



**Massachusetts  
Institute of  
Technology**

# **Model United Nations Conference**

**Background Guide**



## Table of Contents

<b>LETTER FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>COMMITTEE INTRODUCTION.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>TOPIC A: WATER AS A TOOL OF WARFARE IN MODERN ARMED CONFLICTS.....</b>	<b>6</b>
I. INTRODUCTION .....	6
II. HISTORY.....	6
III. INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS.....	8
IV. COUNTRIES' POSITIONS .....	11
V. PROJECTIONS AND IMPLICATIONS.....	13
VI. CONCLUSION .....	13
VII. QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED .....	13
VIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	14
<b>TOPIC B: IMPACT OF TECHNOLOGY ON THE SAFETY OF JOURNALISTS IN CONFLICT ZONES .....</b>	<b>16</b>
I. INTRODUCTION .....	16
II. HISTORY.....	17
III. INTERNATIONAL ACTIONS.....	18
IV. COUNTRIES' POSITIONS .....	20
A. PALESTINE .....	20
B. UNITED KINGDOM .....	21
V. PROJECTIONS AND IMPLICATIONS.....	22
A. LIMITED OR UNRELIABLE INFORMATION AND NEWS.....	22
B. CYBERSECURITY MEASURES .....	22
VI. CONCLUSION .....	23
VII. QUESTIONS TO BE ADDRESSED .....	24
VIII. BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	25



## Letter from the Secretary General

Dear Delegates,

I am very excited to welcome you to Massachusetts Institute of Technology's 17th annual Model United Nations Conference - MITMUNC XVII! After months of planning, training and organizing, we hope this conference will be a new, challenging, and enriching experience for you.

With all the difficulties the world has experienced last year and is currently still experiencing, we still look forward to a brighter future. Building a sustainable future requires a lot of collaboration and effort and we are all hopeful to see that from you, the leaders of tomorrow.

This year, we decided to focus on technology and its impact on our societies and the whole world to test the pros and cons of technological advancement. Tech diplomacy is an important theme that defines MITMUNC XVII, especially with the prevalence of Artificial Intelligence. Technological advancements have paved the way for great and helpful solutions, yet they also opened up space for tech-abuse, which really makes us think, where are we heading? What's next? Dialogue, international relations and collaborations create the backbone of tech diplomacy and we are all looking forward to see your creativity spark during the conference to help implement tech diplomacy around the world, and fight technology-abuse that harms the international community.

Having experienced MITMUNC as a chair, then as a Secretary General, I am humbled and thrilled to guide MITMUNC into its best conference yet. Do not hesitate in contacting me or the secretariat team should you encounter any doubts along the way. I wish you the best of luck!

Sincerely,

Your Secretary General, Jad Abou Ali

For further inquiries, do not hesitate to contact us at [sg-mitmunc@mit.edu](mailto:sg-mitmunc@mit.edu).

**MITMUNC XVII 2025**



## Letter from the Chairs

Dear Delegates,

Welcome! I'm Firas Khalifa, a passionate first-year student at MIT studying Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. This year, I am thrilled to serve as your chair for the SPECPOL committee, where we'll dive into some of the world's most pressing issues. My journey in Model UN over the past five years has been nothing short of transformative, fueling my curiosity and sharpening my critical thinking skills, while also forming lifelong friendships and unforgettable memories.

I am confident that MITMUNC will be an extraordinary experience for all of us. Remember, the more prepared you are, the more you'll enjoy the debate. I encourage you to immerse yourself in your research and truly enjoy each moment of discovery.

Beyond MUN, I enjoy playing the classical guitar, exploring nature through hiking, and swimming. If any of these resonate with you, please reach out!

My name is Saed Thaher, and I am thrilled to serve as your co-chair in the Special Political and Decolonization (SPECPOL) committee. I am a first-year student planning to major in electrical engineering. Born and raised in Ramallah, Palestine, I have been inherently and deeply engaged in special politics. As far as my MUN experience goes, I have thoroughly enjoyed participating in two international online MUN conferences in the past, as they allowed me to connect with diverse perspectives and refine my diplomatic and speaking skills.

Sincerely,

Your Chairs: Firas Khalifa & Saed Thaher

For further inquiries, do not hesitate to contact us at [specpol-25@mit.edu](mailto:specpol-25@mit.edu).

**MITMUNC XVII 2025**



## Committee Introduction



The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL) is one of the six main committees of the United Nations General Assembly. Focused on a range of issues that fall under the broad categories of political affairs and decolonization, SPECPOL discusses topics including but not limited to the peaceful uses of outer space, the status of non-self-governing territories, and issues relating refugees and human rights. This committee is dedicated to addressing complex global challenges that often intersect political considerations and historical contexts, such as the effects of colonialism and the management of international conflicts. SPECPOL provides a platform where delegates can explore these intricate issues, negotiate diplomatically, and propose resolutions aimed at promoting international peace and cooperation.

Post World War II, the United Nations prioritized focusing on the challenges of decolonization. However, it wasn't until the "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism" (1990–2000) that SPECPOL was established. More specifically, in 1993, after the merging of the Special Politics Committee and the Decolonization Committee.

At first, SPECPOL played a critical role in the decolonization of Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean, resulting in the independence of many nations. Over time, its authorization included new issues, such as the peaceful use of outer space and the management of peacekeeping operations. Today, it discusses the effects of atomic radiation, questions relating to information, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).



## Topic A: Water as a Tool of Warfare in Modern Armed Conflicts

### I. Introduction

Water, a fundamental resource for life, has increasingly become a strategic weapon in modern armed conflicts. Armed groups, governments, and other actors exploit water sources and infrastructure to gain military and political advantages, control populations, and destabilize adversaries. This issue poses significant challenges to international humanitarian law, global security, and human rights.

This background guide explores the use of water as a weapon in contemporary conflicts, examining historical and modern examples, international legal frameworks, and the roles of various stakeholders in addressing this pressing issue.

### II. History

The use of water as a tool of warfare is an age-old tactic, but its role has become increasingly prominent in modern conflicts due to the centrality of water to civilian survival and economic stability. From deliberate attacks on infrastructure to the manipulation of access to water as a means of control, this strategy has devastating humanitarian and geopolitical consequences.

In Gaza, water has been claimed to be weaponized in the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict, exacerbating the already dire humanitarian situation. The Gaza Strip faces chronic water shortages, with over 97% of the water in its coastal aquifer deemed unsafe for human consumption due to over-extraction and contamination by seawater and untreated sewage, according to a 2021 report by UNICEF. The situation has been worsened by repeated military

campaigns that have damaged vital water infrastructure. For example, during escalations in 2014 and subsequent conflicts, bombing campaigns destroyed pipelines, water treatment plants, and electricity systems needed to operate water facilities. The blockade imposed on Gaza since 2007 has further restricted the entry of materials needed to repair and maintain water infrastructure, leaving over 2 million residents dependent on international aid for water access.

Israel has also been accused of restricting water supply to Palestinian communities in the West Bank, allocating significantly more water resources to Israeli settlements. According to a 2022 report by B'Tselem, Israeli settlers in the West Bank have access to approximately four times more water per capita than Palestinians. This unequal distribution has led to accusations that water is being used as a means of political and territorial control.

In Syria, water has been central to the conflict since its beginning in 2011. Armed groups, including ISIS, have targeted and controlled major water infrastructure such as the Tabqa Dam on the Euphrates River. ISIS used water as a weapon by cutting off supplies to communities or deliberately flooding areas to displace civilians and obstruct military operations. By 2020, a UNICEF report noted that over 5 million Syrians lacked reliable access to safe water due to infrastructure damage caused by the conflict.

In Iraq, similar tactics have been used. During their occupation, ISIS controlled dams and deliberately manipulated water flow to flood opposing forces or deprive downstream communities of water. For example, in 2014, ISIS captured the Fallujah Dam, flooding surrounding villages and displacing tens of thousands of civilians. A study by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in 2021 estimated that 80% of Iraq's water infrastructure required repair or replacement after years of conflict and neglect.



In Yemen, one of the most water-scarce countries in the world, both Houthi rebels and the Saudi-led coalition have targeted water infrastructure, worsening the humanitarian crisis. According to the World Bank, 15.4 million Yemenis—about half the population—lack access to safe water, and the destruction of water systems has significantly contributed to the cholera epidemic, with over 2.5 million suspected cases reported since 2017.

Even outside the Middle East, water weaponization is evident. In Nigeria, Boko Haram has targeted wells, dams, and irrigation systems, leaving over 3 million people in the Lake Chad Basin reliant on emergency water aid, as reported by the UN Development Programme (UNDP).

These examples underscore the devastating impact of water weaponization on civilian populations and long-term stability. Whether in Gaza, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, or Nigeria, the deliberate targeting of water infrastructure amplifies humanitarian crises, prolongs conflicts, and creates lasting obstacles to recovery. With climate change exacerbating water scarcity globally, the use of water as a tool of warfare will likely become an even more critical challenge for the international community to address.

### **III. International Actions**

The international community has taken significant steps to address the use of water as a weapon of war, yet enforcement and implementation remain inconsistent due to the complexities of modern armed conflicts. Various international legal frameworks, humanitarian initiatives, and multilateral agreements aim to safeguard water resources and infrastructure, but challenges persist in ensuring compliance and accountability.



The Geneva Conventions, particularly Additional Protocols I and II, explicitly prohibit attacks on objects indispensable to civilian survival, such as water installations and infrastructure. Protocol I, Article 54, and Protocol II, Article 14, make it unlawful to target or destroy water supplies during armed conflicts, emphasizing the protection of civilians from starvation or deprivation. However, reports by organizations like the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) highlight frequent violations of these provisions in conflicts such as those in Syria, Yemen, and Gaza. For example, the deliberate targeting of water systems in Syria and Yemen has repeatedly contravened these protocols, yet enforcement mechanisms to hold perpetrators accountable have been limited.

In response to these violations, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has passed several resolutions addressing the broader implications of targeting resources during armed conflicts. Resolution 2417 (2018) condemns the use of starvation as a weapon of war, implicitly including the targeting of water systems. This resolution urges warring parties to ensure humanitarian access to essential resources such as food and water. Additionally, Resolution 2585 (2021) calls for unhindered humanitarian aid delivery in conflict zones, emphasizing the protection of critical infrastructure, including water facilities.

Humanitarian organizations play a crucial role in mitigating the impact of water weaponization on civilian populations. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) works to repair damaged water infrastructure, negotiate access to water systems in conflict zones, and raise awareness of international humanitarian law. In Gaza, for example, the ICRC has been instrumental in providing emergency water supplies and supporting the maintenance of water treatment plants. Similarly, in Yemen, organizations such as UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP) collaborate with local authorities to deliver clean water to millions of civilians affected by the war. UNICEF reports that over 3 million Yemenis

receive emergency water services monthly through its interventions, despite ongoing challenges in securing safe access to conflict areas.

Multilateral initiatives also address water weaponization as part of broader conflict resolution and climate adaptation strategies. The UN's Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) aims to ensure universal access to clean water and sanitation by 2030. In conflict-affected regions, this goal intersects with humanitarian priorities by promoting investments in resilient water infrastructure and the equitable distribution of water resources. However, a 2022 progress report by the UN highlighted that over 1.8 billion people worldwide live in conflict-affected areas where water systems are at risk, underscoring the need for stronger political will and financial support to achieve SDG 6.

On a regional level, transboundary water agreements, such as the Euphrates-Tigris Protocol between Syria, Iraq, and Turkey, seek to manage shared water resources and prevent disputes. However, these agreements are often strained by geopolitical tensions, as seen in Turkey's control over upstream dams that significantly impact water flow to Syria and Iraq. International bodies, including the UN Water Convention, advocate for stronger cooperation among riparian states, emphasizing the importance of water-sharing agreements in fostering peace and stability.

Despite these efforts, significant gaps remain in addressing the weaponization of water. Enforcement mechanisms for international laws are often undermined by political and military considerations. For instance, while the UNSC has condemned attacks on water infrastructure in Yemen, the lack of consensus among permanent members has hindered effective action against those responsible. Furthermore, the politicization of humanitarian aid,

particularly in Gaza, often complicates efforts to repair water systems and ensure consistent access for civilians.

The international response to water weaponization has laid a foundation for protecting water resources in conflict zones, but more coordinated action is necessary to address emerging challenges. Strengthening legal accountability, fostering international cooperation, and investing in resilient water infrastructure will be critical in mitigating the devastating impacts of this practice.

#### **IV. Countries' Positions**

The weaponization of water in armed conflicts has elicited varied responses from nations, reflecting their geopolitical interests, regional dynamics, and adherence to international humanitarian law.

Israel has faced international scrutiny for its policies in the occupied Palestinian territories, particularly regarding water access in Gaza. In October 2023, during escalated tensions, Israel cut off water supplies to Gaza, a move criticized by the European Union's chief diplomat, Josep Borrell, as contrary to international law. Although Israel later resumed water supply to certain areas, humanitarian organizations reported that many residents continued to lack access to clean water, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis.

Turkey controls significant upstream portions of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, impacting water flow to downstream countries like Syria and Iraq. Turkey's Southeastern Anatolia Project (GAP), involving the construction of numerous dams, has been a point of contention. While Turkey asserts its right to utilize transboundary water resources for development, downstream nations express concerns over reduced water flow affecting

agriculture and livelihoods. This situation underscores the complexities in regional water politics and the need for cooperative management of shared resources.

Egypt has historically emphasized the strategic importance of the Nile River, viewing any upstream alterations as existential threats. The construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) by Ethiopia has heightened tensions, with Egypt fearing significant reductions in its water supply. Ethiopia, on the other hand, asserts its developmental rights to harness the Blue Nile for electricity generation. Despite multiple rounds of negotiations, a comprehensive agreement remains elusive, reflecting the challenges in balancing developmental aspirations with historical water rights.

India and Pakistan share the waters of the Indus River system, governed by the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) of 1960. Despite periods of heightened tensions, the treaty has largely been upheld. However, in recent years, rhetoric around water has intensified, with India threatening to restrict water flow to Pakistan in response to security concerns. Such statements have raised alarms about the potential use of water as a strategic tool, underscoring the treaty's role in maintaining regional stability.

Yemen has been embroiled in a civil war where access to water has become a critical issue. Both the Houthi rebels and the Saudi-led coalition have been accused of targeting water infrastructure, exacerbating the humanitarian crisis. The United Nations estimates that two-thirds of the population, approximately 21.6 million people, are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance, with limited access to clean water being a significant concern.

These cases illustrate the complex interplay between water resources and geopolitical strategies. The international community continues to advocate for the protection of water

infrastructure and equitable resource sharing to prevent the exacerbation of conflicts and to uphold humanitarian principles.

## V. Projections and Implications

If the weaponization of water remains unchecked, the following outcomes are likely:

- Humanitarian Catastrophes: Millions of civilians could lose access to water, increasing displacement, disease, and mortality rates.
- Prolonged Conflicts: Controlling water resources could become a tactic for extending wars, making resolutions more challenging.
- Regional Instability: Disputes over transboundary rivers (e.g., Nile, Euphrates) could escalate into full-scale conflicts.
- Environmental Degradation: Targeting water infrastructure can cause long-term damage to ecosystems, exacerbating climate change impacts.
- Addressing these risks requires international cooperation, robust legal frameworks, and sustainable water management.

## VI. Conclusion

Water's weaponization in modern armed conflicts threatens global peace, human rights, and sustainable development. Delegates must consider the complexity of this issue, balancing humanitarian needs, state sovereignty, and international law. Effective resolutions will require innovative, collaborative approaches that protect water infrastructure and ensure access to this vital resource for all.

## VII. Questions to be Addressed

1. How can the international community enforce the protection of water resources during armed conflicts?





2. What role should the UN play in mediating disputes over transboundary water resources?
3. How can international laws, such as the Geneva Conventions, be strengthened to address the weaponization of water?
4. What measures can be taken to ensure safe and sustainable water access in conflict-affected regions?
5. How can nations balance sovereignty with equitable water-sharing agreements?
6. What role should humanitarian organizations play in mitigating water-related crises during wars?

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## Topic B: Impact of Technology on the Safety of Journalists in Conflict Zones

### I. Introduction

Journalism is unquestionably a vital part of democracy, and a key component for keeping those in positions of authority accountable, especially in times of war where information is crucial and the stakes are high. Journalists, by simply doing their jobs, put their lives in danger so that the world can receive fast and accurate reporting. However, the emergence and advancement in technology have changed journalism as a profession and the hazards involved. Technology has made it easier for journalists to obtain, confirm, and share material instantly, but it has also brought forth a new set of risks that threaten their independence and safety.

Technology nowadays is used to target and attack journalists. Tools such as GPS tracking, surveillance drones, and spyware are employed extensively by governments and other parties to track the movements and communications of journalists aiming to shut them down. For instance, spyware like Pegasus was used to track journalists before, exposing their private data and disturbing their safety. Reports indicate that such surveillance has led to arrests or even physical attacks on journalists (Le Monde). Cyberattacks such as phishing, hacking, doxing, and even outdated methods like intercepting radio signals have been repurposed to locate and endanger reporters in conflict zones. These tactics not only threaten journalists' personal safety but also interfere with their ability to report freely and securely. A recent survey showed that 73% of journalists have faced online harassment, significantly affecting their

mental health and work (Health Journalism), which, in a way, deprives citizens of their right to know—to have access to reliable, accurate, and comprehensive information to empower their full enfranchisement in our democracy.

On the other hand, technology also offers ways that guarantee or at least enhance journalists' safety. Namely, encrypted communication apps like Signal and ProtonMail help journalists communicate securely, wearable body armor with real-time monitoring systems installed provides an added layer of physical security, and social media empowers journalists to document and share events instantly, often bringing global attention to crises.

The role of international organizations and legal frameworks in addressing this topic is critical. Institutions such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and non-governmental organizations like Reporters Without Borders (RSF) are trying to protect journalists and promote press freedom. Despite that, accountability for crimes against journalists is still often not safeguarded by the current international legal frameworks. Notably, in 2024 alone, 54 journalists were killed in conflict zones—a five-year high (UNESCO).

## II. History

In the early 1900s, journalists were often seen as neutral observers, with their safety generally respected by warring parties. During World War I and II, journalists wore uniforms and were embedded with military units, offering them a degree of protection. With the Vietnam War, journalists had unprecedented access to the frontlines, but this also exposed them to greater dangers. The Balibo Five incident in 1975 and the Bosnian War in the 1990s

then marked a change in how journalists were perceived in conflict zones. As their "PRESS" title no longer ensured safety, reporters became targets ("Technological Advances").

The development of technology in the late 20th and early 21st centuries set new levels for reporting wars and news. Platforms like Twitter and Facebook helped implement real-time reporting from conflict zones but also exposed journalists to a new risk, the risk of surveillance and digital targeting that is. Moreover, in the last decade, the situation has become more perilous; the Arab Spring conflicts in the Middle East, followed by the ongoing wars in Ukraine and Gaza, have highlighted an increase in journalist casualties.

Despite expectations that remote reporting and enhanced communication would evolve in the digital age, thus guaranteeing journalists' safety, they continue to face significant risks in conflict zones, an issue that demands urgent international attention.

### **III. International Actions**

On account of journalism being so important, especially in times of war, and technology advancement concurrently threatening their safety, international efforts to protect them in conflict zones have intensified in recent years.

The United Nations (UN) has been the leading party in this regard. In 2012, the UN implemented the Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity to address their safety crisis. This plan emphasizes the necessity of member states to ensure that reporters can do their work without fear of violence, threats, or detention.

The Council of Europe (CoE) has also introduced initiatives to promote the issue. In October 2023, it launched the five-year "Journalists Matter" campaign, which focuses on the Protection pillar of the Council of Europe's Recommendation CM/Rec(2016)4, which addresses the safety of journalists and other media actors. Furthermore, CoE's project "Safeguarding Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Media in Ukraine" (SFEM-UA) has implemented several activities, including the establishment of a Coordination Committee for the Campaign Implementation in Ukraine (*The Council of Europe's Journalists Matter*).

However, challenges regarding protecting journalists from digital dangers persist. The rapid advancement of technology outpaces the establishment of corresponding legal safeguards. To contend with these developing hazards, there is a global call for multi-stakeholder approaches. For instance, the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) 2024 in Riyadh stressed the need for governments, tech companies, and civil society to work together to protect press freedom. Specifically, it accentuated the responsibility of governments to enforce legislations that hold perpetrators of surveillance accountable, the role of tech companies in creating secure communications tools, and civil society groups' impact in advocacy and awareness (*Protecting Journalists Online*).

One key recommendation from the IGF was the adoption of global standards for openness in surveillance technologies, such as urging tech firms to take on stricter policies against selling spyware to authorities known for targeting journalists. Similarly, global institutions like UNESCO have promoted the incorporation of digital safety training in journalism curriculums, giving journalists the tools they need to identify and manage cyber threats.



## IV. Countries' Positions

### A. Palestine

Palestine, particularly Gaza, is nowadays one of the deadliest places for journalists to be in history, especially during the ongoing Israel-Gaza war that began in October 2023. As of now, more than 146 journalists and media reporters were killed in the conflict, the vast majority of whom were Palestinian, with 138 Palestinians, two Israelis, and six Lebanese, making it the worst time for journalists since the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) started gathering data in 1992 (CPJ.org)

Moreover, the Israeli IDF has stated that it cannot guarantee the safety of journalists in Gaza, which is a clear indicator of the hardship in ensuring press freedom and safety in the current conflict. In addition, the use of digital tools like artificial intelligence and surveillance has been a concern to the Palestinian authorities; they have also expressed their concerns about the censorship of Palestinian media on several platforms, which they argue affects the reliability of information available to the world (Unlimited).

Palestine is calling for the deployment of international observers and the establishment of safe zones for the media to operate in. Despite these efforts, challenges remain, as journalists are at risk due to the conflict's volatility and the lack of formal international procedures (*Gaza: IPI Renews Call to Protect Journalists*).

Exemplifying the intersection of physical and digital threats to press freedom, the situation in Gaza illustrates the value of comprehensive international efforts to safeguard journalists and guarantee the free flow of information in conflict zones.

## B. United Kingdom

The United Kingdom has implemented a multi-faceted strategy to address technology's impact on journalists' safety.

Some of the UK's key strategy components:

1. The National Action Plan for the Safety of Journalists was first introduced in 2021 and then updated in 2023, which recognized the increasing digital abuse, threats, and harms faced by journalists in this age (gov.uk).
2. Establishing the National Committee for the Safety of Journalists, co-chaired by ministers and including representatives from police, publishers, broadcasters, and NGOs. This committee oversees the implementation of the Action Plan and holds stakeholders accountable (gov.uk).
3. Appointing a lead on crimes against journalists by the National Police Chiefs Council and 22 police forces across the UK (Journalist Safety Liaison Officers) to improve communication between journalists and law enforcement (gov.uk).
4. Introducing online safety legislation to enshrine protections for journalists in law and addressing online harassment and digital threats (gov.uk).
5. creating a new task force dedicated to handling Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs), which are used to silence journalists from reporting information in the public interest (gov.uk).



## V. Projections and Implications

### A. Limited or Unreliable Information and News.

The increasing dangers faced by journalists in conflict zones, both physical and digital, are impacting the reliability and availability of information coming from these areas, as the quality and quantity of accurate reporting are compromised. This leads to what UNESCO calls "zones of silence," limiting access to information for the global community and, most importantly, the local populations (2023: *UNESCO*).

More specifically, some journalists are forced to flee the conflict zone or cease working altogether because of rapid fire, excessive danger, or physical threats by the opposing side. In addition, digital intimidations like surveillance and spyware threaten their freedom, thus hindering their ability to deliver stories in the public interest. The combined effect of the two creates a vacuum of reliable information (2023: *UNESCO*).

Moreover, journalists who continue to report often face pressure to alter their coverage, leading to false news. This becomes a serious matter that deprives people of their right to know. Thankfully, some countries are trying to solve the issue; for example, the UK created a new task force dedicated to handling Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPPs), as mentioned before.

### B. Cybersecurity Measures

Technology's constant impact on journalists' safety calls for the implementation of robust cybersecurity measures. The digital security of publishers, journalists, and their sources

is under threat in many parts of the world. This is likely to continue unless a different approach to cybersecurity is taken.

Authorities must recognize the dangers that journalists face and make sure that digital policy measures safeguard them without jeopardizing their right to free speech or basic privacy. An important step in this approach was achieved in August 2024 when member governments finalized a new cybercrime convention, which is the first worldwide pact on cybercrime (innovating.news).

In the future, we can expect a focus on cybersecurity training for journalists operating in conflict zones as part of their curriculum, including advanced encryption techniques, secure communication protocols, and strategies for protecting sources in the digital realm. There should also be an appeal for international efforts in establishing "digital safe havens" for these journalists. As cyber threats evolve, so too must the measures to protect from them.

## VI. Conclusion

The world faces a complex challenge in dealing with how technology impacts journalists' safety in conflict zones. While digital tools have enhanced reporting like nothing else with the introduction of social media and several other innovations, they've also exposed journalists to new threats like surveillance and cyberattacks. The increasing number of casualties and cases beg for urgent international attention. SPECPOL must consider multi-stakeholder approaches, which involve governments, technology companies and their innovations, and civil society increasing advocacy and awareness to safeguard journalists and preserve the people's right to have access to reliable and sufficient information about conflicts.



## VII. Questions to be Addressed

1. How can emerging technologies be both a tool for protection and a threat to the safety of journalists in conflict zones?
2. How can international cooperation and multi-stakeholder approaches address the misuse of technology against journalists, and what measures can be implemented to hold entities accountable for using technology to target or harm journalists?
3. What legal frameworks and international agreements exist to safeguard journalists against digital threats, and are they sufficient?
4. How can journalists be better equipped to handle cyberattacks, doxing, and other digital threats in conflict zones, and how effective are tools like encrypted communication apps and real-time monitoring systems in enhancing journalist safety?

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