



LUSAKA OAKTREE SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS
LOTSMUN 2026

***Architects of Accountability** • Redefining Power, Peace and Progress*

STUDY GUIDE

UN Security Council | High School

**Topic: Flashpoint Maritime Corridors: Neutralising Military Escalation,
Subsea Cable Sabotage and Blockades in International Waters**

ZAMBIA MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Message from the Secretary General

Dear Delegates,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to LOTSMUN 2026.

This year, under the theme “Architects of Accountability: Redefining Power, Peace and Progress,” we invite you to consider not only how decisions are made but who is responsible for them, who is affected by them and how meaningful change can be achieved.

Model United Nations is more than an exercise in public speaking. It is an opportunity to understand complex international problems, challenge assumptions, negotiate with people who may disagree with you and transform competing ideas into meaningful solutions.

As you prepare for this committee, I encourage you to look beyond the information presented in this study guide. The purpose of this document is not to provide you with every answer, but to provide you with the foundation from which your own research, perspectives, and ideas can develop.

Come prepared to question, collaborate, negotiate and most importantly, represent your country’s position with accuracy and diplomacy. Remember that accountability is not simply about holding power responsible; it is about understanding how power can be used to build peace, drive progress, and create meaningful change.

I look forward to seeing the ideas, debates, and solutions you bring into committee.

Malenji Arthur Jonah

Secretary General, LOTSMUN 2026

ZAMBIA MODEL UNITED NATIONS

1. The United Nations Security Council

1.1 What is the Security Council?

The Security Council is the UN body with **primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security**, and it may meet whenever peace is threatened.¹ It is the only UN body whose decisions member states are **obliged** to implement under the Charter.² It has 15 members: five permanent members (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States) with the **veto**, and ten elected members. A resolution needs **nine votes** and no veto.³

In this simulation you are a **member state** at a Council meeting. A notable feature of this topic is that, as the Council's own concept note on maritime security observed, all current Council members are **littoral states**, meaning that they have coasts and a direct stake in shipping routes.⁴ Here are the bodies and tools you are most likely to cite:

Body or tool	What it does
Security Council resolution	A formal decision. It can condemn, demand, request reports or authorise measures, and decisions under the Charter bind member states. ⁵
Press or presidential statement	A statement agreed by the whole Council that is not a resolution. In September 2026 the Council used a joint press statement to condemn Houthi attacks. ⁶
Enforcement measures	The Council can adopt sanctions, arms embargoes and travel bans, and can even authorise a blockade or collective military action. ⁷
UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)	The main treaty on the oceans. It protects navigation and the laying of submarine cables. ⁸
International Maritime Organization (IMO)	The UN agency for shipping. In July 2026 it advised that transit through Hormuz should be avoided until safety conditions are in place. ⁹
Penholder	The Council member that leads drafting on an issue. For the Red Sea crisis, Greece and the United States are co-penholders. ¹⁰

¹ United Nations Security Council. What is the Security Council? <https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/what-security-council>

² United Nations Security Council. What is the Security Council?... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

³ Security Council Report. The Middle East Crisis: Votes on Two Draft Resolutions (What's In Blue, March 2026). <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2026/03/the-middle-east-crisis-votes-on-two-draft-resolutions.php>

⁴ Security Council Report. Maritime Security: High-level Open Debate (What's In Blue, May 2025). <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/whatsinblue/2025/05/maritime-security-high-level-open-debate.php>

⁵ United Nations Security Council. What is the Security Council?... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁶ Al-Monitor. UN Security Council condemns Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia (September 2026). <https://www.al-monitor.com/originals/2026/09/un-security-council-condemns-houthi-attacks-saudi-arabia>

⁷ United Nations Security Council. What is the Security Council?... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁸ NOAA Office of General Counsel. Submarine Cables: International Framework. <https://www.noaa.gov/general-counsel/gc-international-section/submarine-cables-international-framework>

⁹ UN News. US-Iran war leaves shipping at near-standstill in Hormuz again (9 July 2026). <https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/07/1167905>

¹⁰ Security Council Report. The Red Sea, July 2026 Monthly Forecast. <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2026-07/the-red-sea.php>

2. Introduction to the Topic

This topic is about the world's **maritime corridors**: narrow, busy routes such as the Strait of Hormuz, the Red Sea and the Black Sea, through which oil, grain, goods and data flow. It combines three threats.

Military escalation means fighting that spills onto shipping lanes. **Subsea cable sabotage** means damage to the undersea cables that carry the internet. **Blockades** mean attempts to stop ships entering or leaving ports or waters.

Here is one way the problem develops:



This is a simplified picture. Many of these events have several causes, and the parties often dispute what happened and why.

2.1 The scale of the problem

Chokepoints. The Strait of Hormuz handles about 20% of global oil consumption.¹¹ In March 2026 about 20,000 seafarers were stranded in the Persian Gulf, with at least seven deaths reported.¹² In July 2026 about 6,000 seafarers were still stranded on hundreds of vessels.¹³

Cables. Submarine cables carry over 99% of intercontinental data traffic, according to the ITU's advisory body, although other estimates are a little lower.^{14,15} Between 2012 and 2024 the average cable repair response time more than doubled, from under 20 days to over 50 days, and Africa has only one permanent repair vessel, based in Cape Town.¹⁶

20% of global oil consumption passes through the Strait of Hormuz	99%+ of intercontinental data travels by submarine cable	11 Baltic cables damaged between October 2023 and January 2025
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The Baltic. At least 11 undersea cables in the Baltic region were damaged between October 2023 and January 2025, which led NATO to launch the Baltic Sentry mission on 14 January 2025.¹⁷ **The Black Sea.** In

¹¹ Security Council Report. Maritime Security, April 2026 Monthly Forecast. <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/monthly-forecast/2026-04/maritime-security-4.php>

¹² Security Council Report. Maritime Security, April 2026 Monthly Forecast... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

¹³ UN News. US-Iran war leaves shipping at near-standstill in Hormuz again (9 July 2026)... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

¹⁴ International Telecommunication Union, International Advisory Body for Submarine Cable Resilience. IAB Publication 2026. <https://www.itu.int/digital-resilience/submarine-cables/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2026/07/IAB-Publication-2026.pdf>

¹⁵ Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. Seabed zero: Baltic sabotage and the global risks to undersea infrastructure (February 2026). <https://thebulletin.org/2026/02/seabed-zero-baltic-sabotage-and-the-global-risks-to-undersea-infrastructure/>

¹⁶ International Telecommunication Union, International Advisory Body for Submarine Cable... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

¹⁷ Defense News. 11 Baltic cables damaged in 15 months, pushing NATO to boost security (28 January 2025). <https://www.defensenews.com/global/europe/2025/01/28/11-baltic-cables-damaged-in-15-months-pushing-nato-to-boost-security/>

July 2026 Ukrainian prosecutors reported 28 commercial ships struck in a single month, and ship operators suspended traffic on Ukraine's Black Sea corridor for the first time since 2023.¹⁸

2.2 The legal framework in brief

Rule	What it says
Freedom of navigation	All states may lay submarine cables and navigate on the high seas and in exclusive economic zones, subject to UNCLOS. ¹⁹
Transit passage	Ships have a right of transit through international straits that coastal states cannot suspend. Chatham House argues it is customary law that binds even non-parties to UNCLOS, such as Iran. ²⁰
Damaging cables	UNCLOS Article 113 requires states to make it a punishable offence to break or injure a cable beneath the high seas. ²¹ But it gives no universal jurisdiction: a coastal state can prosecute only if its own national or ship is involved. ²²
Blockade	One expert analysis calls a blockade "an act of war". In a conflict, direct attacks on neutral merchant ships are prohibited. ²³

2.3 Ideas, tools and frameworks to know

Idea or tool	What it is
Reporting mandates	Resolution 2722 (2024) requires monthly Secretary-General reports on Houthi attacks. It was renewed in January 2026 until 15 July 2026. ²⁴
Naval coalitions	States may protect their own ships and join collective operations, but the Council did not authorise a specific Hormuz mission. ²⁵ NATO's Baltic Sentry uses ships, aircraft and drones to watch and deter. ²⁶
Flag-state cooperation	Boarding a suspected ship beyond territorial waters usually needs the flag state's consent, so agreements to share information and consent matter. ²⁷

¹⁸ The Maritime Executive. Shipping suspended on Ukraine's Black Sea corridor due to increased attacks (July 2026). <https://maritime-executive.com/article/shipping-suspended-on-ukraine-s-black-sea-corridor-due-to-increased-attacks>

¹⁹ NOAA Office of General Counsel. Submarine Cables: International Framework... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

²⁰ Chatham House. The Strait of Hormuz, shipping, and law (April 2026). <https://www.chathamhouse.org/2026/04/strait-hormuz-shipping-and-law>

²¹ NOAA Office of General Counsel. Submarine Cables: International Framework... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

²² Lieber Institute, West Point. The Baltic Sea Cable-Cuts and Ship Interdiction: The C-Lion1 Incident. <https://lieber.westpoint.edu/baltic-sea-cable-cuts-ship-interdiction-c-lion1-incident/>

²³ Chatham House. The Strait of Hormuz, shipping, and law (April 2026)... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

²⁴ Security Council Report. The Red Sea, July 2026 Monthly Forecast... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

²⁵ Chatham House. The Strait of Hormuz, shipping, and law (April 2026)... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

²⁶ Defense News. 11 Baltic cables damaged in 15 months, pushing NATO to boost security (28 January... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

²⁷ Lieber Institute, West Point. The Baltic Sea Cable-Cuts and Ship Interdiction: The C-Lion1... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

3. Key Definitions

These definitions are adapted from the UN and other sources listed in the bibliography. Learn them, because you will use them in speeches and clauses.

Term	Meaning
Chokepoint	A narrow waterway, such as a strait, that much of the world's trade must pass through.
Freedom of navigation	The right of ships of all states to sail on the high seas and through international waters, as protected by UNCLOS. ²⁸
Transit passage	The right to pass through an international strait without being impeded by the coastal state. ²⁹
Innocent passage	A more limited right to cross a state's territorial sea, which the coastal state can suspend in some cases. ³⁰
High seas	Ocean areas outside any state's territorial sea, exclusive economic zone or archipelagic waters. ³¹
Exclusive economic zone (EEZ)	The sea area up to 200 nautical miles from a coast where the coastal state has special rights over resources, while others keep freedom of navigation and cable-laying. ³²
Flag state	The state in which a ship is registered, which has jurisdiction over it. ³³
Blockade	Stopping ships from entering or leaving a port or coast, usually by naval force. It is treated as an act of war. ³⁴
Belligerent	A state that is a party to an armed conflict. ³⁵
Hybrid warfare	Hostile action below open war, such as sabotage and cyber attacks. ³⁶
Submarine cable	A fibre-optic or power cable laid on the seabed, carrying data or electricity between countries. ³⁷

²⁸ NOAA Office of General Counsel. Submarine Cables: International Framework... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

²⁹ Chatham House. The Strait of Hormuz, shipping, and law (April 2026)... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

³⁰ Chatham House. The Strait of Hormuz, shipping, and law (April 2026)... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

³¹ NOAA Office of General Counsel. Submarine Cables: International Framework... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

³² NOAA Office of General Counsel. Submarine Cables: International Framework... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

³³ Lieber Institute, West Point. The Baltic Sea Cable-Cuts and Ship Interdiction: The C-Lion1... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

³⁴ Chatham House. The Strait of Hormuz, shipping, and law (April 2026)... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

³⁵ Chatham House. The Strait of Hormuz, shipping, and law (April 2026)... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

³⁶ Defense News. 11 Baltic cables damaged in 15 months, pushing NATO to boost security (28 January... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

³⁷ International Telecommunication Union, International Advisory Body for Submarine Cable... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

Term	Meaning
Anchor dragging	A ship's anchor dragging along the seabed, a common cause of cable damage that is sometimes accidental and sometimes alleged to be deliberate. ^{38,39}
Attribution	Proving who is responsible for an attack or sabotage. ⁴⁰
Critical infrastructure	Systems a society depends on, such as energy pipelines, power cables and communications cables.
Naval mine	An explosive device laid in the water to damage or deter ships. ⁴¹
Seafarer	A person who works on a ship. Seafarers are often the first civilians harmed by maritime attacks. ⁴²
Chapter VII	The part of the UN Charter under which the Council can authorise sanctions or force. Its resolutions then bind states. ⁴³
Presidential or press statement	A Council statement agreed by all members that is not a resolution. ⁴⁴
Veto	The power of a permanent member to block a Council resolution by voting against it. ⁴⁵
Penholder	The Council member that leads drafting on a topic. ⁴⁶
Co-sponsor	A state that publicly backs a draft resolution. Resolution 2817 had 136 co-sponsors. ⁴⁷
Accountability	Making sure that those responsible answer for their actions, through investigation, prosecution and remedies.

³⁸ gCaptain. Timeline of suspected underwater sabotage in Baltic Sea. <https://gcaptain.com/timeline-of-suspected-underwater-sabotage-in-baltic-sea/>

³⁹ International Telecommunication Union, International Advisory Body for Submarine Cable... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁴⁰ Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. Seabed zero: Baltic sabotage and the global risks to... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁴¹ Security Council Report. Maritime Security, April 2026 Monthly Forecast... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁴² UN News. US-Iran war leaves shipping at near-standstill in Hormuz again (9 July 2026)... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁴³ United Nations Security Council. Functions and Powers. <https://main.un.org/securitycouncil/en/content/functions-and-powers>

⁴⁴ Al-Monitor. UN Security Council condemns Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia (September 2026)... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁴⁵ GlobalSecurity.org (UN press summary). China, Russian Federation Veto Security Council Draft Resolution by Gulf States to Safeguard International Shipping through Strait of Hormuz (7 April 2026). <https://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/iran/2026/04/iran-260407-unsc01.htm>

⁴⁶ Security Council Report. The Red Sea, July 2026 Monthly Forecast... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁴⁷ Security Council Report. The Middle East Crisis: Votes on Two Draft Resolutions (What's In... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

4. Case Studies

These cases show the problems and some responses in real life. Many events are recent and still developing, and sources sometimes differ, so check dates and figures. **You must represent your assigned country's view.**

4.1 The Strait of Hormuz (2026)

A war involving the US, Israel and Iran began on 28 February 2026. Iran declared the strait “closed” on 4 March, laid mines and set up a controlled transit system.^{48,49} On 11 March the Council adopted **Resolution 2817** by 13 votes to none, with China and Russia abstaining and 136 co-sponsors. It condemned any action or threat to obstruct navigation through Hormuz and the Bab al-Mandab.^{50,51} On 7 April a Gulf-sponsored draft on protecting shipping failed after **vetoed by China and Russia** (11 in favour, 2 against, 2 abstentions: Colombia and Pakistan). China and Russia called it one-sided.⁵² The US Navy blockaded Iranian ports from 13 April to 29 May. A 17 June memorandum ended the war, but the truce broke down in July, and by 9 July shipping was near standstill.^{53,54}

4.2 The Red Sea and the Houthi blockade (2023–2026)

The Houthis began attacking shipping on 7 October 2023. On 10 January 2024 the Council adopted **Resolution 2722** by 11 votes to none, with Algeria, China, Mozambique and Russia abstaining, and required monthly Secretary-General reports. It was renewed in January 2026.⁵⁵ Attacks on Saudi tankers resumed in July 2026.⁵⁶ The Houthis announced a maritime blockade of Saudi Arabia on 20 July, and Saudi Arabia announced a 14-nation maritime coalition on 30 July, without the US or EU.⁵⁷ On 25 September a joint press statement condemned the attacks and the “naval blockade”.⁵⁸

4.3 Baltic Sea cables and pipelines (2022–2025)

Since 2022 a series of Baltic incidents has damaged infrastructure: the Nord Stream pipelines (September 2022), the Balticconnector gas pipeline (October 2023, ship NewNew Polar Bear), telecom cables (November 2024, Yi Peng 3), the Estlink 2 power cable (December 2024, Eagle S) and a Finland–Estonia cable (December 2025, Fitburg). Outcomes varied: Sweden found “no conclusive evidence” of deliberate anchor-dragging by Yi Peng 3, a prosecutor ruled the Vezhen damage (January 2025) accidental, and a

⁴⁸ Security Council Report. Maritime Security, April 2026 Monthly Forecast... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁴⁹ Wikipedia. 2026 Strait of Hormuz crisis (secondary source; check against primary reports).
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2026_Strait_of_Hormuz_crisis

⁵⁰ Security Council Report. The Middle East Crisis: Votes on Two Draft Resolutions (What's In... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁵¹ Wikipedia. United Nations Security Council Resolution 2817. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Security_Council_Resolution_2817

⁵² GlobalSecurity.org (UN press summary). China, Russian Federation Veto Security Council Draft... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁵³ Wikipedia. 2026 Strait of Hormuz crisis (secondary source; check against primary reports)... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁵⁴ UN News. US-Iran war leaves shipping at near-standstill in Hormuz again (9 July 2026)... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁵⁵ Security Council Report. The Red Sea, July 2026 Monthly Forecast... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁵⁶ GlobalSecurity.org (AZERTAC). UN chief alarmed by renewed Houthi attacks on Red Sea shipping, urges de-escalation (24 July 2026).
<https://www.globalsecurity.org/military/library/news/2026/07/mil-260724-azertac01.htm>

⁵⁷ FDD's Long War Journal. Houthis escalate attacks in Red Sea and on Saudi Arabia, Riyadh evaluates options (August 2026).
<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2026/08/houthis-escalate-attacks-in-red-sea-and-on-saudi-arabia-riyadh-evaluates-options.php>

⁵⁸ Al-Monitor. UN Security Council condemns Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia (September 2026)... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

Finnish court dismissed the Eagle S case in October 2025.⁵⁹ NATO launched Baltic Sentry in January 2025.⁶⁰ Under UNCLOS, a coastal state can prosecute only where its own national or ship is involved, and boarding usually needs flag-state consent.⁶¹

4.4 Taiwan: a captain jailed for a cable cut (2025)

On 25 February 2025 the Chinese-flagged freighter Hong Tai 58 dragged its anchor in a no-anchor zone and severed a communications cable serving Taiwan's Penghu County. In June 2025 a Taiwanese court sentenced the captain to three years in prison, finding his actions intentional because the area was clearly signed and the cable marked on electronic charts. Seven crew members were detained and later deported without indictment because of insufficient evidence. The ruling could be appealed.⁶²



⁵⁹ gCaptain. Timeline of suspected underwater sabotage in Baltic Sea... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁶⁰ Defense News. 11 Baltic cables damaged in 15 months, pushing NATO to boost security (28 January... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁶¹ Lieber Institute, West Point. The Baltic Sea Cable-Cuts and Ship Interdiction: The C-Lion1... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁶² Taipei Times. Captain in cable cutting case given prison sentence (13 June 2025).
<https://www.taipeitimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2025/06/13/2003838551>

4.5 The Black Sea corridor (2023–2026)

Since August 2023 Ukraine’s Black Sea corridor has shipped over 197 million tonnes of cargo, including 117 million tonnes of grain.⁶³ In July 2026 Ukraine recorded 57 vessel attacks, against only 14 in all of 2025, and both Russia and Ukraine say they target only military-related objectives.⁶⁴ Odesa prosecutors reported 21 seafarers and port workers killed, operators suspended traffic on 23 July, and Ukraine asked the Council to meet, calling the attacks “targeted terrorism”.⁶⁵

4.6 Cable faults and the repair gap

In September 2025 cable faults near Jeddah on the SMW4 and IMEWE systems slowed some cloud services and traffic through the Middle East. Reports do not confirm the cause.⁶⁶ Such faults are hard to fix quickly: repair times more than doubled between 2012 and 2024, and Africa has only one dedicated repair vessel at Cape Town.⁶⁷ The ITU’s advisory body recommends standard incident reporting, better charts, stronger enforcement laws and financing for vulnerable regions and small island states.⁶⁸



⁶³ The Maritime Executive. Shipping suspended on Ukraine’s Black Sea corridor due to increased... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁶⁴ Baird Maritime. Feature: Escalating Black Sea attacks threaten global grain and oil trade. <https://www.bairdmaritime.com/amp/story/shipping/feature-escalating-black-sea-attacks-threaten-global-grain-and-oil-trade>

⁶⁵ The Maritime Executive. Shipping suspended on Ukraine’s Black Sea corridor due to increased... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁶⁶ The Register. Red Sea submarine cable outage slows Microsoft cloud (8 September 2025). <https://www.theregister.com/off-prem/2025/09/08/red-sea-submarine-cable-outage-slows-microsoft-cloud/399255>

⁶⁷ International Telecommunication Union, International Advisory Body for Submarine Cable... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁶⁸ International Telecommunication Union, International Advisory Body for Submarine Cable... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

5. Major Actors

5.1 Countries and regions

Your delegation may represent any country, and your country may not be listed here. The table shows broad patterns only. **Always check your country's recent statements, votes and policies before you rely on them.**

Type of country	What to expect
France, the UK and the US	Push for more pressure on the Houthis and for firm action to protect shipping. The US has sanctioned the Houthis on its own. ⁶⁹
China and Russia	Oppose expanded sanctions and “one-sided” texts, citing escalation risks. They vetoed the April 2026 Hormuz draft and abstained on Resolutions 2722 and 2817. ^{70,71,72}
Gulf states	Target of attacks and sponsors of Council drafts on Hormuz. Bahrain led the Gulf draft. ^{73,74}
Baltic and NATO states	Focus on deterrence and attribution, and on protecting cables and pipelines. ^{75,76}
States with few cables or little repair capacity	Many African and small island states want redundancy, repair vessels and financing. ⁷⁷

5.2 Organisations and networks

- **The Security Council and the Secretary-General.** The Council decides and the Secretary-General reports and warns.^{78,79}
- **The IMO and the ITU.** The IMO advises on shipping safety, and the ITU's International Advisory Body works on cable resilience.^{80,81}
- **NATO.** Runs Baltic Sentry to watch and deter threats to undersea infrastructure.⁸²

⁶⁹ Security Council Report. The Red Sea, July 2026 Monthly Forecast... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁷⁰ Security Council Report. The Red Sea, July 2026 Monthly Forecast... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁷¹ GlobalSecurity.org (UN press summary). China, Russian Federation Veto Security Council Draft... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁷² Security Council Report. The Middle East Crisis: Votes on Two Draft Resolutions (What's In... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁷³ Security Council Report. Maritime Security, April 2026 Monthly Forecast... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁷⁴ GlobalSecurity.org (UN press summary). China, Russian Federation Veto Security Council Draft... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁷⁵ Defense News. 11 Baltic cables damaged in 15 months, pushing NATO to boost security (28 January... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁷⁶ gCaptain. Timeline of suspected underwater sabotage in Baltic Sea... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁷⁷ International Telecommunication Union, International Advisory Body for Submarine Cable... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁷⁸ Security Council Report. The Red Sea, July 2026 Monthly Forecast... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁷⁹ GlobalSecurity.org (AZERTAC). UN chief alarmed by renewed Houthi attacks on Red Sea shipping... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

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⁸¹ International Telecommunication Union, International Advisory Body for Submarine Cable... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

⁸² Defense News. 11 Baltic cables damaged in 15 months, pushing NATO to boost security (28 January... (See earlier note or bibliography.)

6. Preparing for Committee

6.1 Questions a strong resolution answers

1. **What problem does it solve?** Military escalation, cable sabotage, or a blockade? In which waters?
2. **What legal basis does it use?** UNCLOS, the Charter, or Chapter VII?
3. **Who acts?** Name states, the Secretary-General, coalitions or the IMO.
4. **Does it protect civilians and seafarers?** Include crews stranded or at risk.
5. **How will facts be established?** Add investigation or reporting, and say how attribution works.
6. **Is it proportionate and realistic?** Avoid measures that could escalate the crisis.
7. **Can it avoid a veto?** Would permanent members from different blocs accept it?
8. **How will it be checked?** Add reports, a review date and a clear mandate.

6.2 Guiding questions for your research

1. How much of your country's trade, oil, food or data crosses these waters or cables?
2. Is your country a party to UNCLOS, and what does it say about passage and blockades?
3. How did your country vote on Resolutions 2722 and 2817?
4. Have your country's ships, crews or cables been affected?
5. Does your country have a navy or coast guard, and would it join a coalition?
6. What is your country's view on authorising force under Chapter VII?
7. Which countries share your goals, and where would you compromise?

6.3 Where to research

- **Security Council Report** monthly forecasts and the UN press meeting coverage.
- **UN News, the IMO and the ITU** for shipping and cable updates.
- **Chatham House and the Lieber Institute** for legal analysis.
- **Your country's foreign ministry** and its statements at the Council.

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<https://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/iran/2026/04/iran-260407-uns01.htm>
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