



**Montessori Model United Nations (MMUN 2010)
First Committee of the General Assembly, Disarmament and
International Security
Background Guide**

Dear Delegates,

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 2010 Montessori Model UN and especially to First Committee of the General Assembly; Disarmament and International Security.

The following pages intend to guide you in the research of the topics that we will be debating at MMUN 2010. Please note that this guide will only provide the basis for your investigation. It is your responsibility to find as much information that you can on the topic and how it relates to the country that you represent. The more information that you have and learn about, the more you will take from debate and the whole MMUN experience.

We encourage you to learn all that you can about what your country is doing in regard to the selected topics.

Enjoy and see you in New York!

Montessori Model United Nations 2010 Secretariat

The Birth of the United Nations

The first half of the 20th century is remembered as a period of change and turmoil. After the First World War many people believed that it was necessary to create a world organization capable of keeping peace and preventing the horrors of war. The League of Nations was founded immediately, consisting of 42 countries, 58 at its largest point. Its goal was to preserve peace by solving international conflicts peacefully and promoting cooperation between nations in economic and international affairs. However, the Second World War unfolded and proved that the League had not accomplished its goal.

In 1944 representatives of China, the United Kingdom, the United States and the Russian Federation (In that moment USSR) meeting at Dumbarton Oaks in Washington, DC, prepared a blueprint for a new and stronger international organization. Towards the end of the war, representatives of 51 countries gathered in San Francisco in 1945 to prepare the final text that would lay the foundations of international cooperation. Most of the ideals and structure of this new organization were the same as the League's.



The difference was that now, the organization had the support of the most powerful countries of the world. The UN came to exist officially when the Charter of the United Nations was supported by the five permanent members of the Security Council (the United States, the United Kingdom, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, China, and France) and a majority of all other signatories on October 24, 1945.

The purpose of the United Nations is to bring all nations of the world together to work for peace and development, based on the principles of justice, human dignity and the well being of all people. It affords the opportunity for countries to balance global interdependence and national interests while addressing international problems. Currently, 192 countries are United Nations Member States. Representatives from these nations meet in the General Assembly, which is the closest event to a world parliament. Each country, large or small, rich or poor, has a single vote.

The United Nations Today

The United Nations is an international organization committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations and promoting social progress, better living standards, and human rights. Due to its unique international character, and the powers vested in its founding Charter, the Organization can take action on a wide range of issues, and provide a forum for its 192 Member States to express their views, through the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council and other bodies and committees.



The work of the United Nations reaches every corner of the globe. Although best known for peacekeeping, peacebuilding, conflict prevention and humanitarian assistance, there are many other ways the United Nations and its System affect our lives and make the world a better place. The Organization also works on: sustainable development,

environment and refugees protection, disaster relief, counter terrorism, disarmament and non-proliferation, promoting democracy, human rights, governance, economic and social development and international health, clearing landmines, expanding food production, and more, in order to achieve its goals and coordinate efforts for a safer world for this and future generations.

About the General Assembly

Established in 1945 under the Charter of the United Nations, the General Assembly is the most democratic organ of the United Nations and operates as the main chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations. Comprising all 192 Members States, it provides a unique forum for multilateral discussion of the full range of international issues in the world.

Committees of the General Assembly

Because of the variety of topics, the work of the General Assembly is divided in 6 main committees, then draft resolutions and decisions for consideration are presented to the plenary meeting of the Assembly for voting. The six main committees are:

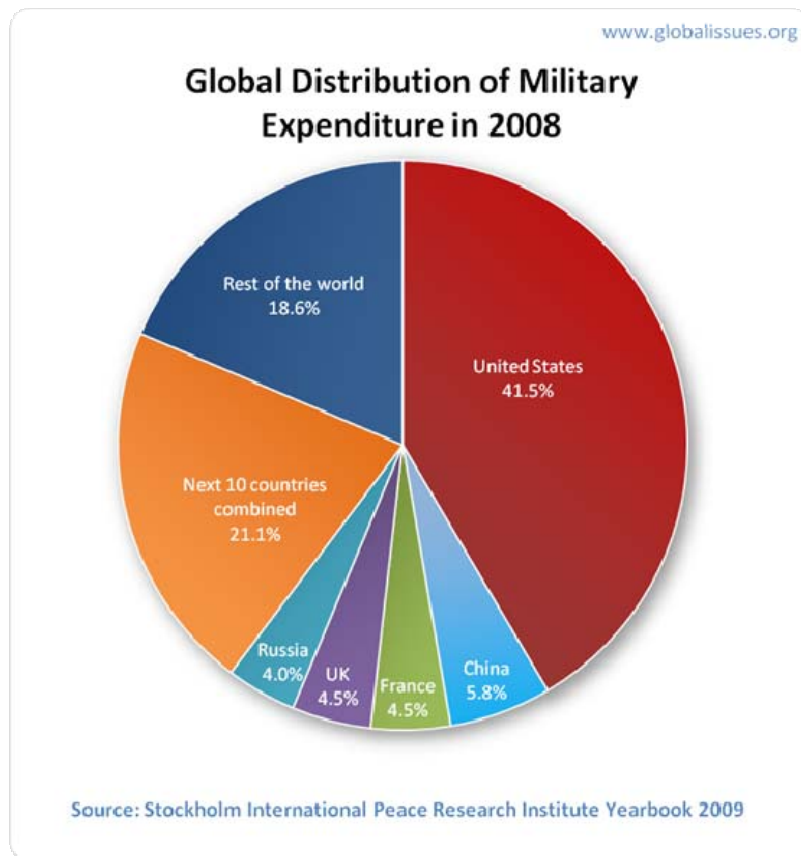
1. **First Committee (Disarmament and International Security Committee)** is concerned with disarmament and related international security questions;
2. **Second Committee (Economic and Financial Committee)** is concerned with economic questions;
3. **Third Committee (Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee)** deals with social and humanitarian issues;
4. **Fourth Committee (Special Political and Decolonization Committee)** deals with a variety of political subjects not dealt with by the First Committee, as well as with decolonization;
5. **Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary Committee)** deals with the administration and budget of the United Nations; and
6. **Sixth Committee (Legal Committee)** deals with international legal matters.

At MMUN 2010, the **First Committee (Disarmament and International Security Committee)** will debate on the following topics:

Topic 1: Reduction of Military Budgets

Topic 2: Strengthening international cooperation against atomic, biological, and chemical terrorism

Topic 1: Reduction of Military Budgets



The General Assembly promotes the reduction of arms race and military expenditures, which are a heavy burden for the economies of all nations and have harmful effects on world peace and security. The reduction of military expenditures as a result of the progress in disarmament negotiations will have favorable consequences on the world economic and financial situation. Some countries are developing and have millions of people in extreme poverty and hunger, but their governments still spend millions of dollars every year buying new weapons. The resources released through the reduction of military expenditures could be reallocated to the economic and social development of all States, particularly for the benefit of the developing countries,

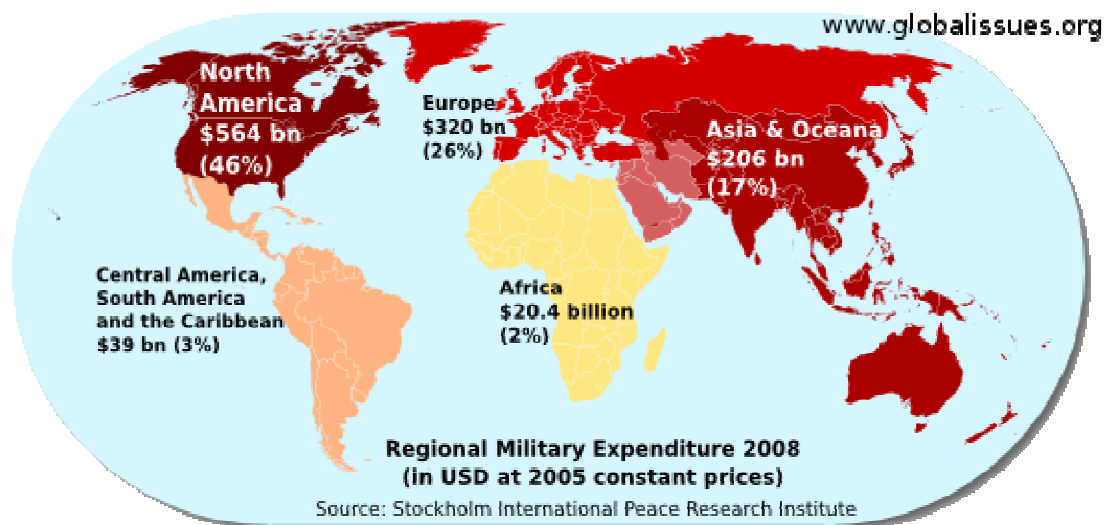
The reduction of military expenditures is also important because if all countries spend less on weapons, this will have a positive impact on the confidence and improving international security and co-operation among States.

In November 2007, Portugal was involved in a resolution which introduced a system that standardized the reporting of military expenditures. This reporting system is the best way to resolve the military budget issue. In order to make this system work, we need a broad participation from all the members of the UN. It is necessary for the member states to report their accurate

numbers annually. The United States spent over five hundred billion dollars on their military in 2007 alone. That was forty six percent of the world's total spending on military. Portugal's military spending rose the greatest during the early 1990's but it has leveled off since then.

The United States, Russia and other large nations have not made any effort to contain the growth of the military budget. Spending money is necessary in order to increase the potential of making an impact. Reducing certain types of weapons is difficult for countries to accomplish because each country does not want their weapons to be restricted.

The UN has contributed to the process of confidence-building in a number of ways. The Secretary-General has assisted states parties to arms limitation agreements, at their request, in exchanges of information. This is the case for the newly formed Register of Conventional Arms, for the maintenance of an international system for standardized reporting of military expenditures, for the biological weapons convention as well as for the seabed treaty.



The Secretary-General also has contributed to confidence building within regions by stimulating informal discussions of regional and global disarmament issues at seminars and conferences organized under the auspices of the Centre for Disarmament Affairs. Further, in order to promote cooperation among regional states towards arms limitation and disarmament, the UN has established three regional centers as follows: UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (Lomé, Togo); UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (Kathmandu, Nepal), and the UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and the Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (Lima, Peru). The centers focus their activities on dissemination of information, training, and regional meetings.

The objective of confidence-building measures is to contribute toward reducing or eliminating the causes for mistrust, fear, tensions, and hostilities, which are significant factors behind the international arms buildup.

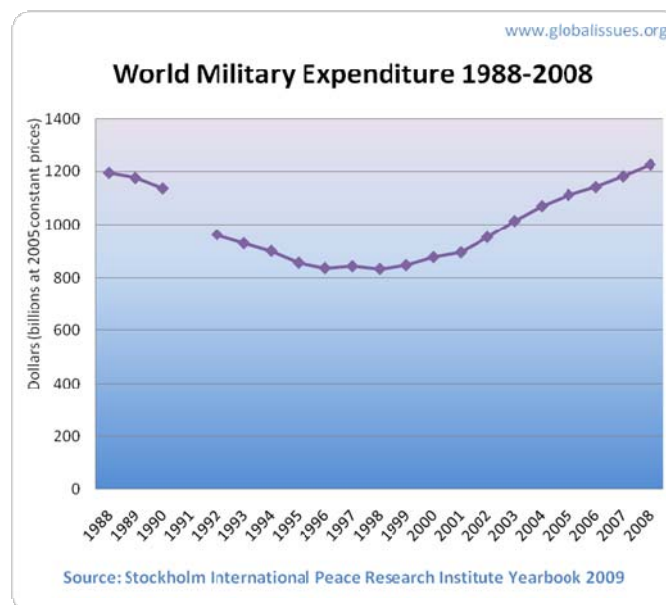
The World military expenditure in 2008 was estimated to have reached \$1.464 trillion in current dollars. This represents a 4 per cent increase in real terms since 2007 and a 45 per cent increase over the 10-year period since 1999. **This corresponds to \$217 for each person in the world.** A small number of countries spend the largest sums. This trend carries on into 2008 spending:

- The 15 countries with the highest spending account for over 81% of the total;
- The USA is responsible for 41.5 per cent of the world total, distantly followed by the China (5.8% of world share), France (4.5%), UK (4.5%), and Russia (4%)

The rapidly developing nations like China and India that have seen their economies boom in recent years. In addition, high and rising world market prices for minerals and fossil fuels (at least until recently) have also enabled some nations to spend more on their militaries. China, for the first time, ranked number 2 in spending in 2008.

Algeria, Azerbaijan, Russia and Saudi Arabia have been able to increase spending because of increased oil and gas revenues, while Chile and Peru's increases are resource-driven, "because their military spending is linked by law to profits from the exploitation of key natural resources."

The United Nations and all its agencies and funds spend about \$27 billion each year, or about \$4 for each of the world's inhabitants. This is a very small sum compared to most government budgets and it is just a tiny fraction of the world's military spending. Yet for nearly two decades, the UN has faced a financial difficulties and it has been forced to cut back on important programs in all areas. Many member states have not paid their full dues and have cut their donations to the UN's voluntary funds. The most important problem is that there is a large gap between what countries are prepared to allocate for military means to provide security and maintain their global and regional power status, on the one hand, and to alleviate poverty and promote economic development.



To answer in the position paper: How much does your country spend in military every year?

Topic 2: Strengthening international cooperation against atomic, biological, and chemical terrorism

Terrorism has always been an issue that the United Nations takes extremely seriously. There have been over thirteen conventions created that are dedicated to combating the various aspects of terrorism and the members of the General Assembly, as well as the Security Council, have taken great pains to collaborate in battling terrorist activities throughout the years. In September of 2006, a new phase of counter-terrorism was developed with the agreement on a global strategy to counter terrorism. This is the first time that all nations have come together and agreed on one single strategic approach in battling terrorism. In 2008, a resolution was submitted in the General Assembly, where nations reaffirmed their commitment to the global strategy. Thus, it's apparent that the concern of terrorism is not something the United Nations take lightly.

Over the years, the number and sophistication of terrorist attacks have been on the rise. Beyond some of the more recent incidents including the events of September 11, and the latest siege of hotels in Mumbai, three specific types of terrorism are now focused on more than ever: atomic, biological, and chemical terrorist activities. Atomic attacks include the use of nuclear weapons and radioactive materials. Biological terrorism is the use of toxic organic material to produce death or harm. Last but not least, chemical terrorism is the partaking of activities in which a group of terrorist utilizes chemical substances in order to undermine the security of citizens in a nation. However, as technology becomes more advanced and the use of atomic, biological, and chemical warfare becomes more common, the strategy against battling these three types of terrorism becomes more difficult as well. It will be up to the committee to decide as to what types of actions are necessary and most efficient in fighting these three specific types of terrorism.

Atomic Terrorism

The use of nuclear warfare first emerged in World War II, when the United States teamed up with Britain and Canada in developing atomic bombs, a venture better known as the Manhattan Project. After two of these bombs were dropped in Japan to end the war in the Pacific, the Soviet Union began to develop its own nuclear weapons, which triggered the start of the Cold War. Since then, the creation of nuclear weapons by a nation or terrorist group has become quite prevalent. Two main dangers associated with atomic terrorism are nuclear proliferation and nuclear terrorism. One should note that nuclear terrorism does not only include the conventional act of setting off a bomb. It also includes stealing nuclear waste or previously made nuclear weapons, attacking a nuclear reactor or injecting dangerous substances into a nuclear reactor.

The second nuclear age began with the conclusion of the Cold War era in the early 1990s when states such as India, North Korea, South Africa, Israel and Iran all began testing nuclear weapons. Even though each nation argued that these developments were only used for national security, many still fear that it will be used as weaponry during times of war, especially when terrorist groups are present within the country. Of all nations, the international community feared the development of nuclear weapons in the nation of Iran the most. Even though Ayatollah Ali Khamenei issued an order forbidding the production of these weapons in 2005, many still feel that it is merely a cover for weapon development and are wary of any actions taken by the nation when it comes to nuclear development.

One of the most recent and well known incident of atomic terrorism occurred in 2006, when the Secret Service of the United States warned people about the possibility of nuclear attacks on the United Kingdom by an Islamic terrorist group, known as the al-Qaeda. This terrorist unit was known for obtaining nuclear weapons through clandestine measures and the leader of this terrorist group is still one of the most sought after criminal by the international community.

Biological Terrorism

Bioterrorism has been used as a form of offensive attack ever since the Roman civilization, when rotting or dead animals were thrown into drinking wells in order to poison the water. These actions were meant to destroy enemies in a more covert way. However, as years passed, these primitive forms of biological terrorism evolved into more sophisticated forms of attack. One significant development in the form of bioterrorism was that of anthrax. Anthrax is an acute disease caused by the bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*, which could be highly lethal in some forms. This type of killing became popular among terrorist groups since it is easy to obtain, kills the targeted group easily and does not spread farther than the intended targets. Yet, by the time World War I emerged in 1914, many found that anthrax was not as effective against an animal population. This discovery was the catalyst to the development of mustard gas. This type of weaponry called for drastic measures, and thus, the Geneva Protocol of 1925 was developed; the Protocol aimed to prevent the future use of such a biological weapon. Even though this protocol banned the use of biological terrorism, it stated nothing about the development of these things so nations secretly expanded their range of biological weaponry.

Yet, by 1970, when the United States was accused of using bioterrorism against North Korea, the international community began to realize the significance and complications of developing biological weaponry. This led to the signing of an agreement in 1972 that prohibited the development, storage, and production of any biological weaponry. Since then, bioterrorism has mostly been used only by small radical organizations.

Examples include:

- A small terrorist group based in India tried to control the US 1984 election by killing the entire local population. They poisoned dozens of salad bars and grocery products with bacterium in Oregon. Although over 700 citizens were infected with food poisoning, there were no fatalities. This incident was the first known bioterrorist attack in the United States in the twentieth century.
- Letters filled with anthrax bacterium were sent to the US Congress in 2001, killing five people.

Chemical Terrorism

The major breakthrough of chemical warfare came during World War I, when the French developed tear gas. The use of mustard gas was later produced, which caused excruciating burns and pains to soldiers. Just like any other forms of weapons, chemical weaponry became more and more sophisticated as time passed. By 1933, it was formally banned by the UN and declared an illegitimate form of weaponry. Chemical warfare is the most common type of weaponry terrorist groups utilize. This is due to the fact that these types of deadly chemicals are easy to produce, easy to transport and relatively cheap.

Other past examples of chemical terrorism used throughout the world are:

- In 1995, a small terrorist group called the Aleph set off a Sarin gas attack in a Tokyo subway, which led to the death of twelve passengers and injuries to around 5,000 citizens. This was the first time chemical terrorism was inflicted on the general civilian population.
- During the September 11 attacks in 2001, al-Qaeda announced that their goal was to obtain chemical weapons.
- Many terrorist bombings in Iraq in 2007 have been reported to have obtained chlorine gas. These bombs wounded over 350 people and were declared by the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon as attacks used to cause instability and chaos in the country.

Much has been done within the international community to protect against Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMDs) terrorism. Within the UN, the UN Counter Terrorism Committee (CTC) was created just months after the attacks of September 11. The CTC mirrors the Security Council membership, which only highlights the importance of this question and the need for better-coordinated action. Nations have also grown accustomed to increased information sharing networks. Whether it is geopolitically drawn, though venues such as NATO, the European Union, information sharing networks for protection against terrorism and the treat of terrorism is atop most agendas of international organizations.

Furthermore, the coordination efforts of all nations are particularly paramount because the threat of the transportation of WMDs is growing. States continue to develop new types of ABC (Atomic, Biological, Chemical) weapons for the fear of the enemy gaining such capabilities, so (they maintain) a counter-measure must be available. These new weapons in quantity, if not properly secured, are the primary target of ABC seeking terrorist sects.

There is a list of conventions and protocols aimed at the prevention of terrorist activities aboard traveling and transportation vehicles, and between trade routes such as ports, waterways, and airports. However, these measures mean relatively little with respect to the targeted militant/insurgent groups creating the threat.

The P5

"P5" is a term you will often hear in discussions about the UN. P5 is the term that refers to the Permanent five nations of the Security Council with veto power. The P5 nations are: PR China, France, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The P5 nations have particularly vested interest in combating ABC terrorism. Not only are these nations possessors of nuclear weapons, but many are also actively involved in the "Global War on Terror." Both the UK and US have experienced horrible terrorist attacks upon their nation's citizens. Additionally, three of the five P5s are in alliance within NATO, which has extensive information-sharing capabilities and cooperation measures to combat ABC terrorism. Russia has taken measures similar to her P5 counterparts, but through different venues. Russia's involvement in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and other alliances to the East has made extensive reaches to combat terrorism in her backyard. However, Russia is unique amongst the five because of the ongoing separatist movements within her borders, and the terrorist threats that evolve as a result. China too, is dedicated to combating ABC terrorism. As one of the (estimated) nine nuclear weapons states, China also must uphold its responsibility as such, and continue to offer negative and

positive security assurances, and provide adequate stockpile security. China and Russia both have the manpower and economic ability to sustain effective measures to combat terrorism, the difficulty lies within their willingness to cooperate globally and across borders.

While no Latin American/Caribbean country possesses nor produces weapons of mass destruction, the nations of the region have taken several steps to ensure non-proliferation. Second only to the Arctic to establish a Nuclear-Free Weapons Zone (NWFZ), the Latin American and Caribbean countries are somewhat of a model example of international cooperation.

The European bloc is the simplest bloc to understand. Europe does not struggle with paramilitary and militant groups, whom pose the terrorist threat. Beyond the ETA in Spain and governmental struggles to the East, Europe enjoys little government interference that would pose a threat to the security of weapons stockpiles. The effective unification of the region through venues like NATO and the EU make European security and nonproliferation activities admirable.

The Asian countries includes India and Pakistan, two historically conflicting and bordering nations. With respect to international cooperation, this dynamic within the region is extremely important when dealing not only with the Asian bloc, but also the world as a whole. Furthermore, the United States and other NATO nations have come to believe many terrorist factions are operating out of Pakistan after being expelled from Afghanistan. Pakistan and India, as mentioned above, are both possessors of nuclear capabilities, and both have non-state actors (terrorist organs) operating within their borders. Moreover, Japan is the only state to have ever experienced the devastation of an atomic weapon. For these reasons and others, this region is particularly volatile.

The Middle East is the only geographic region amongst the listed to not be an established Nuclear Free Weapons Zone (NWFZ). This is most disturbing given the government instability within the region, and relatively conducive atmosphere for insurgency groups. As aforementioned, Iran has been under international scrutiny for its alleged nuclear weapons program. Moreover, the Middle Eastern bloc is ardent about self-determination and continually irritated by the "western" influence. To make matters worse, the international community has interpreted Iranian President Ahmadinejad's sentiments to "wipe Israel off the map" most seriously. While this potential threat is certainly alarming given its ambitious nuclear program, there is little to no doubt Israel possesses nuclear weapons. As one of the 'unofficial' nine nuclear weapons states, Israel has NOT signed the NPT, which wields a double-sided sword.

With the signing of the Treaty of Pelindaba, Africa also became a NFWZ, however, ratification is yet to be realized. Channeling the "African solution of an African problem" mentality of the Sudanese crisis, many African nations are weary of outside assistance, and prefer a regional approach. Yet, when considering the economic peril the majority of Africa finds itself in, an African solution to International Security is difficult to advocate. It will be a challenge for the African countries to find an agreeable medium to these two conflicting considerations. These nations will likely seek regional implementation programs, but it is possible will lack the ability to realize these initiatives.

Question: How can states combat terrorism?