



Montessori Model United Nations (MMUN 2010) Security Council Background Guide

Honorable Delegates:

On behalf of the secretariat and staff of the Montessori 2010 Model United Nations, we are pleased to welcome you to the Security Council. We applaud your decision and commitment to participate in such an exciting challenge and lifetime experience.

As delegates of the Security Council, there lies before you an opportunity to challenge yourself in multiple capacities. From committing yourself to substantive research, to effectively communicating ideas in the committee and working alongside fellow delegates, the success of our committee is dependent upon your willingness to really become an Ambassador in the U.N. Security Council and extend your research beyond the topics in the agenda. The topics to be discussed in our agenda include: Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the situation in the Middle East including the question of Palestine. I congratulate your efforts and dedication and we certainly look forward to meeting each of you.

See you in New York!

Montessori Model United Nations Secretariat 2010

The Birth of the United Nations

The first half of the 20th century is remembered as a period of change and turmoil. After the First World War many people believed that it was necessary to create a world organization capable of keeping peace and preventing the horrors of war. The League of Nations was founded immediately, consisting of 42 countries, 58 at its largest point. Its goal was to preserve peace by solving international conflicts peacefully and promoting cooperation between nations in economic and international affairs. However, the Second World War unfolded and proved that the League had not accomplished its goal.

In 1944 representatives of China, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Russian Federation (In that moment USSR) meeting at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, DC, prepared a blueprint for a new and stronger international organization. Towards the end of the war, representatives of 51 countries gathered in San Francisco in 1945 to prepare the final text that would lay the foundations of



international cooperation. Most of the ideals and structure of this new organization were the same as the League's. The difference was that now, the organization had the support of the most powerful countries of the world. The UN came to exist officially when the Charter of the United Nations was supported by the five permanent members of the Security Council (the United States, the United Kingdom, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, China, and France) and a majority of all other signatories on October 24, 1945.

The purpose of the United Nations is to bring all nations of the world together to work for peace and development, based on the principles of justice, human dignity and the well being of all people. It affords the opportunity for countries to balance global interdependence and national interests while addressing international problems. Currently, 192 countries are United Nations Member States. Representatives from these nations meet in the General Assembly, which is the closest event to a world parliament. Each country, large or small, rich or poor, has a single vote.

The United Nations Today

The United Nations is an international organization committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards, and human rights. Due to its unique international character, and the powers vested in its founding Charter, the Organization can take action on a wide range of issues, and provide a forum for its 192 Member States to express their views, through the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and other bodies and committees.



The work of the United Nations reaches every corner of the globe. Although best known for peacekeeping, peacebuilding, conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance, there are many other ways the United Nations and its System affect our lives and make the world a better place. The Organization also works on: sustainable development, environment and refugees protection, disaster relief, counter terrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation, promoting democracy, human rights, governance, economic and social development and international health, clearing landmines, expanding food production, and more, in order to achieve its goals and coordinate efforts for a safer world for this and future generations.

About the Security Council



The Security Council is one of the 6 main bodies of the United Nations. Article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations says that the primary responsibility of the Security Council is to maintain the international peace and security. It is organized to be able to function continuously, and a representative of each of its member states must be present at United Nations Headquarters at all times.

When a complaint concerning a threat to peace is brought before it, the Council's first action is usually to recommend to the parties to try to reach agreement by peaceful means. In some cases, the Council itself undertakes investigation and mediation. It may appoint special representatives or request the Secretary-General to do so. It may set principles for a peaceful settlement. When a dispute leads to fighting, the Council's first concern is to bring it to an end as soon as possible. On many occasions, the Council has issued cease-fire directives which have been instrumental in preventing wider hostilities. It also sends United Nations peace-keeping forces to help reduce tensions in troubled areas and create conditions of calm in which peaceful settlements may be agreed. The Council may decide on enforcement measures, economic sanctions (such as trade embargoes) or collective military action.

A State which is a Member of the United Nations but not of the Security Council may participate, without a vote, in its discussions when the Council considers that that country's interests are affected. Both Members of the United Nations and non-members, if they are parties to a dispute being considered by the Council, are invited to take part, without a vote, in the Council's discussions; the Council sets the conditions for participation by a non-member State.

Under the Charter of the United Nations, the functions and powers of the Security Council are:

- To maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations;
- To investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction;
- To recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement;
- To formulate plans for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments;
- To determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken;
- To call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression;
- To take military action against an aggressor;
- To recommend the admission of new Members;
- To exercise the trusteeship functions of the United Nations in "strategic areas";
- To recommend to the General Assembly the appointment of the Secretary-General and, together with the Assembly, to elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice.



Security Council Member States

There are five (5) Permanent Members and ten (10) Non-Permanent members of the Security Council. The 5 Permanent Members have been part of the Security Council since the creation of the United Nations. The 10 Non – Permanent Members are elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms and not eligible for immediate re-election. The number of Non-Permanent Members was increased from six to ten by an amendment of the Charter which came into force in 1965.











Each Council member has one vote. Decisions on Resolutions require nine votes, including the affirmative votes of **all** five Permanent Members. Only the 5 Permanent Members of the Security Council have the power of "veto". This means if one of these five members casts a negative vote, the decision being considered by the Security Council automatically fails. This is the rule of "Great Power Unanimity".

Under the Charter, all Members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to Governments, only the Security Council has the power to make decisions which Member States are obligated to carry out. The Security Council is the only body of the United Nations which measures have coercive power over states.

Permanent Members

1.  France
2.  United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland
3.  United States of America
4.  People's Republic of China
5.  Russian Federation

Elected, Non-Permanent Members

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6.  Austria | 11.  Libya |
| 7.  Burkina Faso | 12.  Mexico |
| 8.  Costa Rica | 13.  Turkey |
| 9.  Croatia | 14.  Uganda |
| 10.  Japan | 15.  Viet Nam |

Topic 1: Non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

History of the Conflict

Aided by the assistance of the Soviet Union, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (also known as DPRK) constructed a nuclear complex at Yongbyon in the 1960s. In the late 1970s, North Korea expanded these facilities to include an operational natural uranium, graphite-moderated reactor.

In 1977, North Korea agreed to the mentoring of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of its research reactor assembly facility located at Yongbyon. In 1985, the DPRK signed the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). Shortly thereafter, however, North Korea started construction on two gas-graphite reactors in Yongbyon and also started the construction of radiochemical and reprocessing facilities. United States intelligence suspected North Korea was attempting to develop a nuclear weapons program.



In 1990, before the fall of the Soviet Union, the Soviet government announced a halt to the exportation of nuclear equipment and fuel to North Korea. North Korea continues to refuse to sign IAEA inspection agreements until "the United States removes nuclear weapons from South Korea." The United States rejects North Korea's demand, in part because of North Korea's larger conventional forces on the Peninsula. North Korea began a series of demands, including demanding a promise from the United States that it would never attack North Korea, as

preconditions to cooperation. North Korean President continually declined attempts at a diplomatic solution.

At the outset of inspections, North Korea admitted in a report to the IAEA and United Nations to having nuclear material and design information, a fuel rod fabrication plant and storage facility at Yongbyon, a research reactor and critical assembly at the Institute of Nuclear Physics, a sub-critical facility at Kim Il-sung University in Pyongyang, two uranium mines and two centers for uranium concentrate production, a nuclear reactor and a radiochemical laboratory under construction at the Institute of Radiochemistry in Yongbyon, a 50 MW nuclear plant under construction in Yongbyon, a 200 MW plant under construction in Taechon, and three planned 635 MW nuclear reactors. North Korea declared that its radiochemical laboratory was intended for uranium separation research and for plutonium waste management.

When inspections started in 1992, IAEA inspectors found discrepancies between the status of DPRK nuclear programs and DPRK claims in its formal declarations to the IAEA. After comparing physical inspection reports with DPRK declarations, IAEA inspectors suspected that North Korea might possess undeclared plutonium stores. North Korean officials refused IAEA requests to conduct additional inspections to clarify the situation. Inspectors were also specifically blocked from inspecting sites that the North Koreans denied existed but which were known to IAEA inspectors because of intelligence (including spy satellite photographs) supplied by the United States. North Korean representatives subsequently claimed that the photographs—although derived from multiple imaging locations—were fake.



Limited inspections of North Korean nuclear facilities took place for the remainder of 1993 and into 1994. During that time IAEA inspectors concluded that their limited inspections could not provide "meaningful assurance" that North Korea was using its nuclear facilities for peaceful purposes (for

example, for energy generation or authorized research). United States President Bill Clinton stated that North Korea's offer to allow IAEA inspectors access to a portion of its nuclear sites was "inadequate and unacceptable."

In March 1994, North Korea ignored another call by the U.N. Security Council to allow more complete and comprehensive inspections of their nuclear program. Along came 1999 and IAEA officials reported to the United Nations Security Council that "critical parts" of the North Korean reactor at Yongbyon had been unaccounted for since 1994. Missing parts included those needed to control nuclear reactions and/or those that would be needed to construct another nuclear reactor. In 2000, the United Nations Secretariat determined that it would take at least three years to complete verifications that had been pending for nearly a decade. North Korea ignored the United Nations and failed to even discuss a timeframe for resolving outstanding issues at technical meetings in November 2001.

In December 2002, North Korea informed IAEA inspectors that the freeze on nuclear facility use would be lifted. North Korea also announced their intent to remove IAEA seals and disable surveillance cameras. Removal of those seals and the dismantling of IAEA monitoring equipment began in late December 2002 and on December 27, North Korea ordered IAEA inspectors to leave the country. **On January 11, 2003, North Korea announced its withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.** The United States and United Nations continued to insist that North Korea's prior NPT agreement remained binding and enforceable.

In addition, North Korea has started a series of missile tests with the goal of demonstrating that North Korea could build a rocket capable of reaching the western coast of the United States. In 2002 North Korea heightened tensions in the region with a launch of a ballistic missile over Japanese territory.

In February 2003, North Korea announced that its nuclear facilities were fully reactivated. The North Korean program included known sites at Yongbyon, Taechon, Pyongyang. The IAEA announced that North Korea was in breach of its agreements and referred the matter to the United Nations Security Council.

United States officials insisted that they intended to pursue a policy that would put "maximum pressure" on North Korea to "not just freeze its weapons of mass destruction, but begin to dismantle them." Bush administration officials—in referring to the failed unilateral agreement reached between the U.S. and North Korea in 1994—consistently asserted that North Korea froze its plutonium program, it then began a separate uranium enrichment program. The United States maintained that a solution to the crisis needed to come from pressure and influence applied by the "collective weight of the international community, not just from the United States alone." Secretary of State Colin Powell articulated the American position by stating "We can't fall into that trap again of paying them off to stop what they're doing, only to discover that they're doing it again at a later time."

As of May, 2003, IAEA inspectors asserted that they had never been able to verify the completeness and correctness of even the initial report of North Korea with regard to its NPT Safeguards Agreement. Since 1993, the IAEA has maintained that North Korea was in "non-compliance" with its obligations under NPT and inspection agreements to verify the peaceful use of its nuclear materials.

The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)

The Demilitarized Zone is a strip of land between North and South Korea. Even though a demilitarized zone is supposed to be free of military activity, the DMZ is actually the most heavily militarized place on the planet, because both sides use the zone to make sure that their borders are not crossed and they are safe from attack. North and South Korea are separated by land mines, watchtowers, razor wires, tank-traps and heavily armed soldiers. CNN reports that, "On either side of its 151-mile (248 km) length almost two million troops face each other off ready to go to war at a moment's notice."

It is important to understand that while there has been no formal or declared war between North and South Koreans, tension is always high. Over the past 50 years, there have been several gun battles on both sides of the DMZ. Many experts say that if provoked, North Korea could be ready to attack at any time. On a visit in 2003, former President Bill Clinton called the DMZ "the scariest place on earth."

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)

The **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)** was opened for signature in July 1968 and over 189 countries have signed the treaty, including 5 countries that have nuclear weapons: The United States, France, China, the United Kingdom and Russia. Only 4 recognized nations with nuclear weapons have not joined the treaty: North Korea, India, Pakistan, and Israel. The main purpose of the NPT is to stop the spread or distribution of a specific substance. In the case of North Korea, non-proliferation means to stop the production of nuclear weapons.

Nuclear weapons were first used by the United States to bomb Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan to force its surrender in WWII. This was the only time that a nuclear bomb has been used intentionally against another country. Nuclear weapons can kill hundreds of thousands of people, and have lasting effects for many years after the bomb is launched on public health and the environment.



Article 1 of the NPT says that all Nuclear Weapons States must agree **not** to share nuclear military technology with other states. Article 2 says that non-Nuclear Weapons States must agree to not to develop nuclear weapons. Article 2 also asks non-Nuclear States to not seek the technology that will allow them to build nuclear weapons. To see the text of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, go to: <http://www.iaea.org/Publications/Documents/Infcircs/Others/infcirc140.pdf>

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

In 1957, the United Nations set up the [International Atomic Energy Agency \(IAEA\)](http://www.iaea.org/), in order to handle the concern of the development of nuclear technology and energy on an international level. The IAEA has three areas in which it works: **nuclear verification and security**, **nuclear safety**, and **technology transfer**.

It is important to make sure that countries using nuclear technology are using it for the right reasons. The IAEA works to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons. Nuclear verification inspectors visit sites in countries that have signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and that have internationally agreed that their energy sites are being used peacefully. This inspection and process is known as **nuclear verification**. By signing the NPT, countries must allow weapons inspectors from the IAEA to make visits every few years to check up on their promise not to develop nuclear weapons.

The IAEA also helps the international community, and specifically the Security Council, in the **disarmament** of nuclear weapons. Disarmament is when a country reduces the amount of weapons it has. The IAEA Board of Governors reports directly to the Secretary General of the United Nations as well as the Security Council when they are asked to inspect and verify specific countries. The role of the IAEA is very important in handling nuclear issues with North Korea.

For more information about the IAEA and nuclear verification, go to:

<http://www.iaea.org/NewsCenter/Focus/Npt/index.shtml>

The Threat of North Korea and the Question of Nuclear Weapons

The members of the United Nations, especially the Security Council, continue to be very worried with North Korea's unwillingness to work with the United Nations in obeying international law. The main concern of countries like the United States and Japan is the production and distribution of nuclear weapons.

The Six Party Talks

The withdrawal of North Korea from the NPT and the Agreed Framework made the need for a diplomatic approach to solve the problem North Korea's suspected nuclear program very clear. This resulted in the creation of the Six Party Talks. The Six Parties involved in the talks are the Russian Federation, Japan, The United States, The People's Republic of China, South Korea, and North Korea.

2006 and North Korea Weapons Testing

In 2006, the United Nations Security Council became active again in the issue of the Korean peninsula. On July 5th, 2006, news reports and military intelligence from the United States confirmed that North Korea had begun testing **intercontinental missiles**. Reports stated that seven missiles were fired during the test, which violated the Six Party Talk agreements. The Security Council passed Resolution 1695, which condemned North Korea's missile testing and called for North Korea to return to the Six Party Talks. The word "condemn" is the strongest word the Security Council can use in criticizing the actions of a country, and only the Security Council is allowed to use this word in its resolutions. The withdrawal of North Korea from the NPT and the Agreed Framework made the need for a diplomatic approach to solve the problem North Korea's suspected nuclear program very clear. This resulted in the creation of the Six Party Talks. The Six Parties involved in the talks are the Russian Federation, Japan, The United States, The People's Republic of China, South Korea, and North Korea.

Then, on October 9th, 2006, intelligence reported that there had been an explosion underground deep inside North Korea. North Korea announced that it had successfully conducted a test of a nuclear weapon. In response to its nuclear test, the Security Council passed Resolution 1718 against North Korea.



For weeks, the world was very tense; some countries wondered if the United States would answer with a military strike and some others wondered if North Korea would continue to test both missiles and nuclear weapons. After some careful negotiations, China was able to announce on October 31, 2006 that the six party talks would resume. North Korea declared on April 14, 2009 that it would pull out of the six-party talks for ever and that they would resume their nuclear enrichment program. North Korea has also expelled all nuclear inspectors from the country.

Committee Directive

Dear Delegates: The situation of non-proliferation of nuclear weapons in North Korea has constantly required the Security Council's immediate attention and right now is not the exception. Take into consideration the new developments and other political realities of the area. In particular I ask you explore your own solutions to the issue.. Keep in mind your country's interest as well. Please consider the following questions when writing a position paper for your selected country and keep the positions of your countries in mind at the moment of debating these issues:

1. What is the position of your country on the situation on the Korean Peninsula?
2. What is your country's position on the issue of nuclear non-proliferation?
3. Has your country signed the NPT or other international or regional agreements? Use this link to find out : <http://disarmament2.un.org/TreatyStatus.nsf>
4. Does your country have a peaceful nuclear energy program?
5. Does your country allow the IAEA inspectors to verify your nuclear program?
6. What comments did the ambassador of the Security Council from your country make in response to Resolutions 1695 and 1718, if they made any?
7. What has your member-state done to help the UN in its diplomatic efforts to resolve the issue over North Korea's nuclear program?
8. Does your country trade with North Korea?
9. Is your country a Nuclear Weapons State?
10. Is there a possible plan of action that is in line with your country's policy regarding the nuclear situation on the Korean Peninsula?

Additional Resources

1. "Beyond the Agreed Framework: The DPRK's Projected Atomic Bomb Making Capabilities, 2002–09." An Analysis of The Nonproliferation Policy Education Center (NPEC) (December 3, 2002)

<http://www.npec-web.org/projects/fissile2.htm>

2. IAEA Board of Governors, Chairman's Conclusion, Report by the Director General on the implementation of safeguards in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

http://www.nuclearfiles.org/menu/key-issues/nuclear-weapons/issues/proliferation/north-korea/PDFs/chair_conclusion_dprk.pdf

3. "North Korea Nuclear Profile." Center for Nonproliferation Studies.

http://www.nti.org/db/profiles/dprk/nuc/nuc_overview.html

Topic 2: The Situation in the Middle East and the Question of Palestine

"Despite daunting challenges in the Middle East, peace could and must prevail," Robert H. Serry, Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the UN Secretary-General.



History of the Conflict

The **Israeli–Palestinian conflict** is an ongoing dispute that started hundreds of years ago. The key issues of the conflict are border security, water rights, control of Jerusalem, land rights, and legalities concerning refugees. The violence resulting from the conflict has prompted other security and human rights concerns on both sides and internationally.

Many attempts have been made to find a solution establishing 2 states, which would entail the creation of an independent Palestinian state next to an independent Jewish state or next to the State of Israel. The state of Israel was established in 1948. As of 2009, a majority of both Israelis and Palestinians, according to a number of polls, prefer the two-state solution over any other solution as a means of resolving the conflict. The current Israeli government has made repeated requests for continued negotiations without preconditions, but the head of the Palestinian Authority, Mahmoud Abbas, has refused to negotiate unless Israel completely stops all settlement construction and expansion, a demand that Israel wishes to discuss within the negotiations themselves. The United States, France, and the United Nations have called on the Palestinian Authority to resume negotiations with Israel immediately, but these calls have been ignored.

Moreover, a considerable majority of the Jewish people see the Palestinians' demand for an independent state as just, and thinks Israel can agree to the establishment of such a state. A majority of Palestinians and Israelis view the West Bank and Gaza Strip as an acceptable location of the hypothetical Palestinian state in a two-state solution. However, there are significant disagreements over the shape of any final agreement and also regarding the level of credibility each side sees in the other in holding their commitments. A handful of academics advocate a one-state solution, whereby all of Israel, the Gaza Strip, and West Bank would become a bi-national state with equal rights for all.



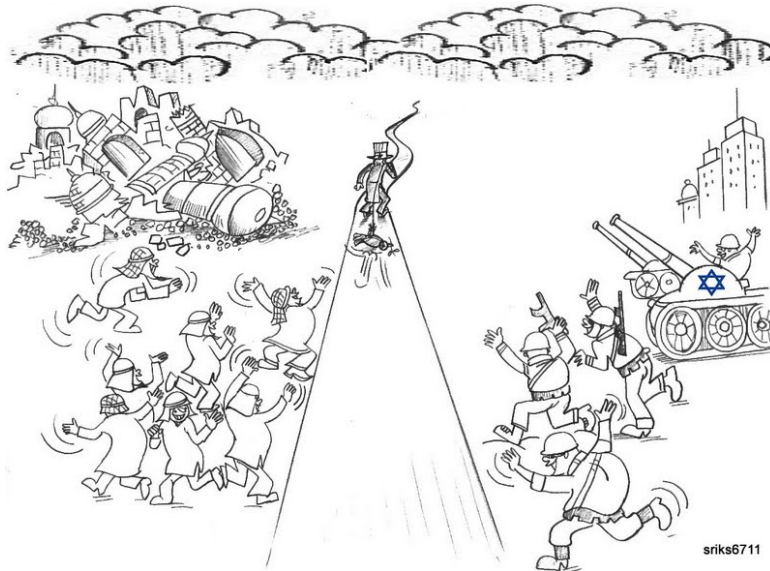
The level of violence from the conflict has been a major concern for the entire duration of the conflict. Fighting has been conducted by regular armies, paramilitary groups, terror cells and individuals. There have been a large number of deaths in the civilian population on both sides.

There are prominent international actors involved in the conflict. The two parties engaged in direct negotiation are the Israeli government and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). Official negotiations are mediated by an international group known as the Quartet on the Middle East

represented by a special envoy that consists of the United States, Russia, the European Union, and the United Nations. The Arab League is another important actor.

Since 2003, the Palestinian side has been fractured by conflict between the two major sides: Fatah (the traditional dominant party) and Hamas later electoral challenger). Following Hamas' seizure of the power in the Gaza Strip in June 2007, the territory controlled by the Palestinian interim government is split between Fatah in the West Bank, and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. The division of governance between the parties has effectively resulted in the collapse of bipartisan governance of the Palestinian National Authority.

Primary Causes of the Conflict



The primary cause for the Arab-Israeli conflict lies in the claim of two national movements on the same land, and particularly the Arab refusal to accept Jewish self-determination in a part of that land. Fundamentalist religious concepts regarding the right of either side to the entire land have played an increasing role, on the Jewish side particularly in the religious settler movement, on the Palestinian side in the Hamas and similar groups. Hamas won the Palestinian elections, and after their breakup with Fatah and their take-over of the Gaza Strip, they remain a dominant force capable of blocking any peace agreement.

The Arab-Israeli conflict is further complicated by preconceptions of the other by both sides. The Israelis see around them mostly undemocratic Arab states with underdeveloped economies, backward cultural and social standards and an aggressive religion inciting to hatred and terrorism.

The Arabs consider the Israelis colonial invaders and conquerors, who are aiming to control the entire Middle East. There is resentment concerning Israeli success and Arab failure, and Israel is viewed as the channel for interference from the United States and Europe in the Middle East.

Since the Oslo peace process however, a broad consensus has been formed that an independent Palestinian Arab state should be established within the areas occupied in 1967. Polls on both sides show that majorities among Israelis and Palestinians accept a two state solution, but Palestinians almost unanimously stick to right of return of the refugees to Israel, and most Israelis oppose a Palestinian capital in East Jerusalem.

Committee Directive

Consider the following questions when researching your country's position towards the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and when writing your Position Papers:

1. Has your country tried to get involved in the conflict?
2. What is your country's position in the conflict? Does it side with Israel or with the Palestinian territories?
3. What is your country's proposal for a possible solution to the conflict?
4. Does your country agree with a one-state solution? Why?
5. Does your country agree with a two-state solution? Why?

Additional Resources:

1. Complete History of the Arab – Israeli Conflict
http://www.israel-palestina.info/arab-israeli_conflict.html
2. Security Council Resolution, January 8, 2009
<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N09/204/32/PDF/N0920432.pdf?OpenElement>