



MODEL UNITED
NATIONS
CONFERENCE - JULY 2023



DISEC

Disarmament and International
Security Committee

Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings Delegates,

We feel privileged and honoured to welcome you all to the Disarmament and International Security Committee at Delhi Public School Model United Nations - 2023. We are looking forward to working with each other and all of you to provide you with a very special experience of constructive debate. We believe in the fact that a conference like this allows you to understand the world and your place in it, better than ever before. We also hope that by the end of the conference, you will have a better understanding of the procedures, rules and objectives and that you will be willing to participate in more such MUNs.

The essence of debate is to understand information; we have designed this background guide as a stepping stone. The Background Guide is a major resource for you but should not provide a hindrance in your external research. The Background Guide will help you get familiar with the agenda and its background but for the committee to progress as a delegate you must carry forward external research. The Background Guide will provide you with very basic and guiding insights. Do not base all of your research from this guide. As mentioned, this is just the basics. For your external research and background research on your country, you can gain valuable advice by contacting important members of your Secretariat or one of us. This Background guide will also aid in understanding the steps to take to do your external research effectively.

We urge all members of the committee to take the time to read the background guide and use it as a starting point for their preparation. We urge every delegate to come to the conference with an open mind, ready to meet and work with new people, and actively participate in the debate in the committee, debate and argue solutions and problems and help form a thorough and effective resolution.

All of us look forward to having an amazing experience with each of you.

Live long and prosper.

Kabeer Bajaj - Rishabh Chaudri
Navya Sreya Dhulipala

Introduction of the Committee

The United Nations General Assembly, as one of the UN's six principal organs, serves as the primary deliberative, policy-making, and representative body. It fulfils essential functions including the regulation of the UN's financial plan, receipt of reports from diverse UN entities, and formulation of proposals through General Assembly Resolutions. Furthermore, it has established numerous subsidiary organs to address specific matters.

In the General Assembly, critical matters such as proposals related to peace and security, budgetary concerns, as well as decisions regarding the appointment, confirmation, suspension, or removal of individuals, are subject to voting. The voting requires a two-thirds majority of those present and casting their votes. Each nation is allocated one vote in the General Assembly. While the Assembly resolutions are not legally binding on member states, except for budgetary matters that involve the allocation of resources, they hold the power to make recommendations on any issue within the UN's scope, excluding matters of peace and security currently under consideration by the Security Council.

The United Nations General Assembly has consistently addressed human rights matters through its resolutions and declarations. An example of such a resolution is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which serves as a prominent achievement of the General Assembly. However, it is important to note that these resolutions and declarations hold a recommendatory nature. Their legal significance lies in their ability to reflect customary law, develop customary law, and serve as the basis for future legally binding treaties. A notable illustration is the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which served as a foundational document for both the Human Rights Covenants and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, with its key provisions reflecting Customary International Law.

The greater part of these conventions as well as resolutions are negotiated by the United Nations General Assembly's Third Committee, the Committee for Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Affairs Committee (SOCHUM). It is one of six Committees subdivided by topics that the General Assembly has called into being to deal with its various assignments.

The Committee works in close cooperation with the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament. It is the only Main Committee of the General Assembly entitled to verbatim records coverage.

Mandate of committee

The First Committee deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime.

It considers all disarmament and international security matters within the scope of the Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any other organ of the United Nations; the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments; promotion of cooperative arrangements and measures aimed at strengthening stability through lower levels of armaments.

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The First Committee sessions are structured into three distinct stages:

1. General Debate
2. Thematic Discussions
3. Action on Drafts

It is the only Main Committee of the General Assembly entitled to verbatim records coverage pursuant to Rule 58 (a) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly. Which states -

“Verbatim records of the meetings of the General Assembly and of the Disarmament and International Security (First Committee) shall be drawn up by the Secretariat and submitted to those organs after approval by the presiding officer. The General Assembly shall decide upon the form of the records of the meetings of the other Main Committees and, if any, of the subsidiary organs and special meetings and conferences. No organ of the General Assembly shall have both verbatim and summary records.”

Agenda

“Discussing international security POLICIES with special emphasis on extremist factions.”

I. Introduction

The specific mandate of DISEC (Disarmament and International Security Committee) differs from other committees of the General Assembly as it primarily focuses on addressing disarmament and related international security concerns faced by the international community. Consequently, many of the United Nations conventions pertaining to disarmament and the use of weapons have originated from the work conducted by DISEC.

II. Historical Context

A. Formation of the United Nations: DISEC was established in 1945 with the creation of the United Nations. Its primary purpose was to address the aftermath of World War II and promote disarmament efforts to prevent the recurrence of such devastation.

B. Cold War and Arms Race: The Cold War era witnessed intense competition between the United States and the Soviet Union, resulting in an arms race that posed a significant threat to international security. DISEC played a crucial role in negotiations and agreements aimed at arms control and disarmament during this period.

C. Post-Cold War Challenges: Following the end of the Cold War, new security challenges emerged, including regional conflicts, terrorism, and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). DISEC has adapted its agenda to address these evolving threats.

We're going to focus on the last one.

III. Current Global Security Landscape

A. Extremist Factions: Extremist factions have become a significant concern for the international community. These groups, motivated by ideological, political, or religious beliefs, employ violence and terrorism as means to achieve their objectives. They pose a threat to global security, stability, and the principles of the United Nations.

B. Impact of Extremism: Extremist factions have caused widespread instability, civilian casualties, and displacement in various regions. Their activities include acts of terrorism, recruitment of foreign fighters, cyberattacks, and the illicit trafficking of arms and drugs.

These factions often exploit fragile states, political unrest, and social divisions to gain influence and expand their reach.

C. Radicalization and Online Platforms: The digital era has facilitated the spread of extremist ideologies through social media platforms, online propaganda, and recruitment efforts. The internet has become a significant tool for radicalisation, necessitating effective strategies to counter online extremism.

IV. International Efforts to Combat Extremist Factions

A. Counter-Terrorism Frameworks: The international community has developed various frameworks and instruments to combat terrorism and extremist factions. Key examples include the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), and the Global Counterterrorism Forum (GCTF).

B. Multilateral Cooperation: Collaborative efforts among nations, regional organisations, and international bodies are essential to effectively address extremist factions. Cooperation includes intelligence sharing, law enforcement coordination, capacity building, and the exchange of best practices to counter terrorism and prevent radicalization.

C. Resolutions and Treaties: The United Nations Security Council has adopted several resolutions targeting specific extremist factions and emphasising counter-terrorism efforts. Treaties such as the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty also contribute to international security.

V. Policy Considerations

A. Preventive Measures: Preventing radicalization and addressing the root causes of extremism are essential components of any effective policy. This involves investment in education, social integration, promoting tolerance and respect for diversity, and countering hate speech and discrimination.

B. Strengthening Legal Frameworks: Nations must enhance their legal frameworks to effectively prosecute and bring to justice individuals involved in extremist activities, including financing and recruitment. International cooperation is crucial in extraditing and prosecuting terrorists across borders.

C. Disarmament and Non-Proliferation: DISEC should consider the role of arms control, non-proliferation treaties, and disarmament efforts in countering extremist factions. Efforts to prevent the acquisition and use of WMDs by these factions are crucial to international security.

VI. Case Studies

For the purposes of this committee our examination of the history of terrorism will begin in the 20th century through a series of case studies

A. Palestine - Al Fatah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestine, Liberation Organization - Hamas

Palestinian terrorist groups often engaged in armed resistance and nationalist struggles. Following the aftermath of World War II and the dismantling of several empires, previously occupied nations aspired for complete independence. The establishment of the state of Israel in 1948 triggered a series of revolutionary movements that resorted to violent means. In the 1960s, secular organisations like Al Fatah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) expanded their operations globally in order to gain attention. These actions coincided with Israel's military victories over other Arab nations in 1967. During the 1972 Munich Olympic Games, certain Palestinians carried out acts of terrorism, including kidnappings and bombings. Although their targets were Israelis, these acts occurred during an international event, marking a significant instance of international terrorism in the 21st century. Consequently, various Palestinian groups became an influential model for secular militants worldwide who sought full autonomy for their own people.

After the Munich attack, secular nationalist groups in Palestine grew. The PLO and Al Fatah competed to represent Palestinians and establish an independent state. They merged in the 1960s due to political pressures, a common trend among militant groups. By 1993, the PLO had absorbed Al Fatah, with Yasser Arafat signing the Oslo Accords to renounce violence. The PLO now leads the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), while Hamas, an anti-Israeli group from the Muslim Brotherhood, controls Palestinian territories in Gaza and the West Bank. Leadership in Palestine is thus divided between the PNA and Hamas.

The key takeaway from this case is that the absence of viable political settlements fuels militancy. Hamas often gains civilian support in competition because they are perceived as more likely to fight for Palestinian demands. Even if civilians do not endorse violence, they may view Hamas as more legitimate because their actions prompt a response from the Israeli government. In contrast, the PNA lacks that kind of leadership, and the Israeli government has been hesitant to negotiate. **Understanding terrorism globally requires recognizing that many terrorist groups emerged in the absence of capable governance and territorial sovereignty. Palestinians attribute the growth of militancy to unfair political settlements and a lack of international assistance in the post-colonial era.**

B. Colombia - Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, People's Army

The FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, People's Army) is a longstanding left-wing paramilitary group with a revolutionary agenda. Established in 1964 after the decade-long civil war called La Violencia, FARC promotes a communist ideology.

With support from the Colombian Communist Party (PCC), FARC provided alternative settlements for communities who felt neglected by the Colombian government. However, when the Colombian military attacked their new community in Marquetalia, Tolima, the organisation retaliated.

Since its inception in 1964, FARC has experienced significant growth as an organisation, employing diverse strategies to enhance its legitimacy. In response to the events in Marquetalia, FARC held a regional conference known as the Southern Bloc, collaborating with other guerrilla organisations to advocate for improved conditions for the Colombian people. Additionally, the group focused on investing in social services, a common tactic used by terrorist groups to bolster their legitimacy. During the 1970s, FARC established multiple training camps and engaged in kidnapping politicians as a means to generate funds.

Furthermore, FARC expanded its revenue streams by engaging in cocaine trafficking, which significantly bolstered the organisation's financial power. Starting from the 1980s, FARC has engaged in intermittent peace talks with the Colombian government, negotiating ceasefires and political concessions. This trend continued under President Santos, who actively pursued peace talks and implemented periodic ceasefires.

FARC exemplifies how a militant organisation utilises terrorist tactics to pursue its objectives. While initially evolving as a paramilitary entity and providing social services, its endorsement of violence for political gains categorises it as a terrorist group. Additionally, the organisation's exploitation of narcotics has contributed to its expansion. Effectively *addressing such terrorist groups involves meeting political demands while preserving the dignity and legitimacy of the state.*

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C. State Sponsored terrorism

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The government has used a variety of terrorist techniques. Protests and aspirations for greater political autonomy arose in Syria following the Arab Spring in 2011, as they have in other dictatorial governments. Rather than answer the people's demands, Bashar Assad remained in power, resorting to terrorist-like actions to maintain his grasp. Most notably, the leadership has repeatedly employed chemical weapons to kill individuals in silence while escaping international investigation.

Iran's foreign and security policy is based on its backing for a global network of terrorist proxies. The Russian Imperial Movement, a far-right terrorist organisation with ties to the Kremlin, has been classified by the US as a Specially classified Global Terrorist organisation. In Ukraine, Russian proxy troops such as the Wagner Group and Task Force Rusich, a

neo-Nazi paramilitary group, are operating. Given NATO's support for Ukraine, Moscow may aim to launch terrorist strikes on European soil in revenge for what Russian President Vladimir Putin has termed as NATO-sponsored terrorism.

D. Right wing terrorism (Domestic)

In early December, German police and security forces conducted nationwide searches to foil a conspiracy-driven attempt to destabilise the government by far-right extremists. The QAnon conspiracy has continued to change and evolve, taking root in nations such as Germany, Japan, and others, acting like a parasite, latching on and adapting to local situations. There is a patchwork of ideologies motivating violent extremism within the broader far-right umbrella, including among so-called "Incels," a subset of violent misogynists, as well as neo-Luddites or "technophobes," who have increasingly targeted 5G cell towers and other critical infrastructure. Eco-fascists, sometimes known as "white supremacists going green," have established out a niche among segments of the far-right.

E. Lone-Wolf Terrorism

Lone wolf terrorism, perhaps more than the Islamic State, poses the most likely threat to states. Lone wolf terrorism is defined as acts of violence committed by people unaffiliated with organisations in order to disrupt the status quo.

Though lone wolves lack the necessary training to carry out intricate operations, publicly available information and basic violence mechanisms have the potential to inflict massive mass deaths. Lone wolves are most likely inspired by larger ideas but **act just within their own countries.**

The assassination of former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is believed to be the result of lone wolf attacks. The evidence points to the involvement of individuals acting independently, without ties to organized groups. Abe's prominent position in Japanese politics and his high-profile status made him a potential target for those with extremist ideologies or personal grievances.

VII. Committee Expectations

Delegates in DISEC are expected to:

A. Understand the historical context and evolution of international security challenges.

B. Analyze the impact of extremist factions and propose comprehensive policies to address their threat.

C. Collaborate with other nations to develop effective strategies for preventing radicalization, countering terrorism, and promoting international security.

D. Consider the perspectives and interests of different countries, balancing national security concerns with broader global objectives.

Questions to consider:

- What are the root causes of international terrorism? Are economic, social, religious, or political circumstances primarily responsible?
- Can the radicalization of individuals with extremist views be prevented? What factors contribute to the transition from radical beliefs to violent extremism?
- Who bears the responsibility for preventing instances of international terrorism? Is it primarily the role of state governments, or should non-governmental actors and community-based initiatives be involved in addressing vulnerable communities?
- Can former terrorists who have renounced violence play a role in dissuading individuals from engaging in acts of terrorism?
- What resources can be provided to developing countries lacking the necessary infrastructure to address political grievances effectively?

Remember, this background guide **provides a starting point** for your research and preparation. It is crucial to delve deeper into specific aspects, policies, and regional contexts relevant to extremist factions to enhance your understanding and develop comprehensive solutions during the Model United Nations conference.

Helpful Links

<https://www.fpri.org/article/2022/02/introduction-the-u-s-war-against-isis-how-america-and-its-allies-defeated-the-caliphate/>