



CELMUN XVII / Disarmament and International Security / First Committee

Topic A: The threat of the biological, chemical and nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

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 issues 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.

The international community forbade the use of chemical and biological weapons after World War I and reinforced the ban in 1972 and 1993 by prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and transfer of these weapons. Today's advances in life sciences and biotechnology, as well as changes in the security environment, have increased concern that long-standing restraints on the use of chemical and biological weapons may be ignored.

The Middle East has been always a conflict zone, mainly by the different religious beliefs, for example, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Nevertheless, this is not the only; there are different kinds of conflicts in this part of the world too. There is the civil war in Syria, against of the regime of Bashar Al Assad, or even worst, the terrorist attacks in most of the countries of Middle East. The concern is the production and use of these prohibited weapons by these criminal groups like Al-Qaeda, Al Jihad or the Hezbolla. Also the concern of the use of those weapons by government against their population, such as the case of Syria.

The threats from nuclear, biological and chemical weapons are real. The possibility that terrorists might get and use nuclear weapons is an urgent and potentially catastrophic challenge to global security. While chemical weapons receive significantly less attention, the historical record shows that they are the most used and widely proliferated weapons of mass destruction.

Biological weapons use microorganisms and natural toxins to produce disease in humans, animals, or plants, can be derived from: bacteria, viruses, rickettsia, biological toxins, staphylococcus and fungi. These agents can be deployed as a missile or an aerosol device. Generally, the danger can be measured by how well it kills; how easily it spreads; and how likely it is to cause disease in a person.

The Geneva Protocol and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BTWC) forbid the use of biological weapons. The BTWC also prohibits the development, production, and stockpiling of biological and toxin weapons. Of the countries most likely to be technologically capable of producing biological weapons, only Egypt, Israel, and Syria are not BTWC

members. At least five countries in Middle East have, or are working to have a biological warfare capability: Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, and Syria. Iraq and Syria seem to have the most advanced programs.

Chemical weapons receive significantly less attention than nuclear and biological threats, but they are the most used and widely proliferated weapons of mass destruction. These weapons use the toxic properties of chemicals to cause physical harm, like discomfort or even death. Relatively small amounts of chemical weapons can cause devastating psychological and physical effects. While 188 countries have joined the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and agreed not to develop, produce, stockpile, or use chemical weapons. Some key countries in the Middle East remain outside of the treaty.

Six countries in Middle East manufacture chemical weapons: Syria, Israel, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, and Libya. Of these countries, Syria, Egypt, Iran and Libya have probably used them. In addition, Iran, Israel and Syria are reportedly working on chemical warheads. Nevertheless, we must have in mind that are the West European countries and the United States the nations who provides the materials needed for this aim in the countries already mentioned.

The Middle East can be seen like an inhospitable territory for a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. But as long ago as 1974, the United Nations approved to establishing a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region.

Recognizing the dangers of existing nuclear arsenals and the concern of new countries acquiring nuclear weapons, the international community has established several treaties with the propose of the nonproliferation and disarmament. The Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear

Weapons (NPT) is the main feature of these efforts. The NPT recognizes five nuclear weapon states (France, China, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States), who are obligated to work towards “general and complete disarmament,” and 184 non-nuclear weapon states, who must give up from develop nuclear weapons, but are permitted to possess peaceful nuclear programs if sensitive activities are safeguarded by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). India, Pakistan, and Israel haven't signed the NPT, and North Korea drew back in 2003 before testing nuclear devices in 2006, 2009, and 2013. Both Syria and Iran have launched questionable nuclear activities.

Delegates, it is your duty to take more actions about this huge problem of the proliferation of mass destruction weapons in one of the most conflictive zones in the world, the Middle East. You should not create more treaties, also you have not to create conventions or another kind of organization, they already exist, also you should not reaffirm the signs of every country in the existent treaties. You must take direct solutions to stop and eradicate this problem.

Take in account your country's interests; choose the best options to it and to the whole international community. Here are some questions to help you to find the best way to carry the topic, as well as for finding the best solutions to eradicate it.

1. What does United States, Russia, United Kingdom, China and France ought to do to solve the problem taking in account that they can produce and stockpile nuclear weapons?
2. How can the treaties and conventions specialized in this topic be more functional?

3. Is it necessary to take several actions in the countries that produce, stockpile and use these kinds of weapons? What kind of actions?
4. What measures should be taken with the buying and selling situation of uranium, plutonium and more materials used to create biological, chemical and nuclear weapons?
5. How can the international community be sure of the disarmament process in the Middle East countries?

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CELMUN XVII/ Disarmament and International Security / First Committee

Topic B: Prevention of an arm race in outer space.

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 issues 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.

Efforts in the United Nations to maintain outer space for peaceful purposes began in 1957, after the launch of the first artificial satellite in Earth's orbit. Early proposals for prohibiting the use of space for military purposes and the placement of weapons of mass destruction in outer space were considered in the late 1950s and early 1960s by the United Nations.

The Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies ("Outer Space Treaty") entered into force in 1967, after the consideration of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and the General Assembly. The Treaty provides the basic framework for international space law.

In particular, it prohibits the colocation of nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction in outer space and the stationing of these weapons on celestial bodies. It also establishes basic principles related to the peaceful use of outer space. Includes that the exploration and use of outer space shall be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all countries and that the moon and other celestial bodies won't be subject to national appropriation or claims of sovereignty.

Space-based technologies play an increasingly critical role in the maintenance and development of national and international infrastructures. Along with the benefits of the extended application of peaceful outer space technology, comes the urgent need for the international community to understand, communicate and cooperatively regulate activities in outer space. Huge dangers such as the propagation of dual-use technologies, the change from the militarization of space to the weaponization of this, and the growing problem of space debris are threatening to weak security in outer space as well as perspective for its peaceful use by humanity.

Militarization of outer space has started since the earliest communication satellites were launched. Today, militaries of all over the world trust in satellites for command and control communication, monitoring, early warning, and navigation with the Global Positioning System. Therefore, “peaceful uses” of outer space include military uses, even those that aren’t at all peaceful—such as the use of satellites to direct bombing raids or to command a “prompt global strike” capability, which is “the ability to control any situation or defeat any adversary across the range of military operations.”

Space weaponization is generally understood to refer to the colocation in orbit of space-based devices that have a destructive capacity. Ground-based systems designed or used to attack space-based goods also constitute space weapons, although they are not technically part of the “weaponization of outer space” because they are not placed in orbit. Weapons that travel through space in order to reach their targets, such as hypersonic technology vehicles, also contribute to the weaponization of space.

The weaponization of space would destroy strategic balance and stability, weak international security, and interrupt existing arms control instruments, in particular those related to nuclear weapons and missiles. It is necessary to make sure the international communities that the treaties and committees specialized in this topic are effective in the regulation of the non-militarization and the non-weaponization of the outer space; you should emphasize the accomplishment of those. Try to create new actions to avoid the arms race in outer space, but if it is necessary, only if necessary, you will be able to create more agreements to this.

Delegates, so you can solve these problems here you have some questions to guide you in the debate, as well as your proposals:

1. How will the international community be sure about the non-militarization of the outer space?
2. What kind of actions should be taken with dual-use technologies?
3. Is it necessary to create more treaties?
4. Is it necessary to make more regulations to the countries that have more technology to send to the space?

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