

Committee: Historical Committee

Delegation: Iran



Topic: United Nations Conference on International Organization

With a history spanning six millennia, the Imperial State of Iran (hereinafter: Iran) has long navigated the pressures of great power rivalries, often at the expense of its independence – most presently as a neutral country during the second World War. Iran has always sought to remain away from this conflict, yet it became a victim of aggression by the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union.

This issue of foreign invasion directly imperils Iran’s sovereignty and stability. It’s also not a lone event as concrete examples abound through time: in the 19th century during the Anglo-Russian rivalry Iran was unilaterally occupied and divided into spheres of influence by the two powers, causing a disastrous famine¹; this pattern repeated in 1907 with the Anglo-Russian Convention, which partitioned Iran without its consent to settle expansionist conflicts and garner political support between Russia and the British, effectively treating our nation as collateral in their dealings²; most recently, in August 1941, **despite Iran’s declared neutrality**, British and Soviet forces invaded our territory under the guise of countering alleged Axis influences³. **These claims masked their true intent to secure the Abadan oil fields for a post-war recovery and to establish a supply corridor to the Soviet Union**⁴. This occupation, which persists to this day, has led to the forced abdication of Reza Shah, the installation of foreign troops on our soil and the disruption of our economy⁴. These invasions highlight the urgent need for a new world order that protects smaller nations from the predations of the powerful, which is precisely the purpose of this conference. The USA, the UK and the USSR in Tehran in 1943 stated a shared commitment to the “**independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iran**”⁵; we hope that the reality of the situation is not what they had in mind.

We are entering into a pivotal moment in establishing a post-war international framework through this new world organization aimed at preventing future conflicts and promoting global cooperation. Iran, having endured the failures of the League of Nations, which proved impotent against aggression, views the UN as an opportunity to enshrine principles of **equality and collective security**. We approach this with optimism, hoping for an inclusive organization that binds all members to uphold peace without favouring the mighty.

¹ Shoko Okazaki, The Great Persian Famine of 1870-71, *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London* 49, no. 1 (1986): 183–92, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/617680>.

² Firuz Kazemzadeh, Anglo-Russian Convention of 1907, *Encyclopædia Iranica*, II/1, pp. 68-70, <http://www.iranicaonline.org/articles/anglo-russian-convention-of-1907-an-agreement-relating-to-persia-afghanistan-and-tibet>.

³ United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Iran During World War II, Holocaust Encyclopedia. <https://encyclopedia.ushmm.org/content/en/article/iran-during-world-war-ii>.

⁴ David Pierpoint, British Policy in Iran and Relations with the Soviet Union (1999) (Degree of Master of Philosophy thesis, The University of Birmingham), <https://etheses.bham.ac.uk/id/eprint/5354/1/PierpointOOMPhil.pdf>.

⁵ The Declaration of the Three Powers Regarding Iran (Dec. 1, 1943), <https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1943CairoTehran/d419>.

On the question of initial membership and the denial of admission to certain states, particularly defeated Axis powers and their puppet regimes, Iran expresses deep reservations toward colonizers and other expansionist aggressors. Nonetheless, **we support maximizing membership to include as many sovereign states as possible**, as we believe that broad participation strengthens the organization and dilutes the influence of imperial powers. Excluding nations prematurely risks perpetuating divisions and broadening conflicts in the future. Regarding the later admission of members, Iran insists that the General Assembly hold jurisdiction over final decisions, as it represents the broadest democratic body within the organization. To facilitate the inclusion of as many new sovereign entities as possible **we advocate for a simple majority vote**. On the permanency of membership, Iran opposes voluntary secession, as it could fragment the UN and undermine collective goals and commitments. However, **if a member fails to honour the agreements it signs, the General Assembly should have the authority to expel it via a two-thirds majority vote**, providing a form of accountability.

The composition of the Security Council poses the conference's most difficult debate. Within it, Iran supports a structure comprising of permanent and non-permanent members to balance continuity of the most powerful states with representation for all. However, **we firmly oppose any veto power for permanent members**, as it contradicts the equality the UN should and must promote. The unilateral Yalta agreement's provision for concurring votes among the five permanent powers would **entrench inequality, slow decision-making and risk paralysis akin to the League of Nations**. Moreover, concentrating unchecked authority in a few hands invites future conflicts among these powers themselves, potentially dragging the world into renewed chaos without mechanisms for responsible oversight by this organization. Such disputes between members should be resolved peacefully through the International Court of Justice, to which we believe the Security Council should direct the parties in conflict.

Arguably most importantly, the United Nations **must eradicate colonialism in all forms**. There should be no legal remnants of imperial eras, no *de facto* colonies disguised as mandates or spheres of influence and absolutely zero further expansionist aggression against sovereign states. The ongoing British-Soviet occupation of Iran profoundly exemplifies this problem⁶. The UN Charter must prohibit such violations to ensure a just world order.

Fundamentally, the United Nations must effectively shield the member states, large and small; therefore, each nation signing the Charter should be legally bound by its provisions. Iran wholly commits to this noble endeavour, urging other delegations to build an organization that learns from past injustices and safeguards the weak against the strong. Only through checks and balances, inclusivity, equality and binding accountability can the United Nations fulfil its promise of peace and tranquillity for as many as possible.

⁶ The Head of the Delegation of the Soviet Union at the United Nations (Vyshinsky) to the President of the Security Council (Makin) (Jan. 24, 1946), <https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1946v07/d224>.