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NURSERY حضانة



DISMUN 2025 | UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

STUDY GUIDE 2025



United Nations

General Assembly of the United Nations

GENERAL ASSEMBLY FIRST COMMITTEE BACKGROUND GUIDE 2025

Dear Distinguished Delegates,

Welcome to the 2025 Diyafah International Model United Nations Conference (DISMUN-Abu Dhabi)! We are pleased to welcome you to the General Assembly. This year's Chair is **Emily Joanna Justus** who is currently in Year 13. This year's Deputy-Chair is **Sameer Salman** who is currently in Year 10.

The topic under discussion for the General assembly is:

The Implication of Technology on Global Security

GA First Committee is the only body in the UN system that allows all Member States to have *an equal voice, and an equal vote* in matters of international security and disarmament. Here at DISMUN, we shall be simulating this committee providing you with the opportunity to work together, debate in structured manner, and, most importantly, to achieve consensus on some of the most critical issues facing the international community.

We hope our delegates can utilize this Background Guide, as it introduces the topics for this committee. We urge you all to recognize that this guide is not meant to replace further research. We applaud and highly encourage in-depth research into your countries' policies and the use of the Annotated Bibliography to further your knowledge on these topics.

On the [DISMUN](#) webpage, you will find two 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 Pre-Conference 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](#) on the DISMUN website. They include the Conference dress code and other expectations of all attendees. DIS wants to emphasize 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 we look forward to seeing you at the Conference!

Chair ***Emily Joanna Justus***

Deputy-Chair ***Sameer Salman***

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“[You] have realized the objectives of many men of vision in your own countries who have devoted their lives to the cause of world organization for peace... This new structure of peace is rising upon strong foundations.”

Introduction

The **General Assembly First Committee** (First Committee) is one of the six main committees of the General Assembly and is the key body for discussion of matters of disarmament and security at the United Nations (UN). The Committee's existence dates back to the beginning of the UN and has resulted in many major initiatives and treaties that address matters of international security. As the only committee in which all members can have a voice in these issues, the First Committee's role in the UN system is unique, and it continues to make important contributions to the work of the General Assembly.

Governance, Structure and Membership

As stated in the Charter of the United Nations, the GA is composed of all Member States of the UN, each having one vote. However, there have been entities like the European Union (EU), the Holy See, and Palestine that have been granted observer status, including the ability to attend and participate within formal session but not the ability to vote on substantive matters, such as the adoption of resolutions. The General Committee makes recommendations on issues to be covered by the GA. The six Main Committees of the GA then take the recommendation of the General Committee for the purpose of setting their agendas. In the case of the First Committee, the body will take all recommendations that pertain to its thematic discussions and then vote on its agenda at the beginning of its session.

The GA remains in session the entire year, but the bulk of its work occurs during the fall. For the 70th session, the GA Fifth Committee designated \$25.4 million to the overall disarmament initiatives under the First Committee. In each session it is typical for the First Committee to adopt over 50 resolutions and decisions. From mid-September until the break in December the GA is in its most intense work period, completing the majority of its General Debate and the bulk of the substantive work. With guidance from the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the GA First Committee is able to clearly organize its substantive work to pursue its goals of international disarmament and non-proliferation. All votes in the GA require a simple majority, with the exception of *a two-thirds majority for items called to “important question,” a designation given to matters deemed very important by the body, such as the admission of new members to the GA.*

Mandate, Functions and Powers

The GA's mandate is established in Chapter IV of the *Charter of the United Nations* (1946).²⁵ Specifically, Article 11 enables the GA to address international issues concerning peace and security. Article 11 also designates the GA to govern disarmament principles and international regulations of arms. In an effort to strengthen the First Committee's designated task of disarmament, the work of the First Committee has been divided into thematic discussions, specified in GA resolution 48/87, including nuclear weapons, other WMDs, outer space, and regional disarmament and security. It is important to note that the First Committee

also has the power to discuss issues of disarmament and threats to international peace and security, and make recommendations to solve these issues. However, the power to address these issues using any legally binding support resides with the SC.

The GA's functions and powers are outlined within the *Charter of the United Nations* in Chapter IV, Articles 10- 17. Since 1945 the GA has served as the chief deliberative and policy-making organ of the UN. The GA has the ability to receive and approve the UN budget, elect non-permanent members of the SC, and initiate studies and make recommendations in areas such as international political cooperation and international law. The GA cannot supersede the SC when they are deliberating on a topic; however, when there is a threat to international security and peace and the SC has been limited by a veto by one or more of the permanent members, the GA can take action to promote peace.³⁴ In this situation, the GA can address and adopt resolutions despite the inaction of the SC. In the event the GA is not in session, a vote of seven members of the SC or a majority vote by the GA can constitute an emergency session to discuss the important subject matter.

Recent Sessions and Current Priorities

The 70th session of the GA opened with the landmark adoption of resolution 70/1 entitled *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. During the General Debate several world leaders highlighted the complex security concerns that face the international community, including the on-going threat of terrorism. Accordingly, the First Committee adopted a resolution on the prevention of terrorists acquiring WMDs, including the means for their fabrication and the delivery of the materials. The First Committee also discussed the impact of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the hands of terrorist groups, in particular the use by the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), Al-Qaida, Al-Shabaab, Boko Haram, Lord's Resistance Army, and Allied Democratic Forces. It also deliberated the growing complexity of security concerns within the Middle East and a need to create a nuclear free zone, as well as need to promote confidence-building measures within the region. Furthermore, the First Committee adopted a draft resolution which included a universal declaration on the achievement of a nuclear weapon- free world and called on all states to comply with existing international laws on the matter.

Conclusion

International peace and security are one of the principal missions of the UN, and through the First Committee the UN is able to actively and effectively address issues that negatively affect international security. The challenge of the First Committee is to address issues of peace and security in a world facing the proliferation of new weapons technologies, both nuclear and non-nuclear. Recognizing the changing world, the GA has taken measures to ensure that it is working efficiently and effectively, as well as responding to external concerns through discussion of reform. However, the GA is limited to the scope of its mandate and by the activities of the SC. Ultimately, as a central policy-making body of the UN, the underlying responsibility of GA First is to continue progress in combating threats to international peace and security while continuing to build the consensus between Member States and among other UN entities.

The Implication of Technology on Global Security

Introduction

The progression of technology in recent years has created significant impacts to the world in terms of global security. Maintaining regulations and protocols in the international community has proven challenging with the advances of technology on security and weapons systems. New technologies, such as the Internet, have allowed the global community to come together with international dialogue and cooperation; however, other technologies have been used to develop more advanced weapons systems. Throughout the Cold War, concern grew about the increasing amounts of research and the testing of weapons. More specifically, the development and testing of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles (ICBMs) and related combat systems caused the international community a grievous amount of concern. Technology also has positive implications and has become an integral part of the development and implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which exemplifies that technology can promote global security. Innovation and technological progress are a keystone for many Member States' national security. Several Member States have stated that new technologies are intended for peacekeeping or self-defence purposes. These technologies are often information and communication technologies (ICTs), which includes any communication device or application such as radio, television, cellular phones, computer and network hardware and software, and satellite systems and the various services and applications associated with them, such as videoconferencing and distance learning. The impact of weapons technology on global security is somewhat ambiguous and complicated on the international level as many technologies have not yet been specifically defined or addressed in United Nations (UN) resolutions, international treaties, and weapons protocols.

International and Regional Framework

The international community began to address technology in global security with the Geneva Conventions, which were adopted in the aftermath of World War I and established numerous laws, norms, and protocols for states related to the emergence of new technologies and weapons. Since then, multiple treaties and conventions have been established to mitigate the potential dangers of newly developed weapons systems. One example is the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which came into force in 1970 in order to stop the development and use of nuclear weapons and to promote constructive, peaceful uses of nuclear technologies. Under Article I and II of the Treaty, States Parties have agreed to not develop or share nuclear technology in order to maintain global security. Additionally, the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (CCW) came into force in 1983 to address technological transformations, new developments in weapon technologies, and advanced strategic security realignments of waging war.

New technologies challenge the precedents established by existing resolutions and treaties. In 1988 the General Assembly (GA) a resolution on Scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security. The resolution requested the Secretary-General (SG) to monitor future scientific and technological developments and, more specifically, developments with potential military applications. The technologies included in the 1989 GA report 45/568, also titled Scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security, were nuclear technology, biotechnology, materials technology, space technology, and information technology. These technologies were considered to be the most advanced technologies of the time and most likely to pose challenges to the maintenance of global security.

A gap in security protocols has emerged due to advancements in weapons over the last two decades, including the emergence of technologies such as unmanned aerial vehicles and cybercrime. In 2013 the Groups of Governmental Experts (GGEs) gave Ban Ki-moon several reports as part of a reporting mechanism from the GA. These reports addressed new norms and principles for the responsible behaviour of Member States in cyber-spheres. The reports recommended confidence building measures, international cooperation, and capacity building between all states. The SG noted that few technologies are as powerful as ICTs in reshaping economies and international relations within Member States because cyberspace connects every aspect of people's lives. The SG also highlighted that making cyberspace and ICTs more stable must be achieved through cooperation and maintaining international laws. Further, the report established that in their use of ICTs, states must observe principles of international law, including sovereignty, the settlement of disputes by peaceful means, and non-intervention in the internal affairs of other Member States. The GA has

not adopted a substantive decision on this issue since 2006, but in 2015 voted to keep the item on the agenda for its 71st session in 2016.

In addition to the GA, the UN Security Council (SC) has adopted several resolutions aiming to limit technology sharing with regard to nuclear weapons.⁷⁶ An example of this is SC resolution 2087 of 2013, which addressed the use of ICBMs by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. The SC also adopted resolution 2231 concerning the Islamic Republic of Iran, which lifted sanctions and established specific restrictions on Iran's domestic nuclear energy program, in exchange for Iran's guarantee not to pursue any development of nuclear weapons technology or high levels of uranium enrichment.

Role of the International System

In 1998 the UN concentrated its disarmament efforts into the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), with the mandate of promoting nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, strengthening disarmament regimes for other weapons of mass destruction, and working on disarmament efforts for conventional weapons, particularly small arms and light weapons and landmines. Other international organizations that promote disarmament and address the impact of emerging technologies include the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Agencies like these collectively coordinate many of the major international efforts on understanding and mitigating the impact of technology on global security.

In December of 2011, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held a joint event with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the International Telecommunication Union on Cybersecurity and Development. The primary consideration was that Member States must recognize international policy by providing ECOSOC members with an understanding of the current situation and challenges concerning cybersecurity and its links to development; identifying best practices and policies to create a culture of cyber-security; and establishing a global response for cybercrime. Presently, there are limitations with definitions of cybersecurity because of a lack of specific language in international treaties and frameworks. The GGE suggests that the UN play a leading role in promoting dialogue on the security of ICTs used by Member States, and also in developing common understandings on the application of international law and norms, rules and principles for Member State's behaviour. Similarly, efforts continue to create a bilateral or multilateral consultative framework for confidence-building measures related to new technologies. For example, confidence building measures are being established within the Arab League, the African Union, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), and the Organization of American States.

Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)

Some organizations have expressed caution regarding the advancement of technology. Human Rights Watch published a report on lethal autonomous weapons systems (LAWS) entitled *Losing Humanity* in 2012. Advanced technologies such as LAWS are fully autonomous weapons that can select and fire upon targets without a human at the controls. Because LAWS are an emerging technology there are few international regulations addressing these systems. In the report, Human Rights Watch stated its deep concern that highly advanced technologies could create dangerous situations, such as allowing LAWS to make decisions on their own without human input. Presently, there are at least six Member States that are known to be developing and testing fully autonomous weapons. Although no treaties or conventions address LAWS, there was an informal discussion at the fifth Review Conference of the States Parties to the CCW with experts from Member States and regional bodies. This informal meeting included recommendations on the importance of human involvement when using such weapons systems and compliance under international law.

Technological Gap

There is a significant divide between industrialized and developing countries in the access and utilization of ICTs and other technologies. According to Noeleen Heyzer, Executive Secretary of the UN Economic and

Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, there is a digital divide that spans income, gender, education, and knowledge. One reason for this is the creation by industrialized states of dual-use technologies that have both civilian and military applications, such as Global Positioning Systems (GPS). Another rising issue has been ownership, control, and innovation. Intellectual property rights have resulted in vast monopolies of various technologies from computers to software, causing less developed states to be dependent upon more developed states. Developing states have requested states that develop these technologies to allow technology sharing and mutual partnerships to promote the long-term access and sustainability of technologies. As technology advances and continues to expand throughout the world, states have called upon the UN to address the growing divide between Member States. Many weapon systems and new military strategies, such as cyber warfare or Internet based conflict, utilizes information systems that can disrupt Websites, networks, services, and data. States without access to the newest technologies will find it difficult to protect themselves from such attacks, which may come from non-state actors.

Non-State Actors

The Internet has created international communication opportunities, including increased options for non-state actors to engage with states. This rise of non-state actors within the cyberspace has created a security dilemma for the international community. 106 Non-state actors, including al-Qaeda and the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), have begun to utilize the Internet to distribute propaganda and recruit members. This, combined with the legal ambiguity of cyberspace and the difficulty to enforce and regulate content standards, has created an environment in which non-state actors can participate in crime, espionage, military aggression, and other forms of cyber warfare. Islamic militant groups such as al-Qaeda and ISIL have been very successful in attracting young adults into their organizations in the past few years using Internet-based recruitment and coordination techniques. Technology as warfare and a lack of international regulations in defence technologies for cybercrime results in vulnerability that requires the creation and implementation of counter-measures. Terrorist groups and non-state actors have been largely successful in their efforts due to a lack of coordinated efforts from states and the frequent inability to prosecute in cases of attacks involving the use of the Internet. The Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force is attempting to address terrorists utilizing the Internet, citing GA resolution 66/178 which reaffirms the mandate of UNODC to continue to develop specialized legal knowledge in the area of counter-terrorism and pertinent thematic areas, including the use of the Internet.

Conclusion

Technology, advanced weapon systems, and cybersecurity are becoming a pivotal part of global security as developed states continue to research and build new weapons. Although such technologies are not explicitly regulated by existing legal frameworks, some Member States have stated that under Article 51 of the *Charter of the United Nations* cyberattacks may be classified as an “armed attack” between Member States, and that cyberwarfare may constitute an act of aggression or war. Innovation of technology has created opportunities for both civilians and militaries, but as technologies advance, there are unaddressed gaps between newer technologies and older UN resolutions and guidelines. Numerous Member States and many non-governmental organizations have reiterated that action must be taken to incorporate technologies into the international framework for improved global security

Further Research

It is important to consider how technology is impacting global security. When researching the topic further, delegates should consider the representation of their Member States on technological advancements and the use of technologies in attacks and defence measures. Should action be taken under the umbrella of disarmament to remove threats of cyber warfare, cyber-attacks, and the use of technology-based weapons not defined and addressed in recent guidelines? Can programmatic action be taken to prevent continued vulnerability and uncertainty in the international community? How can the GA First Committee assist in strengthening global security and mitigating risk due to advancements in weapons technologies?

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