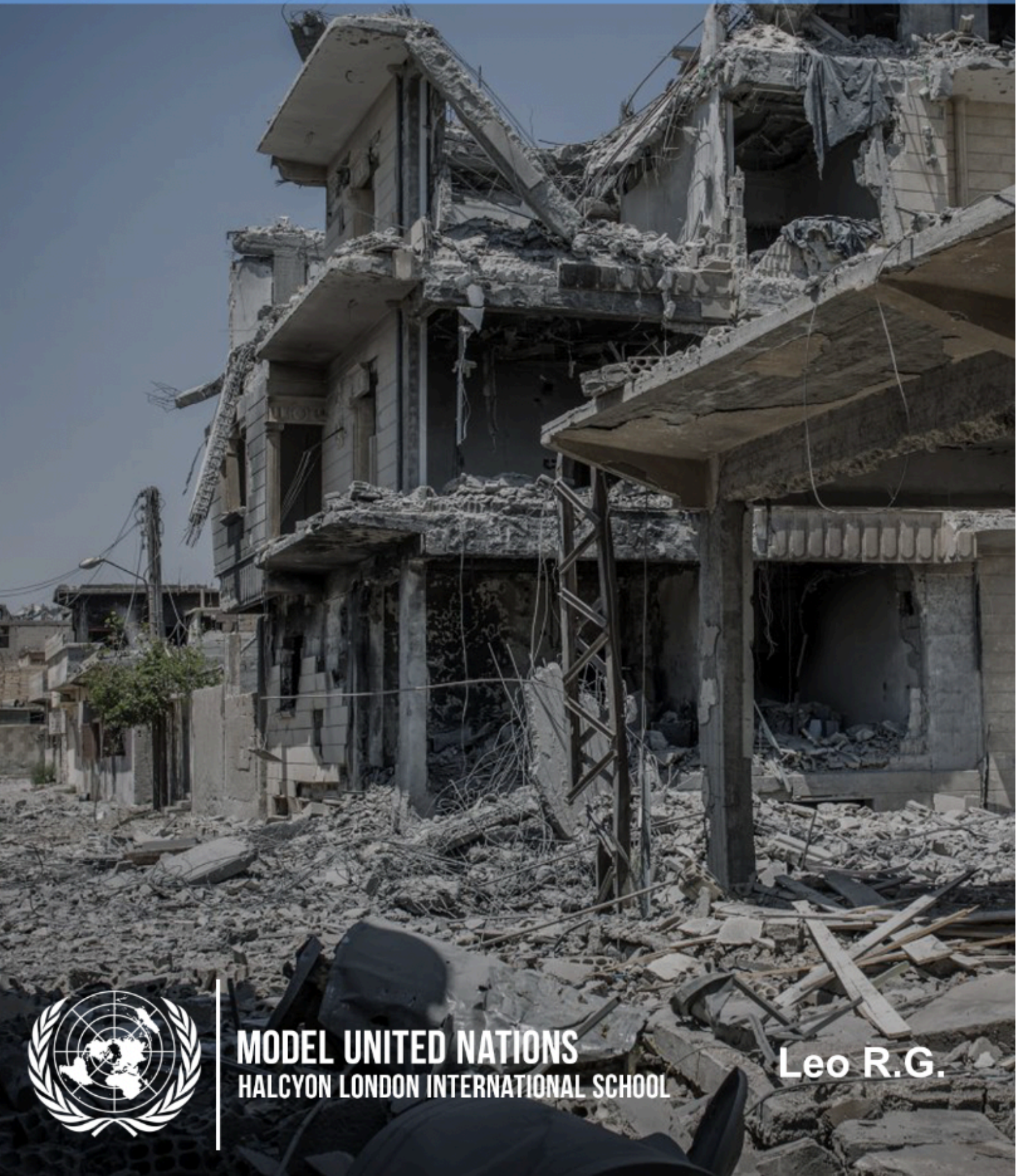


# The General Assembly

## Supporting Stability in Post-War Zones



**MODEL UNITED NATIONS**  
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<b>Issue:</b>	Supporting Stability in Post-War Zones
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## Introduction

War-torn societies on the course from conflict to peace are met with many economic, social and political challenges. To support these nations, the international community must provide substantial amounts of external assistance. This assistance, while playing an important role in pressing social and economic needs, is not always in good faith, or in attempts for peacebuilding.

Supporting the reconstruction of societies, economies and polities torn apart by conflict is one of the major responsibilities of the UN, and in the age of modern warfare, supporting local communities in their efforts to resume economic activity, revive social safety nets and repair infrastructure is more necessary than ever. Widespread poverty, extant vulnerabilities and uncertain peace are of the many problems that arise during the reconciliation of a nation, and it is the job of the UN to assist the locals in rebuilding their societies.

This report will look at nations where warfare has ended, but are not yet economically, politically or socially stable, and where the present conditions are volatile and dangerous. Nations with relevance to this issue will include Afghanistan, Sudan, Ethiopia and for a more present comparison Ukraine. The current issues will be covered in the general overview section of this report to give delegates an understanding of the struggles that such regions face.

The report will conclude by offering recommended solutions for delegates, including the discussion of foreign aid, and DDR. By examining the complex issues surrounding stability in post-conflict zones, this report hopes to give delegates a comprehensive overview of the topic and contribute to a deeper understanding of the challenges associated with the prospect of reconstruction, rehabilitation and reintegration

## Key Terms

### Post-Conflict Region;

A post-conflict region refers to an area, in transition from combat to a state of peace and stability. These regions have typically experienced periods of violence and displacement. The term "conflict" does not imply the complete cessation of conflicts but rather signifies that the region is in a phase of recovery and progress towards long-lasting peace and development.

### Sustainable Development;

According to the United Nations, sustainable development entails meeting the needs without compromising the ability of generations to fulfil their own needs. To achieve development it is crucial to balance three core elements; growth, social inclusivity and environmental protection. These elements are vital for the well-being of individuals and societies.

### Social Stability;

Social stability denotes a state of order within a society. It indicates a condition where there is violence, tension or discrimination among groups within that society. Social stability also encompasses factors such as employment opportunities and reasonable living standards. It plays a role in reconstructing and rehabilitating post-conflict regions.

### Economic Stability;

Economic stability refers to the absence of fluctuations in the economy at a macro level. An economy that experiences output growth and maintains low and stable inflation would be regarded as stable.

### Political Stability;

Political stability refers to where the governing institutions, leadership and overall political environment can survive without internal conflict.

## General Overview

The UN was formed to maintain international peace and stability and achieve cooperation among nations on many of the global issues. Still, our world is plagued by wars. In the 21st century, these wars can be deadlier than ever before. It is the role of the UN's Economic and Social Council to help rehabilitate and reconstruct post-conflict zones in a time more crucial than ever. Restoring economic, social and political stability in these regions is necessary to reintegrate them into the international community. To understand the importance of this, and to correctly inform delegates on the issue, this report gives overviews of post-conflict regions in this section.

### War In Afghanistan

The war on Afghanistan began when the United Nations Security Council decided to impose sanctions on Afghanistan (which at the time was led by the Taliban). The Security Council also created a link between religious extremist and terrorist organisations "Al-Qaeda", and the Taliban. These connections were only more pronounced after the September 11th attacks in the US. As a result of the terrorist attacks, the US began their attacks on the Taliban, and Al-Qaeda, with the primary objective of these attacks being to dismantle the Taliban regime. In the two months following, combat deaths reached 6700, and the Taliban surrendered, with the surrender of Kandahar being signed on December 9th 2001.

Not long after, on April 7th 2002, President Bush began working on the reconstruction of Afghanistan, saying "By helping to build an Afghanistan that is free from this evil and is a better place in which to live, we are working in the best traditions of George Marshall", however this amounted to nothing as the conflict started again. After another 2 years of fighting, and many peace treaties signed, the US decided it was the best course of action to withdraw their troops from Afghanistan. Then, on August 15th 2021 the Taliban captured Kabul, and formed an "open, inclusive Islamic government". Now, 85% of the population lives in poverty, with widespread food insecurity, rising inflation rates and high economic instability only aggravated by sanctions and loss of aid.

## War In Sudan

The current war in Sudan started on the 15th of April 2023. It is an armed conflict between the Sudanese Armed Forces and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces. The fighting is concentrated around the capital Khartoum and the Darfur Region. Later, the Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North also fought in SAF regions bordering South Sudan and Ethiopia. Casualties are estimated between 4,000 to 10,000 people had been killed and around 6,000 to 8,000 others injured, while as of 15 August 2023, 3.4 million people have been internally displaced and more than a million have fled the country as refugees. While the war is not yet over, 95% of Sudanese people are in poverty, the education rests at 28% among a plethora of other problems including disease, homelessness, and lack of clean water or food.

## Tigray War

Fought in the Tigray region of Ethiopia, the Tigray War spanned over 2 years from the 2nd of November 2020 to the 2nd of November 2022 between the Ethiopian Federal Government and Tigray People's Liberation Front. In 2021, the war was characterised as an ethnic cleansing against Tigrayans and the civil war would become one of the most deadly throughout this time, with many crimes against humanity, genocide, sexual violence and notable attacks on humanitarian workers. The Tigray War is an example of a war where rebuilding efforts were made much more difficult by the ongoing conditions, 2.3 million children were cut off from necessary aid and rehabilitation. Since 2021, 5.1 million people have been internally displaced due to the war. The US estimates that it will take at least \$20 Billion to rebuild just the northern part of Ethiopia.

## Russo-Ukraine War

The Russo-Ukraine war began in 2014, with the Russian annexing of Crimea. The early years of the conflict were limited to naval incidents, accounts of cyber-warfare and heightened political tensions between the two nations. This changed in February 2022, when Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine. While the conflict can be thought to be in its intermediate stages, its effects of ct have been felt throughout the world. Since the war began, there have been many gas disputes internationally, and global wheat prices have increased by over 60% from January 2022 to June 2022, compromising food security in many neighbouring countries. The effects of the war are also felt in Ukraine and Russia themselves, with both their economies rapidly declining and over 6 million Ukrainian peoples being displaced. The Russo-Ukraine war is an example of a time when reconstruction is necessary for the stability of neighbouring countries and shows the importance of adequate reconstruction and reconciliation practices in conflict-affected countries.

### **Economic, Social and Political Stability**

Looking at these events, it becomes clear that economic, social and political stability is the basis for such large-scale infrastructure projects, as well as making sure that countries are truly able to benefit from international aid. To reiterate what was said in the introduction of the research report, many strategies can and should be used by post-war governments to begin to rehabilitate and reconstruct a society. Both of these require a focus on economic and social stability, and this reconstruction can only begin once there is political stability. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the United Nations to aid these countries in their efforts to rebuild their nations. These nations face great demands whilst having incredibly limited revenue, which entails a coordinated response; other options will be explored later in the report.

## **Key Parties**

### **World Trade Organization (WTO):**

The World Trade Organisation sets the rules for global trade. It makes trade agreements possible around the globe, maximising the economic well-being of nations and expanding global trade. The WTO helps post-conflict nations to set up trade networks, and reintegrate themselves into the global forum, which is extremely important in reconstructing their societies.

### **World Bank:**

The World Bank is owned by 187 countries, helping developing nations to achieve sustainable growth. The most relevant part of the World Bank to this issue is the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, which is responsible for the reconstruction of conflict-affected economies, giving them the financial assistance that they need in times of crisis.

### **International Monetary Fund:**

The International Monetary Fund is one of the UN's major financial institutions. It is built to help its 190 member nations achieve sustainable growth and prosperity. Nations affected by conflict are major beneficiaries of the organisation, creating financial breathing room for countries that have been affected by the crisis.

**United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):**

The United Nations Development Programme is an organisation that “works to eradicate poverty while protecting the planet”. The UNDP has and will continue to make important contributions to stabilise, build and strengthen institutions that enable processes for just and inclusive governance in conflict-affected areas, and remain one of the most important organisations in doing so.

**Timeline of Events:**

<b>Date(s)</b>	<b>Description of Event(s)</b>
1815	After the Napoleonic Wars, the Congress of Vienna established a framework for restoring stability to Europe. The objective being to provide a long-term peace plan for Europe by settling issues arising from the French Revolutionary Wars and Napoleonic Wars through negotiation.
1920	The League of Nations is founded after World War I by the Paris Peace Conference to maintain world peace and stability by addressing territorial disputes and disarmament.
1944	The Bretton Woods Conference with representatives from 44 Allied nations convened to establish a framework for economic cooperation after World War II and the World Bank and IMF are founded.
1948	The Marshall Plan is put into place, providing substantial financial aid to Western European countries to rebuild their economies after World War II.
1965	The UNDP is founded, tasked with helping countries eliminate poverty and achieve sustainable economic growth and human development. The UNDP emphasises developing local capacity towards long-term self-sufficiency and prosperity
2001	The UNDP founds the UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery, collaborating on endeavours aimed at countering armed violence, establishing robust frameworks for sustainable development, and actively contributing to the realisation of the Millenium Development Goals.

2005                      UNSC Resolution 1645 is passed, establishing the Peacebuilding Commission as an advisory body to help post-conflict countries to develop strategies for recovery, infrastructure-building and sustainable development

## **Possible Solutions**

Low-income nations are often locked in a downward spiral of war, violence, and unstable economies. Since they lack the financial resources to support their security. It is quite often mandatory to address these problems inside the national institutions in charge of security: the judicial authorities, national police and the army. However, these institutions frequently put their interests over those of the public. The first step in reconstruction is to ensure that these institutions defend the law on behalf of the nation's citizens. However, when this is not possible due to social, economic and political instability, other options may be taken.

### **Infrastructure Investment:**

Giving aid to post-war nations to help rebuild the base of their infrastructure can begin to ensure economic stability. Rebuilding critical infrastructure such as roads and bridges can stimulate economic activity and allow for better living conditions. The economy needs infrastructure to maintain supply chains, and efficiently participate in trade overseas. Infrastructure can also support social stability, connecting households to higher-quality opportunities for employment, education and healthcare. Ways to help post-war countries rebuild their infrastructure include foreign aid/investment and development programmes, making sure that the aid is used in the best way it can be, and that the development programmes are well built and organised are two things to consider when taking this approach.

### **Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration:**

Disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration programmes (DDR) are some of the best ways to ensure social cohesion and stability directly after a war. In the words of the UNPBC "Through a process of removing weapons from the hands of members of armed groups, taking these combatants out of their groups and helping them to reintegrate as civilians into society, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration seeks to support ex-combatants and those associated with armed groups, so that they can become active participants in the peace process. As an alternative path, allowing some ex-combatants to integrate formal uniformed services of the State allows their status to be regularised and ensures a close link between DDR and Security Sector Reform.". Making sure



that these programmes are organised, and that there is some logic to the actions taken, perhaps making a standard order of operations to help with DDR could greatly increase the social stability of a post-war nation.

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