Security Council

The Maintenance of Peace and Security in the Strait of Hormuz

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Introduction

The Strait of Hormuz is a narrow channel, barely twenty-one miles across at its narrowest and only two miles wide in its shipping lanes, that separates Iran from the Arabian Peninsula and links the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman and the open sea.[1]

Through this single passage moves roughly one-fifth of the world's traded oil and a comparable share of its liquefied natural gas, along with fertilizer and food shipments on which dozens of developing economies depend.[2] No other maritime chokepoint concentrates so much of the world's energy security in so small a space, and no other strait has, in 2026, done more to demonstrate how a regional war can metastasize into a global economic emergency.

Since 28 February 2026, when the United States and Israel launched air strikes on Iran that killed the Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and dozens of senior officials, Iran has intermittently closed, mined, tolled, and attacked shipping in the strait, at times shutting off more than ninety percent of normal transit.[3] The result has been evere spike in energy prices, and renewed debate over the relevance of the UN Security Council. Sharply divided among its permanent members, can it still perform its Charter function of maintaining international peace and security?[4]

What role can the UN Security Council play to resolve the conflict or at least stabilize the Strait of Hormuz? With any course of action seemingly quashed by the threat of a veto from either China and Russia or the United States, the Security Council became a background actor. The challenge for delegates at ODUMUNC 50 is how to restore the centrality of the UN to promote regional peace.

This brief examines the legal and historical background of the dispute, the current military and diplomatic situation, the role the United Nations has played and might yet play, the record of Security Council actions, the positions of key states and blocs, and possible avenues for a

[1] IMO. n.d. "Middle East: Information Related to Shipping and Seafarers – Strait of Hormuz and the Middle East," accessed September 2026, https://www.imo.org/en/mediacentre/hottopics/pages/middle-east-strait-of-hormuz.aspx.
[2] IMO. n.d. "Middle East"; World Bank, "Strait of Hormuz Disruption Sends Oil Prices Surging," 8 May 2026, https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/strait-of-hormuz-disruption-sends-oil-prices-surging.
[3] NPR, "Iran's Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Has Been Killed," 28 February 2026, https://www.npr.org/2026/02/28/nx-s1-5730158/israel-iran-strikes-trump-us; United Nations News, "Bahrain and US Float Security Council Resolution on the Strait of Hormuz," 7 May 2026, https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/05/1167464.
[4] IEA. 2026b. "Oil Market Report – March 2026," March 2026, https://www.iea.org/reports/oil-market-report-march-2026.

durable resolution. The stakes extend far beyond the Gulf: they touch on freedom of navigation, the rules governing the use of force, the credibility of the Security Council itself, and the economic security of every country that depends, directly or indirectly, on energy and trade moving safely through international straits.

Background: Sailing in Very Different Legal Waters

The Strait of Hormuz has never been entirely calm. During the Iran-Iraq War, the 1984-1988 "Tanker War" saw both belligerents attack neutral shipping, prompting the United States to reflag and escort Kuwaiti tankers; the period ended tragically in July 1988 when the USS Vincennes mistakenly shot down Iran Air Flight 655 over the strait, killing 290 civilians, an incident condemned by the Security Council.[5] After the 2015 Iran nuclear deal (the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action) and the 2018 American withdrawal from it, tensions resurfaced: 2019 saw limpet-mine attacks on tankers and the Iranian seizure of foreign-flagged vessels, and periodic seizures continued for years afterward, including Iran's 2024 seizure of the MSC Aries.[6] Throughout these episodes, Iran repeatedly threatened, but never fully carried out, a closure of the strait, and the waterway remained open to commercial traffic.

The strait's legal status complicates every dispute that arises there. The 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) created a regime of 'transit passage' through international straits that cannot lawfully be suspended, even in wartime. Still, neither Iran nor the United States has ratified UNCLOS.[7] Iran signed the convention in 1982 while explicitly reserving the right to apply only the narrower "innocent passage" regime of the 1958 Geneva Convention, which coastal states may suspend for security reasons, to non-parties.[8] Washington, in turn, treats transit passage as a rule of customary disagreement, described by one Chatham House analysis as leaving both governments "sailing in very different legal waters," which gives each side a plausible legal argument and has made third-party adjudication difficult.[9]

The immediate origins of the current crisis lie in the collapse of nuclear diplomacy in early 2026. After weeks of talks between Washington and Tehran over Iran's nuclear program, the United States and Israel launched a surprise military campaign on 28 February 2026 that killed Khamenei along with more than forty senior military, intelligence, and government officials, part of a strike that Iran's foreign ministry called a violation of its sovereignty.[10] Iran responded with missile and drone attacks on Israel, on American bases across the region, and, within days, on shipping and infrastructure in the Gulf. At the same time, the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps announced that the strait would be closed to "unfriendly nations."[11] What began as a bilateral war between Iran, Israel, and the United States thereby became, within days, a crisis for the entire international economy.

Current Situation: Unresolved Crisis

As of late September 2026, the Strait of Hormuz crisis remains unresolved, although it has passed through several distinct phases. In the initial

[5] UNSC. n.d. Resolution 616, discussed in Wikipedia, "United Nations Security Council Resolution 616," accessed September 2026, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Security_Council_Resolution_616.
[6] The Conversation, "Strait of Hormuz: Why the US and Iran Are Sailing in Very Different Legal Waters," 14 April 2026, https://theconversation.com/strait-of-hormuz-why-the-us-and-iran-are-sailing-in-very-different-legal-waters-280557.
[7] Chatham House, "The Strait of Hormuz, Shipping, and Law," 16 April 2026, https://www.chathamhouse.org/2026/04/strait-hormuz-shipping-and-law.
[8] The Nation, "Only One Side Has Clearly Broken the Law in the Strait of Hormuz," 2026, https://www.thenation.com/article/world/iran-strait-of-hormuz-international-law/.
[9] Chatham House, "The Strait of Hormuz, Shipping, and Law."
[10] NPR, "Iran's Supreme Leader."
[11] NPR, "Iran's Supreme Leader"; "2026 Strait of Hormuz Campaign,"

weeks of the war, Iran closed the strait almost entirely, and the International Energy Agency described the resulting disruption as the largest in the history of the global oil market, with supply falling by more than ten million barrels a day and Brent crude prices briefly approaching $120 a barrel.[12]

The International Monetary Fund cut its 2026 growth forecasts for the Middle East and North Africa by nearly three percentage points, and warned of the risk of a wider global slowdown, while the World Bank called the episode the largest commodity-market shock it had documented.[13] More than twenty thousand seafarers were reported stranded aboard vessels in the Gulf, and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) verified at least nineteen deadly attacks on shipping and dozens of casualties among crew members by late August, prompting an emergency evacuation operation.[14]

The first breakthrough came on 17 June 2026, when, after talks mediated by Pakistan in Islamabad, Presidents Trump and Pezeshkian signed the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding. Under its terms, Iran agreed to clear mines and allow tool-free commercial passage for sixty days while negotiating (with Oman and other Gulf states) a longer-term arrangement for managing the strait. In exchange, the United States pledged to lift its naval blockade and to support at least $300 billion in Iranian reconstruction financing.[15]

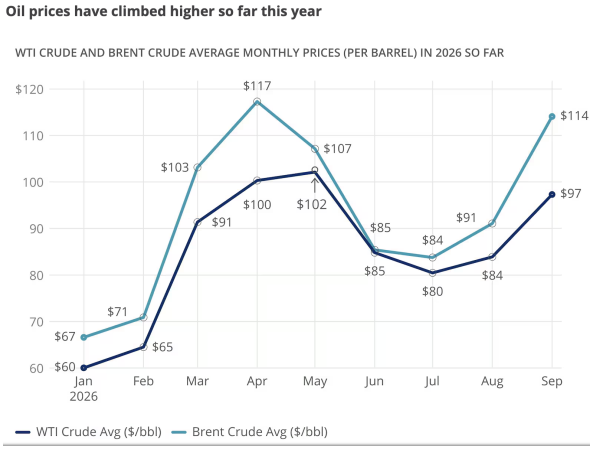


Figure 1. *Oil prices January-September 2026*

The truce proved fragile. Disagreements over who would control shipping routes and over an Iranian toll authority calling it the "Persian Gulf Strait Authority" led, on 7-8 July 2026, to Iranian attacks on several commercial vessels, including a Qatari liquefied-natural-gas carrier, and to a resumption of American strikes and a renewed naval blockade.[16]

Since then, the two governments have alternated between limited military exchanges and intermittent negotiations. By late August, the United States Navy announced that it had cleared more than one hundred suspected mines from the strait's traffic-separation scheme, while continuing to intercept tankers suspected of violating sanctions.[17]

Iran has continued to assert what its officials describe as sovereign "management and supervision" over the waterway, at times

[12] IEA. 2026a. "Oil Market Report – April 2026," April 2026, https://www.iea.org/reports/oil-market-report-april-2026.
[13] Al Jazeera, "IMF Cuts Global Growth Forecast during Hormuz Blockade," 14 April 2026, https://www.aljazeera.com/economy/2026/4/14/imf-cuts-global-growth-forecast-during-hormuz-blockade; World Bank, "Strait of Hormuz Disruption Sends Oil Prices Surging."
[14] IMO. 2026c. "Six Months of Uncertainty for Seafarers in Strait of Hormuz," 28 August 2026, https://www.imo.org/en/mediacentre/pressbriefings/pages/statement-on-the-ongoing-crisis-in-the-strait-of-hormuz.aspx; UN. 2026b. "Stranded Hormuz Seafarers Begin Mass Evacuation Operation," 24 June 2026, https://www.un.org/en/stranded-hormuz-seafarers-begin-mass-evacuation-operation.
[15] UN. 2026a. "Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding between the United States of America and the Islamic Republic of Iran," 17 June 2026, text via The American Presidency Project, https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/islamabad-memorandum-understanding-between-the-united-states-america-and-the-islamic.
[16] Al Jazeera, "US-Iran Memorandum of Understanding Expires: How and Why It Fell Apart," 17 August 2026, https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/8/17/us-iran-memorandum-of-understanding-expires-how-and-why-it-fell-apart.
[17] Al Jazeera, "US-Iran Memorandum of Understanding Expires."

permitting transit only for vessels that pay tolls or secure Iranian authorization, while Gulf Arab states, the League of Arab States, and Western governments have called this arrangement illegal.[18]

UN Secretary General António Guterres met Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on the margins of the General Assembly's General Debate on 26 September 2026, where Iran reportedly proposed reopening the strait within seven days in exchange for conditions to be negotiated with Washington through Qatari mediation.[19] Whether this latest proposal will hold where the Islamabad Memorandum did not, remains, at the time of writing, an open question.

Role of the United Nations on the Issue: Inefficacy

The United Nations has approached the Hormuz crisis through several overlapping channels, none of which has been sufficient on its own to end it. The Security Council, which bears the charter's "primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security," met repeatedly to discuss the crisis but has struggled to translate its members' shared concern about the strait's closure into consensus action, because Council members disagree sharply about who bears responsibility for the underlying war.[20] The Secretary General has used his good offices intensively. On several occasions, António Guterres has appealed for the strait to be reopened "without restrictions," and warned that continued closure risked tipping the world economy into a recession. He personally engaged Iranian leaders, most recently President Pezeshkian, to press for a negotiated settlement grounded in international law.[21]

Beyond the Security Council and the Secretariat, specialized agencies have played an indispensable, if less visible, role. The International Maritime Organization, the UN body responsible for shipping safety, has issued a continuous stream of statements condemning attacks on seafarers, convened its governing council to demand a coordinated international response, and organized the evacuation of thousands of stranded crew members, describing the human toll on ordinary seafarers as "unacceptable and unsustainable."[22] The IMO also participates in a dedicated UN-system Task Force on the Strait of Hormuz, coordinating with member states and the shipping industry on safe-passage arrangements.[23] The UN Conference on Trade and Development and other economic bodies have separately documented the crisis's disproportionate impact on import-dependent developing countries, particularly in Africa and South Asia, which rely on the Strait for oil, fertilizers, and grain shipments.[24]

[18] GlobalSecurity.org, "Secretary-General of the League of Arab States Condemns Targeting of UAE Oil Tanker in Strait of Hormuz, Holds Iran Responsible for Escalation," August 2026, https://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/iran/2026/08/iran-260808-leagueofarabstates01.htm.
[19] Bernama, "UN Chief Guterres, Iran's Pezeshkian Discuss Diplomacy, Strait of Hormuz," 26 September 2026, https://www.bernama.com/en/world/news.php?id=2611983; Archyde, "UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres Meets Iranian President to Resolve Middle East War through Dialogue and Negotiations," 26 September 2026, https://www.archyde.com/un-secretary-general-antonio-guterres-meets-iranian-president-to-resolve-middle-east-war-through-dialogue-and-negotiations/.
[20] United Nations Meetings Coverage, "China, Russian Federation Veto Security Council Draft Resolution by Gulf States to Safeguard International Shipping through Strait of Hormuz," 7 April 2026, https://press.un.org/en/2026/sc16330.doc.htm.
[21] GlobalSecurity.org, "UN Chief Hopes for Status Quo Ante of Strait of Hormuz: Spokesperson," 26 June 2026, https://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/iran/2026/06/iran-260627-pdo02.htm; United Nations News, "Guterres Welcomes US-Iran Peace Deal as 'Critical Step' toward Ending Conflict," 15 June 2026, https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/06/1167716.
[22] IMO. 2026b. "IMO Secretary-General: Seafarer Deaths in Strait of Hormuz Unacceptable," March 2026, https://www.imo.org/en/mediacentre/pressbriefings/pages/imo-secretary-general-statement-strait-of-hormuz-seafarer-deaths-unacceptable.aspx; IMO. 2026a. "IMO Condemns Attacks on Shipping, Calls for Safe-Passage Framework in Strait of Hormuz," 19 March 2026, https://www.imo.org/en/mediacentre/pressbriefings/pages/imo-calls-for-safe-passage-framework-in-strait-of-hormuz.aspx.
[23] IMO. n.d. "Middle East."
[24] IMO. n.d. "Middle East"; World Bank, "Strait of Hormuz Disruption Sends Oil Prices Surging."

The United Nations has not been able to authorize or organize an enforcement mechanism to guarantee freedom of navigation, because that would require Security Council agreement that has proven elusive. This gap has pushed several regional and ad hoc coalitions, discussed further below, to attempt to fill the space the Council could not, a pattern with echoes in earlier Gulf crises but one that raises long-term questions about whether the Council can perform its core charter function when its own permanent members are divided over the origins of the conflict it is asked to address.

Landmark UN Resolutions

The Security Council's most significant action came on 11 March 2026, less than two weeks into the war, when it adopted Resolution 2817 (2026) by a vote of 13 in favor, with China and the Russian Federation abstaining.[25] Sponsored by Bahrain on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council and Jordan, the resolution attracted 135 co-sponsors, the largest number ever recorded for a Security Council text.[26] It condemned Iran's "egregious attacks" against Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates, reaffirmed the affected states' sovereignty and territorial integrity, and determined that any attempt to close or obstruct transit through the Strait of Hormuz, or threaten navigation through the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait, itself constituted a threat to international peace and security.[27]

Resolution 2817 quickly became the legal touchstone that Gulf states, the League of Arab States, and Western governments invoke whenever new attacks occur, but subsequent efforts to build on it stalled. On 7 April 2026, a follow-on Bahraini-American draft resolution, already narrowed to encourage only "defensive" coordination among states to protect shipping, failed after China and the Russian Federation cast vetoes, arguing that the text was one-sided because it did not address what they described as the illegal origin of the war in unauthorized American and Israeli strikes.[28] A further sanctions-threatening draft circulated in May 2026 gained more than one hundred co-sponsors but likewise made no further progress toward adoption.[29] Russia and China proposed an alternative text addressing the broader Middle East situation and calling for an immediate end to hostilities, but no version commanding the support of all five permanent members has yet been adopted.[30] The General Assembly, unable to override a Council veto, has instead held debates in which member states aired their views on the vetoes without binding effect.[31]

Beyond these 2026 texts, older Council practice remains relevant background. Resolution 598 (1987) called for an end to the Iran-Iraq War and a resumption of navigation, and Resolution 616 (1988) expressed distress at the loss of Iran Air

[25] United Nations Meetings Coverage, "Security Council Adopts Resolution 2817 (2026) Condemning Iran's 'Egregious Attacks' against Neighbors as Middle East Violence Rapidly Escalates," 11 March 2026, https://press.un.org/en/2026/sc16315.doc.htm.
[26] Middle East Council on Global Affairs, "The Gulf's Diplomatic Counterstrike at the UNSC," 19 March 2026, https://mecouncil.org/blog_posts/the-gulfs-diplomatic-counterstrike-at-the-unsc/.
[27] Khaleej Times, "Explained: What Is UN Security Council Resolution 2817, Often Invoked in US-Iran War?" 16 August 2026, https://www.khaleejtimes.com/world/explained-un-security-council-resolution-2817-us-iran-war.
[28] Al Jazeera, "Russia and China Block UN Resolution on Strait of Hormuz," 7 April 2026, https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/4/7/russia-and-china-block-un-resolution-on-strait-of-hormuz; United Nations News, "Security Council: Russia and China Veto Resolution on Strait of Hormuz," 9 April 2026, https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/04/1167261.
[29] Al Jazeera, "Bahrain-Led UN Resolution on Strait of Hormuz Gains Support of 112 Nations," 13 May 2026, https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/5/13/bahrain-led-un-resolution-on-strait-of-hormuz-gains-support-of-112-nations; The Times of Israel, "Draft UN Resolution Threatens Sanctions on Iran unless It Opens Strait of Hormuz," 5 May 2026, https://www.timesofisrael.com/draft-un-resolution-threatens-sanctions-on-iran-unless-it-opens-strait-of-hormuz/.
[30] TASS, "Russia, China Offer Well-Balanced UNSC Draft Resolution on Iran — Diplomat," 7 April 2026, https://tass.com/politics/2113271.
[31] United Nations Meetings Coverage, "China, Russian Federation Veto Security Council Draft Resolution."

Flight 655 over the strait, together illustrating that the Council has recognized threats to Hormuz's safety as matters of international concern for nearly four decades.[32]

Countries and Bloc Positions: Divided

China has consistently framed the crisis as a spillover effect of an unlawful war rather than as a maritime dispute in its own right. Ambassador Fu Cong told the Council that the "fundamental solution" to restoring safe passage is an end to hostilities, and that the United States and Israel bore primary responsibility for launching strikes without Council authorization.[33] At the same time, China has stated plainly that it does not endorse Iran's attacks on Gulf states or its blockade of the strait, and has called on Tehran to restore normal navigation and address the security concerns of its neighbors.[34] Beijing, whose refineries depend heavily on Gulf oil, has used its Security Council veto twice to block resolutions it considers unbalanced while proposing an alternative text emphasizing de-escalation and diplomacy.[35]

The European Union is led in the Security Council by France. Denmark Greece and Latvia have rotating seats. The United Kingdom no longer an EU ember, but coordinates much of the time.

The EU has repeatedly called the closure of the strait "untenable" and pressed for freedom of navigation to be restored, but it has struggled to agree on an operational response.[36] High Representative Kaja Kallas proposed extending the mandate of Operation Aspides, the EU's existing Red Sea naval mission, to cover the Strait of Hormuz, but EU foreign ministers concluded there was 'no appetite' among member states for such an expansion, citing competing demands in the Red Sea and reluctance to be drawn into a war they were not consulted on.[37] The European Union has separately imposed sanctions on individuals and entities linked to Iran's tolling scheme in the strait and continues to press both Washington and Tehran toward a negotiated, rather than military, solution.[38]

The Gulf Cooperation Council is a regional organization representing many Arab Persian Gulf oil exporters, but not Iran. All are directly affected by the crisis. Bahrain is the only GCC state currently on the Security Council. Bahrain says that as major energy exporters, they bear a disproportionate share of the crisis's costs. They maintain that Iran has no legal right to close an international strait.[39]

The League of Arab States, a 22-member regional organization, also currently is represented in the Security Council by Bahrain. The Arab League has repeatedly condemned specific attacks on Arab-flagged and Arab-linked vessels as violations of Resolution 2817, while Oman, alone among Gulf states, has maintained a more conciliatory posture toward Iran and undertaken direct talks with Tehran over the strait's future management, reflecting the bloc's internal

[32] https://digitallibrary.un.org/record/42913
[33] China, Permanent Mission to the United Nations, "Remarks on the Use of Veto by Ambassador Fu Cong at the UN General Assembly Meeting," 16 April 2026, https://un.china-mission.gov.cn/eng/hyyfy/202604/t20260417_11893682.htm.
[34] Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, "Explanation of Vote by China's Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador Fu Cong on the UN Security Council Draft Resolution on the Strait of Hormuz," 7 April 2026, https://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/xw/zwbd/202604/t20260414_11891305.html.
[35] Al Jazeera, "Russia and China Block UN Resolution on Strait of Hormuz."
[36] EEAS. 2026a. "European Council: Doorstep Remarks by High Representative Kaja Kallas," 19 March 2026, https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/european-council-doorstep-remarks-high-representative-kaja-kallas_en.
[37] Euronews, "Kallas Says 'No Appetite' to Shift Mandate of EU Naval Mission in the Strait of Hormuz," 16 March 2026, https://www.euronews.com/2026/03/16/kallas-says-no-appetite-to-shift-mandate-of-eu-naval-mission-in-the-strait-of-hormuz.
[38] Eunews, "New EU Sanctions against Iran: 'Blockade of the Strait of Hormuz Is Unacceptable,'" 8 June 2026, https://www.eunews.it/en/2026/06/08/the-eu-imposes-sanctions-on-iran-over-the-closure-of-the-strait-of-hormuz-kallas-this-is-the-first-time-we-will-do-it-again-if-necessary/
[39] United Nations Meetings Coverage, "Security Council Adopts Resolution 2817 (2026)."

diversity of views even as it has largely presented a unified diplomatic front at the United Nations.[40]

The Non-Aligned Movement, the UN's most powerful voting bloc in the General Assembly, is a weaker force in the Security Council. It has several Member States on the Security Council: Colombia, DR Congo, Liberia, Pakistan, Panama and Somalia. They coordinate loosely and unpredictability.

NAM members, several of them Gulf states themselves, have emphasized both the sovereign right of states to defend against attack and the collective interest of the Global South in freedom of navigation, since developing economies in Africa and South Asia depend heavily on oil, fertilizers, and food shipments transiting the strait.[41] Iran, itself a longstanding Non-Aligned Movement member, has sought support within the Movement for its position that the war was an act of aggression against it and that its "management" of the strait is a legitimate exercise of sovereignty, including through a proposed regional non-aggression initiative offered to Gulf neighbors.[42] Other Non-Aligned members, including Pakistan, have instead prioritized mediation, with Islamabad hosting the talks that produced the June 2026 memorandum.[43]

The Russian Federation aligns itself closely with China's position, casting a veto alongside Beijing on 7 April 2026 and describing successive draft resolutions as "unbalanced" for omitting any criticism of the American and Israeli strikes that began the war.[44] Ambassador Vasily Nebenzya argued that a purely one-sided resolution would foreclose, rather than advance, any prospect of a negotiated end to the crisis, and Moscow has continued to deepen security and economic ties with Tehran throughout the conflict.[45] Russia has also proposed its own draft resolution addressing the wider Middle East situation, though it, too, has not achieved Council consensus.

The United States has framed the reopening of the Strait as a test of whether any single state can be permitted to hold the global economy "hostage," and has combined military measures, including a naval blockade and periodic air strikes, with an extensive sanctions campaign against Iran's oil-shipping networks and aviation sector.[46] The United States co-sponsored Resolution 2817 and each subsequent draft resolution, secured a record number of co-sponsors for the March text, and has called on other states to join a coalition to secure the strait, while also mediating, through the Islamabad talks, the June 2026 memorandum that briefly reopened the waterway.[47]

Some Possible Proposals for Action

The 15 Member States of the Security Council are free to choose any path of action—or non-action—that they prefer. As sovereign states, they are not bound by the precedence of past UN resolutions, or even by their own votes. But they are limited by the need for a majority, including the yes votes or abstentions of all five Permanent Members.

The UN is already substantially engaged on this issue through the Security Council and the Secretary-General's good offices, and the International Maritime Organization's technical and humanitarian work, yet the central political question, how to reconcile Iran's demand for

[40] GlobalSecurity.org, "Secretary-General of the League of Arab States Condemns Targeting of UAE Oil Tanker."
[41] IMO. n.d. "Middle East"; World Bank, "Strait of Hormuz Disruption Sends Oil Prices Surging."
[42] Islamabad Memorandum. https://www.npr.org/2026/06/18/nx-s1-5863027/us-iran-trump-memorandum-of-understanding-full-text
[43] Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding. https://www.cnn.com/2026/06/17/middleeast/us-iran-war-mou-text-intl
[44] Al Jazeera, "Russia and China Block UN Resolution on Strait of Hormuz."
[45] TASS, "Russia, China Offer Well-Balanced UNSC Draft Resolution on Iran — Diplomat."
[46] United States Mission to the United Nations, "Explanation of Vote on a UN Security Council Resolution on the Situation in the Middle East," 7 April 2026, https://usun.usmission.gov/explanation-of-vote-on-a-un-security-council-resolution-on-the-situation-in-the-middle-east-2/.
[47] United Nations News, "Bahrain and US Float Security Council Resolution on the Strait of Hormuz."

recognized authority over the strait with the international community's insistence on unimpeded transit passage, remains unresolved. Delegates at ODUMUNC 50 may wish to consider the following proposals, already advanced by various states:

Build on Security Council Resolution 2817 by seeking a Council-authorized, international framework for escorting and monitoring commercial shipping, of the kind proposed and vetoed in April 2026, but redrafted to attract the support of all five permanent members by explicitly calling for an end to hostilities alongside protection of navigation.[48]

The Council could encourage the parties to the dispute to formalize a permanent, internationally recognized traffic and safety regime for the strait. This could build on the 1968 IMO-adopted Traffic Separation Scheme, that neither treats Iran's role as illegitimate nor grants it unilateral tolling authority over an international waterway.[49]

The plan could be overseen by the UN Secretary-General or the International Maritime Organization, probably in consultation with Persian Gulf littoral states, and with support from the Five Permanent Members.

The Security Council could demand humanitarian and economic exceptions for specific recipients or regions, to ensure adequate and affordable energy supplies. This could be coordinated by the UN Secretary_General, for poorer states in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean, Latin America, and the Pacific most affected by disrupted fertilizers, food, and energy shipments, delinking their welfare from the pace of a bilateral political settlement between Iran and the United States.[50]

The Council might press for renewed, UN-supported mediation, building on the precedents of the Pakistani-brokered Islamabad talks and the Secretary-General's direct diplomacy, to convert the current fragile proposals for a phased reopening into a durable agreement addressing both the immediate safety of shipping and the underlying nuclear and security disputes that triggered the war.[51]

[48] United Nations News, "Security Council: Russia and China Veto Resolution on Strait of Hormuz."
[49] IMO. n.d. "Middle East."
[50] World Bank, "Strait of Hormuz Disruption Sends Oil Prices Surging."
[51] Bernama, "UN Chief Guterres, Iran's Pezeshkian Discuss Diplomacy, Strait of Hormuz."

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