



General Assembly First Committee:
Disarmament and International
Security

UGAMUNC 30

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Letter to the Delegates

Hello all,

My name is PJ Albenice and it is my pleasure to serve as your chair this weekend. I am a third-year Chemistry major with minors in Mathematics and International Affairs. Outside of MUN, I work in an Applied Physics laboratory on campus where I focus on radiation-blocking materials. This year I am serving as our team's Secretary-General. Previously I served as the Director-General for UGAMUNC (this position is currently occupied by Ava Byfield, who you all will eventually meet). This will be my eighth year of Model United Nations and the 31st conference I have participated in. It is my goal with this UGAMUNC to ensure that you find meaning in our debate and have fun while doing so. Furthermore, I hope that you actively learn during this weekend. This is, after all, a highly academic experience designed to immerse you in the world of International Policy. I encourage you to go all out—become your country and think in their best interests. You will find that this is the best way to enjoy your time here.

My name is Vikram Bharadwaj, and I am pleased to be your co-chair. I am a first-year majoring in both Political Science and Health Promotion with an intended minor in Public Health. This is my second year doing Model UN and my first year doing so at the collegiate level, and this will be the third conference I have attended. During this weekend, you all will be tasked with representing a country in the realm of international policy-making. Pull out all the stops! Try and empathize & understand how your nation would approach an issue. That being said, I hope you all will enjoy your time here at UGAMUNC. The time I have spent in MUN has without a doubt been one of the most memorable and enjoyable out of any other club or organization. MUN has been the bridge to many of the friends I have to this day, and I hope that you all will also pursue such connections. Thank you all for attending UGAMUNC 30, and please reach out to me or PJ if you have any questions!

This year's DISEC is sure to have lively debate and great resolutions. We truly hope you enjoy our offering of topics. Above all though, we hope they make you think and question the world around you. Please be respectful and keep in mind that millions of people are impacted by these topics every day. As UN representatives, we seek the collective good.

We want to thank all of you for attending our 30th iteration of UGAMUNC. Please reach out to me if you have any questions, we are always happy to provide resources. Keep in mind that position papers are required for DISEC. They are due **January 19th at 11:59 p.m.** via the emails provided below. Thank you, and good luck!

PJ Albenice

philip.albenice@uga.edu

Vikram Bharadwaj

vkb85367@uga.edu

Sensitivity Statement

As you research these topics and prepare to attend our conference, please remember to be respectful and mindful of different cultures, traditions, religions, and more. Here at the University of Georgia, we do not tolerate any form of discrimination. As a standard, follow the Western business attire dress code, do not imitate accents when speaking, and do not bring props. Treat your fellow delegates with the utmost respect, regardless of differences in ability, age, culture and ethnicity, gender identity, national origin, race, religion, and sexual orientation. Please keep this in mind, whether it's the ideas discussed during debate or the content of your papers.

Additionally, cheating by pre-writing or other measures such as the use of AI (ChatGPT, Google Bard, Grammarly AI, etc.) will not be allowed, as it not only provides certain delegates with unfair advantages, but also takes away from the passion, personality, and effort that each delegate puts into their ideas and works. Although this is a technology committee, the use of AI to write position papers, speeches, or papers in committee is strictly forbidden. In short, please conduct yourself in a respectful and professional manner. If instances of racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia, etc. ever arise during committee, please let us know so that we can handle the situation and create a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. Furthermore, if our staff determine that you have violated our code of conduct, or that you have committed any aforementioned forbidden activities such as prewriting, accent imitation, or racism, we reserve the right to disqualify you from UGAMUNC 30.

DISEC: History and Purpose

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) stands as one of the six main committees within the United Nations General Assembly, playing a pivotal role in addressing global security challenges through diplomacy and multilateral cooperation. Founded in the aftermath of World War II, DISEC's historical trajectory is marked by its unwavering commitment to fostering peace, disarmament, and international security.

DISEC's origins can be traced back to the establishment of the United Nations in 1945. As the horrors of global conflict were still fresh in the world's memory, the UN sought to prevent future wars by promoting disarmament and international security. DISEC emerged as a response to the pressing need for a platform where member states could collaborate, negotiate arms control agreements, and address security concerns. In the post-World War II era, DISEC focused on preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons and mitigating the Cold War tensions between the United States and the Soviet Union.

In the contemporary landscape, DISEC continues to tackle a diverse array of challenges ranging from nuclear disarmament to cyber warfare and terrorism. Recent years have seen significant achievements, such as the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in 2017, showcasing the committee's dedication to disarmament efforts. Additionally, DISEC has played a crucial role in addressing emerging threats, including the rise of non-state actors and the development of autonomous weapons systems. The committee serves as a forum where nations collaborate, sharing intelligence, strategies, and best practices to enhance global security measures.

Looking ahead, DISEC faces unprecedented challenges in an increasingly complex world. The proliferation of advanced technologies, coupled with regional conflicts and political tensions, necessitates innovative and cooperative approaches to disarmament and international security. The committee's future lies in strengthening existing treaties, forging new agreements, and addressing gaps in international law. Furthermore, DISEC must adapt to address evolving threats, such as the ethical implications of artificial intelligence in warfare and the militarization of outer space.

In the coming years, DISEC's role is poised to expand as it embraces a more comprehensive understanding of security, encompassing not only traditional military threats but also economic, environmental, and humanitarian challenges. By fostering dialogue, encouraging transparency, and promoting trust-building measures among nations, DISEC will continue to be a beacon of hope in a world striving for lasting peace and global security. As the international community navigates the uncertainties of the future, DISEC stands ready to shape a safer world through diplomacy, collaboration, and shared commitment to the ideals of the United Nations.

Topic A: State-Sponsored Violence: Instability and Development

History and Implications

State-sponsored violence (SSV) in the modern era has grown from simple funding and sponsorship of groups to advanced and calculated efforts that elevate a given platform. Additionally, it comes in many forms. Whether it be a coordinated campaign led by a government (like the Rwandan Genocide) or government-backed groups acting with the funding and guidance of a state (like the National Liberation Front of South Vietnam, aka “Viet Cong”), the growth of state-sponsored violence has taken a toll on governmental stability and development.¹

There is not a catch-all explanation or definition for “State-Sponsored Violence.” Many ideas in this realm are highly disputed with no clear international consensus. For example, there is debate on whether indirect support of SSV counts as SSV itself. Is the United States’s support of the Afghan Mujahideen with weapons and training an instance of SSV? It is a fact that the weapons provided to the Mujahideen movement ended up in the hands of extremist organizations. The United States’s support of the movement has also had lasting effects on stability because of its direct support of a movement with no clear future or resolution. According to the US Department of State, it was not the intention of the United States of America to progress extremist groups or provide them with any sort of leverage.² Still, the decision had lasting impacts that affect millions to this day.

Less obvious is the importance of considering ‘violence’ in a more modern sense. Could an economic sanction be considered an act of violence? It certainly could result in death and government instability. This is a very general and surface-level posit, but it should serve as a basis for thinking deeper into violence as we know it.³

Instability in countries has a profound and detrimental impact on their development, creating a vicious cycle of political unrest, economic volatility, and social upheaval. This cycle hampers sustainable development by deterring investors, stalling infrastructure projects, and undermining educational systems, which leaves the workforce undereducated and unskilled. Basic services like healthcare and sanitation also suffer, resulting in a decline in citizens' overall quality of life. State-sponsored violence exacerbates this instability, instilling fear and distrust among citizens, hindering active participation in developmental processes, and fostering long-term resentment and societal divisions.⁴ Furthermore, war, whether internal or external,

¹“State Sponsors of Terrorism.” U.S. Department of State. Accessed October 19, 2023. <https://www.state.gov/state-sponsors-of-terrorism/>.

² Encyclopaedia Britannica. “Mujahideen: Afghani Rebels.” <https://www.britannica.com/topic/mujahideen-Afghani-rebels>.

³ “Economic Warfare.” Encyclopaedia Britannica. Accessed October 19, 2023. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/economic-warfare>.

⁴ “State Sponsors of Terrorism.” U.S. Department of State. Accessed October 19, 2023. <https://www.state.gov/state-sponsors-of-terrorism/>.

amplifies these challenges by destroying infrastructure, displacing populations, diverting resources away from social welfare, and leaving behind lasting scars such as landmines and environmental degradation. The people of the world deserve sustainable development as outlined by the Millennium Development Goals, and this is being hampered by SSV.⁵ It is important for delegates to focus specifically on how SSV affects instability and development, and furthermore, how to counteract it. It is not within DISEC's purview to pass resolutions focused on development or government unless they are through the lens of disarmament or security. The delegates should specifically focus on this cycle described above that we see time and time again in history.

Case Study - Lebanese Civil War

The Lebanese Civil War, spanning from 1975 to 1990, serves as a poignant case study of how state-sponsored violence escalated internal conflicts, leading to a protracted period of devastation and upheaval. External actors, including Iran, Israel, and Syria played significant roles in fueling the conflict, exacerbating sectarian tensions, and prolonging the war.⁶

In Lebanon, various factions that engaged in brutal violence against each other and against civilians were funded and armed by the Lebanese government and external states. These factions, often representing different religious and political groups, committed atrocities that deepened social fractures and perpetuated a cycle of vengeance and violence. The allegiances of each faction/militia are confusing, as they changed over time, but it is important to note each was primarily backed by either Lebanon or an external state, as the Lebanese military at that point was in a state of instability.⁷ State-sponsored violence, channeled through these external actors, pushed the Lebanese Civil War into deeper depths of brutality and complexity. The war became not just a struggle for power among Lebanese factions but also a battleground for regional influence, where external states manipulated internal conflicts to serve their geopolitical interests. This interference prolonged the conflict, hindered peace initiatives, and left a lasting scar on Lebanon's social fabric.

The Lebanese Civil War stands as a stark reminder of the devastating consequences when external powers exploit internal divisions. Lebanon is still reeling from the effects of sanctions and infighting. There is continuous instability as well in the government, with the presidency currently being vacant. It underscores the urgency of fostering diplomacy, promoting internal reconciliation, and preventing external interference to ensure lasting peace within nations. Only

⁵ United Nations. "Millennium Development Goals." <https://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>.

⁶ "Historiography and Memory: Lebanese Civil War." Sciences Po Mass Violence and Resistance - Research Network. Accessed October 19, 2023.

<https://www.sciencespo.fr/mass-violence-war-massacre-resistance/fr/document/historiography-and-memory-lebanese-civil-war.html>.

⁷ "Lebanese Civil War." Encyclopaedia Britannica. Accessed October 19, 2023.

<https://www.britannica.com/summary/Lebanese-Civil-War>.

through these efforts can societies move beyond the destructive legacy of state-sponsored violence and pave the way for a more stable and harmonious future.

Past Actions Taken by the UN

The United Nations has actively intervened in cases of state-sponsored violence, working towards peace, stability, and development. Notably, DISEC has facilitated peace talks and supported resolutions in conflict regions. For instance, DISEC helped broker negotiations between the Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) in the Colombian peace process, leading to a landmark peace agreement in 2016.⁸ DISEC also played a crucial role in the Sudanese peace talks, aiding the peaceful separation of South Sudan from Sudan in 2011.

Furthermore, DISEC's efforts have led to specific resolutions, such as the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), aimed at regulating the international arms trade to prevent weapons from falling into the hands of state-sponsored violent actors.⁹ DISEC has also advocated for conflict-affected nations' socio-economic development, emphasizing good governance and human rights. By combining diplomacy, conflict resolution, and development initiatives, DISEC and the UN system have made significant strides in curbing state-sponsored violence and promoting stability and growth in affected regions.

Persisting Issues

Persistent challenges arising from state-sponsored violence continue to hinder development in conflict-affected regions. Infrastructure destruction, including vital transportation networks and utilities, obstructs post-conflict reconstruction efforts and economic growth. The displacement of populations due to violence creates refugee crises, straining resources in host countries and impeding social and economic development.¹⁰ Prolonged conflicts disrupt education systems, limiting access to quality education and hindering future economic prospects, especially for children. Economic instability ensues as conflicts disrupt trade, investment, and employment opportunities, deterring both domestic and foreign investments. Healthcare services are severely impaired, leading to inadequate access to medical facilities and treatments, resulting in increased disease prevalence and higher mortality rates, directly impacting overall development.

⁸ "FARC Rebels Complete Disarmament in Colombia." The New York Times. June 27, 2017. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/06/27/world/americas/colombia-farc-rebels-disarmament.html>.

⁹"The Arms Trade Treaty." Accessed October 19, 2023. <https://thearmstradetreaty.org/>.

¹⁰ United Nations. "General Assembly." Accessed October 19, 2023. <https://www.un.org/en/ga/>.

Questions to Consider

1. How has violence evolved over the past 50 years?
2. What are the lasting effects of war/violence and how do they influence the development of a state?
3. What roles do foreign governments play in regional conflicts?
4. What mechanisms exist currently to hold states accountable for State-Sponsored Violence?

Topic B: Artificial Intelligence as a Weapon

History and Implications

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a computer program designed to mimic human intelligence. AI cannot develop itself naturally, thus any and all applications of AI must be done with the express intent of whoever is creating the program. AI is useful in many capacities, with important applications in healthcare, marketing algorithms, and other fields with large amounts of data. However, concern has been raised about the rapidly developing abilities of AI and its potential threat to the integrity of systems as well as the jobs for the people who run them. Even with relatively few errors on a larger scale, AI still poses a threat to the state of global security with the development of multiple different programs by many states across the globe.¹¹

Artificial intelligence (AI) has long been thought of as being a threat to humanity. Theories of the weaponization of such intelligence have been the focus of the media for decades before AI was a realistic concept, yet the modern-day applications of AI make some of those works of fiction seem small-scale in application. With the use of AI as a tool of training to the increased development and proliferation of unmanned drones capable of taking out targets autonomously, AI is creating a new way of war.¹² Yet, AI is not only being used on this front. More commonly, AI is being used to scan through terabytes of satellite data in order to identify possible military outposts¹³.

This form of intelligence gathering is rather threatening to the very nature of state secrets, as AI is able to comb through multiple weeks' worth of data in a matter of a few hours with near pin-point accuracy¹⁴. The rapid increase in intelligence-gathering capabilities poses a significant threat to nations that cannot afford to invest in programs like the recent \$130.1 billion expansion of AI understanding and infrastructure in the US¹⁵.

What is most concerning is the creation of completely AI-powered military powers that reduce the impact on human soldiers¹⁶. This creation of a surrogate army that would fight battles for their respective nations brings into question the very meaning of such a war or war in general.

¹¹ "What Is Artificial Intelligence (AI)? - AI Definition and How It Works." Accessed October 19, 2023. <https://www.techtarget.com/searchenterpriseai/definition/AI-Artificial-Intelligence#:~:text=Artificial%20intelligence%20is%20the%20simulation>.

¹² "AI Weapons' in China's Military Innovation." Brookings, Accessed October 19, 2023. <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/ai-weapons-in-chinas-military-innovation>.

¹³ PBS NewsHour. "How Militaries Are Using AI on and off the Battlefield." Accessed October 19, 2023. <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/how-militaries-are-using-artificial-intelligence-on-and-off-the-battlefield#:~:text=AI%20is%20being%20used%20to,enemy%20faster%20and%20more%20accurately>.

¹⁴ Stanford HAI. "Re-Imagining Espionage in the Era of Artificial Intelligence." Accessed October 19, 2023. <https://hai.stanford.edu/news/re-imagining-espionage-era-artificial-intelligence>.

¹⁵ U.S. GAO. "How Artificial Intelligence Is Transforming National Security." Accessed October 19, 2023. <https://www.gao.gov/blog/how-artificial-intelligence-transforming-national-security>.

¹⁶ "Army Hopes AI Will Give Soldiers An Information Advantage." Accessed October 19, 2023. <https://www.nationaldefensemagazine.org/articles/2023/7/21/army-hopes-ai-will-give-soldiers-an-information-advantage>.

Can we truly enter battle when there is no true loss scenario? What meaning do AI deaths have, if any?

The ethical question of AI truly begins to arise when we start to consider its impact on war in general. These AI would function as an army designed to listen to commands without any ability to resist¹⁷. However, with non-state actors having larger roles in recent conflicts, the proliferation of such an army by non-state actors becomes increasingly concerning.

Simply put, the speed at which these technologies are being developed and proposed for military uses is disconcerting, threatening the very precarious balance of current global affairs. While it is important to consider the various approaches different governments have to AI, It is not within DISEC's purview to pass resolutions focused on development or government unless they are through the lens of disarmament or security.

Case Study - MQ-9 Reaper Drone

Created by General Atomics, the MQ-9 is a Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) capable of conducting missions across the globe. In December 2020, the Pentagon's Joint Artificial Intelligence Center awarded General Atomics with a contract to equip the drone with new AI technology¹⁸. Now while RPA's have been used by various governments for years now, these drones have not been able to fire without the human pilot. This is no longer the case. The MQ-9 Reaper can autonomously identify and engage targets with precision-guided missiles Utilizing AI and image recognition technology, the drone is said to differentiate between combatants and civilians. However, with modern wars making it more difficult than ever for soldiers to determine the difference between non-combatants and combatants, can we rely on AI to discern it for us? The usage of AI in the case of the MQ-9 Reaper drone raises ethical concerns regarding the potential for automated, unaccountable, and indiscriminate killing, as well as questions about human control and accountability in autonomous weapon systems. Who can be held accountable for a rogue drone? Is it the responsible government, their military, or the team coding the drone?

The threat created by such a drone is incomprehensible. A government is able to conduct military operations halfway around the world with practically no threat to itself. Being able to do this poses a further threat to global security, especially when you consider that the MQ-9 is capable of autonomously taking out targets. The potential for governments to effectively start sending out AI-powered "hitmen" is a real and dangerous possibility, and must be considered when discussing the utilization of AI within the military and, by extension, warfare.

The creation of the AI-armed MQ-9 Reaper Drone is just the start. Governments across the world have started to integrate artificial intelligence with their own weapons **and** defense

¹⁷ Morgan, Forrest E., Benjamin Boudreaux, Andrew J. Lohn, Mark Ashby, Christian Curriden, Kelly Klima, and Derek Grossman, *Military Applications of Artificial Intelligence: Ethical Concerns in an Uncertain World*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2020. https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR3139-1.html. Also available in print form.

¹⁸ Hambling, David. "U.S. To Equip MQ-9 Reaper Drones With Artificial Intelligence." *Forbes*, December 11, 2020. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidhambling/2020/12/11/new-project-will-give-us-mq-9-reaper-drones-artificial-intelligence/?sh=49521d8a7a8e>.

systems. Famously, the Israeli Iron Dome system employs artificial intelligence to prevent foreign missile attacks¹⁹. Does the inclusion of AI in the defense system of a country make up for the threat it creates to others? What is to stop a country from turning its own AI defenses into a tool of battle?

Past Actions Taken by the UN

Previously the Security Council has been briefed on the “potential threats to international peace, security and global stability because of its unpredictability and possible misuse”²⁰. However, this idea of AI being a threat to global peace and security has largely been disregarded by members of the global south, particularly with AI’s potential to uplift economies and bring these countries to the same level as Western powers. What is extremely important to understand as it regards previous UN actions, particularly the Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence, is that there has been little to no real acknowledgment by the UN of the concept of AI as a weapon. With this in mind, what can DISEC do to help combat the usage of AI as a means of warfare and warfare preparation?

Persisting Issues

The biggest issue with the creation of these AI-related military technologies is the amount of money the individual states have to spend on such methods. Typically countries of the global north can pour money into these endeavors while countries of the global south are unable to. This disparity creates a larger problem as the threat of an artificial intelligence-fueled war looms. Would it be right to fight a war in which the poorer side loses men, while the richer side loses tech? Can you even call that a war?

Questions to Consider

1. What is the role of AI in modern warfare and what are the ethical dilemmas it poses?
2. What are the potential consequences of AI-driven warfare on civilian populations?
3. Should there be a global treaty specifically addressing the development and deployment of AI weapons, similar to the Chemical Weapons Convention or the Ottawa Treaty on Landmines?

¹⁹ Global Affairs and Strategic Studies. “. Global Affairs and Strategic Studies. Facultad de Derecho.” Accessed October 19, 2023.

<https://www.unav.edu/web/global-affairs/detalle/-/blogs/an-assessment-on-israel-s-iron-dome-defense-system#:~:text=Implementing%20artificial%20intelligence%20technology%2C%20the,defensive%20launches%20to%20a%20minimum.>

²⁰ Peltz, Jennifer. “AI Is on the World’s Mind. Is the UN the Place to Figure out What to Do about It? | AP News.” AP News, Accessed October 19, 2023.

<https://apnews.com/article/united-nations-artificial-intelligence-general-assembly-b9ef875a98e7d6ceb8d4c61b1cbb904#:~:text=Security%20Council%20in%20July%20that,the%20risks%20and%20opportunities%20lie.>

4. What mechanisms can be put in place to verify compliance with any international agreements related to AI weapons?