CLNMUN V

Security Council

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Colegio los Nogales

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Topic A: Humanitarian situation regarding belligerent groups in Somalia

Topic B: Iran - Saudi Arabia Proxy War

Chair:

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1. Welcoming Letter:

Dear delegates,

As your chair, we Marianna Urquijo and Juan Jose Yepes, want to give you a friendly welcome to CLNMUN V. We are joyful to have each one of you in the Security Council committee. This is a challenging committee where each of you will have the opportunity, and, even so, the responsibility, to discuss and further propose possible solutions to global challenges our world is facing. By participating in this committee, in particular, you will be able to understand each of these ongoing problems and reach a new level of understanding pertaining to the urgent need for dialogue and peace in the world. You will be able to communicate each of your perspectives as well, and you will nurture your knowledge by being able to understand the views of the other participating delegates.

We want you to be able to expand your knowledge, comprehend the complexities of the global security situation, and acquire social consciousness. We hope each one of you will understand the importance of commitment, dialogue, diplomacy, and knowledge. We are eager to see the growth of all of you on this unforgettable occasion, which we are sure will be marred by additional wisdom and growth.

Sincerely,
Juan Jose and Marianna

2. Introduction to the Committee:

The Security Council is by far one of the most important committees in the UN. Its primary role is to ensure international peace in a diplomatic way. Thus, it evaluates possible threats to international security and discusses them in a series of debates with 15 representatives of each country (plus the 5 veto countries), to ensure that peace will be restored, achieved, or kept. Your role as delegates is to maintain, with the help of veto countries, equilibrium and stability through the committee, and achieve a peaceful solution that honors Human Rights and helps humanity as a whole.

3. Topic A : Humanitarian situation in Somalia regarding belligerent groups

a. *Historical Context:*

The area we now know as the "African Horn " differs from the rest of Sub-Saharan Africa by its social and ethnic context. Since the late 1600s, the Ajuran Sultanate, of Omani origin, controlled the dry coasts near what is now Mogadishu, which is the current capital of Somalia. Throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, the protectorate of Somalia was established as a colony and institution of the British Empire. This called for a colonial period that is still ironed in the memories of Somali nationals, as overexploitation of the natural resources and local population was a common occurrence during this time.

In 1960, the country gained its independence from the British and Italian forces led by Mohammed Siad Barre, after a treaty that compromised economic stability and social affairs was signed. Through the following 3 decades, the Somali government went through a period of certain political stability, social welfare, and economic growth, at the expense of a dictatorial regime held by Mohammed Siad Barre from October 1969 to 1991. Furthermore, during the same year, the Islamic Courts Union (ICU) were founded in an attempt to use the Sharia Law to quell the growing disorder through morality-based rulings. . Although their base was a religious institution, they happened to appall social matters such as piracy off the Red Sea and Aden Gulf.

Seeing the escalation of the conflict, UN security resolution 733 and UN council resolution 746 in January 1992 led to the creation of the United Nations Operation in Somalia I (UNOSOM I). Its function was to provide humanitarian aid after the fall of the central government. In a desperate means to stop the conflict from transgressing borders, the program took effect after UN resolution 794, on December 2nd, and began to be effective in March 1993 for a period of 2 years. It was then that Mohammed Siad Barre was overthrown by a series of waged clan-based guerilla groups, such as Hawiye, Dir, Darod, Isaaq and most importantly Al Shabaabhe. The country lacked a centralized power, and most of the regions were not effectively administered by the government; which led in

1991 to the self-proclamation of the Republic of Somaliland (in the north) and the autonomy of the region of Puntland in 1998.

The transitional national government (TNG) was established in 2000. In 2004 in Nairobi the transitional federal government (TFG) was formed, the selection of these parliament members happened in June, and over two hundred members took oath in August, in October Abdullahi Yusuf Ahmed was elected president of the parliament, however the TFG broke apart after a brief brawl movement over the deployment of peacemakers in the affected area. In December 2006, Ethiopian troops withdrew on the state of Hirshabelle, to support the decaying TFG, in stopping the efforts of the ICU in southern Somalia, initially winning the battle of Badioa. With their support, Somali forces regained power over the city from the ICU. The intervention helped the TFG solidify its rule upon the Mogadishu, and surrounding areas. On january 1st, the last urban center controlled by the ICU fell, and the remaining leaders flead to Eritrea, subsequently the issues that the ICU had taken care of such as piracy and urban violence grew exponentially from 2008 to 2010. By 2009, local news anchors began to identify a pattern in the war and labeled it as a Proxy war, a concept that gained more force in recent years. The CFR (Council of Foreign Relations) in 2006 labeled the conflict as a Proxy war, and in 2013, mentioned the numerable risks of a broader regional conflict.
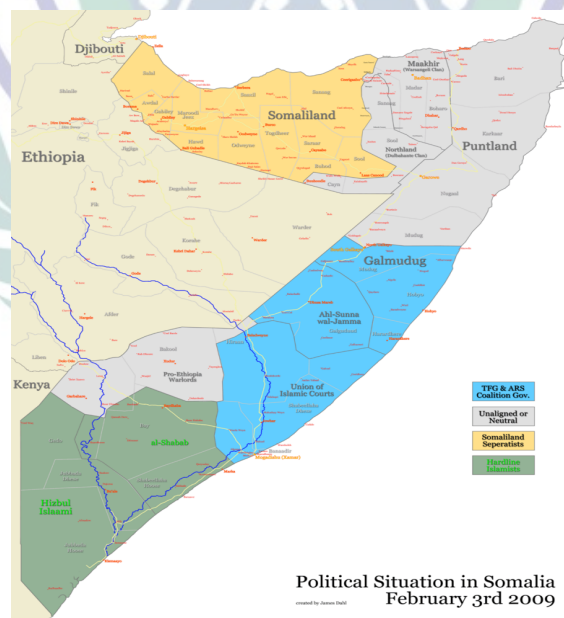

Figure (1.1.1: Political Situation in Somalia after the Ethiopian withdrawal, retrieved from:https://blogs.worldbank.org/developmenttalk/relationship-between-poverty-and-violence-against-civilians-evidence-somalia)

After 2011, the country promulgated a new constitution that with the establishment of a federal government hoped to review the Somali map, open spaces for dialogue, and subsequently helped reactivate the economy, rebuild infrastructure and ensure human rights, on October 2011 following preparatory meetings kenyan troops entered Southern Somalia on operation Linda Nchi, and establish a buffer zone, these troops were integrated into a multinational force on February 2012 . Several third parties have participated in the rebuilding of the nation, nevertheless, the country in 2015 suffered a decayment on its social and political stability, with the intensifying aspect of migrating violence, that recurred in an extension of the rural spontaneous encounters with urban centers such as Mogadishu, this spiral increase was seen throughout the decade. Moreover, belligerent groups have been seen crossing the border of neighboring nations such as Ethiopia and Eritrea, this during a period of intense violence in between the government and the belligerent groups in May 2018, these groups have suspectedly increased tensions with nations alongside the Aden gulf and Red sea.

Social and household income have seen a dramatic recession, impulsed by the exacerbating number of starvation and poverty indexes supported by the enlargement of a drought that has widespread in recent months, the united nations expect that at least 300,000 people (a third of them being infants) will fall into extreme famine by december 2022.
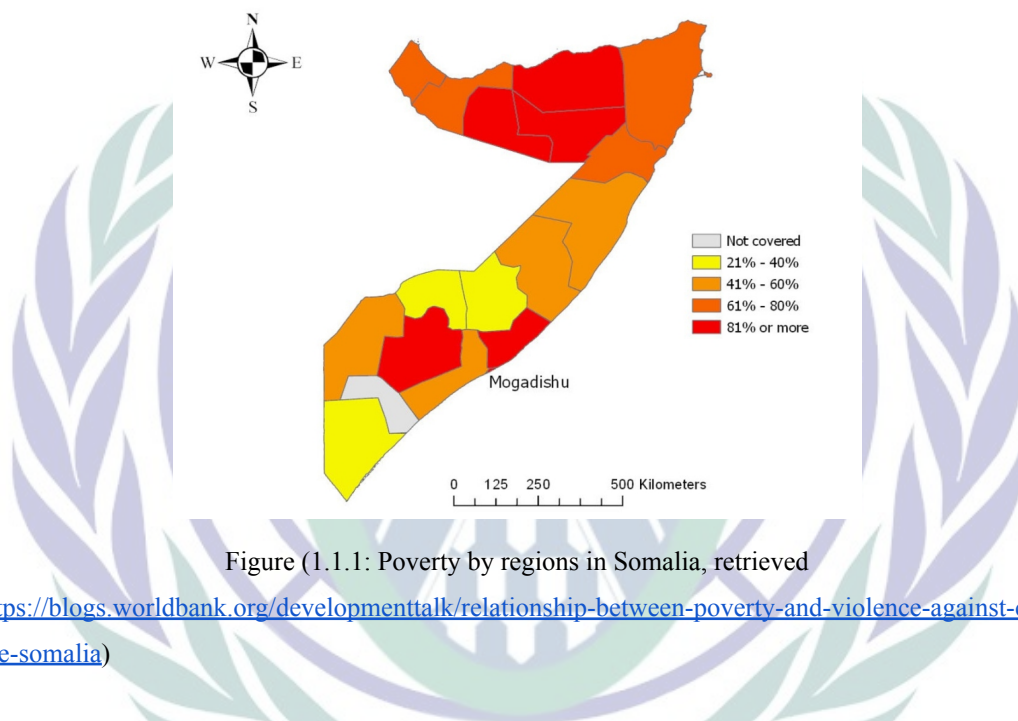
b. *Current Situation:*

After a peaceful transition of power was completed in August 2022, the newly adjusted government's objectives are to finally finish the endangering period of violence, that stills takes advantage of people living as far as 20 a km radius from Mogadishu, along with tackling the monetary poverty of its people, that now sits at 69%.

This does not mean that the country has achieved a peaceful balance, as the conflict could extend to neighboring nations such as Ethiopia, Eritrea, and South Sudan, as several of these belligerent groups have been reported in the near sided borders with Ethiopia, since may 2018. Main reasons for the emergence of these international crises reside in geopolitical aspects of control in the African Horn, along with a delicate situation in between the ethnic groups that inhabit the region due to differences in religious and cultural matters. Importance

of the strategic scenario where the conflict is taking place is due to it being a vital communication channel in between both Asia and Africa. Repercussions of such an extent could mingle with the already delicate situation of other nations across the Aden gulf.

International organizations have cataloged Somalia as a national in "desperate need for change", and the country qualified in 2020, to take part of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries or (HICP), to restore its access to regular concessional financing to launch a process for debt relief, this by clearing arrears with the African Development Bank (AfDB), International Monetary Fund (IMF), and International Development Association (IDA), reducing its external debt from 5.5 billion dollars to 3.2 billion dollars in 2022, equal to 45% of its Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Figure (1.1.1: Poverty by regions in Somalia, retrieved from:https://blogs.worldbank.org/developmenttalk/relationship-between-poverty-and-violence-against-civilians-evidence-somalia)

Poverty has not helped with the democratically needed transition of the country, as the poorest regions have been largely affected by the conflict and state deficient administration has supported the economical damage for long term development, linking the poverty of the people with the, although decreasing, increased amount of child recruitment. The World Bank states that "*This ultimately led (*Referring to violence) *to a decline in consumption and exacerbated poverty and vulnerability. After a terrorist attack, limited food availability and higher prices also disrupt the economy and affect welfare conditions.*" (World Bank, "Relationship between poverty and violence against civilians. Evidence from Somalia").

In spite of the fact that the country has achieved several milestones in areas of social welfare, political stability, and economic growth, it still lacks organization in political

administration, mitigation of violence, and preventing its conflict from interfering with the sovereignty of other bordering nations, which according to several international sources such as the Pulitzer Investigation Center, have escalated into a rapid proxy-war in between Eritrea, Ethiopia and Somalia, mainly due to the Horn of Africa strategic location in between the gulf of Aden and its proximity with the middle east, spreading the conflict to Asia, along with its already ongoing crisis, that could soar to an even more complex and threatening international conflict.

c. Glossary

- Belligerent groups: An entity, social, ethical, or political, that acts in a hostile manner such as engaging in combat.
- Hawiye, Dir, Darod, Isaaq: Four main clans of Somalia, that clash and create belligerent groups.
- Al Shabaab: Largest belligerent group in Somalia
- HIPC: Heavily Indebted Poor Countries.
- AfDB: African Development Bank.
- Somalia Second Inclusive DPO: An initiative that aims to improve social and economic matters by strengthening intergovernmental fiscal relations and transparency.
- AMISOM: African Union Mission in Somalia.
- Mohammed Siad Barre: Dictator of Somalia from 1969 until he was overthrown in 1991, defiant of the Somali Revolution of 1978.
- Somaliland: Autonomous region within Somalia that separated from the rest of the country in the early 1990s.
- ICU: Islamic Union Courts, founded in order to quell the increasing disorder of morality and social issues using the Islamic law (Sharia Law), dissolved in 2007.

d. QARMAS:

- How did Somalia reach such a disadvantageous position within its neighbors?
- What is the social hierarchy in Somalia and how does it affect the partition of the country?
- How has the geopolitical context affected the situation of the conflict?

- Under what circumstances have international powers interfered?

- What was the influence of Colonial powers during the colonial times, and how did it affect the country?

- What residues have been left after the revolution of 1978, and what impact do they inflict in the conflict?

- What are the effects of the precarious situation in Somalia for the international community?

- Does the situation in Somalia represent a true threat to international security or is it just an internal matter foreign to the UN and, thereby the Security Council?

4. Topic B: *Iran - Saudi Arabia Proxy War*

a. *Historical Context:*

In the early 1900s The Arabian Peninsula was under the control of the Ottoman Empire until World War I (1914) when it collapsed. This made the tribes in this zone fight over power. The tribe al-Saud, eventually, conquered most of the peninsula. Later, in 1932 they were recognized as The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Then with the discovery of massive oil reserves in 1938, they became a wealthy nation. This generated advancements in social and economic development around the desert. With the advantage of a wealthy nation and immense oil reserves, the alliance with the United States of America was forged.

It was until 1935 that The Islamic Republic of Iran adopted its current name, previously it was part of one of the largest empires in history, the Persian Empire. Although this was also a wealthy nation in oil, constant foreign invasions created chaos, for instance in the 1800s Iran was invaded twice by the Russians and the British.

The Iranian and Saudi Arabia war has two big faces. On one side the religious identity and on the other a competition for political and military influence on the Middle East. In 1953 Mohammad Mosaddegh, the popular Iranian prime minister, was overthrown by US intelligence. In its place, a monarch rose to power, Reza Shah, who began to aggressively reform Iran. Terror was raised in this country and one of the main reasons to fear this regimen was the presence of the Savak.

In 1979 the Iranian Revolution took place. It was a violent abruption against the government. Martial law even took place and in Tehran, dozens were killed. This demonstration of the Iran people against the government terrified Saudi Arabia. The Sunni monarchy in this country feared the rise of Ayatollah Khomeini, a religious authority in Iran the Shi'a. Khomeini perceived that the al-Saud regime was a puppet of western ideology and accused Saudi Arabia of propagating an anti-Quranic version of Islam.

The success of the revolution in Iran had a huge influence on Saudi Arabia, where many tried to rise against the government. The al-Saud regime blamed Iran for the propagation of revolutionary ideologies that oppose the regime. This generated a big geopolitical tension between both. Also, religious tension took place, as Saudi Arabia had claimed to be the leader of the Muslim world due largely because Mecca and Medina are situated here, two of the largest holy places for this religion.

From 1980 to 1988 Saudi Arabia launched its first proxy war in Iraq with the purpose of hindering the spread of Iranian revolutionary ideas. This was "effective" to the point where the revolutionary ideology weakened.

Later on, in 2003 Iraq became again a scene of a proxy war where the USA intervened in the country overthrowing Saddam Hussein. This event allowed Iraq to explore alliances with Iran, giving birth to a new ally.

Then in 2011, the Arab Spring took place. Each country gave its powers to different groups all around the middle east. The Saudis began supporting Sunni groups and the government while Iran helped Shia groups. In Tunisia, the Saudis supported a dictator while Iranians assisted protests. This support of the Saudis was also reflected in countries like Egypt, Jordan, and Yemen. And, Iran's support was also seen in Bahrain. The more civil wars that emerged in the middle east, the both each country was involved in them. Thus, this context of conflict between these two Arab powers was exacerbated and grew to acquire a more international dimension, thus relating to, not only their individual states, but to regional dynamics.

b. Current Situation:

Currently, there are four ongoing proxy wars in the Middle East. Each of them reflects the political and religious tension that has been growing without stopping between Saudi Arabia and Iran. The Afghanistan War has been ongoing since 1978. The Syrian Civil War began on March 15, 2011, when Iran supported the government, and Saudi Arabia along with the United States supported politically, logistically, and militarily the rebels of the Syrian government. Then the Iraq (2014) and Yemen (2015) Civil Wars. Both states continue to pursue the whole political and religious regimen of the zone. Their antagony of interests generates a climate of tension resulting in indirect confrontation: proxy war. Proxy Wars have caused violence, insecurity, hate, and loss throughout the Middle East. Each of the two countries supports a side and effectively positions itself on the other side of the conflict to counteract the power that the other might have.

Each one of these conflicts has generated a massive humanitarian crisis. The war in Yemen has resulted in mass starvation, cholera outbreaks, child malnutrition, displacement, and the deaths of thousands of civilians. The intervention of countries like the US administering weapons leads to unstoppable chaos and war.
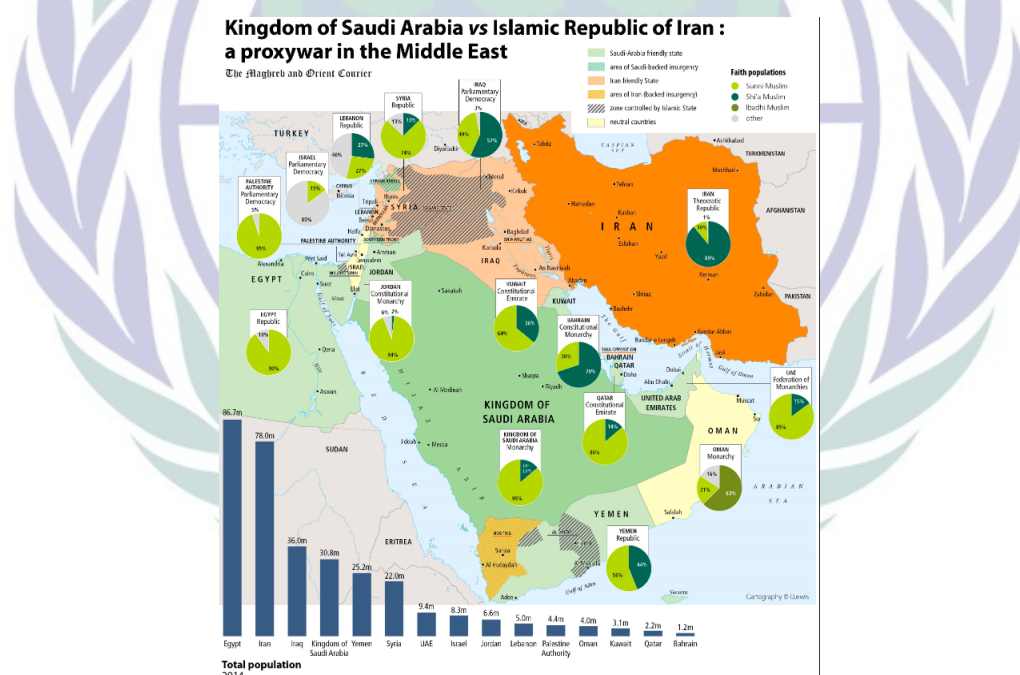

Figure 1: map by french cartographer Emmanuel Pène illustrating the Saudi Arabia and Iran regional alliances. From:https://foreignpolicy.com/2016/01/06/this-map-explains-the-saudi-iran-proxy-war/

This year, in August bilateral conversation in Baghdad took place. There is a desire to normalize conversation to get to a common ground between both states where establishing

diplomatic relations is possible. Negotiations and conversations are a matter of urgency. The persistent war between these two powers has generated a humanitarian crisis in other places like Yemen. That is to say, the issue is of particular relevance to the committee because it concerns not only Saudi Arabia and Iran's security, but it compromises the stability and balance of power of the entire Arab region and has the potential to cause a range of social, economic, and political issues to nations in conflict. So far the Security Council has failed to find a point where negotiation is possible and all these violent acts come to an end.

c. Glossary:

- **Proxy War: "***a war fought between groups or smaller countries that each represent the interests of other larger powers, and may have help and support from these"*.
- **Shah:** Sovereign of Iran
- **Martial Law:** military government, involving the suspension of ordinary law.
- **Savak:** Iran's intelligence and international security agency in 1957 and 1979.
- **Sunni:** *"the larger of the two main branches of Islam, which differs from Shia in its understanding of the Sunnah, its conception of religious leadership, and its acceptance of the first three caliphs"*.
- **Shia:** *"one of the two main branches of Islam, followed by about a tenth of Muslims, especially in Iran, that rejects the first three Sunni caliphs and regards Ali, the fourth caliph, as Muhammad's first true successor"*.

d. QARMAS:

- What are the interests of the U.S. in the Middle East and how much should it be involved in the region?
- How have the economic interests affected the situation of the conflict?
- How effective have international interventions been?
- How is the current humanitarian situation in countries affected by the proxy war?
- Which could be the main agreements that allow a pacific development of events within Saudi Arabia and Iran?
- What is the role of your delegation in regards to this war?

- What is the role of the international community in this conflict and in other, and future, proxy wars?

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