring that everyone can live with dignity. As the director of the crisis team, my aim has been to offer you a different experience by combining my passion and vision with the work of this team, which continuously operates behind the scenes of the conference and is required to make accurate and critical decisions. As the crisis team, we supervise the event within a framework of consensus built upon shared values and assist in guiding its direction. In line with the academic directives, we approve decisions by applying strict discipline and high competence; moreover, we prepare crisis scenarios to enhance crisis management within the committees and to challenge their knowledge of the topics discussed. This year, with our eight-member crisis team, we will be working diligently for you, and as the Crisis Director, I will strive to carry forward the seven years of effort entrusted to me into the future. In this journey whose foundations were laid two years ago, today we have come together under this strong structure with many valued colleagues and are moving forward with confident steps toward our goals. This goal is, of course, not a simple one. The work we carry out essentially represents a bridge connecting the past and the future. This bridge is KAFMUN'26—a platform that links past issues to the present, allows us to make decisions and reflect within a state of in-between, and establishes a foundation extending toward the future. With its profound culture and perspective on the world, this platform once again rekindles the hope that dozens of individuals can change the world and enables us to move forward on this path. I wish that this event, which will bring new experiences to all of you, opens a meaningful door toward your future. Remain hopeful. Respectfully yours,

**Hamza DURUK**  
**Crisis Director**

## **Letter From The Committee Board**

Dear Delegates,

As the Chairboard, it is our sincere pleasure to welcome you to the United Nations Security Council at KAFMUN'26. We are excited to have you as part of this committee and believe that this UNSC session will be one of the most engaging and challenging experiences of your MUN journey.

The focus of this UNSC session will be the ongoing Houthi conflict in Yemen and the wider instability in the Horn of Africa. These developments have caused serious political, security, and humanitarian consequences, affecting not only the region itself but also global peace and stability. As the situation has developed, both regional and international actors have become involved, which has increased the complexity of the crisis.

During the conference, you will address key challenges such as national security concerns, the protection of strategic and energy supply routes, and the prevention of large-scale humanitarian and migration crises. You will negotiate under pressure, respond to rapidly developing situations, form alliances, and take decisions that may affect both regional and global security.

As members of the Security Council, you are given special responsibilities and powers that distinguish this committee from other UN bodies. These include authorizing peacekeeping missions and adopting decisions that are legally binding under international law. You are expected to use these powers carefully and responsibly in order to maintain international peace and stability.

Whether this is your first MUN conference or you are an experienced delegate, you will be supported throughout the committee. As the Chairboard, our goal is to create an inclusive and respectful environment where every delegate feels encouraged to participate and where every idea is valued.

We look forward to meeting each of you and seeing how you navigate the complex realities of global security during the conference.

Best regards,

**Sevdenur ARSAL**  
**President Chair of UNSC**

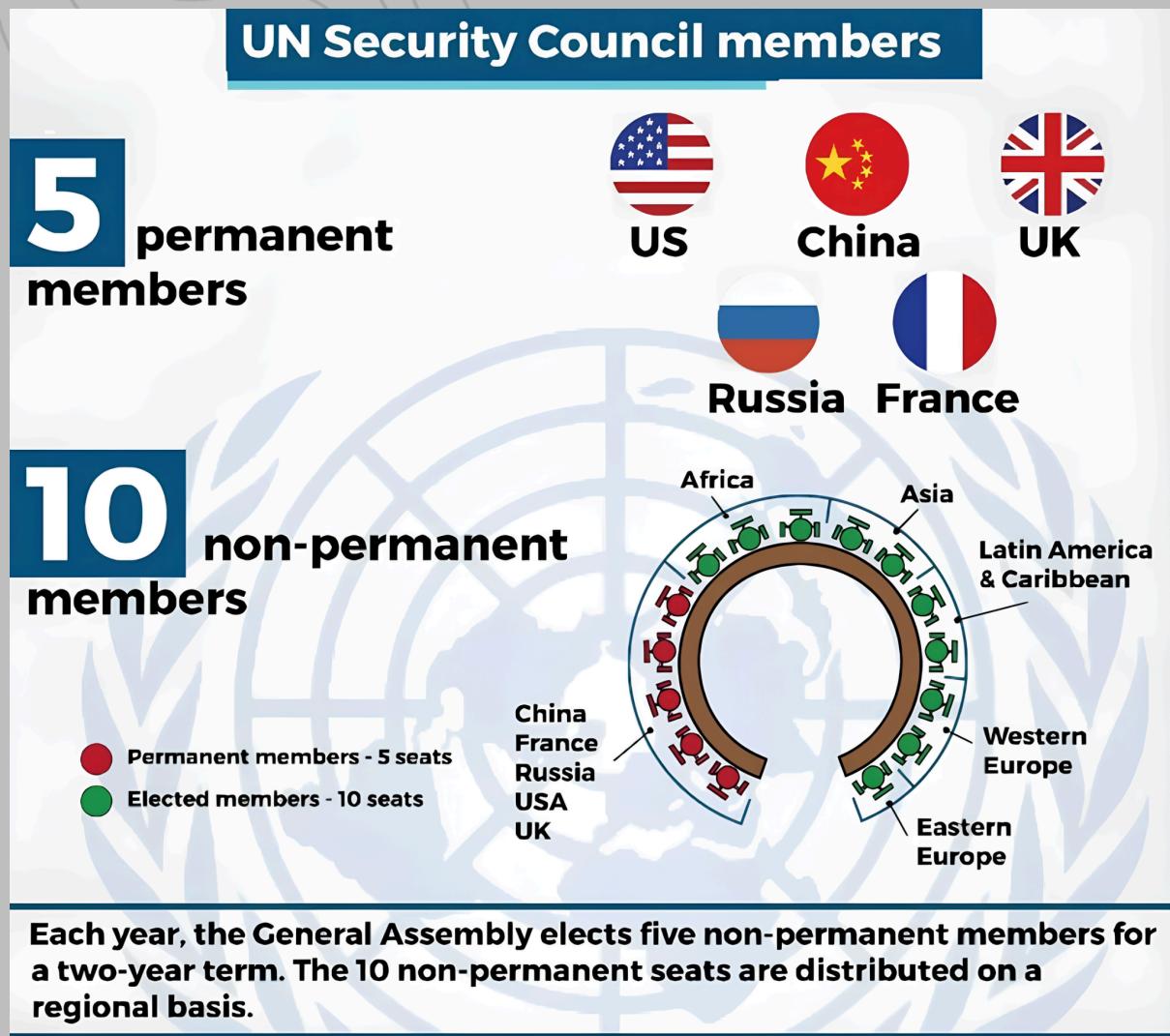
**Hatice Sare BEKDEMİR**  
**Vice President Chair of UNSC**

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## 1. Introduction Of The UNSC



The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the principal organs of the United Nations and is primarily responsible for maintaining international peace and security. Established in 1945 by the United Nations Charter, the Council is tasked with addressing situations that pose threats to peace, managing ongoing conflicts, and preventing the escalation of international disputes.

The Security Council functions as the central decision-making body within the UN system on matters of peace and security. It has the authority to investigate conflicts, call for ceasefires, recommend peaceful settlements, and adopt measures such as sanctions, peacekeeping operations, and other enforcement actions when necessary. Decisions adopted by the Council carry significant weight within the international system and are binding on UN member states.

In an increasingly interconnected world, the UNSC plays a critical role in responding to complex and cross-regional security challenges. Through collective deliberation and international cooperation, the Council aims to uphold global stability, protect civilians, and promote the peaceful resolution of conflicts in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter.

### **1.1 Permanent Members of the Security Council**

Within the Security Council, a special status is granted to **five member states (China, United States, Russia, France, United Kingdom)** that hold permanent seats. These members possess veto power, allowing them to block the adoption of any substantive resolution regardless of the level of support it receives. This structure reflects the post World War II international order and aims to ensure the involvement of major powers in decisions related to global peace and security.

The role of permanent members significantly shapes the Council's decision-making process. While their participation can facilitate decisive action and resource mobilization, the use of veto power has also generated debate regarding effectiveness, representativeness, and reform of the Security Council. As a result, the influence of permanent members remains a central feature of both the Council's functioning and ongoing discussions about its future.

### **1.2 Elected Members of the Security Council**

In addition to permanent members, **the Security Council includes ten elected members chosen by the United Nations General Assembly for two-year terms**. These members are selected based on equitable geographical representation, ensuring that different regions of the world are represented in the Council's deliberations. Elected members participate fully in discussions, negotiations, and voting, contributing diverse regional perspectives to the decision-making process.

Although **elected members do not possess veto power**, they play a crucial role in shaping Security Council outcomes through diplomacy, coalition building, and draft resolution negotiations. Their involvement is particularly important in highlighting regional concerns, proposing balanced approaches, and fostering consensus among Council members. As such, elected members enhance the legitimacy, inclusiveness, and representativeness of the Security Council's work.



### 1.3 Terminology

**Permanent Members:** The five countries with permanent seats and veto power in the Security Council.

**Veto Power:** The ability of a permanent member to block any substantive Security Council resolution.

**Binding Resolution:** A Security Council decision that all UN member states are legally required to follow.

**Collective Security:** The principle that international peace is maintained through joint action by states.

**Interregional Security Threats:** Security challenges that affect multiple regions at the same time, often linking conflicts through shared actors, trade routes, or strategic interests.

**Geopolitical Rivalries:** Competition for power, influence, and strategic advantage between states, which can intensify existing conflicts or create new areas of tension.

**Non-State Armed Groups (NSGs):** Organized armed actors that operate independently of recognized state authorities and often play a significant role in modern asymmetric conflicts.

**Proxy War:** A form of conflict in which external states support opposing sides indirectly through funding, weapons, or military assistance rather than direct involvement.

**Ceasefire:** A formal or informal agreement between conflicting parties to temporarily or permanently halt hostilities in order to reduce violence.

**State Fragility:** A condition in which a state lacks effective governance, institutional capacity, or territorial control, making it vulnerable to instability and conflict.

**Arms Trafficking:** The illegal transfer, sale, or transportation of weapons across borders, often fueling armed conflicts and regional insecurity.

**Disruption of Global Trade:** Interruptions to international commerce and supply chains caused by insecurity, conflict, or instability along key trade routes.

**Peacekeeping Operations:** UN-mandated missions deployed to monitor ceasefires, protect civilians, and support stability in post-conflict or fragile environments.

**Authorization of Use of Force:** Formal approval by the UN Security Council allowing the use of military force under international law to address threats to peace.

**Preventive Diplomacy:** Diplomatic actions undertaken to address tensions early and prevent disputes from escalating into armed conflict.

## 2. Introduction To The Committee

This committee is a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) simulation that will focus on current international security challenges. During the sessions, delegates will discuss cross-regional security threats affecting the Middle East and the Horn of Africa, including issues related to maritime security and regional instability.

The committee will examine the causes and consequences of these threats and explore possible Security Council responses. Delegates are expected to debate, negotiate, and work together to produce realistic and effective solutions in line with the UNSC's responsibilities.

## 2.1 Introduction to Agenda Item



One of the main responsibilities of the United Nations Security Council is to maintain international peace and security under the United Nations Charter. In today's world, security threats have become more complex and are often connected across borders. Conflicts are no longer limited to one country and can create **interregional security threats** through maritime insecurity, armed group activity, and regional instability. Because of this, the Security Council is increasingly required to deal with crises that affect more than one region at the same time and challenge existing systems of **collective security**.

This agenda item focuses on cross-regional security threats in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa, with particular attention to recent developments in the conflict in Yemen and the actions of the Houthi movement. Ongoing conflict, **state fragility**, and the presence of **Non-State Armed Groups (NSGs)** have created a highly connected security environment, where events in one area can quickly affect other regions.

An important issue linking these regions is the security of the Red Sea and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. These waterways are among the most important maritime routes in the world. Recent attacks on commercial ships and increased military activity in these areas have shown how vulnerable global trade routes can be. Such incidents raise serious concerns about the **disruption of global trade**, energy supplies, and humanitarian aid deliveries, turning regional problems into issues of international concern.

In discussing this agenda item, the Security Council will examine the situation under several main topics, including the current security situation, major risks, and their impact on international peace and security. Delegates are expected to evaluate existing international responses and consider possible actions. These may include **preventive diplomacy, binding resolutions, or peacekeeping operations**, while also taking into account the political limits of the Council, including the **veto power** of the **Permanent Members**.

### 3. Historical Background To Agenda Item

#### 3.1 The Red Sea and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait



The Red Sea has historically served as one of the most critical maritime corridors connecting the Middle East, Africa, and global trade routes. Linking the Mediterranean Sea to the Indian Ocean through the Suez Canal, the Red Sea has long functioned as a strategic passage for commercial shipping, energy transportation, and military navigation. Its importance increased significantly in the modern era with the expansion of global trade and the growing dependence of international markets on secure maritime routes.

Within this context, the Bab el-Mandeb Strait holds particular strategic significance. Situated between Yemen on the Arabian Peninsula and Djibouti and Eritrea in the Horn of Africa, the strait represents a vital chokepoint through which a substantial portion of global maritime trade passes. Control or disruption of this narrow passage has historically had the potential to affect not only regional stability but also international commerce and energy security. Consequently, the security of the Bab el-Mandeb has consistently been regarded as a matter of international concern rather than a purely regional issue.

### 3.2 The Horn of Africa



The Horn of Africa has long been characterized by political fragility, internal conflicts, and weak state institutions, making it particularly vulnerable to regional spillover effects. Located at the intersection of major maritime routes in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, the region has historically been exposed to external security pressures, including piracy, arms trafficking, and foreign military presence.

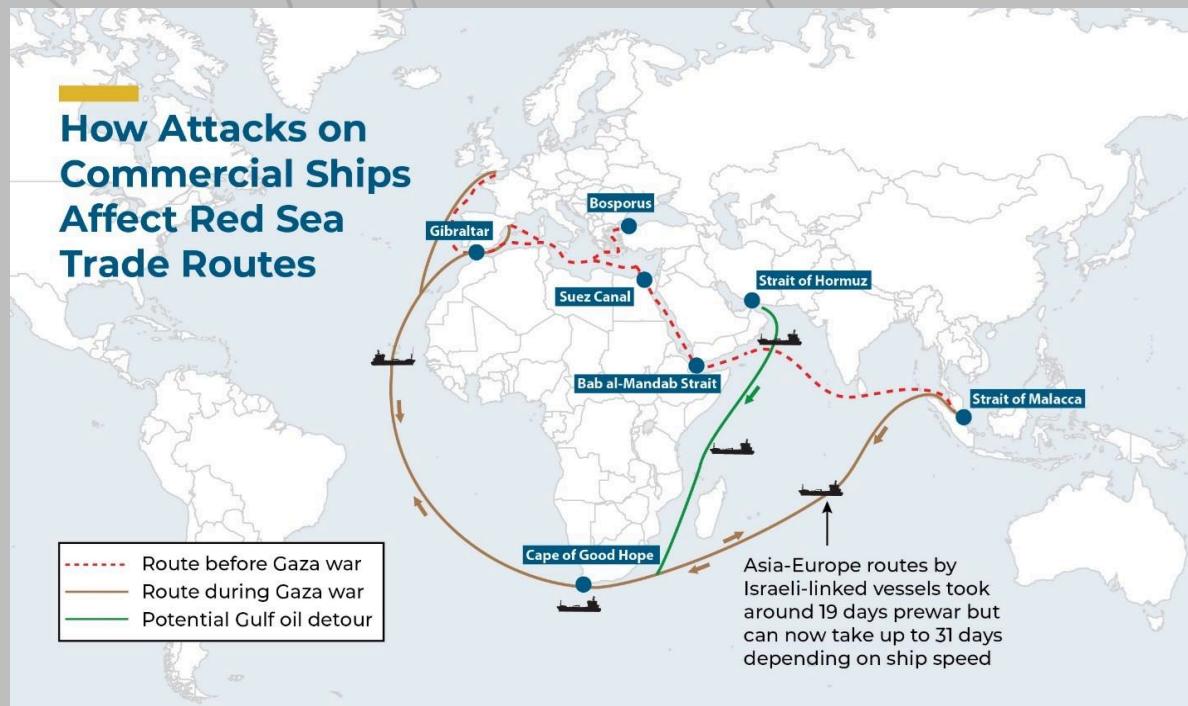
Due to its strategic location, the Horn of Africa has attracted sustained international attention, with multiple global and regional powers establishing military bases and security partnerships in the region. This external involvement, combined with existing domestic challenges, has rendered the Horn of Africa highly sensitive to instability originating from neighboring regions. As a result, security developments in the Middle East particularly those affecting maritime routes have historically had direct implications for the stability and security of the Horn of Africa.

#### 3.2.1 Strategic Importance of the Horn of Africa–Yemen Region

This geographical area encompasses the Horn of Africa and Yemen, including the Red Sea and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. Its position at the intersection of major energy and trade routes makes the region vital to the global economy. A significant portion of the oil and natural gas transported from the Persian Gulf to Europe and North America passes through this corridor. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), approximately 12% of global seaborne-traded oil and 8% of global LNG trade transit through the Suez Canal, the

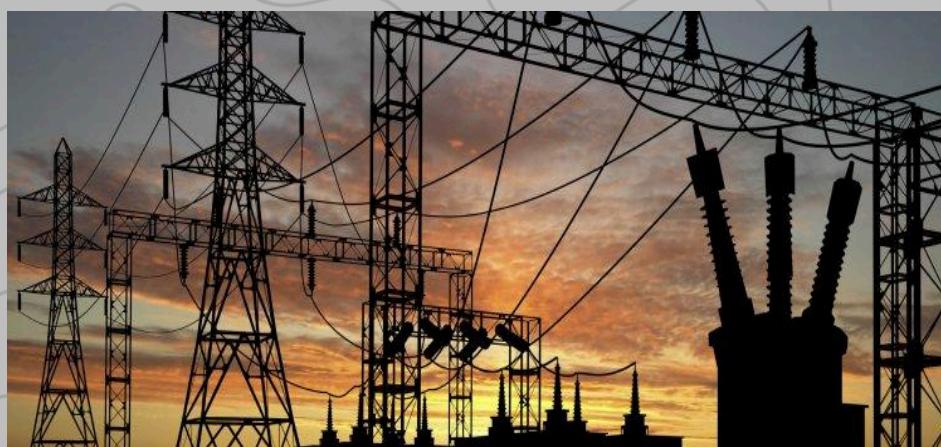
SUMED pipeline, and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait. As a result, the region's fragile internal dynamics and ongoing conflicts pose direct threats to these critical maritime routes.

### 3.3 Strategic Importance of Trade Routes in the Red Sea Region



The Red Sea–Bab el-Mandeb maritime corridor is one of the most strategically significant chokepoints in the global trading system, linking the Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean Sea via the Suez Canal. A substantial share of global energy supplies and commercial goods passes through this route each year, making its security vital for international trade and economic stability. As a result, instability in the Red Sea region has direct implications not only for regional actors but also for the broader international community.

#### 3.3.1 Energy Transportation

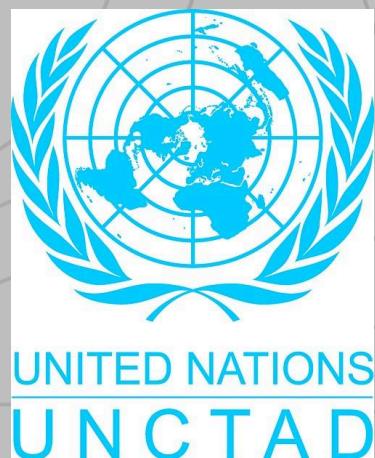


Tankers departing from the Persian Gulf largely rely on the Red Sea–Suez corridor to reach global markets. Millions of barrels of crude oil and substantial volumes of liquefied natural gas (LNG) are transported daily through this route to Europe and the United States, making it one of the most critical energy transit corridors in the world. The uninterrupted flow of energy resources through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait and the Red Sea is therefore directly linked to global energy security and market stability.

Beyond energy, the Red Sea trade route serves as a backbone of global supply chains. Manufactured industrial and consumer goods—such as electronics, automobiles, and textiles—produced in major Asian economies including China and India reach European markets primarily via the Suez Canal. In addition, food and agricultural commodities, including wheat, rice, sugarcane, and tea, are transported through this corridor to the Middle East and East Africa. Strategic spare parts, industrial machinery, and critical technological components essential to modern economies also pass through ports along this route.

Any disruption to this corridor directly affects global energy security and international trade. Assessments by the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) indicate that the closure or obstruction of the Red Sea–Bab el-Mandeb route could lead to significant volatility in global energy prices and cause serious disruptions across interconnected supply chains. As a result, security threats in this region have consequences that extend far beyond local or regional dynamics, turning maritime insecurity into a matter of global concern.

### 3.3.2 Global Supply Chains



**Crude Oil and Natural Gas:** Tankers departing from the Persian Gulf largely rely on the Suez route. Millions of barrels of crude oil and substantial volumes of LNG are transported daily through this corridor to Europe and the United States.

**Industrial and Consumer Goods:** Manufactured products such as electronics, automobiles, and textiles produced in Asian economies—including China and India—reach European markets primarily via the Suez Canal.

**Food and Agricultural Products:** The route plays a crucial role in the transportation of food and agricultural commodities (such as wheat, rice, sugarcane, and tea) to the Middle East and East Africa.

**Strategic Components:** Critical spare parts, industrial machinery, and technological components essential to global supply chains also pass through ports along this route.

Any disruption to this corridor directly affects global energy security and supply chains. EIA assessments indicate that the closure or obstruction of these routes could result in significant volatility in global energy prices.

### 3.4 Connection to the Suez Canal and Interregional Impact



The Bab el-Mandeb Strait represents the only direct maritime link to the Suez Canal. According to Coface analysts, approximately 10–12% of global maritime trade passes through this strait annually, making it indispensable for trade between Europe and Asia. The six-day blockage of the Suez Canal caused by the Ever Given incident in 2021 resulted in an estimated daily global trade loss of nearly USD 9 billion, illustrating the vulnerability of this corridor. A closure of the Bab el-Mandeb Strait would likely generate similar economic consequences.

Beyond linking the Middle East and Europe, the route is also vital for the economies of the Horn of Africa. For instance, nearly 95% of Ethiopia's trade, as a landlocked country, is conducted through the Port of Djibouti. World Bank projects indicate that Ethiopia's exports—approximately USD 334 million to the United States and USD 851 million to Europe—depend heavily on this corridor. Similarly, around 90% of Sudan's exports (representing roughly 30% of its GDP) pass through Port Sudan before reaching the Bab

el-Mandeb. Consequently, instability in the region threatens the primary import-export lifelines of African states, undermining both economic stability and regional security.

### 3.5 Yemen's Historical Fragility and Political Grievances



Yemen has historically experienced weak central authority. The collapse of the Zaydi Imamate in 1962 marked the end of political dominance for the Zaydi minority in northern Yemen. The subsequent marginalization of Zaydi elites contributed to the emergence of the Believing Youth (al-Shabab al-Mu'min) movement in the 1990s, which later evolved into the Houthi Movement (Ansar Allah).

Following the unification of the Yemen Arab Republic (North Yemen) and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen) in 1990, disputes over political representation and resource distribution intensified. The 1994 civil war further reinforced separatist sentiments in the south.

Today, Yemen continues to suffer from unresolved sectarian and regional tensions. The ongoing conflict has reignited long-suppressed southern separatist demands and fragmented the country into multiple zones controlled by various armed groups. In many areas, the state has either collapsed entirely or ceded authority to local tribal structures and non-state power holders. This persistent fragility has entrenched Yemen's historical pattern of conflict and instability, making it a focal point of broader regional insecurity.

### 3.6 The Houthi Movement: Origins and Identity



The Houthi movement, officially **known as Ansar Allah**, emerged in Yemen's northern Saada governorate as a Zaydi Shiite group. Zaydis constitute approximately 35 percent of Yemen's population and follow the Zaydi branch of Islam. Following the collapse of the Zaydi Imamate in 1962, Zaydi elites gradually lost political influence, contributing to long-standing grievances within northern Yemen.

In the 1980s and 1990s, a revivalist movement known as Believing Youth (al-Shabab al-Mu'min) developed with the aim of preserving Zaydi religious and cultural identity. This movement later evolved into what became known as the Houthi movement. Initially, the Houthis functioned primarily as a religious and socio-political group, opposing what they perceived as the marginalization of Zaydi communities and the growing influence of Saudi-backed Salafi ideology in Yemen.

Key figures in the movement included Hussein Badreddin al-Houthi, son of prominent Zaydi scholar Badruddin al-Houthi. Hussein al-Houthi emerged as a vocal critic of the Yemeni government and was killed in 2004 during clashes with state forces. Leadership subsequently passed to his brother, Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, under whom the movement became more centralized and organized. While rooted in Zaydi Shiism, the Houthis later developed political and military structures that extended beyond a purely religious framework.

### 3.7 2015 as a Turning Point in the Yemen Conflict

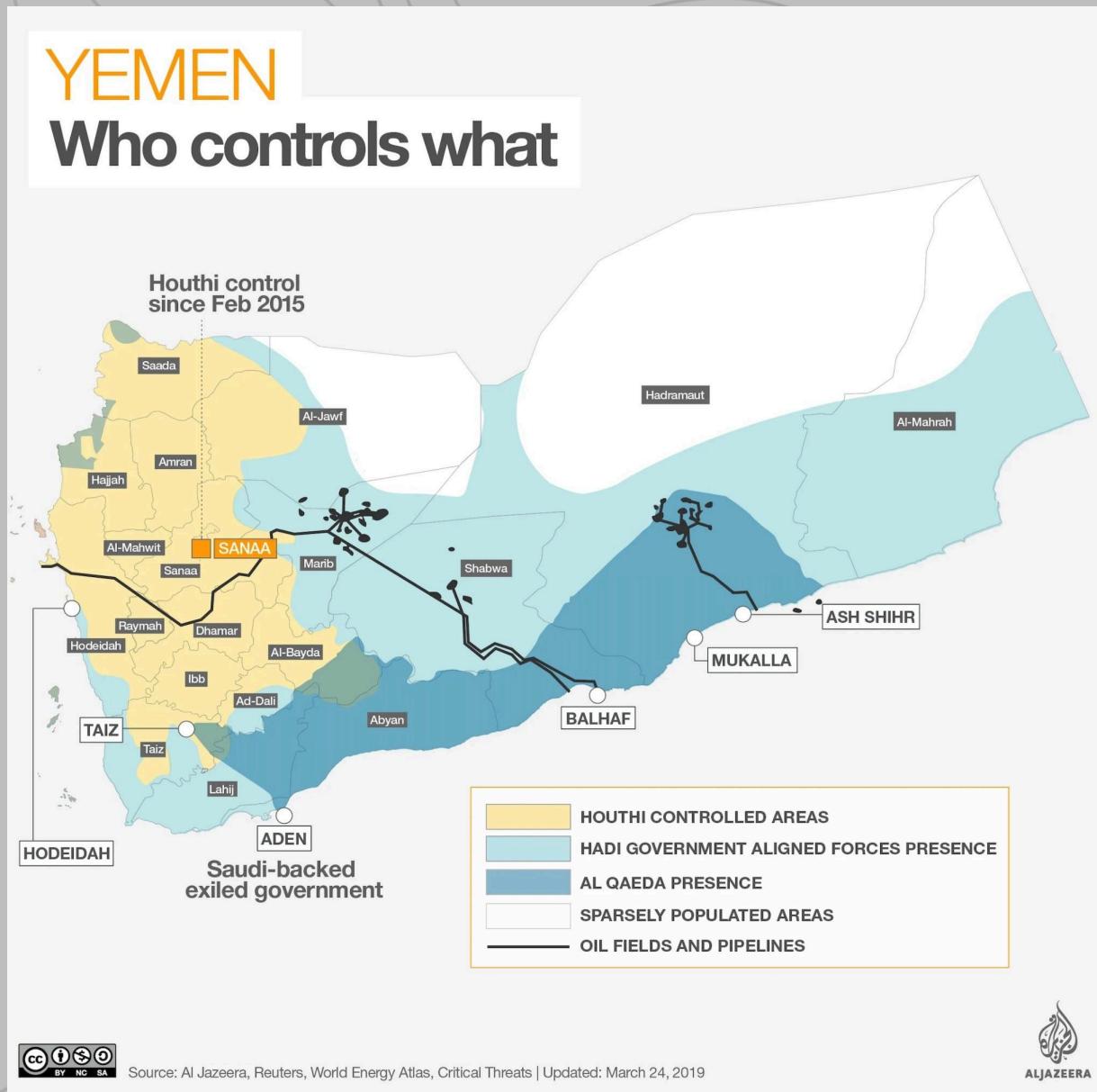


In September 2014, Houthi forces took control of the capital, Sana'a, leading to the collapse of the political transition process. President Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi fled the country, and Yemen entered a new phase of instability. On 26 March 2015, a Saudi Arabia-led coalition launched a military intervention aimed at restoring the internationally recognized government. The operation, known as Operation Decisive Storm, initially relied on extensive airstrikes and a naval blockade, followed by ground operations under Operation Restoring Hope.

The intervention marked a decisive turning point by transforming Yemen's internal conflict into a regional and international crisis. The war increasingly reflected broader geopolitical rivalries, particularly between Saudi Arabia and Iran, with Yemen becoming a key arena of proxy competition. The conflict resulted in widespread civilian casualties, severe damage to infrastructure, and the rapid deterioration of humanitarian conditions. According to conflict monitoring data, thousands of civilians were killed in coalition operations between 2015 and 2023, and millions were displaced.

As a result, the 2015 intervention elevated the Yemen conflict from a domestic power struggle to a strategic issue with regional and global implications, directly affecting security dynamics in the Red Sea region and beyond.

#### 4. Current Situation



#### 4.1 Yemen and Immediate Developments

The conflict in Yemen remains unresolved and continues to threaten regional and international security. Despite ongoing diplomatic efforts, no long-term political agreement has been reached, and existing **ceasefire** arrangements remain fragile. In recent months, tensions have increased in southern Yemen. Forces linked to the Southern Transitional Council (STC), with support from the United Arab Emirates, have expanded their control in areas such as Aden and Hadramaut. These developments have raised concerns about renewed

fighting inside Yemen and further division of authority. They have also increased **geopolitical rivalries**, especially involving Saudi Arabia and other regional actors.

The humanitarian and security situation has also worsened. Houthi authorities have detained a growing number of United Nations staff and humanitarian workers. These actions have been strongly criticized by the international community and have directly affected the delivery of humanitarian aid. The continued detention of UN personnel has made international operations more difficult and highlights the level of **state fragility** in Yemen, where armed groups are able to exercise control with limited oversight.

The United Nations Security Council has remained actively involved. In 2025, the Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Mission to support the Hudaydah Agreement (UNMHA). This decision reflects ongoing concerns about security conditions around Yemen's Red Sea ports and the continued need for international monitoring to reduce the risk of escalation.

#### **4.2 Maritime Security and Red Sea Dynamics**

Maritime security has become a major international concern. The Red Sea and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait are vital routes for global trade and energy transport. In recent years, Houthi forces have carried out attacks on commercial ships using missiles and drones. These attacks have caused damage to vessels, loss of life, and, in some cases, the sinking of ships. Such incidents clearly show the direct connection between the Yemen conflict and international maritime security.

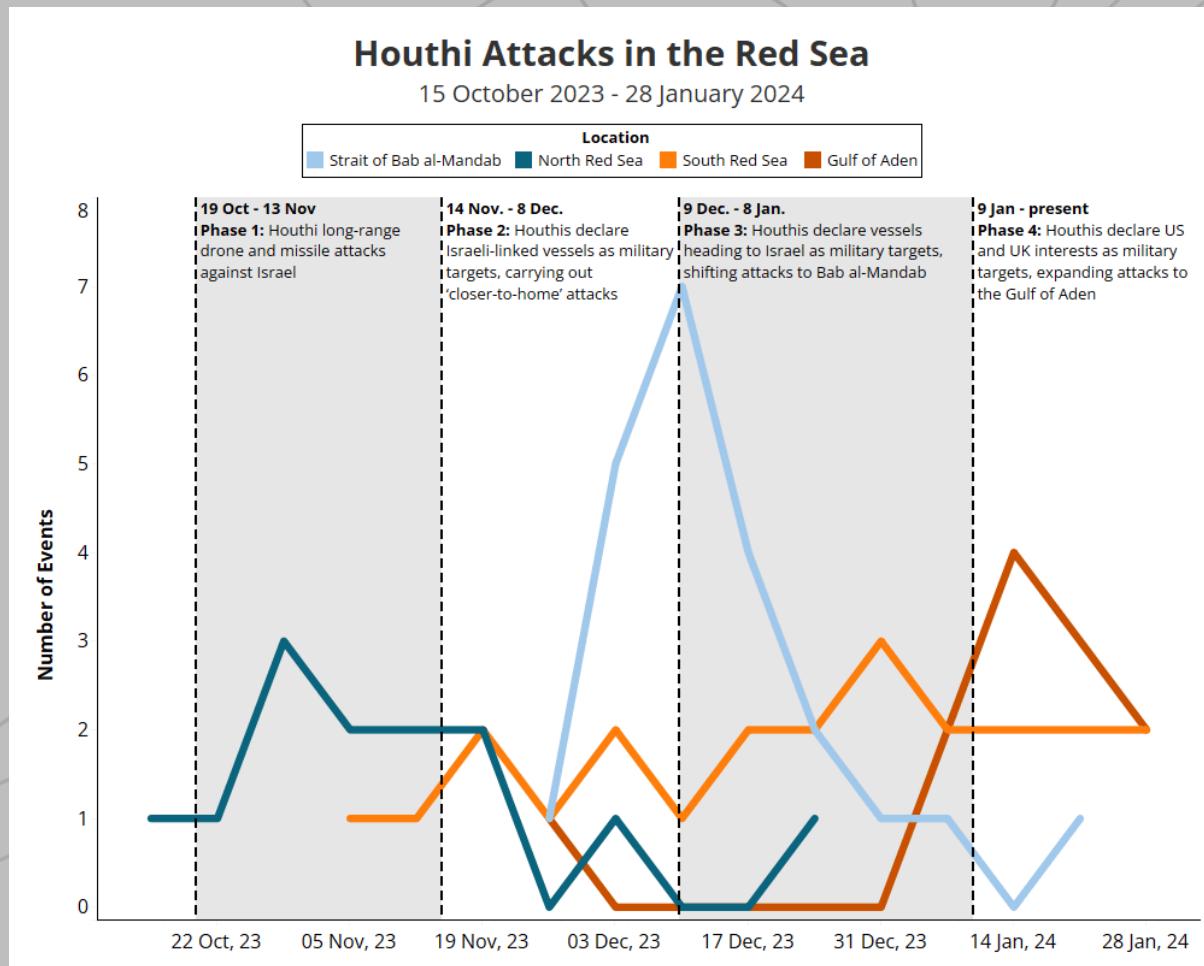
As a result, many shipping companies have changed their routes and avoided the Red Sea, choosing longer routes around the Cape of Good Hope. This has increased travel time, shipping costs, and insurance fees, leading to serious **disruption of global trade**. Although the number of attacks has changed over time, the security situation remains unstable. Even limited incidents continue to affect global markets and international confidence in maritime safety.

#### **4.3 Cross-Regional Implications in the Horn of Africa**

Security developments in Yemen and the Red Sea have also affected the Horn of Africa, creating clear **interregional security threats**. Countries along the western coast of the Red Sea, including Djibouti and Sudan, have experienced economic and security pressure due to reduced shipping activity and changes in trade routes. These effects have added strain to already fragile economies and increased regional security concerns.

At the same time, several parts of the Horn of Africa continue to face internal conflict and governance challenges. Ongoing instability in countries such as Sudan has led to attacks on civilians, humanitarian workers, and UN personnel. These conditions make peacekeeping and aid delivery more difficult. The presence of **Non-State Armed Groups (NSGs)** and continued **arms trafficking** further worsen the situation, allowing local conflicts to spread across borders and into maritime spaces.

Overall, current developments show that security challenges in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa are closely connected. Events in Yemen, especially those affecting maritime routes, have direct effects on regional stability and international trade. These realities place the issue firmly within the mandate of the Security Council and highlight the need for coordinated international action based on **collective security**.



## 5. Major Issues and Risks

### 5.1 Risk of Regional and Cross-Regional Escalation

One of the most serious risks facing the international community is further escalation across the Middle East and the Horn of Africa. Continued instability in both regions increases the chance that conflicts may spread or become harder to control. In the current situation, attacks

by **Non-State Armed Groups (NSGs)**, retaliation by regional states, or accidents at sea could quickly lead to wider conflict. Because of existing **geopolitical rivalries**, small incidents may develop into larger confrontations and increase tensions between states.

Shared maritime areas make this risk even higher. The Red Sea and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait are narrow and heavily used sea routes. Any serious incident involving commercial ships or military forces could rapidly escalate and affect multiple countries. Delegates should understand that even limited actions in these areas can have serious regional consequences and challenge the principle of **collective security**.

## 5.2 Threats to Maritime Security and Global Trade

Another major issue is the continued threat to international maritime security. Attacks on commercial ships in the Red Sea have shown how vulnerable key trade routes are. Future attacks could cause more loss of life, damage to vessels, and environmental harm. Even the risk of attacks has already led shipping companies to change routes and increase security measures.

If such incidents continue, the **disruption of global trade** could become long-term. Higher shipping costs and longer delivery times would affect food supplies, energy markets, and national economies, especially in countries that depend heavily on maritime trade. The involvement of NSGs in these attacks also makes it difficult to assign responsibility and prevent future incidents. This raises questions about whether current international responses are sufficient or if stronger Security Council action, such as **binding resolutions**, may be required.

## 5.3 Humanitarian Access and Civilian Protection

The humanitarian situation remains a serious concern. Continued insecurity limits access for humanitarian organizations and places civilians at greater risk. Detention of UN and humanitarian personnel, attacks on aid facilities, and restrictions by armed actors all reduce the ability to deliver assistance safely and effectively.

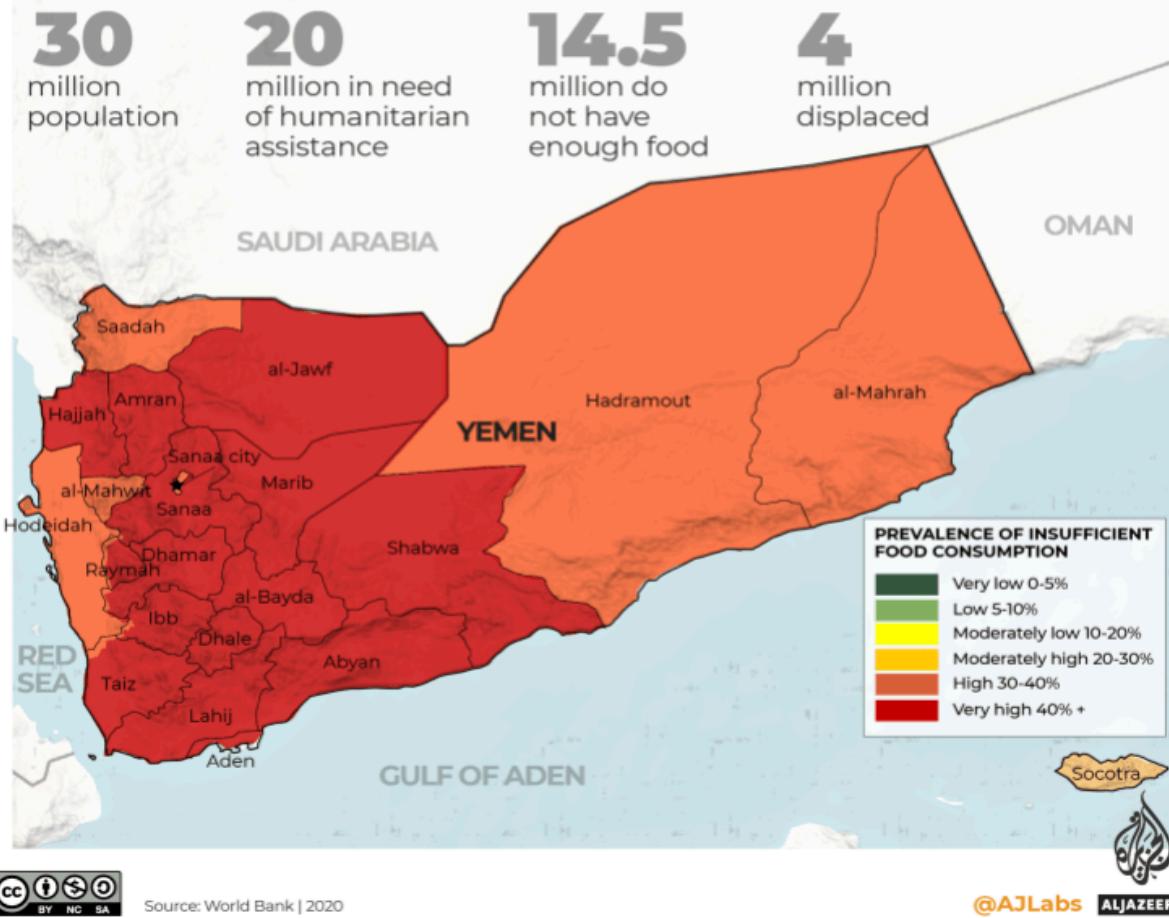
If these conditions continue, humanitarian needs are likely to increase, leading to higher displacement and greater dependence on international aid. For the Security Council, this creates a difficult balance between addressing security threats and protecting civilians. Failure to manage this balance could worsen instability and weaken international efforts to

support affected populations.

## YEMEN

### Humanitarian situation

The UN has estimated the **war has killed 377,000 people** by the end of 2021, both directly and indirectly through hunger and disease. **Children account for 70 percent of deaths.**



## 6. The Role of International Bodies and Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

### 6.1 United Nations Efforts

The United Nations has played a central role in addressing the conflict in Yemen since the outbreak of the civil war in 2014. The UN has primarily focused on mediation, humanitarian assistance, and political dialogue. Several UN Special Envoys for Yemen were appointed to facilitate negotiations between the Yemeni government and the Houthi movement.

Notable initiatives include UN-sponsored peace talks and ceasefire attempts, such as the Stockholm Agreement of 2018, which aimed to reduce hostilities around the strategic port

city of Hudaydah. This agreement was particularly significant due to Hudaydah's role in humanitarian aid delivery and its proximity to the Red Sea shipping lanes. However, implementation remained limited due to mutual distrust and ongoing violations.

## **6.2 Security Council Actions and Limitations**

The UN Security Council has addressed the Yemen conflict through multiple resolutions, emphasizing the importance of Yemen's territorial integrity, the protection of civilians, and freedom of navigation in international waters. The Council imposed targeted sanctions and an arms embargo on Houthi leaders, aiming to limit their military capabilities.

Despite these measures, the Security Council's impact has been constrained by political divisions among its permanent members and the complexity of the conflict. The Houthis' status as a non-state armed group has further complicated enforcement mechanisms, while regional rivalries have limited consensus on stronger collective action.

## **6.3 Regional and Maritime Security Initiatives**

Beyond the UN framework, regional organizations and international coalitions have sought to address the security implications of Houthi activities in the Red Sea and Bab el-Mandeb Strait. Arab League members and Gulf states have engaged diplomatically and militarily in Yemen, viewing the conflict as a threat to regional stability. In response to attacks on commercial shipping, international naval missions and ad hoc maritime security initiatives have been established to protect freedom of navigation. These efforts, while effective in reducing immediate risks to vessels, have largely focused on containment rather than addressing the root causes of the conflict in Yemen and the Horn of Africa.

## **6.4 Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP)**

AQAP is a group operating from Yemen and considered one of the active branches of Al-Qaeda. It exacerbates regional instability through arms smuggling, non-threatening maritime activities, and terrorist attacks, demonstrating its presence in areas where state authority is weak. The conflict in Yemen has expanded AQAP's reach and deepened security risks along the Red Sea-Gulf of Aden line.

## **6.5 Islamic State – Yemen Province (ISIS-Y)**

The Yemen branch of ISIS, while not as powerful as al-Qaeda, increases the complexity of the conflict with attacks that fuel sectarian violence. This structure makes the security

environment more fragile and complicates peace processes by targeting civilians and local actors. Its existence is an indicator of the multi-actor security threat in Yemen.

### **6.6 Iran-Aligned Armed Networks (Proxy Structures)**

In the conflicts in and around Yemen, armed networks that are not directly under state control but are alleged to receive external support play a significant role. These structures transform regional conflicts into part of global power competition through arms transfers, training support, and strategic guidance. This situation transforms the conflict from a local issue into an interregional security problem.

### **6.7 Arms Smuggling and Maritime Trafficking Networks**

One of the most important elements fueling non-state armed actors is the illegal arms smuggling networks operating around the Red Sea and Bab el-Mandeb. These networks use sea trade routes to transfer weapons and ammunition, weakening maritime security and perpetuating conflicts. This poses a serious threat not only to regional but also to global trade.

### **6.8 Abdul-Malik al-Houthi**

Abdul-Malik al-Houthi, as the political and military leader of the Houthi movement, plays a central role in the organization's strategic decisions. Under his leadership, the Houthi movement has transformed from a local armed group into an actor influencing regional maritime security. Al-Houthi's rhetoric and actions have been instrumental in giving the conflict an international dimension. Local Militias and Fragmented Armed Groups

The weakness of the central authority in Yemen has led to the emergence of numerous local militia groups. These groups, by changing alliances or seeking external support from time to time, complicate the resolution of the conflict. The fragmented armed structure is one of the main factors hindering the implementation of ceasefires and the establishment of long-term security arrangements.

## 7. Roles of the Relevant International Organizations

### 7.1 United Nations Security Council (UNSC)



The United Nations Security Council is the primary body responsible for maintaining international peace and security. In the context of Yemen and the Red Sea region, the UNSC has adopted multiple resolutions addressing the Yemen conflict, arms embargoes, humanitarian access, and threats to maritime security. The Council also authorizes peacekeeping missions, sanctions regimes, and facilitates international mediation efforts, although its effectiveness is sometimes limited by political divisions among member states.

### 7.2 International Maritime Organization (IMO)



The International Maritime Organization is responsible for regulating international shipping and ensuring maritime safety and security. Regarding the Red Sea and Bab el-Mandeb Strait, the IMO works to protect freedom of navigation, prevent attacks on commercial vessels, and promote safe shipping practices. It issues guidance to states and shipping companies in response to rising maritime security threats.

### 7.3 World Food Programme (WFP)



The World Food Programme plays a central role in addressing Yemen's humanitarian crisis. As the country faces severe food insecurity, WFP provides emergency food assistance, nutrition support, and logistical aid. Its operations depend heavily on secure maritime routes through the Red Sea, making regional stability critical for humanitarian access.

#### 7.4 International Monetary Fund (IMF) & World Bank



The IMF and World Bank are involved in Yemen primarily through economic assessments, financial support frameworks, and post-conflict recovery planning. While active engagement is limited due to ongoing conflict, these institutions focus on macroeconomic stabilization, reconstruction strategies, and supporting long-term economic reform once political conditions allow.

#### 7.5 Arab League



The Arab League represents regional political coordination among Arab states. In the Yemen conflict, it has largely supported the internationally recognized Yemeni

government and the Saudi-led coalition. The organization plays a diplomatic role by issuing political statements, facilitating coordination among member states, and framing the conflict within regional security concerns.

#### 7.6 African Union (AU)



The African Union is relevant due to the proximity of the conflict to the Horn of Africa and its impact on African coastal states. The AU addresses the spillover effects of Red Sea insecurity, including threats to African trade, migration, and regional stability. It also cooperates with international partners on maritime security

and conflict prevention initiatives affecting the Horn of Africa.

## 8. Positions Of Relevant States

### 8.1 P5 Dynamics and Veto Patterns

In practice, **veto power** is often used along strategic lines. The United States, the United Kingdom, and France frequently align in support of enforcement measures, while the Russian Federation and China often coordinate to block resolutions involving military pressure or intervention. This division has limited the adoption of strong binding resolutions in response to complex interregional security threats.

As a result, successful Security Council action usually focuses on **ceasefires**, humanitarian access, mediation, and **peacekeeping operations**, rather than broad military mandates. Delegates must consider these dynamics when drafting resolutions that aim to maintain international peace and security.

#### United States



The United States views the escalation of the Houthi conflict as a serious threat to international peace, mainly due to repeated attacks on commercial shipping in the Red Sea. These attacks are seen as direct risks to freedom of navigation and global economic stability, especially along key maritime routes linking multiple regions.

Washington considers the Houthis a **non-state armed group (NSG)** and believes the conflict is shaped by wider regional competition and external support. As a result, the United States supports strong Security Council action against weapons transfers and actions that threaten maritime security. It often favors clear condemnation of attacks and practical measures that deter further escalation.

As a **permanent member**, the United States generally supports firm Council responses and enforcement mechanisms. It is unlikely to use its **veto power** against resolutions that protect shipping or international security, but it may block texts that limit its operational freedom or strongly criticize close allies. In committee, the U.S. often takes a leadership role, pushing for concrete actions, clear mandates, and results-oriented resolutions.

## United Kingdom

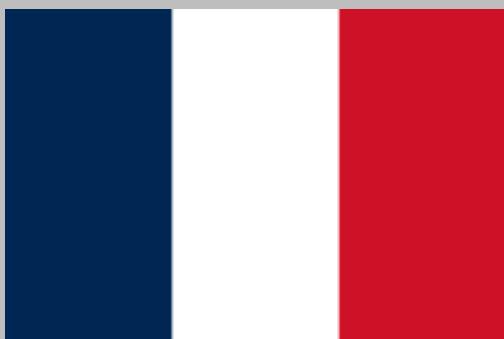


The United Kingdom places strong importance on maritime security and the protection of international trade routes. It sees instability caused by the Houthi conflict as a threat to key shipping lanes connecting Europe, the Middle East, and Africa, with wider economic consequences.

The UK supports Security Council efforts to protect freedom of navigation and reduce illegal arms flows to armed groups. It often promotes balanced approaches that combine security measures with diplomacy, believing that long-term stability cannot be achieved through military means alone.

As a **permanent member**, the UK rarely uses its **veto power** independently and usually coordinates its position with allies. It is unlikely to block well-drafted resolutions but may oppose texts that are legally vague or overly broad. In negotiations, the UK often acts as a mediator, helping bridge gaps between stronger positions and shape compromise language.

## France



France approaches the issue with a focus on long-term stability and strong UN involvement. It views the conflict as closely linked to weak governance and insecurity that could spread beyond Yemen and affect neighboring regions.

France supports political dialogue, humanitarian access, and UN-led efforts to reduce violence and stabilize fragile areas. It often highlights the importance of protecting civilians and addressing the root causes of conflict alongside immediate security concerns.

As one of the **permanent members**, France uses its **veto power** cautiously and prefers consensus within the Council. It is unlikely to veto resolutions that promote diplomacy, UN oversight, and humanitarian principles. In committee, France often supports international coordination and carefully defined security measures under clear Security Council control.

## Russian Federation



The Russian Federation emphasizes state sovereignty and non-intervention as key principles in addressing the conflict. It views the Houthi crisis mainly as a political issue that should be resolved through dialogue rather than military pressure or external involvement.

Russia is skeptical of sanctions and enforcement-heavy measures, arguing that they often deepen tensions and worsen regional divisions. It consistently calls for inclusive political talks and negotiated solutions involving Yemeni actors.

As a **permanent member** with **veto power**, Russia is willing to block resolutions it sees as one-sided or supportive of military escalation. In committee dynamics, Russia often positions itself as a counterbalance to Western-led initiatives, pushing for softer language, political processes, and respect for state consent.

## China



China focuses on regional stability and economic security, particularly the safety of trade and energy routes passing through the Red Sea. Continued insecurity is seen as a risk to global commerce and regional development.

China prefers dialogue and political solutions over military responses. It supports UN-led mediation efforts and encourages restraint from all parties, while generally avoiding strong alignment with any single actor.

As a **permanent member**, China values consensus and uses its **veto power** carefully and selectively. It is unlikely to support resolutions that expand military operations or place strong pressure on one side of the conflict. In committee, China usually supports balanced texts that emphasize stability, dialogue, and gradual de-escalation.

## 8.2. Relevant Regional and Affected States

The following states are directly involved in, influenced by, or significantly affected by cross-regional security threats linking the Middle East and the Horn of Africa. Their positions are shaped by concrete events, regional relationships, security partnerships, and direct exposure to **non-state armed groups**, maritime insecurity, and **geopolitical rivalries**.

### Yemen



Yemen is the central state affected by the conflict and represents one of the most severe cases of **state fragility** on the UNSC agenda. The ongoing war has weakened state institutions, reduced territorial control, and allowed armed actors to gain influence. The escalation of the Houthi conflict has turned Yemen into a focal point for wider regional and maritime security concerns.

From a Security Council perspective, Yemen highlights the limits of military responses and the importance of political solutions. The presence of a powerful **non-state armed group** complicates peace efforts and raises questions about sovereignty and legitimacy. Delegates should recognize that durable stability in Yemen depends on a negotiated settlement supported by international mediation, alongside measures that reduce external interference and humanitarian suffering.

### Saudi Arabia



Saudi Arabia views the Houthi conflict primarily through the lens of national and regional security. Houthi missile and drone attacks are seen as direct threats to Saudi territory, while instability in Yemen increases risks along vital maritime routes near the Red Sea.

In the UNSC, Saudi Arabia supports firm action against external support to the Houthis and emphasizes the need to counter **interregional security threats**. At the same time, it seeks international recognition of its security concerns and prefers resolutions that balance pressure on armed groups with political dialogue. Delegates should expect Saudi Arabia to oppose language that legitimizes the Houthis while supporting Council efforts that strengthen border security and regional stability.

## Iran



Iran is widely viewed as a key external actor influencing the conflict through its support for the Houthis, making the war a clear example of a **proxy war**. Tehran denies direct control but sees the Houthis as part of a broader regional resistance against Western and allied influence.

Within the Security Council context, Iran's role intensifies **geopolitical rivalries** and complicates consensus. Iran is critical of sanctions and military measures, arguing that they increase instability rather than resolve conflicts. Delegates should understand that discussions involving Iran often become highly polarized, with debates focusing on arms transfers, accountability, and the balance between pressure and diplomacy.

## United Arab Emirates



The United Arab Emirates approaches the conflict with a strong focus on maritime security and regional influence. Its involvement has been shaped by concerns over shipping lanes, countering armed groups, and maintaining stability along key trade routes.

In UNSC discussions, the UAE emphasizes the protection of navigation and regional cooperation against security threats. It supports efforts to limit arms flows and reduce threats posed by armed groups near strategic waterways. Delegates should note that the UAE often aligns with partners on security-focused measures while also supporting diplomatic initiatives that reduce long-term risks to regional trade and stability.

## Egypt



Egypt views stability in the Red Sea and surrounding waterways as a core national security interest. Disruptions near the Bab el-Mandeb Strait are seen as direct risks to the Suez Canal, making regional insecurity a serious economic and strategic concern.

In the Security Council, Egypt emphasizes the protection of maritime routes and the prevention of conflict spillover from Yemen into North Africa. It generally supports coordinated international efforts that reduce threats to trade while remaining cautious about actions that could escalate tensions. Delegates should note that Egypt favors strong regional cooperation and prefers solutions that balance security measures with political stability.

### Somalia



Somalia is directly affected by **interregional security threats** due to its proximity to Yemen and its own experience with prolonged **state fragility**. Instability across the Gulf of Aden increases risks related to arms smuggling, militant activity, and maritime insecurity.

From a UNSC perspective, Somalia highlights how conflicts can reinforce each other across regions.

The government supports international assistance and UN involvement, including **peacekeeping operations**, to strengthen institutions and control borders. Delegates should understand that Somalia favors measures that reduce cross-border threats while supporting long-term state-building efforts.

### Ethiopia



Ethiopia views regional instability as a threat to the broader Horn of Africa, particularly due to refugee flows and the risk of conflict spreading across borders. While not directly involved in the Houthi conflict, Ethiopia is affected by its regional consequences.

In the Security Council, Ethiopia emphasizes respect for sovereignty and political solutions to conflicts. It supports diplomatic efforts that prevent escalation and reduce humanitarian impacts. Delegates should expect Ethiopia to favor **preventive diplomacy** and caution against international actions that could destabilize already fragile regions.

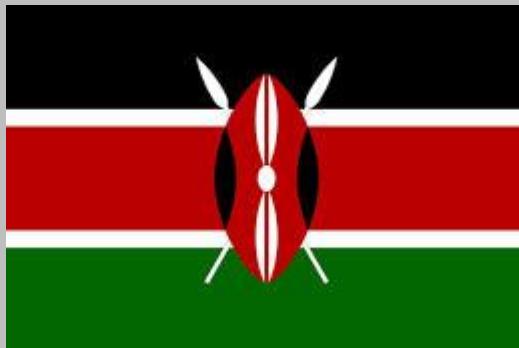
## Djibouti



Djibouti holds major strategic importance due to its location at the entrance of the Red Sea and its role as a hub for international military presence. Any insecurity linked to the Houthi conflict is seen as a direct threat to its economic and security interests.

Within the UNSC framework, Djibouti supports strong international coordination to protect maritime security and trade routes. It favors practical measures that address threats near critical chokepoints while supporting collective action. Delegates should note that Djibouti often frames the issue in terms of shared responsibility and **collective security**.

## Kenya



Kenya is concerned about the indirect effects of regional instability, including trade disruptions and increased security risks in East Africa. Insecurity in the Red Sea and Horn of Africa affects Kenya's economic connections and regional partnerships.

In Security Council discussions, Kenya generally supports multilateral approaches and UN-led solutions. It emphasizes diplomacy, regional cooperation, and early action to prevent escalation. Delegates should recognize Kenya's focus on stability through dialogue and coordinated international responses rather than coercive measures.

## 9. Further Reading

### 1. International Maritime Organization (IMO) Resource

International Maritime Organization. Maritime security and piracy-related threats. This page outlines current maritime security risks, including attacks on commercial shipping, and explains how international cooperation is used to protect key global trade routes such as the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

<https://www.imo.org/en/ourwork/security/pages/default.aspx>

## **2. Council on Foreign Relations – Global Conflict Tracker**

Council on Foreign Relations. War in Yemen. This source tracks major developments in the Yemen conflict and explains how Houthi actions, proxy involvement, and regional rivalries contribute to instability and the disruption of international peace and security.

<https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/war-yemen>

## **3. UK House of Commons Library Research Briefing**

House of Commons Library. Yemen: Conflict, regional implications, and UK policy considerations. This briefing analyzes Yemen's internal divisions and the regional consequences of the conflict, including maritime insecurity and its impact on international trade and diplomacy.

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-10427/>

## **4. International Crisis Group Visual Explainer**

International Crisis Group. The Red Sea crisis explained. This visual explainer focuses on Houthi attacks in the Red Sea and explains how these actions link the Yemen conflict to global shipping disruptions and broader interregional security threats.

<https://www.crisisgroup.org/visual-explainers/red-sea/>

## **5. Strategy International Policy Analysis**

Strategy International. Security dynamics in the Middle East and Horn of Africa. This publication examines how conflicts in the Middle East interact with instability in the Horn of Africa, highlighting arms trafficking, state fragility, and risks to collective security.

<https://strategyinternational.org/2025/11/03/publication216/>

## **6. United States Department of Defense Article**

U.S. Department of Defense. Generals discuss security challenges in Africa and the Middle East. This article outlines how military leaders view interconnected threats across the Middle East and Africa, including non-state armed groups and threats to maritime security.

<https://www.war.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/2966818/generals-discuss-security-challenges-in-africa-middle-east/>

## 10. Challenges to Be Addressed

- **Security Council Deadlock and Veto Power:** One of the most important challenges facing the Security Council is the frequent use, or threat, of **veto power** by Permanent Members. Because any P5 member can block a **binding resolution**, disagreements between them often prevent the Council from taking strong and unified action. These disagreements are usually linked to **geopolitical rivalries** and different views on the use of force. As a result, the Security Council may respond slowly or fail to respond at all to urgent interregional security threats, including maritime insecurity in the Red Sea.
- **Actions of Non-State Armed Groups:** The actions of the Houthis, as a **non-state armed group (NSG)**, create serious challenges for international peace and security. Since they do not represent a recognized state authority, it is difficult to hold them accountable under international law. Their attacks on commercial vessels in the Red Sea show how NSGs can cause major security risks, disrupt global trade, and increase regional instability without direct conflict between states.
- **Maritime Security and Protection of Trade Routes:** Protecting key maritime routes such as the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden remains a major concern. These waterways are essential for global trade, energy supplies, and food shipments. Although international naval patrols and cooperation efforts exist, attacks on ships continue to occur. This leads to higher insurance costs, delays in shipping, and increased economic pressure on states, while also raising the risk of military escalation at sea.
- **Risk of Regional Escalation and Proxy Conflict:** The conflict in Yemen is closely connected to wider **proxy war** dynamics in the Middle East. External actors supporting different sides risk turning a national conflict into a broader regional crisis. If the conflict expands, it could increase instability in neighboring countries and affect the Horn of Africa, further worsening interregional security threats and making peaceful solutions more difficult.
- **State Fragility and Limited Governance:** Ongoing **state fragility** in Yemen and parts of the Horn of Africa limits the success of long-term peace efforts. Weak government institutions, lack of control over territory, and ongoing humanitarian crises reduce the ability of states to enforce agreements or prevent violence. These conditions also make it easier for arms trafficking and illegal activities to continue, fueling further conflict.

- **Balancing Security Measures and Humanitarian Needs:** Another major challenge is balancing security actions with humanitarian concerns. Measures such as naval operations, sanctions, or military responses may improve security in the short term, but they can also worsen the humanitarian situation if not carefully managed. The Security Council must ensure that responses protect civilians, support humanitarian access, and encourage **ceasefires** and **preventive diplomacy** rather than increasing suffering.

## 11. Questions to Be Covered:

1. How can the Security Council overcome political deadlock and the misuse of veto power in order to respond effectively to urgent interregional security threats, such as maritime insecurity in the Red Sea?
2. What legal, political, and operational tools can the United Nations use to hold non-state armed groups like the Houthis accountable while respecting international law and state sovereignty?
3. What role should international naval coalitions and UN-mandated maritime security operations play in protecting critical trade routes in the Red Sea, Bab el-Mandeb Strait, and the Gulf of Aden?
4. How can maritime security measures be strengthened without increasing the risk of military escalation or direct confrontation between regional and extra-regional powers?
5. In what ways can the Security Council address the risk of regional spillover and proxy conflicts linked to the Yemen crisis, particularly their impact on the Horn of Africa and Middle Eastern security?
6. How can fragile states with limited governance capacity, such as Yemen and parts of the Horn of Africa, be supported to prevent arms trafficking, illegal activities, and the expansion of non-state armed groups?
7. What balance should be struck between security-focused responses (sanctions, military operations, naval patrols) and humanitarian priorities, including the protection of civilians and access to aid?

8. How can the Security Council ensure that measures aimed at protecting global trade and energy routes do not worsen existing humanitarian crises or violate international humanitarian law?
9. What role can preventive diplomacy, mediation, and confidence-building measures play in reducing tensions in the Red Sea and surrounding regions?
10. How can international and regional organizations cooperate more effectively to provide a coordinated response to interregional maritime and security threats?

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