

The French Republic

Position Paper for the Security Council

The Topics being discussed are:

*Combatting the tensions and establishing security in the Persian Gulf;
Addressing territorial, military and commercial claims in the Arctic*

The French Republic believes that international Security is an important topic the world needs to deal with. We deem it is necessary to hold a peaceful debate and find acceptable solutions for all member countries.

Combatting the tensions and establishing security in the Persian Gulf

Over the last decades the middle-east got destabilized by the conflict around the Persian Gulf. It first began 1980 when Iraq invaded the western regions of Iran in order to get military high ground in Khūzestān. Following the withdrawal of the military forces of Iraq, after a victory of Iran, the war still raged on. Iranian leader Ruhollah Khomeini tried to overthrow Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. That time the main problem of the conflict for the rest of the world started to occur. In order to achieve his goal, Ruhollah Khomeini attacked Iraqi oil-tankers, leading to immediate feedback by Iraq. Both countries attacked foreign oil-tankers at sea. Following these events, the western world, especially the United States of America, looked for a way to secure the area and military warships were stationed in the Persian Gulf¹. The interference of the United States of America has spanned itself over the whole history of the conflict².

In 2019 the tensions between the United States of America and the State of Iran have developed to their peak. Provocations from president Donald Trump and Hassan Rohani have led to an almost unpreventable conflict. In 2020 the conflict has intensified by the murder of Qasem Soleimani on January 3rd through a United States-authorized droneattack, which is now doubted as legal². After this event the State of Iraq demanded the immediate extraction of all US-military forces in Iraq. Since these incidents and decisions many western military bases were attacked by missiles. Those missiles were said to be launched by Iran, but the Iranian government denied all accusations in the first place. One commercial airplane was shot down. After weeks Iran identified the attack as a misfired missile³. This conflict is not just affecting military forces and decisions, it is already affecting global markets. Donald Trump has threatened to stamp tariffs on the EU's car-industry in case of no support by Western-Europe in the conflict.

¹History.com Editors January 17th 2020: <https://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/persian-gulf-war> ²Toprani, Anand for warontherocks.com Mai 15th 2019: <https://warontherocks.com/2019/05/oil-and-the-futureof-u-s-strategy-in-the-persian-gulf/>

²Bower, Eve; Lister, Tim for CNN January 6th 2020: <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/01/06/middleeast/soleimanistrike-legality-doubts-us-iran-intl/index.html>

³Hubbard, Ben for New-York Times January 21st 2020: <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/21/world/middleeast/iran-plane-crash-missiles.html>

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French Republic

The French Republics main goal in this situation is to secure the well-being of the civilians. Civilian casualties are to be prevented and no more shall be counted. De-escalation is in our interest and we seek for a peaceful solution, which is suitable for all parties.

We would support an organisation under supervision by the UN in order to secure fair negotiations between all parties and impartial investigations into attacks and crimes in the area, and we offer to have those negotiations under a neutral sky in our capitol Paris.

Rebel groups and militias are to be put down, since they only make negotiating more difficult for all parties due to misinterpreting of acts of war. In addition to that, the financing of the militias must stop and therefore we would support to have the financing countries at the negotiation-table as well. The conflicts consequences on international trade, trafficking and economy are also to be prevented. It is crucial to us, that under the consideration of antecedent acts and events, a new level of trust and security has to be established in this region⁴.

Regarding the naval situation in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz, freedom of navigation is being challenged there, with the risk not only of hindering trade in that region, which is critical to the world economy, but also of fuelling an escalation of tensions, which is already under way⁵. The French republic seeks to find a peaceful solution especially for this matter.

Addressing territorial, military and commercial claims in the Arctic

Climate change is affecting us all. In whatever way that may occur, the arctic drew the worst match. Many species are facing extinction and the sea levels are rising. All that because the amount of ice in the arctic is steadily melting down. But all those effects put aside, some people see opportunity in the disaster. Not only does the arctic provide many natural resources such as fossil fuels, iron ore, copper, zinc, etc. but it also gives opportunities in researching climate change and especially sustainable fishing⁶. Furthermore, due to the melting of the arctic ice, new maritime transporting routes are being opened. The time to get from Europe to northern America can be significantly lowered. Of course, a further aspect of the commercialisation of the arctic is tourism. Some communities in the area are trying to invest in tourism to build up an economic branch. What else needs to be considered, is the fact that the Lomonossow-back, that is reaching from the north of the Eurasian plate to the American plate, is yet to be determined to what country it belongs. If it was proven, that the Lomonossow-back is connected to the Eurasian plate, Russia has territorial claims to a lot of the arctic by maritime law.

Considering all these facts, the French Republic still believes in fair and peaceful negotiating, which is to be secured first in our opinion. We will not support any acts of war in order to secure any advantages in the melting arctic, although we will provide military security in the

⁴ Yang, Maya; Cafiero, Giorgio for TRTworld January 25th 2018:

<https://www.trtworld.com/opinion/frenchambitions-in-the-gulf-14588>

⁵ <https://uk.ambafrance.org/France-in-talks-on-European-security-initiative-in-the-Gulf>

⁶ Rubinsky, Yuri „Arctic interests and policy of France” 2016:

https://narfu.ru/upload/iblock/908/12_rubinsky.pdf

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School Name

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French Republic

region. Another goal of ours is to establish a system allowing research in the arctic regarding climate change and fishing.

Following our example, we support an institutional framework in order to control the acts of any nation in the arctic. This framework should be containing a democratically elected committee in order to establish laws and execute them. The legal framework should replace the current Arctic Council in order to give more states the opportunity to be part of the decision making regarding the arctic. The tasks of this committee are to regulate researching, protecting nature, trade, international mining and tourism.

Also, the French Republic is actively interested in the protection of the natural environment in the arctic. Following this, it is a goal of ours to ensure such. We would also like the NATO nations present to step up for the environment of the arctic since its destruction could affect us indefinitely and also to ensure the security in the arctic. We also endorse all European-Union states present to fight for equal reasons.