ISLMUN IV

SPECPOL
STUDY GUIDE

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NOVEMBER
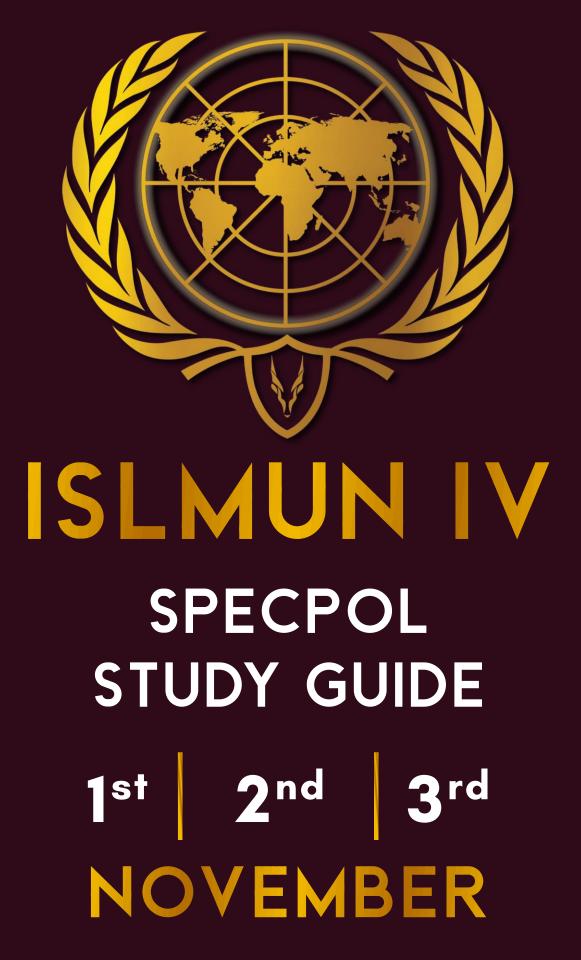
Introduction to ISLMUN:

ISLMUN is passionately committed to creating a vibrant and inclusive environment where participants dive into dynamic discussions and hone their leadership and negotiation skills. This year, we are set to elevate the conference to new heights, promising an unparalleled experience for all involved. Our mission is to ignite and empower the next generation of global leaders with unwavering integrity, sharp critical thinking, and a profound sense of global responsibility. This event will unite exceptional students from across institutions, offering them an extraordinary platform to tackle pressing global issues, enhance their diplomatic expertise, and engage in transformative debate

Notes from the DAIS for SPECPOL at ISLMUN IV:

Abeeha Akbar (Chair)

Hello Everyone, My name is Abeeha Akbar, the President of the ISLMUN Society and the President of ISLMUN IV. It is my honour to serve as your chair for SPECPOL. Wishing you all the best of luck—May ISLMUN IV be as impactful for you as it has been for those who organized it.

Mustafa Habib (Committee Director)

Assalam O Alaikum, My name is Mustafa Habib, Deputy MUN President of the ISLMUN Society. I will be your Committee Director for SPECPOL at ISLMUN IV. Good luck.

Heyam Dawood (Committee Director)

Hello Everyone, My name is Heyam Dawood, I will be your Committee Director for SPECPOL at ISLMUN IV this year. Goodluck.

Muarij Noor (Assistant Committee Director)

Hello everyone, My name is Muarij Noor, the O Level MUN Representative of the ISLMUN society. I will be your Assistant Committee Director for SPECPOL at this year's ISLMUN, wishing you all the best of luck.

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Introduction to SPECPOL:

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL) serves as the Fourth Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, focusing on a wide array of issues related to political stability, decolonization, and peacebuilding. SPECPOL's mandate centres on addressing challenges such as the long-standing impact of colonisation, international security, peacekeeping operations, and the support of non-self-governing territories in achieving self-determination. SPECPOL works to promote sovereignty and sustainable governance by facilitating frameworks that empower nations and regions, enabling them to tackle political instability, cross-border conflict, and economic underdevelopment autonomously.

SPECPOL employs a variety of mechanisms to fulfil its mandate, including mediating political dialogues, deploying UN peacekeeping missions, and creating frameworks that foster collaboration among nations with shared goals. Additionally, SPECPOL provides support for regional cooperation initiatives by encouraging economic, social, and security partnerships that address the root causes of instability. By endorsing multilateralism and empowering regional bodies, SPECPOL enables nations to develop localised solutions that reflect the unique social, political, and economic needs of their populations. Through these mechanisms, SPECPOL seeks to establish long-term peace, regional stability, and equitable governance in areas impacted by conflict and the historical effects of colonisation.

TOPIC A: Supporting Regional Cooperation In Africa: The Alliance Of Sahel States

Introduction to Topic A:

In recent years, the Sahel region of Africa—comprising countries such as Mali, Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger, and Mauritania—has faced significant challenges, including terrorism, political instability, and the impacts of climate change. The Alliance of Sahel States, a coalition led by the region's countries, seeks to address these complex issues by fostering stronger regional cooperation and reducing reliance on foreign intervention. Within the mandate of SPECPOL, this topic highlights the importance of empowering African-led initiatives to establish long-term security and stability, enhance economic development, and manage cross-border conflicts. The focus on the Alliance of Sahel States provides an opportunity to examine how coordinated political and security frameworks can address shared challenges and contribute to a more resilient and autonomous Sahel region. Supporting these efforts is essential not only to local governance but also to regional and global security.

Definition:

In SPECPOL, this topic focuses on fostering political cooperation among the Sahel countries (primarily Burkina Faso, Mali, Chad, Niger, and Mauritania) to address cross-border instability, governance challenges, and legacy colonial borders, which exacerbate regional instability. The Alliance of Sahel States aims to unite these countries under a shared political framework to confront terrorism, climate vulnerability, and economic underdevelopment while working toward sustainable, decolonized governance. SPECPOL's mandate includes supporting initiatives that promote regional cooperation and counter foreign influence, reinforcing African-led solutions to regional crises

Glossary:

1. **Alliance of Sahel States**
   A coalition formed by Sahel nations to unify political, military, and economic efforts for security and governance in a region facing rising extremism and socio-political challenges. This Alliance provides a platform for coordinated action, reducing dependency on foreign military presence and reinforcing African-led peace initiatives.

2. **Decolonisation in Sahel**
   The process of removing lingering colonial influences, including arbitrary borders and political dependencies that undermine self-governance. Decolonisation efforts here
   require rethinking boundaries, reinforcing local governance, and addressing foreign military dependencies, aligning with SPECPOL's goal of political autonomy.

3. **G5 Sahel**
   A coalition of five Sahelian nations (Burkina Faso, Mali, Chad, Niger, and Mauritania) focused on shared security and developmental objectives, such as joint military operations and regional policy coordination. It represents an African-led attempt at stabilizing the Sahel and is an essential partner for the Alliance of Sahel States under SPECPOL's framework.

4. **Border Fragmentation**
   The impact of colonial-era boundaries that separate ethnic groups and trade routes, often contributing to conflicts and illicit trade. Addressing border fragmentation through regional cooperation can ease tensions and improve the legitimacy of state borders in the Sahel.

5. **African Union (AU)**
   The principal African intergovernmental organization supporting unity, conflict resolution, and development. The AU plays a significant role in advocating for Sahelian autonomy and regional cooperation in counter-terrorism and economic development, and it often works alongside the Alliance of Sahel States in these efforts.z

6. **Regional Autonomy**
    The goal of enabling Sahelian states to govern independently, free from external interference, by building local capacity for security, development, and political cooperation. Autonomy in the Sahel region requires reducing reliance on foreign military support and reinforcing regional security partnerships, aligning with SPECPOL's mandate.A

7. **Counterterrorism in the Sahel**
    Efforts to eliminate terrorist groups like Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) and the Islamic State in the Greater Sahara (ISGS). The Sahel Alliance focuses on a Sahelian-led approach to counterterrorism, aiming to minimize the need for external military interventions.

8. **Security Vacuum**
    An absence of effective governance and security, particularly in rural areas, allowing insurgent and criminal groups to gain control. Regional cooperation through the
    Alliance of Sahel States seeks to fill this vacuum through coordinated efforts to restore government presence and security.

9. **Foreign Influence in the Sahel**
    The involvement of non-African powers, often through military or economic interventions, which can complicate regional stability. SPECPOL supports reducing foreign dependency in the Sahel by strengthening the Alliance of Sahel States to lead on regional security and development initiatives.

10. **Transnational Organised Crime**
    Criminal activities, including human trafficking, arms smuggling, and drug trade, that cross Sahel borders and fund extremist groups. Regional cooperation in monitoring and securing borders is critical to disrupting these networks and enhancing security in the region.

History:

It originated as a mutual defence pact created on 16 September 2023 following the 2023 Nigerien crisis, in which the West African political bloc ECOWAS threatened to intervene militarily to restore civilian rule after a coup in Niger earlier that year. The alliance came into being after successive coups in all three countries (Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso) being led by Juntas.

1. **Nigerien Crisis:**

   On 26 July 2023, a coup d'état occurred in Niger, during which the country's presidential guard removed and detained President Mohamed Bazoum. Subsequently, General Abdourahamane Tchiani, the Commander of the Presidential Guard, proclaimed himself the leader of the country and established the National Council for the Safeguard of the Homeland, after confirming the success of the coup.

2. **Malian Coup D'état:**

   The Malian coup d'état occurred on the night of 24 May 2021 when the Malian Army led by Vice President Assimi Goïta captured President Bah N'daw, Prime Minister Moctar Ouane and Minister of Defence Souleymane Doucouré. Assimi Goïta, the head of the junta that led the 2020 Malian coup d'état, announced that N'daw and Ouane were stripped of their powers and that new elections would be held in 2022. It is the country's third coup d'état in ten years, following the 2012 and 2020 military takeovers.

3. **Burkina Faso Coup D,état:**

   On September 30, 2022, Burkina Faso military leader President Paul-Henri Damiba was deposed in the country's second coup in a year (the initial coup being when he took over). Army Captain Ibrahim Traore took charge, dissolving the transitional government and suspending the constitution, on accusations that Henri Damiba was unable to deal with the country's Islamist insurgency.

4. **Formation of Al-Sahel Alliance:**
   The Al-Sahel alliance came into being after the 2023 nigerian crisis, on 16th September 2023. The Western Bloc of ECOWAS threatened to send military into the state to restore the law. In response the Sahel states (Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso) formed an alliance against the western bloc, as all three countries had military rule after successive coup's and similar aims. The alliance was led by the juntas.

5. **Withdrawal of western military:**

   After Niger announced to suspend a militiary agreement with the United States, the US agreed to withdraw the 1000 troops they had stationed in Niger. Public pressure towards the withdrawal of US forces was also shown by the civilians, when the

   protesters took to the streets in the capital. Furthermore the sahel states saw a shift towards Russian Influence rather than US, which pressured Washington even more to withdraw troops from these states. With Washington now worried that the entrance of Russia in the Sahel Region will further increase the terrorism issue.

Past UN Actions:

UN Security Council Resolutions
Resolution 2719 (2023)-This resolution marked a pivotal moment in enhancing the partnership between the UN and the African Union (AU), specifically addressing the urgent need for collaborative efforts to tackle security challenges across Africa. The resolution
emphasizes the importance of effective conflict prevention, early warning systems, and peacebuilding strategies tailored to regional context.

Resolution 2748 (2024)
This resolution builds on previous efforts, calling for comprehensive reporting on the transition of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia (ATMIS) and its implications for regional security, including the Sahel. The focus is on ensuring that transitions are aligned with the peace and security needs of the region.

Integrated Strategy for the Sahel
The UN's Integrated Strategy for the Sahel aims to provide a comprehensive framework to address the interconnected challenges of security, development, and humanitarian needs in the region. This strategy emphasizes the necessity of collaboration among various stakeholders, including governments, civil society, and international partners.

The G5 Sahel Joint Force
The G5 Sahel Joint Force, formed by Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Chad, aims to enhance security cooperation among member states to combat terrorism and organized crime. The UN has recognized this force as a crucial element in the regional security architecture. The Security Council has called for sustainable funding and logistical support for the Joint Force to ensure its operational effectiveness.

Partnership with the African Union
Joint Framework for Enhancing Partnership on Peace and Security: This framework, established in 2017, seeks to strengthen cooperation between the UN and the AU in addressing peace and security challenges in Africa. It includes provisions for joint planning and implementation of peace operations.

Key Stakeholders in Supporting Regional Cooperation in the Sahel

1. G5 Sahel Countries
   The G5 Sahel nations—Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, and Mauritania—
   have formed a Joint Force to combat terrorism and organized crime in the
   region. They have conducted several military operations against extremist
   groups, such as
   Operation Barkhane, aimed at restoring security and stability. Additionally, they
   have collaborated on strategies for economic development and addressing
   climate change impacts.

2. United Nations (UN)
   The UN has actively supported peacekeeping operations in the Sahel, such as the
   MINUSMA mission in Mali, which aims to stabilize the country and protect
   civilians.
   The UN has also facilitated dialogue among member states and regional
   actors to promote political solutions and has mobilized humanitarian
   assistance for millions affected by conflict and food insecurity.

3. Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
   ECOWAS has played a crucial role in mediating conflicts in the Sahel, advocating
   for democratic governance, and deploying peacekeeping forces when necessary.
   The organization has also established frameworks for regional security and has
   been involved in training and capacity-building programs for member states to
   improve their response to security challenges.

4. African Union (AU)
   The AU has worked to promote stability in the Sahel through initiatives like
   the African Standby Force, which is designed to respond to crises. The AU has
   also engaged in diplomatic efforts to resolve conflicts and has supported
   regional
   frameworks for security cooperation, emphasizing the importance of addressing
   root causes of instability.

5. Global Partners
    Countries like France and organizations such as the European Union have provided significant military and financial support to the G5 Sahel Joint Force. France has been involved in counter-terrorism operations through Operation Barkhane, while the EU has funded development projects aimed at enhancing stability and resilience in the Sahel, focusing on governance, human rights, and economic opportunities.

6. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)
    NGOs such as Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) and the International Rescue Committee have been instrumental in providing humanitarian assistance, including medical care and food security initiatives. They often work closely with local communities to ensure that aid reaches the most vulnerable
    populations and address the immediate impacts of conflict and displacement.

Regional Frameworks and Agreements

1. Protocol on Non-Aggression (1978): This protocol emphasizes the commitment of member states to peaceful coexistence and mutual respect, aiming to prevent conflicts through dialogue and cooperation. It serves as a foundation for regional stability.

2. Protocol on Mutual Assistance in Defence (1981): This agreement obligates member states to assist one another in the event of an external aggression, reinforcing
    collective security measures to deter threats to peace within the region.

3. G5 Sahel: Formed in 2014, this initiative involves Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali,Mauritania, and Niger. Its focus is on coordinating military operations and socio-economic development projects to combat terrorism and enhance regional stability. The G5 Sahel Joint Force has been pivotal in addressing the security challenges posed by extremist groups in the region.

Treaties and International Agreements

1. Paris Agreement (2015): This treaty aims to combat climate change, recognizing the Sahel's vulnerability to environmental degradation. It seeks to limit global
temperature rise and foster resilience against climate-related impacts, which are critical for the region's stability and development.

2. African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (1986): This treaty promotes and protects human rights across Africa, emphasizing the importance of governance, civil liberties, and the protection of individuals. Its provisions are crucial for fostering stability and democratic governance in the Sahel.

Case Studies

Mali

1. 2015 Algiers Accord: This peace agreement aimed to address the long-standing grievances of Tuareg separatists in northern Mali. While it sought to promote dialogue and stability, its implementation has faced significant challenges due to ongoing
violence and the lack of trust between the parties involved.

Burkina Faso

2. ECOWAS Response to the 2022 Military Coup: Following the military coup in January 2022, ECOWAS took swift action by imposing economic sanctions and suspending
Burkina Faso from its membership. The organization emphasized the need for a return to constitutional order and democratic governance, demonstrating its commitment to maintaining political stability in the region.

Niger

3. G5 Sahel Joint Force: Established in 2017, this force is tasked with combatting terrorism and organized crime in the Sahel. Despite its intentions, the G5 Sahel Joint Force has encountered difficulties in coordination among member states and securing adequate funding, which have hindered its operational effectiveness in addressing security challenges.

UN Reports

1. UN Secretary-General's Reports on the Sahel
   These reports provide updates on the security situation, humanitarian
   needs, and political developments in the Sahel region. They often
   include recommendations for enhancing regional cooperation and the
   role of the United Nations.
2. Report of the United Nations Office for West Africa and the Sahel
   (UNOWAS)
   This report highlights the political and security dynamics in the Sahel,
   emphasizing
   the importance of regional collaboration in addressing security threats
   and promoting stability.
3. Humanitarian Response Plan for the Sahel Region
   This document outlines the humanitarian challenges in the Sahel,
   detailing the needs of affected populations and the coordinated
   response efforts by the UN and partner organizations.

UN Resolutions

1. Security Council Resolution 2391 (2017)
   This resolution emphasizes the need for a comprehensive and integrated
   approach to address the security and humanitarian crises in the Sahel,
   supporting the G5 Sahel Joint Force.
2. Security Council Resolution 2532 (2020)
   This resolution calls for enhanced international cooperation in
   addressing the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on peace and security,
   particularly in vulnerable regions like the Sahel.
3. General Assembly Resolution 76/270 (2022)
   This resolution addresses the challenges faced by African countries in
   achieving
   sustainable development, focusing on the need for increased cooperation
   and support for the Sahel region.

QARMA:

1. What are the primary security threats facing the Sahel region today?

2. How have recent military coups impacted stability and governance in Sahelian countries?

3. What role does ECOWAS play in responding to these coups, and what measures have they taken?

4. What is the extent of Western military presence in the Sahel, and how has it evolved in recent years?

5. What actions has the Wagner Group undertaken in the Sahel, and what are the implications of their involvement?

6. How do local populations perceive foreign military interventions in the region?

7. What are the humanitarian impacts of ongoing conflicts in the Sahel, and how can they be addressed?

8. What past UN actions have been taken regarding the Sahel, and how effective have they been?

9. What mechanisms can be implemented to enhance regional cooperation among Sahelian countries?

10. How can the international community effectively support local governments in improving security and governance?

TOPIC B: Foreign Intervention In South American Elections

Introduction to Topic B:

Foreign intervention in South American elections has become a contentious issue in the realm of international politics. This phenomenon involves various foreign governments and non-state actors seeking to influence electoral outcomes in South American countries for strategic, economic, or ideological purposes. Such interventions can take many forms, including funding political campaigns, spreading disinformation, and employing cyber tactics. The implications of these actions are profound, affecting the sovereignty of nations, the integrity of democratic processes, and the overall stability of the region.

Definition:

Foreign intervention in South American elections refers to the involvement of external actors—such as foreign governments, multinational corporations, and NGOs—in the electoral processes of South American nations. This intervention can take various forms, including political influence through financial support for specific candidates, disinformation campaigns aimed at manipulating public opinion, and cyber operations that target electoral integrity. Additionally, foreign powers may exert diplomatic pressure to achieve desired political outcomes, raising concerns about national sovereignty and the legitimacy of democratic institutions in the region. The implications of such interventions are profound, affecting both the stability of individual countries and the overall democratic landscape in South America

Glossary:

1. **Foreign Intervention**: The involvement of foreign governments or organizations in the electoral processes of another country, which can take various forms, including diplomatic pressure, financial support for specific candidates, or active participation in campaign strategies.

2. **Electoral Manipulation**: Actions taken to unfairly influence election outcomes, often through means such as vote rigging, intimidation, or coercion, undermining the
principles of democracy.

3. **Election Meddling**: A term often used to describe foreign efforts to disrupt or influence electoral processes through tactics such as misinformation campaigns, cyberattacks, or funding opposition groups.

4. **Proxy War:** A conflict where two opposing countries support combatants that serve their interests instead of waging war directly, often extending to political support in elections.

5. **Election Observers**: Individuals or groups who monitor elections to ensure they are conducted fairly and according to international standards, sometimes sent by foreign nations or international organizations.

6. **Political Asylum**: Protection granted by a country to individuals from another country who have fled due to fear of persecution, which can become a focal point in elections when candidates leverage these issues.

7. **Geopolitical Strategy**: The planning and implementation of actions that reflect a country's strategic interests in a region, often influencing its approach to foreign intervention in elections.

8. **International Sanctions**: Measures imposed by countries or international bodies to influence a nation's behavior, which can affect the political landscape and electoral processes in targeted countries

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History:

The historical background of foreign intervention in South American elections is marked by significant events that illustrate the geopolitical dynamics of the region. During the 2019 Venezuelan presidential crisis, Nicolás Maduro's allies, including Russia, China, Iran, Turkey, Syria, and Cuba, supported him, while the United States, Canada, and most of Western Europe backed Juan Guaidó, who declared himself interim president on January 23, 2019, after Maduro's swearing-in on January 10. The U.S. intervention was perceived by Maduro's government as a coup attempt aimed at controlling Venezuela's oil reserves, a claim that Guaidó contested by asserting that his movement was backed by peaceful volunteer chilean elections, the Soviet Union financed the Communist Party of Chile, contributing between $50,000 and $400,000 annually. In contrast, the U.S. government allocated $2.6 million to support candidate Eduardo Frei Montalva, whose opponent, Salvador Allende, was a prominent Marxist. This funding aimed to undermine Allende's campaign and reputation .
Similarly, in B 1955 elections saw the U.S. government increase its budget for public education on the perceived threats of communism, particularly targeting João Goulart, whom they viewed as a communist demagogue. The U.S. also provided financial support to
conservative factions to bolster their electoral chances .

In Bolivia, the United Mitted over $1.1 million to foster a pro-U.S. government during the 1964 elections, covertly funding the MNR political party and supporting General Rene
Barrientos after a coup the same year . These examples underscore a patteign intervention aimed at influencing electoral outcomes in favor of U.S. interests throughout South American history.

Past UN actions

UN General Assembly Resolutions

Resolution 2131 (1965): The "Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of Their Independence and Sovereignty" was foundational for addressing foreign interference globally, including in South America. This resolution established a broad principle condemning foreign intervention, laying a basis for further discussions on safeguarding election processes.

Resolution 36/103 (1981): Reaffirming the principles of non-intervention, this resolution was titled "Declaration on the Inadmissibility of Intervention and Interference in the Internal
Affairs of States." South American countries often invoked it to contest foreign influence, referencing it as a key instrument in resisting any interventions affecting democratic
institutions and electoral integrity.

UN Investigations and Reporting

Special Rapporteurs and Electoral Integrity: Various UN Special Rapporteurs on the rights to freedom of opinion and expression and on the promotion of democracy have investigated
instances of foreign involvement in elections. For example, investigations in the early 2000s examined the impact of disinformation and media manipulation during South American elections, linking these actions to broader discussions in SPECPOL.

The UN's Role in Electoral Assistance: The UN Electoral Assistance Division (EAD) has historically played a role in supporting fair elections in countries like Bolivia, Nicaragua, and Venezuela. This involvement focuses on ensuring transparency and countering foreign
influence where possible by promoting strong local electoral systems. Reports submitted to SPECPOL and the General Assembly highlight the UN's emphasis on non-partisanship and respect for sovereignty.

SPECPOL Panel Discussions

SPECPOL has hosted various panel discussions on election interference, often catalysed by concerns over digital interference and cyber-attacks from external actors. In 2019, for instance, the committee held a special session discussing how new technology could be misused to manipulate electoral outcomes in Latin America, emphasising the need for cooperation among nations to counter these threats.

Regional Statements and Alliances: South American states have periodically made joint statements to SPECPOL expressing their desire to resist external influences. The Lima
Group, for example, has voiced concerns over foreign interference in Venezuela's elections, which SPECPOL documented as part of the broader discourse on intervention and electoral integrity.

Organization of American States (OAS) Cooperation

While not part of the UN, the OAS works closely with SPECPOL and UN organs on electoral integrity in the Americas. Its reports on foreign intervention often align with UN principles and provide insights into the role of external actors in elections. These findings have been presented in various UN forums and have influenced SPECPOL's discussions on South American electoral sovereignty.

The key stakeholders involved in the foreign intervention in South American elections:

1.National Governments: The governments of South American nations, such as Venezuela, Brazil, Chile, and Bolivia, are significantly affected by foreign intervention in their electoral processes. For example, during the 2019 Venezuelan presidential crisis, Nicolás Maduro's government was supported by Russia, China, Iran, and others, while the U.S. and its allies backed Juan Guaidó, declaring him interim president. This conflict illustrates how foreign
powers can polarize domestic politics and undermine sovereigntyazil, the U.S. supported conservative candidates during the 1955 elections to prevent the rise of perceived leftist threats, showcasing how foreign interests can manipulate electoral outcomes .

2. Foreign G: Major global powers, particularly the United States, Russia, and China, are pivotal stakeholders in this context. The U.S. has a long history of intervening in Latin America, primarily motivated by anti-communism and the promotion of democracy. This was evident in the U.S. funding of Eduardo Frei Montalva in Chile to counter Salvador Allende, who was viewed as a Marxist threat . In contrast, Russia and expanded their influence in the region by supporting leftist governments like Maduro's, challenging U.S. hegemony .

3.Political Parties and Candical parties and candidates are directly influenced by foreign interventions, often receiving funding or support from external actors. For instance, in the 1964 Chilean elections, the U.S. aimed to weaken Allende's campaign through strategic funding for opposing candidates. This external backing can significantly alter the political landscape and electoral dynamics .

4.Civil Society Organizations: Non-governmentations (NGOs) and civil society groups play a crucial role in advocating for democratic processes and human rights, often challenging foreign interventions. These organizations work to mobilize public opinion against external influences that threaten local sovereignty, promoting transparency and electoral integrity .

5.   International Organizations: Institutions like the t as stakeholders by providing frameworks for international law and norms regarding state sovereignty and electoral integrity. The UN's involvement can lend legitimacy to electoral processes and help mediate disputes arising from foreign interventions. For example, the UN has monitored elections in various countries, ensuring that foreign influences do not undermine the democratic process .

These stakeholders collectively shape the discourse around foreign intervention actions, influencing both immediate political outcomes and broader regional stability.

Regional frameworks:

1. Organization of American States (OAS): The OAS plays a vital role in promoting democracy and stability in the Americas. The Inter-American Democratic Charter, adopted in 2001, emphasizes the importance of democratic governance and the right of member states to intervene in the internal affairs of other states to restore democracy. The OAS has monitored elections across the region, including the controversial elections in Venezuela and Bolivia, reinforcing the principle of non-intervention while advocating for democratic norms. OAS electoral observation missions aim to ensure free and fair elections, offering recommendations for improvement based on their findings

2. (Southern Common Market): Mercosur is a regional trade bloc that includes countries such as Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. It has established protocols, like the Ushuaia Protocol (1998), which commits member states to uphold democratic principles.
This protocol allows for the suspension of member states that experience a rupture of democratic order, which can be interpreted as a safeguard against foreign intervention that undermines democracy. Mercosur aims to create a unified response to political crises within its member states, emphasizing the importance of sovereignty and regional stability .

3. UnioNations (UNASUR): UNASUR was established to promote regional integration and cooperation, particularly in political and social issues. It aimed to facilitate dialogue among member states regarding political crises, including foreign intervention in elections. Although UNASUR's influence has waned in recent years, its initial formation was partly a response to concerns about U.S. interventions in the region. The organization's focus on collective security and political dialogue serves as a framework to address the challenges of foreign
influence in domestic affairs .

4. Andean Community (CAN): The Andean Community is a regional organization that includes Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru, focusing on economic integration and political cooperation among its member states. It was established to promote sustainable development and to strengthen regional cooperation. One of the critical documents guiding the Andean Community is the Andean Charter for Democracy, adopted in 2002, which outlines the principles of democratic governance that member states must uphold. This charter emphasizes the need for free and fair elections, human rights, and the rule of law.

The community has protocols in place to address political crises and to promote dialogue among member states. In recent years, the Andean Community has been involved in monitoring elections and ensuring that foreign interference does not undermine democratic processes. For instance, the organization has expressed concerns over external influences in elections, advocating for respect for national sovereignty and self-determination of its member states. The Andean Community's approach reinforces the idea that regional cooperation is essential for maintaining stability and democracy in South America Community

5. Inter-American Court of Human Rights: Plays a crucial role in interpreting and enforcing human rights norms within the Americas. Its rulings often address issues related to electoral integrity and the protection of democratic rights, providing a legal framework for states to challenge foreign interventions that threaten human rights and democracy. The court's jurisdiction extends to cases involving violations of democratic norms, reinforcing the importance of protecting sovereignty against external influences.

Treaties and International Agreements:

1. Inter-American Democratic Charter (2001)
   The Inter-American Democratic Charter was adopted by the Organization of American States (OAS) to promote democracy and defend human rights across the Americas. The charter outlines member states' commitment to uphold democratic governance and establish mechanisms for collective action when democracy is
   threatened. It provides a framework for addressing political crises, emphasizing the importance of free elections and the need to combat foreign interference in domestic electoral processes. This charter has been invoked during various political crises in South America, demonstrating its relevance in addressing foreign intervention in electionstion on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007)
   While not specific to elections, this declaration addresses the rights of Indigenous peoples in the context of self-determination and participation in political processes. It emphasizes the need for governments to consult Indigenous communities and respect their political rights. This is particularly pertinent in South America, where Indigenous populations often face marginalization in electoral processes. The declaration has implications for how foreign influence may disproportionately affect these communities, highlighting the necessity for fair representation and protection of their rights in elections.

2. The Treaty of Tlatelolco: established Latin America as a nuclear-weapon-free zone, promoting regional security and cooperation. While primarily focused on disarmament, this treaty has broader implications for political stability in the region.
   The absence of nuclear weapons can create a more favorable environment for democratic processes, reducing the risk of foreign interventions that exploit security concerns. Additionally, the treaty fosters collaboration among Latin American states, which can help them collectively address and resist external influences in their political affairs.

   3. MERCOSUR Treaty (1991) mon Market (MERCOSUR) is a regional trade bloc that promotes economic integration among its member states, including Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. While primarily focused on trade, MERCOSUR has political dimensions, aiming to enhance regional stability and cooperation. The MERCOSUR Protocol of Ushuaia on Democratic

Commitment mandates that member states maintain democratic institutions, providing a framework for intervention in cases of democratic erosion. This treaty is crucial in countering foreign interference in elections, as it reinforces the commitment to democratic governance within the region.

Case Studies

Chile (1970s)

1. The U.S. intervened heavily in Chile's elections in the early 1970s, primarily through the CIA, to prevent the election of socialist leader Salvador Allende, whom the U.S. saw as a threat due to his ties with Marxist ideologies and close relations with Cuba and the Soviet Union. Funding anti-Allende candidates and opposition media, disinformation campaigns, and covert operations took place to disrupt Allende's presidency. Despite Allende's election, a U.S.-backed coup led to General Augusto Pinochet's rise to power in 1973, ushering in a military dictatorship that lasted until 1990.

Venezuela (2000s - Present)

2. Venezuela has faced accusations of foreign interference, primarily from the United States, particularly under Hugo Chávez and Nicolás Maduro. Sanctions, funding opposition movements, and providing diplomatic and financial support to groups challenge Maduro's leadership. Impacts of Political polarization within Venezuela, economic challenges, and complex international relations with allies such as Russia and China, who provide support to counter U.S. influence are results of interference.

Brazil (2018 Election)

3. The 2018 election of Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil saw foreign influence through misinformation campaigns, especially from external actors spreading disinformation on social media platforms. Online disinformation and media manipulation, with some support alleged from non-state actors linked to other countries who sought to sway public opinion and discredit Bolsonaro's main opponent. This election demonstrated

the vulnerability of democratic systems to influence through technology and raised concerns about electoral integrity and social polarization.

Argentina (Cold War Era)

4. During the Cold War, the U.S. influenced Argentine politics to curb the spread of leftist ideologies. Support for military dictatorships through Operation Condor, which involved coordinated anti-communist activities across South America. Military rule in Argentina led to severe human rights abuses, loss of democratic governance, and a legacy of fear and mistrust toward U.S. influence.

Colombia and Russian Influence (2022)

5. Recent allegations of Russian influence have been reported in Colombia, aiming to sway public opinion in favor of candidates sympathetic to Russian interests. Disinformation is being spread through social media platforms, cyber operations, and indirect support of sympathetic political figures. Escalated distrust occurred amongst Colombian citizens about foreign meddling in democratic processes, with concerns about sovereignty and security amidst ongoing peace negotiations within the country.

UN Reports

1. UN Secretary-General Report A/HRC/40/52 (2019)
    The report *Impact of Foreign Interference on Electoral Integrity* examines cases of foreign interference where entities disrupted election security using cyberattacks, disinformation, and financial manipulation. It highlights the specific vulnerabilities of electoral processes in an increasingly digital world and the need for strong international norms.

2. UN Strategy on Hate Speech (2019)
    This strategy was introduced by the UN Secretary-General to combat disinformation and online interference, which often threatens election credibility. The report
    emphasizes the necessity for coordinated international efforts to mitigate the effects of hate speech and disinformation on democratic systems.

UN Resolutions on Non-Interference and Democratic Integrity

1. UN General Assembly Resolution 36/103 (1981)
   Titled *Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of Their Independence and Sovereignty*, this foundational resolution
   upholds every nation's right to independence and non-interference. It underscores the principles of state sovereignty, laying the groundwork for future resolutions on foreign intervention.

2. UNHRC Resolution 19/36 (2012)
   The *Promoting Human Rights and Democratic Elections* resolution by the Human Rights Council stresses the importance of free and fair elections in upholding human rights and self-determination. This resolution condemns foreign actors that disrupt
   democratic processes, reinforcing the right to self-governance and electoral integrity.

QARMA:

1. What specific instances of foreign intervention in South American elections have been documented, and what are their implications for national sovereignty?

2. How can the UN assist member states in strengthening their electoral processes against foreign interference, and what support can it provide for capacity-building initiatives?

3. What strategies can be employed to promote transparency and accountability in electoral systems to prevent foreign influence?

4. How can regional organizations in South America collaborate to share best practices and develop collective responses to foreign intervention in elections?

5. What mechanisms can be established to monitor and assess the impact of foreign interference in elections, and how will this data be reported to the UN?

6. How can the UN encourage member states to uphold their commitments to non-interference while addressing the challenges posed by foreign intervention in their democratic processes?

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