

In a world of guns and drugs, the man with the biggest gun is also the one with most power. As everyone scrambles to arm themselves, the spiral of escalation threatens to destroy us all in an attempt to achieve world domination. Preventing the arms race and disarming these groups before they try to wipe everyone out must become priority.

# **General Assembly I: Disarmament and International Security Committee**

**DIPSMUN 2018**

Chairperson: Pallavi Agrawal  
Vice Chairperson: Pranav S Aatreya  
Moderator: Samhita Rambhatla

# Foreword

Dear Delegates,

It is with great pride that I welcome you to the sixth edition of Delhi Public School Bangalore South's Model United Nations Conference, DiPSMUN. I look forward to spending three fruitful days with all of you in committee.

My name is Pallavi Agarwal and I'm honoured to be serving as the chairperson of the Disarmament and International Security Committee. The first agenda for this committee is "Mexican Drug War – Discussing Illegal arms trade and asymmetric warfare", where the committee will be discussing ways to constrict the flow of arms and counter power imbalances in the regions. The second agenda is "Nuclear disarmament with special reference to the Iran Nuclear deal", discussing the escalating tensions between nuclear powers and the necessity to control it in Asia.

Over the course of these three days, I look forward to seeing all of you present your unique perspectives on the agendas and hope to see a cohesive effort from the committee with regards to working together to find a solution. It is important that we keep our discourse outside the norm, but realistic. I, on behalf of the executive board, sincerely hope that we'll see some out-of-the-box ideas pitched to committee during the course of debate. As it is a DISEC, our focus will be on disarmament and making sure that committee's solutions are based around a focus on disarmament.

I look forward to seeing you this July!

Sincerely,  
Pallavi Agarwal,  
Chairperson, DISEC,  
DiPSMUN 2018

## Abstract

The Mexican Drug War is an ongoing low-intensity war between the drug cartels of Mexico and the Mexican government, in an attempt to stem their ever-growing influence and earnings in the region. The war began in 2006, and since then, casualties have been estimated to be close to 120,000. Last year alone, casualties were estimated in the range of 12,000, second only to Syria. This is mainly due to the fact that both sides have had access to heavy arms and engage in high-casualty guerilla warfare with high-tech weapons. Limiting this access has become a rising problem over recent times.

## Nature of Weapons

Over the years since the rise of the cartels, the constant struggle for power and domination over the smuggling routes with other cartels and the Mexican government has led to a spiral of escalation, with the cartels in a de facto arms race. This arms race has seen these outfits become armed with increasingly dangerous weapons, as they've gone from having mere semi-automatics in their armouries to hand grenades and assault rifles, which are capable of much more destruction than a simple gun.

In addition, access to various sources of arms has seen these cartels gain access to bulletproof vests, dynamite, fragmentation grenades, and even Anti-Tank rockets. As their prominence has continued to rise, they've seen their armouries grow proportionately. There have even been reports of armoured SUVs, nicknamed 'narco-tanks', which have been used to supplement local urban warfare to overpower local non-military law enforcement. Military grade weapons left over from the cold war, such as fragmentation grenades and grenade launchers, have appeared in these armouries after disappearing from the armouries of neighbouring nations.

## Sources of Weapons

The cartels' cross-border smuggling has not been merely unidirectional, as they've legally purchased arms in the United States, where restrictions on guns are nonexistent, and have been transporting arms and ammunitions across the border to Mexico. These have been as varied as

assault rifles and handguns, and as such have armed these cartels with a vast variety of the latest weapons.

According to a recent report on arms trafficking by Mexico's governmental research service, known as the CESOP, an estimated 2,000 weapons illegally enter Mexico from the United States every day. The report says 85 percent of the approximately 15 million weapons that were in circulation in Mexico in 2012 were illegal.

The report — which is based largely on numerous international studies and reports — highlights the large number of cheap military and assault-style weapons available in the United States, in addition to lax US gun laws, as the main reasons for the high number of arms smuggled into Mexico. Some 40 percent of firearms used by drug traffickers in Mexico come from Texas alone, the report stated.

In addition to these, many Cold War-era weapons such as hand grenades and other explosives have been found in the armouries of these cartels. This is a worrying trend as these are weapons that were provided by the US to countries such as Nicaragua and El Salvador to fight Communist uprisings during the Cold War, which have subsequently disappeared from the national armouries and appeared in the hands of these drug lords.

These weapons have been responsible for the deaths of thousands, and with the tolls rising every day and no sign of these cartels becoming lesser in stature, controlling the supply of arms could be instrumental in making sure the deaths of these people can be reduced. What must be understood, however, is that a Republican majority NRA-supported senate sits in the US right now, and is opposed to the imposition of restrictions of any kind on the sale of guns throughout the country. The Obama administration attempted to take action, and was met with fierce resistance from the NRA, who sued to ensure the order was not passed.

## Asymmetric Warfare in Mexico

Since the beginning of this war, there has been a marked increase in both the funding and the power of state troopers as they attempted to consolidate their strength and defeat the cartels in regions they control. This has seen much international aid, with the Merida initiative funnelling billions of dollars into the upgrading of weapons for these troops.

Mexico's superior military strength has, however, proved to be fruitless as the cartels have responded using ambush and guerilla tactics to negate the superior might of these forces by not giving them any time to respond.

The war has gone on for twelve years now, and due to the fact that the military now operates under the fear of being ambushed, they have often neglected the civilians in a region of conflict, leading to their kidnappings and deaths. This is because the cartels have begun using techniques of ambush and overwhelming against both law enforcement and other cartel functionaries, using smaller numbers and heavy firepower to overwhelm enemies in quick skirmishes before retreating upon taking them out.

## Intelligence and Communication

Although Mexico has the Center for Research and National Security (CISEN) as an established intelligence agency, it is often inadequate in comparison to the vast networks of the cartels. Simple bribery systems ensure that the cartels have informants on nearly every street, alerting them to the movement of troops and allowing them to plan their attacks ahead. This has given them an upper hand in urban warfare and other conflicts where surprise and tactics play a larger role than the brute strength of a superior military.

## Extended warfare

Due to the fact that over these years, the war has been continuously fought but never won, one must look at the underlying factors of WHY Mexican forces, with superior facilities and great numbers, have been unable to win the war.

Many experts on this war have theorized that simply due to how lucrative this business is, Mexicans are unwilling to let these cartels die because it is a source of revenue to everyone, including the police and state forces, who take bribes in order to remain complicit with the activities of the cartels. Although they've received so much funding, it appears that Mexican forces simply do not even want to end this war, even though the casualties reach new numbers every day.

In addition, these mercenary forces have, over the years, become more organised, evolving from mere gangsters with guns to small-scale armies with military-grade weaponry. While proliferation of these weapons has been one issue, the reason for Mexican armies being unable to stop the cartels has been defections. Often, serving members of the army defect as the profits and power on the cartels' side is more appealing, taking with them military strategy and standard-issue assault rifles.

Another reason is the limited nature of the army. In years past, although Mexican forces have taken control of areas, they have either been unable to expand or consolidate due to the limited size and strength of their army. As such, territories have been won only to be lost to the cartels again.

## Inter-cartel Fighting

What makes the Mexican Drug War this dangerous is not the fact that the cartels fight the law enforcement of Mexico, but that the cartels fight between themselves. Since the arrest of Miguel “El Padrino” Angel Gallardo and the subsequent division of the drug routes his Guadalajara cartel controlled among his leading subsidiary leaders, there have been violent turf wars for years as cartels have tried to wipe each other out in an attempt to gain access to better trafficking routes, which have long been seen as an indication of the power of the cartel.

The biggest problem facing Mexico is stopping these turf wars, as violent conflict between warring non-state actors with little to no regard for human life has led to a multitude of collateral civilian casualties. As they operate outside the law anyway, these turf wars have morphed into paramilitary wars, effectively turning the entire country into a massive battleground where everyone is against everyone.

## Effects

Very simply put, the extended war has led to a lot of very avoidable deaths due to the fact that it has dragged on much longer than required. Inability of Mexican forces to systematically drive the cartels out the way the US did IS in Iraq has led to them consolidating their positions and establishing secure bases from which they’ve been able to function nearly as units independent of the government, with a system of commissions in place from civilians and control over law enforcement in the region.

The cartels are not concerned with human life and are more than willing to sacrifice civilians in the regions they control to make sure they can continue to control their territory, and the continued efforts by other cartels to wipe out their competitors has continued to increase collateral damage in the area.

In addition, the straw purchases by cartel functionaries has not been controlled by the US at all, due to an inability to regulate the sale of firearms within the country. The lack of security on outdated weapons has given cartels access to vast reserves of deadly, albeit old, weapons. The military tactics employed by cartels are only possible when they gain access to heavy artillery and firearms required for its execution.

## UN Action

Although there have been multiple resolutions passed by the UNODC about drug trafficking, very little has actually been done to address the movement of arms across the border and as countermeasures to asymmetric warfare. Conventions on psychotropic substances and their trafficking are numerous, but the attack at the root cause of arms and funding has yet to happen. The onus of this committee is to change that course and focus on disarming these non-state actors.

## Objective of Committee

As a disarmament committee, finding a way to contain the spiral of escalation among the inter-cartel combatants remains a priority. However, with the US unable and unwilling to change its laws, finding an alternative solution to constricting the flow of arms into Mexico remains a priority. Limiting death from collateral is a necessity, as cartels do not care who gets hurt in the process of a turf war. Thus, finding ways to prevent harm to civilians in this process is very important.

Further, it becomes a necessity for the committee as a whole to find a way to, once and for all, end this war without allowing its further extension, as the longer this war drags on, the worse the situation gets from every facet, whether economically, politically or from a humanitarian standpoint. Finding a solution to the war is in everyone's best interests within the next few years.

Mexico must also be given both the means and the training requisite to fight off the ambush tactics of these cartels, while finding ways to bring down their intelligence networks and the other resources they've used to stay a step ahead of law enforcement.

## Questions A Resolution Must Answer

1. How can movement of arms from the US be controlled and restricted without legislative change from within the nation?
2. How can cartels be stopped from gaining access to the lethal Cold War armouries of South American Countries?
3. How can the Mexican government consolidate and control territory after wresting it from the hands of the cartels?
4. What can be done to put a decisive end to the war and prevent further avoidable casualties?
5. How do government forces counter ambush tactics?

### Abstract

The Iran Nuclear Deal or the JCPOA was a comprehensive document aimed at ensuring that Iran did not acquire weaponized nuclear capabilities in violation of the NPT. However, due to heightened suspicions that Iran was not abiding by its provisions, the US pulled out of the deal amid heavy controversy. With the breakdown of this deal, it is becoming increasingly difficult to contain the rapidly spreading nuclear capability in Asia. Hence, finding a way to effectively contain this spread while reducing nuclear density in the continent must become a priority to prevent a nuclear arms race among non-signatories to the NPT who are under no compulsion not to increase their nuclear powers.

### Key Treaties / Agreements

1. **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT)**—signed 1968, came into force 1970: An international treaty (currently with 189 member states) to limit the spread of nuclear weapons. The treaty has three main pillars: non-proliferation, disarmament, and the right to peacefully use nuclear technology.
2. **The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action** commonly as the Iran nuclear deal or Iran deal, is an agreement on the nuclear program reached in Vienna on 14 July 2015 between Iran, the P5+1 (the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council—China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, United States—plus Germany), and the European Union.
3. **Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT)**—signed 1996, not yet in force: The CTBT is an international treaty (currently with 181 state signatures and 148 state ratifications) that bans all nuclear explosions in all environments. While the treaty is not in force, Russia has not tested a nuclear weapon since 1990 and the United States has not since 1992.

### Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, commonly known as the Non-Proliferation Treaty or NPT, is an international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of



nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament.

The treaty opened for signature in 1968, and was brought into force in 1970. As per the treaty, after twenty-five years, NPT parties met on May 11th, 1995 and agreed to extend the treaty indefinitely. More countries have adhered to the NPT than any other arms limitation and disarmament agreement, a testament to the treaty's significance. As of August 2016, 191 states have adhered to the treaty and four UN member states, have never accepted the NPT( Israel, Pakistan, India and South Sudan).

The NPT has been observed to be based on the concept that non-nuclear-weapon states agree never to acquire nuclear weapons and the NPT nuclear-weapon states in exchange agree to share the benefits of peaceful nuclear technology and to pursue nuclear disarmament aimed at the ultimate elimination of their nuclear arsenals.

Under the treaty, States that have built and tested a nuclear explosive device before 1st January 1967 are defined as nuclear-weapon states.(United Kingdom, China, France, Russia and United States). India, Pakistan and North Korea have openly declared their possession of nuclear weapons while Israel remains ambiguous with reference to its nuclear weapon status.

The treaty is interpreted to be structured in terms of three main “pillars”, namely non-proliferation, disarmament and the peaceful use of nuclear technology.

## Ambiguity Regarding Iran and Other Countries’ Stance on Nuclear Weapon Possession

It is abundantly clear that Iran possesses the technology and capability to harness enough nuclear energy to produce explosive nuclear weapons but the same cannot be said regarding its possession of fully developed warheads. There have been allegations of illegal weapon testing done by Iran between the years 2003–2005, but these allegations remain unconfirmed.

In addition, there remains ambiguity from Israel, another Asian nation, regarding their nuclear capabilities as well, although they are also well within capable of harnessing nuclear power for warheads with their advanced military capabilities.

## Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action:

The JCPOA, also known as the Iran Nuclear Deal, is an agreement regarding Iran's nuclear program that was signed in Vienna (2015) between Iran and the UN's P5+1 group, and the European Union.

Under the agreement, Iran agreed to eliminate its stockpile of medium-enriched uranium, cut its stockpile of low-enriched uranium by 98%, and reduce by about two-thirds the number of its gas centrifuges for 13 years. For the next 15 years, Iran will only enrich uranium up to 3.67%.

Iran also agreed not to build any new heavy-water facilities for the same period of time. Uranium-enrichment activities will be limited to a single facility using first-generation centrifuges for 10 years.

Other facilities will be converted to avoid proliferation risks.

To monitor and verify Iran's compliance with the agreement, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will have regular access to all Iranian nuclear facilities.

The agreement provides that in return for verifiably abiding by its commitments, Iran will receive relief from U.S., European Union, and United Nations Security Council nuclear-related economic sanctions.

As of May 2018, the United States officially withdrew from the agreement. Although, the specific reason for withdrawal remains unclear, President Donald Trump found the deal to be "one-sided" and claimed that the United States would work with their allies to prevent Iran from developing nuclear arms. The IAEA has continued to monitor the nuclear centrifuges and has stated that Iran has been compliant of the JCPOA terms. The remaining signatories continue to follow the original terms of the agreement.

## Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

The CTBT is a treaty that bans all nuclear weapons, in all environments for all purposes. It was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 10th September 1996 but has not entered into force, as 8 specific states have not ratified the treaty (Israel, North Korea, China, India, Egypt, Iran, United States and Pakistan).

Under the treaty,

- Each State undertakes not to carry out any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion, and to prohibit and prevent any such nuclear explosion at any place under its jurisdiction or control.
- Each State undertakes to refrain from causing or in any way participating in the carrying out of any nuclear weapon test explosion or any other nuclear explosion.

## Objectives of Committee:

Under this agenda, the committee's main focus will be on identifying whether or not Iran's Nuclear Program poses an actual threat to other states and providing solutions to put into force nuclear disarmament with respect to the same. With the US being dubious of the transparency regarding Iran's Nuclear Program, we must find a way to balance both states' requirements/demands.

It is a necessity to ensure no state is in violation of the JCPoA and the NPT and deal with all allegations regarding the illegal testing of explosive nuclear weapons. Other points to consider would be the ambiguity of the US withdrawal from the JCPoA, and Iran's possession of warheads.

## Questions a Resolution Must Answer

1. How do we ensure no illegal testing of explosive nuclear weapons is done?
2. How do we ensure IAEA assessment is untampered?
3. What can be done to control the production of explosive nuclear weapons?
4. How do we put an end to illegal testing/production of nuclear warheads?