LEGATUS MODEL UNITED NATIONS
THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

BACKGROUND GUIDE

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Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all to the first edition of Legatus Model UN! My name is Aditya Iyer and I am a senior at Indus International School Bangalore, currently studying in the IB diploma Programme. I am honored and thrilled to serve as the President of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). Model UN has been a huge part of my high school life and has helped me overcome various obstacles and has enabled me to build various skills and competencies that helped me in other aspects of life.

As an individual I hold mutual respect and diplomacy close to my heart. As the president of this committee I do not expect perfect speeches, or resolutions (although they are most welcome!) but what I do expect as a bare minimum is for each and every one of you to be respectful of each other's viewpoint and ideas pertaining to a topic. Legatus Model UN is an International Conference hosting delegates from over 25 different nations, with different faiths, ideologies or cultures and I urge you to be considerate about everyone's background in the statements that you make, so as to ensure a smooth and fun conference for every delegate. While delegates should focus on awards to maintain a competitive atmosphere, placements should not take over mutual respect and cordiality among delegates of the committee as placements make up only a small portion of the entire Model UN experience but the connections and friendships you make will take you a long way! With that being said, some of the criteria that the Executive Board would look for while considering delegates for awards in no particular order are, performance in unmoderated caucus, persuasion skills, content of the speeches, feasibility of the solutions, adherence to foreign policy, ability to handle crisis updates, understanding of the agenda at hand and the Executive Board follows a holistic judgment of a delegate.

I encourage delegates to reach out to me at adityaiyer.m@gmail.com if you have any questions regarding preparation, rules of procedure, the agenda, committee specific details or even with how to go about research. I would be glad to answer your questions or solve your issues to guarantee that your Legatus Model UN experience is an unhindered one that you'd like to take forward with you for the rest of your life. I am really excited to meet all of you (even though it's virtual) and even if you don't have any questions or issues, feel free to send in an email and introduce yourself and make yourself more comfortable with the Executive Board!

Sincerely,

Aditya Iyer
President, United Nations Security Council
Legatus Model United Nations 2020

Committee History

The Security Council first convened in January of 1946 as one of the six principal organs of the United Nations (UN). Created as part of an effort to update the ineffective League of Nations, the Security Council's mandate is to keep international peace and security. While its number one goal is to seek nonviolent decision to conflict, the Security Council is the most effective frame of the UN that can create binding regulation for its member states. In addition, the Security Council is in charge of peacekeeping operations, the imposition of navy sanctions, and the authorization of military force.

The Security Council is constituted of 15 member states. These encompass the five permanent individuals (China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States) as well as ten rotating contributors. Five individuals are voted on annually, and they serve two-year terms. In order to achieve identical international representation, the rotating countries at the Council are damaged down as follows: five general from Africa and Asia, one from Eastern Europe, from Latin America, and from any other areas of the world. Each member on the council receives a single vote, but a vote of "nay" from any of the five everlasting participants (colloquially referred to as the P5) serves as a "veto"; therefore, without the approval of all P5 nations, legislation cannot Pass.

Since its inception, the Security Council has performed a lively role in maintaining global protection and peace. Beginning in 1948, the Security Council has conducted successful peacekeeping missions in Cambodia, Tajikistan, Guatemala, El Salvador, Namibia, and Mozambique. However, the Security Council has also experienced failures with peacekeeping, mainly in Rwanda and Somalia where peacekeeping operations resulted in lots of unaddressed desires. These varying degrees of success have led to modifications in the peacekeeping doctrine, maximum significantly with the creation of the sturdy peacekeeping mandate in MONUSCO, a peacekeeping challenge-based totally out of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

In addition to peacekeeping, the Security Council has bestowed the energy to use financial sanctions in concordance with Chapter VII of the UN Charter. The Council has used the electricity to sanction for not best countries, however additionally individuals and smaller entities from all elements of the world. As with peacekeeping, sanctions from the Security Council have a blended record. Success stories can be visible in the former Yugoslavia, Liberia, and Libya, yet sanctions failures can be visible in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Angola. The Security Council's attitude towards sanctions has shifted over the years, as sector-centered sanctions are now considered to be more effective than broad measures, which crippled not only national economies but also adversely affected international growth. Additionally, the Security Council now accompanies these sanctions with the supplemental guide and investigative missions.

History of Biological Warfare

Bioterrorism is defined as the act of using microorganisms or infected samples to cause terror and panic in populations and could be implemented by all kinds of groups to further their aims and objectives, including governments, radical groups, political or military to name a few. One of the earliest mentions of bioterrorism was 14 centuries before Christ, but apart from some rare well-documented events Historians haven't been able to find concrete evidence of biological attacks because they could be easily mistaken with a natural pandemic because of three primary reasons:

1. Little or no information available
2. Truth maybe manipulated for political reasons
3. Data could have been distorted over time.

Biological weapons are not just a concern of the 21st century, but humans have used infectious agents in conflict for hundreds of years and some of the most prominent incidents have been described below.

Siege of Caffa

Caffa (present day Ukraine) was established with Geneo in 1266 by agreement with the Kahn of Golden Horde and served as the main port. While an incident this old is bound to have a certain degree of inaccuracies, the Narrative of Gabriele De Mussi provides us with an insightful narrative which helps us determine the true magnitude and extent of biological warfare. In 1346, the Tartars and Saracens were struck down by a mysterious illness that brought sudden death and various cities, kingdoms and town settlements were void of inhabitants. The Christians, fearing the might and strength of the Tartans fled to Caffa. The Tartans soon took interest in Caffa and surrounded the area but were affected by the disease that the shot arrows carried and killed thousands of Tartans every day. As soon as the Tartans came in contact with the arrows, swellings in the armpit or groin caused by coagulating humors, followed by putrid fever. The Tartans threw the dead bodies into the city of Caffa, contaminating the water streams and causing numerous deaths. Ultimately, the Christians had to flee away from Caffa by boat and some of the sailors were infected and transmitted the disease to other parts of the world.

Siege of La Calle

In 1763, British Officials discussed plans to transmit smallpox to Native Americans during the Pontiac's Rebellion. While there is no official confirmation for the happening of this event,

smallpox did spread in those regions, during and after the rebellion. Soon after that in 1785, Tunisian forces used plague-tainted clothing as a weapon in the Siege of La Calle.

Sino-Japanese War

More recently in the 1930's and 1940's the Japanese used plague infested bombs as biological weapons. The Japanese filled bombs with plague infected parasites and dropped them from airplanes into two Chinese cities and they also used Cholera and Shigella in other attacks which killed over 58,000 Chinese people.

Events of 1984

The use of a bio-terrorist attack was adopted by terrorists in 1984 at Dalles, Oregon, the United States of America, when the Rajneshe cult wanted to spread Salmonella typhimurium at restaurant salad bars in order to prevent voters from voting so that their candidates in the local election could be elected. It was stated that about 750 people were affected, although they were lucky not to have died and the perpetrators were prosecuted.

Events of 2001

Recently, a U.S. biological attack occurred after the Al Qaeda attacks of September 11, 2001 (This attack was perpetrated on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon). What happened was that an unknown actor posted a powder containing infectious anthrax microorganisms to two U.S. senators and several media outlets. Five people died from anthrax microorganisms after their exposure to the material in the letters. It was also stated that 17 became ill. Medical personnel offered the anthrax vaccine as post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) to 1,727 potentially exposed people who were also taking antibiotics to counter anthrax. Out of these people, 199 agreed to take the vaccine and received all the doses.

Other Events

In 1975, the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) came into force. More than 100 nations, including the United States, have ratified this international treaty, which aims to end the development and production of bioweapons. In spite of the agreement, bioweapon threats from fringe groups, terrorists, and nations not committed to or observing the convention continue to worry public health authorities. The former Soviet Union is known to have produced large quantities of smallpox virus and many other disease agents in its bioweapons program long after it signed the BTWC. In the 1970s, it stockpiled tons of smallpox virus and maintained production capability at least until 1990. The Soviet Union also sponsored an anthrax weapon

program; an accidental release of a small amount of weaponized anthrax from a military research facility in 1979 led to at least 70 deaths. The U.S.S.R. claimed that it destroyed its bioweapons stock and dismantled the bioweapons program in the late 1980s, but most experts are sceptical that all stocks, equipment, and records were destroyed. They regard it as possible that illicit transfer of biological materials or knowledge has occurred. So, while only two known sources of smallpox virus exist, both in World Health Organization reference laboratories, many suspect that other groups—whether national or subnational—may have unknown quantities of smallpox virus as well as other remnants of the Soviet biological weapons program.

On a similar note, in the 1990s Iraq admitted to United Nations inspectors that it had produced thousands of tons of concentrated botulinum toxin and had developed bombs to deploy large quantities of botulinum toxin and anthrax. Though the Iraqi government abandoned its bioweapons program after the first Iraq war, the status and whereabouts of the large quantities of infectious material they developed are not known.

A biological attack by terrorists or an unfriendly nation is a remote possibility that nevertheless demands public health emergency response planning. Several multi-agency simulations have exposed weaknesses in systems designed to respond to biological emergencies. These exercises have helped to focus planning efforts on the need for emergency plans to address the potential for a large bioweapons event to overwhelm medical capabilities, cause widespread illness and death, and lead to economic and social disruption. The successful deployment of vaccines, antibodies, and other medications in a bioweapon event will depend on a number factors, such as how many people the attack has the potential to harm, the stability of the transportation system in an emergency, the availability of viable vaccine and drugs, and the ability of the public health system to communicate with the public and get the vaccines and medications into the people who need them.

Recent Events

Current speculations got a wave of enigma when Covid-19 virus spread throughout the world starting from China. While its biology has no evidence of it being a manufactured virus many countries and organizations have accused China of using biological weapons.

The US has accused China of being a part of biological weapons programs since 1993 while China itself claims to oblige with the contract. According to a report by Russian Intelligence US has reserves of smallpox prohibited by WHO

The United States has repeatedly raised their voice on the issues of Russia’s piles that it might have inherited from the Soviet Union. These can include smallpox, anthrax, Venezuelan flu, pest, bird flu and fever viruses.

Past Actions

1925 Geneva Protocol

The 1925 Geneva Protocol prohibits the use of chemical and biological weapons in war. The Protocol was drawn up and signed at a conference which was held in Geneva under the auspices of the League of Nations from 4 May to 17 June 1925, and it entered into force on 8 February 1928. The Geneva Protocol prohibits use but not possession or development of chemical and biological weapons. Due to its lack of verification measures the Geneva Convention was ineffective and less binding, giving many members the space for threatening its dissolution.

Biological Weapons Convention

The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) was the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning the development, production and stockpiling of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. It was opened for signature on 10 April 1972 and currently has 182 member countries and five signatories. Every 5 years a review conference is held to upgrade the BWC Treaty in relevant manners.The purpose of the RevCons is to review the operation of the BWC, relevant scientific and technological developments, as well as progress towards the negotiation of a convention to prohibit the development and use of chemical weapons.

The BWC banned the:

1. development, stockpiling, acquisition, retention, and production of:
2. biological agents and toxins "of types and in quantities that have no justification for prophylactic, protective or other peaceful purposes;"
3. weapons, equipment, and delivery vehicles "designed to use such agents or toxins for hostile purposes or in armed conflict."
4. transfer of or assistance with acquiring the agents, toxins, weapons, equipment, and delivery vehicles described above.

Contemporary Circumstances

Threats of increasing warfare especially in the 21st Century were first developed in a paper by Stanford. The investigators pointed out that the eliminated viruses of smallpox are still being maintained by both the USA and Russia. Any rogue politician or terrorist if able to access it can actually manage to create a more developed virus that is resistant to present vaccines.

Anthrax is still in possession by many states DPRK and Iraq to name a few. According to a report in 2005 declassified US documents 15 countries have been accused of breaching the BWC

Steven Block wisely raised the facts in his research paper that black biology is wholeheartedly dedicated to creating microorganisms that can be used as weapons. While many treaties hold countries back from taking such drastic steps its creation is very much the reality.

BWC Aftermath

Unfortunately the only treaty to put a substantial ban on biological weapons has stood stagnant for many years now. Many countries have been accused of reaching its reforms and engaging itself in that department. Reforms were last added to it in 2006.

Its last review conference in 2016 was a disappointment for the members. There was minimal agreement between members about the final document and there was a low platform for discussion.

BWC also faces challenges of funding. States fund the BWC ISU through annual funds but there are piling payments. Brazil has not required its expected funding in 12 years. Out of its 187 members only 125 actually participated in the BWC displaying their interests.

An actual problem encountered is that the BWC has no monitoring measures to actually investigate the construction of pathogens; it only has political trust building efforts to create mutual faith among states.

Non-Members

Ten states have still not entered into any substantial contracts that stop them from building biological weaponry. Their capacities too suggest that they are capable of creating such hazards. These nations may have huge leverage against the member states which might tempt the current members for more security.

These countries, too, see themselves as unprotected in their regions, something that tempts both non-state and state actors to develop devastating weaponry that is easier to develop. However among the members themselves 16 countries are suspected of holding biological weapons, many of them already powerful military powers.

Bioterrorism

Biological warfare becomes increasingly threatening when in the hands of non-state actors and rogue organizations. As expressed by many experts the advent of genetic science allows both

state and non-state actors to access a means of destruction that is both effective and viable. While nuclear weapons are hard to produce and tamper, the blood of an infected man has the capacity to contaminate regions if not controlled on time.

The anthrax letter case during the aftermath of the 9/11 attack represents a recent example. 22 people were infected out of which 5 died. The strain of it was traced back to the US itself. Other examples are the actions of the Rajneesh cult and Aum Shinrikyo Cult.

Major Parties Involved and their Views

United States of America

The United States was known to possess offensive biological warfare capabilities throughout World War II and the Cold War, these capabilities included the development of anti-personnel, anti-crop and toxin weapons. Reports suggest that these weapons were armed with deadly pathogens like Anthrax and Q-Fever. The "offensive" wing of the American Bioweapons programme ended before ratifying the BTWC in 1975, but significant questions have been raised about the capabilities of the American Biodefense programme. There have been multiple concerns about the United States' possible violations of the BTWC, these concerns stem from the actions of the CIA and the DTRA, pointing towards the possibility of secret bioweapons programmes which stretch the boundaries of "Biodefense". The rising number of Biosafety Level-3 Labs in the United States has also been a point of concern for international observer groups. Despite these possibilities, the United States has been a key-player in the fight against bioweapons, through multiple initiatives like the PSI, G8 Global Partnership against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction and the co. sponsorship of UNSC Resolution 1540. In terms of other unconventional weapons, the United States has played a key role in the destruction of Chemical Weapon stockpiles globally and was integral in the initiation of the process to dismantle Syria's CW programme. Furthermore, the Defense Threat reduction Agency of the DOD has actively been involved in developing new techniques to detect and neutralize CW threats. On the other hand, in the field of nuclear weapons, the United States launched a 30 year redevelopment initiative to modernize its stockpile and reports suggest new delivery technology for Nuclear Weapons is also being developed.

China

Following the emergence of the coronavirus pandemic, the biological warfare capabilities China maintains have come into question. Wuhan, the centre of the pandemic is said to house China's first biosafety level 4 laboratory, which critics believe may conduct tests that violate the BTWC. The Chinese government has continually denied the possession of any offensive biological warfare capabilities but US DOD reports in the past have accused China of maintaining a small offensive stockpile even after ratifying the BTWC. A point to note would be that the US DOD reports in 2010 and 2014 dropped these accusations against China. The Chinese Government, as acknowledged by them in 2007, has researched on technology to defend against bioweapons and is also known to possess sufficient infrastructure to develop bioweapons. The major concern about china's BW programme has been the possibility of dual-usage and the potential for these weapons to be exported to countries like Iran and DPRK. In terms of other conventional

weapons, China has often faced accusations about lack of transparency with regards to their chemical weapons programme, along with accusations about possibly supplying DPRK and Iran. China is one of the 5 NWS mentions in the NPT, recent reports suggest that China has been working on modernizing its nuclear stockpile among other actions which could suggest non-compliance with the NPT.

Key Terms

- **Bioterrorism:** A biological attack, or bioterrorism, is the intentional release of viruses, bacteria, or other germs that can sicken or kill people, livestock, or crops.
- **BTWC:** Biological and Toxin Weapon Convention
- **CRISPR:** A genetic engineering tool that uses a CRISPR sequence of DNA and its associated protein to edit the base pairs of a gene.
- **Chemical Weapons:** A Chemical Weapon is a chemical used to cause intentional death or harm through its toxic properties. Munitions, devices and other equipment specifically designed to weaponize toxic chemicals also fall under the definition of chemical weapons.
- **CWC:** Chemical Weapons Convention
- **Unconventional Weapons:** An unconventional weapon is 'any weapon that is not immediately thought of as a weapon', or a weapon that is chemical, biological, or nuclear in nature.
- **UNODA:** United Nations Office on Disarmament Affairs
- **Weapons of Mass Destruction:** Weapons with the capacity to inflict death and destruction on such a massive scale and so indiscriminately that its very presence in the hands of a hostile power can be considered a grievous threat.

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