



# WELMUN'23

## *Background Guide*

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Arush Kaintura

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Arush Kaintura

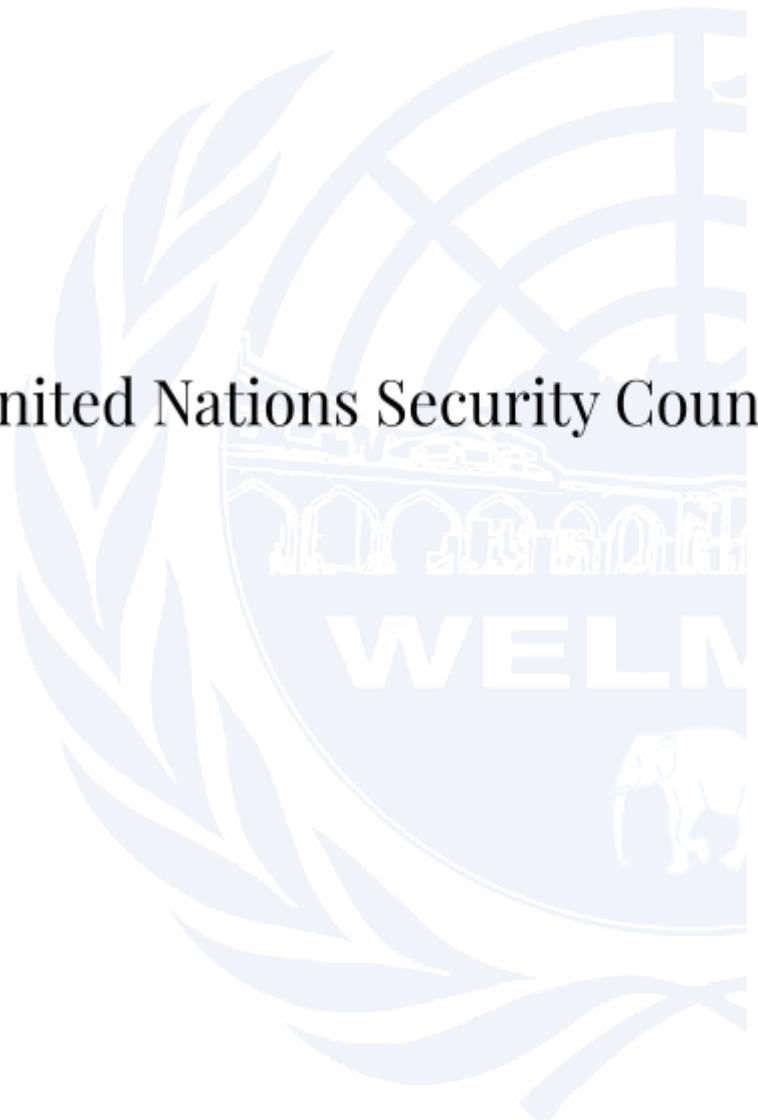
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United Nations Security Council



# Table of Contents

<b>Letter from the executive board</b>	<b>03</b>
<b>Introduction to the Agenda</b>	<b>05</b>
<b>Prelude to the Gulf War</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Economic, Political and Historical Aspects</b></li></ul>	<b>06</b>
<b>Status of Iraq and Kuwait</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Actions taken by the International Community and Bloc Positions</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>What Actually Happened:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Operation Desert Shield</b></li><li>• <b>Operation Desert Storm</b></li><li>• <b>Operation Desert Sabre</b></li></ul>	<b>16</b>
<b>Relevance of the Freeze Date</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Aftermath of Kuwait's Liberation and Notable Events after the freeze date</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Timeline of the Events</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Questions a Resolution must answer</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>Position Paper Policy</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Documentation</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Bibliography</b>	<b>28</b>

## **Letter from the Executive Board**

It gives us immense pleasure to welcome you all to the ninth edition of the Welham Boys' School Model United Nations, 2023. This committee is a simulation of the United Nations Security Council which acts as one of the six main organs of the United Nations. The Security Council is the United Nation's principal crisis-management body. It is empowered to impose binding obligations on the 193 member states and that is why the work done in UNSC is highly important for ensuring international peace and security. The Security Council's resolution is binding for the member states, unlike the other UN organs where the UN can only advise the members. It is also enforced by the UN peacekeeping forces and can deploy them to carry out their resolution.

This guide has been prepared to brief you on the agenda and give you a starting point for your research. However, no delegate should depend solely on the information provided here as we encourage you to study beyond its scope. The agenda for this committee is the ongoing Kuwait crisis at hand and it is of paramount importance that the Security Council implements a proper plan of action to solve the present crisis at hand. Delegates, please note that the freeze date for this committee is 15<sup>th</sup> January 1991 thus all events that have taken place after 15<sup>th</sup> of January will not be considered and hence, any evidence relating to a matter after this date will not be considered credible by the Executive Board.

The Executive Board looks forward to a research-based, debate-oriented and fruitful committee. We expect all delegates to be versed with the basic conflicts and stakeholders in the situation along with knowledge of the intricacies of foreign relations. An acute understanding of foreign policy is of paramount importance. We expect the delegates to be well versed with international laws and the UN Charter, which would help in a better flow of the committee.

Documentation and lobbying would play a major role in the committee. Delegates are not just expected to present information but also indulge in analysis and focus on argumentation. A solution-oriented approach is always appreciated, and delegates must think critically in order to solve real-time issues. At the same time, we do not want first-time MUNers to get intimidated and will try our best to make this a riveting experience for each one of you.

However, delegates, you need to keep this in mind that this committee is set in the past and has been convened to solve the immediate crisis at hand so any decision taken by the Council will be immediately implemented. Thus, the ball lies in your hands, delegates, if you want to prevent the Middle East from being under fire!

We would now like to leave you with our best wishes, and we hope that we all learn something new amidst the fierce competition during this three-day conference. Please feel free to contact the executive regarding any query at [chair.unsc@welhamboys.org](mailto:chair.unsc@welhamboys.org)

Warm Regards  
The Executive Board  
The United Nations Historic Security Council

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Arush Kaintura (Chairperson)	Atharva Agarwal (Vice Chair)	Jossh (Director)	Divij Gupta (Rapporteur)
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## **Introduction to the Agenda**

The Gulf War, which took place from 1990 to 1991, was a major military conflict triggered by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait under the leadership of Saddam Hussein. The international response to this aggression was a 39-nation military coalition that launched a series of operations against Iraq. Led by the United States, these operations were divided into two key phases: Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm.

During Operation Desert Shield, the coalition focused on establishing a formidable defensive posture, including the deployment of ground forces, aircraft, and naval assets. The build-up was substantial, with hundreds of thousands of troops from various countries being stationed in Saudi Arabia, and military ranging from Air, Water and Land. The objective was to create a deterrent effect and demonstrate the coalition's commitment to protecting Kuwait and other Gulf countries from Iraqi aggression. Operation Desert Storm, which started with the aerial bombing campaign against Iraq on January 17, 1991, and ended with the liberation of Kuwait on February 28, 1991.

The coalition's victory served as a deterrent to future acts of aggression in the region, highlighting the consequences of violating international norms. The Gulf war is not only embedded into Iraq's unfaithful intentions, but also various geopolitical and economic aspects that dates back to the Ottoman Empire of pre-World War I, and recent Iran-Iraq Conflict. The delegates also must not ignore the ongoing Cold War between the United States of America and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the recent proxy wars, both sides have propagated for countries to join the first or second world countries.

The Gulf War showcased the effectiveness of multinational coalitions and demonstrated the international community's resolve to uphold the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity. The coalition's success in liberating Kuwait was largely attributed to the coordination and cooperation among the participating nations, as well as the technological superiority of their military capabilities.

## **Prelude to the Gulf War**

On 2 August 1990, Iraq invaded neighbouring Kuwait, and had fully occupied the country within two days. Initially, Iraq ran the occupied territory under a puppet government known as the "Republic of Kuwait" before proceeding with an outright annexation in which Kuwaiti sovereign territory was split, with the "Saddamiyat al-Mitla' District" being carved out of the country's northern portion and the "Kuwait Governorate" covering the rest.

## **Causes that led to the Gulf War**

- **Economic Factors**

### **International Debt**

Iraq owed a total of \$86 Billion in international debt after the Iraq-Iran War. In less than ten years, the country had gone from being a net creditor to a net debtor, with a debt-to-GDP ratio of 278%. Debt service in 1989 was more than half Iraqi oil revenues. In a situation like this, Saddam Hussain saw only one possible solution: Kuwait. Kuwait, a small country to the south of Iraq contained 10% of the World's total oil reserves. Together with Kuwaiti and Iraqi oil fields, Hussain could control upto 20% of the world's total oil reserves.

### **Kuwait's Debt**

Iraq had borrowed a total of \$14 Billion from Kuwait during the Iran-Iraq War. Kuwait's stock market crashed significantly in the late 1980s, especially on 27 October, 1987. With this economic loss, Kuwait demanded its loan back in the late 1980s, after the end of the Iran-Iraq War. Iraq in reply said that its economy was in no condition to be paying back the loans, and even went on to request a pardon of the loan. However, the denial of Kuwait on the pardoning of the loan came to be seen as a hostile act by Iran.

## **Production Of Petroleum**

The Organisation Of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) set a quota for oil production by each member nation. This was done to make the oil prices artificially high, so that they can earn more profit from the trade. However, Iraq and other member nations were in dispute with Kuwait and U.A.E for exceeding their quota and bringing the prices down. This caused a loss of billions of dollars to Iraq. In July 1990, Saddam demanded that Kuwait must limit oil production, or Iraq will take military action. Soon after, Saddam sent 30,000 troops to the Iraq-Kuwait border. Under this military pressure, Kuwait announced on July 26, 1990 that it would limit its oil production. Iraq also accused Kuwait of stealing from its oil reserves by side drilling across the border, in the Rumaila Oil Field. Iraq demanded \$10 Billion in reparations, but Kuwait offered to pay them \$500 Million instead. This led to even more international tension between the two nations.

- **Political Factors**

### **False Interpretation**

There were diplomatic negotiations about Iraq's complaints and prospective actions against Kuwait in the time before the invasion between Iraq and different Western nations. The Iraqi dictatorship argued that the world community, especially the United States, had sent it a muddled message that hinted at some level of tolerance or understanding for Iraq's complaints.

The meeting between Saddam Hussein and April Glaspie, the U.S. ambassador to Iraq, on July 25, 1990, only days before the war, was one crucial incident that helped shape this impression. Saddam Hussein voiced his concerns about Kuwait's purported economic warfare and territorial incursions during the discussion. Even though the conversation's specifics are disputed, it is known that Ambassador Glaspie made it clear that the United States did not have a position on Arab-Arab problems and would not be interfering.

These remarks were regarded by the Iraqi leadership, in especially Saddam Hussein, as an indication that the US would neither oppose or use military force to stop an Iraqi attack towards Kuwait.

## **IRAN-IRAQ WAR**

Iran-Iraq war played a crucial role in the Kuwait crisis and was a major reason for Iraq to commence the subjugation of Kuwait. Here is a brief about the war for a better understanding of the agenda.

On September 22, 1980, Iraqi forces launched air strikes on Iranian air bases, following up with a ground invasion of the oil-producing border region of Khuzestan. The invasion was initially successful, with Iraq capturing the city of Khorramshahr and making other territorial gains by November. But the Iraqi advance soon stalled in the face of a stiff Iranian resistance, powered by the addition of revolutionary militia to the regular armed forces.

On the international forum, Iraq was backed by the USA, Britain, France, Italy, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Kuwait, Palestinian Government and many other nations while on the other the nations in support of Iran were Syria (though it joined Iraq by the end of the war), Libya, Algeria and South Yemen.

In 1981, Iran launched a counteroffensive; by early 1982, they had regained virtually all of the lost territory. By the end of that year, with Iraqi forces withdrawn to pre-war border lines, Iraq attempted to seek peace. Under Khomeini's leadership, Iran refused, insisting on continuing the conflict in an effort to topple Saddam's regime. In July 1982, Iran invaded Iraqi territory in an unsuccessful attempt—the first of many—to gain control of the Iraqi port city of Basra. With Iran now on the offensive, Iraqi defences solidified, and the war settled into a virtual stalemate along a front running roughly along the border. Both sides launched attacks against cities, including their capitals and military sites.

Saddam believed that oil export was Iran's source of income to fund its weapons import. The Iranians responded, starting the Tanker Wars. This led to a loss of billions of dollars for other foreign nations. The result was the American, Russian, French and British warships entering the Persian Gulf to regulate the Global Oil Market. UN involvement led to a ceasefire in August 1988. War officially ended in 1990, when both nations agreed to the terms, which included retrieval of troops from foreign soil and sharing of the Shatt-al-Arab waterway.

The Gulf War served as Iraq's measure and a way to show the political and military strength to the world, and their capability to annex a nation just after being in a

war. This domination was also aimed towards the Arab league, and OPEC nations to prove that Iraq's involvement in world's agendas is significantly important.

## **CIA's Involvement**

Iraq has proven to be a crucible in which US intelligence, and the CIA in particular, was tested over and over again. The operations of the CIA and its sister services in and concerning Iraq have demonstrated their impressive capabilities, but also the limits of their reach. The high points include the detail with which the US intelligence community (USIC) profiled the Iraqi army before and during Operation Desert Storm, in 1991.

The USIC's satellites and technical sensors, combined with the all-source intelligence fusion of CIA and other agency analysts, provided allied forces with a hitherto unprecedented level of insight into the locations, disposition and strength of the opposing forces, the difficulty encountered in disseminating this information down to tactical commanders notwithstanding.

The low points included the long-term weakness in gathering intelligence on, and correctly assessing the nature of, erstwhile Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction programmes.

This was clearly underlined both in the assessments of Saddam's nuclear capabilities in the late 1980s and before the Persian Gulf War, which underestimated the progress and strength of his programme, and a decade later in the intelligence estimates preceding the 2003 Iraq War, which overestimated his capabilities.

- **Historical Factors**

## **Claim Over Territory**

After the invasion of Kuwait, the Iraqi government justified its action by claiming that Kuwait was legitimately part of Iraq (its "19th province"), broken off from Iraq by British colonialism. The Iraqi claim is based on the fact that the Ottoman Empire never relinquished its claim to Kuwait, considering it part of the province of Basra. The League of Nations mandate, which established the state of Iraq, referred to it as being composed of the former Ottoman provinces of Basra, Baghdad and Mosul. Therefore, in Iraq's logic, Kuwait should have been part of Iraq from the outset. Twice before Iraqi governments have raised this claim. In 1938, the Hashemite monarchy asserted the claim, but did not act upon it. In 1961, upon Kuwait's independence from Great Britain, the Iraqi government of Abd

al-Karim Qasim revived the claim, and moved troops toward the border. Great Britain immediately sent troops to defend Kuwait, and a number of Arab states that were opposed to Iraq on other grounds also sent troops to support Kuwaiti independence. Ironically, it was the Ba'thist regime that formally recognized Kuwaiti independence by sending an Iraqi ambassador to the country.

## **Status of Iraq and Kuwait**

### **Iraq's Economic Status**

Change in Iraq came on the back of the 1970s' roaring economy, where output growth had averaged 12 percent a year after the nationalisation of the Iraq Petroleum Company and the rise in oil prices. In 1979, Saddam took over a virtually debt-free economy and \$35 billion in foreign exchange reserves. In 1981, Italy started selling vessels to Iraq worth \$1.8 billion; the Soviet Union supplied arms; Britain signed a trade pact; and French nuclear physicists arrived on the ground to help build a nuclear reactor near Baghdad. Oil exports collapsed by 75%, as export facilities and terminals were destroyed by bombs. Iraq had relied on two oil pipelines—one through Syria, one through Turkey—that quickly dwindled to one: Syria declared support for Iran and cut off access. The Gulf States backed Iraq throughout the war, lending a total of \$40 billion. The U.S. removed Iraq from its list of countries sponsoring terrorism in 1982, making it easier to undertake commerce.

Oil prices halved in 1986 and the oil-reliant Iraqi economy continued its downward spiral. As no agreement was reached, the West ramped up pressure to force a negotiated peace and arms sales to Iraq continued unabashedly in parallel to efforts to contain Iran via sanctions and embargoes. From 1983-93, Iraq received \$2 billion in loans from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Officially, the loans were designated for agricultural imports, but the money was used for weapons—illegally. Iraq emerged from the Iran-Iraq War a country in crisis. In 1990, inflation reached 40% and cash reserves were just enough to cover three months' imports. Despite the economic issues, Saddam was still popular in the country. Kuwait was owed \$14 billion for loans during the war and refused to cancel the debt, leading to strained relations between the two countries in 1989.

### **Iraq's Political Status**

The Iraqi Baath Party was a small, disorganised splinter group of this larger movement. It was made up primarily of violent and ruthless men who were willing to do anything to take control of the Iraqi government. In 1963 the Baath Party succeeded in overthrowing the Iraqi government. Hussein immediately returned to Iraq and claimed his place in the new regime.

The Iraqi military managed to overthrow the Baathists and regain control of the government less than a year later. The military rulers threw Hussein and several other Baath Party leaders in prison. Hussein felt that party leaders had placed too much trust in the Iraqi military to support them. He decided to build his own security force within the party so that the Baathists would not have to depend on the military to regain power. He created a large force that used violence to terrify citizens and remove rival political leaders.

In 1968 the Baath Party again overthrew the Iraqi government and returned to power. Bakr became president of Iraq, and his ambitious younger cousin Hussein became deputy chairman of the party's Revolutionary Command Council. Hussein also served as the head of internal security for the Baathist government. Hussein became the most powerful person in the government. Hussein used brutal acts to inspire loyalty among the Iraqi people and ensure his absolute control of the government. He realised that Iraq faced both external threats from neighbouring countries and internal conflicts among its different ethnic and religious groups. Hussein responded to these tensions by using violence to maintain his hold on power and make himself appear to be a strong leader who could guide the country through its problems.

He planned to make Iraq the most powerful country in the Middle East and himself the recognized leader of the Arab world. He attacked Iran September 1980. When Hussein's troops returned home after the war, he turned them against his own people. The non-Arab Kurds of northern Iraq had spent decades struggling to gain their independence and establish a homeland. Some Kurdish groups had supported Iran during the war. Hussein viewed the Kurds as a group of rebels who posed a threat to his rule. The Iraqi army attacked Kurdish villages with chemical weapons in 1988, killing thousands of people.

### Kuwait's Economic Status

Kuwait has large oil reserves and, owing to its prudent financial policies of the 1970s and 1980s, possesses considerable foreign assets. The economy has a tradition of low inflation, a stable currency, and a liberal external trade and payments system. The oil sector has been diversified in recent years, with an extensive and growing range of downstream activities in Kuwait and other countries.

With the decline in investment income because of the drawdown in foreign assets to finance liberation and reconstruction, the Kuwaiti fiscal system lost its revenue stabiliser. This heightened the country's vulnerability to unfavourable developments in international oil markets. At the same time, with larger current spending on account of wages and salaries and transfers, the expenditure structure became less flexible. The disruptions to financial assets and markets compounded the existing problem of nonperforming loans caused by the crisis of the informal stock market in the 1980s. The authorities face the challenge of decisively reducing moral hazard risk, thereby fully restoring the integrity of the financial markets and ameliorating the intermediation functions.

The change in the composition of expatriate workers triggered a series of transitional challenges. These range from skill mismatching to larger foreign exchange outflows associated with a more transient expatriate population and a larger number of single workers. It has also focused greater attention on the development of the indigenous labour force. With a relatively young population, this challenge has been rendered more urgent by the need to find sustainable employment opportunities for the growing number of nationals joining the labour force.

### Kuwait's Political Status

Tensions in the Persian Gulf began to build during the summer of 1990, with Iraq adopting an increasingly belligerent tone toward both Kuwait and members of its ruling Şabāḥ dynasty. On July 17 Saddam launched a televised verbal attack on Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates for exceeding the oil export quotas that had been set for them by OPEC. A day later Kuwait was accused of stealing oil from the Al-Rumaylah oil field, which straddles the border between Iraq and Kuwait. As criticism mounted, talks between the two countries in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, broke down on August 1. On 2 August 1990, Iraq invaded neighbouring Kuwait, and had fully occupied the country within two days. Initially, Iraq ran the occupied territory under a puppet government known as the "Republic of Kuwait" before proceeding with an outright annexation in which Kuwaiti sovereign territory was split, with the

"Saddamiyat al-Mitla' District" being carved out of the country's northern portion and the "Kuwait Governorate" covering the rest.

On August 4 Iraqi occupation forces appointed Col. Alaa Hussain Ali as head of state of Kuwait. On August 8 the Iraqis installed the Provisional Free Government of Kuwait, a body that was established to give credence to Iraq's dubious claim that the invasion was conducted at the request of Kuwaitis opposed to the Ṣabāḥ dynasty. On August 10 foreign diplomats were given a two-week deadline to close their embassies in Kuwait and move to Baghdad. On August 28 Saddam declared that Kuwait was now the 19th province of Iraq. Place-names were "Iraqized," and the southern Iraqi province of Al-Baṣrah was extended to include the Kuwait side of the Al-Rumaylah oil field as well as the islands of Būbiyān and Al-Warbah at the head of the Shaṭṭ Al-ʿArab waterway.

During the occupation of Kuwait, Iraqi troops began a systematic campaign of pillage, rape, torture, murder, and theft of Kuwait's economic assets. The Iraqi occupation government announced the death penalty for looters but condoned the removal to Baghdad of medical equipment from hospitals, the assets of the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, treasures of Islamic art from the Kuwait National Museum, and \$1.6 billion in gold and cash from the Central Bank of Kuwait. Amnesty International reported that Iraqi soldiers had carried out hundreds of extrajudicial killings and taken several thousand Kuwaiti civilians prisoner. One widely circulated story about Iraqi soldiers removing newborn infants from hospital incubators was eventually debunked as a fabrication, but the truth did not emerge until long after the conflict had been settled.

### **Actions taken by the International Community**

The UN Security Council (UNSC), which unanimously imposed economic penalties against Iraq in Resolution 661, instantly condemned the invasion of Kuwait in Resolution 660, among other places. The American president George H. W. Bush and British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher both sent soldiers and equipment to Saudi Arabia while publicly pleading with other nations to do the same. The coalition led by America saw a number of nations join in response to the united call, creating the greatest military alliance since World War II.

Increasing violence in Iraq against expatriate populations, who were well-employed throughout the war, by unemployed Iraqis, among them demobilised soldiers, damaged Iraq's relations with its Arab neighbours, particularly Egypt. Due to rapidly developing events directly connected to the fall of communism in Eastern Europe, these events received little attention outside of the Arab world. The US did, however, start to denounce Iraq's record on human rights, especially its well-known use of torture.

Saddam threatened to unleash "binary chemical weapons" on Israel if it used force against Iraq, due to the US's veto of a UN mission to the Israeli-occupied territories, where riots had resulted in Palestinian deaths, as well as the US's dependence on Middle Eastern energy sources, Iraq was extremely sceptical of US foreign policy objectives in the region.

A meeting of the UN Security Council was called within hours of the assault at the request of Kuwait and the US delegations, and it adopted Resolution 660, denouncing the attack and calling for the evacuation of Iraqi soldiers. The Arab League adopted its own resolution on August 3, 1990, urging a resolution to the crisis within the league and cautioning against outside intervention.

The PLO and Iraq were the only two Arab League members to oppose the resolution calling on Iraq to leave Kuwait. Yemen and Jordan, two Arab nations that border Iraq and depended on it for economic assistance, were opposed to foreign military participation. Separately, Sudan, a member of the Arab League, sided with Saddam.

On 6 August 1990, after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 661 which imposed economic sanctions on Iraq, providing for a full trade embargo, excluding medical supplies, food and other items of humanitarian necessity, these to be determined by the council's sanctions committee. From 1991 until 2003, the effects of government policy and the sanctions regime led to hyperinflation, widespread poverty and malnutrition.

The coalition members for operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield consisted of Argentina, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, France, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Italy, Kuwait, Malaysia, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Syria, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

African Union, European Union, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and Arab League member countries' condemnation of Iraq's invasion of Kuwait demonstrated their commitment to international law, regional stability, and the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity. Through diplomatic efforts, economic sanctions, and support for coalition actions, these forums played a significant role in addressing the crisis and upholding the values of peace and security in the international community.

The Arab League created a resolution to condemn Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The resolution, known as the "Cairo Declaration," was adopted on August 10, 1990, during an emergency meeting of Arab League foreign ministers in Cairo, Egypt. Here are some key points of the Cairo Declaration:

1. Condemnation of Aggression
2. Demand for Immediate Withdrawal
3. Support for Kuwait Sovereignty
4. Activation of Economic Measures
5. Diplomatic Initiatives
6. Humanitarian Assistance

## Portfolio Stances and Bloc Positions

**United States:** USA's interest is Kuwait's oil. Kuwait's Oil also exceeded the OPEC quota which kept the international oil prices down; Political Rivalry: Iraq supported the USSR throughout the Cold War. Israel supported the Palestinian militant groups in Israel, which was against U.S. interest. Iraq was also put in the sponsor states of terrorism list because of the Israeli-Palestine issue. Despite all this, the US supported Iraq during the Iran-Iraq war as it also desired stability in the Gulf Region, because it could not afford to allow a blow to the oil trade; international order and peace;

**The United Kingdom:** The UK was a key ally of the US in the Gulf War, providing military and logistical support. The UK also sought to protect its strategic interests in the region and to promote the rule of law and democracy.

**Arab Nations:** Many Arab countries, particularly those in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), supported the coalition's intervention in the Gulf War. These

countries feared that Iraq's expansionist policies threatened regional stability and their own security. However, there was also significant opposition to the war among Arab populations, who saw it as an example of Western imperialism.

**The Soviet Union:** The Soviet Union did not participate in the Gulf War but expressed opposition to the use of force. It sought to maintain its influence in the Middle East and to protect its own strategic interests in the region.

**China:** China opposed the use of force in the Gulf War and criticised the US-led coalition's military intervention. China sought to promote a peaceful resolution to the conflict and to maintain its own strategic interests in the region.

## **What Actually Happened...**

### **Operation Desert Shield**

US President George H. W. Bush swiftly declared that the US would launch Operation Desert Shield, a "wholly defensive" mission to stop Iraq from invading Saudi Arabia, in accordance with the Carter Doctrine policy and out of concern that the Iraqi Army could launch an invasion of Saudi Arabia. The operation started on August 7, 1990, when US troops were dispatched to Saudi Arabia, also in response to King Fahd's earlier request for US military support. When Kuwait was proclaimed Iraq's 19th province on August 8 and Ali Hassan Al-Majid was named as its military governor, this "wholly defensive" approach was swiftly abandoned.

Fast sealift ships were used to airlift or transport a large amount of the material to the staging zones, enabling a speedy build-up. Amphibious drills, such as Operation Imminent Thunder, including the USS Midway and other 15 ships, 1,100 aircraft, and 1,000 Marines, were conducted in the Gulf as part of the build-up. General Schwarzkopf said during a press conference that these drills were meant to trick the Iraqi forces into continuing to defend the shoreline of Kuwait.

The US and the UN gave several public justifications for involvement in the conflict, the most prominent being the Iraqi violation of Kuwaiti territorial integrity. In addition, the US moved to support its ally Saudi Arabia, whose importance in the region, and as a key supplier of oil, made it of considerable geopolitical importance. Shortly after the Iraqi invasion, US Defense Secretary Dick Cheney made the first of several visits to Saudi Arabia

where King Fahd requested US military assistance. During a speech in a special joint session of the US Congress given on 11 September 1990, US President George H. W. Bush summed up the reasons with the following remarks: "Within three days, 120,000 Iraqi troops with 850 tanks had poured into Kuwait and moved south to threaten Saudi Arabia. It was then that I decided to act to check that aggression."

The Pentagon stated that satellite photos showing a build-up of Iraqi forces along the border were this information's source, but this was later alleged to be false. Other justifications for foreign involvement included Iraq's history of human rights abuses under Saddam. Iraq was also known to possess biological weapons and chemical weapons, which Saddam had used against Iranian troops during the Iran–Iraq War and against his own country's Kurdish population in the Al-Anfal campaign. Iraq was also known to have a nuclear weapons program, but the report about it from January 1991 was partially declassified by the CIA on 26 May 2001.

The strategic and political goal of the Iraqi campaign was to provoke an Israeli military response and potentially jeopardise the United States-led coalition against Iraq, which had full backing and/or extensive contributions from an overwhelming majority of the states of the Muslim world and would have suffered immense diplomatic and material losses if Muslim-majority states rescinded their support due to the political situation of the ongoing Israeli–Palestinian conflict. Despite inflicting casualties on Israeli civilians and damaging Israeli infrastructure, Iraq failed to provoke Israeli retaliation due to pressure exerted by the United States on the latter to not respond to "Iraqi provocations" and avoid any bilateral escalations.

### Operation Desert storm

Operation Desert Storm was the military operation conducted by the coalition forces to liberate Kuwait from Iraqi occupation and cripple Iraq's military capabilities. On the 15th of January, 1991, coalition forces commenced a massive aerial assault on Iraq. Over 1000 aircraft, including fighter jets, bombers, and support aircraft, took part in the coordinated attack. The air campaign was aimed at targeting key military installations, infrastructure, communication networks, and strategic locations throughout Iraq.

Coalition forces aimed to achieve air superiority by targeting Iraqi air bases, radar installations, and aircraft on the ground, reducing the threat posed by the Iraqi Air Force.

The airstrikes targeted command and control centres, communication facilities, ammunition depots, and other military infrastructure to disrupt Iraq's military

capabilities. Surface-to-air missile sites, radar installations, and anti-aircraft artillery positions were targeted to suppress Iraq's air defence systems and reduce the risk to coalition aircraft.

The airstrikes on January 15, 1991, marked the beginning of a sustained and coordinated campaign by the coalition forces to weaken Iraq's military capabilities and pave the way for a ground offensive. It significantly weakened Iraq's ability to resist the subsequent ground assault. US decoy attacks by air attacks and naval gunfire the night before Kuwait's liberation were designed to make the Iraqis believe the main coalition ground attack would focus on central Kuwait for months, American units in Saudi Arabia had been under almost constant Iraqi artillery fire, as well as threats from Scud missiles and chemical attacks. On 24 February 1991, the Coalition ground offence military crossed into Kuwait and headed toward Kuwait City.

Several tank battles took place, but otherwise coalition troops encountered minimal resistance, as most Iraqi troops surrendered. However, Iraqi air defences shot down nine US aircraft. Meanwhile, forces from Arab states advanced into Kuwait from the east, encountering little resistance and suffering few casualties.

Despite the successes of coalition forces, it was feared that the Iraqi Republican Guard would escape into Iraq before it could be destroyed. It was decided to send British armoured forces into Kuwait 15 hours ahead of schedule, and to send US forces after the Republican Guard. The coalition advance was preceded by a heavy artillery and rocket barrage, after which 150,000 troops and 1,500 tanks began their advance. Iraqi forces in Kuwait counterattacked against US troops, acting on a direct order from Saddam Hussein himself. Despite the intense combat, the Americans repulsed the Iraqis and continued to advance towards Kuwait City.

### Operation Desert Sabre

Operation Desert Sabre, the coalition ground offensive, began on February 24, 1991, with an advance to the Euphrates by the United States led Coalition. Meanwhile, the 1st and 2nd Marine divisions, along with Egyptian, Saudi, and other allied units, attacked Kuwait to tie down Iraqi forces. The main coalition attack was launched on February 25 by the U.S. VII Corps (1st and 3rd Armored, 1st Cavalry, and 1st Infantry divisions, as well as the 1st British Armoured Division).

Operation Desert Sabre lasted just 100 hours. Large numbers of Iraqi troops surrendered without fighting, collapsing under the cumulative effects of the prolonged coalition air campaign and the concentrated firepower and speed of the ground advance. Some 41 Iraqi divisions—30 infantry, 4 mechanised, and 7 armoured—were effectively wiped out, and the material losses suffered by the Iraqi military were staggering. Iraqi equipment captured or destroyed included 3,008 tanks, 1,856 armoured vehicles, and 2,140 artillery pieces.

Operation Desert Sabre was the final part of the liberation of Kuwait and led to Iraq's defeat just a few days later.

## **Relevance of The Freeze Date**

### **January 15, 1991**

**The delegates to note that the freeze date for the United Nations Historic Security Council is January 15, 1991. Any events after the freeze date will not be taken into account by the executive board. Any sources, events, organisations, technologies, and countries created after the freeze date must not be referred to in the committee.**

Resolution 678 was a pivotal moment in the Gulf War as it authorised the use of force by member states to enforce Iraq's compliance with the deadline. The resolution called upon member states to use "all necessary means" to uphold international law and ensure the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait if Iraq failed to comply by the specified deadline.

The deadline of January 15, 1991, served as a clear ultimatum to Iraq, providing a final opportunity to peacefully resolve the conflict and avoid military intervention. Therefore, a meeting of the United Nations Security Council is called to discuss further actions for this impending crisis. Note that the airstrike and military offence by the coalition has not yet commenced and may not even take place if you as diplomats use your wisdom and perhaps prevent an upcoming war!

## **Aftermath of Kuwait's Liberation and Notable Events after the freeze date**

The primary outcome of the Gulf War was the liberation of Kuwait. After an intense military campaign, coalition forces successfully expelled Iraqi troops from Kuwait and restored the sovereignty of the Kuwaiti government. The liberation was celebrated globally as a victory for international law and collective security. The Gulf War however, was not all gold, and had serious consequences for both Iraq, Kuwait and also the international Community at large.

The Gulf War had substantial economic consequences for both Iraq and Kuwait. Kuwait, being an oil-rich nation, faced significant damage to its oil infrastructure, causing a temporary disruption in oil production and export. Reconstruction efforts required substantial investments. Iraq, on the other hand, faced a deteriorating economy due to the war, economic sanctions, and reparations payments. Also, the liberation of Kuwait came at the cost of Iraq's scorched earth policy which depleted and destroyed the oil reserves of Kuwait.

The Gulf War had a lasting impact on regional stability. The conflict highlighted the vulnerabilities and potential threats faced by Gulf nations. It led to increased security cooperation among Gulf countries and a greater reliance on the United States for military support and defence partnerships. The Gulf War had a lasting impact on Iraq, leading to a prolonged period of economic sanctions, international isolation, and political instability. The war set the stage for subsequent conflicts, such as the 2003 invasion of Iraq and assassination of Saddam Hussain, which further destabilised the country and resulted in significant loss of life and ongoing challenges.

Following the Gulf War, relations between Iraq and Kuwait remained strained for many years. Ongoing border disputes, compensation claims, and unresolved issues

continued to impact bilateral relations. Iraq's non-compliance with UN resolutions and subsequent conflicts further complicated regional dynamics.

### Notable Events after the Gulf War

A Palestinian exodus from Kuwait took place during and after the Gulf War. During the Gulf War, more than 200,000 Palestinians fled Kuwait during the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait due to harassment and intimidation by Iraqi security forces, in addition to getting fired from work by Iraqi authority figures in Kuwait. After the Gulf War, the Kuwaiti authorities forcibly pressured nearly 200,000 Palestinians to leave Kuwait in 1991. Kuwait's policy, which led to this exodus, was a response to alignment of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and the PLO with Saddam Hussein.

The draining of the Qurna Marshes was an irrigation project in Iraq during and immediately after the war, to drain a large area of marshes in the Tigris–Euphrates River system. Formerly covering an area of around 1200 square miles, the large complex of wetlands was nearly emptied of water, and the local Shi'ite population relocated, following the war and 1991 uprisings. By 2000, the United Nations Environment Programme estimated that 90% of the marshlands had disappeared, causing desertification of over 7,500 square miles.

On 23 January, Iraq dumped 1.5 billion litres of crude oil into the Persian Gulf, causing the largest offshore oil spill in history at that time. It was reported as a deliberate natural resources attack to keep US Marines from coming ashore.

The World Bank responded by speeding up the disbursement of existing project and adjustment loans. The International Monetary Fund adopted two lending facilities – the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) and the Compensatory Contingency Financing Facility (CCFF). The European Community offered \$2 billion in assistance.

## Timeline for Important Events

### Iran-Iraq War

Year	Event
1921	Tensions between Iran Iraq began.
1970s	After world war there was a conflict involved to control Shatt al-arab (waterways formed by tiger and Euphrates river)
1975	Iran and Iraq signed Algiers agreement which reduced Iraq control on the water way in exchange for Iran's withdrawing support for a Kurdish insurgency in northern Iraq.
1975 - July 1979	Saddam Hussain became the leader of Iraq but he feared the expansion of Iran's revolution. (Note - Saddam also sought to overturn the boarder agreement of 1975 to take back control over Shatt al-arab (Iraq's only access to Persian gulf)
September 22, 1980	Iraqi forces launched an airstrike on Iranian air bases followed by ground invasion on the oil producing border regions of Khuzestan as the Iranian armies were already weak. Iraq captured Khorramshah.

1981	Iran launched a counter offensive attack, beginning the Tanker war.
Early 1982	Iran regained all their lost territories.
July 1982	Iran attempted to invade Iraq port city Basra but failed.
March 7, 1987	United States intervned to protect Kuwaiti Tankers and reflagged them, leading to a confrontation with Iranian forces
July 20, 1988	Iran and Iraq adopted United Nation Security Council Resolution 598 ( to cease fire)

August 10, 1988	Cease fire came into force.
August 15, 1990	Iraq was ready to accept Iranian terms for the settlement of the Iran-Iraq war.

### Persian Gulf War

Summer 1990	Tension in the gulf begin
July 17, 1990	Saddam launched a verbal attack on Kuwait and UAE.
August 2, 1990	Saddam Hussain ordered invasion of Kuwait in order to gain large oil reserves.
August 4, 1990	Iraqi occupation forces appointed Col. Alaa Hussain Ali as head of the state Kuwait.
August 8, 1990	Iraqis installed the provisional free government of Kuwait.
August 28, 1990	Saddam announced Kuwait as the 19th province of Iraq.
September 3 1990	The Soviet Union at first guarded in its response to the invasion expressed its support for the U.S. military presence in the Gulf.
November 29, 1990	The UN Security Council passed Resolution 678 by a vote, sanctioning the use of force if the Iraqis had not left Kuwait by January 15, 1991
January 12, 1991	Authorization of use of military forces against Iraq was passed.

<b>JANUARY 15, 1991 FREEZE DATE</b>	<b>Deadline for Iraq to withdraw its forces from Kuwait</b>
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January 17– February 24, 1991	The two phases of Operation Desert Storm were a coalition air operation.
January 18 - February 25 1991	Iraq fired 39 missiles at Israel, killing at least 3 Israeli civilians and injuring as many as 200.
January 28, 1991	The Coalition Air Force had gained supremacy.
February 11,1991	Coalition forces have sunk the last Iraqi (and captured Kuwaiti) naval units.
February 24–28, 1991	Ground offensive dubbed Operation Desert Sabre
February 25, 1991	The main coalition attack was launched by the U.S. VII Corps.
February 26–February 27, 1991	The VII Corps, along with the 1st British Armoured and 24th U.S. Infantry divisions, engaged and destroyed the Iraqi armoured reserves, including Saddam's elite Republican Guard divisions, near Basra
February 28, 1991	The remaining Iraqi forces in Kuwait collapsed and fled to Basra, suffering heavy casualties and forcing Saddam to accept a cease-fire.

## **Questions a Resolution Must Answer**

Delegates, these are some of the questions about the underlying crisis at hand that the Executive Board expects to be discussed in the committee and the draft resolution must consist of solution to these questions:

- What measures should be taken to protect and safeguard the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the State of Kuwait?
- How can the United Nations Security Council restore peace and stability in the Gulf region while preventing further aggression?
- What should be done to address the immediate needs of the Kuwaiti population, and provide food, medicine and shelter, and restore their livelihoods?
- How can the United Nations Security Council ensure the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait, without further violence?
- How can the United Nations Security Council ensure that states of Iraq and Kuwait are not subjugated to and exploited by foreign powers, whether it is for economic benefits, or ongoing geopolitical situations like the Cold War?
- How can a framework for resolution be established for monitoring and enforcing compliance with the resolution, knowing the prior history of not doing so?
- What are the long term implications of the Gulf war on the international community and how can they be resolved?
- What contribution and responsibilities do member nations take, in resolving the Kuwait Crisis?
- What are the measures that should be taken to ensure non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and other biological and chemical weaponry?
- How can the United Nations Security Council address the issue of war crimes, and crimes against humanity committed during the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait?
- How can the member states and International Organisations ensure the economic stability of gulf countries, as to prevent further conflict between them?
- How can the United Nations Security Council reconstruct the nations of Iraq and Kuwait, to ensure peace and prosperity to all its citizens?

## **Position Paper Policy**

### **What is a Position Paper?**

A position paper is a brief overview of a country's stance on the topics being discussed by a particular committee. Though there is no specific format that the position paper must follow, it should include a description of the position your country holds on the issues on the agenda, relevant actions that your country has taken, and potential solutions that your country would support.

### **Purpose:**

Keep in mind the recent decisions taken by your own country and major events that have taken place after the war and your foreign policy regarding the same. The Position papers should include the following details:

- The delegate's preliminary understanding of the topic and what it entails
- Allocation of the delegate and your stance on this agenda
- Your proposed plan of action and effective solutions
- Any information regarding your portfolio that you think that the Executive Board members should know
- Furthermore, your expectations as to how this committee should progress and what are your expectations from the debate.

*Each position paper should not exceed two pages, and should all be combined into a single PDF format per delegate (other formats will not be accepted.)*

### **Formatting**

Position papers should include the name of the delegate, his/her country, and the committee, along with the agenda —

- Be in a standard font (e.g. Times New Roman) with 12-point font size and 1- inch document margins

### **Due Dates and Submission Procedure**

Position papers for this committee must be submitted by midnight of July 25, 2023. Once your position paper is complete, please save the file as your country and position paper and send it as an attachment in an email to your committee's email address, with the subject heading as your country name and position paper. ( File should be saved as a country position paper) The subject of the mail should be: Country Name - Position Paper. Each position paper will be manually reviewed.

The email address for this committee is [chair.unsc@welhamboys.org](mailto:chair.unsc@welhamboys.org)

## DOCUMENTATION

For documentation guidelines, you may refer to the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EAihksWXLIPaUWDJm-fTaBhg76kTmY1P/view?usp=sharing>

Delegates please note that the Executive Board will be stringent in terms of the format of the documents and foreign policies. Further, we look forward to an active and fruitful debate over the three day conference.

**Note: The purpose of this background guide is to brief you about the agenda and it should only act as a starting point in your research. The background guide cannot be used as evidence for any claims in the committee.**

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