

Montessori Model United Nations

MMUN 2012



First Committee of the General Assembly

Disarmament and International Security

(DISEC)

Dear Delegates,

It is my great honor to welcome you to the 2012 Montessori Model United Nations, and in particular, to work on the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC).

DISEC will be addressing the following topics at the conference in April:

- 1) Taking measure towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons.
- 2) Combating the spread of terrorism in crisis region.

The following information packet is created to help you become familiar with these two topics. Your job as an Ambassador of a particular country is to research these topics thoroughly in advance, and prepare ideas for how best to resolve the problems. Such information should help you write your Position Paper, where you need to cite the references in the text and finally list all references in the Modern Language Association (MLA) format.

The MLA format may or may not be strictly adhered to in this Background Guide because the primary purpose is to provide you the initial launching pad to pursue your research on the two topics.

I encourage you to find out how your particular country views these topics, and what it is currently doing to improve the related situations. Your understanding of the topics through research will be the key to a successful debate and Resolution writing when we come together.

The Dais looks forward to working with you to draft resolutions on these topics. See you in New York!

Camile Moro

President

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MONTESSORI MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2012



History:

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) is the First Committee of the General Assembly, which deals with disarmament and related international security questions. Some of the issues that DISEC deals with include; reduction of military budgets, preventing an arms race in outer space, disarmament, maintenance of international security, establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free-zone, reducing nuclear danger, among many others.

Purpose and mission statement:

In general, DISEC focuses on all questions related to arms control, determines general measures to enhance international peace and security, and monitors the progress of disarmament programs adopted by the GA. After 1978 the First Committee started specializing on disarmament, nuclear-weapon-related issues, and human activity in outer space. One of the fundamental aims of the United Nations (UN) is to promote international security and relative peace among nations. To this end, the UN maintains a security framework consisting of the Security Council, the Conference on Disarmament, and the First Committee of the General Assembly: Disarmament and International Security (DISEC). This committee is dedicated to the principles of international peace and security.

Membership and authority:

The powers of DISEC are restricted to those specifically mention in Chapter V of the UN Charter, and the committee has the added distinction of including representatives from all 192 member states, in addition to certain observer groups. The committee is limited by the UN charter in that it is based on the international principles of cooperation and cannot dictate action to be taken by any nation: DISEC lacks the authority to declare war or to forcibly impose its recommendations upon nations or groups. For example, the dispatch of peacekeeping forces is essentially delegated to the domain of the Security Council, while the planning of technical details concerning UN disarmament policies and their feasibility comes under the jurisdiction of the Convention on Disarmament. As a result, the end suggestions of DISEC are communicated in the form of resolutions to the General Assembly and Security Council. While the committee lacks the power to prescribe definite action, the broad representation of nations and equal voting structure leads to resolutions viewed with respect and credibility, as they represent a genuine agreement among states and are more likely to result in the desired action.

DISEC

Background Guide

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In the past, DISEC has often been a forum for general debate over issues concerning international security, particularly effective given that its members express a true world opinion. The committee has dealt successfully with serious actions on various issues over the course of its existence and more recently has proved to be an effective forum for promoting the successful passage, enforcement, and verification of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

Topic I: Taking Measures Towards the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons



Introduction:

Since their invention, nuclear weapons have represented one of the biggest threats to international peace and security. This type of weaponry possesses an incredibly destructive power capable of wiping out entire cities and destroying the lives of millions of people. The Secretary General's High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change's Report;

"A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility" states that the "use of nuclear weapons, by accident or design, risks human casualties and economic dislocation on a catastrophic scale. Stopping the proliferation of such weapons - and their potential use, by either State or non-State actors – must remain an urgent priority for collective security."

The international community has been largely preoccupied with the issue of nuclear proliferation and has undertaken several different actions to try to address this problem. However, this has not always been an easy task. Approximately 26,000 nuclear weapons still exist in today's world in at least nine different countries, many of which still refuse to cooperate towards total nuclear disarmament.

One of the biggest problems is the fact that the mere existence of these weapons poses a huge danger to humankind. This is why working toward total elimination of nuclear weapons is so important. Nuclear disarmament is one of the biggest challenges of today's global reality.

Background:

Nuclear weapons have existed since around the times of the Second World War. It was during these tense times that the United States, suspecting a nuclear program in

Nazi-occupied Germany, developed the first atomic bomb in cooperation with the United Kingdom and Canada in a top-secret project that is now known as the Manhattan Project. The first testing ever of a nuclear bomb was carried out in 1945 in the New Mexico desert by the US government as a result of the Manhattan Project.

That same year, the world saw for the first time the devastating effects of the nuclear bomb. The first and only bombings of actual human populations were carried out by the US government over the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. In Hiroshima alone, approximately 75,000 were killed at the moment of the explosion. In total, nearly 220,000 people were killed that year as a result of both bombings whether on impact or soon after the actual bombing.

After witnessing the enormously devastating effects of nuclear weapons, the international community concerned itself with trying to create mechanisms, which would prevent these atrocities from ever occurring again. International efforts to try to monitor and combat nuclear weapons go as far back as 1946, shortly after the end of World War II and the creation of the United Nations. However, these initial efforts to monitor the nuclear capabilities of various countries around the world were not very successful, since the Cold War took the global community in the opposite direction of nuclear disarmament.

The grave political and ideological differences between countries during the period known as the Cold War led to a huge rise in the numbers of both existing nuclear weapons and countries that possessed them. After the USSR tested its first atomic bomb in 1949, the USSR and the United States engaged in a heated arms race in an attempt to acquire as many nuclear weapons as possible. Other countries such as the United Kingdom and France started developing nuclear capabilities as well until they eventually acquired actual nuclear bombs. China and Israel soon followed the lead and also developed nuclear weapons, while many other countries started to develop nuclear capacity as well. Furthermore, nuclear technology was also refined. More powerful bombs were developed and new ways of delivering them emerged.

The Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962 is perhaps the climax of this story toward full nuclear development. Today it is regarded by many experts and historians as the closest mankind has ever been to a nuclear war. After the USSR placed nuclear missiles in Cuba, the United States retaliated with severe threats of use of nuclear force. Thankfully, through skilled diplomacy, the crisis was averted and new and stronger international efforts to rid the world of the nuclear threat appeared in 1968 with the creation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Possible Solutions:

As history demonstrates, a nuclear war could very well signify the end of the world as we know it, due to the huge destructive capacities of atomic bombs. This is why the international community has undertaken various efforts to achieve the goal of total elimination of nuclear weapons. Unfortunately, not every effort has been successful. With some initiatives more effective than others, it is important to know and understand what has been done so far to determine the proper starting point for new and fresh ideas.

Perhaps the most important international effort toward complete nuclear disarmament today is the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, also known as NPT. Opened for ratification in 1968, the NPT is the culmination of several years of trying to create a binding document that would make nuclear non-proliferation an international norm and that would create binding commitments for different countries to either not develop nuclear capabilities or destroy any nuclear weapons currently in their power.

The basic structure of the NPT considers two different groups of countries with different sets of obligations. On one hand, the nuclear-weapon States, which under the NPT are China, Russia, the UK, USA and France, commit themselves not to transfer nuclear weapons to non-nuclear-weapon States or help them develop nuclear weapons. On the other hand, non-nuclear-weapon States commit not to develop nuclear weapons under any circumstances. Unfortunately, to this day, the NPT has not been very successful. Examples of this are India, Pakistan and North Korea who despite being considered non-nuclear-weapon States still developed nuclear programs and have successfully acquired nuclear weapons today.

Another important aspect of the NPT is that even though it aims to stop the expansion of nuclear weapons, it does not condemn all uses of nuclear technology. The NPT recognizes the importance of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and thus creates a system allowing for cooperation among countries to develop nuclear technology for peaceful purposes and at the same time make sure that these technologies are not used to create weapons. This system, known as the safeguards system, calls upon the International Atomic Energy Agency to help monitor the nuclear programs of countries in order to make sure that they comply with international standards.

Equally important but nowhere near as effective is the Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, another international effort to try to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons. The Comprehensive Nuclear Test-Ban Treaty, or CTBT, aims at forbidding countries from practicing nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions. Unfortunately, the CTBT has not yet entered into force since there are several countries that are required to sign and ratify it before it can be considered binding. Without the cooperation of the countries that have not ratified the treaty, it will remain a useless document.

While international efforts have failed, regional ones have been slightly more effective. To this day, there are several Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zones, or NWFZs, that have been created by regional treaties in which, in almost every case, groups of neighboring countries commit themselves to not develop or possess nuclear weapons in a given part of the world. The treaties of Tlatelolco, Rarotonga, Bangkok, Pelindaba and Semipalatinsk, respectively, created Nuclear-Weapon Free Zones in Latin America and the Caribbean, the South Pacific, Southeast Asia, Africa and Central Asia. Additionally, three treaties exist in which the entire international community has agreed to not develop or store nuclear weapons in certain places, these being: the Sea-Bed and Ocean Floor, the uninhabited continent of Antarctica, and Outer Space. Finally, Mongolia unilaterally declared itself a Nuclear-Weapon-Free State in 1992.

With the first of these NWFZ Treaties signed in 1967 (the Treaty of Tlatelolco) the development and expansion of NWFZ throughout the world has been very successful. This can make us believe that because comprehensive international efforts are hard to

undertake, regional and smaller-scale initiatives can be a better approach. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, for example, has been advocating for the creation of a NWFZ in the Middle East. Identifying potential NWFZs and negotiating their establishment could eventually lead to a world free of nuclear weapons.

Other examples of these small-scale approaches that have been rather successful are bilateral negotiations. Just last year, on April 8, 2010, the United States and Russia gave an example of this when they signed the Treaty on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, also known as the Strategic Reduction Arms Treaty or START. Both countries, who together account for more than half of the existing nuclear weapons worldwide, have committed to reducing their nuclear arsenals by half as well as creating new inspection and reporting mechanisms. This treaty provided the world with renewed hope that total nuclear disarmament could be a reality.

In its recent resolution, the Disarmament and International Security Committee has identified, among others, the following recommendations as possible roads to achieving complete nuclear disarmament:

- Urges all States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty at the earliest opportunity, with a view to its early entry into force and universalization.
- Calls upon nuclear-weapon States to undertake further efforts to reduce and ultimately eliminate all types of nuclear weapons, deployed and non-deployed, including through unilateral, bilateral, regional and multilateral measures.
- Encourages the establishment of further nuclear-weapon-free zones, where appropriate, on the basis of arrangements freely arrived at among States of the region concerned.
- Calls on all States not parties to the NPT to accede as non-nuclear-weapon States to the Treaty promptly and without any conditions.

Research Questions:

1. Is this issue a problem in your country/ neighboring countries/ continent?
2. Who and what are the stakeholders of this issue?
3. What are the positions of the various stakeholders on this issue?
4. What strategies/solutions have been attempted?
 - a. What have worked? Why?
 - b. What have not worked? Why?
 - c. What could be improved? Why?
 - d. What new need to be introduced? Why?
5. How this problem has/is affecting your country/ neighboring countries/ continent/ world?
6. If this issue is not a problem in your country, then how can they be involved?
 - a. Why and why not?
7. What and how can your member state be involved in the prevention and occurrences of the issue?
8. What are some facts, figures, statistics regarding the issue – national, regional, international?

Summary:

The possibility of a nuclear war is perhaps the scariest and deadliest idea mankind could be faced with. Given the enormously destructive power that this type of weaponry possesses, the world could potentially cease to exist if it were to deploy the existing nuclear weapons. This is why it is very important for the international community to achieve total elimination of nuclear weapons.

Total nuclear disarmament is no easy task, however, small steps have been taken through various mechanisms. Regional efforts such as Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaties or bilateral ones such as START between the United States and Russia have been highly successful in disarming and preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons worldwide. However, international and more comprehensive strategies are also extremely important. Since nuclear weapons are a huge threat to the international peace and security, it only makes sense that the solution must come from the involvement of every country in the world.

Additionally, an adequate balance must be struck between security measures and other safeguards to prevent further development of nuclear weapons but at the same time provide for cooperation and collaboration between different countries to achieve peaceful uses of nuclear technology.

Reading/Research References:

1. <http://www.un.org/disarmament/>
2. <http://www.un.org/en/conf/npt/2010/>
3. <http://www.iaea.org/>
4. <http://www.globalzero.org/en>
5. <http://www.armscontrol.org/>

Topic II: Combating Terrorism in Crisis regions

Terrorism has been considered a global issue ever since the 1970 plane hijackings by the Palestinian Liberation Organization, whose goal was the return of Israel to the Palestinians. This event was the beginning of a long and difficult process for the world to adapt to this new form of violence. The world had to develop ways to respond to and deter terrorism. There were and still are many things that make this a difficult task. The main issue that makes fighting terrorism so complicated is that the majority of terrorism does not originate from within the victim state or states. For example, the 1970 Dawson's Field hijackings took place in Jordan, were planned from within Israeli, and affected citizens of 15 different nations. Thus, deterring terrorism is largely a matter of international cooperation, a hurdle in any instance but especially in the 1970s Middle East, when another Middle Eastern war was soon to breakout. It is because of this characteristic of the region that we can label the 1970s Middle East a crisis region.

To make determining crisis regions easier for the sake of this background guide we will be using the following definition: any state or region where political unrest and potential violence are rampant. It is important to remember that a lack of significant resources or other necessities create the potential for political unrest which in turn creates the potential violence. Few would argue against the claim today that the Middle East was a crisis region in the 1970s and perhaps still today. But the Middle East is not the only crisis region of the world. In fact, one could safely say that every single continent has a crisis region, some more than others.



The above map gives an idea of some crisis regions but in no way is it all encompassing.

The UN has made great strides in the attempt to unify against terrorism. In 2006 the UN voted on and passed The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy entitled *Uniting Against Terrorism: Recommendations for a Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy*. (For the full text, visit <http://www.un.org/terrorism/strategy-counter-terrorism.shtml>) The document encourages Member States to support antiterrorism efforts through mobilizing their resources and expertise and calls on nongovernmental organizations to enhance these efforts to implement the strategy. States are asked to combat terrorism by becoming parties to existing conventions against terrorism and implementing them. The Strategy also encourages the arrangement of initiatives to promote dialogue, tolerance, understanding among civilizations, and mutual respect for religions. It enlists the help of UNESCO in promoting a worldwide culture of peace. Further, the Strategy encourages the establishment of national systems to assist victims of terrorism and ensure the apprehension and prosecution of perpetrators. The Strategy is the main legislation that exists by way of UN strategy to combat terrorism anywhere, which logically includes crisis regions. However, as you may notice, it mostly encourages States to combat terrorism, rather than encouraging a cooperative movement by the international community as a whole. This can certainly be improved by the committee. Created in 2005 within this resolution was the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) to enhance coordination and coherence of counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system. Currently the Task Force consists of 31 international entities which by virtue of their work have a stake in counter-terrorism efforts. Each entity makes contributions consistent with its mandate.

While the primary responsibility for the implementation of the Global Strategy rests with Member States, CTITF ensures that the UN system is attuned to the needs of Member States, to provide them with the necessary policy support and spread in-depth knowledge of the Strategy, and wherever necessary, expedite delivery of technical assistance.

The primary goal is to maximize each entity's comparative advantage by joining forces to help Member States implement the four pillars of the Strategy, which are: measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; measures to prevent and combat terrorism; measures to build states' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in that regard; measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism. The composition of the Task Force includes entities that deal exclusively with development work, conflict prevention and counter-terrorism, the rule of law and human rights protection. It is important to remember that because these entities are under the CTITF, they can be used to combat terrorism in crisis regions. Here are said entities compiled in one list:

Membership of the CTITF

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) › United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) › Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) › Department of Political Affairs (DPA) › Department of Public Information (DPI) › Department of Safety and Security (DSS) › Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG) › Expert Staff of the 1540 Committee › International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) › International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › International Maritime Organization (IMO) › International Monetary Fund (IMF) › International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) › International Organization for Migration (IOM) › Monitoring Team of the 1267 Committee › Office of the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) › Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) › Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA) › Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) › Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) › Office of the Special Adviser on Africa (OSAA) › Special Rapporteur on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights While Countering Terrorism | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (AOC) › United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) › United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) › United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) › United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) › United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) › World Customs Organization (WCO) › World Bank › World Health Organization (WHO) |
|--|--|--|

Actions that have been taken by other organizations are the creation of Terrorist Watch Lists, something the UN lacks. The UN within this strategy has outlined many bodies within the UN that could help but have not been effectively used. This weakness could also be worked on in debate. Organizations like the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) have tried to stabilize crisis regions with a presence on the ground to combat terrorism. Questions to consider in committee are whether this is a viable option and what other options are available to the UN.

In combating terrorism, both the biggest strength and downfall has been that terrorism is a global issue, present in every nation. This has been a downfall because disunity among 193 nations strengthens terrorism. A united front could essentially eradicate major forms of transnational violence.

Questions:

1. Is this issue a problem in your country/ neighboring countries/ continent?
2. How this problem has/is affecting your country/ neighboring countries/ continent/ world?
3. What and how can your country be involved in the prevention and occurrences of the issue?
4. How do resources affect crisis regions and what can the UN do to help?
5. How can you specify the UN strategies to crisis regions (and which ones?) and improve upon the strategy?

6. What are some facts, figures, statistics regarding the issue – national, regional, international?

Summary:

As with all issues pertaining to violence, the goal in discussing the prevention of the spread of terrorism in crisis regions is to achieve international peace. A crisis region is defined as being any area where there is political unrest creating a potential for violence.

To date, the UN has made broad attempts to fight terrorism within bodies already in existence, but without many practical steps. A body with great potential to resolve this issue is the CTITF, a large group of many organizations under the UN that can be used by this committee. It is important to keep in mind that terrorism affects everyone and as such everyone has a stake and say in the matter, from the smallest to the largest countries.

Reading/Research References:

1. www.un.org
2. <http://www.un.org/terrorism/strategy-counterterrorism.shtml#resolution>
3. <http://www.un.org/wcm/content/site/undpa/counter-terrorism>
4. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/archives.shtml>
5. www.nato.int
6. http://www.nato.int/docu/briefing/crisis_management/html_en/crisis01.html
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9. <http://wordnetweb.princeton.edu/perl/webwn?s=hotspo>