

UNSC

United Nations Security Council

Topic: Tackling the consequences of blood diamonds in Western Africa.

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Letter to Delegates:

Hello delegates, I am Victor Pacheco and I will be your moderator for this edition of SPISMUN 2025 Javier Ochoa is going to be your director, he is excited just like me. We are very happy to have you here and we hope you can enjoy this MUN as much as we did organizing this edition of SPISMUN 2025.

We hope you can give it your all on this edition of SPISMUN and we encourage you to participate as much as you can and try as hard as you can.

Goodbye for now and good luck to you all delegates



History of the committee:

The United Nations Security Council was created after World War 2 to maintain peace and security between all countries and to prevent future world conflicts the UNSC started to replace the League of Nations they failed at keeping world peace because it didn't have the help and participation of important global powers like the United States, so it failed, so they created the security council with the goal in mind of replacing the League of Nations and bring peace to the world. The UNSC started on October 24 1945 after the agreement of the charter by the five permanent members and by the majority of 46 signatories. The council's first-ever meeting was at Church House Westminster, London UK. Ever since the first-ever meeting, the Security Council has taken place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The five permanent members are the United States, China, Russia, France, and the United Kingdom. Those five permanent members were chosen because of their importance after World War 2. The other 10 members of the UNSC are chosen and changed each year.



History of Topic:

Blood diamonds started in 1935. These types of diamonds are called blood diamonds not for the color red, which they aren't, but for their mining paid-in blood split by enslaved villagers. The international need for blood diamonds, which brought attention to the corrupt and unsupervised diamond trade, originated in Sierra Leone.

In the early nineties, the country's lack of leadership and very big earnings yet unsupervised diamond trade prompted rebels to initiate a civil war. Despite UN sanctions, the illicit diamond trade still exists in modern-day society in Ivory Coast.

Ivory Coast began to develop an under-experienced diamond mining industry in the early 1990s. A violent attack against the government overthrew the government in 1999, starting a civil war. The country became a route for exporting diamonds from Liberia and war-torn Sierra Leone. Outside investors began to withdraw from Ivory Coast. To curtail the illegal trade, the nation stopped all diamond mining and the UNSC banned all exports of diamonds from the Ivory Coast in December 2005. This ban lasted about ten years but it was later taken away in April 2014 when members of the UN council voted to suspend the sanction.



Introduction of the Topic:

The United Nations has defined the term conflict diamond as follows:

Conflict diamonds are diamonds that originate from areas controlled by forces or factions opposed to legitimate and internationally recognized governments, and are used to fund military action in opposition to those governments, or in contravention of the decisions of the Security Council. Blood diamond, as defined by the United Nations (UN), is any diamond that is mined in areas controlled by forces opposed to the legitimate, internationally recognized government of a country and that is sold to fund military action against that government. The problems with blood diamonds are proceeds from diamond sales that were used to buy arms and war matériel for the rebel groups, some of which conducted extremely violent campaigns that brought great suffering to civilians.



Key Players:

Angola: Reports estimated that as much as 21% of the total diamond production in the 1980s was being sold for illegal and unethical purposes and 19% was specifically *conflict* in nature. By 1999, the illegal diamond trade was estimated by the World Diamond Council to have been reduced to 4% of the world's diamond production. The World Diamond Council reported that by 2004 this percentage had fallen to approximately 1% and up to today the World Diamond Council refers to this illegal trade to be virtually eliminated, meaning that more than 99% of diamonds being sold have a legal background.

Ivory Coast: On January 25, 2001, the Security Council met to go over the findings presented by the Panel of Experts regarding Sierra Leone. It was revealed that all trade of conflict diamonds by the RUF had been conducted with the permission of and with involvement from the Government of Liberia. Liberian government officials had been in full support of the RUF high command the whole time. This led to the signing of Resolution 1343 in March of 2001, which established a Security Council Sanctions Committee, re-implemented an arms embargo, and called for the Panel of Experts to continue to investigate for another 6 months.

Sierra Leone: Sierra Leone, originally a British Colony, mined diamonds legitimately and profitably until its Independence in 1961. It was first mined in 1935 by De Beers, which had a 99-year contract granting it full control of all mining operations. After Sierra Leone's independence, a series of corrupt leaders used the diamond trade purely to help them manipulate their people, bring riches to the ruling factions, and buy weaponry to arm those in power against those that might oppose them.

Liberia: Liberia started as a colony of African American slaves who wished to liberate themselves from slavery in the United States. From its independence in 1847 through the first half of the 20th century, it was supported by the United States and served as an exemplar of peace, stability, democracy, and social equality in a third-world country. This era of stability ended abruptly in 1979 when massive demonstrations and riots over the increased price of rice allowed Liberian Army officer Samuel Doe to overthrow the government, execute all high-ranking officials, and proclaim himself dictator of Liberia..



UN Action:

In 1992, the United Nations oversaw the national election in Angola in an attempt to thwart the UNITA rebel group. The UNITA subsequently rejected the results of the election, prompting the UN Security Council to act under Chapter VII and adopt Resolution 864 on September 15, 1993. This resolution created an arms embargo, preventing the import of weapons into Angola. It also placed sanctions on UNITA petroleum production, another source of UNITA funds, and established a Sanctions Committee comprised of Security Council members, that helped ensure that these measures were enforced. In 1994, the Lukasa Protocol was signed, which called for UNITA rebels to lay down their arms in exchange for being granted government positions. However, the UNITA refused to agree with the terms of the protocol and would not disarm. The UN Security Council responded with Resolution 1127 in August of 1997, which aimed to hamper the UNITA with mandatory travel sanctions on the senior leaders of the UNITA. Two more resolutions were passed, Resolution 1173 on June 12, 1998, and Resolution 1176 on June 24, 1998. These resolutions banned the export of all diamonds from Angola that did not have Certificates of Origin issued by the Angolan government and imposed further financial sanctions on the UNITA.



Current Status:

Despite UN sanctions, the illicit diamond trade still exists in Ivory Coast. Rough diamonds are exported out of the country to neighboring states and international trading centers through the northern Forces Nouvelles controlled section of the country, a group which is reported to be using these funds to re-arm. Conflicts in Angola, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Sierra Leone were fuelled in part by the trade in rough diamonds. In Angola, rebels sold diamonds to purchase arms on the black market, effectively evading an international arms embargo. In July 2000, the complete diamond industry introduced a “*zero tolerance*” policy against blood diamonds. This policy became an agreement in the so-called Kimberley Process Certification System. This was the first step towards a world without blood diamonds.



Guiding Questions:

Is/Was your country involved in the topic?

How did it affect your country?

Has your country helped solve the problem?

What sanctions could be made in your country?

Is the problem affecting nearby countries of your delegation?

Is your delegation in favor or against the problem?



Quorum:

- China
- France
- Russia
- United States
- United Kingdom
- Algeria
- Ecuador
- Guayana
- Japan
- Malta
- Mozambique
- Republic of Korea
- Sierra Leone
- Slovenia
- Switzerland
- Ivory Coast
- Angola
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Liberia
- Zimbabwe



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