

**Committee Overview***Purpose:*

The SC is charged with the responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. When a threat to peace is brought to the SC, the Council traditionally seeks ways for a peaceful agreement to be broached. If unsuccessful and fighting occurs, the Council redirects its approach and seeks an end to the violence as quickly as possible. For solvency purposes of securing a safe international community, the SC may decide on enforcement measures, such as UN peace-keeping forces; economic sanctions, such as trade embargoes; or collective military action.

*Members and Voting:*

Not all members of the UN General Assembly are members of the SC. Five permanent members compose the Council: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. In addition, ten non-permanent members also compose the Council for two-year term and are not eligible for immediate re-election. While decisions on procedural matters require an affirmative vote of at least nine members, decisions on substantive matters require nine affirmative votes, including affirmative votes from the five permanent members. States who are members of the United Nations, but not of the SC, may participate if that country's interest is affected, although they cannot vote in the legislature. Even if countries not a part of the UN, they are invited to take part if they are a part of the dispute being discussed.

*Powers:*

Specifically the SC is assigned issues surrounding maintenance of international peace and security. Investigation of disputes that might result in international friction is the job of the SC, followed by recommending methods for solvency. Further, the SC has the power to take military action against an aggressor. The SC also recommends the admission of new members and recommends the appointment of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly, and, with the Assembly, the SC elects the Judges of the International Court of Justice.

## **Security Council**

## **Overview**

*Limitations:*

The SC must limit its involvement to that specified by the Charter.