



LASALLECUNMUN

2025

TC

Trusteeship council

“Exploring the Role of the Trusteeship Council in the Resolution of the Israel-Palestine Conflict: Towards an International Administration of the Disputed Territories”

Background Guide





Dear delegates,

We welcome you to LASALLECUNMUN 2025. It is a pleasure to have you here. Every MUN conference is a challenge and I assure you this time won't be the exception. My name is Jorge Emilio Juárez Arraco and I am glad to be the Trusteeship Council president along side the members of the chair Elena Rodriguez Camarillo as your moderator and Leilany Tuz Mijangos as your conference officer. We are excited to have you on this committee and we will give our best to make this conference the greatest you've ever attended.

I'm currently 16 years old and taking second year of high school in Universidad La Salle Cancun, i've been living in Cancun for 10 years now and since i arrived my favorite sport has been sailing, i have practiced sailing for 10 years and in 2022 i win the national championship, i been practicing kitesurfing and other wind related sports for almost all the time that i've been living in Cancun. Believe it or not i have only participated in one MUN as a delegate and it was last year in LASALLECUNMUN and for me it was the best experience that i could have in High School, my committee was the same of this year Trusteeship Council and i was encouraged to join that committee because of my brother, he promised me he would help me out with anything i need, as soon as the process started i liked it very much, my topic was amazing and in the actual MUN I was really prepared, my country was USA and it was really difficult because of the topic we had but I was very prepared and i ended up having the winning resolution and the honorable mention to best position paper, how i liked so much this year i decided to apply for president in Trusteeship Council and since the very beginning of this process our secretary general Dayanna Sandoval has helped me out so much. What I expect, is for all of you delegates to have a sense of commitment, with a great knowledge of the topic, who have special abilities on improvising and who have a great facility when speaking. TC is a vital organ for the UN, that is why if you think you can cover the the expectations and give a significant contribution to the topic, we encourage you to sign up for TC.

This year I expect each of you to get involved and defend your country's position with all your heart and effort. Remember the limits only exist in your imagination. Delegates if you have any doubts, do not hesitate to ask me for further information. Wish you the best of lucks.

Sincerely,

Jorge Emilio Juarez Arraco
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COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

The Trusteeship Council, one of the main organs of the UN, was established to supervise the administration of trust territories as they transitioned from colonies to sovereign nations. The Council suspended its activities in 1994, when Palau, the last of the original 11 trust territories, gained its independence. The main goals of the International Trusteeship System were to promote the advancement of the inhabitants of Trust Territories and their progressive development towards self-government or independence. It is made up of the five permanent members of the Security Council - China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States. The Trusteeship Council is authorized to examine and discuss reports from the Administering Authority on the political, economic, social and educational advancement.

Topic: "Exploring the Role of the Trusteeship Council in the Resolution of the Israel Palestine Conflict: Towards an International Administration of the Disputed Territories"

INTRODUCTION

The Israel-Palestine conflict, one of the longest-standing disputes in modern history, is a multifaceted and highly volatile situation rooted in competing nationalisms, territorial claims, and historical grievances. Despite numerous efforts by the international community to mediate peace, the conflict remains unresolved, with periodic escalations of violence, humanitarian crises, and deep political divisions between the involved parties. Traditional diplomatic efforts, such as the two-state solution and peace agreements mediated by various countries and international organizations, have often been hindered by entrenched positions on both sides, leaving the region in a state of ongoing conflict.

In this context, the revitalization of certain UN mechanisms, including the Trusteeship Council, merits exploration. Although the Council has been inactive since 1994 after the independence of Palau, its original mandate involved overseeing the administration of trust territories and guiding them toward self-governance and independence. Given the unique nature of the Israel-Palestine conflict, some scholars and diplomats have proposed considering the reactivation of the Trusteeship Council to temporarily administer the most disputed territories, such as East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza. This potential approach would provide an international, neutral oversight structure aimed at de-escalating tensions, ensuring the protection of human rights, and laying the groundwork for a more sustainable peace process.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Israel-Palestine conflict traces its origins to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as competing national movements – Jewish Zionism and Arab nationalism – collided in the context of the decline of the Ottoman Empire and the British mandate over Palestine. In 1947, the UN proposed a Partition Plan that would have divided Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem as an international city under UN administration. The Jewish leadership accepted the plan, but the Arab leadership rejected it, leading to the first Arab-Israeli War in 1948 after the establishment of the State of Israel.

The subsequent wars (1956, 1967, 1973) and the ongoing occupation of Palestinian territories by Israel following the 1967 Six-Day War have solidified the division between Israel and the Palestinians. Internationally, the situation has been further complicated by competing narratives and claims over Jerusalem, the borders of Israel, and the status of Palestinian refugees.

Palestinians to self-determination and the inadmissibility of territorial acquisition by force, particularly following the occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem by Israel. Resolutions such as UNSC 242 (1967) and UNSC 338 (1973) have called for Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and a negotiated two-state solution.

The issue remains unresolved, despite multiple peace initiatives, including the Oslo Accords, the Camp David Summit, and the Quartet Roadmap for Peace. The result is a deeply entrenched status quo, where Israel governs the majority of the land and resources, while the Palestinian territories remain fragmented and under varying degrees of control by the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Hamas.

The concept of international administration of the disputed territories of Israel and Palestine is not new. Over the years, several proposals have been made for some form of international oversight, including suggestions for a temporary international administration of Jerusalem or the entire Palestinian territories. The UN Trusteeship Council, despite its dormancy, offers a theoretical mechanism for the international community to play a role in the resolution of this conflict. The possibility of reviving the Trusteeship Council to oversee an international administration of Palestine or Jerusalem has been occasionally discussed in various diplomatic and academic circles.

CURRENT SITUATION

The Israel-Palestine conflict has reached a critical stage since the surprise attacks launched by Hamas on October 7, 2023, which included widespread rocket fire, ground incursions into southern Israel, and the abduction of more than 240 hostages, including Israelis and foreign nationals. Israel responded with an extensive military campaign, primarily targeting Gaza, where airstrikes have caused catastrophic damage to infrastructure and residential areas, killing over 17,000 Palestinians, most of whom were civilians, and displacing more than 1.5 million people. Gaza faces a severe humanitarian crisis, with shortages of food, clean water, electricity, and medical supplies due to the ongoing Israeli blockade. Hospitals are overwhelmed, struggling to treat casualties with limited resources, while aid organizations have described conditions as "catastrophic," urging immediate international intervention to deliver relief. Meanwhile, violence has surged in the West Bank, where Israeli settler attacks on Palestinian villages have intensified, leading to rising casualties and displacement in the area. The situation is further complicated by widespread protests across the Middle East and fears of regional escalation, with Hezbollah in Lebanon and Iran signaling support for Hamas, raising concerns about a broader conflict potentially involving Syria and other neighboring nations. International reactions have been mixed: the United States has reaffirmed Israel's right to self defense, providing military aid while urging "humanitarian pauses" to deliver aid into Gaza. European countries, including France and Germany, have supported Israel but have expressed concern over civilian casualties, with some, like Ireland and Spain, recognizing Palestine as a state in solidarity. Arab nations, including Egypt and Jordan, have condemned the violence and occupation, calling for an end to hostilities and support for Palestinian statehood, while hosting regional summits to de-escalate tensions. The UN has called for an immediate ceasefire, warning that continued fighting risks further destabilizing the region and exacerbating the humanitarian crisis. Allegations of war crimes by both Hamas and Israeli forces are under investigation by the International Criminal Court, as accusations mount over disproportionate force and targeting of civilian infrastructure. The conflict has sparked global protests, polarized public opinion, and intensified international diplomatic challenges, with no clear resolution in sight as hostilities continue to escalate.

COUNTRY BOX

Arab Republic of Egypt

Czech Republic

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Dominion of Canada

Federal Republic of Germany

French Republic

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Hungary

Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

Islamic Republic of Iran

Irish Republic

Italian Republic

Japan

Kingdom of Norway

Kingdom of Spain

Lebanese Republic

People's Republic of China

Republic of Iraq

Republic of Poland

State of Israel

State of Palestine

Syrian Arab Republic

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

United States of America

GUIDE QUESTIONS

- I. How does your country view the potential revival or reactivation of the UN Trusteeship Council in the context of the Israel-Palestine conflict? Does your nation support or oppose the idea of international trusteeship for disputed territories such as the West Bank and Gaza Strip?
- II. What role does your country believe international administration (through a body like the Trusteeship Council) should play in ensuring peace, security, and stability in the region? What alternatives to international administration would your country suggest?
- III. Considering the historical and political complexities of the Israel-Palestine conflict, how does your country propose addressing issues related to sovereignty, self-determination, and the rights of both Israelis and Palestinians in any potential trusteeship arrangement?
- IV. How does your country view the involvement of external actors, such as regional powers and international organizations, in the peace process? What role should these entities play in any international administration proposed for the disputed territories?
- V. What are your country's concerns or priorities regarding the humanitarian, economic, and security implications of placing disputed territories under international administration? How should these concerns be addressed in a comprehensive solution?

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