

# Economic and Social Council

Restoring economic and social stability in post conflict regions



<b>Forum</b>	Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
<b>Issue:</b>	Restoring economic and social stability in post conflict regions
<b>Student Officer:</b>	Demetra Papantoniou
<b>Position:</b>	President

---

## Introduction

Economic recovery is an important factor in achieving temporary stability, reintegration, socioeconomic advancement, and long-term peace in post-conflict scenarios. Social and economic stability provides communities and individuals with tools for survival and rehabilitation. Among the carnage and irreparable losses, conflict resolution can pave the way for social and economic reform. It is an opportunity that societies transitioning from a period of conflict to one of peace cannot afford to pass up, and one in which the global community can be extremely beneficial.

Local communities that have been devastated by war are often the first to respond quickly. Resuming economic activity, reviving social safety nets, and repairing damaged infrastructure are all made possible by the solidarity and tenacity of afflicted women and men. These actions demonstrate the pro-social attitudes, resilience, and capacity for skill and knowledge adaptation and transformation in the local communities. Existing vulnerabilities, widespread poverty, and a precarious peace, on the other hand, could exacerbate inequality, impede or delay the emergence of real work opportunities, and ultimately jeopardize the durability of these coping mechanisms.

After a war, the affected areas are frequently left in ruins. There are numerous refugees, injured individuals, and trauma patients. Only local residents can begin reconstruction, and only they can ensure its success. The first signs of a nation's recovery may not appear for several years. It is critical that donor countries and aid organizations collaborate effectively. In order to ensure that rehabilitation efforts are directed at both the conflict zone and neighboring countries, an emphasis on the region as a whole should be placed.

The goal of foreign actors is to support local initiatives aimed at achieving long-term social and economic transformation in conflict-affected areas. The most powerful tools for this action are the development of local capacities and the exchange of experiences among nations facing



comparable problems through the use of innovative solutions that combine local and global knowledge.

Post conflict regions are those in which there has been an end to warfare; however, peace has not yet fully occurred and conditions are highly volatile. To better understand this concept, and the struggles that such regions face, they will be discussed in the general overview section of this report. Post conflict regions that will be of relevance to this issue are: Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya and Sudan. The war in Ukraine will also be discussed to give a more modern comparison to delegates.

## Definition of Key Terms

### Post conflict region

When open fighting ceases, a conflict is referred to as post-conflict. Such conditions can quickly revert to widespread violence and remain volatile for years or decades. In post-conflict regions, there is no war, but there is no genuine peace.

### Economic Stability

Economic stability is characterized by the absence of severe macroeconomic fluctuations. Economic stability is defined as low, consistent inflation and reasonably consistent output growth.

### Social Stability

Social stability refers to the degree to which a society and its institutions remain dependable and predictable. This is significant because it allows members of society, both individuals and groups, to plan and carry out their affairs independently.

## General Overview

### Overview of wars

Unfortunately, there are a plethora of problems facing the globe today, including wars and conflicts, climate change, poverty, inequality, breaches of human rights, and the spread of nuclear weapons. Economic and social stability must be restored in post-conflict countries in order to maintain integration within the international community. In order to comprehend the seriousness and provide delegates with the essential background knowledge to address this issue, examples of post conflict regions will be given in this section.



### *War in Afghanistan*

On the 15th of August 2021 the Taliban officially took over Afghanistan resulting in the internal displacement of around 4 million Afghans and internationals and hundreds of thousands more looking to leave the country. The 2nd government formed by the Taliban perpetuated the Afghan Refugee Crisis. As opposed to the orderly departure of the USSR in 1989, the departure of the USA, UK and other members of the international community was frantic and rushed. Under the de facto authoritarian regime of the Taliban there are no regards to the welfare of the nation and large-scale economic collapse, with the United Nations Food programme predicting that 93% of Afghans are going hungry as of September 2021. Unfortunately, the regime is returning to its authoritarian nature which was seen during the 1996-2001 period.

### *South Sudanese Civil War*

From 2013 to 2020, South Sudan was engulfed in a civil war involving both government and rebel forces. Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed or displaced as a result of rising community violence, which is fueled in part by resentments stemming from conflict and rivalry over grazing, livestock, and land. By arming locals, political and military officials have exacerbated the bloodshed. Furthermore, as a result of a conflict between government forces and the National Salvation Front, an armed opposition group, multiple assaults on people have occurred in Central Equatoria. Currently, 1.87 million internally displaced people are housed in overcrowded camps.

### *War in Iraq*

The 2003–2011 Iraq War was a prolonged armed conflict in Iraq that started with an American–led coalition invading the nation and toppling Saddam Hussein's government. The Iraq War was a military war between Iraq and its allies and the Islamic State that lasted from December 2013 to December 2017. It will be challenging for Iraq to bounce back from its conflict with the Islamic State. More than two million people are still internally displaced after a nearly four-year war, nine million need humanitarian aid, and it will cost at least \$88 billion to rebuild.

### *Second Libyan Civil War*



The House of Representatives and the Government of National Accord were the major combatants in the Second Libyan Civil War, a multinational conflict that raged from 2014 until 2020. Since the war, the country is plagued by numerous power outages, and commercial activity has been minimal. Regression has taken place as a result of the 90 percent decline in oil revenue, with many people now living in abject poverty. Since the start of the Libyan conflict, thousands of jailed refugees have faced mental health problems, especially women and children who are unable to deal with the loss of loved ones in the battle, which is reported to have taken 6,000 lives.

### ***Russo-Ukrainian War***

Numerous economic and social ramifications have already been felt by individuals in Russia and Ukraine, despite the fact that the crisis is still ongoing. Economic recovery will therefore be necessary. Currently, the world's poor will have to do without due to a lack of supply and rising food prices. Sharply rising commodity prices, which are anticipated to lead to a lower GDP, greater inflation, and possibly long-term injury to supply networks, have been the most immediate economic consequence of the Ukraine crisis.

### **The importance of economic and social stability**

All of the preceding events highlight the importance of both economic and social stability. The loss of human life and resources in such wars require worldwide cooperation in order to assure international aid and large-scale infrastructure projects. As stated in the introduction to this research report, there are various strategies that post-war governments should adopt in the short term to rebuild their economies and so prevent them from reverting to warfare, both of which entail economic and social rehabilitation. Post-war nations face great demands while having relatively limited revenue, necessitating a coordinated response; more solution options will be examined further in this report.

However, because of the highly political nature of wars, as well as the UN Charter, which states in Article 2 that 'the Organization (UN) is founded on the principle of the sovereign equality of all its Members', any action must be agreed upon in order to avoid aggravating parties involved in the wars. If a government is obliged to conform, it is likely that its economic and social situations will worsen, causing innocent civilians to suffer. Post-war nations face great demands while having



relatively limited revenue, necessitating a coordinated response; more solution options will be examined further in this study.

## Major Parties Involved

### World Trade Organization (WTO)

International trade is regulated and facilitated by the World Trade Body, an intergovernmental organization. It aims to stimulate new trade, monetary, and fiscal policies with the goal of fostering social stability and expediting economic recovery. Special provisions for post war regions can be included in all WTO agreements as seen in the status quo, through means such as: extended implementation timelines for commitments and agreements, steps to increase trading opportunities, assistance in setting up the necessary systems to conduct WTO business, resolving disputes, and implementing technical standards.

### Human Rights Watch (HRW)

The Human Rights Watch strives to defend human rights around the globe. They thoroughly look into violations, widely disseminate the information, and apply pressure to individuals in positions of authority to uphold rights and ensure justice. The Crisis and Conflict division records, exposes, and campaigns to stop abuses of human rights and the laws of war whenever there are armed conflicts, natural disasters, or significant social or political upheaval. As a result, the HRW promotes human rights to guarantee social stability. The HRW's work is vital in post-war regions as it enables a foundation for a society based on fundamental rights and avoids the forms of corruption that result in upheaval. The information gathered by the HRW is also used by other UN entities to formulate responses to generate economic growth and stability.

### European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD)

In 1991, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development was created as a worldwide financial entity. In many post-conflict regions, the EBRD is fostering open, sustainable market economies and stability. It currently conducts business in 40 countries, including the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean, Central Europe, Central Asia, the West Bank, and Gaza. By helping create sustainable economies the EBRD cooperates with post-conflict regions to bring about economic policies that generate long term stability.



### United Nations Human Commissioner for Human Rights ( UNHCR)

The UN High Commissioner for Refugees is a United Nations organization tasked with assisting refugees, forcibly displaced communities, and stateless individuals in voluntary return, local integration, or resettlement to a third nation. By doing so, the UNHRC promotes societal stability by allowing persons to be removed to safety and repatriated if they so desire.

### The World Bank

Low- and middle-income governments can apply to the World Bank for loans and grants to help finance programs. The Post-War Fund (PCF) was established in 1997 to strengthen the World Bank's capabilities to support nations in their transition from war to long-term peace and economic success. The Post-Conflict Fund provides funding to a wide range of partners in order to make it simpler for the World Bank to provide early and comprehensive assistance to conflict-affected nations (institutions, nongovernmental organizations, United Nations agencies, transitional authorities, governments, and other civil society institutions).

With an emphasis on creative responses to conflict, engagement with donors and implementing agencies, and resource leveraging through a variety of funding structures, grants are intended to restore the lives and livelihoods of war-affected populations. The World Bank has increased its loans to post-conflict nations by more than 800 percent since 1980, and reconstruction projects cover every conceivable geographic area and sphere of the economy.

### The United Nations Development Project (UNDP)

The United Nations Development Programme is a UN agency tasked with helping nations eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable growth in their economies and levels of human development. The largest UN development organization, it operates in 170 nations. The UNDP also publishes a document with recommendations on how post-conflict countries might expand on their current capacities to manage their own recovery. The major goals of such reports are to "avoid a relapse into violence and lay the groundwork for permanent peace and sustainable development." The UNDP has developed a list of "peace milestones" for post-conflict countries to help them make the transition from conflict to a flourishing economy. States frequently get support from other countries once the economic recovery has begun; but, in order to meet the requirements of the long-suffering population, nations must develop their own resources and become self-sufficient.



## Timeline of events

Date	Description of event
1815	The idea of Post-War economic recovery was developed by David Ricardo (see appendix for more information)
1920	The League of Nations organized an international effort to rehabilitate Austria after WWI.
1948	The World Bank is established, and the Marshall Plan is implemented to fully recover Europe after WW2.
2001	The UNDP funded the Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery.
2011	The United Nations Security Council voted on resolutions attempting to tackle post-conflict rehabilitation.

## UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

- Support to the Republic of South Sudan, 29 July 2011 (E/RES/2011/43)
- Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, 29 October 2010 (S/RES/1947)
- Ad hoc advisory group on African countries emerging from conflict, 15 July 2002 (2002/1)

## Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

### ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Groups

In 2002, the ECOSOC established a framework for advisory groups to examine the humanitarian and economic requirements of African nations emerging from war and build a long-term support strategy that begins with integrating aid into development. Current advisory groups include: the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau and the ECOSOC Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Burundi. These groups allow the ECOSOC to see the reality of conditions in post-conflict regions and Africa and for further necessary action to be taken.





## Possible Solutions

Poor nations usually find themselves in a downward spiral of violent wars, a broken economy, and unstable political systems. They don't have the resources financially to significantly enhance their security sector. It is crucial to address problems inside the national institutions in charge of security: the army, police, and judiciary. They might be inclined to advance their personal interests over those of the general public. The first step is to make sure that these institutions run in accordance with the law and on behalf of the nation's citizens. The military, police, and judicial authorities must set aside their own agendas in order to achieve this goal. However, making such changes is frequently challenging. Other solutions may include:

### International Aid

International aid is the voluntary exchange of resources between states. International aid may come in the form of cash, goods like food or military hardware, technical aid, and training. Such projects may be funded by grants or low-interest loans, such as export credits. The goal of aid is to raise people's standards of living. This includes battling contagious diseases, offering humanitarian aid, reducing poverty, reducing the consequences of climate change, and promoting the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations.

Providing aid promotes regional and global economic development. It might help the market grow. When a country receives aid, there is a chance that more goods and resources will be exchanged between the two nations.

### Peacekeeping groups

Peacekeeping is an UN project that promotes international harmony, safety, and security. Since the first peacekeeping deployment in Israel in May 1948, peacekeepers have significantly improved the lives of the world's most vulnerable people. However, because peacekeeping is intended to augment rather than replace national efforts, a mission's efficacy is dependent on a functioning political system.

A possible solution could involve the deployment of such groups to control social stability. Nonetheless, delegates must be aware that peacekeeping is political, and its effectiveness is contingent on ongoing and sustainable political processes or the potential of a genuine peace



process. Peacekeeping cannot take the place of the host country's sovereign obligations or the parties' political will and commitment to safeguard their people.

## Bibliography

“Civil War in South Sudan | Global Conflict Tracker.” *Council on Foreign Relations*, 12 May 2022, <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/civil-war-south-sudan>

Clifford, Mark, et al. “Ukraine: Conflict at the Crossroads of Europe and Russia.” *Council on Foreign Relations*, 1 April 2022, <https://www.cfr.org/background/ukraine-conflict-crossroads-europe-and-russia>

“Instability in Iraq | Global Conflict Tracker.” *Council on Foreign Relations*, 12 May 2022, <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/political-instability-iraq>

“POST-CONFLICT COUNTRIES: AID EFFECTIVENESS AND PERMANENT PEACE M. Panić University of Cambridge I. Introduction Few aspects of.” *the United Nations*, [https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wess/wess\\_bg\\_papers/bp\\_wess2008\\_pan\\_1c.pdf](https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/wess/wess_bg_papers/bp_wess2008_pan_1c.pdf)

“UN Economic and Social Council.” *UN Economic and Social Council*, <https://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/about/peacebuilding.shtml>

## Appendix

Coulomb 92-94, Fanny. *Economic Theories of Peace and War*.

