



Iowa High School Model United Nations
Security Council
Guidelines in dealing with peacebuilding regions
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Background

Before discussing guidelines for peacebuilding regions, it is important to define peacebuilding. United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghail explains how peacebuilding “would encourage more deliberate links among various actors of the UN system, help develop an effective division of labor among their respective forms of assistance – humanitarian, social and economic, as well as political and military – and attend especially to their interrelationship over time” (Cousens, Kumar, and Wermester, 2001, pg. 2). Yet, the United Nations actively recognizes that several definitions exist for peacebuilding (United Nations: *Peacebuilding Resources*).

There have been several examinations of peacebuilding efforts. Cousens et al. (2001) looks at the failures and success of several large peacebuilding efforts, including those in El Salvador, Cambodia, and more. Moreover, Reychler and Paffenholz (2001) provide a detailed guide for peacebuilding fieldworkers. The guide describes the role of fieldworkers in peacebuilding and, in part, illuminates their role in distributing aid in the regions (Reychler and Paffenholz, 2001). Others note that the peacebuilding strategy used by a region is defining of the level of peace achieved and the interactions occurring between regions (Miller, 2005).

Furthermore, evidence suggests that a country's level of democracy influences the success of peacebuilding efforts (Lebovi, 2004). Others suggest that the food security of a country's people is vital in peacebuilding, as hunger is a major conflict generator (United States Institute of Peace).

What Has Been Done/Past U.N. Actions

There has been a significant amount of action taken on peacebuilding within the UN. In 2005 the General Assembly and the Security Council established The Peacebuilding Commission (United Nations: *Documentation*). The Commission has completed a lot since its creation, including work in 2011 with peacebuilding efforts in the Central African Republic (General Assembly. *Central African Republic Configuration*). The Secretary-General has reported on several peacebuilding issues, such as women's participation in peacebuilding and peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (2009, 2010) (United Nations: *Documentation*). Recently a resolution titled “Strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to manage and sustain peacekeeping operations” was brought before the general assembly (United Nations: *Documentation*).

Possible Solutions

The committee will have the challenge of first distinguishing the most important past work of the UN in regards to peacebuilding. This would be most effectively achieved by carefully reviewing the resolutions and reports covering peacebuilding, especially those covered by the Peacebuilding Commission. The committee should use the conclusions from their review of

this information to establish a base. From this base, the committee can begin to establish a set of guidelines for dealing with peacebuilding regions. These guidelines should clearly address the factors impacting peacebuilding relations, including poverty and war.

Questions to Consider

- 1.) *What governmental system is present in your country?*
- 2.) *Is your country a peacebuilding region?*
- 3.) *Does your country or has your country in the past benefited from the work of a peacebuilding region?*
- 4.) *What is the economic status of your country?*
- 5.) *Does your country believe the United Nations should develop official guidelines for dealing peacebuilding regions? Why or Why not?*
- 6.) *What are the most important factors affecting peacebuilding regions? How should these factors be addressed?*

Consulted/Recommended Sources

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