



| STUDY GUIDE UNSC

United Nations Security Council

Conflict in Papua New Guinea and its impact on international security



INDEX

- 1. Letter from the Secretary General**
- 2. Introduction to the committee**
- 3. Introduction to the topic**
- 4. Historical background**
- 5. Definition of the Problem**
- 6. Key terms & definitions**
- 7. Past actions**
- 8. Case studies**
- 9. Bloc positions**
- 10. QARMA'S**
- 11. Position paper guidelines**
- 12. Bibliography**



LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL



1. Letter from the Secretariat

Dear delegates and faculty advisors of PUCP MUN 2025,

It is an honor to address you as the Secretary-General of the 14th edition of PUCP MUN 2025. Over the past seven years of participating in Model United Nations, taking on various roles and engaging at both national and international levels, I have had the privilege of experiencing the transformation these events bring to young people. This experience has given me a unique perspective on MUN: they are one of the most powerful tools for youth education and empowerment, more than we often realize. MUN has changed my life, offering me the chance to enhance my leadership, public speaking, and teamwork skills, as well as gain a deep understanding of international issues. This long but rewarding journey has now led me to the honor of leading the biggest conference in the country, with the primary goal of providing you with a unique and formative experience at all levels.

For this edition, we have managed to bring together more than **1,000 participants** and, through great effort, we have established valuable connections with the United Nations and other international organizations. With the support of **Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú**, this conference is grounded on three fundamental pillars: academic and organizational excellence, decentralization, and the formative experience we offer.

From my perspective, we have identified three key issues that will guide this conference. First, closing educational gaps to provide an accessible space for all students. Second, bringing Model United Nations closer to the real work of the United Nations. And third, placing the human factor at the center of discussions, recognizing that behind every committee and every debate are human lives directly impacted by the issues we address.

I deeply thank the team that has made this edition possible, as well as **PUCP** for its unwavering support. To you, delegates and participants, I assure you that you will experience a journey filled with learning and personal growth during **PUCP MUN 2025**. We eagerly await your participation and hope that you make the most of this opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Micaela Loza Rivera", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Micaela Loza Rivera
Secretary-General of PUCP MUN 2025



COMMITTEE GUIDE

2. Introduction to the Committee

History and Foundation (1945)

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) was established in 1945 with the signing of the Charter of the United Nations in San Francisco, following the end of World War II. Its creation responded to the need to provide the new international system with an executive body with the authority to maintain international peace and security, endowed with the power to make binding decisions for all Member States (United Nations, 2020).

Since its first session, held in London on January 17, 1946, the Council has represented the operational core of collective security, being the only UN body with the capacity to impose sanctions, authorize the use of force, and establish peacekeeping operations. The Council's structure—comprising five permanent members (China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States) and ten non-permanent members elected for two-year terms—was designed to reflect the postwar geopolitical balance and ensure decision-making effectiveness (Hanhimäki, 2015).

Evolution of the Council and Its Functions

Over the decades, the Security Council has evolved from an organ focused on interstate conflicts to a more dynamic forum addressing internal crises, asymmetric threats, and transnational challenges. During the Cold War, its functioning was frequently paralyzed by the use of the veto among the major powers, but since the 1990s, with the end of the bipolar confrontation, the Council has broadened its agenda to include human rights, governance, and peacebuilding (United Nations, 2018).

In this context, peacekeeping operations became one of the Council's most visible instruments. Missions such as those in Namibia (UNTAG, 1989–1990), Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL, 1999–2005), and South Sudan (UNMISS, since 2011) demonstrate the Council's role as a coordinator of international responses to complex crises. Furthermore, the adoption of thematic resolutions—such as on Women, Peace, and Security (Resolution 1325, 2000) or on terrorism and nuclear proliferation—has allowed the Council to adapt its work to the emerging challenges of the 21st century (Luck, 2006).

Essential Functions and Procedures

The Security Council acts in accordance with Chapters VI, VII, and VIII of the UN Charter, which respectively regulate the peaceful settlement of disputes, coercive measures in cases of threats to peace, and cooperation with regional organizations. In operational terms, its main functions include:

- Preventive diplomacy through the dispatch of special missions and support for mediation in latent conflicts.
- Adoption of binding resolutions, which may establish economic sanctions, embargoes, or military mandates.
- Authorization of peacekeeping or peacebuilding operations under United Nations command.
- Coordination of humanitarian assistance and post-conflict reconstruction, in collaboration with UN agencies such as UNDP, UNHCR, or OCHA.

These powers are exercised within the framework of the principles of sovereignty, non-interference, and shared responsibility, seeking to balance international stability with respect for international law (United Nations, 2020).

The Security Council in the 21st Century

In the last two decades, the Council has had to adapt to an increasingly complex global environment characterized by prolonged internal conflicts, transnational terrorism, climate change, and geopolitical tensions. Cases such as Syria, Ukraine, Yemen, Sudan, and various conflicts in the Pacific and Sub-Saharan Africa have tested its responsiveness and political legitimacy.

Likewise, the Council has intensified its work in preventive diplomacy and electoral and post-conflict observation missions, such as in Bougainville (Papua New Guinea), Timor-Leste, and Haiti, where it has cooperated closely with regional organizations to prevent the resurgence of violence (United Nations, 2023).

At present, the UNSC faces debates about institutional reform, representation, and decision-making efficiency. Despite these tensions, it continues to be the principal executive body of the multilateral security system, responsible for coordinating collective action in response to threats to peace, managing humanitarian assistance, and promoting the sustainable consolidation of global peace.

4. Introduction to the Topic

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is an island nation located in the southwestern Pacific, recognized for its extraordinary ethnic and linguistic diversity—more than 800 languages and hundreds of cultural groups coexist within a mountainous and geographically fragmented territory. This diversity, while a distinctive cultural feature, also poses structural challenges for governance, national cohesion, and the delivery of public

services. In this context, the country's economic development has historically depended on the exploitation of natural resources, generating both prosperity and political and social instability (World Bank, 2024).

Primarily, Papua New Guinea possesses vast mineral and energy resources, including copper, gold, silver, oil, and natural gas deposits, as well as abundant forestry, fishing, and agricultural resources. However, the unequal distribution of benefits derived from these sectors has been a recurrent source of social tension. Mining, in particular, has played a central role in shaping the country's most internationally recognized internal conflict: that of Bougainville (1988–1998), linked to the Panguna mine. This conflict, rooted in the tension between economic exploitation, environmental degradation, and community exclusion, evolved into a civil war that claimed the lives of over 15,000 people (Autonomous Bougainville Government, 2001).

The Bougainville Peace Agreement of 2001 established a framework for special autonomy and provided for a referendum to determine the region's political status. In 2019, the referendum was held, with an overwhelming result—97.7% in favor of independence—marking a turning point in the political history of Papua New Guinea (IFES, 2019). However, the process toward full independence has not yet materialized and continues to depend on bilateral negotiations with the central government, generating political uncertainty and potential constitutional frictions (United Nations, 2023).

Beyond Bougainville, intertribal violence and localized conflicts represent a persistent challenge to state stability. In the Highlands, particularly in the provinces of Enga, Hela, and Southern Highlands, clashes between clans over territorial control, resources, or mining compensations have resulted in dozens of deaths and thousands of displacements in recent years. In 2024, the reopening of the Porgera mine reignited disputes among communities and local armed actors, prompting the army's deployment and the imposition of curfews in the region (AP News, 2024; ReliefWeb, 2024). These events highlight the limited capacity of the State to exercise effective control in rural areas and ensure public safety.

The environmental legacy of the Bougainville conflict and mismanaged extractive operations remains a trigger for tension. An independent report published in 2024 by Tetra Tech Coffey, in collaboration with Rio Tinto and the Autonomous Bougainville Government, identified severe health and environmental risks from toxic waste at the Panguna mine, including pollution of the Kawerong-Jaba River, accelerated erosion, and structural hazards at the mining site (Reuters, 2024; IPS News, 2025). These conditions have sparked demands for environmental justice and reparations, reigniting debates on corporate responsibility and state oversight.

Additionally, climate change acts as a threat multiplier. With a predominantly rural population highly dependent on natural resources, Papua New Guinea faces floods, landslides, and the loss of arable land. These phenomena exacerbate food insecurity and competition over resources, intensifying local tensions within a context of institutional weakness (UNDP, 2023). In coastal and low-lying island regions, rising sea levels are forcing internal displacement, generating new humanitarian and governance challenges.

The State of Papua New Guinea also faces structural limitations in its institutional apparatus. Public service coverage in rural areas remains low, with scarce police presence, limited infrastructure, and weak access to formal justice (World Bank, 2018). These conditions allow non-state actors—such as armed tribal groups or private security networks—to exercise de facto control over certain areas, deepening social fragmentation. Corruption, lack of transparency in managing mining revenues, and economic dependence on extractive industries have eroded citizens' trust in institutions (CSIS, 2023).

5. Historical Background

Following independence in 1975, Papua New Guinea (PNG) experienced a series of political and social tensions arising from the unequal distribution of natural resource revenues and the representation of its diverse communities within the state structure. The development model adopted in the decades after independence prioritized the exploitation of extractive resources as the country's main economic engine, which deepened PNG's dependency on mining, oil, and gas. However, this approach produced profound territorial inequalities, particularly between resource-producing regions and the central government (World Bank, 2018).

The most emblematic conflict emerged on the island of Bougainville, where the opening of the Panguna mine, operated by Bougainville Copper Limited in 1972, marked the beginning of a period of intensive exploitation that transformed the region's economic and social fabric. The mine contributed nearly 45% of PNG's export revenues during its peak years (UNDP, 2023). However, local communities reported severe environmental and social impacts: loss of agricultural land, contamination of the Kawerong and Jaba rivers, forced displacements, and lack of fair compensation. This social unrest escalated into protests and eventually armed clashes between residents and government forces (Autonomous Bougainville Government, 2001).

By the late 1980s, the tension culminated in the formation of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA), an armed movement demanding the mine's closure and the island's independence. The conflict, which lasted from 1988 to 1998, became one of the most devastating civil wars in the modern Pacific. It is estimated that between 15,000 and

20,000 people—almost 10% of the island's population—lost their lives, while hundreds of villages were destroyed and essential services collapsed. For nearly a decade, Bougainville was isolated from the rest of the country due to a blockade imposed by the central government (Regan, 2010; IFES, 2019).

The peace process unfolded over several years, with mediation from Pacific nations such as New Zealand, Fiji, the Solomon Islands, and Australia, which facilitated dialogue and verification missions. In 1998, the Ceasefire Agreement was signed, paving the way for the 2001 Bougainville Peace Agreement (BPA), considered a milestone in regional diplomacy. The BPA established three main pillars:

- Decentralization and special autonomy for Bougainville;
- Progressive disarmament of armed factions under international supervision;
- A political roadmap for the holding of a binding referendum on the region's future status (Autonomous Bougainville Government, 2001; United Nations, 2023).

The post-agreement period demonstrated important institutional progress, such as the creation of the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG), the reestablishment of civil administration, and the partial reintegration of basic services. However, the consolidation of peace has faced structural obstacles. Disarmament implementation was incomplete, and residual armed groups still operate outside ABG authority. Likewise, the local economy remains dependent on foreign aid and irregular fiscal transfers from the central government (UNDP, 2023; CSIS, 2023).

The 2019 referendum, supervised by international observers, produced an overwhelming result: 97.7% of voters supported independence. Nevertheless, the subsequent process has been slow and complex. According to the BPA framework, independence is not automatic; it must be negotiated and ratified by Papua New Guinea's National Parliament. To date, negotiations on the transition timeline, sovereign powers, and revenue-sharing mechanisms remain ongoing, generating political uncertainty (IFES, 2019; United Nations, 2023).

This scenario has been further complicated by new sources of tension, such as the ABG's recent proposal to reopen the Panguna mine as a financial base for independence. This plan has reignited debates over environmental risks, toxic waste management, and the rights of affected communities. Recent reports reveal that abandoned mining waste continues to contaminate rivers and soil, potentially triggering socio-environmental conflicts if adequate remediation measures are not implemented (Reuters, 2024; IPS News, 2025).

In summary, the historical background of the Bougainville conflict illustrates how the combination of economic inequality, unsafeguarded resource exploitation, and political

exclusion can lead to prolonged dynamics of violence and fragmentation. This legacy imposes on the United Nations Security Council the task of strengthening preventive diplomacy, supporting the effective implementation of the peace agreement, and promoting a self-determination process that ensures stability, environmental justice, and sustainable development for the communities of Bougainville and Papua New Guinea as a whole.

6. Definition of the Problem

The situation in Papua New Guinea (PNG) presents a multidimensional and structural problem where political, security, socioeconomic, environmental, and geopolitical factors converge. The interaction of these elements has created a scenario of institutional fragility and risk of conflict reactivation, particularly in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville and in the central Highlands.

A) Political-Institutional Dimension

The central political challenge lies in managing the outcome of the 2019 Bougainville referendum within Papua New Guinea's constitutional framework. Although the electoral process was internationally recognized as free and transparent, the absence of a defined legal mechanism for implementing the popular mandate—which yielded 97.7% support for independence—has created uncertainty. The Bougainville Peace Agreement (2001) stipulates that the result must be negotiated and ratified by the National Parliament, but it does not set a timeline or binding mechanism, allowing talks to stall without a clear roadmap (USIP, 2022; United Nations, 2023).

Mutual distrust between the Central Government and the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG) has deepened. Since 2022, discussions over the "Referendum Implementation Agreement" have been partially stalled, with the risk that social frustration could erode the legitimacy of local institutions. In this context, non-state actors and residual armed groups could exploit the political vacuum, reigniting tensions or pursuing unilateral secessionist initiatives.

The Security Council must consider that, without a sustained negotiation process backed by international guarantees, the political transition could lead to a legitimacy crisis, undermining the foundations of the peace agreement and regional stability.

B) Security and Public Order

Intertribal violence in the Highlands and other peripheral regions of PNG constitutes a persistent threat to internal order. These clashes, known as *payback killings*, stem from disputes over land, financial compensations, or inter-clan rivalries, but have grown more

intense due to the proliferation of firearms and the erosion of traditional mediation mechanisms.

Data from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) and ReliefWeb (2024) show a significant rise in violent incidents between 2022 and 2024, with peaks in the provinces of Enga, Hela, and Southern Highlands. Attacks on communities, destruction of basic infrastructure, and internal displacements exceeding 20,000 people have been recorded.

The Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary faces severe operational limitations: personnel shortages, inadequate logistical resources, and accessibility challenges in mountainous rural areas. These weaknesses undermine deterrence and response capacities, fostering impunity. Additionally, the presence of non-state armed actors—sometimes linked to arms trafficking or illegal mining networks—further complicates the security landscape (ReliefWeb, 2024; ABC Pacific, 2025).

The lack of effective state authority in remote zones poses a structural risk of territorial fragmentation, which may escalate beyond the local level if community governance and civil control over security are not reinforced.

C) Socioeconomic and Environmental Dimension

Papua New Guinea's economy relies on an extractive model highly dependent on mining, oil, and natural gas, which has generated macroeconomic growth but also severe local inequalities. The asymmetric distribution of income from resource exploitation has fueled tensions between producing communities and the state, reproducing historical patterns of exclusion (World Bank, 2018; UNDP, 2023).

The Panguna mine case, currently closed but under discussion for possible reopening, epitomizes this problem. Abandoned mining waste continues to pollute rivers and soil, directly affecting the health of nearby communities. Recent reports by Reuters (2024) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2023) warn that Panguna's environmental legacy poses a potential ecological disaster if remediation and compensation plans are not implemented.

Moreover, the expansion of artisanal mining in the Highlands and the launch of extractive projects without adequate prior consultation risk replicating the same conflict patterns. Environmental insecurity—combined with the lack of basic services and economic opportunities—fosters discontent and facilitates recruitment by armed groups or protest movements.

D) Geopolitical Dimension

The Pacific regional context has gained increasing geostrategic significance. External powers such as the United States, Australia, and China have intensified their presence through bilateral defense agreements, infrastructure investments, and technical assistance. In particular, the 2023 PNG–U.S. Defense Cooperation Agreement and recent Chinese investments in energy and port projects have positioned the country at the center of a competition for influence that transcends the national sphere (Lowy Institute, 2024; Reuters, 2024).

While these dynamics can create development opportunities, they also carry risks of internal policy securitization and the instrumentalization of natural resources as strategic assets. The tension between external interests and local priorities could weaken state sovereignty and compromise the implementation of internal agreements such as the Bougainville Peace Agreement. Therefore, the geopolitical dimension of the case requires a coordinated multilateral response aimed at preserving the neutrality of the peace process and ensuring that international cooperation translates into institutional strengthening rather than dependence or strategic rivalry.

Thus, the situation in Papua New Guinea cannot be addressed in a sectoral manner. Its systemic complexity demands an integrated approach that links democratic governance, human security, environmental justice, and preventive diplomacy. The lack of coordinated action could result in setbacks for the Bougainville peace process and regional instability with cross-border implications for the South Pacific.

7. Key terms & definitions

7.1. Self-Determination

The principle of self-determination refers to the right of peoples to freely decide their political status and pursue their economic, social, and cultural development. Recognized in the Charter of the United Nations (Articles 1 and 55) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Article 1), this principle has been historically central to decolonization processes and the consolidation of modern international law.

In the case of Papua New Guinea (PNG), Bougainville's self-determination is the core of the current political debate. The 2019 referendum, in which 97.7% of voters supported independence, reflects a legitimate aspiration for self-government based on cultural identity and a history of economic exclusion. However, the absence of a clear constitutional framework to implement this result generates tensions between international law and the territorial integrity of the state.

The Security Council must analyze this principle not only from its legal dimension but also from its potential impact on regional stability, considering how the Bougainville precedent

might influence other self-determination movements in the Pacific or in regions with similar ethnic tensions (United Nations, 2023; USIP, 2022).

7.2. Securitization

Securitization is the process by which an issue is framed as a threat to national or international security, thereby legitimizing the adoption of extraordinary measures. This concept, developed by the Copenhagen School (Buzan, Wæver, and de Wilde, 1998), helps explain how political, social, or economic issues become matters of “security” that transcend ordinary governance mechanisms.

In PNG, the growing influence of external actors (China, Australia, and the United States), internal disputes over natural resources, and institutional weakness have fostered the securitization of the civil sphere. The 2023 Defense Cooperation Agreement between PNG and the United States, for example, reflects how geopolitical competition in the Pacific can reframe domestic issues such as resource management or local autonomy as matters of strategic security.

The Security Council must consider how excessive securitization of internal conflicts can obstruct dialogue and reconciliation, diverting attention from structural causes toward militarized responses. Poorly managed securitization can exacerbate polarization and weaken trust between communities and authorities (Lowy Institute, 2024; Reuters, 2024).

7.3. Peacebuilding

Peacebuilding encompasses the set of actions aimed at consolidating stability after armed conflict by addressing root causes and strengthening institutional capacities. This approach includes reconciliation, judicial reform, sustainable economic development, and the strengthening of local governance (United Nations, 2023).

In Bougainville, the peacebuilding process initiated after the 2001 Peace Agreement achieved significant progress, such as the partial disarmament of the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) and the creation of the Autonomous Bougainville Government (ABG). However, current challenges—such as social reintegration, residual arms control, lack of economic opportunities, and persistent territorial inequalities—demonstrate that peace remains incomplete and fragile.

The Security Council can play a crucial role by supporting institutional consolidation, transitional justice, and the strengthening of local conflict-resolution mechanisms, in line with the sustainable peace approach promoted by the UN (UNDP, 2023; Peacebuilding Support Office, 2022).

7.4. DDR: Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration

DDR (Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration) refers to the set of measures aimed at transitioning ex-combatants to civilian life and reducing residual armed capacity in post-conflict settings. These processes are essential to preventing the reemergence of violence and strengthening human security.

In the Bougainville context, disarmament and demobilization were central components of the peace agreement but remain incomplete. Various reports by ReliefWeb (2024) and ACLED (2024) indicate the continued presence of weapons among former combatants and local militias, as well as the resurgence of rural conflicts linked to disputes over resources and land.

Socioeconomic reintegration also faces challenges: limited access to employment, education, and public services has generated vulnerability among ex-combatants, especially youth. A renewed DDR approach in PNG should prioritize community reconciliation, sustainable livelihoods, and psychosocial support, avoiding purely military models.

7.5. Local Governance

Local governance refers to the capacity of subnational authorities to manage resources, provide services, and promote citizen participation. It is an essential element for conflict prevention and the legitimization of state power at the community level.

In PNG, geographic conditions—with over 600 islands and more than 800 languages—make it difficult to articulate a centralized political system. In many areas, traditional authority or the *wantok system* (networks of kinship and reciprocity) operates as the main mechanism of social order, sometimes outside the formal state structure.

Additionally, the lack of coordination between the central government and local administrations has limited the effective implementation of public policies and contributed to the exclusion of peripheral communities. In Bougainville, consolidating autonomy requires strengthening local governance through accountability mechanisms, transparent resource management, and community participation (UNDP, 2023; World Bank, 2018).

8. Past actions

Peace Monitoring Group (PMG, 1998–2003)

The Peace Monitoring Group was a non-armed multinational mission composed of Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, and Vanuatu, established in 1998 with the objective of supervising the ceasefire in Bougainville, facilitating the disarmament process, and

building trust among the conflicting parties. This group represented an innovative experience in the Pacific region by prioritizing mediation and civilian observation over military intervention. According to the Australian War Memorial (2003), its presence created the security and stability conditions that made the signing of the Bougainville Peace Agreement possible.

Bougainville Peace Agreement (2001)

The Bougainville Peace Agreement was signed between the Government of Papua New Guinea and Bougainvillean leaders in 2001, establishing a political and legal framework for peace. The agreement includes three fundamental components: disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration of ex-combatants; progressive political autonomy for Bougainville within the State of Papua New Guinea; and the holding of a referendum on the political status of the region, which took place in 2019. According to the United States Institute of Peace (2001), the agreement represented a historic step in national reconciliation, although its implementation has been affected by institutional weaknesses and a lack of trust between the parties.

UN Programs and Multilateral Donors

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), together with the Peacebuilding Fund and the Multi-Partner Trust Fund, has developed initiatives aimed at strengthening local governance, promoting community reconciliation, and rehabilitating basic infrastructure in Bougainville and other affected provinces. These actions seek to address the structural causes of violence, promote social inclusion, and stimulate sustainable economic alternatives. Reports from [MPTF.UNDP.org](https://mptf.un.org) and the United Nations (2023) indicate that these programs have contributed to peace consolidation at both local and regional levels.

Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Involvement

The Pacific Islands Forum has played an important role in maintaining stability in Papua New Guinea and Bougainville by facilitating political dialogue among island leaders and promoting technical cooperation in security, development, and environmental management. Its regional approach has been essential to preventing the internationalization of the conflict and strengthening the diplomatic capacity of island states in managing internal crises.

Humanitarian and Human Rights Response

Various international and local organizations, including Human Rights Watch and several NGOs from Papua New Guinea, have documented human rights violations, forced

displacements, and shortcomings in civilian protection. These organizations have promoted transitional justice programs, psychosocial support for victims, and environmental repair initiatives. Their efforts have helped bring visibility to the social impacts of the conflict and promote a sustainable peace approach grounded in human dignity and accountability.

9. Case Studies

Case Study A: Bougainville and the Panguna Mine

The Bougainville case is a paradigmatic example of how resource management can directly influence a state's political and social stability. The Panguna mine, one of the largest sources of copper and gold in the Pacific, was at the center of the armed conflict that erupted between 1988 and 1998, as tensions over profit distribution, environmental degradation, and local marginalization converged.

Currently, the debate over the possible reopening of the mine presents complex challenges. The main critical factors include royalty management, recognition of land rights, mechanisms for environmental and social remediation, and the effective participation of communities in decision-making. Experts from the UN and USIP warn that any attempt to resume mining operations without a prior process of environmental cleanup, consultation, and informed consent could undermine the progress achieved in peace and reconciliation and reignite tensions between local groups and national authorities.

Case Study B: Highlands (Enga and Porgera) and Intertribal Violence

The provinces of Enga and Porgera in the Papua New Guinea Highlands face a persistent pattern of intertribal violence. Revenge dynamics, locally known as "payback," and disputes over control of royalties from mining activities have resulted in prolonged cycles of violence that severely affect human security and social cohesion.

The state response has been limited due to mountainous geography, lack of infrastructure, and communities' distrust of national security forces. Recent reports from ReliefWeb and ACLED highlight an increase in armed clashes and internal displacements between 2023 and 2024, underscoring the need for disarmament strategies, local mediation, and institutional strengthening to contain the conflict's escalation.

10. Bloc Positions

Regional / Pacific Bloc:

Pacific island states have expressed a clear preference for regional solutions based on mediation, preventive diplomacy, and respect for local autonomy. This bloc emphasizes the need to avoid conflict militarization and promote cooperation through regional mechanisms such as the Pacific Islands Forum, maintaining the region as a zone of peace and dialogue.

Development Bloc / NGOs and Multilateral Organizations:

International cooperation agencies, along with organizations such as UNDP, the European Union, and human rights NGOs, prioritize humanitarian approaches and sustainable development. Their position centers on civilian protection, infrastructure reconstruction, strengthening of local governance, and social inclusion. This bloc advocates for increased funding for the Peacebuilding Fund and for ensuring the participation of local communities and women in reconciliation and post-conflict development processes.

Resource-Oriented / Investment Bloc:

Countries with economic interests in the region and extractive industry companies stress the importance of establishing clear, transparent, and sustainable governance frameworks for resource exploitation. This bloc underlines the need for binding environmental and social standards, as well as equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms to prevent future conflicts. Cooperation with local actors is also seen as essential to ensure that extractive projects contribute to development rather than territorial fragmentation.

Geostrategic Bloc:

Powers with interests in the Pacific view Papua New Guinea as a key point for regional maritime security and strategic projection toward Southeast Asia. From this perspective, the stability of PNG and Bougainville is considered essential to preserve trade routes, prevent external interference, and maintain political balance in the South Pacific. This bloc advocates cooperation on maritime security, conflict prevention, and institutional support for the Papua New Guinea state, aiming to balance geopolitical competition with sustainable development.

11. QARMAs

For delegates who have not previously participated in a Model United Nations debate, the term “QARMAs” refers to “Questions a Resolution Must Answer.” QARMAs are the questions presented by a study guide that must be answered in the resolution adopted by the committee—either through preambulatory clauses recognizing guiding principles or operative clauses offering concrete solutions to each QARMA.

The QARMAs are:

1. What diplomatic and technical instruments can the UNSC deploy to facilitate the implementation of the Bougainville referendum?
2. What environmental remediation mechanisms and community participation conditions are necessary before considering the reopening of mining projects (Panguna)?
3. What DDR and reconciliation programs can be implemented in areas affected by tribal violence?
4. How can a regional early-warning mechanism integrating humanitarian and security data be articulated?
5. What measures can prevent the geopolitical instrumentalization of the conflict by external powers?

12. Position paper guidelines

The Position Paper is the official presentation each delegation submits before the first session of the Security Council. In this document, each Member State outlines its stance on the agenda topic, its analysis of relevant international precedents, and the proposals it intends to promote during the debate.

The document should be structured into three main paragraphs: The first paragraph describes the topic's relevance to the represented State's foreign policy and security interests, as well as its general position on the issue. The second paragraph outlines measures adopted by the international community related to the topic, including Security Council resolutions, peace missions, or other mechanisms, and indicates the delegation's position or participation in those actions. Finally, the third paragraph presents the concrete proposals the delegation will advocate in committee, considering the Security Council's instruments and the applicable framework of international law.

Please, make sure to cite every source that you use in your Position Paper, if not, it will be considered a copy. This must be sent to: positionpaperspucpmun@gmail.com.

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CERRANDO BRECHAS

