United Nations Security Council peace-related speeches 1991-2020 (UNSCPeaS)

Version August 2022

1. Background

The UN Security Council peace-related speeches (UNSCPeaS) compiles the peace-related speeches delivered by China, France, United Kingdom, United States, Russia (i.e. the P5) as well as Brazil, South Africa, and Turkey in the UN Security Council from 1991 to 2020. The UNSCPeaS is part of the SNSF-funded project "A Child of Its Time: The Impact of World Politics on UN Peacebuilding" hosted by the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP) at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (Geneva, Switzerland).[1]

Project team: Dr. Sara Hellmüller, Dr. Fanny Badache, Bilal Salayme, and Flavia Keller.

Please cite this dataset as:

Badache, Fanny; Hellmüller, Sara; Salayme, Bilal. 2022. "United Nations Security Council peace-related speeches (UNSCPeaS)", https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/0OROVZ, Harvard Dataverse, V1.

2. Existing datasets on UN Security Council speeches and peace missions

Datasets are useful tools for researchers willing to conduct systematic quantitative or qualitative analyses. When it comes to the study of the UN Security Council and peace missions, a number of datasets exist already. First, scholars have built databases on UN Security Council speeches. For instance, Kohlenberg et al. (2019) created a dataset of all verbatim statements given by the representatives of permanent and non-permanent members during public meetings of the UN Security Council between 2010 and 2018. It includes all the records for the statements that have been made publically available by the UN, in either their English original or the UN's translation of a statement into English (UNSCdeb8). They also offer an

[1] A full description of the project can be found here: https://www.graduateinstitute.ch/research-centres/centre-conflict-development-peacebuilding/child-its-time-impact-world-politics.

online searchable tool.[2] Another dataset of UN Security Council speeches is Schoenfeld et al. (2021) which comprises all speeches in the UN Security Council from 1995 to 2020. Their dataset allows to distinguish between different speaker roles (i.e. president of a commission, Secretary-General, permanent representative etc.).

Second, various datasets on peace missions exist. Scholars have for instance coded the mandate tasks of peace missions. For instance, the UN Peace Mission Mandates (UNPMM) covers all UN peace missions (peacekeeping operations, special political missions, and special advisors) from 1991 to 2020. It codes mandate tasks and classifies them as minimalist, moderate, or maximalist (Hellmüller et al., 2022).[3] The dataset by Di Salvatore et al. (2022) on Peacekeeping Mandates (PEMA) codes the mandates of all UN peacekeeping missions in Africa between 1991 and 2017. Another dataset established by Lloyd (2021) codes the mandate tasks of all UN peacekeeping deployments from 1948 to 2015. Jetschke and Schlipphak (2020)'s dataset captures every UN and non-UN peace operation providing information on mission type, the existence of target state consent and UN authorization from 1947 to 2916. Finally, Benson and Tucker (2022) catalog UN Security Council resolutions on UN Peacekeeping operations from 1946 to 2015 and code them at the conflict level.

The UNSCPeaS bridges these two research strands by focusing on peace-related speeches delivered at the UN Security Council.

3. Construction of the UNSCPeaS dataset

The UNSCPeaS complements existing datasets by zooming-in on specific actors and topics. It gathers the peace-related speeches delivered by China, France, United Kingdom, United States, Russia (i.e. the P5) as well as Brazil, South Africa, and Turkey in the UN Security Council from 1991 to 2020.

Selection of actors

To identify the relevant speeches, we focused on three categories of actors: 1) France, UK, and the USA as traditional powers and members of the P5; 2) China and Russia as emerging global powers and members

[2] https://unscdeb8.ethz.ch/search/
[3] https://www.peacemissions.info/

of the P5, and 3) Brazil, South Africa, and Turkey as non-permanent members and emerging regional powers. The research selects Brazil, South Africa, and Turkey among the non-P5 rising powers as they have been active in peacebuilding-related issues. The three mentioned countries are members of G20, while Brazil and South Africa are also members of BRICS group. These countries have been elected members in the UN Security Council as follows: Brazil (1993-1994, 1998-1999, 2004-2005 and 2010-2011), South Africa (2007-2008, 2011-2012 and 2019-2020) and Turkey (2009-2010).

Selection of peace-related speeches

In order to compile a corpus of single peace-related speeches for the eight selected countries from 1991 to 2020, we followed two main steps. Firstly, we retrieved the relevant UN Security Council meeting records (documents coded as S.PV). The pdf documents were extracted from the online database: the United Nations Digital Library[4]. Using 'speeches' research engine of the library,[5] speeches related to either peacekeeping or/and peacebuilding themes were extracted for each country. We only selected speeches when countries were speaking in their capacity as state representatives and not in another role, i.e. as president of the UN Security Council or chair of a commission for instance (contrary to Schoenfeld et al. 2021). Then, we manually checked the extracted speeches to avoid possible tagging mistakes when they were originally logged in the library. We excluded meetings logged initially as peacekeeping/peacebuilding while their agenda did not directly address these themes. This included speeches under general or technical agendas, such as the protection of UN personnel, associated personnel and humanitarian personnel in conflict zones.

In total, we found 108 peace-related UN Security Council meetings from 1991 to 2020. Since the pdf documents included the interventions of all actors present during the specific meeting (president of the UN Security Council, members of the Secretariat, all members of the UN Security Council), we extracted the speeches of the eight countries composing our sample. To do so, we copied and pasted the relevant parts of the pdf documents into a word document. Overall, our database contains 525 individual speeches. The number of individual speeches on peace is distributed among the eight countries as displayed in Figure 1 below.

[4] https://digitallibrary.un.org/?ln=en
[5] https://digitallibrary.un.org/search?ln=en&cc=Speeches

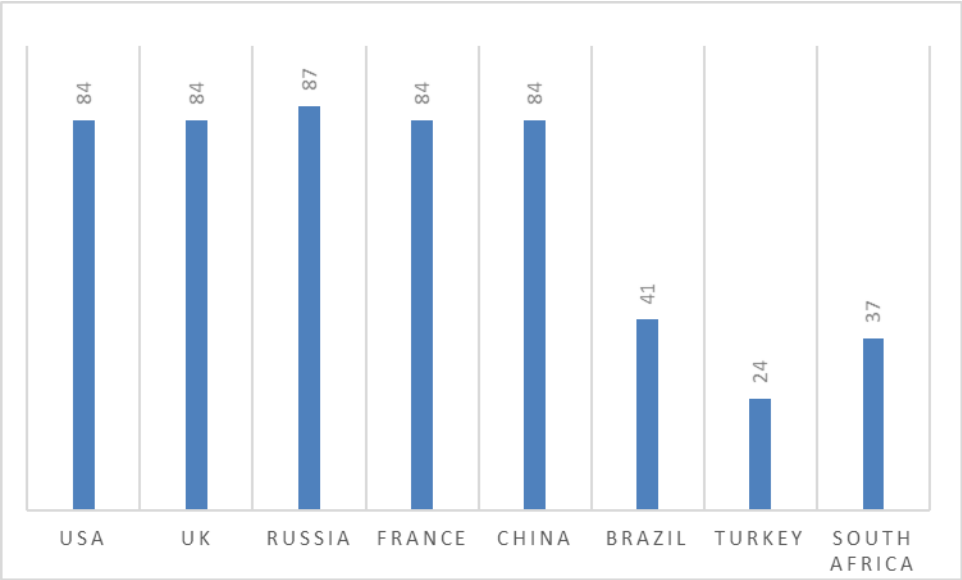

Figure 1 – Number of speeches by country

4. Coding

country – the country the speaker represents during the speech

S.PV number – meeting record identifier as in the UN

year – year of the speech

text – the actual text of the speech

5. Files

The dataset is available in csv format in order to be easily uploaded with different data treatment softwares (Nvivo, MAXQDA, R, etc.). An excel version is also available on request.

6. References

Benson, M., & Tucker, C. (2022). The Importance of UN Security Council Resolutions in Peacekeeping Operations*. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *66*(3), 473-503. https://doi.org/10.1177/00220027211044205

Di Salvatore, J., Lundgren, M., Oksamytna, K., & Smidt, H. M. (2022). Introducing the Peacekeeping Mandates (PEMA) Dataset. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *0*(0), 00220027211068897. https://doi.org/10.1177/00220027211068897

Hellmüller, S., Tan, X.-Y. R., & Bara, C. (2022). What is in a Mandate? Introducing the Dataset on UN Peace Mission Mandates (UNPMM). *under review*.

Jetschke, A., & Schlipphak, B. (2020). MILINDA: A new dataset on United Nations-led and non-united Nations-led peace operations. *Conflict management and peace science*, *37*(5), 605-629. https://doi.org/10.1177/0738894218821044

Kohlenberg, P. J., Godehardt, N., Aris, S., Sündermann, F., Snetkov, A., & Fall, J. (2019). Introducing UNSCdeb8: A Database for Corpus-Driven Research on the United Nations Security Council. *SWP Working Paper Asia Division*, *1*.

Lloyd, G. (2021). New Data on UN Mission Mandates 1948-2015: Tasks Assigned to Missions in their Mandates (TAMM). *Journal of Peace Research*, *58*(5), 1149-1160.

Schoenfeld, M., Eckhard, S., Patz, R., Meegdenburg, H. v., & Pires, A. (2021). *The UN Security Council Debates* (Version V5). Harvard Dataverse. https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/KGVSYH