

Analyzing UN Security Council Responses to African Conflicts: Introducing a database tool

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The Security Council in a nutshell

- The Security Council is the most powerful body within the United Nations.
- UN Charter, art. 24 "(...)Members confer on the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, and agree that in carrying out its duties under this responsibility the Security Council acts on their behalf."
- It has executive authority through the adoption of resolutions.
- By 10 February 2016, the Security Council has adopted 2265 resolutions.

What is wrong with the work UNSC?

- Geographical imbalances/Coherence
 - Does the Security Council react with the same severity or swiftness to similar situations?
- Effectiveness
 - The actions of the Security Council at least in the surface sometimes don't seem particularly effective.

How can we measure the response of the Security Council? → The basics

- Analysis of the Security Council resolutions.
 - By counting the number of resolutions related to a specific country/region/continent/issue.
- By considering the type of action (if any) taken the Council.
 - Applying, extending, terminating sanctions.
 - Authorizing peacekeeping or a multinational led operations.

How can we measure the response of the Security Council? → Problems

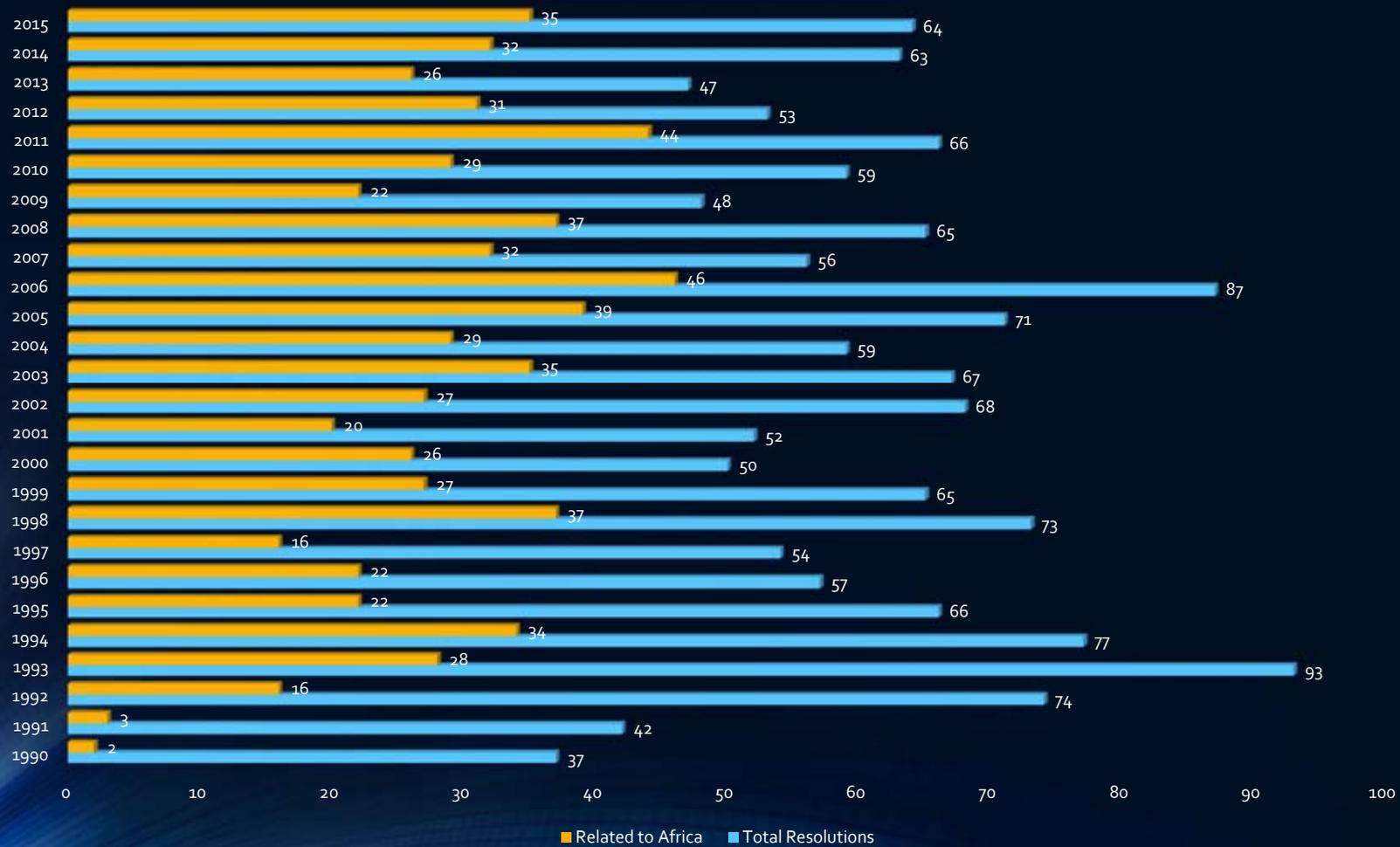
- Time consuming:
 - There are hundreds of resolutions to go through.
- The official resolution titles at the UNSC webpage don't always match the content of the resolution.
 - "Official resolution titles" are misleading.
- Difficult to categorize due to the nature of the resolutions themselves.
 - Resolutions are complex and full of diplomatic language that makes it difficult to separate the wheat from the chaff.
 - How easy would it be if we had a tool to filter and find what we want...

If we had a UNSC Resolutions database we could easily learn...

- From 1990 to 2015 the United Nations Security Council adopted 1613 resolutions of which 717 were related to Africa.
- 533 out of the 717 resolutions, adopted decisions related to sanctions, peacekeeping or non-UN multinational operations.

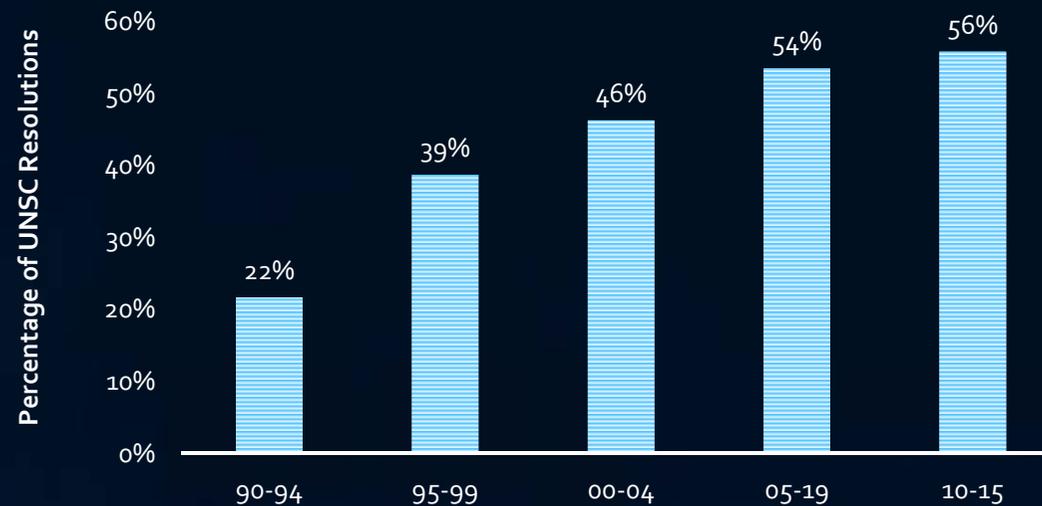
	Group 1	Group 2
Total resolutions	1613	100%
Resolutions related to Africa	717	44% of the total
Resolutions related to Africa with action	533	33% of the total

If we had a UNSC Resolutions database we could... : Analyze UNSC resolutions' trends

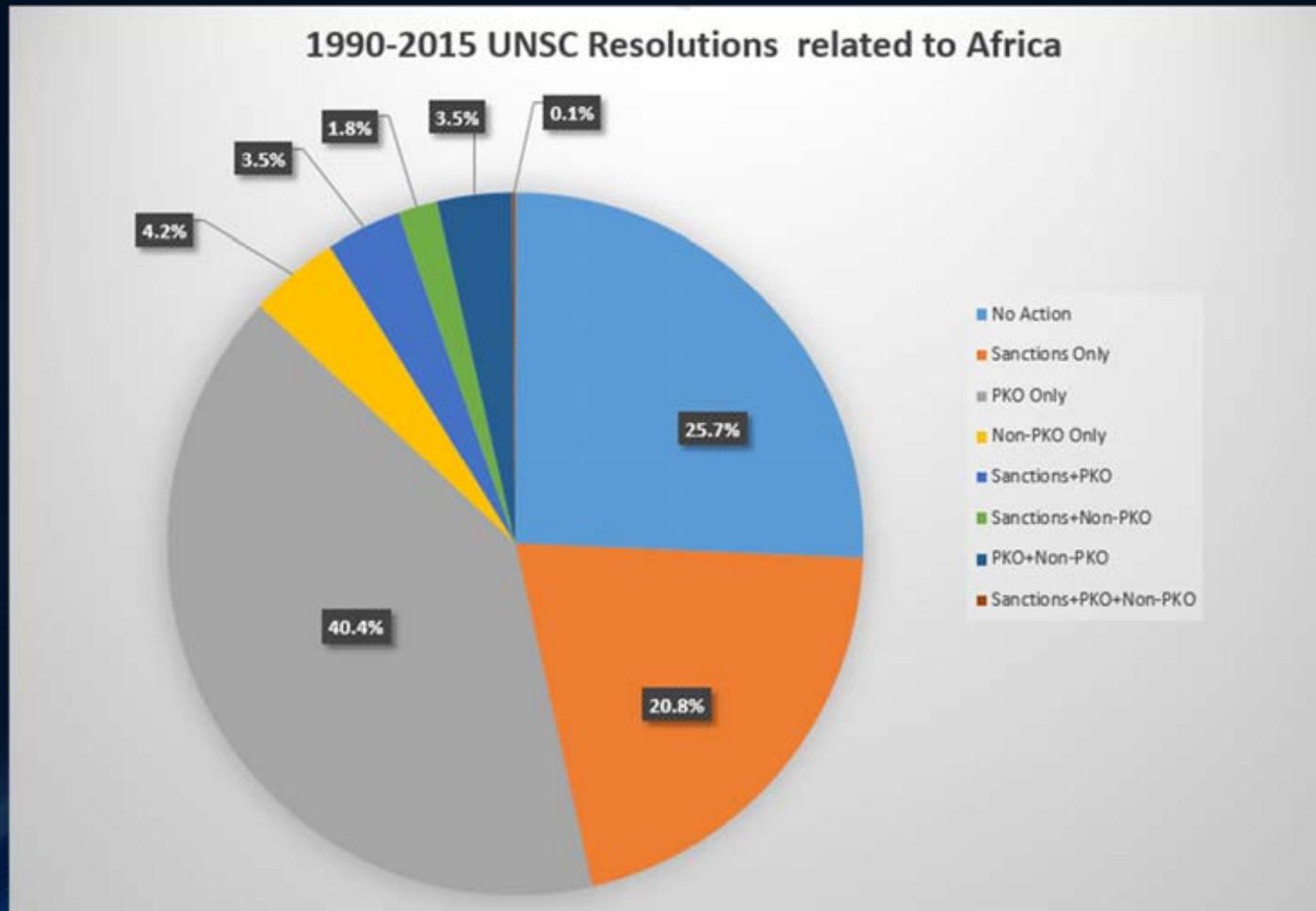


If we had a UNSC Resolutions database we could... :
Analyze UNSC resolutions' trends

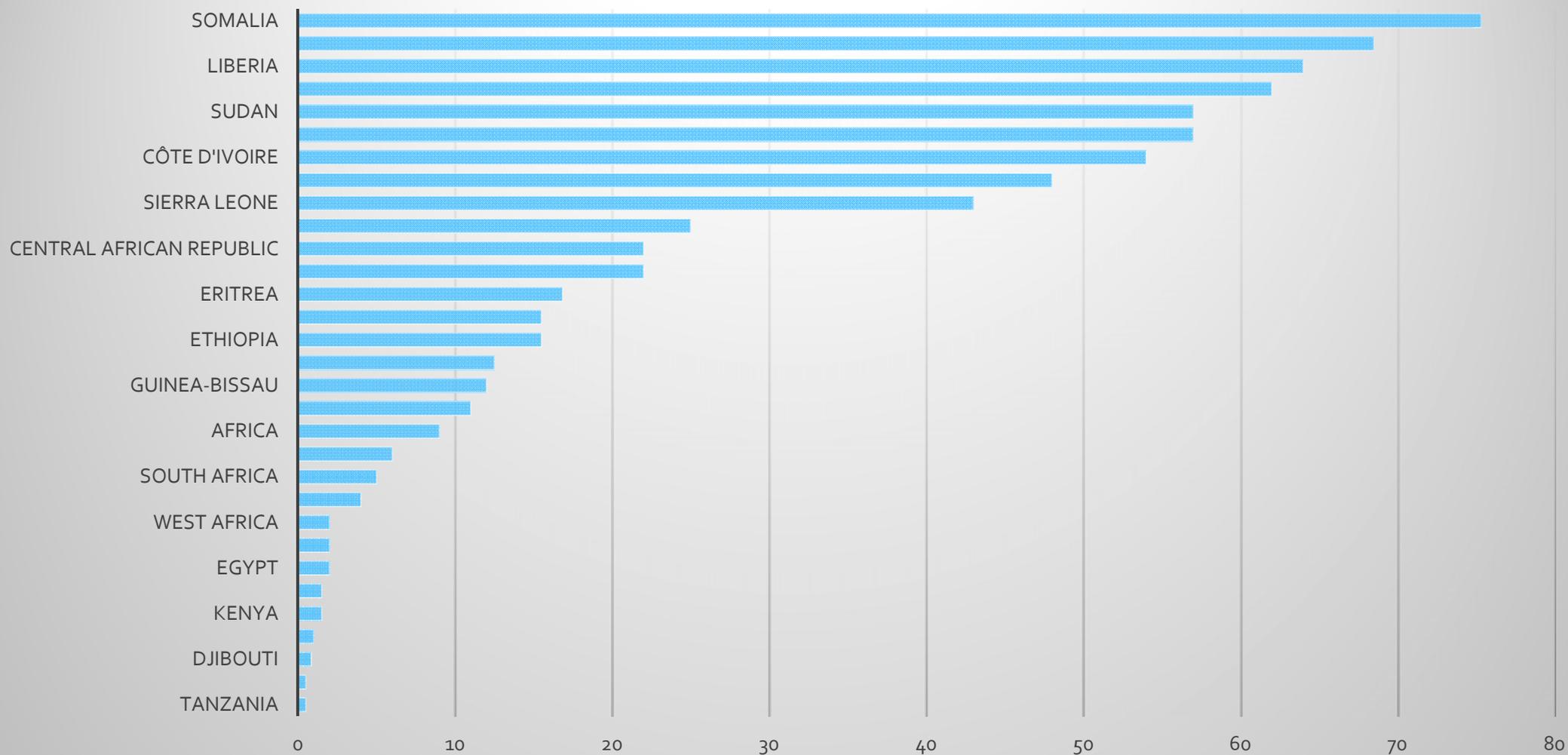
- Quickly calculate the percentage of UNSC resolutions related to Africa in any given period of time.



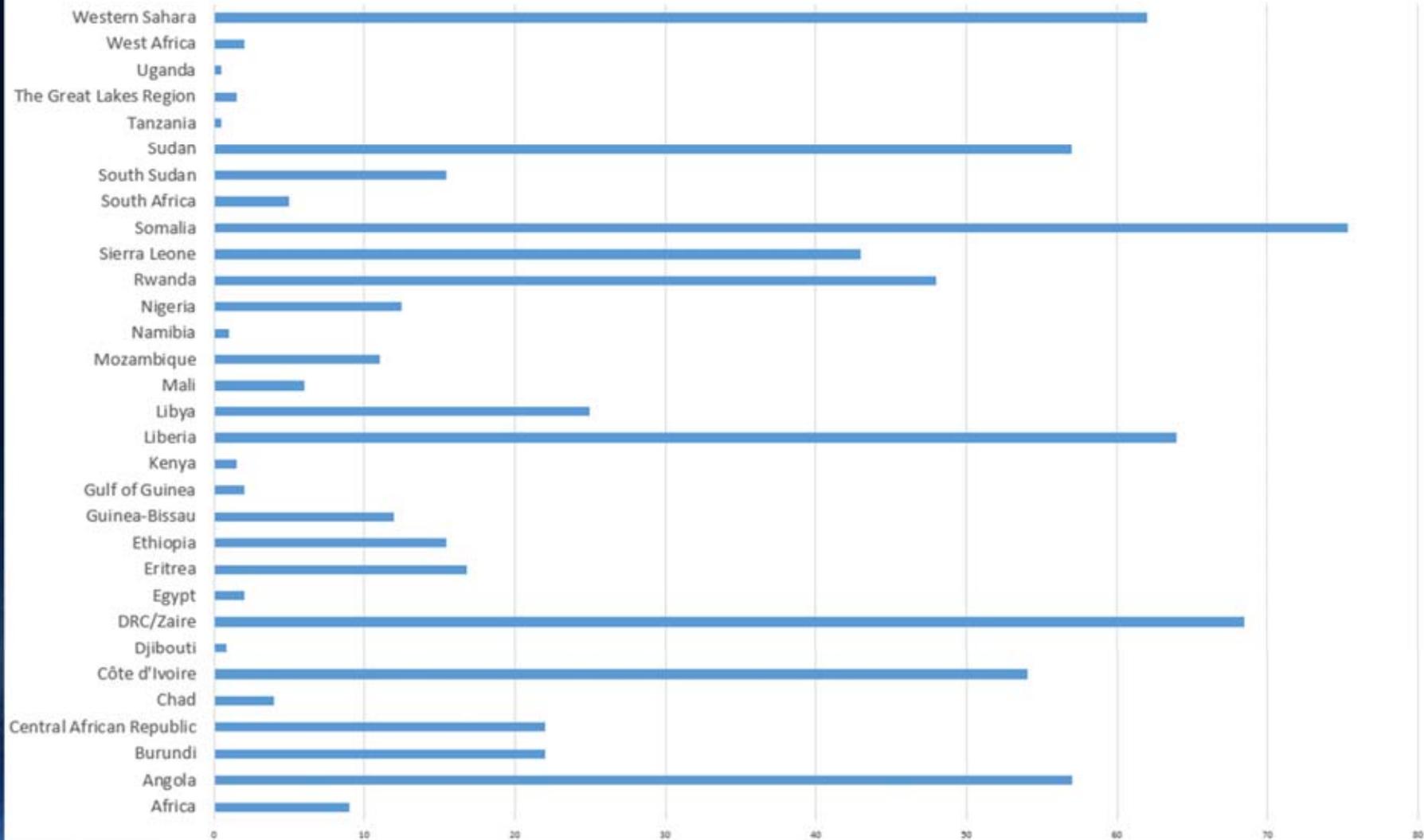
If we had a UNSC Resolutions database we could... :
Analyze UNSC response by action taken



UNSC Resolutions related to Africa 1990-2015



UNSC Resolutions related to Africa 1990-2015



If we had a UNSC Resolutions database we could... :

Analyze UNSC response and results

- Almost 9% of all resolutions related to Africa from 1990 to 2015 61 (out of 62 resolutions related to Western Sahara) adopt decisions related to either MINURSO (whose mandate is among other things organize a fair referendum) or to discuss the details of the referendum... that still hasn't happened.



1545 - ONUB IS ESTABLISHED.

1577 - ONUB EXTENDED

1650 - ONUB EXTENDED

1641 - ONUB EXTENDED

ONUB EXPIRES

21 May 21 Jun 21 Jul 21 Aug 21 Sep 21 Oct 21 Nov 21 Dec 21 Jan 21 Feb 21 Mar 21 Apr 21 May 21 Jun 21 Jul 21 Aug 21 Sep 21 Oct 21 Nov 21 Dec

2004

2005

2006

1602 - ONUB EXTENDED

1602 - ONUB EXTENDED



If we had a UNSC Resolutions database we could... :

Analyze country specific case-studies

- Burundi
 - UNSC adopted 22 resolutions on Burundi from 1995 to 2015.
 - 8 resolutions: Related to establishment or extension of Special Political Missions (BINUP and BNUB).
 - 6 resolutions: Related to Peacekeeping operations (ONUB).
 - 1 resolutions: Threat to impose sanctions.
 - 7 resolutions: other issues.

1545 - ONUB IS ESTABLISHED.

1577 - ONUB EXTENDED

1650 - ONUB EXTENDED
1641 - ONUB EXTENDED

ONUB EXPIRES



1602 - ONUB EXTENDED

1692 - ONUB EXTENDED

Let's create a database!

- Since 2012 different groups of students have been working under prof. Hawkins in order to categorize resolutions.
- Resolutions were classified under categories with its subcategories, through a process that tried to find order where sometimes it is difficult to find.

A database? How does that work?



RES 1577

Title Burundi

Geographical Location: Burundi

Date 01/Dec/2004

References: 1545, S/PRST/2004/30, S/2004/821,
S/2004/867

Threat to international peace and security.
Chapter VII.

Decisions:

Extends ONUB until 1 June 2005.

General

Resolution Number

Date

Meeting number

Geographical location

Title

References

Threat level

References to UN Charter

Referrals

Sanctions

Modified resolution

Items regulated inbound.

Items regulated outbound

Items regulated domestic

Exceptions

Target

Sanction Change

Sanction time period

Sanction activation/termination

UN Peace Operations

Operation Type

Mission Name

Mission Activity

Authorization Time

Activation/Termination

Personnel Levels

Inter Mission Loan/Transfer

Authorization Level

Mandate

Non-UN operations

Mission name

Authorization Action

Activation/Termination

Personnel Levels

Authorization Time

Authorization Level

Mandate

How would this work for the user?

- Let's imagine we have a vague memory about a PKO mission in Burundi between 2003-2010... But we don't remember any detail.
 - Filter 1: Burundi
 - Filter 2: 2003-2010
 - Filter 3: PKO –YES
- Results: RES1545, RES1577, RES1602, RES1641, RES1650, RES1692

Resolution

General

Resolution number * 2223 [Official URL](#)

Date * 01/02/2016

Meeting number

Geographical location Afghanistan

Resolution title * afghanistan

References (resolutions)

References (PRST)

References (other)

Threat level Threat to Peace

Charter invoked Chapter VII

Referrals

Sanctions

4 3 2 1 + Add

SanctionID

Modified resolution Yes

Resolution number 2223

Items regulated (inbound) Military goods/services Petroleum related WMD-related material/technology Motorized vehicles All non-military commodities

Items regulated (outbound) All non-military commodities

Items regulated (domestic) No fly zone

Exceptions Aircraft of origin

Target: Comprehensive Yes

Target: Region Target: Region

Target: State Dominica Ethiopia

A tool for researchers and practitioners

- Facilitate research on the response, effectiveness and activities of the Security Council.
- Useful for diplomats, policymakers and other practitioners.
 - Non-permanent members of the UNSC lack institutional memory compared to permanent members.