

Briefing Paper: Conflict & Food Crisis in Sudan

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
Topic Background.....	4
Current Humanitarian Situation.....	4
International Response.....	4
Relevant International Instruments.....	4
UN Charter (1945).....	4
Geneva Conventions (1949).....	4
Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (1998).....	4
UN Security Council Resolutions:.....	4
Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).....	5
Responsibility to Protect (R2P).....	5
The Core Debate.....	5
Further Research.....	6
Draft Resolution.....	7

Introduction

Welcome to the Security Council simulation of Semester 2.

In this conference, you will represent both permanent and elected members of the Security Council in addressing the urgent conflict and food crisis in Sudan, one of the most complex challenges facing the international community today. Millions are experiencing acute food insecurity while ongoing hostilities have destabilised the region and strained neighbouring states. Delegates are tasked with examining how sovereignty, humanitarian access, regional stability, and international accountability intersect in shaping the international response to this crisis.

The debate will centre on the careful drafting and amending of a Security Council resolution – a process that embodies the very essence of diplomatic negotiation. Each preambulatory and operative clause provides an opportunity for states to articulate their national priorities, whether by emphasising sovereignty, humanitarian relief, accountability, or regional security. The vocabulary chosen – whether a clause “demands,” “urges,” or “encourages,” action – is not merely semantic but shapes the balance of power and influence within the resolution. Delegates are therefore expected to approach the text critically, advancing their country’s position through precise language while also seeking common ground to achieve a balanced and workable outcome.

This briefing provides a foundation for your research prior to the conference. It is not exhaustive – it remains your responsibility to investigate your country’s unique perspective and policies on Sudan to develop strong arguments, propose amendments, and engage in Council proceedings.

Success in this simulation lies not in securing unilateral victories but in building coalitions and crafting text that commands broad support

With care,
Sunday Blanchard
Vice President (Model UN) and Conference Chair

Topic Background

Sudan has long been marked by cycles of civil war, political instability, and humanitarian crises. Following the ousting of President Omar al-Bashir in 2019, hopes for democratic transition faltered when tensions erupted between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in April 2023. Both groups had previously shared power but fell into open conflict over control of Sudan's political and economic future. The conflict has devastated infrastructure, displaced millions, and crippled agricultural production.

Current Humanitarian Situation

Food insecurity: According to UN agencies, Sudan is on the brink of famine, with millions facing acute food insecurity (IPC Phases 4 and 5). Markets are disrupted, farms abandoned, and supply chains destroyed.

Displacement: Over 10 million people are internally displaced or refugees in neighbouring countries such as Chad, South Sudan, and Egypt, creating regional instability.

Humanitarian Access: Aid convoys face obstruction by armed groups, restrictions by authorities, and insecurity along transport corridors. Humanitarian workers have been killed or targeted.

Regional Spillover: Border insecurity, arms flows, and refugee influxes risk destabilising Sudan's fragile neighbours.

International Response

The UN, African Union (AU), and Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) have attempted to mediate ceasefires, but violations are frequent. Humanitarian agencies like the WFP and FAO warn of catastrophic consequences if aid access does not improve.

Relevant International Instruments

UN Charter (1945)

Article 2(7) stresses sovereignty and non-interference, often cited by states wary of intervention. Chapter VII allows the Security Council to act when there is a "threat to pac."

Geneva Conventions (1949)

Relevant to accountability for war crimes, crimes against humanity, or deliberate starvation tactics.

Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (1998)

Relevant to accountability for war crimes, crimes against humanity, or deliberate starvation tactics.

UN Security Council Resolutions:

Passed resolutions on Sudan/Darfur (e.g., Res.1593 referring Darfur to the ICC, Res. 1706 authorising peacekeeping) provide precedent.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Particularly Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), which frame the crisis within global development commitments.

Responsibility to Protect (R2P)

Through politically sensitive, this principle underlines the international community's duty to act when states fail to protect their populations

The Core Debate

Rather than a QARMA, you will utilise your diplomacy skills, guided by these key questions, to structure your debate and give you a sense of the flow.

1. Should the Council prioritize sovereignty or humanitarian access?
2. Is it appropriate to consider sanctions, arms embargos, o referrals to the ICC?
3. How can the UNSC balance immediate relief with long-term stabilisation?
4. What roles should regional actors (AU, IGAD, neighbouring states) play compared to international agencies?

Further Research

Every delegate is expected to perform further research on the topic – it doesn't have to be excessive, but you should be able to reasonably roleplay your country, such that everyone enters the conference with approximately the same “status quo” of global politics in mind. Remember that you will also be *negotiating* on this topic, which requires delegates to arrive with some level of specific knowledge.

Delegates should understand their nation's:

- **National policy and legal status**
- **Global and regional trends**
- **Relevant international frameworks and legal instruments**
- **Adaption and Resilience Planning**

Research will usually begin with a simple Google and/or Wikipedia search to get a general overview of the subject. Delegates can then use this information to perform more targeted searches or further investigate promising sources. Model UN gives delegates a fair amount of flexibility to extrapolate and infer their country's policies from general knowledge. If it is difficult to find your country's stance on a particular issue, you might make an educated guess using their foreign policy regarding the issue in general, or another similar problem.

Resources for Model UN preparation in general are available online through a simple search. **It is particularly useful to understand what language is used to frame non-binding clauses, and to read a Security Council resolution to get a hang of the format.** It may also be useful to read over existing bilateral or multilateral agreements to get a hang of their “typical” format, but this is not nearly as formulaic.

The elected conference day should consist of reasonable, mostly realistic, and respectful debate. For this to be an enjoyable, informative and satisfactory experience for everyone involved, I would like to stress that personal bias should not factor into the debate – nor impact the final resolution.

We recommend delegates bring a laptop for document processing and on-the-spot research (NOT inclusive of ChatGPT), and a notepad and pen for note passing. Other materials are permitted, if desired.

If this is your first Model UN conference, don't be afraid! Speaking time is *requested*, not mandatory, and the rules are easy enough to pick up as you go. If you have some idea of your country's position, you'll be just fine ☺

If you have any questions, feel free to contact: modelun@uqunsa.com

See you at the conference!

Draft Resolution

Draft Resolution S/2025/[2787] : The Conflict & Food Crisis in Sudan

**Proposed for consideration of the Security Council at its 3980th meeting,
held at the University of Queensland on the 7 September**

The Security Council,

Recalling its previous resolutions on Sudan and the situation in Darfur, including those concerning humanitarian access and the protection of civilians,

Recognizing the severe humanitarian crisis in Sudan, particularly the food insecurity affecting millions due to conflict, displacement, and disruption of agricultural production,

Nothing with concern reports by the World Food programme (WFP), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and other UN agencies on famine risk levels in Sudan,

Deeply concerned by the ongoing armed conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF), as well as the spillover effects on neighbouring states,

Acknowledging the importance of regional actors, including the African Union (AU) and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), in facilitating peace efforts,

Stressing the principles of sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity of Sudan,

Recognising the role of international humanitarian law and the responsibility of all parties to endure the protection of civilians, particularly women, children, and displaced persons,

Emphasising the urgent need to ensure safe, unhindered and sustained humanitarian access to all regions of Sudan

Alarmed by reports of deliberate obstruction of aid, targeting of humanitarian workers, and destruction of food infrastructure,

Recalling that food insecurity is both a humanitarian and security issue, with potential to destabilise the wider region,

Welcoming the contributions of neighbouring states hosting Sudanese refugees while mindful of the pressures placed on their own populations and resources,

Taking note of proposals for ceasefire agreements and peace negotiations mediated by regional and international partners,

The Security Council:

1. Demands an immediate cessation of hostiles by all parties in Sudan and urges engagement in inclusive political dialogue facilitated by the AU and the IGAD.
2. Calls upon all parties to ensure full, safe, and unhindered humanitarian access, including the removal of bureaucratic and logistical barriers;
3. Requests the Security-General to provide regular reports on the humanitarian situation, including levels of food insecurity and displacement;
4. Encourages the WFP, FAO, and humanitarian partners to scale up emergency food assistance while also investing in long-term resilience and agricultural recovery;
5. Urges Member States to provide additional funding and logistical support to humanitarian agencies responding to the crisis;
6. Stresses the obligation of all parties to respect international humanitarian law and protect civilians, humanitarian workers, and critical infrastructure;
7. Calls for the establishment of humanitarian corridors, in coordination with neighbouring states, to facilitate the safe delivery of food and medical supplies;
8. Encourages regional cooperation to prevent arms flows into Sudan that exacerbate the conflict and undermine humanitarian efforts;
9. Requests that sanctions be considered against individuals or entities responsible for obstructing humanitarian aid or committing violations of international humanitarian law;
10. Emphasises the importance of international support for Sudanese-led peacebuilding initiatives, reconciliation, and state capacity-building once hostiles cease;
11. Calls upon neighbouring states and the international community to continue supporting Sudanese refugees and displaced persons with adequate resources;
12. Decides to remain seized of the matter.