UNCR

United Nations

Conflict Resolutions Dataset

Conflict-Month Level Format

Version 1.0

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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-month level. Additional versions (in both .csv and STATA format) are available at the:

- Conflict-Year Level
- Conflict 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:
42,214

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!

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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.

postconflict
This dichotomous is coded as 1 when a resolution occurs in the 6-month, post-conflict period following a conflict's termination, and 0 otherwise.

rescount
The number of resolutions in a given conflict-month.

rescounttotal
The cumulative number of resolutions up until a given conflict-month.

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

The number of resolutions that exhibit any sentiment in a given conflict-month.

anysenttotal

The cumulative number of resolutions that exhibit any sentiment up until a given conflict-month.

progov
The number of pro-government resolutions (those that praise the government faction) in a given conflict-month.

progovtotal
The cumulative number of pro-government resolutions (those that praise the government faction) up until a given conflict-month.

antigov
The number of anti-government resolutions (those that condemn the government faction) in a given conflict-month.

antigovtotal
The cumulative number of anti-government resolutions (those that condemn the government faction) up until a given conflict-month.

mixgov
The number of resolutions that simultaneously praise and condemn the government in a given conflict-month. Note: *progov* and *antigov* records resolutions that contain praising and condemnation exclusively.

mixgovtotal
The cumulative number of resolutions that simultaneously praise and condemn the government up until a given conflict-month.

proreb
The number of pro-rebel resolutions (those that praise the rebel factions) in a given conflict-month.

prorebtotal
The cumulative number of pro-rebel resolutions (those that praise the rebel factions) up until a given conflict-month.

antireb
The number of anti-rebel resolutions (those that condemn the rebel factions) in a given conflict-month.

antirebtotal
The cumulative number of anti-rebel resolutions (those that condemn the rebel factions) up until a given conflict-month.

mixreb

The number of resolutions that simultaneously praise and condemn the rebel factions in a given conflict-month. Note: *proreb* and *antireb* records resolutions that contain praising and condemnation exclusively.

mixrebtotal

The cumulative number of resolutions that simultaneously praise and condemn the rebel factions up until a given conflict-month.

proall

The number of resolutions that praise conflict participants in a given conflict-month, where the target of the sentiment is unclear and may indicate all parties.

proalltotal

The cumulative number of resolutions that praise conflict participants up until a given conflict-month, where the target of the sentiment is unclear and may indicate all parties.

antiall

The number of resolutions that condemn conflict participants in a given conflict-month, where the target of the sentiment is unclear and may indicate all parties.

antialltotal

The cumulative number of resolutions that condemn all conflict participants up until a given conflict-month, where the target of the sentiment is unclear and may indicate all parties.

mixall

The number of resolutions that simultaneously praise and condemn conflict participants in a given conflict-month, 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.

mixalltotal

The number of resolutions that simultaneously praise and condemn conflict participants up until a given conflict-month, where the target of the sentiment is unclear and may indicate all parties.

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

- Demands
- Requests
- Urges
- Appeals
- Calls Upon
- Insists

Non-Qualifying Language

- Stresses the need to
- Underlines the importance of
- Encourages
- Invites
- Reaffirms [previous demand]
- 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

The number of resolutions that issue a demand towards the government faction in a given conflict-month.

demandgovtotal

The cumulative number of resolutions that issue a demand towards the government faction up until a given conflict-month.

demandreb

The number of resolutions that issue a demand towards the rebel factions in a given conflict-month.

demandrebtotal

The cumulative number of resolutions that issue a demand towards the rebel factions up until a given conflict-month.

demandall

The number of resolutions that issue a demand towards conflict participants in a given conflict-month, where the target of the demand is unclear and may indicate all parties.

demandalltotal
The cumulative number of resolutions that issue a demand towards conflict participants up until a given conflict-month, 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
The number of resolutions that establish an expert-panel or ad hoc commission for purposes of fact-finding in a given conflict-month, whether for the first time or by subsuming a previous committee.

factfindref
The number of resolutions that reference a previously established expert-panel or ad hoc commission for purposes of fact-finding in a given conflict-month.

factfindterm
The number of resolutions that terminate a previously established expert-panel or ad hoc commission for purposes of fact-finding in a given conflict-month.

advteamestab
The number of resolutions that deploy an advance team to a conflict zone in a given conflict-month, whether for the first time or by subsuming a previous committee.

advteamref
The number of resolutions that reference a previously deployed advance team in a given conflict-month.

advteamterm
The number of resolutions that terminate a previously deployed advance team in a given conflict-month. Note: no resolutions of this type were discovered in coding.

commestab
The number of resolutions that establish a Security Council committee in a given conflict-month, whether for the first time or by subsuming a previous committee.

commref
The number of resolutions that reference a previously established Security Council committee in a given conflict-month.

commterm
The number of resolutions that terminate a previously established Security Council committee in a given conflict-month.

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
The number of resolutions that call for humanitarian aid in a given conflict-month.

goodoffestab
The number of resolutions that establish or make a request toward the UN Secretary-General to make "good-offices" available in a given conflict-month.

goodoffref
The number of resolutions that reference "good-offices" and reaffirm the Secretary-General's provision of good-offices in a given conflict-month.

mediate
The number of resolutions that call for or offer mediation in a given conflict-month.

mediateref
The number of resolutions that reference ongoing UN mediation efforts in a given conflict-month.

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

The number of resolutions that establish for the first time or impose additional measures of previously established economic sanctions in a given conflict-month.

sanctionextend

The number of resolutions that extend the duration of previously authorized sanctions in a given conflict-month.

sanctionreduc

The number of resolutions that unequivocally reduce in form or suspend certain provisions of sanctions in a given conflict-month.

sanctionterm

The number of resolutions that promptly suspend or terminate all previously authorized sanctions in a given conflict-month.

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

The number of resolutions that establish for the first time or impose additional measures of previously established blockades in a given conflict-month.

blockextend

The number of resolutions that extend the duration of previously authorized blockades in a given conflict-month.

blockreduc
The number of resolutions that unequivocally reduce in form or suspend certain provisions of blockades in a given conflict-month. Note: no resolutions of this type were discovered in coding.

blockterm
The number of resolutions that promptly suspend or terminate all previously authorized blockades in a given conflict-month.

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
The number of resolutions that authorize for the first time or impose additional measures of previously established third-party operations in a given conflict-month.

tpaextend
The number of resolutions that extend the duration of previously authorized third-party operations in a given conflict-month.

tpareduc
The number of resolutions that unequivocally reduce in form or suspend certain provisions of previously authorized third-party operations in a given conflict-month. Note: no resolutions of this type were discovered in coding.

tpaterm
The number of resolutions that promptly suspend or terminate all previously authorized third-party operations in a given conflict-month.

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

The number of resolutions that establish for the first time a UN peacekeeping mission in a given conflict-month, with no previous mission occurring beforehand.

pkosub

The number of resolutions that establish a UN peacekeeping mission in a given conflict-month, but subsume a previous, third-party peacekeeping operation.

pkosubestab

The number of resolutions that establish a UN peacekeeping mission in a given conflict-month, but subsume a previous UN peacekeeping operation.

pkoany

The number of resolutions that establish a UN peacekeeping mission in a given conflict-month. This is an aggregation of the previous three variables.

pkoextend

The number of resolutions that extend the duration of previously authorized UN peacekeeping operations in a given conflict-month.

pkoextendtotal

The cumulative number of resolutions that extend the duration of previously authorized UN peacekeeping operations up until a given conflict-month.

pkoforceexpand

The number of resolutions that unequivocally expand the mandated force-levels of a previously authorized UN peacekeeping operation in a given conflict-month.

pkoforceexpandtotal

The cumulative number of resolutions that unequivocally expand the mandated force-levels of a previously authorized UN peacekeeping operation up until a given conflict-month.

pkoforcereduc
The number of resolutions that unequivocally reduce the mandated force-levels of a previously authorized UN peacekeeping operation in a given conflict-month.

pkoforcereductotal
The cumulative number of resolutions that unequivocally reduce the mandated force-levels of a previously authorized UN peacekeeping operation up until a given conflict-month.

pkomand
The number of resolutions that unequivocally alter the substantive mandate of a previously authorized UN peacekeeping operation in a given conflict-month.

pkomandtotal
The cumulative number of resolutions that unequivocally alter the substantive mandate of a previously authorized UN peacekeeping operation up until a given conflict-month.

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
The number of resolutions that explicitly reference Chapter 7 (Threats to Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression) in a given conflict-month.

chap7total
The cumulative number of resolutions that explicitly reference Chapter 7 (Threats to Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression) up until a given conflict-month.

chap8
The number of resolutions that explicitly reference Chapter 8 (Regional Arrangements) in a given conflict-month.

chap8total
The cumulative number of resolutions that explicitly reference Chapter 8 (Regional Arrangements) up until a given conflict-month.

r2p

The number of resolutions that explicitly reference 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-month. These resolutions are as followed: 1265, 1296, 1674, 1738,1894, 2150, 2222, and 2286.

r2ptotal

The cumulative number of resolutions that explicitly reference seminal UNSC resolutions regarding the treatment/protection of civilians (also known as the UN General Assembly's "Responsibility to Protect" doctrine) up until a given conflict-month. These resolutions are as followed: 1265, 1296, 1674, 1738,1894, 2150, 2222, and 2286.

women

The number of resolutions that explicitly reference seminal UNSC resolutions regarding the treatment/protection of women in a given conflict-month. These resolutions are as followed: 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, 2106, 2122, and 2242.

womentotal

The cumulative number of resolutions that explicitly reference seminal UNSC resolutions regarding the treatment/protection of women up until a given conflict-month. These resolutions are as followed: 1325, 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, 2106, 2122, and 2242.

child

The number of resolutions that explicitly reference seminal UNSC resolutions regarding the treatment/protection of children in a given conflict-month. These resolutions are as followed: 1379, 1460, 1612, 1882, 1998, 2068, and 2225.

childtotal

The cumulative number of resolutions that explicitly reference seminal UNSC resolutions regarding the treatment/protection of children up until a given conflict-month. These resolutions are as followed: 1379, 1460, 1612, 1882, 1998, 2068, and 2225