



GimBMUN 2026

Security Council

Study Guide

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Introduction of the Chairs

Dear Delegates!

We would like to extend a warm welcome to all of you joining us in the Security Council at GimbMUN 2026. We are excited to be able to work with you as your chairs and guide you through the conference. In this study guide you will find a brief overview of our topic, as well as some resources you may find useful in further researching the theme. We are looking forward to seeing you in January.

Chair Mr. Domen Stare

Hello delegates. I am Domen Stare, and I'm in my senior year at the IB programme at Gimnazija Bežigrad. I have been participating in MUN for four years now, and have had the opportunity to attend many conferences in that time. This will be, however, my first time on the other side, chairing a committee at a conference. My interests also include debating, geopolitics, defence, diplomacy, and law. In my free time, you can find me cycling or hiking, listening to music, and hanging out with friends. I am excited to get to know you all during the conference.

Chair Mr. Achyuth Rajesh

Hello, my name is Achyuth Rajesh, and I am studying in the third year (eleventh grade) of Gimnazija Bežigrad. I am an Indian who moved to Slovenia, and I am 16 years old. Although this is my first time being a chair for a MUN conference, I have attended many conferences (4 to be exact). I enjoy MUN because thinking about different countries' perspectives on the same topic is very interesting, and you get to hang around with people that you debate against. So, it's a very social activity. My hobbies are playing games, watching movies, and playing tennis. I am looking forward to GimbMUN 2026 where a lot of fun and debates are taking place.

Introduction to the Committee

The United Nations Security Council is one of the UN's most important, and most recognizable bodies. Comprised of five permanent member states, and ten non-permanent seats, to which countries are elected by the UN general assembly for a two-year term, the Security Council is responsible for maintaining international peace and security. It is the body responsible for determining the existence of threats to international peace and acts of aggression, as well as assessing their credibility. In case of conflict, the council may call upon parties to come to a peaceful settlement, and recommend acceptable terms and outcomes. It may also impose sanctions, with UN member states being obligated to follow its decisions. In cases where such action is required, it can also authorize the deployment of peacekeeping forces, or the use of force against actors threatening international peace and security.

The five permanent member states of the Security Council have the power of veto – meaning they can block any resolutions that they oppose. This ensures the world's preeminent powers do not directly oppose the SC's efforts, but also often leads to a lack of decisive action, especially when the issue concerns the permanent members directly. The challenges relating to the veto power are something you will have to overcome in order to create a resolution that is both effective, and acceptable to other member states.^[1]

Resolving Disputes Over Water Resources in the Himalayas

Introduction to the topic

The Himalayas, or the Himalayan mountains, are the world's largest mountain range, separating the Tibetan plateau and the Indian subcontinent. They extend through the territories of Afghanistan, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, and Pakistan, and are the origin of some of the world's largest rivers, including the Indus, the Ganges, and the Brahmaputra. Many of their summits are considered sacred in Hinduism or Buddhism. The region is divided between several countries that have longstanding conflicts, including over many of the borders in the area, and the water resources present there. [4] [12]

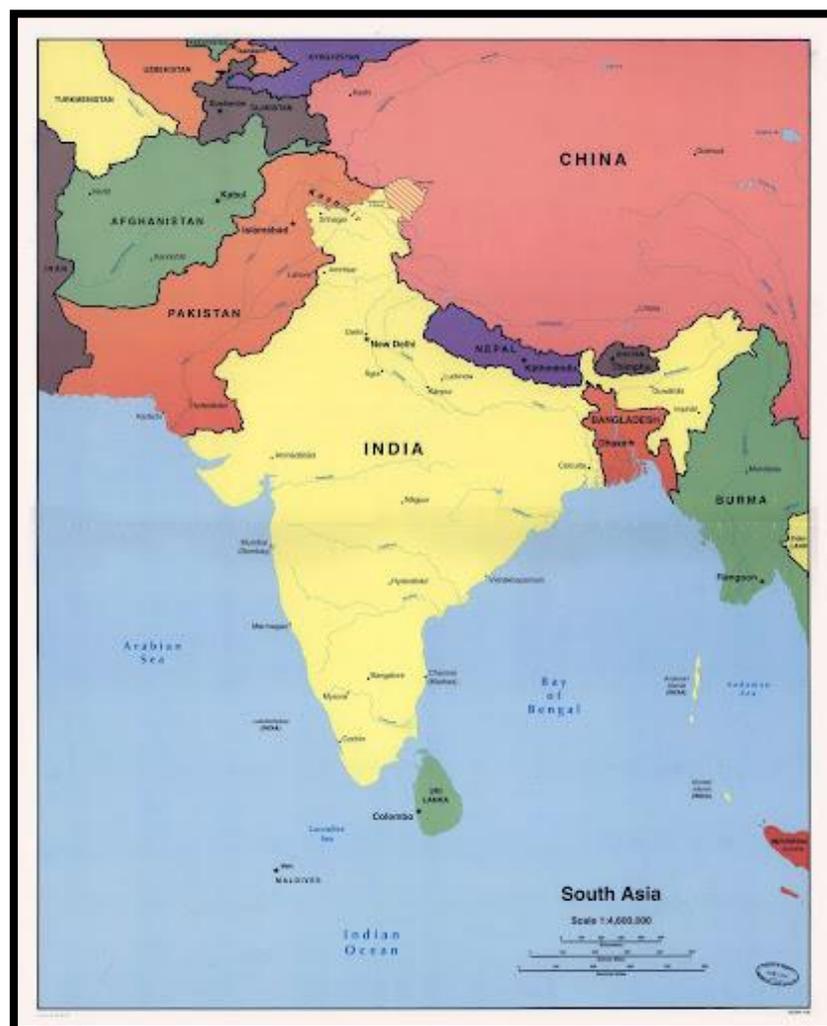


Figure: political map of South Asia [13]

Historical background

As is the case with any other region with important natural resources, there have been longstanding conflicts over the borders in the Himalayas, and the valuable water resources in the region. The modern tensions in the region largely date back to the late 19th and early 20th century, when most of the area was under British colonial rule. The borders that have resulted from decolonization were often hastily drawn, with little regard for the history, culture, or religion of the areas they were dividing, which has led to a number of conflicts, most notably the Indo-Pakistani wars.

Most of the major rivers in the area flow through several countries, prompting concerns about the fair distribution of the water between the countries it runs through, and that may wish to use it for various purposes. This has been amplified since the mid 20th century with the widespread introduction of hydroelectric energy in the region. The construction of a hydroelectric dam has a huge impact on the waterway, both upstream, where reservoir lakes form, and downstream, where waterflow changes based on the dam's operations. This is especially problematic if a dam located in one country causes water levels and waterflow to drop in a different country downstream.

Over the years, countries have attempted to solve the issues posed by such shared waterways in various ways, primarily through bilateral treaties. However, such treaties have proven to be an imperfect solution, and one that can be used as leverage during in case of conflict. In addition, many of the treaties are old, dating back to the time of colonial rule in the area, and could be considered outdated.

Current situation

India / Pakistan

Today, many of the disputed borders in the Himalayas are frozen conflict zones. Though there is no active fighting currently happening there, the underlying tensions always can, and on many occasions have resulted in violence, as happened in May 2025 during the brief conflict between India and Pakistan, during which India suspended the Indus Waters Treaty, the bilateral agreement formed in 1960 to govern the distribution of the waterflow of the Indus and its tributaries, which are a crucial source of water and energy for Pakistan, as well as north-western India. Furthermore, some of the Indus's tributaries originate in the area controlled by China, prompting additional concerns about potential interference.^[3]

India / China

India and China have several major border disputes, both in Kashmir and in the eastern Himalayas. There, the Brahmaputra River, which originates in China and flows through India and Bangladesh towards the Indian ocean has been the cause of concern, as China is building dams on the river, prompting concerns from the downstream countries that rely on it for agriculture and industry. Furthermore, the dams could be used as political leverage tools by China in case of conflict, by limiting downstream waterflow.^{[2] [9]}

Nepal

Nepal has several transboundary rivers that it shares with India. The distribution of water and hydroelectric energy are governed by bilateral treaties, but Nepal has repeatedly expressed frustration at the terms of the treaties, which it believes are unfair in their division.^[5]

Bhutan

Bhutan is the only country in the region that does not have any major water disputes with its neighbours. Yet, the country's geography and poor infrastructure still present challenges, as the country has repeatedly faced water scarcity. Instead of conflict, Bhutan has been seeking cooperation with other countries, especially India, on the management of water resources, and may serve as a model for cooperation in the region.^[6]

Afghanistan

Though Afghanistan and Pakistan have some territorial disputes, these are largely not related to water, as the transboundary rivers that cross their border are, at least for now, not widely exploited. Yet, they are also unregulated, with no frameworks to govern their status, which may cause issues in the future, especially as, on the country's western border, Afghanistan does have a major dispute with Iran over the Helmand River.^{[7] [8]}

Past UN actions

The UNSC has consistently urged for de-escalation in the many conflicts happening in the Himalayas, and has adopted numerous resolutions to that effect. The UN has also consistently called for de-escalation and peaceful settlements in the many conflicts happening around water in the area. However, the lack of any overarching agreement governing the distribution of water, practical action has been limited. The United Nations Watercourses Convention does provide a general framework for the administration of transboundary waterways; however, it does not cover the specific situation of particular rivers. These are addressed in individual treaties between countries, where such treaties exist. Yet, in their absence, or perceived unfairness towards one party, there is often no agreement between opposing countries.^{[10] [11]}

Block Positions

India, Bangladesh

India and Bangladesh primarily oppose China's construction of dams on the Brahmaputra River, fearing they may cause disruption to downstream waterflows, and could be used as political leverage by China. India has also used its control of part of the Indus River system to put pressure on Pakistan.

China, Pakistan

China is attempting to use the upper Brahmaputra River and others, such as the Mekong River, for hydroelectric power, and irrigation, prioritizing its needs over concerns from downstream nations. Pakistan is attempting to secure access to water from the Indus River, from both its ally China, and its traditional rival India.

Western countries

Most western countries have supported India in its territorial disputes, seeing it as a vital counterbalance to China's increasing influence.

Russia, Iran

Russia and Iran have both generally supported China, and consequently to a lesser extent Pakistan in their conflict, although Russia does maintain strong ties with India as well.

Conclusion

The situation in the Himalayas regarding water resources is complicated due to the number of individual issues that are present in the region, with all countries having at least some major water related dispute or challenge. The many individual treaties that govern the division of waterflows throughout the area and lack of an overarching structure make the situation difficult to manage, and the implementation of such a system would likely be greatly beneficial. A complicated web of alliances plays a further part in the structure of the region's lack of stability when it comes to water resources.

Guiding questions

- Think about the treaties that govern individual transboundary rivers in the Himalayas, and whether such arrangements could be expanded to those not currently included.
- Could a broader agreement for water management in the region be achieved, as has been done elsewhere in the world (such as the Mekong delta)?
- How is climate change impacting the waterways, and what can be done to manage these impacts?

Further reading

Links to some valuable general sources for further exploring the topic. The bibliography includes some more specific sources as well.

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- <https://www.un.org/en/>
- <https://news.un.org/en/>
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