



DIYAFAH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL L.L.C

مدرسة ضيافة الدولية ذ.م.م



NURSERY حضانة



**DISMUN 2026-2027 | UNITED  
NATIONS GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY FIRST  
COMMITTEE  
DISEC**

**STUDY GUIDE 2026-2027**





**United  
Nations**

**General Assembly  
of the United Nations**

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## **UNITED NATIONS General Assembly First Committee BACKGROUND GUIDE 2026-2027**

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2026-27 Diyafah International Model United Nations Conference (DISMUN-Abu Dhabi)! We are pleased to welcome you to the General Assembly First Committee (DISEC). This year's Chair is Muhammad Huzaifa Khalid Aziz, who is currently in Year 13. This year's Deputy-Chair is Eyshal Fatima Naveed, who is currently in Year 12.

*The topic under discussion for the General Assembly First Committee (DISEC) is:*

- Regulating Autonomous Weapons and AI Driven Warfare

The First Committee deals with disarmament, global challenges, and threats to peace that affect the international community, and seeks solutions to challenges within the international security regime. Just as in the plenary of the General Assembly, all 193 Member States are represented in the First Committee.

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](mailto:Communications.DISMUN@diyafahinternationalschool.com)

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

**Chair** Muhammad Huzaifa Khalid Aziz

**Deputy Chair** Eyshal Fatima Naveed

### **Committee History**

“A forum where all nations stand equal, working to disarm threats and build a foundation for global peace.”

## ***Introduction***

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) is the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, mandated by the Charter of the United Nations to address crucial global security challenges. The Committee submits its reports and recommended resolutions directly to the General Assembly plenary. After the devastating effects of two world wars, the international community established the United Nations (UN) with a primary commitment to maintaining international peace and security. Recognizing that the proliferation of weapons poses a direct threat to this mission, DISEC was established as the first of the General Assembly's Main Committees, tasked specifically with finding multilateral solutions to disarmament and destabilizing arms races.

DISEC held its first sessions alongside the inception of the General Assembly in January 1946 in London. Following these initial meetings, the Committee moved with the rest of the UN apparatus to its permanent home at the UN Headquarters in New York City. Unlike bodies with restricted membership, DISEC was structured from the beginning to include every Member State of the United Nations. Over the subsequent decades, as decolonization expanded the UN, DISEC's membership grew from the original 51 states to its current universal composition, making it a uniquely democratic arena for security dialogue.

## ***Governance and Structure***

Unlike the Security Council, DISEC does not possess the power to adopt legally binding resolutions. In accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, DISEC's actions take the form of recommendations, which are voted upon and then forwarded to the General Assembly Plenary for final adoption. While these resolutions are not international law, they carry immense political and moral weight, reflecting the collective will of the international community. The Committee also utilizes other organizational tools, such as working groups and panel discussions, to build consensus on highly technical security issues. These mechanisms compel Member States to negotiate openly, establishing normative frameworks that frequently pave the way for binding international treaties.

## ***Membership***

The First Committee is comprised of all 193 Member States of the United Nations, granting equal representation to every nation regardless of its geographic size, economic power, or military capability. There are no permanent seats or vetoes within DISEC. Every year, ahead of the regular session of the General Assembly, the Committee elects a Bureau—including a Chairman, three Vice-Chairmen, and a Rapporteur—ensuring equitable geographical rotation among the UN's regional groups. Because every country has a voice, smaller and developing nations frequently utilize DISEC to challenge the military hegemony of heavily armed states, fostering a highly collaborative and fiercely debated diplomatic environment.

## ***Presidency***

The leadership of DISEC is governed by the Chairman, who presides over the Committee's sessions for the duration of the General Assembly's annual cycle. The Chairman's role rotates annually among the five regional groups of the United Nations to maintain geopolitical balance. Under the Committee's rules of procedure, the Chairman coordinates the organization of work, allocates time for general debates, and manages the submission of draft resolutions. Guided by the provisional agenda set by the General Assembly, the Bureau works systematically to ensure that all pressing security concerns brought forward by Member States are given an equitable platform for discussion.

## ***Participation***

Because DISEC features universal membership, any recognized UN Member State is automatically entitled to participate fully in all meetings, debates, and voting procedures. Additionally, non-member observer states, specialized UN agencies, and select international entities may be invited to attend and address the Committee. While observers cannot vote, they can offer vital expertise on specific disarmament challenges. Furthermore, civil society organizations and non-governmental organizations are frequently granted a voice during dedicated informal segments, allowing them to inform delegates about the humanitarian impacts of weapons and regional conflicts.

## ***Voting***

Every Member State in the First Committee has exactly one vote, emphasizing the democratic foundation of the General Assembly. Decisions and draft resolutions within DISEC require a simple majority vote of the members present and voting to pass and advance to the General Assembly Plenary. There is no veto power in DISEC; a negative vote by a major military power cannot single-handedly stop a resolution. Despite this majoritarian system, the Committee places a high premium on consensus-building, striving to negotiate text that all nations can agree upon to ensure the broad international compliance of its recommendations.

## ***Mandate, Functions, and Powers***

The mandate of the First Committee is to consider general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, with a specific focus on disarmament and the regulation of armaments. Operating under Article 11 of the UN Charter, DISEC handles a vast agenda divided into distinct pillars, ranging from nuclear weapons to regional security frameworks. The role of the Committee is to analyze global military trends, evaluate threats, and draft resolutions that promote transparency and trust among nations. To fulfill its mandate, DISEC focuses its cooperative powers on the following distinct areas:

- **Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs):** The Committee deals heavily with the non-proliferation and total elimination of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons. It serves as a political incubator for landmark agreements like the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) and drives updates to verification protocols.

- **Conventional Weapons and Illicit Arms Trade:** DISEC addresses the destabilizing accumulation of conventional military hardware and the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons. It oversees the UN Register of Conventional Arms to foster military transparency and combat the black-market trade fueling regional violence.
- **Emerging Security Threats and Outer Space:** The Committee has adapted its mandate to modern warfare, actively debating the prevention of an arms race in outer space (PAROS), cyber security, and the regulation of lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS).
- **Partnerships and Disarmament Machinery:** DISEC maintains a close relationship with the UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC) and the Conference on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva. It also collaborates with specialized watchdogs like the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to align political willpower with technical oversight.

### ***Conclusion***

As the international community faces a resurgence of geopolitical rivalries, localized conflicts, and the rapid weaponization of new technologies, DISEC has adapted its focus toward asymmetric warfare and digital security. While deep systemic divides between nuclear-armed states and non-nuclear states often stall total disarmament, the Committee remains indispensable. As the only universal forum dedicated entirely to international security, DISEC serves as the ultimate barometer for global peace, transforming raw geopolitical tension into structured multilateral dialogue.

***FIRST COMMITTEE***

**“Regulating Autonomous Weapons and AI Driven Warfare”**

***Introduction***

The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence (AI) and autonomous weapons systems (AWS) has fundamentally reshaped the landscape of modern warfare. From AI assisted targeting to fully autonomous drones capable of selecting and engaging targets without human intervention, these technologies raise profound ethical, legal, and security concerns. As states race to integrate AI into their military capabilities, the risk of accidental escalation, algorithmic bias, cyber vulnerabilities, and loss of human control becomes increasingly urgent.

The General Assembly First Committee (DISEC) is responsible for addressing global disarmament, international security, and threats to peace. In the context of AI driven warfare, DISEC plays a crucial role in shaping norms, promoting transparency, and encouraging multilateral cooperation to prevent destabilizing arms races. This topic challenges delegates to consider how international law should evolve to regulate emerging technologies while balancing national security interests and humanitarian principles.

***I. What Are Autonomous Weapons Systems (AWS)?***

AWS are weapons that can:

- identify targets,
- make decisions,
- and engage without direct human control.

They range from semi-autonomous drones to fully autonomous lethal systems.

***II. Key Concerns***

- Loss of meaningful human control over life-and-death decisions
- Algorithmic bias, leading to wrongful targeting
- Cyber vulnerabilities, including hacking or spoofing
- Lowered threshold for war, as autonomous systems reduce political risk
- Accountability gaps, since responsibility becomes unclear

***III. International Legal Context***

Current frameworks include:

- UN Charter (use of force)
- International Humanitarian Law (IHL)
- Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)
- Human rights law

However, none explicitly regulate fully autonomous weapons.

#### ***IV. The Global Debate***

Some states advocate for a pre-emptive ban on lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS), while others argue that regulation—not prohibition—is more realistic. Meanwhile, private companies and civil society groups call for transparency, ethical AI standards, and human oversight.

#### ***Case Studies:***

##### **Case Study 1: Libya — First Recorded Use of Autonomous Drones in Conflict**

**Official Title:** Assessing the Deployment of Autonomous Kargu-2 Drones in the Libyan Civil War

The Libyan Civil War marked a turning point in modern warfare when a 2021 UN report suggested that Turkish-made Kargu-2 drones may have operated autonomously during clashes between the Government of National Accord (GNA) and the Libyan National Army (LNA). This incident is widely regarded as the first documented case in which an AI-driven weapon may have independently selected and engaged human targets without direct human oversight. The lack of transparency surrounding the deployment made verification difficult, but the implications were profound. The drones' unpredictable behaviour increased risks to civilians, and the absence of accountability mechanisms raised serious concerns about potential violations of international humanitarian law. Libya's experience demonstrates how autonomous weapons can enter active conflict zones before international regulations are established, setting a dangerous precedent for future warfare and underscoring the urgent need for global governance of AI-enabled weapons systems.

#### ***Insight:***

Libya demonstrates how autonomous weapons can enter conflict zones before international regulations are established, creating dangerous precedents for future warfare.

##### **Case Study 2: United States — AI Integration in Military Decision-Making**

**Official Title:** Evaluating the U.S. Department of Defense's Use of AI in Targeting and Surveillance Systems

The United States has become one of the global leaders in integrating artificial intelligence into military operations, with programs such as Project Maven representing a major shift in how modern warfare is conducted. Project Maven, launched by the Department of Defense, uses advanced machine-learning algorithms to analyze vast quantities of drone surveillance footage, dramatically accelerating the speed at which potential targets can be identified. While these systems remain under human supervision, the reliance on AI-assisted targeting has significantly reduced the workload of human analysts and increased the pace of military decision-making. However, this rapid integration of AI has raised several concerns. The increased speed of analysis risks creating an over-dependence on algorithmic outputs, which may lead to errors if the underlying data is flawed or biased. While the United States supports the development of international regulations to ensure responsible use of AI in military contexts, it opposes a complete ban on autonomous weapons, arguing that such systems are essential for maintaining strategic advantage.

#### ***Insight:***

This case illustrates the complex balance between innovation, national security, and ethical responsibility, highlighting the urgent need for global standards to ensure meaningful human control in AI-driven warfare.

### ***Challenges to Regulating AI-Driven Warfare***

- Lack of consensus among major powers
- Dual-use nature of AI technologies
- Rapid technological evolution outpacing legal frameworks
- Difficulty verifying compliance in autonomous systems
- Risk of arms races driven by strategic competition

### ***Policy Recommendations***

1. Establish International Norms for Human Control
  - Define “meaningful human control”
  - Require human authorization for lethal decisions
  - Promote transparency in AI-enabled weapons
2. Strengthen Global Governance Mechanisms
  - Expand CCW discussions on LAWS
  - Create UN-led monitoring and reporting systems
  - Encourage states to publish national AI military policies
3. Promote Ethical AI Development
  - Require bias testing and algorithmic audits
  - Mandate cybersecurity protections
  - Encourage responsible innovation in the private sector
4. Prevent an AI Arms Race
  - Promote confidence-building measures
  - Encourage data-sharing on AI safety
  - Support multilateral agreements limiting autonomous weapons
5. Protect Civilians and Uphold IHL (International Humanitarian Law)
  - Ensure compliance with distinction and proportionality
  - Require risk assessments before deployment
  - Strengthen accountability mechanisms for violations

### ***Conclusion***

Ultimately, modern warfare presents the General Assembly First Committee with one of the most defining security challenges of the twenty-first century. As the line between human intent and algorithmic execution continues to blur, the risk of unmonitored escalation, systemic bias, and accountability gaps threatens to undermine the very foundations of International Humanitarian Law. MUN delegates must bridge the deep geopolitical divides between major military powers and advocates for humanitarian prohibition by crafting innovative, multilateral frameworks that codify "meaningful human control" without stifling legitimate technological innovation. By strengthening global governance mechanisms like the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), championing mandatory algorithmic audits, and introducing confidence-building measures to thwart a destabilizing AI arms race, delegates have the unique opportunity to pioneer international norms. The rapid pace of technological evolution demands proactive diplomacy; it is up to the delegates of DISEC to ensure that the future of international security remains anchored in human ethics.

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