

WHISMUN 2026

The Next Frontier



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STUDY GUIDE

Lok Sabha

Agenda : *Countering the Rise of Non-State Armed Groups and Fragile States*

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear delegates,

I welcome you to the United Nations Security Council at WhisMUN 2026. It will be a pleasure to host you in a committee that shapes the security around the world. This background guide has been created while keeping in mind that the agenda is a bit technical and you'll be tested based upon both your analytical and research skills in the committee. This background guide is not intended and should not restrict your research base, additionally the guide can in no way be used as a source of proof in the committee.

The guide has been created to help you start your research and give you hints about the important aspects of the committee. The guide has been divided into following parts in order to ease the process of research for you:

1. Committee description
2. Introduction to the agenda
3. Case studies/ Noteworthy Incidents
4. Valid source of proof in the committee
5. Additional Links for research and understanding

You are requested to go through the Background guide in the order it has been made because each is connected to the previous section in some way or the other.

If we could give you a tip before you start research regarding the agenda, it would be to keep in mind that this is an analytical agenda and how you interpret the agenda from your country's point of view is critical to how you begin your representation in committee from the get go. Analysis and Policy should play a major role in keeping your point forward in front of the committee, hence make sure you understand the terminologies and research you find regarding the agenda.

Apart from that, in case of any queries related to the committee or Rules of Procedure you may contact me via email or text us on the information given below.

We look forward to seeing you at the conference!

INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

The UNSC (United Nations Security Council) is one of the main organs of the United Nations which is responsible for maintaining peace and security throughout the globe. According to the United Nations Charter, the Security Council has four main purposes.

- To maintain international peace and security;
- To develop friendly relations among nations;
- To cooperate in solving international problems and in promoting respect for human rights;
- To be a centre for harmonising the actions of nations.

While other organs of the UN are responsible for recommending solutions to global issues, the Security Council is responsible for accepting and passing solutions, which the member nations are obligated to adhere to.

MANDATE OF THE UNSC

Legalities of the UNSC

The Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. Some of its actions have international law implications, such as those that relate to peacekeeping missions, ad hoc tribunals, and sanctions. The binding nature of resolutions adopted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter is particularly relevant in this case.

If the council cannot reach a consensus or a passing vote on a resolution, they may choose to produce a non-binding presidential statement instead of a resolution. The statements are adopted by consensus. They are meant to apply political pressure – a warning that the Council is paying attention and further action may follow.

Under Article 13(b) of the Rome Statute, the Security Council can refer certain situations to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), if it appears international crimes (genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, the crime of aggression) have been committed.

Mandate

The mandate of the SC is to maintain international peace and security and to take actions whenever peace and security are threatened. The Council's authority is particularly relevant when looking at the United Nations' four primary purposes, as specified in the Charter of the United Nations (1945): maintaining international peace and security; developing friendly relations among nations; cooperating in solving international problems; promoting respect for human rights as well as being a center for harmonizing the actions of nations.

According to Article 39 of the UN Charter, the Council shall determine the existence of any threat to international security and formulate recommendations accordingly. In order to prevent the escalation of a given conflict, the Council may call upon the parties to comply with provisional measures. In addition to these responsibilities, the body may also recommend new Member States to the United Nations General Assembly (GA) as well as suggest the expulsion of a Member State if considered that it has persistently violated the UN principles, as laid out in the Charter. The mandate of the Security Council is laid down in article 24 of the Charter. In this provision, the members of the Organisation 'confer on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and agree that in carrying out its duties under this responsibility the Security Council acts on their behalf'. Most importantly in this context is that this authority is given to the Council 'in order to ensure prompt and effective action by the United Nations.

The provision further prescribes that in discharging these duties the Security Council is bound to act in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations. The specific powers granted to the Security Council for the discharge of these duties are laid down in Chapters VI–XII of the UN Charter. Of particular interest is article 39 in Chapter VII. The Security Council shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace, or act of aggression and shall make recommendations, or decide what measures shall be taken in accordance with Articles 41 and 42, to maintain or restore international peace and security. (emphasis added).

As it appears from the imperatives in this provision the Council is under an obligation to make decisions for the purpose of maintaining or restoring international peace and security. Under article 25 the members of the UN are obliged to accept and carry out such decisions. The composition of the Security Council is regulated in article 23. Originally, the Council consisted of eleven members, among them the five permanent members China, France, the then Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, now the Russian Federation,

the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. Through an amendment to article 23, which came into force on 31 August 1965, the membership of the Council was enlarged to fifteen members, among them the permanent five members. With respect to the decision-making in the Council, except on procedural matters, article 27(3) prescribes that decisions shall be made by an affirmative vote of nine members, including the concurring votes of the permanent members. In other words, the permanent members have the right of veto. Since the subject matter discussed in this article may lead to amendments to the UN Charter it is important to recall that in accordance with article 108 of the Charter amendments come into force for all UN members when they have been adopted by a vote of two thirds of the members of the General Assembly and ratified by two thirds of the members of the Organisation, including all the permanent members of the Security Council. The United Nations Security Council plays a crucial role in maintaining international peace and security. Its primary function is to address threats to peace and security across the globe. The UNSC is composed of 15 member states, of which five are permanent members with veto power (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States), and ten are non-permanent members elected for two-year terms.

Procedure

The implementation of procedural rules within any committee serves the fundamental purpose of fostering a structured and efficient debate. In the context of our proceedings, the committee will strictly adhere to the procedural guidelines outlined in the UNA-USA Rules of Procedure. It is crucial to emphasize that while the Executive Board is committed to upholding these rules, the paramount focus remains on engaging in substantive discussions regarding the agenda. Delegates are encouraged to express their views openly and should not hesitate to contribute their perspectives on the agenda, without being unduly constrained by procedural concerns.

Key functions of the UNSC

1. **Peacekeeping:** The UNSC may authorize the deployment of UN peacekeeping missions to regions where conflicts have occurred or are likely to occur. These missions aim to help maintain peace, stabilize situations, and protect civilians.
2. **Conflict Resolution:** The Security Council can take measures to resolve ongoing conflicts by urging parties to negotiate or mediating between conflicting parties to find peaceful solutions.
3. **Imposing Sanctions:** The UNSC has the authority to impose economic sanctions and other measures against states or individuals that pose a threat to international peace and security.
4. **Authorization of Military Action:** In extreme cases, the Security Council can authorize military action to enforce its resolutions or protect civilians in conflict zones. This action is typically taken under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which allows for measures, including the use of force, to maintain or restore international peace and security.
5. **Peacebuilding and Post-Conflict Reconstruction:** The UNSC is involved in long-term efforts to promote peacebuilding and reconstruction in conflict-affected regions, aiming to prevent a relapse into violence.
6. **Responding to Non-State Threats:** The Security Council also addresses non-state actors, such as terrorist organizations, that may threaten international peace and security.

Formal Debate

General Speaker's List (GSL)

This is basically a speech that allows a delegate to present his/her introductory stance on the crisis in the beginning of the committee. It will allow the countries to understand the various standpoints of other countries as we begin with the debate. There shall be Yields or Points of Information for this speech. The default time limit of this speech is 90 seconds.

Special Speaker's List (SSL)

This is a speech which enables a delegate to present his/her country's stance on a particular topic. It works similar to a GSL while the only difference is stances being on a topic rather than an entire agenda. It has a default time limit of 1 minute 30 seconds (90 seconds). It has all the yields and points similar to a GSL.

Informal Debate

Moderated Caucus

These are motions that are used to give specialized speeches on subtopics of the whole agenda. They have a maximum individual speaker's time limit of 2 min and total time limit of 20 mins. The recommendation for a moderated caucus must include a time limit for delegate remarks and a time limit for the entire caucus (e.g. "The nation of [country name] moves for a five minute moderated caucus with a 30 second speaking time."). This can also be extended by a time duration that is equal to half the total time limit it was raised for, by proposing a motion to extend.

Unmoderated Caucus

This motion allows the delegates to enter an informal session which the delegates can use for lobbying, documentation and other purposes. This can also be extended by raising a motion similar to a moderated caucus with only the time limit for the entire caucus

Points

- Point of Personal Privilege: Personal inconvenience e.g. inaudibility of some part of the speech of another delegate CAN interrupt an active speaker.
- Point of Order: Used to point out inaccuracies in procedure and if allowed, even on factual inaccuracies within the speeches of other delegates CANNOT interrupt an active speaker.
- Point of Parliamentary Inquiry: Used to clarify doubts on the rules of procedure CANNOT interrupt a speaker.
- Point of Information: Used to ask questions to other delegates on their speeches CANNOT interrupt an active speaker.

Yields

- **Yield to Points of Information:** Yielding the remaining time to other delegates so that they can question you on the speech you made.
- **Yield to Another Delegate:** Yielding remaining time to some specific delegate to let her/him make her/his speech. Prior consent to the yield by the other delegate is necessary.
- **Yield to the Executive Board:** Yielding the remaining time to the EB. Such yielded time is deemed elapsed by the EB but not always. Such time usage is up to the discretion of the EB.

Foreign policy

Understanding and articulating the foreign policy of the assigned country is pivotal for delegates. Foreign policy serves as the guiding compass that navigates a nation's interactions on the global stage. It encapsulates a comprehensive set of principles, objectives and strategies that shape a country's stance on various international issues, including peacekeeping operations and crisis response. Deviating from one's country's foreign policy without a valid justification is considered a significant error for a delegate. In the context of the UNSC, delegates are tasked with representing the intricate nuances of their respective nations' foreign policies. This entails a profound exploration of historical precedents, regional alliances, and the overarching diplomatic philosophy that informs a country's approach to international relations. The examination should extend to the nation's commitments to the United Nations Charter and its willingness to contribute resources, both human and financial, to UN peacekeeping missions.

Role of the Executive Board

The primary responsibility of the Executive Board is to assist in guiding the debate, although it is the committee members who ultimately influence the direction and dynamics of the discussion. Delegates, being integral constituents of the committee, are encouraged to openly express their opinions and perspectives without reservation. Nonetheless, the Executive Board retains the authority to raise questions and request

clarifications at any juncture, aiming to enrich the debate and gauge participants' comprehension.

PROOF IS ACCEPTABLE FROM THE FOLLOWING SOURCES

News Sources

1. REUTERS: Any article which clearly makes mention of the fact or is in contradiction of the fact being stated by a delegate in council.
2. State operated News Agencies: These reports can be used in the support of or against the State that owns the News Agency. These reports, if credible or substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any Country as such but in that situation, they can be denied by any other country in the council. Some examples are, RIA Novosti (Russia), IRNA (Iran), BBC (United Kingdom) and Xinhua News Agency and CCTV (P.R. China)

Government Reports

These reports can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country. However, a nuance is that a report that is being denied by a certain country can still be accepted by the Executive Board as credible information. Examples are

1. Government Websites like the State Department of the United States of America or the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation
2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of various nations like India, People's Republic of China, France, Russian Federation
3. Permanent Representatives to the United Nations – Reports and other documents
4. Multilateral Organizations like NATO, ASEAN, OPEC, etc.
5. UN Reports: All UN Reports are considered credible information or evidence for the Executive Board of the Security Council.
6. UN Bodies: Like the UNSC, GA, HRC etc. UN Affiliated bodies like the International Atomic Energy Agency, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, International Committee of the Red Cross, etc.
7. Treaty Based Bodies like the Antarctic Treaty System, the International Criminal Court. UN Affiliated bodies like the International Atomic Energy Agency, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, International Committee of the Red Cross, etc.

8. Treaty Based Bodies like the Antarctic Treaty System, the International Criminal Court

Under no circumstances will sources like Wikipedia or newspapers like the Guardian, Times of India, etc. be accepted as a valid source of proof for substantiating claims; however, they may be used for better understanding of any issue and even be brought up in debate, if the information given in such sources is in line with the beliefs of a Government.

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Introduction to the Agenda

Countering the Rise of Non-State Armed Groups and Fragile States

The rise of non-state armed groups (NSAGs) and the growing number of fragile states represent one of the most pressing threats to international peace and security in the twenty-first century. Non-state armed groups include terrorist organizations, insurgent movements, militias, criminal networks, and extremist factions that operate outside the authority of recognized governments.

These groups often flourish in fragile states where institutions are weak, governance is ineffective, and security structures are unable to maintain law and order.

Fragile states are characterized by political instability, economic vulnerability, social fragmentation, and limited capacity to provide essential services to their populations.

Such conditions create opportunities for armed groups to recruit members, exploit resources, and challenge state authority. The resulting conflicts frequently lead to humanitarian crises, displacement, violations of human rights, and regional instability.

For the United Nations Security Council, addressing this issue is central to its mandate under the UN Charter to maintain international peace and security. Delegates must examine the root causes behind state fragility, evaluate the evolving threats posed by armed groups, and explore collective measures that strengthen governance, protect civilians, and prevent conflicts from escalating into wider regional or international crises.

Past Actions

United Nations and International Responses

The international community has undertaken numerous initiatives to address the proliferation of non-state armed groups and strengthen fragile states. Following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the Security Council adopted Resolution 1373, which established obligations for states to combat terrorism financing, recruitment, and support networks. Later resolutions such as 2178 (2014) and 2396 (2017) further addressed foreign terrorist fighters and transnational extremist threats.

The Security Council has also authorized peacekeeping and peacebuilding missions in fragile states, including operations in Mali, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, South Sudan, and the Central African Republic. These missions have sought to protect civilians, support state institutions, and facilitate political transitions.

Additionally, sanctions regimes targeting armed groups, terrorist organizations, and their financial networks have become key tools of the Council. Organizations such as the African Union, European Union, and regional security mechanisms have complemented UN efforts through peace operations and capacity-building programs.

Despite these measures, persistent conflicts and the emergence of new armed actors demonstrate the limitations of purely military approaches. The international community increasingly recognizes the need for comprehensive strategies that combine security measures with governance reforms, economic development, conflict prevention, and institution-building.

Case Studies

Contemporary Examples of the Challenge

Several contemporary conflicts highlight the dangers posed by non-state armed groups operating within fragile states. In Somalia, the extremist organization Al-Shabaab has exploited weak governance structures for over a decade, carrying out attacks across the Horn of Africa and undermining state-building efforts. Despite military operations and international support, the group remains a significant security threat.

The Sahel region, particularly Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger, has witnessed a dramatic rise in terrorist and insurgent activity linked to groups affiliated with Al-Qaeda and ISIS. Political instability, military coups, poverty, and weak institutions have created conditions conducive to armed group expansion, resulting in widespread displacement and humanitarian crises.

In Syria, multiple non-state armed actors emerged during the civil war, transforming a domestic conflict into a complex regional and international security challenge. The collapse of governance in parts of the country enabled extremist organizations, including ISIS, to seize territory and recruit globally.

Similarly, the Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to face challenges from numerous armed groups competing for control over territory and natural resources. These cases demonstrate how fragile governance structures can enable armed groups to thrive, posing threats that extend far beyond national borders and require coordinated international responses.

Possible Solutions

Policy Approaches for the Security Council

Addressing the rise of non-state armed groups requires a balanced strategy that combines immediate security responses with long-term efforts to strengthen state resilience. First, the Security Council may encourage enhanced intelligence-sharing, counterterrorism cooperation, and sanctions enforcement to disrupt the operations and financing of armed groups. Strengthening border management and combating illicit trafficking networks can further reduce the movement of weapons and fighters.

Second, delegates should consider measures aimed at addressing the root causes of fragility. Investments in governance, judicial reform, public service delivery, and anti-corruption initiatives can improve state legitimacy and reduce grievances that fuel recruitment by armed groups. Economic development and employment opportunities, particularly for youth, are equally important in preventing radicalization.

Third, peacebuilding and conflict-prevention mechanisms should be prioritized. Inclusive political dialogue, reconciliation processes, and support for civil society can help resolve underlying tensions before they escalate into violence.

Finally, regional organizations and neighboring states should be integrated into response frameworks, recognizing that these threats frequently transcend national borders. A comprehensive approach that combines security, development, and institution-building offers the most sustainable pathway toward reducing the influence of non-state armed groups and strengthening fragile states worldwide.

ACTIVE NON-STATE ACTORS

Hamas

Hamas is a Palestinian militant Islamist organisation, based in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Their objective is to establish an Islamic State in historical Palestine. The organization was founded by activists in the Muslim Brotherhood dissatisfied with the PLO's secular stance on Palestine and actively called for Jihad in the occupied territories. Hamas believes that an Islamic homeland cannot be surrendered to non-Muslims, and is known to conduct attacks on civilians. The US designated Hamas as a terrorist organization in 1997, along with the EU also making the same classification in 2003. Hamas is expected to be led by the ruling committee post the death of Yahya Sinwar until their next elections.

ISIS/ ISIL

Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) is a transnational Sunni terrorist organization, whose main objective is to solidify the domain of Islam and expand its influence through strict implementation of the Sharia and regain territory previously ruled by the Caliphate. The organisation began in Al-Raqqah and expanded its influence outwards into Syria and Iraq, proclaiming the liberation of captured lands. They soon after declared the establishment of the Caliphate with Abu Bakr alBaghdadi as the Caliph. They are based in Syria and Iraq and are led by Abu Hafs al-Hashimi alQurashi.

Al-Qaeda

Al-Qaeda is an Islamist organisation founded by Osama Bin Laden after the 9/11 attacks. It was originally founded as a logistics network during the Soviet-Afghan War (1979-1989). The organisation was based in Afghanistan under Taliban patronage and conducted several jihads in the United States. The 2001 invasion of Afghanistan put a strain on Al-Qaeda as communications and financial linkages were compromised, however, several autonomous and independent groups subscribed to AlQaeda's ideology during this period. The number of Al-Qaeda attacks conducted significantly increased after this. Osama Bin Laden was killed in 2011, after which his long-serving deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri became leader. Currently, the organisation is led by a de facto leader known as Saif al-Adel.

Houthis

The Houthis are an Islamist fundamentalist group based in Northern Yemen, who belong to the Zaydi, a small sect of Shia Islam. Although this group wasn't militarised at first, crackdowns from the Yemeni government, as well as funding from Iran radicalised the organization. The movement was founded by Hussein Badr al-Din al-Houthi, who was killed by Yemeni forces. Further escalations led to the Yemeni civil war, and the Houthi capture of Sanaa in 2017. The Houthis were in conflict with the Saudi-led coalition, who were supplying humanitarian and military aid to the Yemeni government. The Houthis on the other hand, are suspected of getting arms from Iran. The Houthis also have a strong anti-Israel stance and launched missiles and drones towards Israel and passing by ships after the October 7th attacks. This prompted the US and the UK to launch strikes of their own. The organization is now led by Abdul-Malik alHouthi.

FSA

The FSA or Free Syrian Army is the military wing of the Syrian revolution. Their goal is to overthrow the Assad regime. Though they are not a centralized organization, the FSA originally fought for the SNC or Syrian National Council, however, the SNC could not form a legitimate opposition and the FSA slowly drifted to Islamism. The FSA consists mainly of Syrian Army defectors and is led by Riad Mousa al-Asaad.

Hezbollah

Hezbollah is a Shi'ite Lebanese organization that was founded in 1982. The organization is closely tied to Iran and is considered to be one of the most heavily armed militias in the world. The organization was founded to force Israel out of Lebanon and establish an Islamic Republic.

The end of the Lebanese civil war was enforced by the Syrians, and Hezbollah was one of the few groups that remained armed. As the nation split into anti and pro-Syrian camps, Hezbollah aligned itself with the pro-Syrian camp. The assassination of Rafic al-Hairiri sparked popular backlash leading to Syrian withdrawal from Lebanon. This led to Hezbollah organizing a massive rally in support of Syria. Hezbollah also fought a guerilla war in southern Lebanon, which escalated in 2006. However, Lebanon was the only Arab militia that fought the IDF to a standstill, which led to popularity. The organization used this opportunity to topple the Lebanese government and gain more cabinet seats. In 2016, Michel Aoun, a Hezbollah ally was elected president and in 2018, Hezbollah became the most dominant party. Although organization members didn't get access to cabinet seats, the organization had significant influence over them. However, the new cabinet struggled to effectively lead the nation, resulting in massive demonstrations across the country that called for the resignation of the government. Although the resignation did come, the new government faced several challenges including the COVID-19 pandemic, hyperinflation and the Beirut explosion. This led to the resignation of the new government. The organization lost their dominance in Lebanese politics in 2022.

In 2023, Hezbollah and the IDF faced off in the Golan Heights, an area contested by Israel and Lebanon. As Israel turned its attention northwards, Israel conducted several targeted strikes and exploded thousands of pagers and walkie-talkies which led to several casualties. Hezbollah sent a missile aiming for Tel Aviv however this was intercepted by

Israel's Iron Dome. On September 27th, the Israeli air force dropped 80 bombs on south Beirut, which led to Hezbollah chief Nasrallah's death. Israel conducted a land invasion of southern Lebanon on the first of October 2024 with the help of special forces and followed it through 70 small covert raids. The current leader of Hezbollah is Sheikh Naim Qassem, who serves as the group's Secretary-General. He was elected by the Shura Council in October 2024 to succeed long-time leader Hassan Nasrallah, who was killed in an Israeli airstrike in September 2024.

Muslim Brotherhood

The Muslim Brotherhood is a political organization formed in 1928 whose agenda consists of referring to the Quran as guidelines for a healthy Islamic society to function. The Brotherhood was based in Egypt and organized protests against the government during the Second World War. The group soon raised a militia that conducted bombings and assassinations for the brotherhood. The revolutionary regime established in 1952 by Abdul Gamal Nasser forced the Brotherhood to go underground. After the Brotherhood's attempted assassination of Nasser, the group was forcibly suppressed. The group saw a renaissance during the 1980s with an increase in religious activities in Islamic countries. This time, however, the group had an anti-West rhetoric. The group re-emerged in Syria, Egypt and Jordan. A brotherhood uprising in Syria was brutally put down by Hafiz al-Assad, whereas the Brotherhood in Egypt and Jordan could compete politically. In Egypt, a youth protest movement led to the resignation of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. This allowed the Muslim Brotherhood open access to Egyptian elections which they won handily. Khairat al-Shater was nominated as president however he was disqualified, and was replaced by Mohammed Morsi. However, Morsi's administration faced heavy opposition in the form of mass protests in 2013, which prompted the military to intervene. The military ousted Morsi from power, and initiated a crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood, leading to mass trials and arrests.

The Taliban

The Taliban is an Islamist organization formed in 1994 whose agenda consists of establishing an Islamic state governed by its interpretation of Sharia law. The Taliban was based in Afghanistan and emerged during the Afghan Civil War following the withdrawal of Soviet forces. The group soon raised a militia that captured large parts of the country. In 1996, the Taliban seized Kabul and established the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. The regime imposed strict social and religious regulations and provided sanctuary to various militant organizations including Al-Qaeda. Following the September 11 attacks in the United States, a US-led coalition intervened in Afghanistan in 2001 and removed the Taliban from power. The group was forced

to go underground and launched an insurgency against the Afghan government and international forces. The Taliban saw a resurgence during the 2000s and 2010s as instability and weak governance persisted across Afghanistan. During this time, the group expanded its influence in rural regions and carried out attacks against military and civilian targets. Peace negotiations between the Taliban and the United States culminated in the Doha Agreement of 2020. Following the withdrawal of foreign troops in 2021, the Taliban launched a nationwide offensive and rapidly captured major cities. The collapse of the Afghan government allowed the Taliban to regain control of Kabul and re-establish the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. However, the Taliban administration continues to face challenges including economic instability, humanitarian crises and the presence of other non-state armed groups operating within Afghanistan.

Al-Shabab

Al-Shabaab is a militant Islamist organization formed in the mid-2000s whose agenda consists of establishing a state governed by its interpretation of Islamic law. The group was based in Somalia and emerged from the Islamic Courts Union after the Ethiopian intervention in Somalia in 2006. The group soon raised a large insurgent force that conducted bombings, assassinations and attacks against the Somali government and foreign forces. The Transitional Federal Government supported by the African Union forced the group out of major urban centers. However, Al-Shabaab continued to operate in rural areas and maintained influence through taxation and intimidation. The group saw an expansion during the 2010s with an increase in recruitment and cross-border operations in East Africa. This time, however, the group had a stronger affiliation with Al-Qaeda and adopted an anti-West rhetoric. The group expanded its operations into Kenya and conducted attacks against civilian and military targets. African Union peacekeeping missions launched several offensives against the organization, resulting in the recapture of territory from Al-Shabaab. However, the group continued to exploit weak governance and insecurity in Somalia. In recent years, the Somali government alongside regional and international partners initiated large scale military operations against the group. However, Al-Shabaab remains active across parts of Somalia and continues to conduct attacks, posing a challenge to state stability and security in the Horn of Africa.

Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin

Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) is an Islamist militant organization formed in 2017 through the merger of several jihadist groups operating in the Sahel region of Africa. The group pledged allegiance to Al-Qaeda and seeks to establish governance based on its interpretation of Islamic law. JNIM was primarily based in Mali but gradually expanded its operations into Burkina Faso and Niger. The group conducted attacks against military forces, government institutions and international peacekeeping missions. Weak state control and political instability in the region allowed the organization to strengthen its presence in rural areas. The group exploited local

grievances and ethnic tensions to recruit fighters and establish influence. A series of military coups in Mali and Burkina Faso further weakened state institutions and created opportunities for JNIM to expand. The withdrawal of foreign military forces from parts of the Sahel also contributed to the group's growing influence. JNIM increased its attacks against security forces and civilians, while extending control over key transportation routes and villages. Despite counterterrorism operations conducted by regional governments and international partners, the group remained active across large parts of the Sahel. The continued presence of JNIM has contributed to instability, displacement of civilians and the weakening of state authority across the region.

