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United Nations Security Council

Chairpersons
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1. WELCOMING MESSAGE

Honourable delegates,

We would like to welcome and congratulate each and every one of you for choosing and subsequently being accepted to participate in the United Nations Security Council!

This committee, although a highly prestigious body of the UN, will undoubtedly prove to be one of the greatest challenges one can find here, at the Bacau Model United Nations Conference 2018. You might be at the top of the food chain of the international community, yet we advise you to avoid complacency. Many a thing can change in the blink of an eye in the Security Council, your allies, your enemies, even what appears to be a peaceful deal can ultimately trigger a vicious conflict. Surrounded by intrigue, brazen statements and cleverly crafted stratagems, it is your duty to hold your head high and represent the best interests of your Member State.

The topics we have carefully drafted for you are of the utmost relevance and urgency, with both of them threatening to erode the integrity of worldwide security for which the UN has strived ever since its creation. With that in mind, there are different paths ahead of you: salvage a dying agreement or shred it to pieces; quell a liberating movement or uphold a statutory regime, appeal to intervene or safeguard sovereignty.

Protect or destroy. The choice is yours.

Best of luck,
Chairpersons Alin Hampău & Daria Popa

2. INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The Security Council is one of the six main organs established under the UN Charter. It gives primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security to the Council, which may meet whenever peace is under threat.

2.1. MANDATE

All members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council. While other organs of the United Nations make recommendations to member states, only the Security Council has the power to make decisions that member states are then obligated to implement under the Charter.

Among the functions and powers of the Security Council, there are the duties:

- *to maintain international peace and security in accordance with the principles and purposes of the United Nations;*
- *to investigate any dispute or situation which might lead to international friction;*
- *to determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and to recommend what action should be taken;*
- *to call on Members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or stop aggression;*
- *to take military action against an aggressor;*

2.2. STRUCTURE & SUBSIDIARY ORGANS

The Security Council consists of fifteen members. The Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Republic of France, the People's Republic of China and the United States of America serve as the body's five permanent members. *These permanent members can veto any substantive Security Council resolution, including those on the admission of new member states or candidates for Secretary-General.* The Security Council also has 10 non-permanent members, elected on a regional basis to serve two-year terms. The body's presidency rotates monthly among its members. The Security Council is organized in such a way that it can function continuously, and a representative of each of its members must be present at all times at UN Headquarters.

Article 29 of the United Nations Charter sets out that the Security Council may establish *subsidiary bodies* as needed for the performance of its functions. All existing committees and working groups are comprised of the fifteen members of the Council. While some of them are permanent committees (e.g. the Standing Committee, concerned with procedural matters, the Military Staff Committee which helps plan UN military measures and regulate armaments, and the Counter-Terrorism and Non-Proliferation Committees), there are the Sanctions Committees and a series of other ad hoc bodies which are established for a limited time and address a specific issue.

The spectrum of power of the Security Council also includes *peacekeeping operations*, consisting of military, police and civilian personnel, who work to deliver security, political and early peacebuilding support, and *political missions*, part of a continuum of UN peace operations overseeing the de-escalation stages of the conflict cycle. The establishment of *International courts and tribunals*, such as in the historical cases of former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, also falls within the jurisdiction of the Council.

TOPIC A | UNCERTAIN FUTURE: THE IRAN NUCLEAR DEAL

A.1. TOPIC OVERVIEW

The Iran Nuclear Deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is an agreement regarding the Iranian nuclear programme established in Vienna on the 14th July 2015 between Iran, the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council plus Germany) and the European Union. Under the agreement, the Islamic republic has to employ a series of measures that would substantially halt the development of their nuclear sector, implying limitations on the amount of enriched uranium produced and deposited within the state as well as considerable downgrades of nuclear facilities. The agreement specifies that in the event of Iran abiding by its commitments, a series of nuclear-related economic sanctions will be lifted by the United States, the European Union and the United Nations Security Council.

In the light of President Donald Trump's withdrawal of the United States from the landmark nuclear deal, committing to re-impose sanctions on the country in spite of desperate pleas from close allies, and Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu's allegations undermining the authenticity of Iran's reports on downsizing nuclear development, what course of action should the Security Council take concerning the future of the infamous nuclear deal?

A.2. DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

ENRICHED URANIUM - Enriched uranium is a type of uranium (U) in which the percent composition of uranium-235 has been increased through the process of isotope separation. Natural uranium is 99.284 percent ^{238}U isotope, with ^{235}U only constituting about 0.711 percent of its mass. Enriched uranium is a critical component for both civil nuclear power generation and military nuclear weapons. The ^{238}U remaining after enrichment is known as depleted uranium (DU), and is considerably less radioactive than even natural uranium, though still very dense and extremely hazardous in granulated form. At present, 95 percent of the world's stocks of depleted uranium remain in secure storage.

GAS CENTRIFUGE - A gas centrifuge is a device that performs isotope separation of gases. A centrifuge relies on the principles of centripetal force accelerating molecules so that particles of different masses are physically separated in a gradient along the radius of a rotating container. A prominent use of gas centrifuges is for the separation of uranium-235 from uranium-238. At a uranium enrichment plant, thousands of centrifuges are chained together in long cascades. The creation of the centrifuges is a huge technological challenge. Meeting all the requirements has been out of reach for most countries. The recent development of inexpensive, high-precision computer-controlled machining equipment has made things somewhat easier. This is why more countries are learning to enrich uranium in recent years.

PRESSURISED HEAVY-WATER REACTOR - It is a nuclear reactor, commonly using natural uranium as its fuel, that uses heavy-water (deuterium oxide D₂O) as its coolant and neutron moderator. The heavy water coolant is kept under pressure, allowing it to be heated to higher temperatures without boiling, much as in a pressurized water reactor. Heavy-water reactors may pose a greater risk of nuclear proliferation, as one of the byproducts of such facilities is plutonium-239, a fissile material suitable for use in nuclear weapons.

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Enriched_uranium

<https://science.howstuffworks.com/uranium-centrifuge.htm>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pressurized_heavy-water_reactor

A.3. HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC

The Iran nuclear deal framework was a preliminary framework agreement reached in April 2015 between the Islamic Republic of Iran and a group of world powers: the P5+1 (the permanent members of the UNSC - plus Germany) and the European Union. According to this framework, Iran would redesign, convert, and reduce its nuclear facilities and accept additional protocols in order to lift all nuclear-related economic sanctions, freeing up tens of billions of dollars in oil revenue and frozen assets.

THE FINAL COUNTDOWN:



IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAMME

1950 Iran begins a civilian nuclear programme, led by Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi

1957 US and Iran sign an agreement on civil nuclear cooperation

1979 The shah is toppled during the Islamic Revolution. Iran is no longer able to import 93 percent enriched uranium from the US or Europe

1980 Start of the Iran-Iraq war

1986 Israel is reported to have acquired nuclear bomb

1987 Iranian officials allegedly establish contact with an illicit nuclear procurement network run by Abdul Qadeer Khan, a Pakistani nuclear engineer. The West says the Khan network is helping Iran to acquire uranium-enrichment technology

1968 Iran signs the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) which, when ratified two years later, permits Iran to have a civil nuclear programme in return for a commitment not to acquire nuclear weapons

2003 In negotiations with Britain, France and Germany, a group known as the EU3, Iran agrees to suspend uranium-enrichment activities

2005 After Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is elected Iran's president, EU3-Iran negotiations break down and Iran resumes enrichment activities

2006 IAEA refers Iran to UN Security Council for failure to comply with its Safeguards Agreement. First sanctions are imposed on Iran by the UN for refusing to suspend enrichment and other sensitive nuclear work

2008 US President Bush sends an official to take part in direct nuclear negotiations with Iran in Geneva for the first time

2009 US President Barack Obama takes office and tells Iran he would persuade the West that they were not trying to build a nuclear bomb. Britain, France and the US announce that Iran is building a secret uranium-enrichment site at Fordow

2012 US and Iranian officials begin secret talks on the nuclear issue

2013 Washington and Tehran intensify their nuclear talks

NOV 23 Iran and the six major powers reach an interim pact called the Joint Plan of Action (JPOA) under which Iran agrees to curb its nuclear work in exchange for limited sanctions relief

2015
APRIL 2 Iran and the major powers, Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the US reach the framework for a Comprehensive Joint Plan of Action (CJPOA) or final agreement
JUNE 30 Both sides agree to give themselves until July 7 to reach a final deal - but negotiations continue

2015 APRIL 2 Iran and the major powers, Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the US reach the framework for a Comprehensive Joint Plan of Action (CJPOA) or final agreement

JUNE 30 Both sides agree to give themselves until July 7 to reach a final deal - but negotiations continue

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The Iran Nuclear Deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), is the successor of the previously established framework, precisely a polished agreement regarding the Iranian nuclear programme established in Vienna on the 14th July 2015

between the aforementioned parties. The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was the regulatory body tasked with monitoring compliance with the imposed conditions.

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joint_Comprehensive_Plan_of_Action

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iran_nuclear_deal_framework

<https://www.alaraby.co.uk/english/news/2015/7/12/iran-historic-nuclear-deal-within-reach>

A.4. CURRENT SITUATION

In the midst of this seemingly perfect accord, the odds of the agreement to be successful - or at least viable - were obliterated. This comes at the hand of the President of the United States. Donald Trump, who had repeatedly promised to pull out from the pact as part of his campaign strategy, leading up to the November 2016 elections, said at that point that the deal was "defective at its core" and did not manage to mitigate the potential threats posed by Iran's nuclear breakthroughs. Among his proposed requests towards a superior agreement, there were: new penalties on Iran's ballistic missile inspections, expanded access for UN nuclear inspectors and an extension of the restrictions on Iran's enrichment beyond the current life of the deal. Donald Trump demanded a fixed deal or no deal at all. His decision concerning the accord was confirmed in May 2018, when Washington



announced its rejection of the deal, with many fearing that such a withdrawal will lead to the deal's consequent collapse.

This decision could be a repercussion of the Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu's infamous 'Iran Lied' presentation, showcasing the Iranian atomic archives, revealing the state's supposedly secret undertakings concerning its ongoing nuclear development, which naturally infringe upon the pre-established deal. While the government of Tehran quickly dismissed these allegations as mere propaganda, his words proved influential enough to plant a seed of doubt in the common conscience of the international community - or at least in the mind of some of its more prominent leaders.

Sources:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-israel-iran-netanyahu/israel-says-iran-lied-on-nuclear-arms-pressures-us-to-scrap-deal-idUSKBN1I11CJ>

<https://www.boston.com/news/politics/2018/05/09/defective-at-its-core-how-trump-opted-to-scrap-iran-deal>

<https://www.scoopnest.com/user/AtlanticCouncil/622767890777939968-the-pro-s-and-cons-of-the-iran-nuclear-deal-explained-in-one-infographic-acscowcroft>

A.5. ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

All aforementioned allegations and controversies have arguably been invalidated by the majority of reviews emanating from the UN's atomic watchdog, IAEA, organisation which has repeatedly asserted Iran's compliance with the terms of the landmark agreement.

Following the withdrawal of the US, the other parties - UK, France, Germany, China, Russia and the EU - have vowed to salvage the deal and consequently sustain Iran with enough economic benefits to counter American sanctions. Yet Tehran remains sceptical that their effort could revitalise the already battered economy of the state. Should the remaining members fail to uphold the deal, Iran threatened it will begin uranium enrichment beyond previous levels.

In spite of that, some US sanctions lifted under the deal have already been put back in place while others are due to resume in November. European powers, in their effort to resuscitate the deal, have scrambled to protect Iranian oil revenues and shield companies from the US measures meant to keep them from operating in Iran. However, there are limits to what the EU can do to counter the oil sanctions, under which Washington can cut off from the US financial system any bank that facilitates an oil transaction with Iran. In the light of that, many European enterprises are withdrawing or have withdrawn from Iran because of US sanctions that could banish them from the American market if they stay. The sanctions have contributed to a slide in Iran's currency, the rial, which has lost about two-thirds of its value this year, hitting a record low against the U.S. dollar as of July 2018. .

In recent developments, the US, through its special envoy for Iran, wanted to negotiate a treaty that included Tehran's ballistic missile program and its regional behavior, two critical objectives which, from an American point of view, damaged the viability of the Nuclear Deal they had formerly adhered to. Yet all their attempts have been met with closed doors on behalf of the government of Iran, interpreting their proposal as a mockery of the rejected agreement.

Sources:

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<https://www.timesofisrael.com/iran-says-it-will-go-beyond-previous-enrichment-if-nuclear-deal-fails/>

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A.6. PARTIES IMPLIED

There was a significant worldwide response following the announcement of the agreement; more than 90 countries endorsed the agreement, as did many international organizations.

CHINA - Foreign Minister Wang Yi said, "the most important achievement of the comprehensive agreement is that the international nuclear non-proliferation system is safeguarded. It can be said that China had played a unique and constructive role and thus is highly praised and affirmed by all parties."

FRANCE - In a speech, former President Francois Hollande praised the deal and called upon Iran to "show that it is ready to help us end" the Syrian civil war. French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius stated that the pact was a "robust agreement" that would last at least a decade.

GERMANY - Chancellor Angela Merkel said that the agreement was "an important success" of international diplomacy. Former Vice Chancellor and Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel said there was "great interest on the part of German industry in normalizing and strengthening economic relations with Iran."

RUSSIAN FEDERATION - President Vladimir Putin said in a statement: "We are certain that the world heaved a sigh of relief [that day]." Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov stated the accord "will favorably affect the general situation in the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf".

IRAN - Iranian Supreme Leader Khamenei who initially issued a letter of guidelines to President Hassan Rouhani, ordering him on how to proceed with the deal, threatened to 'set

fire' to the nuclear deal if the West violates it. Rouhani said the final agreement proved that "constructive engagement works" and presented the deal as a step on the road towards a wider goal of international cooperation: "With this unnecessary crisis resolved, new horizons emerge with a focus on shared challenges." In the aftermath of the withdrawal, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) highlighted that under the agreement "world powers have recognized Iran's peaceful nuclear program and are to respect the nuclear rights of (Iran) within international conventions." The IRNA report also said, "The policy on preventing enrichment uranium has now failed" and stressed, "no Iranian nuclear facilities or centrifuges will be dismantled."

UNITED STATES - President Barack Obama stated that the agreement "meets every single one of the bottom lines we established when we achieved a framework [...]. Every pathway to a nuclear weapon is cut off. And the inspection and transparency regime necessary to verify that objective will be put in place." The president emphasized that the agreement is "not built on trust—it is built on verification". On May 8, 2018, President Donald Trump called the agreement "a horrible one-sided deal that should have never, ever been made" and announced the US would withdraw from the agreement.

THE EUROPEAN UNION - High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini, who acted as coordinator for the powers, said it could "open the way to a new chapter in international relations and show that diplomacy, coordination, cooperation can overcome decades of tensions and confrontations" and that it is "a sign of hope for the entire world".

UNITED KINGDOM - Prime Minister David Cameron applauded the agreement, saying that it would help "make our world a safer place" and that Iran now had a "real opportunity" to benefit economically. Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond criticized the Israeli government's position on the JCPOA, saying in the House of Commons, "no agreement with Iran would have been enough for Netanyahu" and "Israel prefers a permanent state of standoff" with Iran.

ISRAEL - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said: "Israel is not bound by this deal with Iran, because Iran continues to seek our destruction, we will always defend ourselves." Netanyahu called the deal a "capitulation" and "a bad mistake of historic proportions". Deputy Foreign Minister Tzipi Hotovely called the deal an "historic surrender" and said that Israel would "act with all means to try and stop the agreement being ratified."

SAUDI ARABIA - On 14 July, the official Saudi Press Agency released a statement attributed to an "official source" saying, "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has always believed in the importance of reaching a deal regarding Iran's nuclear program that ensures preventing Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons and at the same time includes a specific, strict and permanent mechanism for inspecting all sites—including military ones—along with a mechanism for rapidly and effectively re-imposing sanctions in case Iran violates the deal."

INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY – Director General Yukiya Amano welcomed the agreement and congratulated Iran, the P5+1 countries and the European Union and said he is confident that IAEA is capable of doing the necessary monitoring and verification activities when requested.

Nuclear matters aside, a deeper conflict lurks in the midst of this controversy. Iranian forces are fighting in support of President Bashar al-Assad's government in Syria, where soldiers from Iranian-backed Hezbollah are also deployed. The Yemeni hostilities are also largely regarded as a proxy war between Iran and US ally Saudi Arabia, which only fuels the already existing cold war between the Iranian Shia and Saudi Sunni opposing influences. Yet these are only slivers of the gargantuan web of conflicts that make up the Arabian Peninsula.

Sources:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-iran-nuclear-security/iran-says-us-pullout-from-nuclear-deal-threatens-regional-peace-idUSKCN1LX11W>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joint_Comprehensive_Plan_of_Action#cite_note-137

A.7. CONCLUSION

The almost-dismantled Iran Nuclear Deal stands as one of the centrepieces of the network of aggression that governs the Middle East. Taking into the consideration all the direct and indirect implications of this agreement, the halt of nuclear development, the reversal of economic sanctions, the prevention of ballistic warfare and the machinations hidden behind a gruesome proxy war, the matter at hand is a most pressing one, which can be no longer ignored by the Security Council of the United Nations.

A.8. POINTS ADDRESSED

Questions to be considered by the committee:

1. *What is to be the fate of the infamous nuclear deal?*
2. *What course of action should the Security Council take concerning Iran's uranium enrichment programme and its possible exponential development?*
3. *What solution could be found in order to strike a balance between Iran's economic demands and security concerns emanating from western states?*
4. *How should the member states act in order to de-escalate the incipient conflict in the Arabian Peninsula?*

A.9. FURTHER RESEARCH

- [*Iran nuclear deal: Key details*](#)
- [*Uranium Enrichment*](#)
- [*The Middle East's cold war, explained*](#)
- [*Why both Iran and US have taken hits from nuclear deal withdrawal*](#)
- [*Israeli-Iranian proxy war*](#)

TOPIC B | PARADISE LOST: THE VENEZUELAN CRISIS

B.1. TOPIC OVERVIEW

Venezuela was a powerhouse of South America in the 1990s. The country turned towards socialism in 1999 and elected Hugo Chavez president. He championed populism, cut ties with the United States and cozied up to China and Russia, both of which loaned Venezuela billions. In the meantime, Venezuela has undergone a crisis since late president Chávez's tenure and which extended into the current incumbency of Nicolás Maduro. The opposition says that the United Socialist Party (PSUV) - from which both Chavez and Maduro came - proceeded to erode Venezuela's democratic institutions. The state has been extensively crippled by political corruption, scarcity of basic products, closure of companies, deterioration of productivity and competitiveness, and high dependence on oil. It seemed like a potential political turning point in 2015 when opposition leaders won a majority of seats in the National Assembly, dealing a blow to Maduro. But early in 2016, Maduro flooded the Supreme Court with his supporters to block the National Assembly from impeaching him. Key was the surprise announcement by the Supreme Court that it was taking over the powers of the opposition-controlled National Assembly, leading to months of protests that have left nearly 100 dead.

In the midst of this, the Security Council finds itself in a conundrum: should Member States involve themselves as a whole in the process of revitalisation - thus possibly having to support one of the two existing powers or should they opt for a distant approach and by extension letting the country solve its own internal turmoils - even if it is done at the expense of the citizens' welfare?

B.2. DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

INFLATION - The rate at which the general level of prices for goods and services is rising and, consequently, the purchasing power of currency is falling.

THE UNITED SOCIALIST PARTY OF VENEZUELA (PSUV) - Socialist political party in Venezuela which resulted from the fusion of some of the political and social forces that support the Bolivarian Revolution led by the late president Hugo Chavez.

CHAVISM (CHAVISMO) - Left-wing political ideology that has grown to be described as a cult that is based on the ideas, programs and government style associated with the former president of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez.

Sources:

Staff, Investopedia. "Inflation". Investopedia. N.p. 29 June 2016.

"United Socialist Party of Venezuela". Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation.

"Chavism". Wikipedia. Wikimedia Foundation.

B.3. HISTORY AND DESCRIPTION OF TOPIC

Venezuela is fighting with a socioeconomic and political crisis since 2010, when Hugo Chávez was president, and has continued to do so even into the current presidency of Nicolás Maduro. Since then, Caracas, the capital of Venezuela, has seen almost daily demonstrations in the streets, some of which have turned violent. The state is in the midst of a severe crisis which is constantly getting worse.

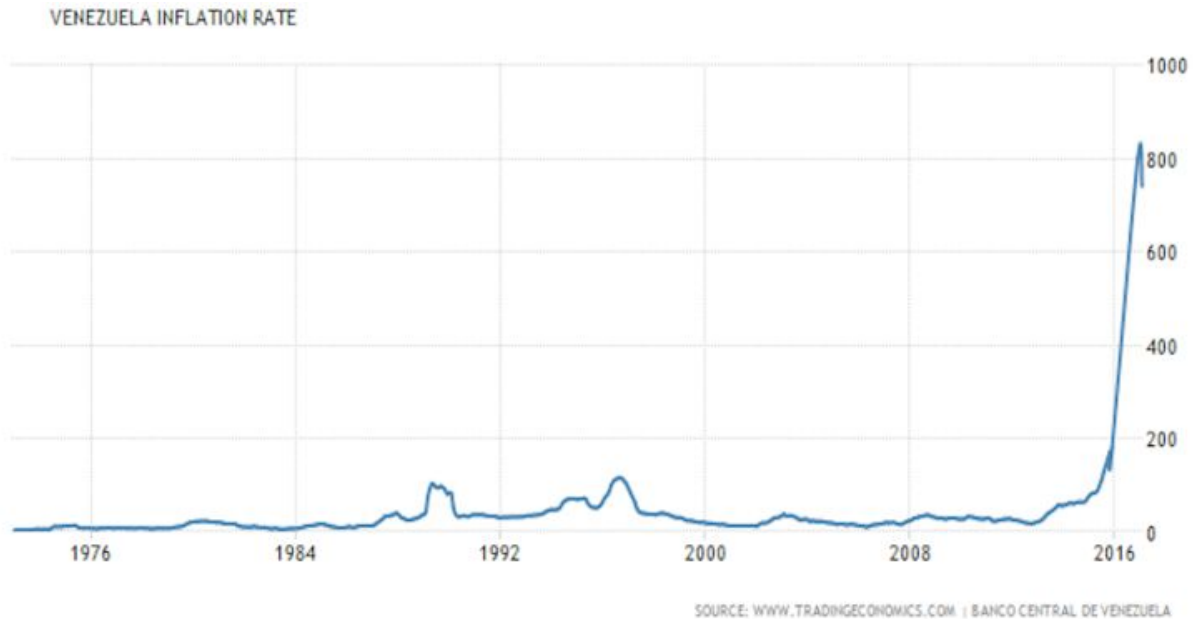
There is a number of reasons that drove Venezuela into its current situation, into the worst economic crisis in its history. For example, in January 2016, the Supreme Court suspended the election of four legislators – three that were enrolled with the opposition and one with the ruling party – for alleged voting irregularities. The opposition accused the court of trying to strip them of their super-majority, and went ahead and swore in three of the legislators in question.

The response was tough: the Supreme Court ruled that the entire National Assembly was in contempt and all decisions it made would be null. The Court also suspended a stay-or-go referendum against Maduro and postponed regional elections until 2017.

B.4. CURRENT SITUATION

The majority of Venezuelan people are protesting because they are in disagreement with the government of Nicolás Maduro. The crisis is suffocating and is forcing the country to cope with numerous issues.

HYPERINFLATION is definitely one of the most significant problems of Venezuela. The annual inflation rate reached 83,000 percent in July due to the rapid depreciation of the local currency on the black market. By IMF figures, it has the world's worst negative growth rate (-8 percent) and the worst inflation rate (482 percent). The unemployment rate is 17 percent, but is expected to climb to near 30 percent in the coming few years.



ECONOMIC WAR. As the prices double every 26 days on average, the Venezuelan Government is becoming more and more some sort of a "victim" of such a war. That's why the number of citizens that struggle to afford basic items such as food and toiletries is continuously rising.

FOOD SHORTAGES. The government is having a hard time when it comes to fighting with the black market, which has a terribly powerful influence on prices. *Prices on basic goods can change in a matter of days, causing [severe food shortages](#).* There are also attempts to cross the border with Colombia in order to buy basic goods. Food is, anyway, being transported under armed guard and water is arriving in the capital city only once a week.

HEALTH ASSISTANCE. The public health system is slowly collapsing. Medicine and equipment are increasingly not available.

CRIME AND POVERTY are also widespread. In 2016, 27,479 people were killed, at the same time being listed as the 9th most corrupt country in the world.

Venezuela was supposed to pay back \$15.2 billion in debt between 2015 and 2016, but the country has only \$15.2 billion in foreign reserves to make good on that. Problems came and still do one after another. A severe energy shortage was provoked by water shortage because, without enough water, the hydroelectric dam (that used to provide 60 per cent of the nation's power demand) cannot run into full capacity. As a result, the government is still shutting down electricity for hours every day.

Venezuela is so rich in oil, that it became an actual issue. The state has the largest proven reserves in the world and this wealth underpins the economic problems. Venezuela has never bothered to produce too much of anything else instead of oil. By exporting it, the

state earns dollars which are used to import goods Venezuelan people want and need from abroad. Even so, when the oil price plummeted in 2014, Venezuela found itself in a shortfall of foreign currency.

Ten Most Violent Cities in the World

Ranking	City	Country	Homicides	Homicide rate*
1	Caracas	Venezuela	4,308	130.4
2	Acapulco	Mexico	918	113.2
3	San Pedro Sula	Honduras	845	112.1
4	Distrito Central	Honduras	1,027	85.1
5	Victoria	Mexico	293	84.7
6	Maturín	Venezuela	499	84.2
7	San Salvador	El Salvador	1,483	83.4
8	Ciudad Guayana	Venezuela	727	82.8
9	Valencia	Venezuela	1,124	72
10	Natal	Brazil	1,097	69.6

*Homicide rate per 100,000 inhabitants

Source: CCSPJP

insightcrime.org

The economic crisis comes with a constant and growing anti-government sentiment that boosts the opposition's efforts to oust the president Nicolas Maduro. Just one in four Venezuelans approves of President Nicolas Maduro's governance, 7.3 percent of Venezuelan households are classified as living in extreme poverty and 40 percent of people working make the minimum wage or less.

B.5. RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

In February, Venezuela launched the pre-sale of *petro* (digital currency), which is meant to overcome US and EU sanctions. President Donald Trump signed an executive order barring any US-based financial transactions involving Venezuela's new cryptocurrency as US officials warned that it was a "scam".



₶

One of the most important steps that Venezuela has taken is the fact that on March 2018, the state postponed the upcoming presidential vote from April 22 to May 20, following a pact between Maduro's government and some opposition parties.

B.6. ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

The United Nations Security Council turned its attention to the Venezuelan crisis for the first time in May 2017, especially because the US signaled a "serious instability" in the country. While Venezuelan officials blame the US for stimulating the action of violent groups in Venezuela, some other states, like Uruguay, believe that the crisis should be handled within the region. Countries such as Argentina proposed that new sanctions could be imposed on Venezuela in order to "tighten the economic screw".

That having been said, the international community is only beginning to find solutions to the issue of the Venezuelan Crisis and there is still a long way until reaching a friendlier approach.

B.7. CONCLUSION

Summing up, the issue of the Venezuelan Crisis is extremely complex and needs to be analyzed from various points of view. The Venezuelan nation is slowly collapsing, the international community still finding the situation as a major setback for both human rights and economy in a country. The state is in a food, health and energy crisis, in the middle of a currency devaluation and political unrest.

B.8. QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED BY THE COMMITTEE

1. What economic options can the international community propose to Venezuela in order to help the state recover from its crisis?
2. How should the international community involve itself in the matter? Could Venezuela benefit from international intervention?
3. If a change in the structure of the Venezuelan government is necessary, what is the best way to achieve it?
4. What strategies could be used in order to ameliorate the issue regarding oil-dependance?

B.9. FURTHER RESEARCH

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