



BOĞAZIÇIMUN 2026

H-UNSC STUDY GUIDE

Agenda Item:

- 1) The Situation in Darfur (2004): Addressing the Genocide and Ensuring Accountability**

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BOĞAZIÇİMUN 2026

Letter from the Secretary-General

Meritorious Participants,

I am Duru Yavuz, a senior Political Science and Sociology student at Boğaziçi University. As the Secretary-General, I would like to welcome you all to the 8th official session of BoğaziçiMUN, BoğaziçiMUN'26.

Our academic and organizational teams have been working endlessly to ensure the best BoğaziçiMUN experience for our participants. I would like to begin by thanking our Deputy Secretaries-General, Ömer Alp Şiringöz and İpek Şen for their efforts, support and friendship. And the biggest of thank you's goes to our Director-General and Club co-Coordinator Kaan Berker and our Deputy Director-General Ekin Asyalı, this conference would not be what it is without their ambition and hard work. I would also like to thank our Club co-Coordinator İrem Ayber for all her help in both academic and organizational capacities.

BoğaziçiMUN has always been a ground where we aim to achieve academic and organizational excellence, but it has also been a place where old friends get to gather and work towards a common goal, even if it is in the middle of a snowstorm. In our experience as a club and as a conference, we have broken and reshaped barriers, we have learned what it means to be in a close-knit team, we have looked to the past and embraced our legacy, and we have looked to the future to envision an improved BoğaziçiMUN.

Throughout the years, we have gained new experience, knowledge, and strength; and found a sense of community in our members and participants. In each BoğaziçiMUN; we have seen you, our participants, learn and grow with us; expanding your knowledge of international relations, world politics, and history. It was this growth and the chance to witness your dedication and curiosity that have inspired us to continue improving BoğaziçiMUN every single year. And because we get to see your enthusiasm, because we get to engage our participants' minds with the pressing issues of our time, our efforts are made worthwhile. This year, we have prepared for you a wide range of unique committees and agenda items, all thanks to our wonderful Under Secretaries-General who have worked closely with our academic team to bring fresh perspectives and discussions to the conference.



BOĞAZIÇİMUN 2026

After months of preparation on top of our years of foundational experience, BoğaziçiMUN is finally ready to open its doors to you and ‘Bridge the Gap’ once again this February. At the intersection of diplomacy, international relations and creative decision-making, BoğaziçiMUN stands as a chance to take matters into your own hands. Let us embark on this mission together and broaden our horizons as well as our community. It is my utmost honor to welcome you all to BoğaziçiMUN 2026, I hope to meet you soon.

Kind regards,

Duru Yavuz

Secretary-General of Boğaziçi MUN 2026



BOĞAZIÇİMUN 2026

Letter from the Under Secretaries-General

Dear Delegates,

It is our great pleasure to welcome you to BOĞAZIÇİMUN 2026 as the H-UNSC Committee, we as the Under Secretary Generals Pelin Onat, Bilel Elarem, Academic Assistant Bakr Amro are honored to guide you through an agenda that is both timely and deeply relevant to the lives of women and girls around the world.

This year's topic, The Situation in Darfur (2004): Addressing the Genocide and Ensuring Accountability invites us to critically examine the roots of the conflict, the scale and nature of the atrocities committed, and the responsibility of both national and international actors in preventing, responding to, and prosecuting mass crimes against civilians. We are thrilled to accompany you on this journey and look forward to seeing your passion, ideas, and leadership throughout the sessions. We wish you the best of luck and an inspiring conference experience. We are all very excited about the conference and look forward to seeing you there.

Best regards,

For any further questions regarding the committee please don't hesitate to reach us through our mail addresses below.

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Members of the H-UNSC Committee



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1. Introduction to the Security Council

a. History

The United Nations Security Council, or UNSC, was founded when the United Nations was established. The Security Council held its first session on 17 January 1946 at Church House, Westminster, London. Since its first meeting, the Security Council has taken permanent residence at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. (“United Nations Security Council - Peacekeeping, Resolutions, Sanctions | Britannica,” 2024) After its foundation, the UNSC was inefficient because of the continual disagreement between the United States and the Soviet Union. Perhaps the most notable exception to that occurred in June 1950, when the Soviets were boycotting the Security Council over the issue of China’s UN membership.

b. Scope and Mandate

The United Nations Security Council, which is the primary crisis management body of the United Nations, has the authority to impose legally binding obligations on the 193 member states of the United Nations in order to facilitate the preservation of peace. The five permanent members and ten elected members of the Security Council meet on a regular basis to discuss and evaluate potential dangers to international security. These dangers include acts of terrorism, natural disasters, the proliferation of arms, and localized conflicts. (*The UN Security Council*, 2024)

c. Members and Structure

Collectively referred to as the P5, the Security Council comprises five permanent members: the United States, China, France, Russia, and the United Kingdom. Any one of them has the authority to veto a resolution. The Security Council's ten elected members, who serve two-year, nonconsecutive terms, are not granted veto power. The ten nonpermanent members of the Security Council, who are elected by a two-thirds vote of the UN General Assembly, are guaranteed some agenda-setting influence by the council's presidency, which rotates on a monthly basis. The primary criterion for eligibility is the contribution "to the maintenance of international peace and security," which is frequently defined as financial or troop contributions to peacekeeping operations or leadership on matters of regional security that are likely to be brought before the Security Council. (*The UN Security Council*, 2024)

2. Introduction to the Agenda Item



a. The Situation in Darfur (2004): Addressing the Genocide and Ensuring Accountability

The Darfur War began in February 2003 in Sudan's Darfur region when the Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM) and the Justice Equality Movement (JEM) group took up arms against the Sudanese government, accusing it of oppressing Darfur's non-Arab population. The government responded to the attacks by conducting an ethnic cleansing campaign against Darfur's non-Arab ethnic groups. This turned into the deaths of hundreds of civilians and resulted in Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir being indicted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. On one side of the conflict are the Sudanese army and police, along with Sudanese military forces consisting of Arabized indigenous Africans known as Cancavid and a small number of Bedouins from the Rizeigat tribe. Most other Arab groups in the region are not participating in the events. On the other side are the SLM and Jem, composed mainly of the members of non-Arab muslim groups such as Fur, Zaghawa and Masalit. The African Union and the United Nations also have a joint peacekeeping mission in the region called UNAMID (African Union, United Nation Hybrid Operation in Darfur). The number of human casualties are estimated to be several hundred thousand deaths due to war, famine and disease. As a result of the war, millions of people were forced to flee to refugee camps or across borders, creating a humanitarian crisis. The Sudanese government and JEM signed a ceasefire agreement in February 2010 as part of a temporary agreement to secure peace. However, the talks stalled amid accusations that the Sudanese army had carried out raids and airstrikes on a village in violation of the Tolu Agreement. The August 2019 Draft Constitutional Declaration signed by military and civilian representatives during the Sudanese Revolution requires a peace process leading to a peace agreement in Darfur and other armed conflict areas in Sudan within the first six months of the 39-month transition period to democratic civilian rule. To end the armed conflicts, a comprehensive peace agreement was signed on August 31, 2020, between Sudanese authorities and some rebel groups.

b. Sudan before 2003

Sudan has been through a lot. The country has had a tough time for decades. There has been a lot of fighting and the government has not been very good at helping people. Sudan got its independence in 1956. Things did not get better. The government has been taken over by the military times and it has been very strict. This has meant that many people in Sudan do not



get to say what they think or have a say in how the country's run, especially people who live outside of the capital city.

The big fight between the north and the south was a problem for Sudan before the crisis in Darfur. Sudan had a civil war between the government in the north and rebel groups, in the south. This was one of the things that shaped Sudan before the Darfur crisis happened in 2003. The Darfur crisis was a deal but Sudan was already having a lot of problems. The Darfur region was really forgotten by the government. It suffered a lot because of the war. The war took all the money and attention away from the state and the whole country. Even when people were talking about peace in the 2000s Darfur was not part of the important discussions. The government in Sudan did not treat all people equally some groups got help and attention than others. This made some people feel like they did not belong. There were also a lot of problems with the land and water in Darfur. This caused fights, between farmers and people who move around with their animals. The Darfur region had a tough time because of all these problems. Violence has escalated as a result of the government's inability to control these conflicts or to provide security. In conclusion, Sudan had severe social, political, economic differences in the mid 2000s. The Darfur conflict, which would quickly turn into a significant humanitarian and human right crisis, was sparked by unaddressed issues

3. Historical Background

a. Historical Background of the Conflict

i. Overview of Darfur

The predynastic people of the Nile River valley were related to the northern residents of Darfur in prehistoric times. Darfur was most likely under the control of Egyptian caravans that traveled south from Aswan starting around 2500 BCE. Trade was undoubtedly carried out from Darfur with Egypt during the New Kingdom and with the cities of Napata and Meroe in the kingdom of Kush (Cush; now in northern Sudan). Its first traditional kings, the Daju (Dagu), may have had ties to ancient Egypt. In Darfur, the Tunjur, or Tungur, eventually succeeded the Daju in power. The Christian period, which probably lasted from 900 to 1200 in Darfur, was ended by the advance of Islam eastward from the empire of Kanem-Bornu. In the 1870s Darfur came under Egyptian rule and was given provincial status. In the late 1980s,



long-simmering ethnic tensions between sedentary Fur and other agriculturalists and nomadic Arab herders erupted into armed combat. Up until 2003, when rebels from among the agriculturalists stormed government buildings to protest what they claimed was the Sudanese government's disdain for the western region and its non-Arab people, the bloodshed was mainly intermittent.



Map of Darfur, Sudan

ii. Political and Economic Marginalization

Sudan has had a lot of issues. These issues have stopped Sudan from moving and made Sudan very unstable. When you look at Sudan closely you can see that things that happen inside Sudan and things that happen outside Sudan have worked together to make Sudan the way it is. Sudan is unstable for reasons and all these reasons are connected.. It is clear that Sudan has had a really tough time. The conflict in Darfur was not something that just



happened once it kept happening. Sudan has dealt with a lot of problems and Sudan is still dealing with them. Sudan has a lot of problems. The government does not pay attention to some areas. Some places are. Getting more money than others.. Some people are being left out.

Sudan has had these problems since it became a country in 1956. These problems have affected how the center of Sudan interacts with the areas, on the outside of Sudan.

Sudan's problems and Sudan's history are closely tied to the fact that Sudan has faced challenges. Sudan has had to deal with these challenges for a time. Sudan's problems are a part of Sudan's history. The situation in Sudan and the conflict in Darfur are examples of what happens when Sudan's government and Sudan's people do not work together. Sudan's government has a lot of power in the hands of the people from the north and Khartoum. This means that places like Darfur and other areas outside of the cities are not really part of the decision making process. They are not involved in making decisions about the country or keeping people safe. The government says it gives power to areas but this is not really true. People who live in these areas do not have control over what happens to them and they do not have a big say in what the government does. Sudan's people and Sudan's government need to work to make things better. The people of Darfur had few ways to solve problems about things like food, water and land in a peaceful way. This made people lose trust in the government. It helped violent groups come to power. These groups used violence to get at the government. The people of Darfur were also left behind when it came to money and jobs. The government did not spend money on important things like roads, schools, hospitals and farms in Darfur. This made the situation even worse for the people of Darfur. The people of Darfur were treated unfairly. This made them very angry. The government's lack of support for Darfur made it easy for violent groups to take control and use violence to get what they wanted. The roads that connected Darfur to parts of the country were really bad. This made it very hard for people to buy and sell things. It also made it hard for the economy to grow. There were no schools, hospitals and other important services. This meant that a lot of people in Darfur were very poor. The government focused on helping some areas more than others. They helped the areas near the river and the central regions. This made the other areas feel like they were being left behind. People in the areas and farming communities were especially affected. They did not have a lot of money. Were not able to deal with problems that came up. The situation in Darfur was very bad by the 2000s. Darfur was facing a lot of



problems, with politics, economy and environment. These problems made Darfur's situation extremely difficult. The year 2003 saw the rise of groups like the Justice and Equality Movement and the Sudan Liberation Movement/Army. These groups wanted to protect people from the things the government was doing. They also wanted to make sure everyone was treated fairly and had a say in how the country was run. When people in areas complained about their problems the government made things much worse. The government fought back with tactics that hurt people, not just the rebel groups. This made a lot of people suffer. It became a big problem for humanity. The Sudan Liberation Movement/Army and the Justice and Equality Movement were still fighting for what they believed in. In conclusion, political and economic marginalization was a fundamental cause of the Darfur crisis rather than just a contributing aspect. When combined with environmental stress and poor governance, the isolation of Darfur from Sudan's political institutions and development agenda created structural disparities that increased the likelihood of violent conflict and its catastrophic effects.

4. Key Actors

a. Government of Sudan

In the year 2003 the Government of Sudan had President Omar Hassan al-Bashir as its leader. He was in charge since he took control in a coup back in 1989. The Government of Sudan was really strict. Made most of the decisions itself. The National Congress Party had a lot of power. The president and his team made all the decisions. People in Sudan did not have a lot of freedom to say what they thought. The media was also controlled. The Government of Sudan did not have independent institutions to balance out the power. This affected how the Government of Sudan handled problems like what happened in Darfur. The Government of Sudan and President Omar Hassan al-Bashir had a role in how they responded to the crisis in Darfur.

Sudan was in a fight with the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army in the south at that time. This fight was going on for a time and it was using up a lot of the country's resources. The government in Khartoum was very worried about keeping everyone safe. This made them deal with problems inside the country in a certain way. Then some rebel groups in Darfur like the Sudan Liberation Army and the Justice and Equality Movement started



fighting in 2003. The government said that these groups were a threat to safety not that they had reasons to be upset. The Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army and these rebel groups in Darfur were a concern for the government. The Darfur rebels said that the government was not doing enough to help the people of Darfur. They felt that the government was ignoring them and not giving them the opportunities as other people. The Sudanese government tried to stop the rebels by working with some groups called the Janjaweed. By just using their own army the government gave guns and support to these groups to help them fight the rebels. This made it hard to tell who was really in charge and who was doing the fighting. The government's plan led to a lot of bad things happening to innocent people. The Darfur rebels and the people of Darfur suffered a lot because of this. The Sudanese government and the Janjaweed were responsible for human rights abuses in Darfur. The government said it was not responsible for the things that happened in Darfur. They said the violence was because of fights between tribes and they could not do anything to stop it.. People from other countries who saw what was happening and the United Nations figured out that the government was actually involved. The government of Darfur helped the militias, did not keep the people safe and would not let humanitarian workers get to the people who needed help. The government of Darfur played a part in all of this. In 2003, Sudan's government prioritized regime stability and territorial control over inclusive governance. Its actions in Darfur reflected broader patterns of authoritarian rule, militarized conflict management, and limited accountability, factors that would soon draw intense international condemnation and place Sudan at the center of global diplomatic debates.

b. Rebel groups

i. Sudan Liberation Movement (SLM)

In 1997, Zaghawa tribal leaders were murdered in Korno and Dar Kobe, and the Zaghawa believed that the Sudanese government was involved. That same year, Zaghawan Mustafa Mahmoud Tijani traveled to Chad to seek support for rebellion among the Zaghawan officers in Chad's army, where he connected with persons who will later be known as the first leaders of the SLM/A. Shortly after, the Zaghawa hardened six of the seasonal camps into permanent



armed camps and established a military structure with the Committee of Twelve, and this was the core of what later would be known as the SLM armed wing.

Furthermore, in response to the GoS military efforts against the “African” tribes in Darfur's second war, Fur University students in Khartoum formed a secret organization building on the self defence committees established by the Zaghawa officers in Darfur. The future leadership of the SLM first met in Khartoum in 1996. While the SLM failed to create a pan-Darfri society like it had once wished to do, it did create a pan-tribal society. However, that united tribal society did not last long, for the SLM soon broke into two tribal factions in late-2005.

ii. Justice and Equality Movement (JEM)

The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM, Arabic: Harakat al-'dl wa al-musawah) is an armed-political movement that emerged from the Darfur's rebellion against the Sudanese government, arguing that money and power should be spread equally in the Sudanese community, hence the name, and called for national political reform.

JEM was established early in 2003 by a group of educated, politically experienced Darfurians. Most of its leaders and membership initially came from the Kobe, a Zaghawa sub-group more numerous in Chad than in Darfur. Since 2007 JEM has worked actively to recruit Darfurian Arabs, including from government-supported militias or ‘janjaweed’, which will be presented in more detail next.

In 2010, before a government led attack that left heavy casualties on both sides, JEM was estimated to have more than 5000 armed men, hundreds of vehicles, and at least two tanks. Today, in spite of all the losses and splits in the movement, JEM remains one of the strongest actors in the Darfur military scene.

c. Group of Janjaweed

Janjaweed is a label used to refer to Arab-identified militias who were active mainly in Darfur. They are known to be highly mobile forces that fought in support of the Sudanese state forces in the Darfur war. Though the name is widely spread among civilians in the area, it was not chosen by the group itself nor is it an official name for it.



Since the name refers to a category of militias rather than a single group, the structure of these militias varied from one place to another. Yet, common ground features can be seen across all of them include:

- Often recruiting from Arab-identified tribes and other armed communities.
- Fast attacks on settlements and farmlands, leaving heavy casualties and many displaced behind.
- Strong relations with the Sudanese state, either independently attacking in its favour or jointly fighting with it.

d. Civilians and Displaced Populations

More than 90,000 people are believed to have been killed in the Darfur war since 2003. About 200,000 are thought to have died from war-related causes and over 2.3 million are internally displaced. Faced with a rebellion in 2003, the Sudanese government exploited existing tensions to arm local militias and used them (Janjaweed groups), with government air and ground support, to forcibly displace hundreds of thousands of people.

Most of those displaced civilians are now living in more than 65 camps for internally displaced people (IDPs) all around Darfur. Those who are not living in camps are sheltering in towns in Darfur, squatting in shacks or living with relatives or others who have offered them a corner of their house.

Hundreds of thousands more darfuris escaped to towns all around Sudan, and about a quarter of a million darfuris are known to be living in refugee camps in Chad.

5. Humanitarian Situation and International Response (2004)

a. Internal Displacement and Refugee Crisis

One of the longest-running and most complicated humanitarian crises of the twenty-first century is the internal displacement and refugee migrations from Darfur. For many years, Darfuris have used migration as a means of subsistence, either for seasonal labor or in reaction to famine and food crisis. However, the violent conflict that broke out in Darfur in



2003 drastically changed migratory patterns, transforming previously mostly voluntary mobility into forced displacement and refugee flows motivated by despair, persecution, and insecurity. Millions of people were forcibly relocated as a result of the Darfur conflict, and many of them first sought refuge in Darfur or other parts of Sudan. Displacement turned into migration outside of Sudan as the crisis worsened and opportunities for return decreased. A growing number of Darfuris relocated to nearby nations like South Sudan, Egypt, Libya, and Chad. Many saw these migrations as phases in a longer trip defined by worsening conditions, inadequate protection, and a lack of viable livelihoods in host nations rather than as end destinations. After 2013, there was a sharp rise in migration to Europe, which coincided with a resurgence of violence in Darfur and a decline in the region's alternatives for protection. Darfuris have few options due to political unrest in Egypt, Israel's stringent deterrent measures, and the deteriorating circumstances for refugees in Chad. Smuggling networks flourished once Libya's state authority collapsed, allowing for irregular movement across the Mediterranean. Tens of thousands of Sudanese, mostly from Darfur, arrived in Europe between 2015 and 2017, demonstrating how internal displacement can eventually develop into global refugee movements. Darfuris encounter physical violence, discrimination, and exploitation on their travels. Many encounter difficult circumstances even after arriving in Europe, including stringent border controls, drawn-out asylum processes, insufficient support, police brutality, and the ongoing threat of imprisonment or forced repatriation. Because of this, many Darfuris continue to live in unstable circumstances, either on the streets or in informal settlements, with high levels of trauma and poor physical and mental health. Refugee migration and displacement have repercussions that go beyond the individuals who depart. If migration is successful, remittances may help the families left behind, but they often face financial hardship, emotional suffering, and uncertainty particularly when ransoms are asked or communication is lost. As a result, both within Darfur and internationally, internal displacement and refugee movements alter social, economic, and political dynamics. The Darfur situation illustrates how deterrence-based, restricted immigration and asylum policies fall short of addressing the underlying causes of displacement. Instead of stopping migration, border measures have boosted smuggling networks and forced migrants to take riskier routes. Human misery and irregular mobility are exacerbated by the absence of easily available legal migration pathways.

b. African Union Initiatives



Africa has made an effort to fulfill its obligations regarding Sudan. African nations have attempted to do the same for Darfur after setting the standard for mediating the conflict between the North and the South, which resulted in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). There are African peacekeepers in Sudan. The future of Sudan is vital to Africa. Africa would be affected if Sudan underwent a peaceful democratic transition. However, if Sudan fails, the effects will be felt instantly by Sudan's nine neighbors as well as far beyond. A political process that gives appropriate consideration to the interconnected pillars of peace, justice, and reconciliation all of which must be addressed if there is to be long-lasting peace in Darfur is necessary to ensure stability in the region. Darfurians, for their part, want a swift and comprehensive peace process that will give them instant assurances of safety wherever they currently reside in Darfur. They anticipate that their government and UNAMID will take the required actions to strengthen their security, and they anticipate that the government and armed movements will reach a ceasefire agreement that will provide long-term security benefits. Darfurians want the freedom to live safely in their own homes and towns after being uprooted for years. They anticipate that the government would implement both a larger social economic program for Darfur's development and recovery as well as a compensation scheme for individual and collective losses in order to make amends for the harm they have endured. If the people of Darfur are to regain confidence in the state, all sorts of compensation for those who have been harmed by the security forces and affiliated militia will be crucial. Leading the charge to put an end to the Darfur catastrophe has been Africa. Since 2004, the African Union has worked to mediate a peace deal between the parties involved in the Darfur conflict, negotiate a ceasefire, and deploy a peacekeeping force, the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS). Through the office of a Joint Mediator, the AU and the UN have collaborated on peacekeeping operations (UNAMID) and mediation efforts for Darfur since 2007. Today, UNAMID plays a vital role in stabilizing Darfur, ensuring the security of its citizens, meeting humanitarian needs, and promoting community reconciliation.

6. Questions to be Answered

1. What role did Sudan's economic and political exclusion of Darfur before 2003 play in the conflict and widespread violence that broke out in 2004?



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2. To what extent do the events in Darfur in 2004 meet the legal definition of genocide under the 1948 Genocide Convention, and what are the implications of such a designation for the Security Council?
3. What responsibility does the Government of Sudan bear for the actions of the Janjaweed militias, and how should state accountability be addressed under international law?
4. How effective were the African Union initiatives and early international responses in addressing civilian protection and humanitarian access in Darfur during this period?
5. What measures could the Security Council adopt to prevent further displacement, ensure the safe return of refugees and internally displaced persons, and support long-term stability in Darfur?
6. How did the lack of effective enforcement mechanisms within the international system in 2004 limit the global response to the Darfur crisis?
7. How can the Security Council balance respect for Sudan's sovereignty with its responsibility to protect civilians from mass atrocities?
8. Should the situation in Darfur in 2004 be referred to an international judicial body, such as the International Criminal Court and what political and legal challenges would such a referral face?
9. What role did ethnic targeting and systematic violence against civilians play in driving internal displacement and refugee flows in Darfur in 2004?

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