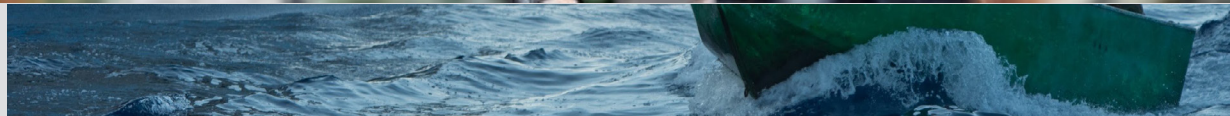


Disarmament and International Security Committee



Model United Nations at Illinois XXII

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Letter from the Director

Welcome Delegates to MUNI XXII 2017!

My name is Nathan Wang and I will be your Director for this wonderful committee. I'm a junior, majoring in Integrative Biology with a minor in Informatics here at the University of Illinois and am excited to invite you to our committee. I've done Model UN for 6 years and have directed and chaired committees for 4 years. As a dedicated veteran Model UN-er, I hope to shape this committee to be an interesting and informative experience for all of you, and you get to understand more about these topics and how they relate to you and to the world. When I'm not doing Model UN, I think about doing Model UN, and when I'm sleeping, I dream about doing Model UN. But while I think about doing Model UN, I am probably engaged in activities like reading and playing video games. Come to committee well informed and prepared to debate, as I am fully willing to fact check people to help everyone learn.

Nathan Wang
Director, DISEC

Letter from the Head Chair

Hello Delegates,

Welcome to MUNI XXII DISEC Committee. My name is Julissa Nunez and I am honored to serve as your head chair! I am a freshman studying psychology with a concentration in behavioral neuroscience and molecular and cellular biology. I'm from a small Chicago suburb called Lemont. I love music, food and theater! Besides MUN, I am also apart of the Illini 4000, every summer we bike across the country to raise money for cancer research and support services. This summer will be my first time riding. I am extremely excited to see you all here at MUNI and even more excited to see what creative ideas you all have to bring to the table. Please feel free to contact me with any questions regarding DISEC during committee. Best of luck preparing for this year's topics!

Julissa Nunez

Head Chair, DISEC

Committee Background

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) is the First Committee of the United Nations, and as such contains all the member states of the United Nations. As the First Committee, they have been around since the creation of the United Nations in 1945, which included 51 nation state members at the time. Today, the number of member nations numbers at 193. The committee deals with problems concerning disarmament, global challenges, and threats to the International Community, as defined in the official UN Charter.

DISEC's first adopted resolution was in part due to the devastating atomic detonations on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and was created in 1946 to address international concerns for the "Establishment of a Commission to Deal with the Problems Raised by the Discovery of Atomic Energy." Ratified by nearly 190 members of the General Assembly, the Treaty of the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) is perhaps one of the most well-known and important resolutions concerning the reduction and limitation of arms that was made by this committee. In effect since 1970, the NPT resolution continually aims to reduce the spread of nuclear technology while increasing collaboration on the peaceful use of nuclear technology as an energy source for civilian, not military, consumption. The NPT is one of the best demonstrations of how the First Committee can have a lasting effect on global security policy.

DISEC has also had many other important resolutions such as the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), which is the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning an entire category of weapons by prohibiting the "development, production, acquisition, transfer, retention, stockpiling and use of biological and toxin weapons." Also included in this list are the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT), which prohibits ratifying states from conducting nuclear tests or explosions of any kind and the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) that shares many functions of the BWC but is aimed at chemical weapons of mass destruction. Lastly, in addition to discussing issues of international peace and security, DISEC and the General Assembly communicate with other organs of the UN, especially the Security Council, by receiving and considering their reports.

Topic 1: Combatting Global Piracy

Background Information

Since the dawn of mankind's earliest civilizations and our developed ability to navigate the seas, the threat of piracy has existed. Pirates have always existed as long as the ability to traverse water and the desire to steal has existed. There are even historical records of whole civilizations being brought low and destroyed by pirates. Pirates have historically operated by raiding sea trade routes, ransoming hostages, stealing supplies and ships using methods of murder, rape, and torture. Modern day piracy has evolved into a multi-billion dollar black market trade, thriving off of criminal activities like human trafficking, illegal arms dealing, and ransom. The power of pirates is felt most prevalently in the waters off the coast of West Africa and South Asia, as the pirates have been seen to thrive the most in unstable or weak countries.

The problem of modern day pirates is most well known off the coasts of Somalia, as the country has existed in a state of disorder ever since 1991, when the government collapsed and the country was thrown into a state of civil war. The threat of piracy threw the entire region into disarray, disrupting the global trade economy greatly, costing an estimated 7 billion USD in lost revenue from the region alone, while piracy worldwide costs an estimated 7 to 12 billion USD regularly each year. Within the past 5 years, the government of Somalia has managed to consolidate somewhat and the civil war has tapered down, providing some much needed, but fragile, stability to the country. Since 2012, piracy off the coasts of Somalia has declined greatly due to international efforts, however the instability of the failed or failing states in the area has shown very clearly that the situation must be monitored closely for the foreseeable future and further actions should be taken to ensure the problem of piracy never again arises in the area.

Pirates claimed that they were protecting their waters from illegal fishing, and, indeed, there was a grain of truth to this. Illegal fishing has been a problem in the region. Foreign vessels have come without permission and depleted many of the surrounding waters of fish and other sea life, ruining natural habitats and taking a source of income away from native Somalis. Because of this, the foreign fishing vessels were, indeed, targeted by early pirates. However, the claim became muddled after awhile as cargo ships carrying oil, food, or other materials were increasingly targeted as more lucrative alternatives. Some pirates even targeted World Food Programme vessels.

The UN has tried taking several different measures to bring stability to Somalia, such as backing the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) of Somalia, which was created in 2004 and is the current internationally recognized government backed by the United Nations. The new recognized government managed to settle the civil war with the help of the African Union and the United Nations backing. Despite this, the new government is still fragile with their authority still in doubt and the UN Monitoring Group on Somalia has reported numerous issues with corruption.

The fragility of the Somali government is also in part to remnants of the insurgents that were beaten through the course of their civil war, particularly Al-Shabaab, an Islamic insurgency group that continued on after the Islamic Courts Union fell apart. The threat that the terrorist insurgency group poses is one to be closely monitored and maintained considering that the relatively new coalition government of the country is ranked at the second most fragile state in the world, trailing only slightly behind South Sudan. With the still fragile state of the region, the international community must take steps to ensure that there are countermeasures to ensure piracy will never explode in the region again, as the globe becomes increasingly interconnected.

The other pirate heavy region of the world is located in the South China Sea and in the Straits of Malacca, the waterway connecting East Asia to South Asia, and is one of the most lucrative waterways in the world as the wealth of Asia has increasingly risen to become the worlds fastest growing economic region. The problems in the area are hard to monitor and more international cooperation is needed to address these matters. With increasing Chinese imperialism, the international community must step up to mediate the issues that are cropping up in the South China Sea, as Chinese pirates raid trade routes and retreat to Chinese claimed waters. Similarly, in the Strait of Malacca, the pirates are able to raid and dodge heading into nearby rivers or other countries waters.

The threat of piracy in the South China Sea is intermixed with complicated international geopolitics, being highly exacerbated by Chinese imperialism. With the withdrawal of US forces in the Philippines in 1992, there was a significant vacuum left behind in the region in regards to naval power. As a result, China has made vast claims to the majority of the South China Sea. Over the course of the years since then, China has achieved incredible things economically and militarily, China has instituted an aggressive reclamation program, creating man-made islands out of shallow reefs and inlets to reinforce its South China Sea claims. Since 2014, China has reclaimed more than 3,200 acres in the South China Sea. Airfields and other permanent facilities have been built on these islands. The islands, in effect, have become stationary aircraft carriers. China has already deployed significant air, naval and missile forces to its newly reclaimed stationary carriers, and in the process, Chinese based pirates have become bigger and bigger problems.

Past International Actions

The United Nations and the international community in the past have had difficulties in determining proper courses of actions regarding piracy. The situation in Somalia was stabilized through UN efforts, however the situation was more largely due to the actions of the African Union and Ethiopia in particular. The new government has the backing of the UN and international efforts; however there is still worry that piracy in the region needs to be more closely monitored, with the government of Somalia still being weak and potentially prone to corruption. The efforts of several international joint

task forces have reestablished normalcy and the building of a Chinese base there has also discouraged piracy. In the South China Sea and the Straits of Malacca, there is a call for multinational efforts to combat pirating. Indonesia and Malaysia however have been reluctant to cooperate to combat piracy overall, despite their area's being heavily affected by pirate activity. Singapore and India so far have led the efforts against piracy in the Strait of Malacca. Other efforts include targeting corruption in the areas, anti-piracy operations, and addressing poverty.

International Blocs

Developing Coastal Nations – Developing nations near bodies of water are susceptible to piracy, and are prone to be hotbeds of pirate activity. As they are the most susceptible and lost the most money to pirates, the developing nations have the most stakes in combatting maritime piracy. However, these developing nations often lack the political stability or economic power to combat piracy, and often wish to implement different mechanisms to do so.

Western countries – The Western countries of the world have mostly wiped out maritime piracy in their waters. While though they are not directly affected by the maritime piracy, their global trade interests are affected, and they promote anti-piracy measures, usually being the ones to push forward legal measures as well.

Latin countries – The latin countries of the world are also deeply affected by piracy, as many of them are coastal and have few countermeasures against piracy. Their developing economies could definitely benefit from anti-piracy countermeasures, but many are hesitant of any outside countries having influence on their own countries.

Asia – Asia is home to some of the worst piracy hotspots around the world. A unique problem in Asia is that there are many territorial disputes, thus, regional cooperation is essential for eradicating piracy in this region. Many of these nations are in the process of upgrading their coastal guards and policing equipment. Within the past decade, Asian nations have taken drastic steps in combating piracy through capacity building, legal assistance, and modernization of its equipment and techniques. Most but not all Asian nations remain open to regional and international cooperation.

Africa - Historically, nations within Africa and the Middle East have relied on international aid to combat piracy. For example, many African states have expanded their navies with aid from the United States, China, and Germany. However, the governments of African and Middle Eastern nations also wish to effectively respond to pirates, and reduce their dependency on the developed world. Unfortunately, these nations are often extremely corrupt, and funds are commonly misused.

Questions A Resolution Must Answer (QARMA):

1. What approach should we take to deal with pirates? i.e. developing a direct plan to deal with them? Or attempt to curb pirates through indirect means?
2. What areas of the world are most affected by piracy? What regional bodies can assist in our efforts?
3. Should we develop a general plan for combatting this topic, or should we create one more adaptable to each country or regions needs?

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Topic 2: Sustainable Demilitarization of Space

Background Information

As many nations across the world develop to a point where they may launch satellites into space, there are definite and legitimate concerns rising about what exactly can be launched and what can be built with spaceflight capabilities. When mankind first reached to the stars, space was described as the inheritance of humankind, a collective heirloom that all humans have a right to be able to use. This sentiment was in the hopes that all nations would be able to embark on enterprises into space, that no one nation could claim sovereignty in space, and that space must not be ruined, polluted, or otherwise tainted so that it can be preserved for the future generations. This is accepted in the commonly accepted Outer Space Treaty of 1967, where nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction are not allowed to be placed anywhere in space, be it in orbit, and on the moon or other celestial body. With advancements in satellite technology and cyber warfare and beyond, the question arises on what measures should be taken to ensure the demilitarization of outer space.

As the modern world progresses and society becomes more dependent on technology, weapons technology simultaneously becomes more threatening and damaging. Space assets have dual usage of being for civilian use or military use. As cyber warfare becomes a higher threat, satellites have become potential targets and could have disastrous impact on society, able to knock out GPS and time signals. Banks, telecommunications, power, and many other important infrastructures could be targeted and cause tremendous damage. In 2011, hackers managed to gain control of the Terra Eos and Landsat satellites, and caused a panic amongst intelligence agencies. The world has progressed rapidly since then and the threat of cyber warfare has only increased.

Space agencies researches into potential use of robotic systems in orbit and laser weaponry for usage in space have also raised large concerns about the possible increase in militarization of outer space. Originally such technologies were developed in the hopes of clearing away debris and disused satellites in orbit, but could potentially be used in warfare in the wrong hands, or if cyber attacks manage to take control of these technologies. Additionally, the potential of 3D printing technologies in space would allow satellite operators to develop new hardware remotely in space. While unlikely, it could be exploited to develop weapons in space that could threaten international security.

Past International Actions

The United Nations in the past has had mixed success regarding the demilitarization of space. At the onset of space technologies and amidst the fear of the Cold War, the efforts to keep space a peaceful haven free of unholy destruction suited everyone and numerous treaties were signed to that effect. In January 1967, the Outer Space Treaty was signed and enacted, and was the first treaty regarding space, providing

the basis for all future laws regarding space. It prohibited the use of nuclear weapons in space, as well as all other types of weapons of mass destruction. Additionally, the plan prevented the claiming of celestial bodies, as well as establishing military bases on celestial bodies. The Registration Convention of 1975 was signed and required that member states register any objects that they launch into space with the United Nations. This allows for the world to know what is in the night sky above us, where it is, and what its capabilities are. In 1979, the Moon Treaty was signed, and then entered into force in 1984. This treaty bans many things from taking place on the moon, such as military testing, environmental altering, and land claims of sovereignty over a certain area. It also requires that states get permission from all other states before exploring and notify the Secretary-General of any celestial activities as well as any discoveries that were made because of these activities.

The Moon Treaty sets up a controlled outer space where all states have equal right to conduct celestial research and other activities, and certain nations could not take control of space away from other members of the international community. Unfortunately, this treaty was neither signed nor ratified by nations that actually have used the Moon or intend to, such as the United States, Russian Federation, China, and Japan. In practice, this makes the treaty a failed one because it has yet to significantly impact any aspect of space exploration, despite the merits of its creation.

International Blocs

United States of America – The USA has historically led the world in advances into space, with only the Soviet Union as their serious rival until the end of the Cold War. The United States has been deeply opposed to the militarization of space through weapons of mass destruction, but they have kept ambiguous in other ways concerning militarization, such as their refusal to sign the Moon Treaty. Their hopes are to closely guide and monitor developing space programs to prevent any militarization of space.

Russia - Russia's space program is descended from the remains of the Soviet Unions, and they have always been open to keeping the strength of the state at the highest that they can. While though Russia wishes to bring back their military strength, any opportunity to ensure that the US is hindered in their efforts is welcome.

China - As one of the most prominent rising countries in the Post-Soviet era, China's space program is considered to be one of the most energized in recent memory, considering the slowed progress that the other superpowers have made in their own relative to their Cold War efforts. China's space program is secluded from the rest of the worlds, but they have shown publicly to be signatories of all UN space related treaties excluding of course the highly unpopular Moon treaty.

Questions A Resolution Must Answer (QARMA):

1. How can we get nations to agree to a compromise and abide by it, unlike the failed Moon treaty?
2. Which of the major space powers positions favor your own? What steps has your own country taken in regards to space and demilitarization? (Note: Not all countries have space programs, but that doesn't mean they don't have space interests.)
3. What about private industries endeavors into space? Can we reasonably control them, and how?

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Topic 3: Private Military Companies

Background Information

In the late 20th century, the idea of private military companies (PMCs) was developed and ever since the growth and power of these companies have risen at an alarming rate. PMCs only rose to prominence after the end of the Cold War. The completion of the Cold War led to a massive demobilization of militaries, which created both a glut of available, trained soldiers due to the discharge of six million military personnel (much of the staff of private military companies were recruited during this time). With increasing numbers of smaller conflicts in less developed countries, the demand for PMCs grew, and they would go on to play important and at times controversial roles in the future. With their unspecified legal status and disputed level of accountability, PMCs are becoming increasingly problematic. PMCs are appealing to the international community for their affordability, expertise, and quick readiness. The UN itself sometimes employs them to secure humanitarian efforts and other such missions in unstable regions. Extremely little has been done on this issue, and the little that was accomplished is largely ineffective as several world powers refused to ratify it and the wording of the resolution itself is poor and appears more symbolic. It is estimated that there is 1 private military contractor to every 10 military personnel.

As with most things, private military companies have both positives and negatives. One advantage is that they allow non-governmental organizations access to a military, if they are able to afford the services. Humanitarian organizations can, and often have, temporarily hired military personnel without the need to set up long-term militaries. They can even aid government forces as supplemental forces, or to act in regions where governments are unable. However, these PMCs have been known to commit atrocities on numerous occasions, with little to no repercussions for their actions. These incidents can often counteract the stabilizing force that PMCs are supposed to provide. Despite this, regulation of private military companies remains vague and ill defined, as the companies are often able to make use of loopholes in the law to avoid prosecution.

One of the first prominent controversial PMC incidents took place during the Angolan Civil War, in which the private military company known as the Executive Outcomes played a large role in ending the civil war by weakening the US backed UNITA party, as the PMC had more advanced technology and better trained staff than the Angolan military. While though the PMC is praised by some to have led to the end of the civil war and were awarded several military contracts, their actions have been criticized due to their own interests in Angola. The PMC was paid in shares in a diamond mining company, and so had a vested interest in ending the conflict as quickly as possible. Thus, they had little regard for Angolan lives and were criticized as unnecessarily escalating the conflict. With more international regulation, it is possible that loss of life in this situation could have been reduced.

Executive Outcomes was also a major player in the Sierra Leone Civil War that began in 1991. Their purpose was to fight against the chief insurgents, who called themselves the Revolutionary United Front (RUF). In this, EO was exceedingly successful. They began operations in 1995, at the price of \$1.8 million per month paid by the IMF. They were told to attack the RUF, build up support for the Sierra Leone government, and take control of the diamond mines. This highly trained and technologically advanced force was able to quickly achieve all three of their given objectives within a little more than a year. They forced the RUF to admit defeat and sign the Abidjan Peace Accord in 1996. However, in 1997 the government was ordered to decrease spending by the IMF. As a result, EO, with a \$35 million dollar price tag at that point, was ordered to pull out. With the private military company gone, RUF led another coup against the failing government. Though Executive Outcomes was effective, it was an expensive option that, because of minimal supervision, led to effects reminiscent of foreign occupation: severe dependence issues.

Iraq is where the largest and most well-known controversies involving private military companies have taken place. PMCs were deployed during the recent United States invasion of Iraq and numbered about one hundred thousand people in 2006 (while the American military personnel numbered one hundred forty thousand), divided among companies such as DynCorp, Blackwater, and Kellogg. Due to a controversial order signed by an Iraqi government official, the PMCs were largely immune to the Iraqi laws. Even when the law was later revoked, very few PMC personnel were tried for their actions. The Abu Ghraib prison hosted numerous human rights violations in 2004. These included mental abuse, physical abuse, rape, murder, torture, and sodomy committed by members of the United States Army as well as contractors, and while the military personnel faced consequences when the violations came to light ranging from discharge to prison, the contractors faced no consequences despite the fact that over a third of the violations were perpetrated by the contractors.

PMCs have also been controversial in Iraq for their extreme cost. It was estimated that a Blackwater soldier costs four hundred and fifty thousand dollars per year, six times more than a US soldier. Private military companies are, like most companies, driven primarily by profit instead of the public good. Despite all of these issues, PMCs have been largely successful in their missions. They have a higher success rate in missions assigned to them and, if they were controlled more tightly, might become fully excellent solutions for global problems. Private military companies have been largely successful in operations where they haven't been actual combatants; there have been far less controversies over these operations. The operating areas of PMCs often extend to advising, security, and housing. Examples of these activities are leadership and management training (and, more controversially, military training), as well as doing construction work. These are much less controversial, less noticed, and more common operations of PMCs. It is the purview of this committee to draft a resolution that will be able to provide greater regulation of PMCs while maintaining all or most of their benefits realistically.

Past International Actions

The United Nations has had little to no success in regulating PMCs. Only the broadest type of conventions and resolutions could possibly be applied to them at this point in time, such as the Geneva Convention, which established what constituted as being war crimes and human rights violations. Additionally, General Assembly Resolutions 2131, 2625, and 3314 collectively restrict the raising of mercenary forces by one state to attack another state. They were not aimed at private military companies and do not properly restrict them. Overall, the regulations against PMCs are currently maintained on a country-by-country basis, which is largely ineffective. A PMC is thus able to deny responsibility by declaring that the government they were hired by ordered them to do their actions, and if the country of origin decides to shield them, then the affected country's victims have no real apparatus to be compensated for the crimes committed against them.

International Blocs

Countries that regularly use PMCs – These are generally those who benefit greatly economically from housing PMCs based within them and PMCs often wield considerable influence over these governments, making reprimands against them particularly difficult. Such PMCs have benefited from these governments in times when the country could not act for reasons including international treaties, despite there being obvious need for action. There is typically some regulation within these countries, but some countries have none. The United States of America (the world's largest supplier of PMCs), France, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands have the largest number of PMCs, and there are numerous others.

Countries with PMCs operating within their territory – These countries have a vested interest in making sure that PMCs are well regulated. They have been useful in these countries, but may have also had negative impacts with unlawful or unethical activities. These countries may also want a lower cost for PMC usage that may come about as a result of hiring. Iraq and Afghanistan (currently the two largest hosts), Colombia, Venezuela, and the Congo are the most prominent examples.

Neutral Countries – These countries are neutral regarding PMCs, but typically are concerned with ensuring that human rights are respected and maintained. They consist of countries that do not fall into the aforementioned categories.

Questions A Resolution Must Answer (QARMA):

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1. What are the advantages and disadvantages with private military companies? How can the former be preserved while minimizing the latter?
 2. In what ways can PMCs be held more accountable at an international, regional, and national level? What body, if any, can be entrusted with the responsibility of PMC oversight?
 3. Should any action we take also affect PMCs retroactively? And if so, how far back are PMCs to be held responsible for their actions?

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