“The United States and China in a technological war”

“United Nations Security Council”

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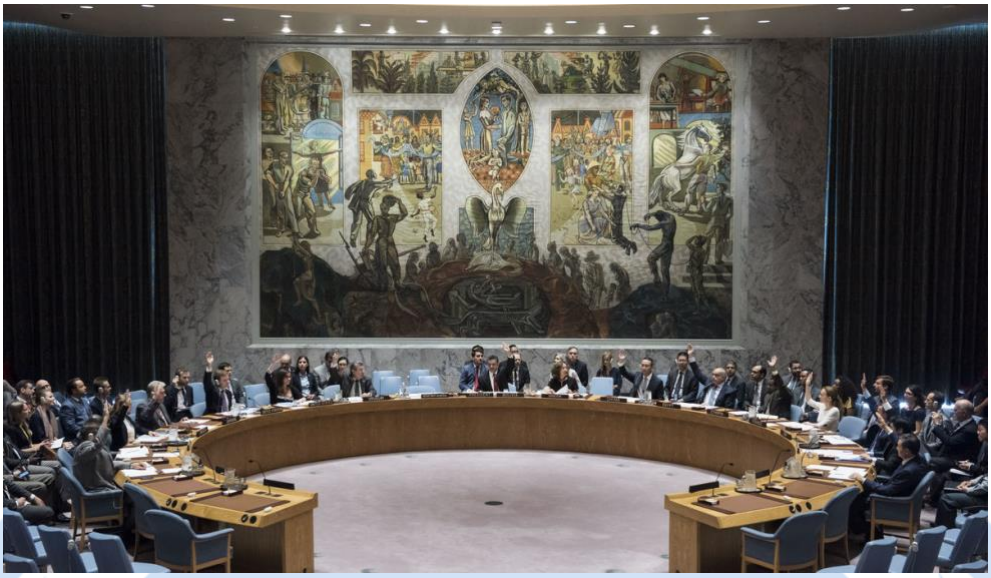

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Introduction to chairs:

Hello Everyone! I am Meral AlZayer and I am looking forward to chairing UNSC alongside Rakan Alromayan. I am a 4th year medical student at Alfaisal University and I have been participating in MUNs since I was in middle school. I love public speaking, traveling, and playing football! I can't wait to meet all of you and have an amazing conference.

Hey everyone! My name is Rakan Alromayan and I have the pleasure of being one of your co-chairs for this year's UNSC! I'm a 3rd year medical student studying in KSU. I've recently taken a giant interest in art and art history, as well as starting to play the guitar, as well as being an avid reader and writer. But these all play second fiddle to my first and most intense passion: Cooking! I can't wait to get to know you all better and hopefully have the conference of our lives!

WELCOME ADDRESS TO PSUMUN 2023

Dear Delegates,

We are very happy to have you all with us at PSUMUN'23. This year we have the largest event we have had at PSUMUN since its beginning and we are honored that you are a part of it.

This year we have a large number of committees and a plethora of delegates from all around the Kingdom and beyond. We hope you use this opportunity to research the topics that will help you learn more about the past, present, and future of our world. We would also like you to learn from the other delegates that may come from completely different backgrounds.

Model UN conferences are very fun and entertaining, but we hope that PSUMUN becomes more than that to you. We hope that you leave our conference taking a step into the right direction of your future. Everything we learn in life is one step further on the ladder of success and PSUMUN aims to help you with that.

We strive to help educate our delegates to learn more about world issues and learn all the amazing skills that come with joining Model UN conferences. We wish you all the best in the conference and in all your future endeavors.

With that, we hope you have fruitful and constructive debates. The SG yields the floor to you.

Good luck!

Best regards,
Hend Moughrabiah, Secretary - General

COMMITTEE OVERVIEW:

The Security Council is one of the principal organs of the United Nations (UN) and is responsible for maintaining international peace and security. It plays a crucial role in addressing threats to peace or acts of aggression and formulating responses to such situations. The Security Council consists of 15 member states. Five of these members are permanent and hold veto power. These countries are the United States, the United Kingdom, China, Russia, and France. The other ten members are elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms. The primary responsibility of the Security Council is to investigate and take appropriate action to maintain international peace and security. It can authorize the use of force, impose sanctions, establish peacekeeping missions, and issue binding resolutions. Decisions of the Security Council require the affirmative votes of at least nine members, including the concurring votes of all five permanent members with veto power. The five permanent members have the power to veto any substantive resolution. This means that if any one of them votes against a resolution, it cannot be adopted, regardless of the number of affirmative votes. The Security Council has a standing agenda that includes ongoing conflicts and threats to international peace. It can also consider other issues if they are deemed to be a threat to global stability. The Security Council is a critical component of the UN system, and its decisions carry significant weight in the realm of international relations. However, the presence of veto power among the permanent members has at times been a source of both strength and contention, as it allows those nations to block actions that they find contrary to their interests.

Introduction

The United States and China in a technological war

In an era characterized by rapid technological advancements and global interconnectivity, the relationship between the United States and China holds immense significance not only for these two superpowers but for the entire world. The evolving dynamics between the United States and China in the realm of technology have become a focal point of international attention, giving rise to what is often described as a "technological war." Delegates are encouraged to engage in thorough research and thoughtful debate to craft meaningful solutions that can help address the challenges posed by this significant global issue.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The United States embodies a market-driven, neoliberal capitalist system. It emphasizes principles such as free-market competition, limited government intervention, individual entrepreneurship, and protection of intellectual property rights. This ideology has allowed the U.S. to create an environment that fosters innovation and entrepreneurship, propelling it to the forefront of global technological advancements. Silicon Valley, in California, is an iconic example of this approach, as it nurtures countless startups and tech giants.

China, on the other hand, represents a form of state capitalism. The Chinese government retains a significant role in the economy, strategically directing investment, controlling key industries through state-owned enterprises, and often providing subsidies to domestic companies. This approach has been instrumental in China's rapid economic growth, allowing it to mobilize resources on a massive scale, focusing on infrastructure development, and driving innovation in strategic sectors. The "China model" combines aspects of both a planned economy and a market economy, enabling it to achieve high growth rates.

This ideological divide has manifested in several ways, including disagreements over trade practices, intellectual property, and the role of the state in the economy. The United States contends that China's state-led capitalism distorts global trade and unfairly benefits its domestic companies, while China argues that the U.S. is unwilling to acknowledge its own government interventions, such as subsidies to agriculture and defense.

Understanding this ideological clash is crucial when examining the technological war between these two nations. It not only shapes their economic strategies but also influences their broader foreign policies, security considerations, and global roles. As the world continues to navigate the complexities of these competing ideologies, it is essential to explore potential

areas of cooperation and mutual understanding to maintain global stability and promote innovation.

While the inherent ideological differences between these two countries form the infrastructure of the conflict, there are a plethora of specific events that led to the development and exacerbation of this issue:

China's Economic Rise: China's remarkable economic growth, which began in the late 20th century, has been a driving force behind the technological rivalry. As China became the world's second-largest economy, it increasingly invested in research and development, education, and infrastructure to boost its technological capabilities.

WTO Accession (2001): China's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001 marked a significant turning point. It opened up its markets to foreign investment, and the country rapidly became known as the "world's factory" due to its manufacturing prowess. This attracted significant foreign investment and technology transfer.

Intellectual Property Concerns: Over the years, the U.S. and other Western nations raised concerns about China's lax enforcement of intellectual property rights. There were allegations of intellectual property theft, counterfeiting, and forced technology transfer, leading to disputes and trade tensions.

Made in China 2025 (2015): China's announcement of its "Made in China 2025" initiative in 2015 signaled a clear intent to become a global leader in high-tech industries. This plan aimed to boost domestic innovation and reduce dependence on foreign technology, leading to concerns in the U.S. and other nations about potential industrial espionage and unfair competition.

Trade Disputes and Tariffs: The Trump administration in the United States initiated a series of trade disputes with China, imposing tariffs on a range of goods. These trade tensions

further escalated the technological rivalry as both countries sought to gain leverage in negotiations.

Huawei and 5G Networks: The U.S. government's ban on the Chinese tech giant Huawei from participating in its 5G infrastructure development due to national security concerns became a focal point. This move had global implications, as it led to debates about the security of 5G networks and concerns about the potential for surveillance through Chinese-made technology.

Cybersecurity and Espionage Accusations: Accusations of cyberattacks and espionage activities involving both countries have been reported over the years, further straining their relationship. High-profile cases of alleged hacking and IP theft have added to the mutual mistrust.

Export Controls and Sanctions: Both the U.S. and China have implemented export controls and sanctions on technology products and companies. This has affected various industries, including semiconductors, where both countries are interdependent.

These past events have cumulatively contributed to the deepening technological rivalry and broader tensions between the United States and China. They have created a complex and multifaceted relationship that encompasses not only trade and technology but also national security, geopolitics, and global economic stability. Understanding these historical factors is crucial for comprehending the current dynamics and formulating effective policies and solutions in addressing this issue.

Major Countries Involved:

1. The United States: As one of the two central players, the U.S. has been at the forefront of addressing the technological challenge posed by China. The U.S. government has taken various measures, including export controls and restrictions on Chinese tech companies.

2. China: China, with its ambition to become a global technological leader, is a primary participant in this technological rivalry. It has been investing heavily in research and development, emerging technologies, and expanding its influence in global tech markets.

3. European Union: The EU is a significant player in the technological competition between the U.S. and China. It has its own interests in regulating technology and trade, and it faces decisions about whether to align more closely with either the U.S. or China or to maintain a more independent stance.

4. Japan: Japan has been actively participating in the technological competition, focusing on areas like semiconductor production and 5G technology. It is also a U.S. ally and partner in addressing common concerns about technology transfer and intellectual property.

5. South Korea: South Korea plays a crucial role in the supply chain for technology products, particularly semiconductors and displays. It is intricately connected to the global tech ecosystem and is navigating the technological rivalry's effects on its economy.

6. Australia: Australia is another U.S. ally and has taken steps to restrict Chinese companies like Huawei from participating in its telecommunications infrastructure. It

is deeply involved in the global tech network and seeks to balance its security concerns with its economic interests.

7. Taiwan: Taiwan is a key player in the semiconductor industry and has a central role in global tech supply chains. The island's security is intertwined with the technological competition between the U.S. and China, and it is a significant point of tension in the broader geopolitics of the region.

8. Canada: As a neighbor and trade partner with the United States, Canada is also part of the North American tech ecosystem and has been influenced by U.S. policies and decisions regarding China.

9. India: India is a rising tech powerhouse and has become a battleground for both U.S. and Chinese tech companies. It faces the challenge of balancing its economic opportunities with security concerns and has implemented measures to regulate foreign investment in sensitive sectors.

10. Southeast Asian Nations: Countries in Southeast Asia are often important players in the supply chain for technology products. They are also navigating the competition by balancing their relationships with both the U.S. and China.

TIMELINE :

1949-1971: Tensions rise

The United States and China have always been at odds since 1949. It was only after the Korean and Vietnam War that relations have completely gone downhill. The United States was against China's involvement in the Korean War but China carried on to involve itself leading to the segregation by the US. China strikes back by taking ownership of all lands purchased by US citizens on its lands. The relations since 1949 - 1971 have been a series of attacks from both parties. John F Kenney's Administration during that time declared that China was more of a threat than the Soviets. Reason for that being is that in 1963 China produced nuclear weaponry. However, this is in short, the history in relation to the dynamic of the relationship between China and the US.

1971-1972: Rapprochement

China gained a great deal from the rapprochement with the US and saw a significant rise in security for the duration of the Cold War. Insofar as China persisted in supporting America's adversaries in Pyongyang and Hanoi, it has been contended that the United States gained less than it had intended. Ultimately, though, China's mistrust of Vietnam's intentions resulted in a rift in Sino-Vietnamese relations and the 1979 Sino-Vietnamese War following Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia. China and the US funded fighters in Africa who opposed movements supported by the Soviet Union and Cuba. The economic impact of normalization was slow, however, as it took many years for American goods to reach the Chinese market. Many consider Nixon's China policy to be the best of his presidency. Others, like William Bundy, argue that it did little good for the US.

Normalization

The threat of Soviet invasion in Afghanistan and Vietnam's invasion of Cambodia brought the US and China closer together. In 1979, the US and China started working together in the military. China allowed the US to set up listening posts in Xinjiang in 1980 so the US could keep an eye on Soviet rocket flights in Central Asia. In return, the US agreed to sell dual-use civil and military technology to China, as well as non-lethal military equipment.

However, China's requests for advanced tech from the US weren't always accepted, partly because some Congressmen didn't like the idea of transferring technology to a communist country or didn't think it would be safe. China continued to sell weapons to countries that were hostile to America in the 1980s.

In the run-up to Tiananmen Square in 1989, there were more and more cultural exchanges between the US and China. People from both sides got to see each other's culture, art, and education. A lot of mainland Chinese professionals and government delegations would come to the US every month. A lot of these exchanges went on after Tiananmen.

2017-2019: Technological War

Because of this hierarchical structure and uneven authority, the US was able to turn its worldwide supply lines into weapons. The Chinese communications corporation ZTE was accused of breaking a 2017 settlement regarding illegal ZTE exports to North Korea and Iran, which led the Commerce Department to restrict U.S. semiconductor exports to ZTE in April 2018. Afterward, semiconductor exports to Huawei and other Chinese firms were prohibited by the US government. The first wave began in 2019 when the US forbade corporations from selling hardware and EDA software to Chinese firms on the U.S. Entity List, including Huawei. But there were a lot of hardware flaws in the first wave, since Huawei could still get American goods from other sources. At this same period, Huawei began to accumulate semiconductors. The second wave of the tech war ensured that no supply chain passed through China and that no outside companies could utilize American machinery to produce parts that would be shipped to China. This prohibition was far harsher and caused significant disruptions to the world's supply networks, which in turn radically changed the dynamics between the government and business. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) prohibited exports in addition to allowing the U.S. telecommunications industry to no longer buy goods from Chinese enterprises (Huawei, ZTE, Hytera, Hikvision, Dahua) within the country.

SOLUTIONS:

There are no previous solutions made addressing this issue. However, there are possible solutions that can be made to solve this issue in the future. Addressing the technological competition between the United States and China requires a nuanced and comprehensive approach, involving diplomatic, economic, and technological strategies. Potential solution to tackle and help solve this issue can include:

1. International Collaboration:

Global Standards: Encourage the establishment of international standards for emerging technologies, promoting cooperation rather than competition.
Research Collaboration: Facilitate joint research initiatives and partnerships between U.S. and Chinese scientists and institutions to tackle global challenges like climate change, public health, and cybersecurity.

2. Diplomacy:

Bilateral Agreements: Engage in diplomatic dialogues to establish agreements on cyber activities, intellectual property, and technology transfer to create a framework for fair competition.
Conflict Resolution: Develop mechanisms to resolve disputes through international organizations, reducing the likelihood of escalating into a technological cold war.

3. Trade Policies:

Fair Trade Practices: Advocate for fair trade practices and ensure that trade policies address concerns related to intellectual property theft, forced technology transfer, and market access.
Transparency: Encourage transparency in technology-related transactions to minimize suspicion and foster trust between the two nations.

4. Investment in Research and Development:

Increase Funding: Invest heavily in research and development to maintain technological leadership, fostering innovation and competitiveness.
Public-Private Partnerships: Promote collaboration between government agencies, private enterprises, and academia to accelerate technological advancements.

5. Cybersecurity Collaboration:

Information Sharing: Establish mechanisms for sharing information on cybersecurity threats and best practices to enhance collective defense against cyber-attacks.
Norms and Rules: Work towards establishing international norms and rules governing cyber activities to prevent cyber warfare and promote a stable digital environment.

6. Ethical AI and Technology Use:

Ethical Guidelines: Develop and adhere to ethical guidelines for the development and deployment of artificial intelligence and emerging technologies.
International Committees: Establish international committees to oversee the ethical use of technology, ensuring that it aligns with human rights and global values.

Conclusion

The technological war between the United States and China is a complex and multifaceted issue that has far-reaching implications for the global community. It reflects a broader clash of ideologies, economic systems, and national interests, and it has the potential to reshape the world order. As delegates engage in discussions and negotiations on this critical topic, it is essential to consider the following questions:

Questions for Delegates to Consider:

Balancing Security and Innovation: How can countries strike a balance between protecting their national security interests and fostering innovation and economic growth in an interconnected world?

International Cooperation: What mechanisms can be employed to promote international cooperation in regulating and governing emerging technologies, mitigating the risks associated with the technological rivalry, and fostering global peace and prosperity?

Supply Chain Resilience: How can nations diversify and secure their supply chains, particularly in critical technology sectors, to reduce vulnerabilities to geopolitical tensions and disruptions?

Fair Trade and Competition: How can the international community ensure a level playing field in global trade, addressing concerns about state subsidies, intellectual property theft, and forced technology transfer?

Geopolitical Consequences: What are the geopolitical implications of the technological rivalry between the U.S. and China, and how might it shape international alliances, conflicts, and power dynamics?

National Sovereignty vs. Global Governance: To what extent should nations prioritize their national sovereignty and interests in technological matters, and when is global governance and cooperation a more appropriate approach?

Ethical Considerations: How can technology be developed, regulated, and used in a way that aligns with ethical principles, human rights, and the common good?

Emerging Technologies: What are the potential consequences and opportunities arising from emerging technologies like artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and biotechnology in the context of the U.S.-China technological rivalry?

Regional Impacts: How does this technological war affect specific regions, and what steps can be taken to minimize negative consequences and enhance regional stability?

Future Scenarios: What are the potential scenarios for the evolution of the U.S.-China technological competition, and how can delegates work toward desirable outcomes that benefit the international community as a whole?

Useful links:

https://www.realinstitutoelcano.org/en/analyses/the-us-china-technology-war-and-its-effects-on-europe/#:~:text=The%20war%20has%20two%20aspects,and%20China%2C%20subsidising%20national%20production.

https://www.worldscientific.com/doi/10.1142/S237774001950012X

https://www.brookings.edu/events/the-role-of-technology-in-the-us-china-trade-war/