

AMMAN ACADEMY MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2026

The Security Council (SC)

Addressing the Falkland Islands Dispute

September 17th, 2026

AAMUN26'

Dear Delegates,

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Committee

As the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), we remain attentive to the unresolved sovereignty dispute over the Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas) and its capacity to strain relations between Argentina and the United Kingdom. The competing claims, grounded in historical title, international law, and the principle of self-determination, remain unreconciled despite decades of General Assembly resolutions calling for bilateral negotiation. Renewed militarization, contested resource exploration, and growing strategic competition in the South Atlantic risk transforming a dormant dispute into an active threat to international peace and security. The UNSC is therefore committed to encouraging the resumption of direct dialogue, confidence-building measures on fisheries, hydrocarbons, and military activity, and full respect for the interests and wishes of the islands' inhabitants. Ensuring that this dispute is resolved peacefully and in accordance with the UN Charter is not only a diplomatic necessity. It is essential for regional stability and long-term peace.

Introduction

The Falkland Islands (known in Argentina as the Islas Malvinas) are claimed simultaneously by two different countries on the basis of completely separate grounds. Britain argues its claim to these islands can be traced back to 1690, when Captain John Strong made the first recorded visit to these islands. Britain also contends that it has had control over these islands since 1833, and that the fact that the islanders have the right to self-determination confirms British ownership. On the other hand, Argentina relies on the argument that its claim derives from the Spanish Empire, and thus it inherited rights over the islands after becoming independent from Spain. Thus, it becomes challenging to determine which party is correct because international law applies inter-temporal law, which means that different parts of a claim are judged in accordance with the norms applicable at the moment of occurrence of each event.

Nevertheless, the law does not fit squarely into one side of the argument. Simply raising a flag does not equate to ownership of the land. What is important is whether or not a nation follows through in its administration of the land after the initial flag-planting. Britain clearly meets this requirement, having administered the territory for almost two centuries, while Argentina was never able to perform the administration properly for an extended period. In fact, for a long time, Argentina abandoned the cause, with the revival only coming in 1885. The problem with the self-determination argument is just as complicated. The UN classifies the Falklands as a non-self-governing territory, usually referring to a colony still subject to the need to determine its future, although the argument made by Argentina is that the matter is one of sovereignty rather than self-determination because self-determination would apply to the islanders rather than to Argentina. In 2013, over 99 percent voted in favor of remaining British, but to this, Argentina responded that the population should be classified as a colonist community with no right to vote.

For sixty years, United Nations officials have attempted to persuade both parties to engage in various discussions and negotiations, albeit unsuccessfully. On 16 December 1965, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution (Resolution 2065) to acknowledge the issue at hand; both parties were advised to seek a peaceful resolution during the vote, in which 94 voted in favor and none against. Nonetheless, the resolution is nothing more than a recommendation and does not come with any obligation. On the regional stage, the Organization of American States has been doing the same, deeming the issue a matter of constant concern and pushing both parties to open negotiations (as a reminder, the organization urged the governments to negotiate again in 1988, and confirmed in Lima in 2022 that talks have not started). The pressure has kept on existing but to no avail.

What has changed is the United States. In April 2026 a leaked memorandum from the US Department of War floated re-evaluating the British title, apparently to punish the UK for its lukewarm support during the war against Iran. Britain said sovereignty rests with the UK, President Javier Milei posted that the islands were, are and will always be Argentine, and Secretary of State Marco Rubio later said the American position had not changed. The danger is what happens if it does. A firm US statement against Britain would weaken London at the UN and could push the General Assembly to request an ICJ advisory opinion, exactly as it did over the Chagos Islands. A dispute frozen for forty years is being reopened, and this council will have to decide what a peaceful settlement looks like before someone tests it by force again.

Timeline

1690–1833: Competing claims and how Britain ended up in control

The islands were uninhabited and unclaimed, so any state could legally take possession. English captain John Strong made the first attested landing in 1690, though the French built the first actual settlement in 1764 and the British followed a year later. Spain paid the French to leave and expelled the British in 1770. After Argentina declared independence in 1816 it sent a governor in 1829, but the USS Lexington cleared out that administration in 1831 and Britain resumed control in 1833.

1833–1965: British administration and the dispute reaching the UN

Britain administered the islands continuously from 1833, which matters legally because a claim only holds if a state actually governs the territory rather than just claiming it. Argentina says it protested constantly, but it went silent for decades and only revived the claim by 1885. On 16 December 1965 the General Assembly adopted Resolution 2065, recognising the dispute and inviting both sides to find a peaceful solution. Nothing came of it for seventeen years.

1982: The Falklands War

In April 1982 Argentina's military dictatorship seized the islands. Britain sent a task force, triggering 74 days of fighting that killed roughly 650 Argentine and 255 British service members before the UK retook the territory. The Security Council passed Resolution 502 demanding Argentine withdrawal, still the only substantive action it has ever taken here. The war settled who controls the islands but nothing about who owns them.



1982–2016: A frozen dispute

Britain granted the islands full self-government in a 2008 constitution, and over 99

per cent of those voting in the 2013 referendum chose to stay a British Overseas Territory. Argentina's answer is that the islanders are an implanted settler population whose vote cannot override a territorial claim. In 2016 both governments signed the Foradori-Duncan pact, agreeing to set sovereignty aside and focus on trade instead.

2023–2025: Argentina reopens the claim

In March 2023 foreign minister Santiago Cafiero ended that pact and demanded new sovereignty talks, which the UK rejected. The OAS kept up regional pressure, treating the question as a matter of enduring hemispheric concern. President Javier Milei complicated things by admiring Thatcher and telling the BBC in 2024 that he accepts the islands are currently in British hands.

April 2026: The American position wobbles

A leaked US Department of War memo proposed re-evaluating the British title, apparently to punish the UK for its lukewarm stance on the war against Iran. Britain said sovereignty rests with the UK, Milei posted that the islands were, are and will always be Argentine, and Marco Rubio later said the American position had not changed. A firm US statement against Britain would weaken London at the UN and could push the General Assembly to request an ICJ advisory opinion, as happened with Chagos.

July 2026: The World Cup

After beating England 2-1 in the World Cup semifinal in Atlanta on 15 July, Argentina's players celebrated with a banner reading "Las Malvinas son Argentinas." FIFA opened an investigation after British officials demanded one, and on 29 July charged Argentina's federation with using a sports event for non-sporting



demonstrations. Vice President Victoria Villarruel publicly backed the players. It was a reminder that this is not a technical legal file, it is a national wound any government can reopen.

August–September 2026: Where things stand

On 3 August Milei said Argentina's alliance with Washington was the key to advancing the claim, though no American statement supports that. He has since announced a national address on what he calls the sacred Malvinas cause. A dispute frozen for forty years is now fully reopened.

General Overview

The history of the Falklands has been characterized by one nation seizing the islands from another since 1690. The islands were uninhabited and unclaimed in that period of time, and therefore were vulnerable to legal occupation, attracting the interest of Spain, England and France. Britain was first to set foot in the islands in 1690 but the first proper settlement was established by the French in 1764, which was then followed the British settlement a year later without any knowledge about the French settlement. Subsequently, Spain intervened by paying the French for their settlements and expelling the British from the islands in 1770. The British

retreated in 1774 but put up a plaque claiming ownership of the islands. Thus, both parties can identify the instances of having occupied the island and of leaving it.

Argentina became involved in the subject after it declared independence from Spain in 1816. The country claims that it has taken over the colonial land of Spain, which includes the islands in question. In 1829, Argentina sent a governor to oversee the region but the American ship USS Lexington took away the government from Argentina in the year of 1831 and Britain reclaimed the territory in 1833. Argentina has been calling it a forceful taking ever since. Nevertheless, the argument of Argentina has got a flaw in it. After this, Argentina remained inactive for a number of years and resumed the claim only in 1885, while Britain continued to rule.

The dispute reached the UN during decolonisation. On 16 December 1965 the General Assembly adopted Resolution 2065, which recognised the dispute and invited both sides to negotiate. It was non-binding, so it carried political weight but no legal force, and seventeen years of talks produced nothing. That frustration eventually turned violent. In April 1982 Argentina's military dictatorship, which was deeply unpopular at home, seized the islands. Britain sent a task force, and 74 days of fighting killed roughly 650 Argentine and 255 British service members before the UK took the territory back. The Security Council passed Resolution 502 demanding Argentine withdrawal, which is still the only real thing this council has ever done about the issue.

The war settled control but not ownership, so both sides spent forty years managing the argument instead of solving it. Britain leaned on self-determination, granting the islands full self-government in 2008 and pointing to the 2013 referendum where over 99 per cent voted to stay British. Argentina answered that the islanders are an implanted settler population whose vote cannot override a territorial claim. In 2016 the two governments signed the Foradori-Duncan pact, basically agreeing to ignore sovereignty and focus on trade instead. Argentina tore that up in March 2023 and demanded new talks, which the UK rejected, leaving the dispute exactly where it stood in 1965 but with far less patience on either side.

Parties Involved

Argentina: Argentina is one of the two distinct parties that claims sovereignty over the Falkland islands, specifically the south Georgia and south sandwich islands, claiming that they are a part of their territory ever since the Spanish exit in 1811. Argentina supports talks with the UK, and have brought the issue in front of various international and regional organizations.

The United kingdom: The united kingdom is the other distinct part claiming control over the islands. The united kingdom has governed the islands since 1833 besides a brief period of Argentinian control during the 1982 war.

Spain: The country of Spain is crucial to the dispute due to the colonial history of the islands. The islands were involved in European colonial history with the Spanish empire governing them. In addition to this, Spain is important due to the dispute for Gibraltar, where they believe the islands are Argentinian land in order to protect their claim over Gibraltar from the united kingdom. Spain has also supported resolving the issue via peaceful negotiations.

Brazil: Brazil is an important player in this dispute due to it being a regional power and it being the most influential country in the region. Brazil has supported Argentina's calls for negotiations with the UK. In addition to this, Brazil plays a major role in international and regional organizations, hence making its position important for a diplomatic solution.

Chile: Chile is a prominent actor in the dispute due to its geographical proximity to the Falkland islands. In addition to this during the 1982 war, Chile provided intelligence and logistical support to the united kingdom, many experts attribute this to tense relations with Argentina due to territorial threats during this time period.

France: France is relevant to the dispute for both diplomatic and political reasons. French settlers established port louis which is one of the earliest European settlements on the islands, although the settlement was later transferred to Spanish control. France also maintained political relations with Argentina during the 1982 war, however they were very good allies with the UK during this time period as they are today. Its also important to mention that France does not claim control over the islands today.

Previous Efforts

1. UN General Assembly and the Special Committee on Decolonization

Since Resolution 2065 (1965) recognized the sovereignty dispute, the Special Committee on Decolonization (C-24) has passed an almost identical consensus resolution almost every year, most recently in June 2025, urging Argentina and the

UK to resume negotiations. Decades of repetition have not moved either side's position.

2. Security Council Resolution 502 (1982)

The Council's only binding action came during the 1982 war: Resolution 502 demanded a ceasefire and Argentine withdrawal. A US mediated diplomacy efforts failed to prevent fighting.

3. Cooperation Agreements

The 1989–1990 Madrid Accords restored relations and allowed practical cooperation on fisheries and hydrocarbons "under sovereignty umbrella" arrangements. Argentina withdrew from the 2007 hydrocarbons declaration and, in 2023, ended the 2016 Foradori-Duncan agreement on shipping and flights, citing the UK's refusal to discuss sovereignty.

4. Unofficial Survey

An unofficial 1986 survey showed 96% support for British sovereignty. In March 2013, an internationally observed referendum saw 99.8% vote to remain a British Overseas Territory on 92% turnout. Argentina continues to reject its relevance

5. Multilateral Pressure

The OAS, CELAC, Mercosur, and the Group of 77 have repeatedly backed Argentina's claim and called for renewed negotiations, most recently in 2020. The UK rejects these statements. This left sovereignty talks frozen for over four decades.

Glossary

Falkland islands/Islas Malvinas: The island group in the south Atlantic oceans who's sovereignty is disputed by the united kingdom and Argentina.

Sovereignty: The authority of a state to exercise control over a territory and its affairs.

Territorial integrity: The principal that a state's territory shouldn't be violated or altered by force.

Self determination: The principal that a people should have the right to determine their political status and future.

Decolonization: The process of which territories under colonial rule achieve self government or another of political status.

Bilateral negotiations: Direct negotiations between two parties, in this dispute this primarily refers to talks between the United Kingdom and Argentina.

Good offices: Diplomatic assistance from a third party often pushing disputing parties to find an agreement.

The 1982 Falkland Islands war: A war that occurred in 1982 between the UK and Argentina over the Falkland Islands, the war lasted for 74 days and resulted in victory in favor of the UK, while Argentina surrendered.

Port Louis: A French settlement established in 1764, and then was handed over to Spain in 1767.

Effective control: The practical ability of a state to govern and administer a territory even when the political status of the territory is disputed.

Status quo: The existing political situation at hand, in this dispute it refers to the UK governing the islands while Argentina claims them.

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