



“SECURITY COUNCIL”

Topic:

**“Territorial disputes and military presence in the South
China Sea”**

Chairs:

**Samantha E. Villanueva Rodríguez
Brenda P. Granados Alejos**

Committee Background:

The committee of the Security Council has the responsibility of maintaining global peace and security. This committee determines any threat or acts of aggression that threatens to ruin the peace between nations or within the country.

Calls upon all the nations to settle and solve any dispute in peaceful ways and may recommend terms of the settlement. In extreme cases, the Security Council can create sanctions or get involved in acts of force if necessary.

Background

Since 1970, different countries (such as Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Vietnam) began claiming the islands surrounded by the South China Sea, which possess natural resources and fishing areas. China claims its property the sea estimated to contain 11 billion untapped oil and 190 trillion cubics of natural gas.

According to the Global Conflict Tracker, “China maintains that, under international law, foreign militaries are not able to conduct intelligence-gathering activities, such as reconnaissance flights.”

In July 2016, the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague issued its property on a claim from the Philippines against China. The United States has a role in preventing military escalation resulting from the territorial dispute.

Tensions between China and Vietnam have recently cooled, even as China increased its military activity in the South China Sea by conducting a series of naval maneuvers and exercises in March and April 2018.

The United States has also stepped up its military activity and naval presence in the region in recent years, including freedom of navigation operations (FONOPs) in January and March 2018. In a speech during his November 2017 visit to Southeast Asia, President Donald J. Trump emphasized the importance of such operations, and of ensuring free and open access to the South China Sea.

Japan has sold military ships and equipment to the Philippines and Vietnam to improve their maritime security capacity and to deter Chinese aggression.

As major maritime trading nations, Australia and South Korea recognize that the stability of the Indo-Pacific depends on adherence to international law in the maritime domain, including in the South China Sea.

The United Kingdom, France, and Germany rejected China's expansive claims in the South China Sea, the three European nations said China's "historic" claims in the South China Sea do not adhere to international law and with provisions under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

Remember that terminologies like the next ones are important and may be helpful for research:

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

U.S Freedom of Navigation Operations (FONOPs)

Law on the territorial sea and the contiguous zone.

ASEAN Declaration on the South China Sea.

Guiding Questions:

- Is there a way to retire military activity from the territorial dispute?
- What treaties already existent can be involved in this to prevent an armed major conflict?

- How can the environment be affected and what possible solutions do the delegation suggest preventing a major impact on pollution?
- What other options can countries do propose to agree to a treaty?

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