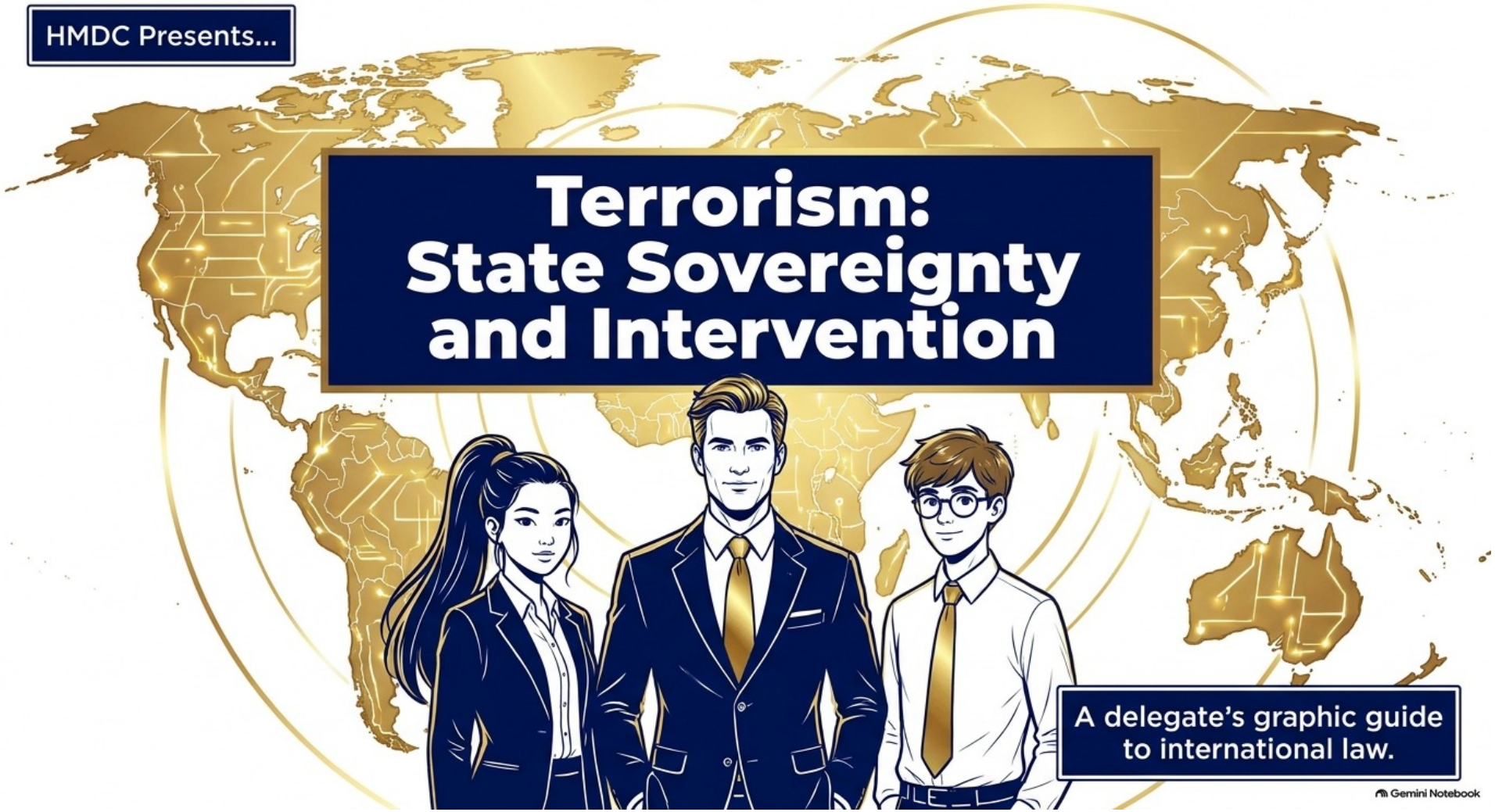
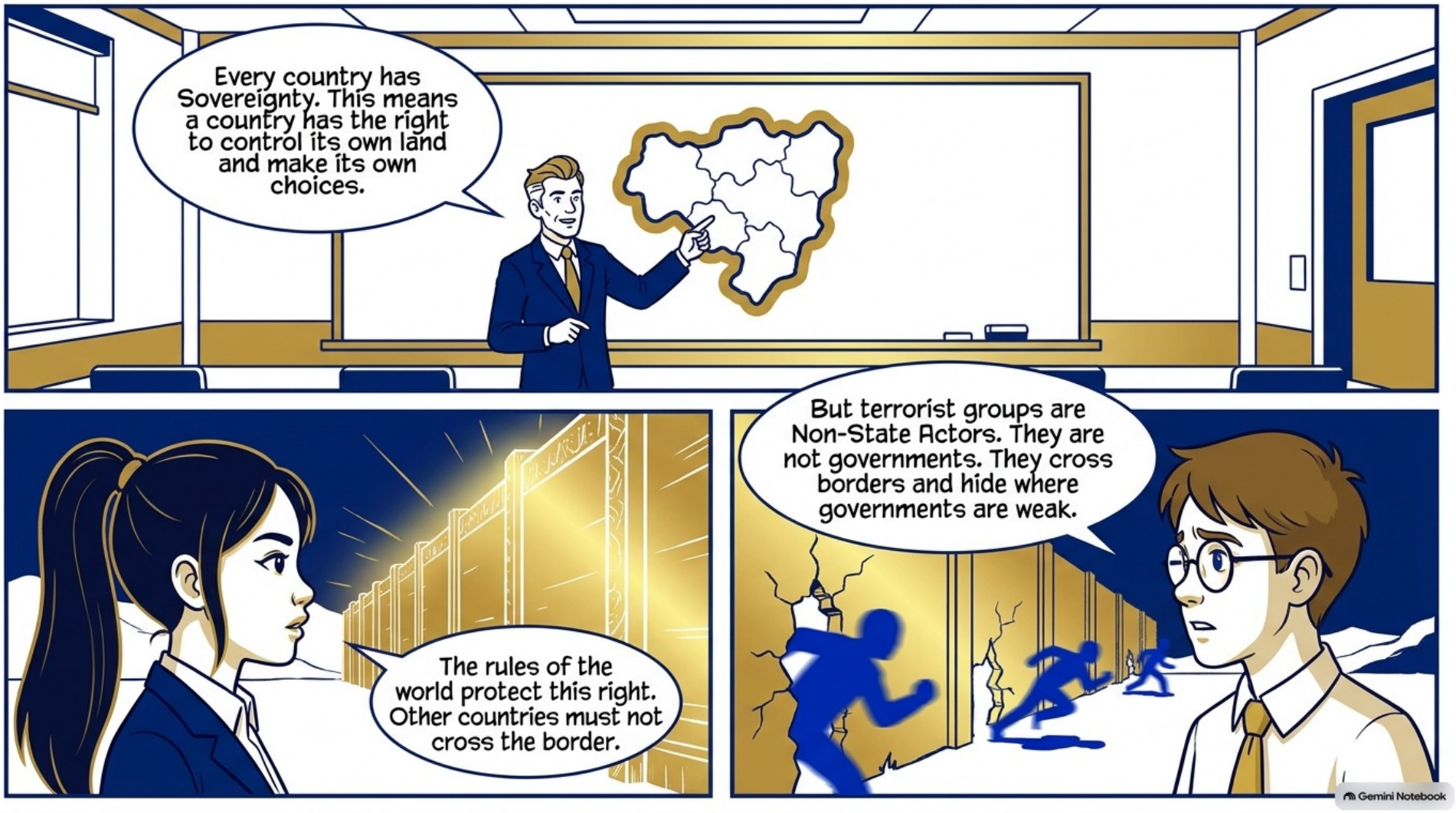

HMDC Presents...
Terrorism:
State Sovereignty
and Intervention
A delegate's graphic guide
to international law.
Gemini Notebook


Every country has Sovereignty. This means a country has the right to control its own land and make its own choices.
The rules of the world protect this right. Other countries must not cross the border.
But terrorist groups are Non-State Actors. They are not governments. They cross borders and hide where governments are weak.
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Terrorism displaces millions of people from their homes.
It forces families to leave everything behind.
And the response can also cause harm.
When a country uses heavy military force, it causes damage. This can make people feel angry and push them to join armed groups.
Source: United Nations Press, November 20, 2015. (Data: thousands killed, millions forced from homes).
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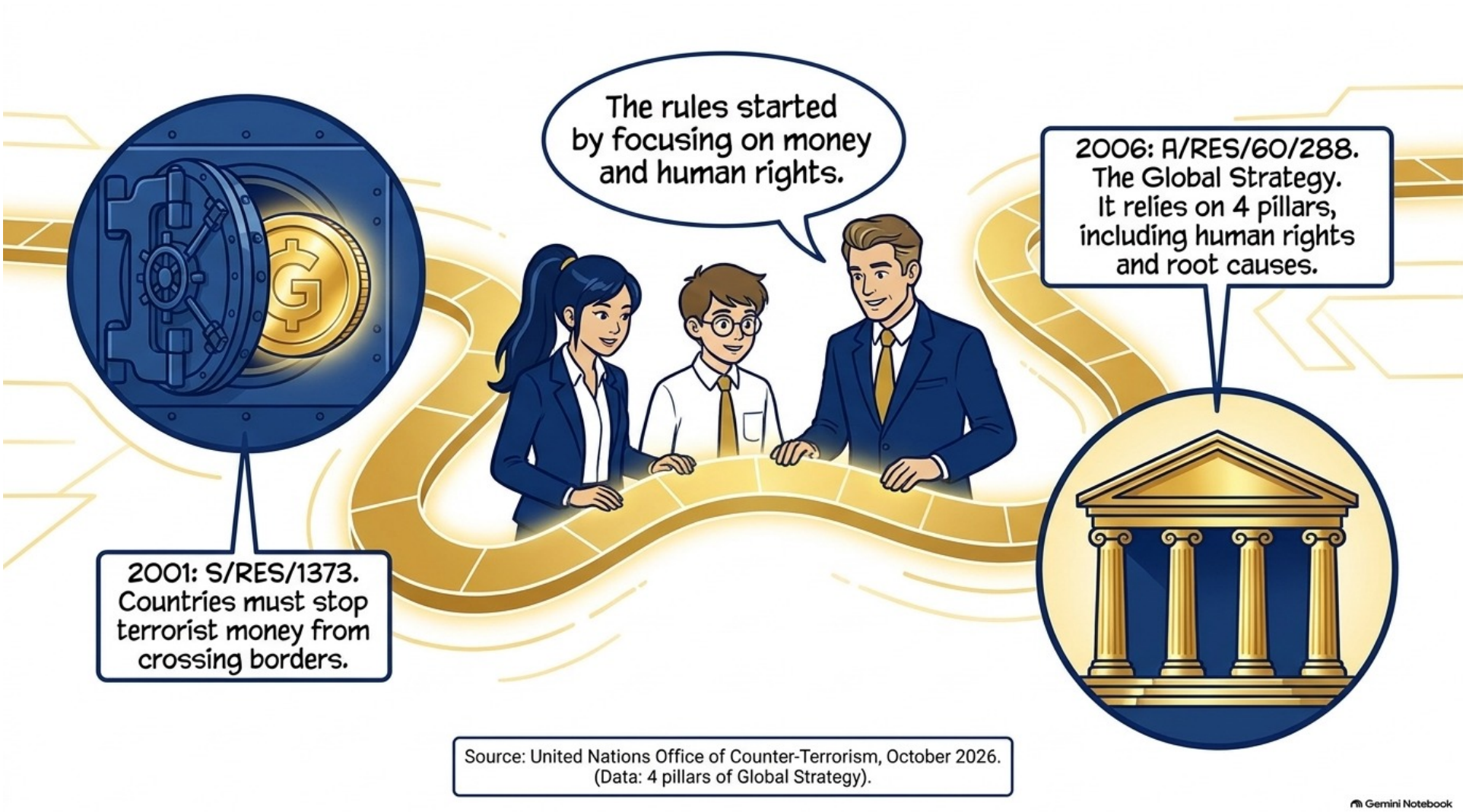
The rules started by focusing on money and human rights.
2001: S/RES/1373. Countries must stop terrorist money from crossing borders.
2006: A/RES/60/288. The Global Strategy. It relies on 4 pillars, including human rights and root causes.
Source: United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, October 2026. (Data: 4 pillars of Global Strategy).
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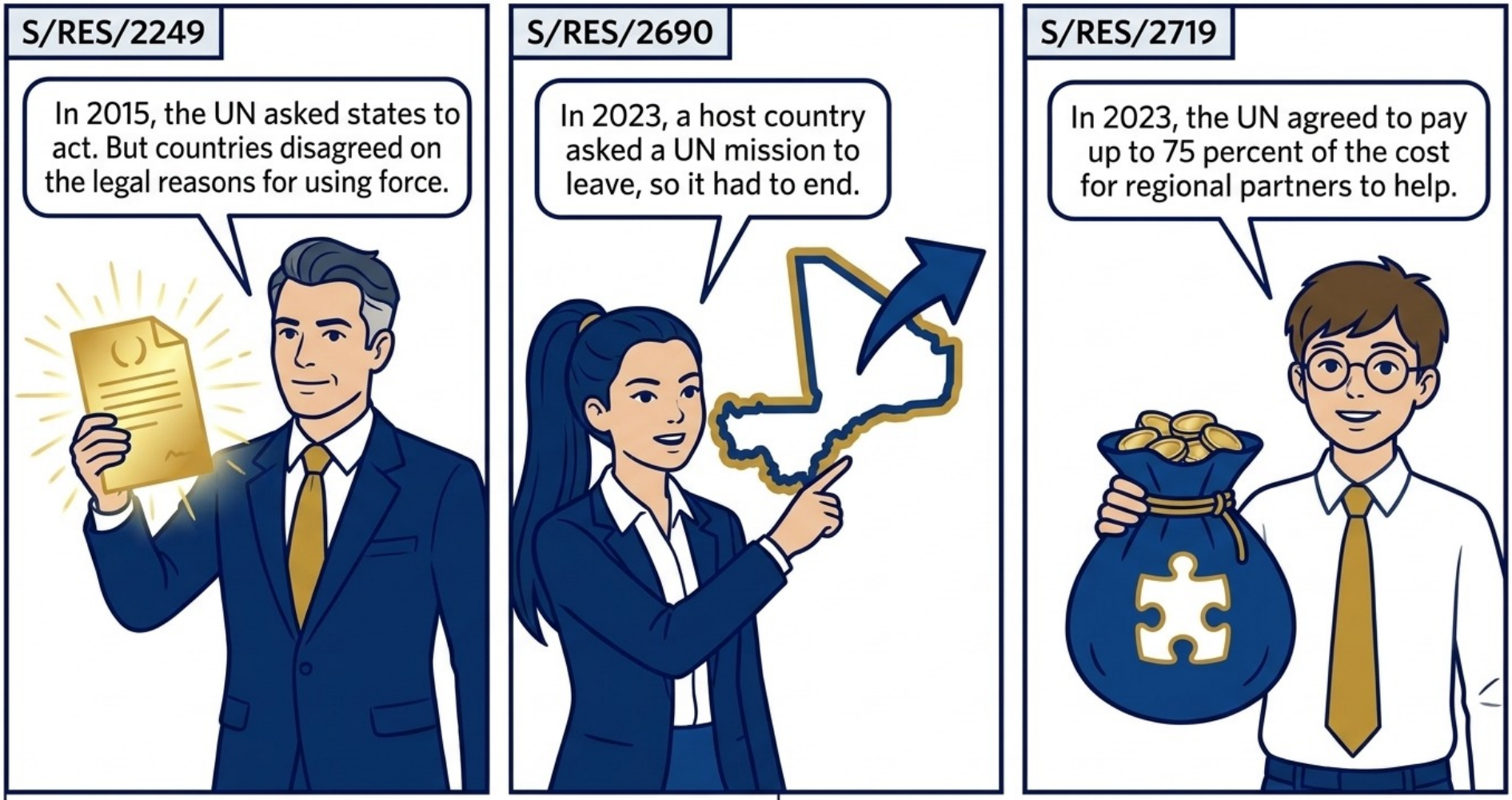
S/RES/2249
In 2015, the UN asked states to act. But countries disagreed on the legal reasons for using force.
S/RES/2690
In 2023, a host country asked a UN mission to leave, so it had to end.
S/RES/2719
In 2023, the UN agreed to pay up to 75 percent of the cost for regional partners to help.
Source: United Nations Security Council, 2023. (Data: up to 75 percent UN funding).
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Solution 1: Security Council Action.
Outside force is allowed only with a Security Council vote.
Help: This is the clearest legal route. Everyone agrees on the rule.
Harm: Any of the 5 permanent members can block the vote alone.
Source: UN Charter.
(Data: 5 permanent members)
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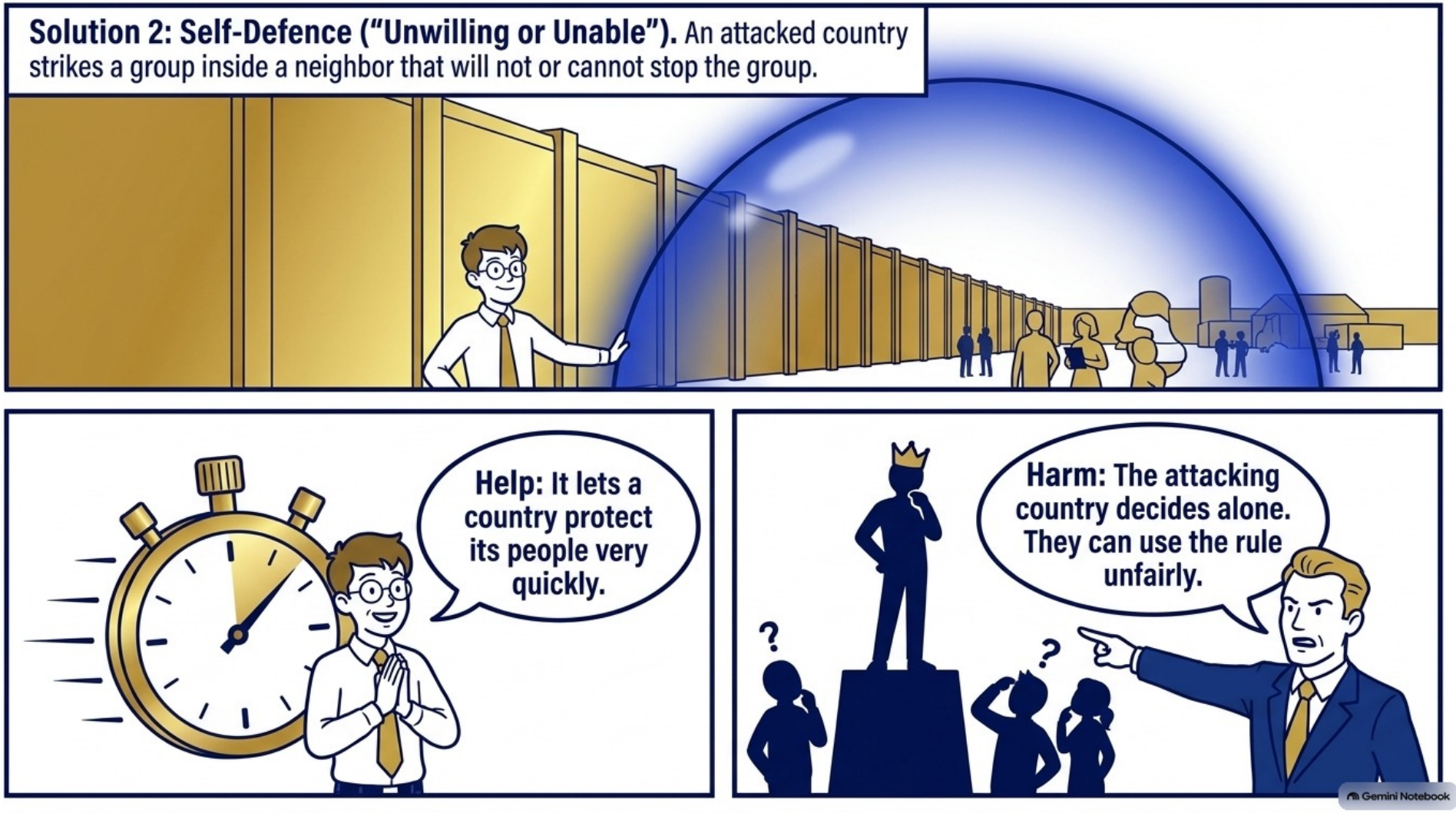
Solution 2: Self-Defence ("Unwilling or Unable"). An attacked country strikes a group inside a neighbor that will not or cannot stop the group.
Help: It lets a country protect its people very quickly.
Harm: The attacking country decides alone. They can use the rule unfairly.
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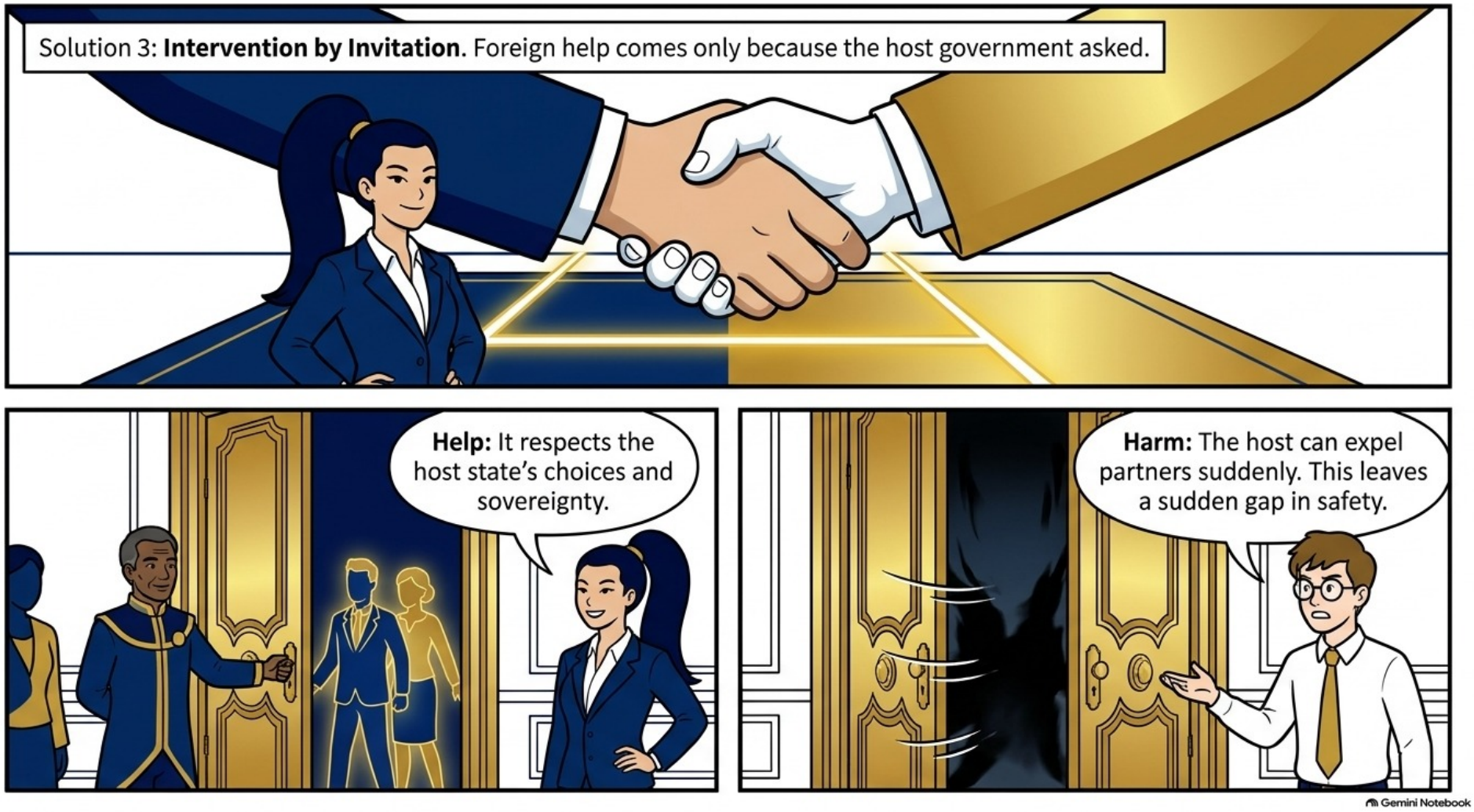
Solution 3: **Intervention by Invitation**. Foreign help comes only because the host government asked.
Help: It respects the host state's choices and sovereignty.
Harm: The host can expel partners suddenly. This leaves a sudden gap in safety.
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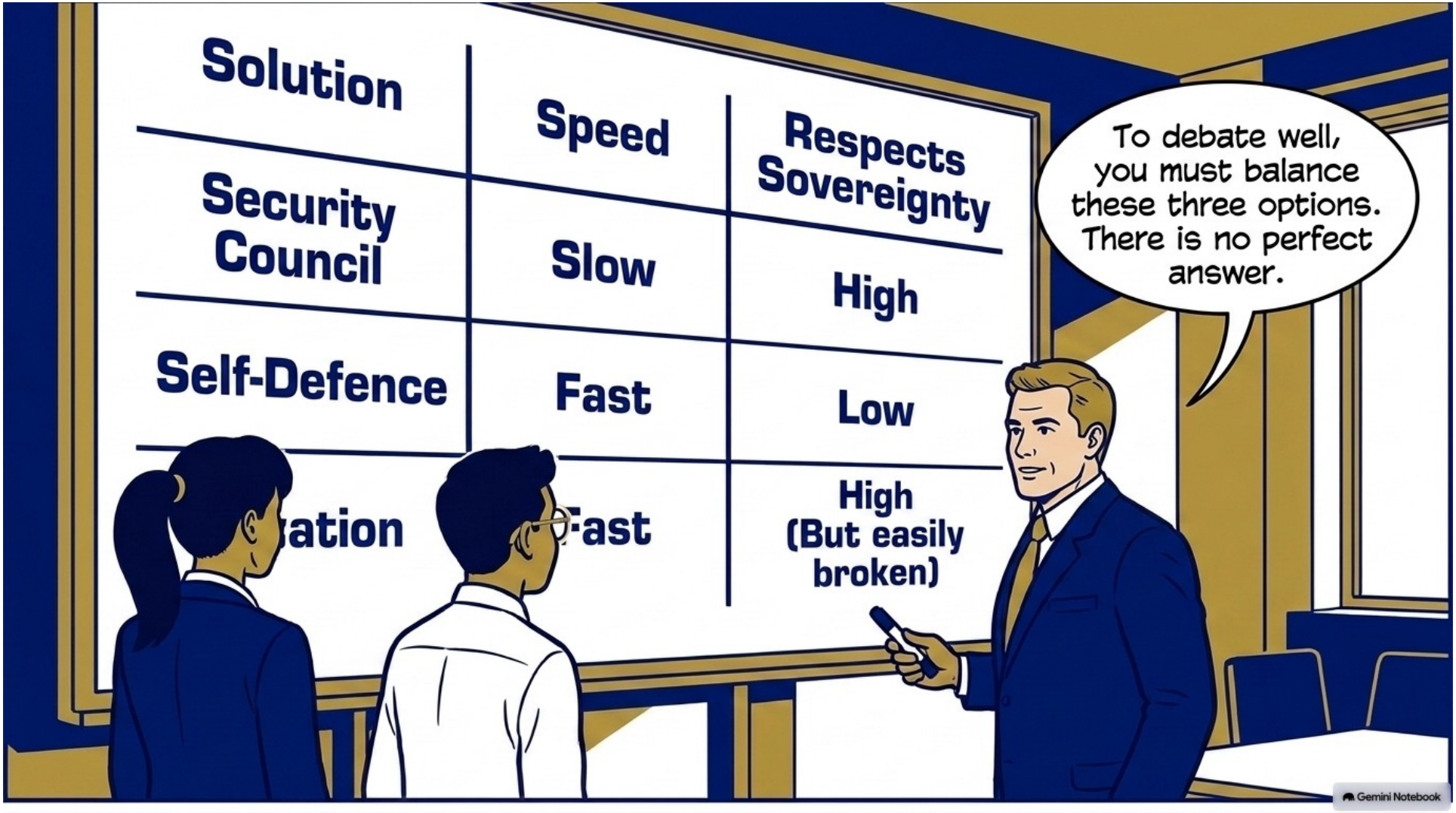
Solution
Speed
Respects Sovereignty
Security Council
Slow
High
Self-Defence
Fast
Low
ation
Fast
High (But easily broken)
To debate well, you must balance these three options. There is no perfect answer.
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Armies are not the only answer.
There are 19 treaties that create rules for specific acts.
TREATY
The Financial Action Task Force blocks money from reaching terrorist groups.
And 31 members work together to build civilian skills to prevent violence before it starts.
Source: United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, October 2026 / Global Counterterrorism Forum, October 2028. (Data: 19 treaties, 31 members).
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The Hook: Catch their attention.
The Problem: Explain the harm clearly.
The Solution: Pick one of our three options!
Keep your sentences short and plain. Speak with a clear, active voice so everyone can follow your plan.
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Your clause must balance international law with state sovereignty. Always explain who decides to act!
Sponsor: Your country name goes here.
Hook: one surprising fact.
Problem: who is harmed.
Solution: our plan.
Preambulatory Phrase: This explains why we are acting. (Example: "Noting the harm...")
Operative Phrase: This is the action we will take. (Example: "Calls upon states to...")
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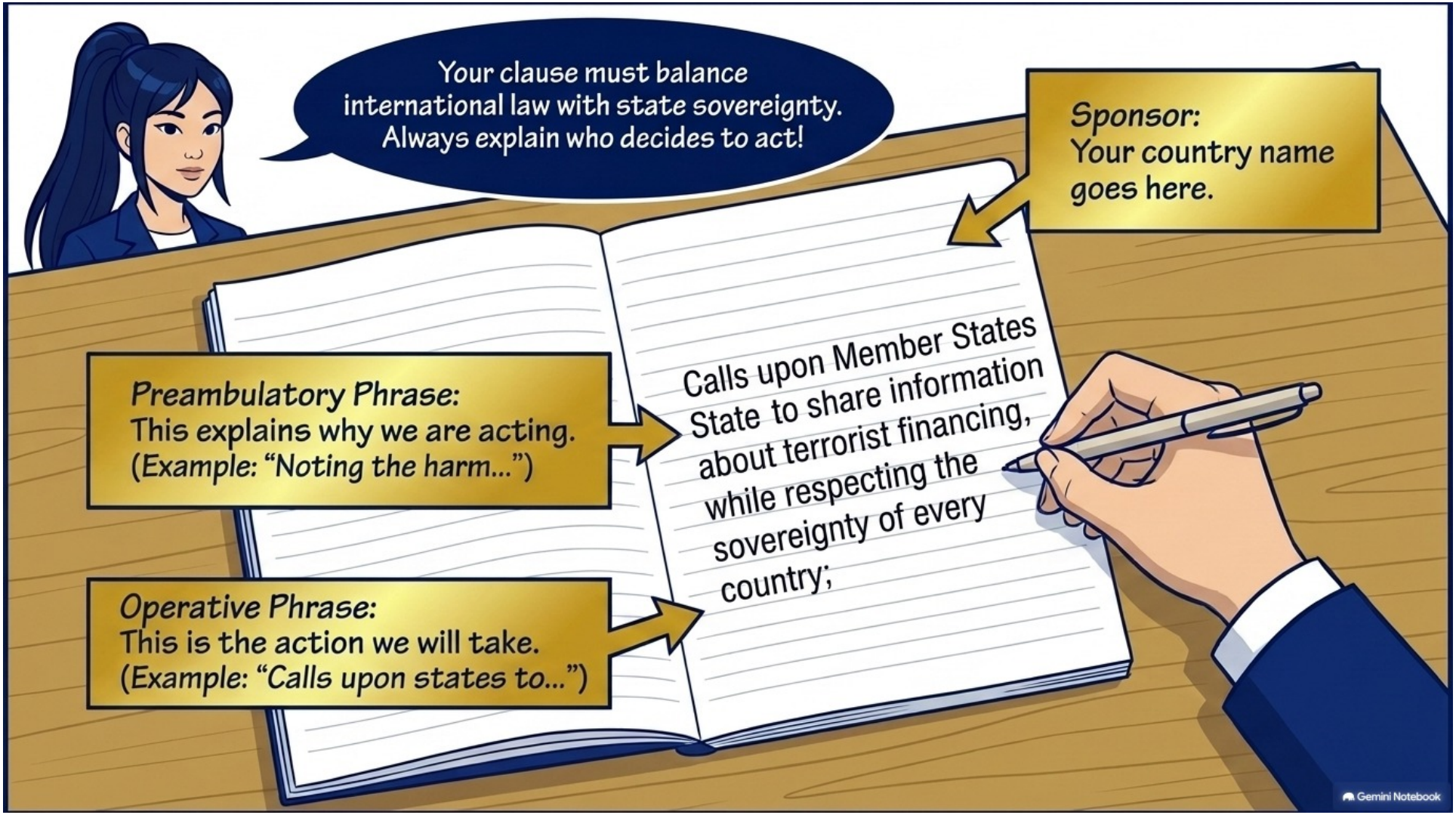
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Operative Phrase: This is the action we will take. (Example: "Calls upon states to...")
Calls upon Member States
State to share information
about terrorist financing,
while respecting the
sovereignty of every
country;
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