UNCR

United Nations

Conflict Resolutions Dataset

Conflict-Resolution Level Format

Version 1.0

September 2021

Michelle Benson, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
University at Buffalo, SUNY
mbenson2@buffalo.edu

Colin Tucker, Ph.D.
Department of Political Science
University at Buffalo, SUNY
colintuckerusa@gmail.com

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION OF DATA 4

CITING THIS DATA 5

USER-FEEDBACK 5

CODING METHODOLOGY 5

UNSC RESOLUTION SUBJECT-HEADING 5
RESOLUTION CHAINS 6
UCPD'S CONFLICT ENCYCLOPEDIA 6
SECURITYCOUNCILREPORT.ORG 6
UN MISSION WEBSITES 6

IDENTIFICATION VARIABLES 8

CONFLICTID 8
CONFLICTIDOLD 8
GWNO 8
COUNTRY 8
YEAR 8
MONTH 8
RESOLUTION 8
UMBRELLA 8
UMBRELLACONFLICTS 8

SENTIMENT VARIABLES 9

ANYSENT 10
PROGOV 10
ANTIGOV 11
MIXGOV 11
PROREB 11
ANTIREB 11
MIXREB 11
PROALL 11
ANTIALL 11
MIXALL 11

DEMAND VARIABLES 12

DEMANDGOV 12
DEMANDREB 12
DEMANDALL 12

INVESTIGATION VARIABLES 13

FACTFINDESTAB 13

FACTFINDREF 13
FACTFINDTERM 13
ADVTEAMESTAB 13
ADVTEAMREF 13
ADVTEAMTERM 13
COMMESTAB 13
COMMREF 13
COMMTERM 14

DIPLOMACY VARIABLES 14

AID 14
GOODOFFESTAB 14
GOODOFFREF 14
MEDIATE 14
MEDIATEREF 14

SANCTIONS VARIABLES 15

SANCTIONESTAB 15
SANCTIONEXTEND 15
SANCTIONREDUC 15
SANCTIONTERM 15

BLOCKADE VARIABLES 15

BLOCKESTAB 15
BLOCKEXTEND 15
BLOCKREDUC 16
BLOCKTERM 16

THIRD-PARTY AUTHORIZATIONS VARIABLES 16

TPAESTAB 16
TPAEXTEND 16
TPAREDUC 16
TPATERM 16

PEACEKEEPING OPERATION VARIABLES 17

PKOESTAB 17
PKOSUB 17
PKOSUBESTAB 17
PKOANY 17
PKOEXTEND 17
PKOFORCEEXPAND 17
PKOFORCEREDUC 17
PKOMAND 17

MANDATE VARIABLES 18

CHAP7 18

CHAP8 18
R2P 18
WOMEN 18
CHILD 18

Description of Data

UNCR v1.0 catalogs all United Nations Security Council Resolutions and their content during civil conflicts, as recorded by UCDP/PRIO's Armed Conflict v4.2016 dataset (Gleditsch et. al. 2002).[1] The conflict periods within the dataset extend from the first recorded battle-related death to the last recorded battle-related death, plus a 6-month "post-conflict" appendage.[2] This version is formatted at the conflict level. Additional versions (in both .csv and STATA format) are available at the:

- Conflict-Month Level
- Conflict-Year Level
- Resolution Level

Visit https://dataverse.harvard.edu/dataverse/unscresolutions for access to UNCR.

Unit of Analysis:
UCDP/PRIO Internal Armed Conflict - Month

Temporal Scope:
January 1, 1946 - December 31, 2015

Number of UCDP/PRIO Intrastate Armed Conflicts:
210

Number of Countries:
105

Number of Observations:
1,132

Conflict Data Source:
Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) & Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)
Armed Conflict v4.2016 Dataset

Gleditsch, Nils, Peter Wallensteen, Mikael Eriksson, Margareta Sollenberg, and Håvard Strand 2002. "Armed Conflict 1946-2001: A New Dataset." *Journal of Peace Research* 39(5): 615-637.

[1] This includes *internal* (type 3) and *internationalized internal* (type 4) conflicts according to UCDP/PRIO definitions under variable *typeofconflict*.
[2] This corresponds to UCDP/PRIO's *StartDate* and *EpEndDate* variables, respectively. While UCDP/PRIO may list multiple *EpEndDate* dates, given that conflicts can experience multiple episodes of activity and inactivity, this dataset extends the conflict periods to the latest *EpEndDate* date to capture the full duration of the conflict.

Citing This Data

If using this data, please include the following citation:

APA

Benson, Michelle, and Colin Tucker. Forthcoming. "The Importance of UN Security Council Resolutions in Peacekeeping Operations." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*.

Chicago

Benson, Michelle, and Colin Tucker, "The Importance of UN Security Council Resolutions in Peacekeeping Operations" *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Forthcoming.

MLA

Benson, Michelle, and Colin Tucker. "The Importance of UN Security Council Resolutions in Peacekeeping Operations." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Forthcoming.

User-Feedback

We encourage users to contact us if they encounter any inconsistencies within the data. If you have ideas to improve this data, please let us know!

Michelle Benson, Ph.D.
mbenson2@buffalo.edu

Colin Tucker, Ph.D.
colintuckerusa@gmail.com

Coding Methodology

The first procedure in constructing a resolutions dataset is finding relevant resolutions and pairing them with their respective UCPD/PRIO Armed Conflicts, which is more difficult than one might initially expect. When there is a single conflict within a country during a discrete time period, the association of resolutions with conflicts is relatively straightforward. However, when there are concurrent intrastate conflicts within a country at the same time, or when a UNSC resolution refers to larger regions of conflict, the association of UNSC resolutions with UCDP/PRIO conflicts is more complicated. We relied on both country- and conflict-unique attributes referenced in UNSC resolutions to associate resolutions with intrastate conflicts.

UNSC Resolution Subject-Heading

The subject-line of each resolution listed on the UN website consists of a small description to describe the subject-material of that resolution. Most often, these subject-line descriptions are simply country names. When the subject-line lists only a single country, this most often signals an intrastate conflict issue for that country. Similarly, if the subject-line lists two or more countries, this most often indicates an interstate

conflict or a regional issue. Using these subject-lines was often the initial step in establishing association.

Resolution Chains

Almost always, resolutions begin by "recalling" other resolutions that have been passed and are related to the present resolution's substance. These references helped to corroborate resolution association and to account for any that were initially overlooked.

UCPD's Conflict Encyclopedia

In addition to a conflict's location and time period, we utilized the UCPD's Conflict Encyclopedia to further associate resolutions with conflicts. This resource offered a conflict narrative and often identified conflict-unique rebel factions, leaders, regions, peace agreements, and sometimes UN involvement. If these identifying attributes that are unique to an intrastate conflict were identified within a resolution, then that resolution was paired with the intrastate conflict.

UCDP Conflict Encyclopedia: https://ucdp.uu.se

SecurityCouncilReport.org

To verify the correct pairing of resolutions with their respective conflicts and to capture additional resolutions with atypical subject lines, we referenced SecurityCouncilReport.org. This website identifies resolutions by country and includes a short description of the resolution subject-matter, (e.g., "The extension of UNMISS in Sudan"). This is particularly helpful because some resolutions may contain subject-lines like "Middle East" or "the African Region" on the UN website, which may be overlooked initially.

Security Council Report Website: https://www.securitycouncilreport.org

UN Mission Websites

Sometimes information offered on official UN Peacekeeping Mission websites offered additional information when pairing resolutions, by highlighting UN involvement in specific conflicts and their respective UNSC resolutions.

UN Missions Website: https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/past-peacekeeping-operations

The second procedure in constructing a resolutions dataset, after successfully pairing resolutions with their respective conflicts, is generating variables describing the content of the resolutions. After pairing resolutions with conflicts, each resolution was manually read to record each resolution's content. The language of resolutions exhibits an explicit and standardized vernacular over time that allows relevant information to be readily identified. Through an inductive process, we generated the variables descried within this codebook.

Resolutions were manually paired and coded by a graduate student and faculty member. After all resolutions were paired and coded, reliability checks were conducted through random sampling of conflicts, where a third graduate student paired resolutions and coded their content based on a shared codebook. There was a 97% level of inter-coder reliability in pairing UNSC resolutions to UCDP/PRIO civil conflicts and a 95% inter-coder reliability in coding variables detailing each resolution's substantive actions.

Identification Variables

conflictid
The unique, numerical identifier of the UCDP/PRIO armed conflict. This identifier corresponds to all versions of UCDP/PRIO's Armed Conflict datasets from 2017 and after.

conflictidold
The unique, numerical identifier of the UCDP/PRIO armed conflict. This identifier corresponds to all versions of UCDP/PRIO's Armed Conflict datasets prior to 2017.

gwno
The unique, numerical identifier of the armed conflict country, provided by Gleditsch & Ward.

country
The country of the armed conflict, corresponding to the Gleditsch & Ward identifier.

year
The year of observation.

month
The month of observation.

resolution
The unique resolution number, as assigned by the UN Security Council.

umbrella
A dichotomous coding to identity "umbrella" resolutions. These are instances where a resolution addressed more than one conflict within the dataset, and thus are included in duplicate.

umbrellaconflicts
In instances where a resolution addressed more than one conflict within the dataset, this variable indicates the number of conflicts a resolution addresses. For non-umbrella resolutions, this default value is 1.

Sentiment Variables

Below is a description of the variables that record resolution sentiment. The sentiment variables are meant to capture whether a resolution condemns or praises the actions of a conflict disputant. Sentiments can either be directed at the government (GOV), the rebel factions (REB), or towards conflict participants where the target of the sentiment is unclear (ALL). Given the standardized vernacular of council resolutions over time, these sentiments are able to be objectively identified and cataloged.

Typical language within resolutions denoting sentiment include:

Praising

- Applauds
- Welcomes
- Commends
- Approves
- Affirms
- Acknowledges
- Notes with appreciation
- Pays tribute to

Condemning

- Deplores
- Condemns
- Denounces
- Indignant of
- Deeply disturbed by
- Expresses concern by

Below is example of this sentiment being displayed in UNSCR 2164, addressing one of Mali's intrastate conflicts:

Pro-Government Sentiment:
"Welcoming the appointment by the Malian President on 23 April 2014 of a High-Representative for the Inter-Malian Inclusive Dialogue and his initial efforts to consult with national and international actors on the peace process,"

Anti-Rebel Sentiment:
"Condemning strongly the violent clashes in Kidal on 17 and 18 May 2014 in the context of the Malian Prime Minister's visit, which resulted in the death of Malian Defence and Security Forces personnel, as well as eight civilians, including six Government officials, the unacceptable seizure by the armed groups, notably the Mouvement national de Libration de l'Azawad (MNLA), of administrative buildings,"

Based on the UNSC's praising and condemning of conflict disputants, codings of resolution sentiments come in four main forms: pro-government, pro-rebel, anti-government, and anti-rebel. However, these codings are not mutually exclusive. Sometimes, resolutions can praise and condemn the same faction within the same resolution. In such instances, both "pro" and "anti" variables are coded. Further, resolutions do not necessarily have to praise one party and condemn the other. Indeed, sometimes a resolution praises or condemns both factions simultaneously. Finally, there are two final forms that sentiment comes in: pro-all and anti-all.

These are cases where the target of the sentiment is ambiguous and most likely encompasses all parties to a conflict.

Importantly, sentiment is action-specific; expressions such as “concerned by the ongoing crisis/deterioration of humanitarian situation” are not coded because they are not attributed to a specific action. In contrast, “concerned by the violations of human rights/violence resulting from conflict” would be coded because they are attributed to some sort of action by the conflict actors.

Generally, codings for the government or rebel factions require that the names of factions be explicitly cited. However, some exceptions apply:

- The use of “government”, “authorities”, or “regime” will be treated as sentiments directed towards the government faction.

- The use of “rebel”, “opposition”, “armed groups”, or “militias” can be treated as sentiment directed towards the rebel faction, provided sufficient evidence exists that delineates them from other conflict disputants not listed by UCDP as a rebel faction to a conflict.

- Sometimes rebel forces seize power from the government or other means of power transfer take place, in which “Transitional Authorities” or “Unity Government” can be used to justify a sentiment coding directed towards the government faction.

- If the resolution addresses “all parties,” “parties,” or “actors” in the context of a formal agreement (e.g., peace agreement, ceasefire, etc.), actors can be identified through use of prior UNSC resolutions and/or historical documentation to attribute codings toward the government and rebel factions where possible.

- ALL is coded when it is not possible to clearly make a determination of the target of the sentiment in the resolution.

Importantly, sentiments are coded only by their presence or absence within a resolution; this data does not count the number of sentiments expressed within a single resolution. Here are the Sentiment variables:

anysent

A dichotomous variable indicating any sentiment in a given conflict-resolution.

progov

A dichotomous variable indicating pro-government sentiment (those that praise the government faction) in a given conflict-resolution.

antigov
A dichotomous variable indicating anti-government sentiment (those that condemn the government faction) in a given conflict-resolution.

mixgov
A dichotomous variable indicating sentiment that simultaneously praises and condemns the government in a given conflict-resolution. Note: *progov* and *antigov* records resolutions that contain praising and condemnation exclusively.

proreb
A dichotomous variable indicating pro-rebel sentiment (those that praise the rebel factions) in a given conflict-resolution.

antireb
A dichotomous variable indicating anti-rebel sentiment (those that condemn the rebel factions) in a given conflict-resolution.

mixreb
A dichotomous variable indicating sentiment that simultaneously praises and condemns the rebel factions in a given conflict-resolution. Note: *proreb* and *antireb* records resolutions that contain praising and condemnation exclusively.

proall
A dichotomous variable indicating sentiment that praises conflict participants in a given conflict-resolution, where the target of the sentiment is unclear and may indicate all parties.

antiall
A dichotomous variable indicating sentiment that condemns conflict participants in a given conflict-resolution, where the target of the sentiment is unclear and may indicate all parties.

mixall
A dichotomous variable indicating sentiment that simultaneously praises and condemns conflict participants in a given conflict-resolution, where the target of the sentiment is unclear and may indicate all parties. Note: *proall* and *antiall* records resolutions that contain praising and condemnation exclusively.

Demand Variables

Below is a description of the variables that record when UNSC resolutions request or demand actors to take specific courses of action. Like the sentiment variables, demands can either be directed at the government (GOV), the rebel factions (REB), or towards conflict participants where the target of the sentiment is unclear (ALL).

The typical vocabulary for demands includes:

Qualifying Language	Non-Qualifying Language
• Demands	• Stresses the need to
• Requests	• Underlines the importance of
• Urges	• Encourages
• Appeals	• Invites
• Calls Upon	• Reaffirms [previous demand]
• Insists	• Reiterates [previous demand]

Like the Sentiment variables, the same exceptions apply in how the government and rebel factions are identified (described in more detail under the sentiment variables section). Here are the Demand variables:

demandgov

A dichotomous variable indicating a demand towards the government faction in a given conflict-resolution.

demandreb

A dichotomous variable indicating a demand towards the rebel factions in a given conflict-resolution.

demandall

A dichotomous variable indicating a demand towards conflict participants in a given conflict-resolution, where the target of the demand is unclear and may indicate all parties.

Investigation Variables

Oftentimes, the Security Council pursues various action to investigate and monitor a conflict. This includes establishing fact-finding panels of experts, deploying advance teams, and creating working committees among the Council's member-nations. Here are those variables:

factfindestab

A dichotomous variable indicating the establishment of an expert-panel or ad hoc commission for purposes of fact-finding in a given conflict-resolution, whether for the first time or by subsuming a previous committee.

factfindref

A dichotomous variable indicating a reference to a previously established expert-panel or ad hoc commission for purposes of fact-finding in a given conflict-resolution.

factfindterm

A dichotomous variable indicating termination of a previously established expert-panel or ad hoc commission for purposes of fact-finding in a given conflict-resolution.

advteamestab

A dichotomous variable indicating the deployment of an advance team to a conflict zone in a given conflict-resolution, whether for the first time or by subsuming a previous committee.

advteamref

A dichotomous variable indicating a reference to a previously deployed advance team in a given conflict-resolution.

advteamterm

A dichotomous variable indicating termination of a previously deployed advance team in a given conflict-resolution. Note: no resolutions of this type were discovered in coding.

commestab

A dichotomous variable indicating the establishment of a Security Council committee in a given conflict-resolution, whether for the first time or by subsuming a previous committee.

commref

A dichotomous variable indicating a reference to a previously established Security Council committee in a given conflict-resolution.

commterm
A dichotomous variable indicating termination of a previously established Security Council committee in a given conflict-resolution.

Diplomacy Variables
Sometimes the UN engages in mediation with conflict disputants, whether through offers of mediation, requests for humanitarian aid, or the establishment of the UN's "good-offices." Good-offices is a term used to denote the influence and services of the United Nations, especially as a mediator. Here are those variables:

aid
A dichotomous variable indicating calls for humanitarian aid in a given conflict-resolution.

goodoffestab
A dichotomous variable indicating the establishment of or requests toward the UN Secretary-General to make "good-offices" available in a given conflict-resolution.

goodoffref
A dichotomous variable indicating references of "good-offices" and reaffirmations of the Secretary-General's provision of good-offices in a given conflict-resolution.

mediate
A dichotomous variable indicating calls for or offers of mediation in a given conflict-resolution.

mediateref
A dichotomous variable indicating references to ongoing UN mediation efforts in a given conflict-resolution.

NOTE: It is important to users to NOT consider the diplomacy variables as exhaustive, i.e., where they capture ALL instances of diplomatic action by the UN Security Council. There are likely instances of diplomacy – such as mediation offers or humanitarian aid requests – that are not referenced within resolutions, but otherwise carried out by the UN Security Council informally. Similarly, we also notice that the use of the term "good-offices" has diminished over time likely due to changes in historical vernacular.

Sanctions Variables

These variables capture the authorization of and expansion/reduction in time or form of economic sanctions, including requests made to member-states to carry out such efforts. This includes arms & trade embargoes, asset freezes, and travel bans. It should be noted that sanctions can be indefinite in time or treated as requiring periodic extensions. Resolution statements that declare certain sanction provisions null with respect to use by UN humanitarian or peacekeeping entities are not recorded.

sanctionestab

A dichotomous variable indicating the establishment for the first time or imposition of additional measures of previously established economic sanctions in a given conflict-resolution.

sanctionextend

A dichotomous variable indicating extensions in the duration of previously authorized sanctions in a given conflict-resolution.

sanctionreduc

A dichotomous variable indicating unequivocal reductions in form or suspension of certain provisions of sanctions in a given conflict-resolution.

sanctionterm

A dichotomous variable indicating prompt suspension or termination of all previously authorized sanctions in a given conflict-resolution.

Blockade Variables

These variables capture the authorization of and expansion/reduction in time or form of sea/land blockades and no-fly zones, including requests made to member-states to execute such efforts and to physically inspect traffic. This differs from sanctions in that a physical force is required for execution, e.g. a military force controlling and inspecting sea traffic as opposed to administratively halting the export of certain goods.

blockestab

A dichotomous variable indicating the establishment for the first time or imposition of additional measures of previously established blockades in a given conflict-resolution.

blockextend

A dichotomous variable indicating extensions in the duration of previously authorized blockades in a given conflict-resolution.

blockreduc
A dichotomous variable indicating unequivocal reductions in form or suspensions of certain provisions of blockades in a given conflict-resolution. Note: no resolutions of this type were discovered in coding.

blockterm
A dichotomous variable indicating prompt suspension or termination of all previously authorized blockades in a given conflict-resolution.

Third-Party Authorizations Variables
These variables capture the authorization of and expansion/reduction in time or form of non-UN, third-party military or peacekeeping operations. Illustrative examples include the provision of air support to peacekeepers (UNSC 908 - Croatia) or the deployment of military forces to liberate a hostile area for the purposes of establishing a secure and stable environment (UNSC 940 - Haiti; UNSC 1244 - Serbia-Kosovo). This differs from Blockade variables in that such forces are deployed within a conflict country, oftentimes with the mandate to use lethal force. This differs from UN peacekeeping missions in that it is authorizing a member-state(s) to carry out an autonomous operation outside of formal UN administration.

tpaestab
A dichotomous variable indicating authorization for the first time or imposition of additional measures of previously established third-party operations in a given conflict-resolution.

tpaextend
A dichotomous variable indicating extensions in the duration of previously authorized third-party operations in a given conflict-resolution.

tpareduc
A dichotomous variable indicating unequivocal reductions in form or suspensions of certain provisions of previously authorized third-party operations in a given conflict-resolution. Note: no resolutions of this type were discovered in coding.

tpaterm
A dichotomous indicating prompt suspension or termination of all previously authorized third-party operations in a given conflict-resolution.

Peacekeeping Operation Variables

These variables capture the authorization of and expansion in time or form of UN peacekeeping operations. This does not include peacekeeping offices or "political missions." It should be noted that some missions expire in accordance with their mandate's predetermined length or are subsumed by new peacekeeping operations.

pkoestab

A dichotomous variable indicating the establishment for the first time a UN peacekeeping mission in a given conflict-resolution, with no previous mission occurring beforehand.

pkosub

A dichotomous variable indicating establishment of a UN peacekeeping mission in a given conflict-resolution, with subsumption of a previous, third-party peacekeeping operation.

pkosubestab

A dichotomous variable indicating establishment of a UN peacekeeping mission in a given conflict-resolution, with subsumption of a previous, UN peacekeeping operation.

pkoany

A dichotomous variable indicating ANY establishment of establish a UN peacekeeping mission in a given conflict-resolution. This is an aggregation of the previous three variables.

pkoextend

A dichotomous variable indicating extensions in the duration of previously authorized UN peacekeeping operations in a given conflict-resolution.

pkoforceexpand

A dichotomous variable indicating unequivocal expansions of the mandated force-levels of a previously authorized UN peacekeeping operation in a given conflict-resolution.

pkoforcereduc

A dichotomous variable indicating unequivocal reductions in the mandated force-levels of a previously authorized UN peacekeeping operation in a given conflict-resolution.

pkomand

A dichotomous variable indicating unequivocal alterations of the substantive mandate of a previously authorized UN peacekeeping operation in a given conflict-resolution.

Mandate Variables

Many resolutions, but not all, explicitly reference chapters within the UN Charter or reference UN doctrine established elsewhere in claiming legitimacy for their actions. These variables were conceived based on our survey of resolution content. Here are the Mandate variables:

chap7

A dichotomous variable indicating explicit references to Chapter 7 (Threats to Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression) in a given conflict-resolution.

chap8

A dichotomous variable indicating explicit references to Chapter 8 (Regional Arrangements) in a given conflict-resolution.

r2p

A dichotomous variable indicating explicit references to seminal UNSC resolutions regarding the treatment/protection of civilians (also known as the UN General Assembly's "Responsibility to Protect" doctrine) in a given conflict-resolution. These resolutions are as followed: 1265, 1296, 1674, 1738,1894, 2150, 2222, and 2286.

women

A dichotomous variable indicating explicit references to seminal UNSC resolutions regarding the treatment/protection of women in a given conflict-resolution. These resolutions are as followed: 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, 2106, 2122, and 2242.

child

A dichotomous variable indicating explicit references to seminal UNSC resolutions regarding the treatment/protection of children in a given conflict-resolution. These resolutions are as followed: 1379, 1460, 1612, 1882, 1998, 2068, and 2225.