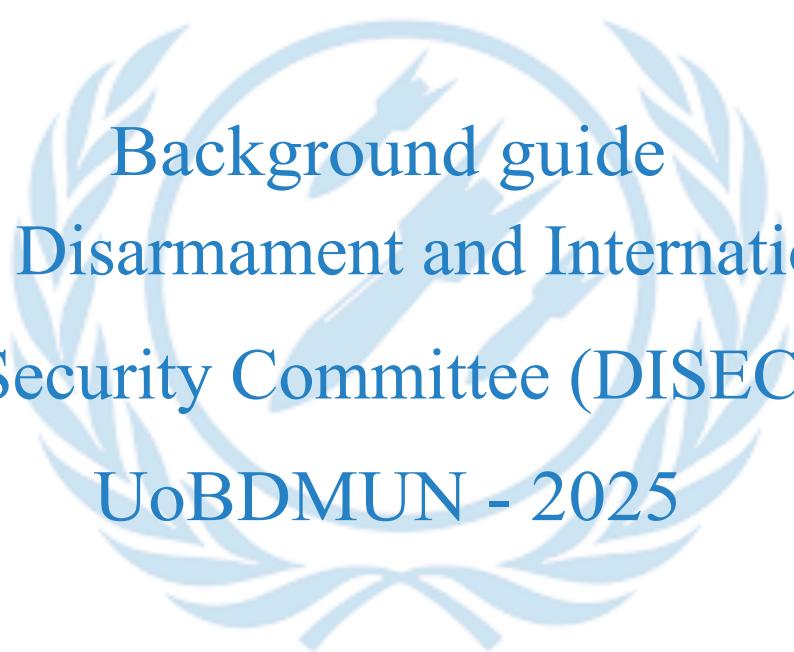




UoBDMUN | **20
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Background guide
The Disarmament and International
Security Committee (DISEC)
UoBDMUN - 2025

Welcome Letter

Esteemed Delegates,

We hope this letter finds you well.

To say that we both are elated to be part of the inaugural edition of the University of Birmingham Dubai's Model United Nations (UoBDMUN) conference all the while having the honor of chairing a committee as prestigious as the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) would simply be an understatement. It has become evident that addressing disarmament and security challenges is crucial in today's world, with numerous issues very close to home still awaiting resolution. Hence, we hope to seek your unconditional dedication towards solving the topic at hand and reaching a fulfilling consensus.

As your chairs, we would like to inform you that your background guide is meant to be used as a starting point for your research and that your resources cannot entirely stem from this document. Your own efforts towards understanding your country's relevance and the complexity of the topic through independent research is vital to be able to delegate throughout the committee sessions.

Once more, we cannot express how enthusiastic we are to embark on this journey with you. Your participation in MUN already demonstrates your confidence and a greater step towards gaining your learning experience, encompassing both passion and diligence. We understand that this conference may present itself with many debates and challenges, but we truly hope to ensure we can create an environment that encourages intellectual growth. As your chairs, we plan to ensure that every voice is heard throughout the entirety of this conference.

With that being said, we hope to see you all soon, proudly representing the DISEC!

DISEC Moderators,

Nareen Habibi and Dana Khawaja

Committee Introduction

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC), also known as the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, was established in 1945 alongside the signing of the UN Charter. Recognizing the urgent need for a dedicated platform to address the pressing security challenges of the post-war era, the committee was born. The primary function of DISEC is to serve as a forum for UN member states to engage in comprehensive discussions on disarmament, global security threats, disarmament of weaponry, and the maintenance of international peace. While not directly owning the authority to dictate the actions of the Security Council, DISEC plays a crucial role in melding the international security agenda. Ultimately, by endorsing certain topics for the Security Council's consideration and verbalizing draft resolutions for the General Assembly, DISEC wields prominent influential power over the global security discourse.

Across its history, DISEC has undertaken a wide range of critical issues, including nuclear proliferation, the use of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, cyber warfare, and the defense of civilians within armed conflict. Correspondingly, the committee's efforts and contributions have resulted in several landmark achievements, such as the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the development of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), further signifying its pledge towards global disarmament and international cooperation. Overall, DISEC has and shall continue to play a pivotal role in addressing contemporary security challenges and fostering a more peaceful and secure world.

Topic – Preventing the further proliferation of weapons of mass destruction

Introduction

Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs), including nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, seize the catastrophic power to cause dire devastation and a widespread loss of life. The proliferation and use of WMDs present severe threats to international peace, global stability, and security due to their indiscriminate and disastrous potential. In order to maintain global solidarity across all political and regional domains while ensuring the protection of human life, efforts for the prevention of the spread of WMDs are crucial. In an era marked by unmatched innovations in science and technology, the specter of WMDs materializes large, casting a shadow of uncertainty, fear, and ambiguity over the international community. Moreover, the destructive capability of such weapons threatens the safety and security of people worldwide and jeopardizes the very fabric of civilization. From the proliferation of nuclear weapons to the advancement of chemical and biological agents, the concerns of unchecked propagation are potentially catastrophic and extensive. The multinational nature of the WMD threat necessitates a concerted and collaborative response from the international community. Ultimately, strategies to address the forthcoming challenges potentially imposed by the further proliferation of WMDs must be directed by the principles engraved in the United Nations Charter, including disarmament, peaceful coexistence, international security, and the protection of fundamental human rights.

History

In the beginning on April 22nd, 1915, around 6,000 British soldiers were killed by asphyxiating gas, which was created to lower the normal oxygen concentration in breathing air during World War I (Robinson, 2023). The Geneva Protocol, which forbade the use of chemical weapons in combat, was established in 1925 as a result of these deaths, but it had little impact on the creation or excessive storage of chemical weapons. Prior to the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan, nations were unaware of the seriousness of WMDs. Only a year after the attack did the United States put out the Brauch Plan, which asked for the elimination of current nuclear stockpiles and international control over atomic energy.

The United States and the Soviet Union engaged in a nuclear arms race between 1952 and 1955 as part of the Cold War in an effort to create next-generation weapons. The United States tested a bomb in 1954 that was "hundreds of times more powerful than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima" (Masters, 2017). The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was founded on July 29, 1957, to guarantee nuclear security in response to the anticipated developments in nuclear technology. Afterwards, the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT) was put into effect on March 5, 1970, after being made available for signature on July 1, 1968.

The fall of the Soviet Union on December 26, 1991, sparked several questions about the safety of its nuclear weapons. Russia and the other former Soviet governments received assistance in dismantling and getting rid of their nuclear weapons thanks to the Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) plan. The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), which forbade the creation, manufacture, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons in 1993, was established in response to the growing use of these weapons. On May 11, 1995, the signing parties agreed to unconditionally extend the NPT, which had been established with a 25-year term, in order to bolster its role in preventing nuclear proliferation. The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which forbade all nuclear test explosions, was then ratified in 1996; however, certain important nations had not ratified it, therefore it had not yet been implemented.

On March 26, 2010, the United States and the Russian Federation signed the New START Treaty, which limited the deployed strategic nuclear warheads of each country to 1,550. On July 14, 2015, the Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA) was reached, placing restrictions on Iran's nuclear programs in exchange for sanctions relief. The United States' withdrawal from the JCPOA two years later, in 2017, sparked questions about the agreement's future and added the possibility of Iran's nuclear goals resurfacing.

The New START Treaty was then extended in 2021 between the United States and the Russian Federation for five more years, but issues started when Vladimir Putin declared in 2023 that the Russian Federation "is suspending its participation" in the New START accord for a short time. This was the final nuclear weapons agreement between the US and the Russian Federation, and it currently poses a threat to the spread of WMDs.

Analysis

The threat posed by weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) crosses national boundaries and poses serious questions for global security and stability in a world that is growing more interdependent by the day. The foundation of initiatives to stop the spread of WMD is diplomatic involvement and state cooperation. It is necessary to reinforce international agreements such as the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT).

These accords, which form the foundation of international non-proliferation and disarmament regimes, call for stricter verification procedures, widespread adherence, and coordinated actions to deal with non-compliance. Additionally, in order to gain more support for non-proliferation policies, diplomatic outreach to countries that have not ratified these treaties is required. Thus, a nation may protect its weapons and stop the use of WMDs by targeting WMD threats within specific geographic settings, enabling information-sharing, capacity-building, and enforcement tailored to regional security dynamics, and promoting regional cooperation.

Similarly, it takes strong legal frameworks to prevent the spread of WMD. Ensuring the application of contemporary international legal systems and strengthening enforcement procedures are crucial. States must pass strong domestic laws that uphold their commitments under international law and punish WMD users severely. It is necessary to define interpretations, modify legal frameworks, and enhance regulations pertaining to dual-use technology in order to address emerging threats like cyberwarfare. To combat the threats posed by terrorist groups and rogue actors looking to obtain WMD weapons, nations, international organizations, and law enforcement agencies must work together more. To stop the spread of WMDs, technological advancements are required. To prevent the illicit flow of goods linked to WMD, export controls on sensitive technology and materials must be tightened. Nevertheless, to increase monitoring and corroboration capability, there must be cross-border collaboration, the exchange of best practices, and the use of cutting-edge technologies like blockchain and artificial intelligence.

Transparency plays a crucial role in building trust and verifiable disarmament agreements among nuclear-armed states, which is a necessity for the pursuit of disarmament and arms control measures. Keeping a competitive edge combating proliferators necessitates the capacity to foresee and control emerging technical risks. Overall, research and development of counter-proliferation technology, advanced detection techniques, and secure disposal procedures must be prioritized in order to lower hazards in the future.

Starter Sources

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Questions a Resolution Must Answer

- 1) In order to stop the spread of WMDs, how can international cooperation be strengthened?
- 2) How can the current treaties and accords on arms control be improved to more effectively combat the spread of WMD?
- 3) What tactics can strengthen enforcement, monitoring, and verification to stop the illegal trafficking of materials connected to WMDs?
- 4) How can the international community strengthen collaboration to counter this threat and address the role that non-state actors—including terrorists—play in obtaining or utilizing WMDs?

Suggestions for Further Research

1. *Timeline of significant agendas, solutions, proposed and failed resolutions with regards to WMDs disarmament.*
2. *The role of both international law and non-state actors, such as terrorist groups and criminal organizations ,in addressing emerging WMD threats.*
3. *Economic and social consequences of WMD proliferation, including the costs of developing and retaining WMD programs, the prominent humanitarian effects of WMD use, and the overall impact on global security and stability.*
4. *The potential of developing more advanced WMDs using emerging technologies and the ethical, moral, and humanitarian implications of such technologies.*

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