

**Committee:** Special Political and Decolonization Committee (GA4)

**Topic:** Exploring solutions for the Syrian Golan

**Student Officer:** John Athanasiadis

**Position:** Co-Chair

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## Topic Introduction

The Syrian Golan is a mountainous region located in the western part of Syria covering approximately one thousand square kilometers, while bordering the countries of Jordan, Lebanon and Israel. Historically, this region has been one of the most crucial and well-demanded areas in the Middle East, as it provides access to the Mediterranean Sea and the Syrian capital, Damascus, which is located approximately forty kilometers away.

That being noted, the Syrian Golan has been one of the most desired areas in the region as it can be used as a strategic viewpoint for military operations. Territorial disputes over the Syrian Golan began after the Six-day War in June of 1967<sup>1</sup> where Israel after defeating Egypt, Syria and Jordan, occupied seventy thousand square kilometers<sup>2</sup>. Syria conducted one last-ditch military operation in the Middle East War in 1974, however, it was unsuccessful as Israel officially annexed the Golan Heights in 1981<sup>3</sup>.

Since then, the region has been controlled by the Israeli government and the United Nations have recognized the area as a Syrian territory occupied by Israel. It is important to note that in 2019 the

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<sup>1</sup> Britannica. "Six-Day War | Causes & Summary." *Encyclopædia Britannica*, 29 Mar. 2019, [www.britannica.com/event/Six-Day-War](http://www.britannica.com/event/Six-Day-War).

<sup>2</sup> "Golan Heights: A 50-Year Flashpoint for Israel and Syria." Arab News, 11 May 2018, [www.arabnews.com/node/1300901/middle-east#:~:text=During%20the%20Israel-Syria%20wars%20of%201967%20and%201973%2C](http://www.arabnews.com/node/1300901/middle-east#:~:text=During%20the%20Israel-Syria%20wars%20of%201967%20and%201973%2C). Accessed 22 July 2024.

<sup>3</sup> "The Syrian Golan | Syria." [www.un.int](http://www.un.int), 19 June 2019, [www.un.int/syria/syria/syrian-golan#:~:text=In%20October%201973%20during%20the%20October%20War%2C%20Syria](http://www.un.int/syria/syria/syrian-golan#:~:text=In%20October%201973%20during%20the%20October%20War%2C%20Syria). Accessed 22 July 2024.



area secured the US's recognition as Israeli land<sup>4</sup>, an action which provoked and intensified conflicts in the Golan Heights.

### Definition of key concepts

#### The Six-Day War<sup>5</sup>

The Six Day War was a military conflict in 5-10 of June 1967 between Israel, Syria, Egypt and Jordan which happened due to attacks of Syrian-Arab citizens in Israel.

#### Internally Displaced Persons (IDP)<sup>6</sup>

International Displaced Persons are individuals who have been forced to flee their country of residence to avoid the possible outcomes of armed conflict, violence and the violation of their rights.

#### Demilitarized zones (DMZ)<sup>7</sup>

Demilitarized zones are areas which upon agreement between the countries involved in military conflict, cannot be used by the military of any of the involved countries to support their military efforts.

#### The Arab League<sup>8</sup>

The Arab league is a union of 22 Arab-speaking African and Asian countries, which was formed in 1945, with the goal of supporting members' affairs, independence, sovereignty or interests in an international level.

#### Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> "United States Recognizes Israeli Sovereignty over the Golan Heights." American Journal of International Law, vol. 113, no. 3, July 2019, pp. 613–19, <https://doi.org/10.1017/ajil.2019.35>.

<sup>5</sup> Britannica. "Six-Day War | Causes & Summary." Encyclopædia Britannica, 29 Mar. 2019, [www.britannica.com/event/Six-Day-War](http://www.britannica.com/event/Six-Day-War).

<sup>6</sup> UNHCR. "IDP Definition." UNHCR, [emergency.unhcr.org/protection/legal-framework/idp-definition](http://emergency.unhcr.org/protection/legal-framework/idp-definition).

<sup>7</sup> Cambridge Dictionary. "Demilitarized Zone." @CambridgeWords, 17 July 2024, [dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/demilitarized-zone](https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/demilitarized-zone). Accessed 22 July 2024.

<sup>8</sup> Britannica. "Arab League | Britannica." Encyclopædia Britannica, 2019, [www.britannica.com/topic/Arab-League](http://www.britannica.com/topic/Arab-League).

<sup>9</sup> "Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC) | History & Facts." Encyclopedia Britannica, [www.britannica.com/topic/Organization-of-the-Islamic-Cooperation](http://www.britannica.com/topic/Organization-of-the-Islamic-Cooperation).



The OIC is an organization consisting of every officially Islamic nation of the world, whose goal is to enhance the cooperation between member countries and support the rights and interests of the Islamic world.

### Druze Arabs<sup>10</sup>

Druze Arabs is a secretive religious group inhabiting mainly Syria, Lebanon and Israel. This religious minority lives in tight-knit communities and they are deeply loyal to the country they reside in.

### Hezbollah<sup>11</sup>

The Hezbollah is a political party as well as a militant group, created in Lebanon after the Israeli invasion in 1982. Since then, it has been one of the biggest political forces in the Middle East.

## Background Information

### The initial formation of the Israeli Syrian border

After World War One, a period of many geopolitical arrangements all over the world, France and the United Kingdom, allies in the First World War, having defeated the Ottoman Empire, they decided the redistribution of land and arrangement of national borders in the Middle East. Therefore, both countries signed the Sykes-Picot agreement in May 16 of 1916<sup>12</sup>, which focused on the division of the Arab provinces in the Middle East which previously belonged to the Ottoman Empire. The Golan Heights was one of these Arab provinces, and after Sykes-Picot agreement, it was incorporated into Syria, which was under French control after the San Remo conference in 1920<sup>13</sup>. However, the borders formed in the Sykes-Picot agreement caused instability and conflicts in the area, due to fact

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<sup>10</sup> Joe, Jimmy. "The Druze: The Secretive Arabs of Lebanon, Syria, and Israel." Timeless Myths, 11 Jan. 2022, [www.timelessmyths.com/culture-people/druze/](http://www.timelessmyths.com/culture-people/druze/). Accessed 22 July 2024.

<sup>11</sup> The Editors of Encyclopedia Britannica. "Hezbollah | Lebanese Militant Group & Political Party." Encyclopædia Britannica, 23 Aug. 2018, [www.britannica.com/topic/Hezbollah](http://www.britannica.com/topic/Hezbollah).

<sup>12</sup> Encyclopedia Britannica. "Sykes-Picot Agreement." Encyclopædia Britannica, 13 Nov. 2018, [www.britannica.com/event/Sykes-Picot-Agreement](http://www.britannica.com/event/Sykes-Picot-Agreement).

<sup>13</sup> "San Remo Conference (1920) | Encyclopedia.com." [www.encyclopedia.com](http://www.encyclopedia.com), [www.encyclopedia.com/humanities/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/san-remo-conference-1920](http://www.encyclopedia.com/humanities/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/san-remo-conference-1920). Accessed 22 July 2024.



that they were created with little regard to the ethnic and religious groups in the area. This instability became clear after the creation of the Israeli state in 1948, when a large number of Palestinians had to flee during the Arab Israeli War of 1948<sup>14</sup>. The creation of Israel as a state, however, did not affect the Golan Heights until the Six Day War.

### The Six Day war

The beginning of the Six Day war in June 1967, marked the beginning of the Golan Heights dispute which still troubles global communities today. Tension was escalating in the region, between the neighboring countries of Egypt, Israel and Syria. Since the beginning of the war, the main goal of both sides in the Syrian front was to keep the Golan Heights under their own territory. The reason behind this mutual goal was its military significance, as the heights were one of the most crucial vantage points for the Syrian army.<sup>15</sup>

Therefore, on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> of June 1967, Israeli military forces launched a ground attack in the Golan heights<sup>16</sup>. Due to Israel's superiority in air combat and Syria's lack of military presence in the rocky terrains of the region the attack led to a defeat for Syria, as well as an alteration of regional military balance. After an agreement was made for a ceasefire from all the sides which took part in the conflict, the war ended and Israel captured the Golan Heights, as it was crucial for Israel's security and defense in their eastern border, even though the capture of lands after military conflicts was prohibited under international law. This body of legal norms which is regulated by the UN, underlines the prohibition of acquiring new land after military conflicts, which highlights that Israel has violated Syria's sovereignty<sup>17</sup>.

### The annexation of the Syrian Golan

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<sup>14</sup> Britannica. "1948 Arab-Israeli War | Summary, Outcome, Casualties, & Timeline | Britannica." [www.britannica.com](http://www.britannica.com), 10 May 2024, [www.britannica.com/event/1948-Arab-Israeli-War](http://www.britannica.com/event/1948-Arab-Israeli-War).

<sup>15</sup> Britannica. "Six-Day War | Causes & Summary." Encyclopædia Britannica, 29 Mar. 2019, [www.britannica.com/event/Six-Day-War](http://www.britannica.com/event/Six-Day-War).

<sup>16</sup> "Golan Heights Profile." BBC News, 25 Mar. 2019, [www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14724842](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14724842).

<sup>17</sup> History.com Editors. "Six-Day War." History, A&E Television Networks, 21 Aug. 2018, [www.history.com/topics/middle-east/six-day-war](http://www.history.com/topics/middle-east/six-day-war).



In later years Syria attempted to re-establish its sovereignty in the area through several military attempts, the most important being the October War in 1973<sup>18</sup>, when Syria managed to return a small part of the Golan Heights to its territory, including the capital Quneitra. However, after the annexation of the heights by Israel on December 14 1981<sup>19</sup>, military operations in the Golan Heights stopped on both sides due to fears of provoking further damage in the region. However, both sides kept military forces near their border with the Golan Heights. After this war, Israel officially annexed the Syrian Golan in 1981, which led to almost fifty thousand Syrian citizens of the area being displaced<sup>20</sup>.

Therefore, the only attempts to find a permanent resolution for the issue could only be done through diplomatic dialogue. One of the most important attempts to reconcile and reach a point of consensus was made at the Madrid conference in 1991<sup>21</sup>. Here Israel denied having any diplomatic dialogue with Syria and withdrew. Thus, there have only been a few other attempts to find a solution to the issue, but a permanent solution has not been reached yet.

### The current state of the Syrian Golan

Since the Madrid conference in 1991, there has been a small number of Israeli presidents, like Ezer Weizman and Moshe Katsav, who attempted to reconcile with Syria about the issue<sup>22</sup>. However, even though some talks have been made ever since, a point of consensus was never reached between the two countries due to their different demands. Syria considers the Golan Heights as its own territory due to most Syrian citizens and its historical connection with the country. Israel supports that it belongs to Israeli territory as it was acquired in the Six Day war, and it is still important due to defensive reasons. Nowadays, almost twenty-seven thousand Israeli settlers are inhabiting that region, while the area is also inhabited by twenty-seven thousand Druze Arabs, who are a small part of Syria's population<sup>23</sup>. Even though tension in the area has been significantly minimized since the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, after the United States of America officially

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<sup>18</sup> Goldfarb, Michael. "October 1973: The War That Changed Everything." [www.bbc.co.uk, www.bbc.com/mediacentre/proginfo/2023/40/october-1973-the-war-that-changed-everything](http://www.bbc.co.uk, www.bbc.com/mediacentre/proginfo/2023/40/october-1973-the-war-that-changed-everything). Accessed 22 July 2024.

<sup>19</sup> "History & Overview of the Golan Heights." [www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org, www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/history-and-overview-of-the-golan-heights](http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org, www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/history-and-overview-of-the-golan-heights).

<sup>20</sup> "The Six-Day War and the Golan Heights." Hoover Institution, [www.hoover.org/research/six-day-war-and-golan-heights/154250](http://www.hoover.org/research/six-day-war-and-golan-heights/154250)

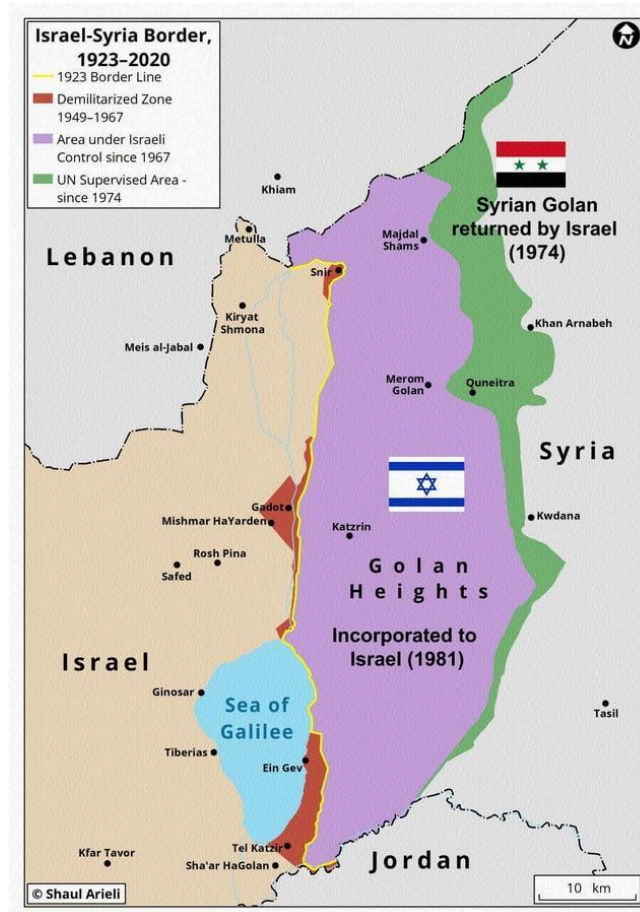
<sup>21</sup> Office Of The Historian. "Milestones: 1989–1992 - Office of the Historian." [History.state.gov, history.state.gov/milestones/1989-1992/madrid-conference](http://History.state.gov, history.state.gov/milestones/1989-1992/madrid-conference).

<sup>22</sup> Kipnis, Yigal. *The Golan Heights*. Routledge, 2013.

<sup>23</sup> "Golan Heights Profile." BBC News, 25 Mar. 2019, [www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14724842](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14724842).



recognized the Golan heights as Israeli territory in 2019<sup>24</sup>, the Arab league and the OIC condemned the allies of the Syrian government, while other non-governmental organizations, like the Hezbollah, have made attacks targeting Israeli settlers in the area, one of them being a kamikaze drone attack in June 2024, killing one Israeli soldier and seriously injuring seventeen<sup>25</sup>.



Current map of the Golan Heights<sup>26</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Harb, Ali. "Three Years On, US Still Views Syria's Golan as Israeli Territory." [www.aljazeera.com](http://www.aljazeera.com), 25 Mar. 2022, [www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/3/25/three-years-on-us-still-views-syrias-golan-as-israeli-territory](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/3/25/three-years-on-us-still-views-syrias-golan-as-israeli-territory).

<sup>25</sup> Ward, Euan. "Hezbollah Launches Retaliatory Rockets after Israel Appears to Strike in Syria." [The New York Times](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/07/09/world/middleeast/hezbollah-rockets-israel-syria.html/), 9 July 2024, [www.nytimes.com/2024/07/09/world/middleeast/hezbollah-rockets-israel-syria.html/](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/07/09/world/middleeast/hezbollah-rockets-israel-syria.html/)

<sup>26</sup> Current Map of the Golan Heights . 1 Jan. 2020, [ar.inspiredpencil.com/pictures-2023/golan-heights-map](http://ar.inspiredpencil.com/pictures-2023/golan-heights-map).

## Timeline of Events

May 16 1916	The Sykes-Picot Agreement is signed between the United Kingdom and France
April 26 1920	The San Remo conference decides on the borders of the Arab provinces in the Middle East
May 14 1948	Israel was created in the Southeast region of the Mediterranean Sea
June 5 1967	The Six Day War begins
June 10 1967	The Six Day war ends after mutual agreement for ceasefire, and the Syrian Golan is captured by the Israeli military
October 6 1973	The October War begins
December 14 1991	The official annexation of the Golan Heights by Israel
March 25 2019	The United States of America is the first country to recognise the Syrian Golan as Israeli territory
July 8 2024	An Israeli military base is hit by a drone attack by the Hezbollah in the Golan Heights

## Major countries/ organizations and alliances

### Israel

Israel is one of the most involved countries in the issue, as it has annexed the Golan Heights and considered them as its own territory in 1981, after conflicts with other countries in the area. To this day, 20 thousand Israeli citizens inhabit the Golan Heights after the Israeli settlement in the region,



whilst the Israeli government neglects decisions taken by several international organizations which view the region as Syrian territory<sup>27</sup>. However, the Israeli government supports that their action has drastically limited conflict in the area and must be viewed as a peacekeeping mission. In addition, Israel underlines that the annexation of the Golan Heights contributes to the Israeli defense system as it prevents Syrian military attacks to the northern part of Israel.<sup>28</sup>

### Syria

Syria is also one of the actors in this conflict after the six-day war Syria lost control of the Golan Heights have attempted to regain its control in the Middle East War in 1974. Twenty thousand Syrian citizens are currently still inhabiting the Golan Heights, while approximately fifty thousand Syrians have been displaced after the Israeli settlement.<sup>29</sup> So far Syria has viewed Israel's actions as illegal and against international law, and it has attempted to resolve the dispute through multilateral discussions. Syria also claims that the ongoing attacks by the Hezbollah in the region have no connection to the Syrian government and its position on the matter.

### The United States of America (USA)

The US has been the first nation to officially recognize Israel's sovereignty over the region in 1948, since it has been under Israeli control for over 50 years, which has increased the international cooperation with Israel and the US's allies. Also, the USA has condemned the actions the Syrian government has taken over the matter, underlining that Syria had to comply with Israel's decisions to prevent any further attacks in the region<sup>30</sup>.

However, the USA has not sent any troops in the area to support the Israeli sovereignty of the area. However, it has pressured and urged Syria as well as other countries of the Arab League to accept

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<sup>27</sup> "Golan Heights Profile." BBC News, 25 Mar. 2019, [www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14724842](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14724842).

<sup>28</sup> Lubel, Maayan. "What Is the Significance of the Golan Heights." Reuters.com, Reuters, 22 Mar. 2019, [www.reuters.com/article/world/what-is-the-significance-of-the-golan-heights-idUSKCN1R22IR/](http://www.reuters.com/article/world/what-is-the-significance-of-the-golan-heights-idUSKCN1R22IR/)

<sup>29</sup> "Golan Heights Profile." BBC News, 25 Mar. 2019, [www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14724842](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-14724842).

<sup>30</sup> Winter, Chase. "Golan Heights: Why It Matters to US, Israel and Syria | DW | 22.03.2019." DW.COM, 22 Mar. 2019, [www.dw.com/en/golan-heights-why-it-matters-to-us-israel-and-syria/a-48019484](http://www.dw.com/en/golan-heights-why-it-matters-to-us-israel-and-syria/a-48019484).





and recognize the Golan Heights as Israeli territory. The USA has also advised other nations in the region to refrain from intervening to the issue as it could provoke further conflict<sup>31</sup>.

### Russia

Russia can be considered as major country involved as it provides aid to the Syrian government, both military and financial, for it to be competent to support its sovereignty in the region. So far, Russia has condemned the Israeli occupation, and it has provided military equipment costing millions of US dollars to Syria. In addition, Russian military forces since 2024 have been planning on settling in the Golan Heights to support Syria's military efforts.<sup>32</sup>

### The European Union

The European Union has also taken a stance upon the matter. It has not recognized the annexation of the Golan Heights by Israel; however it has advised the Israeli government to support the infrastructural development of the region. The EU has also received most of the displaced Syrians, who previously inhabited the Golan Heights which has resulted in significant enhancements with its relations with Syria.<sup>33</sup>

## Previous attempts to solve the issue

### Resolution 242 of the security council

In this specific resolution, submitted in 22 of November 1967, the UN Security Council attempted to secure a long-lasting state of peace between the countries involved in the Six-Day war, thus including Israel and Syria. In addition, this resolution recognizes the Golan Heights as Syrian land

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<sup>31</sup> Laub, Zachary. "The Golan Heights: Trump's Recognition." Cfo.org, council on foreign relations, 28 Mar. 2019, [www.cfr.org/background/golan-heights-whats-stake-trumps-recognition](http://www.cfr.org/background/golan-heights-whats-stake-trumps-recognition).

<sup>32</sup> Petkova, Mariya. "What Has Russia Gained from Five Years of Fighting in Syria?" [www.aljazeera.com/features/2020/10/1/what-has-russia-gained-from-five-years-of-fighting-in-syria](http://www.aljazeera.com/features/2020/10/1/what-has-russia-gained-from-five-years-of-fighting-in-syria).

<sup>33</sup> "Declaration by the High Representative on Behalf of the EU on the Golan Heights | EEAS." [www.eeas.europa.eu, www.eeas.europa.eu/node/60274\\_en/](http://www.eeas.europa.eu, www.eeas.europa.eu/node/60274_en/)



and demanded the withdrawal of Israeli military from the area<sup>34</sup>. However the measures implemented did not limit the armed conflicts occurring in the area, and therefore they were considered unsuccessful

### The Madrid Conference (1991)

After the annexation of the Golan Heights from Israel, the central topic of the Madrid conference in 1991 was the return of the region to Syria's territory. Furthermore, it called for Syrian Israeli talks to be restored, and for the Israeli government to respect and comply with the resolution 242 and 497 of the Security Council which condemned the annexation of the region in 1981.<sup>35</sup>

### Camp David Accords (1978)

Although this treaty did not directly aim to resolve the Golan Heights conflict, the mutual agreement between Israel and Egypt to create a demilitarized zone in the region, helped displaced Syrian citizens who had previously fled the Golan Heights to return. The accords reconstituted the state of peace between Syria and Israel and created a possibility for bilateral talks. In the camp David Accords, the demilitarization of the Golan Heights was attempted<sup>36</sup>. The decisions taken in the Camp David Accords were successful for only a limited amount of time due to the lack of mutual compliance with these decisions. However, its small-term effects were proven of paramount importance for Syrian citizens and regional development.

## Possible solutions

### Agreements and treaties focusing on the reconstruction of infrastructure in the area

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<sup>34</sup> "Security Council Resolution 242 - UNSCR." Unscr.com, 2020, unscr.com/en/resolutions/242.

<sup>35</sup> "Madrid Conference (1991) | Encyclopedia.com." Www.encyclopedia.com, www.encyclopedia.com/humanities/encyclopedias-almanacs-transcripts-and-maps/madrid-conference-1991.

<sup>36</sup> Carter, Jimmy. "Camp David Accords | Summary, History, & Facts." Encyclopædia Britannica, 11 Sept. 2018, www.britannica.com/event/Camp-David-Accords.



As territorial disputes over the Golan Heights continue to this day, neither of the countries directly affected with the matter the matter has proceeded to the infrastructural development <sup>37</sup>of the region, due to the possibility of rising tensions and armed conflict. That situation is a direct cause of the different views over the sovereignty of the Golan Heights and the existence of military forces from both Syria and Israel. Therefore, by implementing decisions on the development of infrastructure in the Heights, displaced civilians would be able to return to their country of inhabitation which would highlight the importance of mutual agreement for issues in the region.

### The implementation of peacekeeping operations in the region

So far, the United Nations have intervened in the issue numerous times by submitting resolutions for nations which are directly affected by the Golan Heights issue to reconcile. However, both Syria and Israel rarely comply to the regulations placed by the United Nations<sup>38</sup>. For this reason, a UN peacekeeping operation could be established to minimise the conflicts in the area, as well as limit the possibility of other countries which are not directly affected by the issue to be involved. The latter could potentially lead to extensive conflicts in the region. Therefore, peacekeeping operations can significantly improve the security of the area, which could potentially lead to the return of the Golan Heights to Syrian territory, as Israel keeps the Golan Heights under its own control for defensive reasons.

### The promotion of technological advancements in the Syrian Golan

One of the most difficult tasks to achieve regarding this issue, is the collaboration between all citizens in the Golan Heights, something which has not been achieved so far by any other previous attempt<sup>39</sup>. That being noted, both countries could significantly benefit from the creation of tech hubs in the Golan Heights, as it would be an opportunity for all parties to collaborate with the upper goal to create a better future. Technological advancements could affect any field, and it is undoubted that

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<sup>37</sup> Staff, Toi. "This Is Our Moment': Israel Okays Major Plan to Boost Golan, Double Its Population." <https://www.timesofisrael.com/this-is-our-moment-israel-okays-major-plan-to-boost-golan-double-its-population/>, Times Of Israel, 12 Dec. 2021.

<sup>38</sup> Al Jazeera. "What Has the UN Done and Said on the Israel-Palestine Conflict?" [www.aljazeera.com](http://www.aljazeera.com), 25 Oct. 2023, [www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/25/what-has-the-un-done-on-the-israel-palestine-conflict](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/25/what-has-the-un-done-on-the-israel-palestine-conflict).

<sup>39</sup> "The Syrian Golan | Syria." [www.un.int](http://www.un.int), [www.un.int/syria/syria/syrian-golan](http://www.un.int/syria/syria/syrian-golan).



it would create opportunities for joint ventures which would foster collaboration. Therefore, technological advancement could improve the collaboration between Syria and Israel, limit the possibility of conflict and improve the current state of the Golan Heights, potentially bringing back displaced citizens.

### The repatriation of displaced Syrian citizens in the Golan Heights

One of the most important issues that derives from the Golan Heights dispute, is the great number of Syrian citizens who have been displaced from the Golan Heights after their annexation in 1981. In particular, the number is approximately one hundred and thirty thousand Syrian citizens, the majority of whom have moved to other counties and have not remained in Syria due to fears of conflict. With their repatriation, not only will thousands of displaced civilians return to their place of origin, but this decision can also open a new way of bilateral talks on the resolution of the issue.



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