




*Boston University Academy Model United Nations Conference III
Saturday, January 31 to Sunday, February 1, 2015
Boston University Academy
Boston, MA*



***Disarmament and
International Security
Committee (DISEC)
General Assembly
Background Guide***

A welcome from the chairs

Hello delegates!

Our names are David Giliver and William Jurayj, and we will be your co-chairs for BUAMUN 2015. This committee will be simulating the Disarmament and International Security (DISEC) General Assembly. DISEC is the First Committee in the United Nations, so its influences and interests are of paramount importance.

Whether you are a MUN veteran or a newbie, we hope you are all psyched to be a part of BUAMUN this year. We know that conferences can be scary, overwhelming, or totally confusing, but we will do everything to make this experience as enjoyable and fun as possible for you guys. Of course, if this isn't your first MUN experience, then you will have a head start. Either way, we will try to make your BUAMUN experience as great as possible. Everyone will leave this committee a little more knowledgeable of some of the world's major issues, diplomacy, and Model UN in general.

In the meantime, we suggest that in addition to reading this excellently planned guide, you should all research your topics, your country's stances, and other countries' stances. It never hurts to be overly prepared for a conference. This will help you participate in debate, introduce original thoughts and ideas, and, most importantly, expect the unexpected.

Your new best friends,

David Giliver and Will Jurayj

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Position Paper Information

Each delegate must write one position paper per topic (yes, that's two in total). A position should be approximately one page long. The position papers should not be written in first person, but rather from your country's point of view. General Assembly position papers are usually structured the following way: header, overview of issue, what has already been done, what your country plans to do. IMPORTANT: if you use outside sources in your position paper, you *must* cite them. If you do not cite and end up plagiarizing, then you will not be eligible for any awards in the committee. A good position paper is researched and concise, so those are the main things you should keep in the back of your head when writing.

Please include the following information in the header of your position paper: your name, your school/delegation, the name of the committee, your country's name, and the topic of the paper.

Committee Information

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) is given its powers by Chapter IV, Article 11, Sub-article 1 of the United Nations Charter, which states that the General Assembly “may consider the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, including the principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments, and may make recommendations with regard to such principles to the Members or to the Security Council or to both.”¹ This means that DISEC does not possess the power to pass treaties, laws, policies, and so on. It can, however, suggest and recommend *potential* ones; the legislative power of the committee is limited to recommending resolutions to

¹ <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/>

the Security Council and countries, where the resolutions will be voted on. They are subject to the rules of the Council, such as the veto rights of the United States of America, the Russian Federation, the People's Republic of China, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the French Republic. These nations are sometimes called the Power 5 (P5).

Though DISEC's legislative powers are limited to giving suggestions, it is still one of the most influential committees in the General Assembly. Its actions and recommendations are moved directly up to the Security Council, which has authoritative power to put DISEC's suggestions into action. DISEC's job, as the name 'Disarmament' suggests, is to regulate the weaponry that different nations are able to possess and distribute. This extends from ensuring that certain states do not obtain nuclear weapons to managing the illegal transport of small firearms. The committee's lack of executive power combined with the P5's ability to veto any Security Council resolution does not make passing a useful resolution impossible, simply more difficult. A successful resolution must make enough changes to solve a problem, but must be benign enough that the Security Council can pass it.

Topic 1: Drone Usage and Regulation

A drone is "an aircraft with no pilot on board, which can be remote controlled from the ground or can fly autonomously based on pre-programmed flight plans or more complex dynamic automation systems."² The earliest account of the usage of autonomous drones dates back to 1849, when Austrian forces sent unmanned balloons to attack Venice. The Allies developed further drone technology during World War I, in order to combat the Central Powers.

² <http://www.theuav.com/>

The advancements over the years in drone research have made drones ubiquitous in modern militaries around the world.

Understandably, many nations including the United States, Israel, China, and even Bolivia have developed drones and implemented their use in order to minimize friendly soldier casualties, increase payload accuracy, and conduct surveillance. Recently, however, the moral implications of using unmanned instruments of war, whether in lethal or non-lethal contexts, have come to light. Iran has given drones to Syria for rebel monitoring and eradication, China uses drones to spy on Japan near the Senkaku Islands, and the US often unintentionally kills civilians in the Middle-East during its anti-terrorist campaigns.³

Assassinations in or by countries that have enacted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) are illegal. Article XI of the UDHR states that “everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.”⁴ Furthermore, according to article X, “everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.”⁴ When everyone is “innocent until proven guilty”⁴, and can only be proven guilty by a “fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal”, it is impossible to take away their inalienable right to life, given to them by article III of the UDHR.

The laws of the UDHR can be suspended in times of armed conflict, when soldiers are eradicating an imminent, existing, and deadly threat to themselves and others. The use of a drone in this situation assumes one of two possibilities: either the drone users either have given the victim of the strike a fair trial, which is almost never true, and deemed them guilty; or the drone

³ <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2014/apr/24/obama-in-japan-backs-status-quo-in-island-dispute-with-china>

⁴ <http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/>

is acting in self-defense, in immediate defense of friendly troops, or in the defense the human rights of civilians in an enforcement of the UDHR. While the last option listed increases the number of potential drone targets, it does not allow an assassination. The use of a drone to eliminate a potential threat is actually the second possibility for their use: the targets are marked as future threats, and the drones as preemptively eliminating a threat. It should be noted that not all countries have signed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and that some interpret it differently. Be sure to understand how your country understands and regards the UDHR.

Militaries leading the front of drone advancement and technology must keep in mind how drones are used worldwide, not just by the United States, and how they affect international diplomacy.

The United States claims to use drones as precise killing weapons, often without violating international human rights or humanitarian law. This is because the Obama administration targets Taliban and al-Qaeda forces in a time of armed conflict. The United States government does, however, also target and eliminate threats in Yemen and Somalia.⁵ The Obama administration offers vague and ambiguous justifications for these killings, which makes it easier for countries with quickly growing drone programs to interpret these uncertainties in a way that can lead to major international violations.

As well as engaging in combat, drones can be used as stealth intelligence gatherers. Countries and groups can use unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to spy on enemies without being caught. The laws of the United Declaration of Human Rights, however, also protect a person's and a sovereign nation's right to privacy. The document states, "No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such

⁵ <http://www.americansecurityproject.org/asymmetric-operations/the-strategic-effects-of-a-lethal-drones-policy/>

interference or attacks.”³ Spying is in direct violation of the Declaration, and can cause conflict on an international level. Delegates should try to figure out a way to regulate the use of drones so that nations do not breach the privacy of another nation’s government and people. You should also try to figure out a way to regulate the monitoring of people on a local level without violating national sovereignty.

In this committee, we will be focusing on the regulatory policies associated with drones. In particular we will attempt to achieve resolutions on the following sub-topics: anti-terrorism programs and methods, invasions of privacy, and appropriate domestic use of drones.

Questions to Consider:

- What are the moral and ethical implications of using drones?
- What is your country’s stance on the use of drones, and what are your justifications for your position?
- Should the UN adjust its Charter so that drone use would be legal under international law?
- What determines whether or not a drone is used “appropriately”?
- How should the UN plan to regulate and enforce the aforementioned “appropriate usage” of drones?
- Do drone strikes motivate people to become terrorists? (i.e. do drones create more terrorists than they eliminate?)
- Given that positions in organizations, such as al-Qaeda, can be replaced quite easily, does targeting members of these organizations with drones help undermine them *sufficiently*?
- Do the assassinations make martyrs?

Bloc Positions:

USA, France, Russia, China, UK, Israel, Germany

Drones make your job easier because when you make an attack they are more precise and don't risk anything. However, if they are shot down, terrorists or rogue nations or middle easterners could commandeer them and use them against you.

Iran, Syria, Turkey, Iraq

You use drones to kill/monitor rebel/opposition forces for national security reasons. Be sure to know where your drones come from: if you developed the technology or if it was given to you by another nation.

Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia

Drones can kill hundreds of your men really quickly and they frequently kill civilians in your cities. They are commandeered by terrorist organizations, (which threaten everyone including you).

Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama, Peru,

Venezuela

Several of your countries use drones as surveillance tools to find illegal drug producers. Also, some countries use them for post disaster reconstruction. Also, they are used to stop drug trafficking in Ecuador and Colombia and to attack gorillas in Colombia. Mexico uses them also to fight organized crimes, especially drug cartels.

Somalia, Mali, Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Sudan

Several of your countries use drones for surveillance, but the UN uses drones in peacekeeping missions in Africa. Also, the US and other countries conduct terrorist eradication efforts on within your borders -- particularly Somalia.

Canada, India, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Ukraine

You're looking to incorporate drone programs into your militaries if you have not done so already. Your fledgling UAV strategies should focus on how you plan to use drones: for domestic use, for international use, or for both? Use other countries' past military drone-integration programs as a model for your own.

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Topic 2: Trafficking and Trade of Small Arms in Latin America

Introduction

The distribution of small arms and weapons in Central and South America is a serious issue. The 4.9 billion dollars that these regions spend annually on weapons go almost entirely towards the purchase of small arms as opposed to larger weapons, such as tanks, thus fuelling massive amounts of criminal violence and civil wars involving guerrilla tactics.¹ In response to this problem, we will be discussing the regulation of the firearm trade, as well as ways to minimize and contain the illegal arms industry.

While most people in developed countries are more concerned about the trade and trafficking of larger arms, such as nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons, small arms fuel major conflicts in less developed areas of the world. Small forces waging guerrilla warfare often are the chief buyers of small arms. Most of these buyers are involved in major drug cartels, organized crime, or the black market, which is clearly a violation of law on national and international levels. Understandably, once these weapons are in the hands of the aforementioned organizations, they are used for crime, local and global terrorism, and the general destabilization of already unstable countries. Other political and social factors (like poverty, tyranny, corruption, etc.) already create a conflict; small arms only cause escalations in the conflicts.

South and Central American Violent Crime

These small arms are commonly smuggled into Latin American countries, and the rate at which they are smuggled is only increasing - and so are the killings. Between 2007 and 2008 alone, the number of gun deaths in Latin America and the Caribbean has increased by over 50%.² In Honduras, the death rate caused by firearms is 64.8 per 100,000 citizens every year, totaling

almost 7,000 homicides in 2013.³ In the same year in Venezuela, over 24,000 murders occurred.⁴ Thirteen out of the top twenty countries in the world with the highest death rates from firearms are in Latin America. Moreover, an average of 67% of the homicides in these countries are committed using firearms, more than three times the average in Central Europe.⁵ In particular, Mexican and Colombian drug cartels have caused trouble in their respective countries. The constant trafficking and importation of drugs and small arms fuels the ruthlessness of the cartels. Most of the weapons that the cartels use come from the United States. In fact, 87% of the firearms used by the Mexican cartel are of US production, and most smuggling occurs from neighboring countries.⁶ This is the case with many of the Latin American countries; a large percentage of them import guns from the US, but the weapons end up in black markets. From there, the small arms go into the hands of the cartels across Latin America.

Previous International Efforts to Reduce Illegal Arms Trafficking

Steps have been taken to diminish or even end this violence. The UN General Assembly has adopted the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which regulates the international trade of all weapons from tanks to firearms.⁷ In an effort to avoid infringing upon nations' sovereignty, this treaty holds no sway on the domestic trade of arms. Although one hundred twenty-one countries have signed it and fifty-six have ratified it, but the ATT has not been entered into force yet.⁸ In addition, the Inter American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and other Related Materials (CIFTA), ratified in every country in North and South America except for the USA, Canada, and Jamaica, sets standard guidelines regarding illegal small arms, such as requiring states to confiscate illegal weapons and insisting that nations make the illicit manufacture of small arms a federal crime.^{9,10} It requires manufacturers to label firearms with their name and a serial number to make identifying illegal

arms easier. In addition, states must maintain security at export points to eliminate illegal firearms exports, as well control the delivery of firearms to their countries. Finally, to help regulate ratified state's participation, any offense against the CIFTA can be reviewed by an international authority.

Questions to Consider:

- How can these incitements be stopped before further conflict ensues?
- How should the rate of tracking and trading of illicit arms in Latin America be decreased?
- What are the catalysts that instigate the smuggling and importation in general?
- Should the UN focus on the prevention of future small arms trafficking or focus on the current situation in Latin America?
- Should more border control be implemented?
- What needs to be done in order to prevent the weapons from entering black markets?
- How will the treaties discussed affect it? How can they be improved?

Bloc Positions:

China, Russia, Ukraine

You produce massive amounts of small arms annually, often fuelling conflicts. Neither of you voted for the ATT, because regulation on this industry costs you money. Thus, although you both want to keep a positive public image, keep in mind that any resolution requiring countries to decrease and regulate their firearm industry will damage your trade.

Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Venezuela

Many illegal drug trafficking routes run through your nations, and major cartels are often situated in these regions. These cartels can weaken the governments of the regions. In addition, resistances using guerilla warfare exist. Thus, you are making efforts to stop illegal arms trafficking. More help is useful to you so long as it does not interfere with your national sovereignty.

France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Japan, United Kingdom, South Korea

Many of your countries have heavy restrictions on private firearm acquisition. From an ethical and humanitarian standpoint, these illegal firearms are causing deaths in the Americas, and the drug cartels are damaging conventional lifestyles in these regions. Thus, you want to decrease these industries. However, be sure to stay aware of any costs that proposed regulations will impose on your countries.

United States, Canada

Neither of you have ratified the CIFTA, although this is mainly due to logistical problems with the Convention. Illegal drugs are imported to both of your countries using these weapons from Central American cartels, and the regulation of small arms would reduce the importation of these drugs.

Afghanistan, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Mali, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Syria, Turkey, India

Although this conference mainly focuses on arms trafficking in South and Central America, firearm trafficking in this region of the world is also a major issue. Because many of your countries have rebellions or warlords using illegal arms to weaken the government, monetary aid from external sources to stop the illicit arms trade is useful to you.

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