



**Delegate Guide: Disarmament and International Security**

**(DISEC)**

**Chair: Michelle Chau**



## Letter From the Chair

Hello Delegates!

On behalf of the Dais of the 2019 DISEC Committee, I want to welcome you to the Greater Washington Conference on International Affairs (GWCIA), hosted by the George Washington University and the International Affairs Society. My name is Michelle Chau and I will be your Chair for this committee. I am a junior in the Elliott School of International Affairs double majoring in International Affairs and Economics. I am from Wyomissing, PA. This will be my third time staffing GWCIA and I am excited to make the switch from USG last year to Chair this year. At GW, I am the Chair of the International Affairs Society and am a member of the GWMUN team. As you can see, I am pretty invested in MUN and things international affairs-oriented, so I hope this committee will make you interested in these things too.

I chose to do DISEC because this committee deals with the fragility of power dynamics in the world. As most states have a tendency to put sovereignty and national interests first, I think it is fascinating how DISEC promotes peace and security in the midst of these power imbalances. As a GA delegate myself, I have been in countless DISEC committees before and wanted to have the chance to offer you all the opportunity to discuss other DISEC topics besides nuclear disarmament or drug trafficking. I hope you all enjoy researching the topics I chose, and I am excited to see what solutions you all find.

Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions at [michellechau@gwu.edu](mailto:michellechau@gwu.edu) and I can't wait to see you all in committee!

Best,  
Michelle Chau  
Chair | DISEC

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## Introduction:

With the creation of the United Nations and the General Assembly, the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC), otherwise known as the First Committee, was formed in response to the various issues. More specifically, member states came to the realization that there was a necessity to deal with global security issues. This committee aims to keep the peace in the international security regime. This committee addresses issues that threaten a nation's stability such as cyber warfare, nuclear armament, and drug trafficking.

The first topic, "The Development of Information and Communications Technology (ICTs)," considers the feasibility of regulating society's technological advancements. In the 21st Century, the use of digital tools for communication has increased, facilitating the transmission of information. Coinciding with its mandate on international peace and security, the Committee is concerned with the actions of Member States in cyberspace that threaten that balance. The difficulty of regulating ICTs is related to the rights of peoples to remain anonymous in cyberspace. Delegates must consider both the accessibility of ICTs and the urgency to regulate this technology due to the increased number of cyberattacks and the threat of cyberterrorism.

The second topic, "Foreign Intervention in Civil Wars" tackles a pressing issue in the world today. In the post-WWII period, the types of conflict changed. Conflicts related to expansionism or defending colonial territories ended with decolonization. Also, conflicts between states have almost ceased to exist. Currently, the majority of ongoing conflicts are internal. Civil conflicts within states have increased significantly. This is a difficult issue for the international community to address because it impacts national sovereignty. With Topic B,

delegates must think deeply and creatively to find a solution that balances the respect of sovereignty and outside involvement to deescalate the conflict.

In this committee, delegates will form resolutions which seek to strengthen stability through creative ideas and cooperative agreements. This committee will run like normal GA committees. Debate will be comprised of a Speakers List, Moderated and Unmoderated Caucuses, Authors' Panel with Q&A, Amendments, and Resolution Voting. Keep in mind that this committee is run with double delegations, so "divide and conquer," to make the most of this committee. Work diligently and diplomatically, and good luck!

## **Topic A: The Development of Information and Communications Technology**

### **Topic Introduction**

Information and Communications Technology (ICTs) refer to tools that provide access to information through telecommunications, including the internet, wireless networks, mobile phones, and other means of communication.<sup>1</sup> These technologies have helped to develop society, both financially and socially. For example, cyberspace helps to increase the number of opportunities for its users through its capacity to transmit and manage information worldwide. Moreover, ICTs have been a useful tool for educational purposes. Economically, ICTs can boost productivity, quality and accuracy by speeding up time-consuming activities and by reducing human errors. Over the last few decades, national authorities and governments have attempted to enhance governmental activities and communication through ICTs. Within a short period of time, ICTs have shifted from a means to support administrative work to facilitating governmental actions.<sup>2</sup> However, the unregulated development of ICTs and rapid technological evolution may also lead to opposite and undesirable effects. In other words, information can be viewed both as a tool and as a target.

### **Topic History**

Technological advancements have erupted in recent years due to the Information Revolution. Although new technology was initially expected to promote transparency in governments, the reality is that information distribution and consumption has caused significant

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<sup>1</sup> <http://techterms.com/definition/ict>

<sup>2</sup> <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/pad.1717/abstract>

problems. Attackers are at all levels, ranging from states to non-state actors (i.e. terrorist groups and multinational corporations/MNCs). Historically, espionage has played a role in both the domestic and foreign operation of most militarized civilizations. Devoted to the preservation of their empires, city states were concerned with the affairs and strategies of their opponents.

The early 20th century, prior to World War I, saw the emergence of modern espionage. Competition to have the most powerful military, with a central component being covert intelligence, was one of the reasons for war. This rapid build-up of military capacity did not help to deter the tensions in the world. In fact, the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, which was an act of espionage, is one of the main reasons why the war began. During WWI, all key actors had refined intelligence programs which: used spies to obtain classified military information, committed acts of sabotage, spread propaganda, and conducted interrogations of prisoners-of-war. An important alliance soon formed between Britain, France, and the Netherlands. British and French intelligence services recruited and trained Belgian and French refugees, only to later deploy these spies as Dutch citizens. Proven highly successful, this scheme was also reflective of the development of reconnaissance tactics. The use of photography in surveillance missions predicted enemy movements and examined enemy machinery. Furthermore, the interception and decryption of radio communications bolstered the emerging field of signal intelligence, a field integral to the Cold War era. By the end of WWI, the United States' intelligence capabilities were on par with those of their European counterparts: American operatives were stationed abroad, and the Bureau of Investigation was established.

Although extensive espionage operations took place during WWII, the Cold War is analyzed more heavily because it was defined by covert intelligence. Spies in the Cold War, like

WWI, were used to acquire knowledge about the other side and to disseminate false knowledge of what the other side was doing. In 1960, an American U-2 spy plane was shot down for flying in Soviet airspace. The pilot, Francis Powers, was sentenced to 10 years in prison on espionage charges. Directly violating Soviet sovereignty, it was revealed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) had been conducting these operations to spy on the Soviets. Such blatant violations of national sovereignty greatly increase tensions and mistrust, leading to the issues discussed in this committee.

### **Current Situation**

In the 21st Century, the use of digital tools has reengineered the methodology of espionage. Modern espionage can be characterized by cyber-attacks on powerful corporations, government surveillance of other governments, and terrorist database systems. Therefore, it has become even more important to secure private information and strengthen cyber-security. For example, Africa's underdeveloped cyber-infrastructure is under attack by several foreign intelligence services. Seeking the rich natural resources on this continent, different groups have employed various methods to acquire these lucrative markets.

Due to the growing importance of telecommunication networks in the era of globalization, threats to information security are one of the most crucial challenges today. Furthermore, "there is a growing pervasiveness of cyberspace applications throughout government activities, military planning and operations, industrial and civil infrastructure processes and financial systems."<sup>3</sup> ICTs are a double-edged sword, both as technologies that

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.unidir.org/est-cyber>

support e-commerce and as threats to the international community. There is a high risk from using ICTs for purposes that go against international peace and security. For example, terrorist organizations can take advantage of this technology, such as through the spreading of propaganda or the coordination of attacks.

Terrorists may operate in cyberspace to destroy or control information for their own goals. Targets vary and could include civil and military communication centers and systems, financial institutions, or nuclear infrastructures. In general, such cases are usually related to the following sectors:

- Communications, for command and control, issue of instructions/orders/directions, etc.
- Perception management
- Intelligence gathering
- Financing support operations
- Cyber attacks<sup>4</sup>

With the international community becoming more dependent on global information systems, the misuse of ICTs has the potential to deconstruct and destroy crucial information systems around the world. Hence, the security of computer networks is necessary to addressing the issue of information and telecommunications in the context of international security. A variety of actors from hostile states, terrorists and criminals often infiltrate computer networks to disrupt ICT systems and steal information and data. Without proper regulation or security measures, the privacy of individuals, commercial activities of businesses, important national infrastructures, and classified governmental information are all at risk. To strengthen information

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<sup>4</sup> [www.idsa.in/\\_idsa/system/files/strategicanalysis\\_smishra\\_0903.pdf](http://www.idsa.in/_idsa/system/files/strategicanalysis_smishra_0903.pdf)

security, broad international collaboration must be made. More dialogue, feasible and achievable solutions, and cooperation among nations are of utmost importance to minimize threats and secure crucial national and global infrastructures.

#### Case study: Edward Snowden leaks

Infringing upon tangible boundaries, espionage can have significant adverse effects if trespasses are revealed to have occurred, as seen with the Edward Snowden leaks of the US National Security Agency (NSA) documents.<sup>5</sup> These leaks revealed surveillance programs, including both legal and illegal interception of communications. News of the NSA's actions and potential capabilities resulted in global backlash. Although the NSA's surveillance program is connected to other countries' through the Five Eyes Alliance, some of the US's closest allies still oppose the lack of transparency and the violation of sovereignty.<sup>6</sup> Today, states and other local, regional, and international actors try to navigate an appropriate response to the exposition of these acts of espionage.

#### Case study: China's growing influence in Africa

As major international players compete for resources like oil, natural gas, water, and arable land, many direct their focus on Africa. Simultaneously, stronger African states with reasonably developed intelligence systems like South Africa, Nigeria, and Egypt have shifted their concerns to Northern Africa. While combatting radical Islamic groups, these stronger African states leave an opening for foreign powers like China, France, the U.S., and Israel to

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<sup>5</sup> *The Economist* (2015), "A new age of espionage," Available at: <https://www.economist.com/international/2015/07/30/a-new-age-of-espionage>.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

assert their influence. These powers seek to claim the continent's largely untapped energy and exporting potential. For example, China has recently played a major role in Africa through financing infrastructure projects including housing, highways, factories, and skyscrapers in Ethiopia, Angola, Kenya, and rural Egypt.

These building projects support two primary goals for China: (1) they have a new source of labor to produce their goods as the middle class continues to expand back home, and (2) state affiliated corporations have nearly unrestricted access to drilling and nuclear energy programs in Africa. Yet, Chinese help is not offered without underlying motives. In a 2010 South African counter-intelligence report, an act of espionage committed by Chinese spies in one of the newly built facilities is described.<sup>7</sup> Chinese agents hacked the Pelindaba facility's system and stole an unknown number of classified documents about the Pebble Bed Modular Reactor's construction and operation.<sup>8</sup> In response, South Africa requested support from U.S. and French intelligence in the vicinity. However, it was later discovered the American and French operatives embedded monitoring software within the facility during the process of repairing the security.

#### Case study: Russia's "Red October"

Red October was a cyberespionage malware program discovered in October 2012 and uncovered in January 2013 by Russian firm Kaspersky Lab. Active since at least 2007, Red October "appears to collect files encrypted with software used by several entities from the

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<sup>7</sup> *The Guardian* (2015), "Africa is new 'El Dorado of espionage', leaked intelligence files reveal," Available at: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/24/africa-eldorado-espionage-leakedintelligence-files>.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*



### Case study: Israeli influence in Sudan

In Sudan, Israel is relentlessly working to undermine the government and gain access to Sudanese mines; Israel is the world's second largest processor of diamonds. Initially, with desire for political instability, Israel indirectly supported the militants in the Sudanese conflict. Then following the establishment of South Sudan, Israel attempted to economically pressure Sudan to export its raw diamonds to Israel for processing and sale. In late 2015, Al-Jazeera received a classified list of the names, phone numbers, photos, addresses, and state-affiliations of 75 spies working out of South Africa. This information confirmed that acts of espionage had occurred across the African continent for some time.

The presence of foreign intelligence services in Africa weakens states' abilities for progress. These African states are unable to further develop their young economies and to take advantage of their resources. Moreover, Africa's cyber infrastructure is severely underdeveloped. The continued meddling of foreign covert operatives creates an issue of national security for not only African states, but all states.

### **Possible Solutions**

Some definitions will be provided as a basis for research. According to Article 2.4 of the United Nations Charter, "All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner inconsistent with the Purposes of the United Nations."<sup>11</sup> This Article says that member states cannot use force or threaten to use force against any other state, which includes

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<sup>11</sup> [http:// www.un.org/en charter-united-nations/](http://www.un.org/en charter-united-nations/)

types of warfare, such as cyberwarfare. *Cyberwarfare*, as defined by the Oxford Dictionary, is “the use of computer technology to disrupt the activities of a state or organization, especially the deliberate attacking of information systems for strategic or military purposes.”<sup>12</sup> Additionally, in 2005, the UN-sponsored World Summit on the Information Society defined *Internet Governance* as “the development and application by governments, the private sector and civil society, in their respective roles, of shared principles, norms, rules, decision-making procedures, and programs that shape the evolution and use of the Internet.”<sup>13</sup>

Delegates can consider the following solutions to preventing future cyberattacks. Firstly, international law concerning warfare should be updated. Currently, cyberwarfare is not considered a real act of war. Reconsideration as real warfare would grant international organizations and agencies, such as the United Nations Security Council, more power to prevent and condemn acts of cyberwarfare. Secondly, there are more technical solutions. Companies and governments should use safe technology that can resist cyberattacks. Safeguards should be put in place to make networks more secure, however, who should be the ones to mandate this? Lastly, governments and network operators can work together to secure the internet. For example, should there be collaborative efforts to rid network systems of viruses and other malicious software?

Furthermore, the definition of espionage remains vague and ill-defined under international law. This lack of explicit language makes drafting legislation on the subject more difficult. What makes the topic more complex is the different types of espionage: military, industrial, personal. Different solutions include stricter regulations on espionage and reforms to

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<sup>12</sup> <https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/definition/us/cyberwarfare>

<sup>13</sup> *Council on Foreign Relations*, “What is Internet Governance”, <http://www.cfr.org/internet-policy/internetgovernance/p32843>

surveillance programs. A significant gap in international legislation still remains. Resolutions might lessen this gap by: creating a framework for dismantling foreign intelligence networks in developing regions, revising international copyright guidelines, distinguishing an act of cyber terrorism from an act of cyber espionage, implementing transparent intelligence systems in underdeveloped regions, and setting repercussions for acts of political espionage.

Topic A will ask delegates to consider redefining the definition of espionage, creating a framework for dismantling foreign intelligence networks in developing regions, implementing transparent intelligence systems in underdeveloped regions, distinguishing an act of cyber terrorism from an act of cyber espionage, and determining repercussions for acts of political espionage.

### **Questions to Consider**

When looking at the issues of ICT regulation, cyberattacks, and espionage, delegates need to consider which level (local, national, regional, international) is most appropriate to finding a solution. Delegates should domestic interests into account when looking to an international, UN approach. Consider the following questions whilst researching:

1. How can the international community better facilitate a global environment that promotes cooperation when investigating cyberattacks and other malicious uses of ICTs?
2. What roles should developed, developing, and LDCs play in combatting malicious uses of ICTs?
3. How can the international community and/or developed countries better assist developing countries and LDCs with capacity-building and cyber security strategies?

4. What is the difference between espionage and information-gathering?
5. How developed is your country's military complex and intelligence service?
6. Should digital violations of sovereignty be given equal weight as physical ones?
7. What steps, if any, should be taken to scale back overbearing intelligence systems?

## **Topic B: Foreign Intervention in Civil Wars**

### **Topic Introduction**

Ever since the end of the Cold War, the number of foreign military interventions used for humanitarian reasons and conflict resolution has increased dramatically. Sometimes, foreign states deploy troops for unconventional reasons. For example, this was done by the United States in 1990 when they sent troops to Honduras for reason of disaster relief. Yet, the more common and controversial intervention type is when nations send troops to influence the outcome of a conflict. One major issue to this type of action is that the larger powers which intervene in conflicts may sometimes abuse the humanitarian rights of the weaker powers and the people who are involved.

Foreign intervention may have a positive or a negative influence on an internal conflict of a country. It may bring peace or it may make the situation worse, which in turn, could lead to an international war. Foreign intervention may become a serious issue that could not only physically harm the country of which they are entering, but also its national sovereignty. Violations of national sovereignty can then create environments that facilitate injustice among the people. It is important that if a outside country intervenes, it is done with permission. This would keep national sovereignty intact and hopefully foster a sustained and stable period of peace.

### **Topic History**

Ever since its creation, the UN has worked to prevent disputes from intensifying into a war. If conflict does escalate though, the UN then works to promote peace and restore justice

within these societies. There have been 138 intra-state wars since the end of World War II, and foreign parties are estimated to have intervened in about two-thirds of them. In approximately 30% of these intra-state conflicts, outside intervention helped settle the war. Over the past 70 years, more than 1 million men and women have served in more than 70 UN peacekeeping operations. More than 110,000 military, police and civilian personnel from 120 countries currently serve in 14 peacekeeping operations.<sup>14</sup>

After colonialism in Africa ended with the end of World War II, political and military intervention opportunities for major Cold War powers emerged. Many countries engaged in armed combat to decide what type of government they would have. During this time period, multiple global interventions occurred to try to influence other countries' implementation of the same type of government that they had. Fueled by personal interests, foreign external support for many African regimes led to decades of corruption and poor governance that served as the foundation for many post-war conflicts. UN peacekeeping expanded during the 90s creating new opportunities to stop civil wars through negotiated peace settlements. After the Cold War, the motive for military intervention was no longer to combat communism, but rather the "Responsibility to Protect".

National sovereignty is the concept of independent nations having the right to be an organized and reserved society, without other nations' interference. When an external actor intervenes in a country's armed civil conflicts, the national sovereignty of that country is violated. In turn, justice for the people is not always properly restored. Foreign intervention in

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<sup>14</sup> <https://betterworldcampaign.org/un-peacekeeping/>

armed civil conflicts may also lead to bigger confrontations outside the host country. Measures need to be taken to ensure that if global intervention takes place it is handled correctly.

In accordance with the Westphalian System, if national sovereignty is violated, then countries have the right to self-defense. If the state lacks that capacity, it has the right to ask other states for assistance. Following several controversial events from the 90s that were justified by this idea, this principle was adapted so that foreign countries could intervene in civil conflicts when genocidal events and massive human right violations occurred. The violation of national sovereignty is not necessarily a physical trespass into a country, but also can include cases in which a country is advised and even threatened to modify its governance by another country.

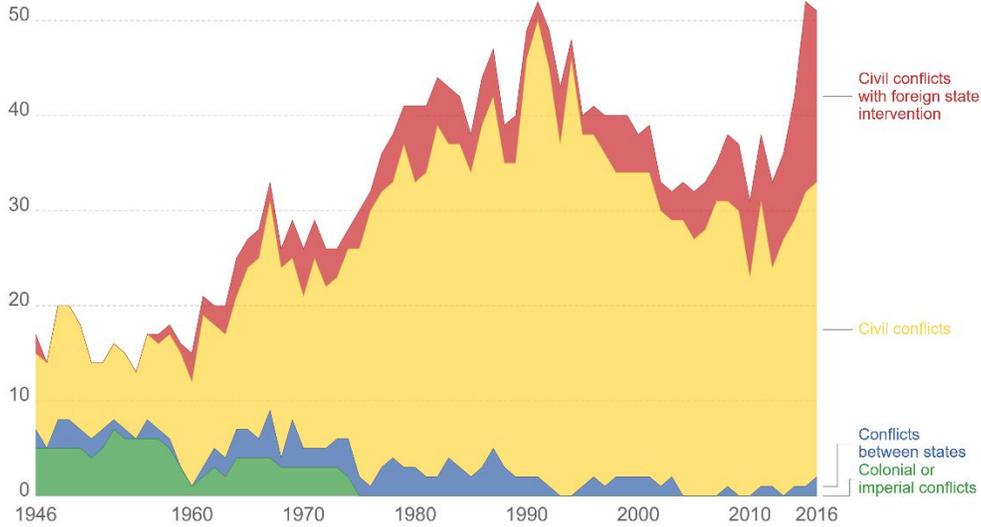
### **Current Situation**

Since 1946, the number of state-based conflicts has increased substantially. Conflicts between states have almost ceased to exist. On the other hand, the number of civil conflicts is back on an upwards trend. However, with the civil conflicts, there are more with foreign intervention. Furthermore, the number of battle deaths are no longer due to conflicts between states. While the number of battle related deaths has declined, they still exist, and are coming from civil conflicts with foreign intervention. As seen from this data, if international peace and security are to be achieved, civil wars with a foreign presence need to be regulated and monitored.

## State-based conflicts since 1946

Our World  
in Data

Only conflicts in which at least one party was the government of a state are included. Ongoing conflicts are represented for every year in which they resulted in at least 25 battle-related deaths.



Source: UCDP/PRIO Armed Conflict Dataset

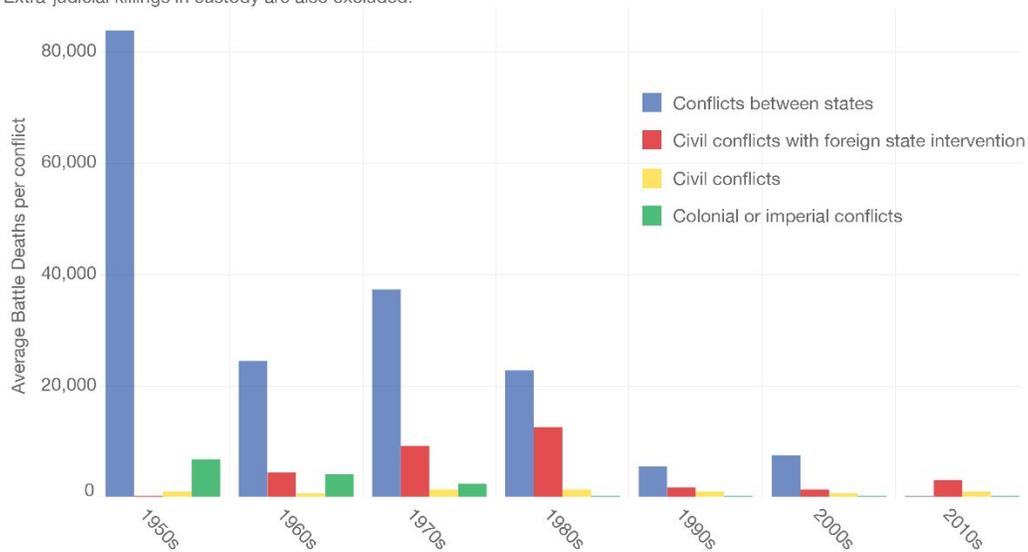
CC BY

Note: The war categories paraphrase UCDP/PRIO's technical definitions of 'Extrasystemic', 'Internal', 'Internationalised internal' and 'Interstate' respectively.

## Average number of battle deaths per conflict since 1946, by type

Our World  
in Data

Only conflicts in which at least one party was the government of a state and which generated more than 25 battle-related deaths are included. Deaths due to disease or famine caused by conflict are excluded. Extra-judicial killings in custody are also excluded.



Source: UCDP/PRIO

OurWorldInData.org • CC BY-SA

Note: The war categories paraphrase UCDP/PRIO's technical definitions of 'Extrasystemic', 'Internal', 'Internationalised internal' and 'Interstate' respectively. In a small number of cases where wars were ascribed more than one type, deaths have been apportioned evenly to each type.

### Case study: Syria

The Syrian conflict is one of the most important and complicated intervention conflicts occurring currently. Intervention in Syria has caused a lot of religious conflicts, which can also provoke many other civil wars. More than 250,000 Syrians have lost their lives over multiple years of conflict, it began with anti-government protests and escalated into a war soon after. More than 11 million Syrians have been displaced from their homes as forces devoted to President Bashar al Assad and the Islamic State (ISIS) battle rebel troops. In 2014, the United States initiated a series of air strikes. Around the same time, the Russian Federation also carried out air strikes targeted at Syrian terrorists. However, it is said that these strikes killed mainly Western backed rebels and civilians rather than the terrorist groups. Foreign intervention becomes more complex with consideration of other motives. Russia and China support Syria for significant trade and military reasons. In contrast, the US, France, and the UK support the rebel groups in the war, providing mostly material aid like communications equipment and medical supplies. There have been many attempts of resolutions that oppose the Assad regime, however, they have been impossible to pass with Russia and China vetoing these resolutions.

### Case study: Afghanistan

Afghanistan has suffered greatly from foreign military interventions. This country lost its national sovereignty on October 7th, 2001 and has been relatively unstable since then. Although, many countries are withdrawing their military, some countries still refusing to completely eradicate their bases. Many global interventions have occurred in Afghanistan after the 9/11 attacks. The UN has also stated that the bombings that took place in Afghanistan provoked by

the US and the Great Britain were illegal. The government in Afghanistan desires help from other countries, but it is a highly fragile situation due to the sensitive power dynamics at play.

### Case study: Egypt and Libya

In February 2015, Egypt conducted a series of airstrikes in Libya targeting the Islamic State (IS). The President of Egypt, Abdel Fattah alSisi, views the situation in Libya as a threat to global peace and security, urging foreign nations to intervene in this issue. Although Egypt implemented the attack with the intent of only damaging training camps and weapon warehouses belonging to the IS, it also led to 50 civilian deaths from the city of Derna. A Libyan politician, Omar al-Hassi, spoke out regarding the attack and stated that “this horrible assault and this terrorism that's been conducted by the Egyptian military represents a violation of sovereignty in Libya and is a clear breach of international law and the UN charter.”

### **Possible Solutions**

To create a resolution to this growing issue, delegates should consider the legal language justifying such interventions. An internal conflict or a civil war is a war between organized parties or groups within the state. To be more specific, according to the International Peace Institute, a civil war “consists of one or several simultaneous disputes over generally incompatible positions that (1) concern government and/or territory in a state; (2) are causally linked to the use of armed force, resulting in at least 500 battle-related deaths during a given year during the conflict; and (3) involve two or more parties, of which the primary warring parties are the government of the state where armed force is used, and one or several nonstate opposition

organizations.”<sup>15</sup> Note that these are only two of many possible definitions; delegates are permitted, and encouraged, to explore other definitions to find the one that is most fitting to both country position and international functionality. Foreign intervention in a civil war refers to military, political, diplomatic, logistical, and effective support given to parties, involved in the war, by foreign countries. Military intervention is the cautious act of a single nation or group of nations to introduce its own military forces into an existing internal conflict or controversy in another nation.

Note that there is a difference between foreign interventions and international interventions. The former refers to a specific country’s actions in a conflict while the latter refers to actions by international institutions, like the UN, in taking part in existing internal conflicts.

Major considerations for the UN are how to prevent disputes from escalating into conflict and how to prevent the recurrence of conflict. Two main strategies are preventative diplomacy and preventative disarmament.<sup>16</sup>

### Preventative Diplomacy

Preventative diplomacy refers to action taken to limit the spread and escalation of conflicts when they occur. This strategy can be through mediation, conciliation, or negotiation. Early warning is an essential component of prevention, and the UN carefully monitors developments around the world to detect threats to international peace and security. This monitoring enables the UN Security Council and the Secretary-General to carry out preventive action. Envoys and special representatives of the Secretary-General are engaged in mediation

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<sup>15</sup> [https://www.ipinst.org/wp-content/uploads/publications/ipi\\_rpt\\_unsc\\_and\\_civil\\_war\\_epub.pdf](https://www.ipinst.org/wp-content/uploads/publications/ipi_rpt_unsc_and_civil_war_epub.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/peace-and-security/>

and preventive diplomacy throughout the world. In some trouble spots, even the presence of a skilled envoy can prevent the escalation of tension. This work is often undertaken in cooperation with, and is more successful with, the presence of regional organizations.

### Preventive disarmament

Complementing preventive diplomacy is preventive disarmament. Preventative disarmament aims to reduce the number of small arms in conflict-prone regions. In El Salvador, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste and other countries, this means demobilizing combat forces, as well as collecting and destroying their weapons as part of an overall peace agreement. The belief is that destroying these weapons prevents their use in future wars.

### Preventing Genocide and Responsibility to Protect

Additionally, prevention requires assigning responsibility to and promoting collaboration between concerned states and the international community. The duty to prevent and end genocide and mass atrocities is firstly the duty of the state. However, national sovereignty no longer exclusively protects states from foreign interference if the state is unable to carry out this responsibility to protect the welfare of its people. This principle is detailed in Article 1 of the Genocide Convention, with the principle of “sovereignty as responsibility” and with the concept of the Responsibility to Protect.

## Questions to Consider

The laws of foreign intervention in armed civil conflicts continue to change. However, national sovereignty will always be an influential and crucial topic that affects this dialogue.

Delegates should consider this dynamic in finding solutions. Other questions to consider include:

1. How can the UN best serve countries that need help during an internal conflict?
2. When is the UN allowed to intervene in a civil conflict, and when is the UN obligated to do so?
3. Do single nations have the right to intervene in another sovereign nation's conflicts?
4. How will the UN monitor and protect refugees in a civil crisis, as well as ensure their return and establishment in a post conflict scenario?
5. How will the UN manage social reconciliation in areas where conflict may have been happening for years?
6. How will peacekeeping operations be coordinated in view of the wider issue of social and infrastructure reconstruction?
7. Are the three Charters used by the UN peacekeeping forces efficient and do they need to be changed or expanded?
8. Could a regional military intervention plan be created for future internal conflicts?
9. Has your country ever been invaded? How did it impact your nation?
10. What actions does your country perceive as a violation on national sovereignty and why?
11. What does the government of your delegation think about global intervention?
12. Has your country invaded other nations during armed conflict? What was the motive?

13. Is this topic a major concern in your country? If not, what ways can it help struggling nations?

14. Have other countries helped your country with this issue? In which ways?

15. Is there any armed civil conflict in your country? If so, would global intervention aid or harm the situation?