

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

DISEC

DISARMAMENT AND SECURITY COUNCIL



Background Guide

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Esteemed delegates and sponsors of VIMUNC X,

Welcome to the tenth annual Virginia Invitational Model United Nations Conference. As the MUN year winds down, we hope to provide the best experience yet, with paramount service and attention to detail that creates the greatest conference. From broad UN organizations to regional bodies, from corporations to criminal organizations, VIMUNC has committees that truly serve every interest. With experienced chairs, czars and staff, we will ensure that every delegate truly has a positive experience, and we simply hope that you can enjoy your experience with us.

VIMUNC's 18 committees and over 700 delegates is one of the largest editions of our conference ever, and we look forward to expanding our outreach across Virginia to continue to provide a wonderful experience for all delegates. With a large MUN team that has years of experience, we hope that every single minute of the committee is filled with substantive debate that will create learning experiences that last for years to come.

So much hard work has been put into every single crisis update, background guide and dossier, and we sincerely hope that the work and care placed in every single aspect of this conference is displayed in its quality. If at any time you feel something about the conference is unsatisfactory, please don't hesitate to talk to your chairs, a staffer, or a member of the Secretariat.

Thank you so much for your commitment to VIMUNC X, and best of luck in your committee, future conferences, and ambitions.

Sincerely,

Kalyna Vickers

Secretary-General, VIMUNC X

DISEC

(Disarmament and Security Council)

TOPIC A: *Satellite Warfare*

TOPIC B: *Use of Biological Weapons in Warfare*

INTRODUCTION

to the Disarmament and Security Council

DISEC, also known as the UN's First Committee, deals with disarmament and other global challenges and threats to peace that negatively affect the international community. Some topics that DISEC typically deals with include proliferation of nuclear weapons, regional disarmament, outer space, cybersecurity, and trafficking of illegal arms. Although the DISEC committee itself cannot use persuasive mechanisms to enforce countries to do things, it has a very high influence on the Security Council; and thus can impose sanctions and authorize armed intervention. With that being said, it is important to remember that these techniques used to persuade countries to oblige to a treaty or resolution of that nature can only be used if the actions of a country are a threat to international peace.

DISEC was initially created during the Cold War due to territorial imbalance between superpowers. During the Cold War, some countries contained more nuclear arms than others, and

in order to stop the race or proliferation of these dangerous weapons, DISEC was utilized and created in order to manage nuclear and other powerful ammunition. In addition, due to not only ammunition imbalance but also territorial imbalance, new developed balance between Soviet Communism and Western Capitalism between the dates of 1947- 1991 (Cold War) was established. DISEC was formed and used to control how much territory a superpower could own, so as to prevent one country taking over another's private property. This new territorial balance that DISEC entailed also prevented country's infringement of privacy on one another. DISEC was also used to ensure that after major wars, extra stockpiles were managed to ensure surplus weapons did not end up in the hands of terrorists. After the second world war, the defensive political system was in ruins; the League of Nations had no effective solution for the political dialogue between major economic and military powers of the world. After this problem had occurred, the First Committee was established to deal with the technological implications of the atomic bomb in order to protect the international community from dangerous threats. As of now, the Chairperson of the First Committee is Ion Jinga from Romania. The chairperson of DISEC is responsible for abilities including planning meetings for the committee, enabling the committee to have certain abilities, managing the committee's performance, efficient management, and many more.

TOPIC A: Satellite Warfare

Background Information

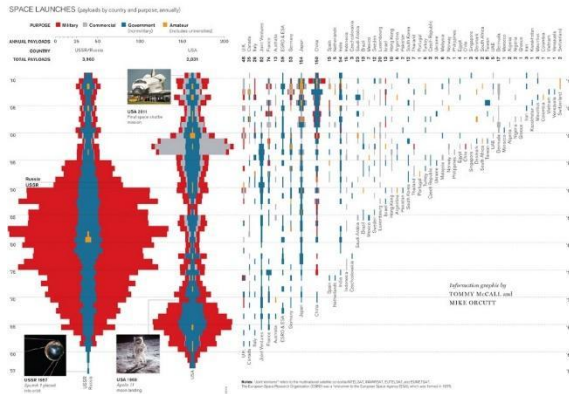
Anti-Satellite Weapons (ASAT) are used to decimate satellites in space and for strategic military purposes. Not all nations have ASAT systems but many countries are in the midst of developing them. ASAT systems can destroy satellites that militaries rely on for missile guidance and other military operations. The systems have been around since the 1950's when the United States first began designing and building strategic missile projects. These missile projects may have been by name slightly different but in reality they were just a less developed version of the type of systems we see today. The biggest



threat of these ASAT systems is that they may sometime in the near future be able to hold nuclear weapons. If they reach that point of development then nuclear attacks will be possible from space and a country will have no knowledge of the attack until after the bomb hits. With a possible threat like this in space many countries may feel threatened at all times, which could cause an international outbreak. While countries may wish to develop their ASAT systems, this development must be done with serious precaution.

Current Situation

Currently, “a new cold war” is occurring in space with countries attacking each others’ satellites and trying to gain more and more military power in outer space. As of now the two



countries with the most control in outer space are Russia and the United States. Both these countries are developing their own space weapons and both countries have their own nuclear weapons. If nuclear weapons enter space every country will be susceptible to a nuclear attack which would cause

mass destruction to that country and its economy. The death count and air pollution could in turn cause panic all across the world. Many countries have been starting to develop ASAT systems including China who have developed a robotic weapon which can throw other satellites out of orbit. They claim that this weapon is only going to be used on their space stations but many countries are fearing that a “space war” could occur in the near future and that China is looking to destroy its enemies satellites in order for them to become superior in military power. Satellite Warfare is something that may never take place or it could wreak havoc on the world. Treaties are being made and countries are arguing about what regulations should be made. The main problem in the treaties banning nuclear weapons in space are that the United States won’t sign on as signatories. Due to the fact that the United States holds numerous nuclear weapons , and arguably having the strongest military in the world is most likely a reason for them not signing

the treaty, agreeing to the ban of nuclear weapons in outer space. Many countries feel threatened by the nuclear ammunition the United States holds, and therefore want them to sign the treaty so the public does not have to worry about a nuclear attack. Country sovereignty is something that also has an important hold on this issue. Many countries believe that if their satellites are being destroyed by other countries those countries are infringing upon country sovereignty.

Past UN Action

Due to the development of ASAT systems has happened mostly in the past couple of years the UN has taken much action on this issue. Now DISEC has approved some drafts for treaties/agreements and such as a starting point, but beyond these drafts nothing else has really happened.

Possible Solutions

The upcoming crisis in space is something all countries should be weary of. In order for peace to be sustained an agreement/new set of laws must be made in order to prevent a potential war in space. Each delegation should create specific solutions to combat the constant development of ASAT systems and make sure countries are not posing any nuclear threats from space. The delegates are expected to come up with interesting and original types of solutions to combat the issues at hand. A main point of emphasis should be set towards making some sort of international agreement between countries in the UN to not allow nuclear weapons in space. This should not be an entire solution but instead should be used to guide delegates into creating their

own interesting solutions. Another point of emphasis is using persuasive techniques to make countries obey the laws the UN decides to set on ASAT systems in space.

Questions to Consider

- Should the development of ASAT systems be supported?
- Does the destruction of satellites infringe a country's sovereignty?
- How can countries be incentivized to stop destroying other important satellites?
- How can treaties be improved upon to ensure no nuclear weapons become a threat in space?
- At what point does the Security Council need to take the destruction of satellites as a threat to peace?

TOPIC B: Use of Biological Weapons in Warfare

Background Information

Biological Warfare is the use of biological toxins or infectious agents such as bacteria, virus, and fungi with the intent to kill or incapacitate humans, animals, or plants as an act of war. BW requires a release of a small quantity of viable material that is capable of self-replication which later causes disease outbreak among any living organism, affecting the lives of many in the international community. During the past century, more than 500 million people have died of infectious diseases caused by Biological War, these diseases including; smallpox, plague, cholera, tularemia, and more. Viruses can be spread in a number of ways including aerosol sprays, explosive devices, food or water, and absorbed and injected into the skin cells which can



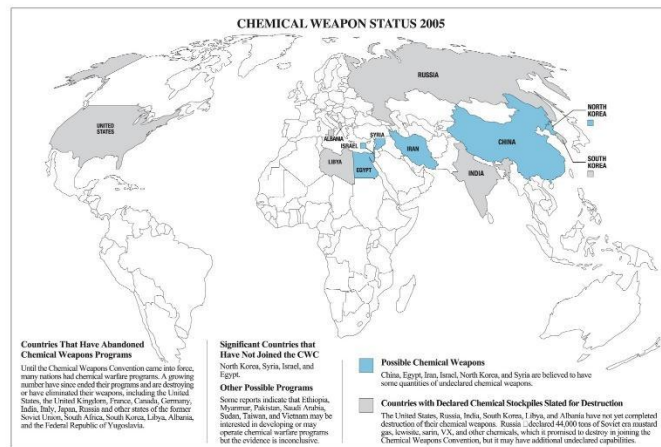
eventually flow through the bloodstream, intoxicating the host. The issue with BW is that it is incredibly cheaper for attacks than nuclear weapons and other expensive ammunition, meaning it is used more often, and can potentially almost do the same damage. BW was first commonly

used in the form of mustard gas, in the early 1900's during World War I to produce large numbers of casualties in order to gain international power and demonstrate political dominance during the war. In the past, BW has been shown as being a common war strategy since early days, when during the French and Indian War in the 18th century, British forces under the direction of Sir Jeffery Amherst gave blankets that had been used by smallpox victims to spread the disease to Native Americans, in order to take back territory previously owned by the Native Americans. Later in history during World War II, Japanese forces also operated a secret biological warfare research facility which carried out human experiments on prisoners which exposed more than 3,000 victims to plague, anthrax, and syphilis. The largest threat within BW is the access of terrorists that has developed over centuries. Today, less countries use BW for warfare, unplanned attacks by terrorists are now more common, making it incredibly hard to detect. Being that the government has a more difficult time tracking down and investigating situations due to the ability of terrorists to easily escape after a biological weapon has been released on the country attacked.

Current Situation

Biological War has not been consistently used since the time of World War II. Although this seems good, the issue now is that it is commonly used for terrorist attacks that a population in a country has no time to prepare for. BW is known for being undetectable and is usually unexpected, which unfortunately gives a nation little to no time to set up defense against the

attack. In addition, using technology such as gas masks and other prototypes is incredibly expensive to distribute to an entire country's population, leaving lesser developed countries more susceptible to these attacks, as they do not have money nor technology to protect themselves from biological weapons. Biological Warfare does not do harm to lesser developed countries, but it severely affects countries with higher populations, because if a virus is spread to one person, in a larger and more dense population the disease will be received quicker, spread, and cause more casualties. Also, BW is harmful to larger populations because it affects the vegetation and biology of a specific geographical area, meaning once certain virus are released, natural resources will be scarce which can potentially lead to starvation and many other detrimental consequences. BW is known to be more dangerous today because of the different bacterial states that have been developed through the use of newly discovered scientific and



technological advancements. Today, more diseases have been discovered, posing a potential threat, as many of bacteria within these diseases can be replicated indefinitely and used for Biological Warfare. Because BW is not prevalent today, if a country decided to use this as a war tactic, no one would be fully prepared for these asymmetric threats. Furthermore, new biological technologies including CRISPER can be used in potentially threatening ways in BW. CRISPER

also referred to as gene editing is incredibly dangerous because within technology advanced countries with CRISPER including Pakistan, North Korea, and the United States according to an article written by Loren Thompson in Forbes magazine titled “The Threat of Biological War Is Increasing”, “technologically advanced nations can fashion a microbe that mimics the transmissibility and lethality of smallpox with technology ordered online for less than \$200.” Although Biological Warfare is hardly used anymore, because of our ever so evolving technological community, threats of this strategy of warfare have become more serious.

Past UN Actions

In previous years, although there was no way to prevent countries from attacking another with their biological weapons, the UN (specifically UNODA) have done what they could to prevent BW from occurring. The first multilateral disarmament treaty was called the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) which banned the development, production, and stockpiling of all weapons that could create mass destruction; biological weapons being categorized within that sect. This multilateral treaty promoted cooperation and transparency between the international community, to ensure that zero attacks were being planned, and to ensure the proliferation of biological weapons was not occurring. The BWC treaty was then signed by multiple countries on April 10, 1972 and entered into force on March 29, 1975. Following the enforcement of this treaty, the second review conference was established in 1986,

when states' parties had to implement multiple numbers of confidence- building measures (CBM) to prevent the occurrence of doubts and suspicions to improve international transparency, and cooperation in the field of peaceful biological actions. After this had occurred, the states' parties were encouraged to provide annual reports using agreed forms on certain aspects of BWC including data on research being done in relation to biological advancements, information of supply of vaccine production, specific numbers on outbreak occurrences internationally that year, and more. Because the issue of BW has not been incredibly prevalent in years, the UN has decided to focus on other situations until new biological tools have been innovated to the point where they have the potential to cause destruction.

Possible Solutions

Although the UN can not fully prevent biological attacks from occurring, certain regulations can be installed to ensure that in the future, as the international community becomes more technologically advanced, these innovative tools are not used for destruction. It is imperative that possibly the UN proposes another and more multilateral treaty that adds on to the first treaty proposed; the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). Within this second treaty, the promotion of transparency will be necessary, with a crucial agreement stating that all countries must sign and help improve international cooperation within the field of peaceful biological actions. If their signature is broken the UNODA can have the jurisdiction to take away economical benefits. This second treaty can add a beneficial aspect to it as inspections of

countries containing biological weapons, where they must submit annual data and research regarding their biological advancements. A sub-sect of the UNODA can be created in order to send inspectors and gather prevalent and up to date data on progressive research a country is doing.

Questions to Consider

- How do densely populated countries with low-incomes protect against biological warfare without the money for technological advancements to buy protection during war?
- How have countries over time developed protection that ensures their safety from future biological attacks?
- What current solutions and treaties have been put in place in order to slow down the use of potential biological weapons in war?
- How has the use of gene editing like CRISPER- (being able to duplicate cells like viruses) created further problems and an increase of biological weapons/warfare?

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