Background Guide

DISEC

Disarmament and International Security Committee
LIMUN XXXII

Letter from the Chair

Dear Delegates,

My name is Jared Butler, and I will be your chair for the First General Assembly of the United Nations, the committee on Disarmament and International Security, at LIMUN XXXII. DISEC is far and away the best General Assembly in Model UN because its mission and topics strike at the core values of the United Nations as a whole. I am immensely excited to see you all delve into the topics I've chosen for you.

A brief aside about the topics: I get it. Having topics that don't seem immediately interesting to you or that may not seem as hot ticket as other possible topics can be initially frustrating. I debated for probably over 6 hours about a submarine proliferation topic in a DISEC committee and my country had never even owned one. With that in mind, I encourage you to look past the topics at surface level and pick out opportunities for interesting debate. Few GA topics are ever particularly interesting or fun at face value; however, it is in research and debate that they can be used as a conduit for you to express yourself. If you at all feel that your country has no position on a certain topic or you find it dumb or boring, I encourage you to do perhaps a little more research than you otherwise would so that in committee, you can make the topic your own. I ended up being a sponsor on a passing resolution for the submarine proliferation topic because I had done research on the implications of specific fissile nuclear technology that no one else in committee even knew was relevant. Topics are what you make them. Good luck in that regard!

With that out of the way, I genuinely can't wait to see what you guys have prepared for DISEC this year. I tried to pick topics of international relevancy that could also be interpreted in many various ways. With that in mind, I expect there to be many different – perhaps even conflicting – perspective and approaches to each topic. I encourage you to take risks and truly represent your country's views, even if

it dissents from the majority opinion. A delegate that works with the appropriate blocs, maintains their country's positions, is consistent in the measures they seek, and reinterprets the topic in a unique way is not only most likely to win awards but is the driving force behind the fun and positive interactions that can be gained from MUN. There's absolutely no way to have fun if you don't speak, but I am sure I won't have that issue from any of my distinguished delegates.

DISEC is the only GA that I've consistently participated in (barring that one time I did WHO *shudders*) and I can say without a doubt that you have every opportunity in the book to make this committee fun. With high stakes, polarizing, and universally relevant topics, DISEC has burrowed its way into my heart since my very first MUN experiences. My first ever LIMUN committee and my last LIMUN committee were both DISEC. I've seen everything from Syrian Hunger Games in Space to the careful delineation between various nuclear defense systems in the South China Sea. I am confident that this year will be just as if not more fun, educational, and positive as years past. With your help, I intend on making DISEC at LIMUN XXXII the best committee at the best conference in the state!

Good luck,

Jared Butler

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<u>Position Papers</u>

Position papers are my first introduction to you as a delegate. They are also a vital part in the awards consideration as they have their own award category, Best Position Paper, and must be completed for you to be eligible for any other awards. Outside of awards, the research that is require to complete position papers can be a necessary process for you to feel more comfortable in the beginning of committee and a valuable jumping off point for you to write working papers in committee. I encourage you not to ignore this opportunity to help me, you, and your fellow delegates have more informed debate. Below are some resources that can help you in writing. I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions about position papers or need any help writing yours.

UN Association of the USA – Guide:

http://www.unausa.org/global-classrooms-model-un/how-to-participate/model-un-preparation/position-papers

Best Delegate – Recommendations:

https://bestdelegate.com/how-to-write-a-winning-position-paper/

<u>Parliamentary Procedures</u>

Outside of being informed and participating in general, ParliPro is the most important and most special thing about MUN. You can argue for days, but ParliPro is the way that we will respectfully and effectively traverse debate. While LIMUN is largely educational, ParliPro will not be as strict as some other conferences; however, I will be thoroughly impressed if you decide to take the time to learn some of the intricacies of parliamentary procedure. Here are some resources to help:

LIMUN ParliPro:

https://www.limunconference.com/uploads/1/1/2/1/112115965/limun_rules_of_procedure.pdf

Best Delegate – Important Terms:

https://bestdelegate.com/model-un-made-easy-top-20-important-terms-to-know-in-committee/

History of Committee

When it was formed, the UN's purpose – as it is today – was to help prevent the horrible destruction, injustices, and death witnessed following World War II, or officially, "To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace..." To this end, DISEC was the first of 6 primary committees created.

DISEC was originally created as the Political and Security Committee; however, in the late 1970s, the committee was divided. The Political component was then delegated to another committee, eventually forming the Fourth Committee: Special Political and Decolonization (SPECPOL), and the Security component became the DISEC Committee in its current form. The Disarmament and International Security Committee works closely with two other bodies that deal with disarmament: the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Conference on Disarmament.

As the body focusing on the disarmament of nations, nongovernmental bodies, rogue states, insurgency groups, terrorist threats, irresponsible hostile belligerents, DISEC has the jurisdiction and the duty to help protect world peace, international security, and ultimately human life by means of trade regulation, official UN GA recommendations and suggestions, the creation of various subcommittees to carry out certain tasks, and making recommendations to other UN bodies such as the Security Council to further aid in the completion of its goals. By easing existing tensions, preempting threats to international peace and security, and increasing transparency and cooperation, the wide breath of DISEC topics can touch on a host of historically relevant, currently heated, or predicted future conflicts.

TOPIC A: Private Development of AI for Espionage and Warfare

Background:

Unmanned flight technology has been in development since the invention of airplanes by the Wright Brothers in 1903.[1] Since then, huge strides in flight, detection, and artillery have allowed unmanned drone strikes to become a predominant force in the modern battlefield. For decades, these drones have been remotely operated by highly trained operatives many miles away from the conflict region; however, recent military efforts have been made to increase the autonomy of drones further by outfitting them with Artificial Intelligence (AI) recognition software.[2] With this technology, drones will have the capability to pilot themselves, make critical search and destroy decisions, automatically recognize targets and target areas, and even execute elimination orders all without an actual soldier ever being involved. While a system with this level of autonomy is far off in the future and has a host of legal and ethical battles to win before its advent, the nascent technologies are already in development. What's more concerning is that these AI systems are largely not developed by the military itself, but is outsourced to the private sector.

For instance, in the US, recent controversy has surrounded the involvement of the private company, Google, in the US Department of Defense's Algorithmic Warfare Cross-Function Team, or Project Maven, a project that according to the DoD aims to develop and integrate "computer-vision algorithms needed to help military and civilian analysts encumbered by the sheer volume of full-motion video data that DoD collects every day in support of counterinsurgency and counterterrorism operations."[3] While in its current state, the AI that Google provides is a detection system that only traverses large amount of public data, Phase 2 of the project will aim toward "actionable intelligence and decision-quality insights at speed."[4] From this example, a clear trend can be seen: AI technology will serve a

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[1] History of Flying Machine - https://airandspace.si.edu/exhibitions/wright-brothers/online/fly/1903/
[2] History of Drone Technology - https://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/explainers/history-of-drone-warfare
[3] Project Maven - https://globalnews.ca/news/4125382/google-pentagon-ai-project-maven/
[4] Ibid.

critical role on the battlefields of tomorrow and the private sector will be a vital conduit by which such technologies are developed and implemented.

Committee Directive:

The advent of new warfare technologies is always a pressing, relevant, and sensitive subject for a supranational organization like the UN. It is important that in your research you focus not only on the implication of AI technology in drone strikes, but also in other areas of warfare such as sabotage, search and rescue missions, counter terrorism, and espionage. Should nations be able to use machine learning and AI to gain strategic advantages in diplomatic negotiations? To what extent can AI be useful in hostage negotiations and rescue missions? How can AI be used to track terrorist groups' movements and propaganda? How can AI be used as a tool for espionage and sabotage at various levels of government? All of these questions should be considered as you are researching your country's position and possible solutions that take into account both the possible harms and possible benefits of the large scale implementation of such technologies.

Another vital part of your consideration of this topic is the private sector involvement. Private firms are largely the backbone of modern arms manufacture as nations commonly form massive contracts with various companies for R&D, testing, and production. Should this precedent, which in itself is highly criticized for its monetization of war, be extended to highly advanced virtual systems. As warfare moves farther away from the trench warfare of old, remote technological solutions are replacing soldiers on a battlefield. What are some of the effects of the digitization of warfare and what can the UN do to assure that loss of life and destabilization of peace are minimized?

Below are some possible links that you may find helpful:

https://www.chathamhouse.org/sites/default/files/publications/research/2017-01-26-artificial-intelligence-future-warfare-cummings-final.pdf

https://www.defensenews.com/smr/munich-security-forum/2018/02/16/ai-warfare-is-coming-and-some-global-leaders-say-nato-isnt-ready/

https://www.wired.com/story/ai-could-revolutionize-war-as-much-as-nukes/

https://www.icrc.org/en/war-and-law/contemporary-challenges-for-ihl/privatization-war

https://defensesystems.com/articles/2017/02/27/codemil.aspx

TOPIC B: Managing fissile material and nuclear development

Background:

Fissile material is material capable of sustaining a nuclear fission chain reaction. These materials are any nuclides that can not only be made to undergo fission, but can surpass a critical energy and thus produce a neutron capable of sustaining a nuclear fission chain reaction under certain conditions. [1] Such materials are considered in a limited sense in the international peacekeeping community as fissionable materials in use for nuclear weapons or reactors. Such nuclides include Uranium-235, Plutonium-239, Plutonium-241, and Uranium-233 (these nuclides do not have a one hundred percent chance of undergoing a chain reaction if nuclear fission at all on absorption of a neutron). [2]

Regarding fissile materials, while they do have the astounding use cases in civil and research sectors, their use in nuclear warheads serves as a primary concern of the UN and various nuclear nonproliferation organizations. The International Atomic Energy Agency is an international organization that seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons. The International Energy Agency, established in 1957, was an originally autonomous organization created to encourage cooperation amongst member states to promote the safe, secure, and peaceful use of nuclear technologies through its treat, the IAEA Statute which has been amended three time since its original composition. The IAEA now reports to the UN GA and Security Council. [3] They have a myriad of policies and strategies for nuclear management with regards to radiation safety, nuclear technologies, nonproliferation, nuclear energy development, and various safeguard and peacekeeping initiatives. All of this serves to approach what is the basis of a very complex and nuanced issue: what place do fissile materials have in a modern, peaceful society and what can the UN do to maintain and manage that role?

[1] https://ieer.org/resource/factsheets/fissile-material-basics/
[2] http://www.kayelaby.npl.co.uk/atomic_and_nuclear_physics/4_7/4_7_1.html
[3] https://www.iaea.org/topics

Committee Directive:

Brief aside, I hate nuclear DISEC topics. Always have. I feel like they get too overplayed, too hyped, and always let down as they devolve into mindless attempts to bomb Country A or shoot all nukes into space or whatever other half-baked idea a delegate has to get awkward chuckles from his/her friends. For that reason, I made this topic purposefully broad. In the past, with a particular focus to nuclear weapons in and of themselves, I've seen delegates devolve quickly to the aforementioned mindlessness. With a more general topic like fissile materials, I expect debate to be more informed, more nuanced, and more varied. While many delegates will inevitably focus on nuclear weapons (as is most pressing for many countries) other delegates will tailor their solutions to the possible benefits and side use cases. To these delegates, I encourage new and innovated solutions and caution that you remain within the jurisdiction of not only the UN GA but of DISEC. We are about disarmament and international security, not civil energy development or environmental preservation.

It is important to not only consider the dangers and harms of fissile material and nuclear weapons but of all the existing treatises and precedents that have shaped our current nuclear landscape. Do not try to rewrite the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Do not try to recreate the IAEA. Think of new solutions to the current problems we have. Nuclear weapons have not been used in open conflict since World War II, so think more about the current geopolitical landscape and what uses they currently have and what risks that poses to international peace. Think also about now nuclear materials are used in other ways such as nuclear submarines or the development of full fuel cycles, a method of reprocessing spent fissile materials. With all these ways to approach the issue, be creative and come with new, innovative ideas. NO NUKES WILL BE DROPPED IN COMMITTEE! IT'S UNORIGINAL, UNINTERESTING, AND UNINSPIRED.

Below are some links that you may find helpful:

https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt/

https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/gadis3581.doc.htm

http://fissilematerials.org/blog/2018/09/un_high-level_fissile_mat.html

http://unidir.org/files/publications/pdfs/understanding-disarmament-no-1-en-509.pdf

https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/fmct

TOPIC C: Addressing Terrorism in Sub-Saharan Africa

Background:

Sub-Saharan Africa is the area of Africa south of the Sahara Desert. It contrasts greatly with the culturally Arab or Middle Eastern North Africa. With the most linguistic diversity in the world and a 2.3% growth rate, [1] the overpopulation and cultural divides have led to a region already steeped in tension and poverty: the breeding ground for terrorist groups and belligerent insurgents. With the attacks on U.S. embassies by Al-Qaeda forces in 1998, an era of terroristic rule began in the region that has yet to be holistically addressed and comprehensively solved. [2]

As the twentieth century came to a close, a wave of political instability followed toppled regimes, power vacuums, endemic high level corruption, and hostile foreign interests leading to the current landscape of Sub-Saharan Africa. As democratic governments were hindered or never develop at all and insurgency groups gained traction, terrorism was an inevitable side effect that has plagued the region. Sub-Saharan Africa has become a safe haven for several terrorist groups working either independently or in tandem resulting in a pressing global issue that threatens civilian life, geopolitical stability, and the future of the region as a whole. While groups like Al-Qaeda and Al-Shabaab have taken root in West and South Africa, they along with the ever present Boko Haram have become a growing violent force in the North have not only been the direct cause of destabilization in the region but have encouraged other jihadist groups to take root. With the number of terrorist incidents in the region growing from less than 400 in 2008 to nearly 1,200 by 2012, a clear trend toward increased terrorist activity can be seen. [3] With over a decade of struggle for many Sub-Saharan countries, resources, military, diplomatic negotiations, and attempts at systematic reform have all been exhausted and utter chaos has begun to spread.

[1] Sub-Saharan Africa - https://data.worldbank.org/region/sub-saharan-africa
[2] 1998 US Embassy Bombings - https://www.cnn.com/2013/10/06/world/africa/africa-embassy-bombings-fast-facts/index.html
[3] Increase in Terrorism - https://eastwest.eu/en/opinioni/sub-saharan-monitor/terrorism-since-2006-attacks-in-africa-increased-by-1-000

Committee Directive:

With this topic, a needle and a microscope will be far more useful and productive than a chainsaw and a magnifying glass. The chain reaction of foreign intervention and internal collapse that have led this region to this point must be acknowledged and analyzed with scrutiny for delegates to gain a complex understanding of the issue and its possible solutions. While it may be tempting to institute wide-reaching overarching counter-terrorist measures, specific attention to the causes of these developments will help make more lasting and effectual solutions. Committee jurisdiction, as ever, is vital in delegates' consideration of this topic as well. While it may seem easier to consider the region a monolith by which some standardized policy can be applied, there are over 46 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, all with varying degrees of development, governance, citizen compliance, and risk of terrorism. It is the job of DISEC to assure that international security is maintained by means of GA suggestions, formation of sub-committees, and other initiatives. Infringements on national sovereignty are specifically disallowed by the UN Charter and must be avoided at all cost when considering specific measures to address particular groups or mitigate their effects.

Delegates should consider than international intervention has had no large part in causing the current issue. Could further large scale intervention further destabilize the region? What are the effects of a UN initiative ten, twenty, fifty years in the future? It's important for delegates to consider the short and long term consequences of foreign intervention. Be careful not to assume that all UN policies on a given issue are absolute, are carried out in the way intended, or have the desired effect. Draft solutions that take into account possible pitfalls and preempts actions by the unregulated, highly covert terrorist groups operating in the area.

Below are some links that you may find helpful:

http://www.defenddemocracy.org/issues/sub-saharan-africa/

http://ojs.st-andrews.ac.uk/index.php/jtr/article/view/824/703

https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/news/region/africa/

https://www.csis.org/analysis/world-coming-sub-saharan-africa-where-united-states