DISMUN 2025-2026 | UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

STUDY GUIDE 2025-2026

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL BACKGROUND GUIDE 2025-2026

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2025-26 Diyafah International Model United Nations Conference (DISMUN-Abu Dhabi)! We are pleased to welcome you to the Security Council. This year's Chair is Sim Rui Ying, who is currently in Year 13. This year's Deputy-Chair is Vana Babekian, who is currently in Year 13.

The topic under discussion for the Security Council is:
   - International Peace and Security and the Use of Artificial Intelligence

The Security Council is comprised of five permanent members and ten non-permanent members. The five permanent members of the Security Council are China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America.

We hope our delegates can utilise this background guide, as it introduces the topics for this committee. We urge you all to recognise that this guide is not meant to replace further research. We highly encourage in-depth research into your member state's policies and the use of the annotations to further your knowledge on these topics.

On the DISMUN webpage, you will find resources that are essential to your preparation for the conference and as a reference during committee sessions. The DISMUN Handbook explains each step in the delegation process from preconference research to the committee debate and resolution drafting processes. Delegates should not discuss the topics or agenda with other members of their committee until the first committee session. We urge our delegates to be respectful of this request.

In addition, please review the mandatory DISMUN Conduct Expectations and the DISMUN Procedure on the DISMUN website. DIS wants to emphasise that any instances of discrimination based on race, gender, national origin, religion, age, or disability will not be tolerated.

If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the Conference itself, please contact Communications.DISMUN@diyafahinternationalschool.com

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

Chair Sim Rui Ying

Deputy Chair Vana Babekian

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Committee History

"One place where the world's nations can gather together, discuss common problems and find shared solutions."

Introduction

The United Nations Security Council is one of the six primary organs of the United Nations, mandated by the Charter of the United Nations to maintain international peace and security. The Council submits an annual report to the General Assembly. After the devastating effects of two world wars, the international community decided to establish the United Nations (UN) (as an intergovernmental organisation) with the primary responsibility of maintaining international peace and security, creating the conditions conducive to economic and social development, while advancing universal respect for human rights. The Security Council was established as one of its six principal organs and has been given the primary responsibility to maintain international peace and security.

The Security Council held its first session on 17 January 1946, at Church House in London. After its first meeting, the Council relocated to its permanent residence at the UN Headquarters in New York City. At that time, five permanent members and six non-permanent members comprised the membership of the Council. However, over subsequent years, discussions regarding the structure of the Council began to take place. In 1965, the number of non-permanent members increased to ten, and although membership has not changed since, discussions regarding a configuration change take place frequently.

Governance and Structure

The Security Council is the only UN entity that has the power to adopt resolutions that are binding on Member States. In accordance with Article 25 of the Charter of the United Nations (1945), Member States are obliged to accept and carry out the Council's recommendations and decisions. The Security Council also has a variety of tools to address issues on its agenda. For example, the President of the Security Council may issue press statements or presidential statements to communicate the position of the Council. Although these other tools are not legally binding, they nonetheless bring attention to important issues and compel the members of the Security Council to make recommendations and resolve conflicts.

Membership

The Security Council is comprised of five permanent members and ten non-permanent members. The five permanent members of the Security Council are China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the United States of America. Every year, the General Assembly elects five of the 10 non-permanent members for a two-year term. Elections for non-permanent seats on the Council can be competitive, with countries expressing interest years in advance. Countries elected to serve on the Security Council are expected to represent the interests of their region; they usually have an influence at the international level and demonstrate leadership in specific areas of interest (in their foreign policy). Security Council elections for non-permanent members are held in June, six months before the term starts. This change allows Member States ample time to prepare for their new role.

Presidency

Each member of the Security Council holds the presidency of the Council for one month, rotating according to alphabetical order. Security Council meetings can be convened by the President upon the request of any Member State. Under Article 35 of the Charter, the President shall call a meeting if a dispute or situation requires the Council's attention. According to Rule 6 of the Provisional Rules of Procedure, all concerns that are brought to the attention of the Secretary-General are drafted in an agenda that is approved by the President of the Security Council.

Participation

Any Member State of the UN may attend the Council's meetings upon the invitation of the Council. Member States are invited if the Security Council is discussing an issue that directly concerns the interests of the Member State. Invited Member States do not have the right to vote but are allowed to submit proposals and draft resolutions. Furthermore, those Member States can inform the Council about a current crisis in their region. However, such proposals may be put to a vote only at the request of a member of the Council.

Voting

Every Member State of the Security Council has one vote. Votes on all matters require a majority of nine Member States. However, if one of the five permanent members of the Security Council votes "no" on a matter of substance, such as a draft resolution, the draft resolution does not pass. Despite the existence of this veto power, the Council has adopted many resolutions by consensus since the end of the Cold War and has been divided only on a very limited number of issues.

Mandate, Functions, and Powers

The mandate of the Security Council is to maintain international peace and security, as specified in the Charter of the United Nations. Chapters VI and VII of the Charter specifically concern the Security Council and the range of actions that can be taken when settling disputes. Chapter VI aims to achieve resolution of disputes by peaceful means, whereas Chapter VII explores further actions that can be taken. Any Member State can report a dispute to the Security Council; the role of the Council is to determine the severity of the dispute brought before the body and the impact of the dispute internationally. The Security Council is responsible for making recommendations to broker peace that take into consideration the previously attempted measures by the parties involved. Non-military actions that can be implemented include blockades or economic interruptions. In aggregate, the Charter provides the Security Council with the following set of powers to fulfil its mandate.

- **Sanctions:** Under Article 41 of the Charter, the Council can call its members to apply economic sanctions and other measures not involving the use of force to prevent or end violence. These include economic sanctions, financial penalties and restrictions, travel bans, severance of diplomatic relations, and blockades, among others. It may further mandate arms embargos, enforce disarmament, or initiate proceedings in the international justice system.

- **Diplomatic Tools:** The Council has a mandate to investigate any dispute or situation that might lead to aggression between states or other non-state groups or within states' national territories. To do so, it may "recommend methods of adjusting such disputes or the terms of settlement; formulate plans

for the establishment of a system to regulate armaments; determine the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression and recommend what action should be taken."

- **Military Action:** The Council may take military action against a state or other entity threatening international peace and security and may further decide on the deployment of troops or observers. The Security Council may also decide to initiate peacekeeping operations, as well as the extensions of their mandates and subsequent modification or withdrawal of any troops.

- **Partnerships:** The Council also cooperates with several international and regional organisations as well as non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to implement its decisions. Cooperation between the Security Council and UN-related organisations, such as the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the International Atomic Energy Agency, is significant, but partnerships with independent intergovernmental organisations such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the African Union are also of paramount importance for addressing a broad range of issues such as terrorism, disarmament, nuclear nonproliferation, and extreme violence from non-state actors, among others.

Conclusion
As the international community faces increasing asymmetrical threats from non-state actors and transnational organised crime, the Security Council has adapted to new working methods and broader and more open discussions. But these situations also represent the systemic divides among Council members. This lack of capacity can be partially explained by the Council's controversial decision-making process, specifically the veto power of the five permanent members. However, as the Security Council represents the only body within the UN that has the power to adopt binding resolutions, it is still the entity of utmost importance for the maintenance of international peace and security.

SECURITY COUNCIL

"International Peace and Security and the Use of Artificial Intelligence"

Introduction

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is transforming every aspect of modern life, including international peace and security. From predictive surveillance and autonomous weapons to cyber defence and disinformation campaigns, AI offers both tremendous opportunities and serious risks. In the realm of diplomacy and defence, AI can enhance decision-making and conflict prevention. However, its misuse, especially in warfare and surveillance, raises urgent ethical, legal, and security concerns. This essay explores the implications of AI on international peace and security, evaluates current regulatory efforts, and proposes measures the international community can adopt to harness AI responsibly. Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as one of the most transformative technologies of the 21st century. It has the potential to revolutionise industries, drive economic growth, and solve global challenges ranging from climate change to public health. However, its growing integration into the spheres of national defence, international diplomacy, and law enforcement raises complex issues for global peace and security. While AI offers significant benefits for conflict prevention, peacekeeping, and humanitarian response, it also introduces novel threats—such as autonomous weapon systems, cyber warfare, and algorithmic bias—that can destabilise international order. This essay explores the multidimensional impact of AI on international peace and security, evaluates current governance efforts, and proposes a framework for responsible global stewardship.

I. The Dual-Use Nature of Artificial Intelligence
AI's most pressing security challenge lies in its dual-use nature. Technologies designed for civilian applications can be adapted for military or malicious purposes. For example, facial recognition used in public safety can be turned into a tool of mass surveillance, and self-driving cars can become autonomous military vehicles. This duality complicates regulation and raises ethical dilemmas.
1. Civilian Applications with Security Implications:
    o AI in humanitarian logistics (e.g., route optimisation for aid delivery).
    o Predictive analytics for epidemic response.
2. Military Applications:
    o Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS).
    o AI-driven missile defence and drone swarming.
The line between peaceful and militaristic use is often blurred, making transparency and oversight essential.

II. AI and Armed Conflict: Risks and Realities
The use of AI in modern warfare marks a paradigm shift. Unlike traditional weapons, AI can make decisions without human input, raising questions of accountability and legality.
1. Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS):
    o Definition: Weapons that can select and engage targets without human intervention.
    o Legal Concerns: LAWS challenge the principles of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), especially distinction and proportionality.
    o Ethical Implications: Delegating life-and-death decisions to machines.
    o State Responses: Mixed. Some advocate for a preemptive ban (e.g., Austria, Brazil), while others oppose constraints (e.g., U.S., Russia).

2. AI in Cyber Warfare:
   - o Threats: AI can enhance offensive cyber capabilities through vulnerability scanning, phishing automation, and the generation of fake content.
   - o Attribution Problem: Difficulty in tracing cyberattacks complicates retaliation and deterrence.
   - o Strategic Instability: AI may shorten decision-making cycles, increasing risks of accidental escalation.

III. AI in Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding

Not all AI applications are destructive. Many offer tools for conflict prevention and resolution:
1. Early Warning Systems:
   - o Use of AI to analyse satellite imagery, social media, and economic data to detect early signs of violence.
   - o Examples: UN Global Pulse; GCRI's Conflict Prediction Models.
2. AI in Peacekeeping Operations:
   - o Drones for surveillance and demining.
   - o Natural language processing for real-time translation.
3. Promoting Human Rights:
   - o Monitoring abuses in conflict zones through automated reporting.

AI's potential in peacebuilding must be nurtured through investment and policy alignment.

IV. Challenges to Global Governance of AI

Despite increasing awareness, global consensus on AI governance remains elusive.
1. Fragmentation of Efforts:
   - o Lack of a unified regulatory framework.
   - o Overlap and inconsistency among initiatives (e.g., OECD AI Principles, UNESCO Recommendation on AI Ethics, UN GGE on LAWS).
2. Power Asymmetries:
   - o Technological divide between the Global North and Global South.
   - o Risk of AI colonialism: Imposition of norms without inclusive dialogue.
3. Private Sector Influence:
   - o Tech giants dominate AI innovation.
   - o Need for corporate accountability in defence contracting and surveillance tech development.

V. Existing Initiatives and Multilateral Dialogues

1. United Nations:
   - o UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation (2020).
   - o Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on LAWS.
2. Regional Frameworks:
   - o EU's AI Act: First attempt at horizontal AI regulation.
   - o African Union's Data Policy Framework.
3. Multi-Stakeholder Platforms:
   - o Global Partnership on AI (GPAI).
   - o International Panel on AI (IPAI).

Despite momentum, enforcement mechanisms are weak, and participation is uneven.

VI. Recommendations for International Cooperation

1. Establish a Binding International Treaty on Military AI:
    o Modelled after treaties on chemical and biological weapons.
    o Prohibit LAWS that operate without meaningful human control.
2. Create a Global AI Observatory:
    o Tasked with monitoring, evaluating, and reporting on AI applications.
    o Could function under the UN or a new international agency.
3. Fund AI for Peace Initiatives:
    o Support cross-border research into AI applications for peacebuilding.
    o Ensure Global South participation through equitable funding.
4. Develop Ethical Standards and Certification Schemes:
    o Establish AI audit protocols.
    o Create certification for ethical AI systems used in security contexts.
5. Promote Inclusive Multilateralism:
    o Include civil society, academia, and smaller states in norm-setting processes.

Opportunities Offered by AI in Peace and Security

AI can strengthen global peace and security in several ways:

1. Conflict Prediction and Prevention: AI-powered analytics can identify early warning signs of conflict by monitoring social media, satellite imagery, and economic indicators. For instance, the UN has explored AI for forecasting humanitarian crises and violent outbreaks in fragile states.
2. Peacekeeping Operations: AI tools can assist peacekeepers in mapping terrain, tracking militant movements, and protecting civilians. Drones and machine learning algorithms enhance situational awareness and operational efficiency.
3. Cyber Defence and Diplomacy: AI plays a crucial role in detecting cyber threats and defending infrastructure against attacks. Moreover, AI can support real-time language translation and conflict mediation platforms, aiding diplomatic negotiations.

Threats Posed by AI to Global Security

Despite its potential, AI also introduces complex risks:

1. Autonomous Weapons Systems (AWS): The development of "killer robots" or lethal autonomous weapons could make warfare faster, deadlier, and less accountable. Without human oversight, these systems may violate International Humanitarian Law (IHL).
2. AI-Driven Surveillance and Repression: States can use AI for mass surveillance, suppressing dissent, and targeting ethnic or political groups. Such practices threaten human rights and may trigger internal unrest or international condemnation.
3. Cyberwarfare and Disinformation: AI can be weaponised to spread false narratives, hack national infrastructure, or influence elections, undermining democratic institutions and global stability.
4. AI Arms Race: The lack of global consensus on AI regulation may lead to an AI arms race, heightening tensions between major powers and increasing the risk of unintended conflict.

Current International Efforts and Gaps

Several global forums, including the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) and the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI), are addressing the challenges of AI in security contexts. However, no binding international treaty specifically governs the military use of AI. The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) debates have stalled over disagreements about regulating lethal autonomous systems.

Recommendations for MUN Delegates

1. Promote an International Legal Framework: Advocate for a binding treaty to regulate the development and deployment of lethal autonomous weapons, ensuring human control over life-or-death decisions.
2. Encourage Transparency and Oversight: Propose global norms for ethical AI development, transparency in algorithms, and accountability in military applications.
3. Foster Collaboration on Peace-Oriented AI: Support funding and cooperation in using AI for climate prediction, disease tracking, and peacebuilding initiatives.
4. Ensure Inclusivity and Equity: Ensure AI systems do not reinforce global inequalities or marginalise developing nations in technological governance.

Case Studies:

1. Ghana (Africa) – *Call for Equity, Regulation, and Protection of Sovereignty*

Ghana is a strong advocate for responsible innovation and multilateral cooperation. Although it does not possess advanced military AI systems, Ghana plays an active role in international peacekeeping and supports the ethical development of emerging technologies. Its main concern is the impact of AI on smaller, less-developed states, which often lack both the capability and defences to respond to autonomous threats. Ghana fears that lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) may be disproportionately used in regions like Africa—either by powerful foreign militaries or private contractors—without accountability. Additionally, the risk of these systems being deployed in peacekeeping zones or conflict-prone areas raises serious humanitarian concerns. Ghana supports a pre-emptive ban on fully autonomous weapons, arguing that the development of such systems risks violating international humanitarian law (IHL) and undermining sovereign equality. At the UN, Ghana has supported efforts through the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) to push for legal frameworks ensuring "meaningful human control" over all weapon systems.

2. Brazil (Americas) – *Balancing Sovereignty with Humanitarian Safeguards*

Brazil has taken a moderate and pragmatic position on AI in security. As Latin America's largest economy and a regional power, Brazil is increasingly involved in AI research for border control and public security, but it has not militarised AI to the extent seen in more developed countries. Brazil's concern lies in the potential for an AI arms race that would widen the technological and geopolitical gap between developed and developing nations. At the UN and regional forums, Brazil has voiced support for the regulation of LAWS, but has not endorsed a full ban. Instead, Brazil proposes binding international standards that ensure AI applications comply with the Geneva Conventions and human rights norms. Brazil is also wary of AI's potential misuse by authoritarian regimes and emphasises the need for transparency, accountability, and ethical design. Within South America, it encourages a Latin American consensus on the peaceful and civilian uses of AI, while promoting international cooperation for capacity-building in the Global South.

3. China (Asia) – *State-Led Innovation and Strategic AI Deployment*
China is a world leader in AI innovation, applying AI in both civilian infrastructure (e.g., facial recognition, surveillance) and military modernisation. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) is actively integrating AI into command systems, cyber capabilities, and autonomous drones. China's position on AI in warfare is strategic: it supports international dialogue on LAWS but opposes a ban, arguing that regulations must respect state sovereignty and technological development rights. China views AI as a crucial part of future warfare and is sceptical of Western-led proposals that might constrain its military growth. China's internal use of AI, particularly in Xinjiang, has drawn criticism over surveillance and civil liberty violations, but Beijing defends this as necessary for national stability. On the global stage, China seeks to shape the rules on AI governance to align with its political and security interests.

Conclusion
Artificial Intelligence holds immense promise for enhancing international peace and security, but it also presents unprecedented threats if left unregulated. As global governance struggles to keep pace with technological innovation, regional and international cooperation is essential. MUN delegates must take a proactive stance in shaping a secure and ethical AI future, grounded in international law and shared human values. Artificial Intelligence is neither inherently good nor bad; its impact depends on how it is governed. As states race to incorporate AI into their national security strategies, the risk of misuse and miscalculation grows. Yet, with responsible stewardship, AI can also be a powerful force for peace, stability, and human development. The international community must act now—through regulation, cooperation, and investment in ethical AI—to ensure that artificial intelligence serves humanity rather than imperils it. The challenge lies not in the technology itself, but in our collective will to shape its future.

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