

WATERLOO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

MODEL UNITED NATIONS



SECURITY COUNCIL

SOUTH SUDAN

MAY 12-14, 2026

## KEY ISSUES: For security council

The ongoing humanitarian crisis in South Sudan has seen the deaths of over 400,000 South Sudanese, caused widespread displacement of people from their homes, and created food insecurity for over 70% of the population. This humanitarian crisis, which is the result of a power struggle following South Sudan's independence from Sudan in 2011. That power struggle, which led to civil war in 2013 and which has not been resolved, is a struggle between South Sudan President Salva Kiir and Vice-President Riek Machar, with no end insight. The struggle for political supremacy has led to brutal ethnic tensions, extreme violence, massive levels of population displacement and the collapse of South Sudan's economy.

Key issues to be addressed in any Security Council attempts to resolve this humanitarian crisis includes:

- Resolving the ongoing political rivalry which have led to ongoing violence despite peace deals and power-sharing arrangements
- Resolving ethnic violence, particularly between the Dinka and Nuer factions
- Resolving poor governance and corruption which has interfered with national security and the ability to provide public services
- Resolving continued conflicts over land, cattle stealing and continued acts of revenge
- Providing food security in the face of climate related disasters, flooding and a collapsed economy

## Key Issues for Debate:

1. How can the Security Council create a resolution which is acceptable to both sides in the rivalry and which will be respected and maintained?
2. How can the Security Council ensure economic relief to the millions of South Sudanese who are experiencing food insecurity?
3. How can the Security Council provide and maintain ongoing measures to maintain safety and security from harm?
4. How can the Security Council offer aid and assistance to refugees fleeing Sudan which is facing their own issues of violence and insecurity?

## Historical Timeline

- **2011:** In 2011, South Sudan gained independence from Sudan. However, it led to immediate political rivalry and violence
- **Dec 2013:** A civil war breaks out as President Kiir accuses the vice-president of attempting an overthrow of the government.
- **2014–2015:** Over the course of the next two years, 2 million people are displaced and famine strikes the nation..
- **Aug 2015:** A peace agreement is signed, but it is largely ignored.
- **July 2016:** Vice-president Machar goes into exile as fighting resumes between rival factions.

- **Aug 2018:** An agreement called The Revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS) is signed
- **Feb 2020:** A newly formed government is created with the attempt to achieve peace and unity. Kiir remains as president and Machar remains as vice president.
- **2021–2022:** The United Nations warns of a relapse into civil war as the implementation of the peace plan is slow in developing. Continued violence makes peace largely unachievable and elections are delayed.
- **2023–2024:** South Sudan experiences massive flooding, leading to increased food insecurity for 7 million people
- **Early 2025:** As fighting between factions increases again, VP Machar is arrested
- 

### On-going challenges

Any attempts at getting resolution are difficult do to the following challenges:

1. An unwillingness of the rival political factions to adopt. The *Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan* (R-ARCSS).
2. On going corruption including the stealing of oil revenues
3. Continued violence between rival groups.
4. A weak UN response, particularly in its ability to fund and maintain a peacekeeping force
5. Ongoing conflict in neighbouring Sudan which has led to 1.3 million refugees entering South Sudan.: Continued conflict in neighboring Sudan has resulted in over 1.3 million people fleeing back into South Sudan, further straining resources.
6. A weak judicial system which has limited success in maintaining any form of justice within the country

### Key Issues for Discussion:

1. What effective role can the UN play in promoting and maintaining peace in South Sudan?
2. What resources will be required to deal with a weakened peace-keeping force?
3. How can the UN promote food security and provide relief from climate disasters?
4. How can the UN change a climate of political and cultural rivalry which threatens to upend any attempt at solution?

### Questions for your country:

1. Does your country have any vested interest in South Sudan?
2. Is there political will in your country to provide peacekeeping forces in South Sudan?
3. Is there political will in your country to provide economic relief to the displaced and food insecure?