



Model United Nations

**4th Annual High School Conference
March 1-2, 2019**

United Nations Disarmament and Security Committee (DISEC)

Greetings from the chair!

Hello students of global affairs, it is wonderful to see you here contributing to the Model United Nations family! First of all welcome to DISEC! It will be a great privilege to be your president for this committee this year. I have been part of the Model United Nations team since my senior year in high school and I have served as both chair and delegate for various committees, so I understand how nerve racking it can be to stand and speak in front of a crowd of your peers. However, this will be a guide to our committee and a place to springboard your research for the various topics we will be covering.

As for expectations in committee, I expect you to at least be familiar with the rules of procedure. I consider myself to be fair minded but I expect you to pick up on the rules of debate and contribute accordingly. Questions on the rules or other matters are encouraged but I would like you to look at the rules yourself before coming up to ask about a specific procedures. Those that do know the rules of procedure will be accommodated in the scoring as the rules are a large part of the conference. I do expect you to be respectful towards your colleagues and not to talk while others are making a speech and to have general respectful conduct. If the chair finds you are being inappropriate in any way we will have the right to remove you from debate and you will no longer be allowed to participate in the conference. Respect for your peers and the chair is something I will be taking very seriously.

You should also have an understanding of what your country wants out of our topics and what the UN has done in the past but by no means am I expecting you to be an expert on these topics. This in no way means that you should come without doing further research, this guide is meant to help you start it is not all you should do in terms of research. You should be able to not only contribute to debate but to do so with your countries policies in mind. I expect everyone to have something to say on these subjects we will be covering and I will be holding you to the standard of accurate information and policy. That said, you should be representing your country accurately and tensions between nations will be present but they are by no means personal. We are all here to have fun so please be respectful to the chair and your peers. With that little message out of the way I am looking forward to meeting all of you and seeing the lively debate we will be having!

Background Guide for DISEC:

Non-Proliferation of Outer Space

As the First committee of the United Nations, the Disarmament and International Security committee (DISEC)¹, your duty on this topic is to discuss the prevention of arms in space or the prevention of the militarization of Outer Space, two very different understandings for the various countries of this committee. Your mission is to prevent an arms race in space and the militarization of space. The ability to do this is based on the recommendations you will put forward in committee rests on compromise, and recommendations put forth by this committee. One of these treaties is the Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies² of 1967, which set the current rules for states in their treatment of outer space on how to benefit all mankind. This treaty, as well as others that came out of the Cold War, set the basis for how we are to govern outer space in this new space age. Given that these treaties come from Cold War tensions, how can they be applied to today's world where the ideological clashes are no longer present? There certainly are clashes between nations today but how can that be put aside for the betterment of the human race as we explore outer space? How does the result of the Cold War, being that the United States came out on top of the world, factor into how today's world is structured in terms of arms restrictions in outer space? Other treaties such as the Rescue Agreement³ which posits that any nation has the responsibility to save the lives of any astronaut should an emergency situation come about. There is also the Moon Agreement⁴ that holds that the Moon and other celestial bodies be reserved for strictly peaceful purposes and that they are the subject of mankind as opposed to any one state on earth. However, how we are to govern outer space in terms of arms control and military use, as we will be discussing in this committee, is largely left undefined. As the example of what to do with military satellites presents itself, does this contribute to the militarization of space for your country? Or is it a matter of national security and should be allowed? These questions of interpretations of the previous treaties and resolutions made by this committee and other bodies will be up for discussion.

There is not only the matter of regulating states in this venture but also of private companies. Are they subject to the same regulations as states are in the aim of preventing the militarization of space and preventing an arms race in space? Should mining companies be able to venture into the vast resources of outer space with explosives, including dynamite and blasting caps, and other equipment such as drills that have potential to be turned into weapons? These questions should be discussed with the utmost respect for how it will impact the various countries of this body. Companies are increasingly more involved in the advancement of technology and research in outer space and in arms here on earth. As a result more needs to be done concerning how these companies operate and contribute to military technology in space. What assurances can be made to make sure that companies are acting in the best interest of mankind for your country or should there be free reign for companies taking control of outer space in the interest of selling arms to various actors? How do private citizens as well as companies contribute to the escalation

¹ <http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/>

² http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/outer_space

³ <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/spacelaw/treaties/introrescueagreement.html>

⁴ <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/spacelaw/treaties/intromoon-agreement.html>

of tensions in terms of an arms race in space? For example, Elon Musk says he has developed weapons that he intends on using in outer space, other private companies and their leaders may take this to another step and create an arms race in space. More must be done to prevent an arms race in space from happening and regulations and international treaties are one way to do that. Many countries would support increased regulation on private companies in their expansion into outer space but then again other countries would find this restrictive and counter to the progression of the human race into the stars. A possible solution to these two sides is to making sure that the regulations that are here on earth to make sure companies act as ethically as possible also apply to those companies in outer space. However, that relies on the assumption your country even views those regulations as beneficial. These are questions that the international body must be able to answer definitively to set the precedent for when there are colonies among the stars.

Another point of possible contention is, with the advancement of technology and ambition, of the prospects of creating Outer Space colonies. With talks of colonizing Mars in the air, guidelines must be set up to ensure no country creates the conditions for an arms race in outer space. In this, the question of what to do with small arms (rifles, shotguns, pistols, mortars, rockets etc.) arises from the possibility of having colonies among the stars. There is no current regulation or treaty concerning the treatment of small arms in space as we head to the advancement of human colonies in space. If we are allowed to colonize the planets among the stars would we need to establish police forces on these colonies? How can these weapons be used for strictly self-defense and enforcement for peaceful purposes as stated in all previous treaties? The precedent must be set now while a legal crisis can be avoided when traversing the stars.

A final point of contention is with the inequity of technology and research among the countries of the world. Many states do not have the capabilities or the resources to get into space let alone contribute to the militarization of space, yet these countries have a right guaranteed by this body and the outer space treaty previously mentioned⁵ to the resources and prospects of outer space and will be adversely affected by an arms race in space. The underdeveloped and developing countries of this body should have as much a say in these matters as the scientifically more advanced developed countries. For non-space faring nations, you should know what your program is to enter outer space and by what means. Whether this is through other countries programs or your own you must have a response to how to manage space for your country. Minor powers should have enough to say on the prevention of weapons in space as those countries that are already in space. A solution to this may be solved by your countries stance and the stances of your allies, for the non-space faring nations could band together to balance out the power of the space faring nations. Technology sharing is another means for countries to get into outer space, although this would tie your country economically and technologically to the state that is giving you these means. Either option presents its opportunities and costs so you will have to decide for yourself which direction you will go.

1. Does your country have an outer space program/policy? If so what sort of funds are required for supporting this program or policy? If not, why not? What resources do you hold for this program?

⁵ <http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/spacelaw/treaties/introouterspacetreaty.html>

2. This being DISEC, what sorts of regulations can the international community implement to prevent the militarization of space or an arms race in space? If there are no regulations, or your country does not want regulations/restrictions why not?
3. What does the militarization of space mean to your country?
4. What role, if any, do private companies have in the role of the peaceful uses of outer space?
5. What would be the purposes of having arms/weaponry in outer space? How does your country perceive these possible purposes? In other words, should there be arms in space?
6. What current treaties concerning outer space is your country party to? Are you willing to sign on to them if your country is not party to them? What treaties would your country sign on to given the opportunity? What treaties would you create?

Other Resources

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/topics/outerspace/>

http://www.unoosa.org/res/oosadoc/data/resolutions/2015/general_assembly_70th_session/ares7053.html/A_RES_70_053E.pdf

<http://undocs.org/A/68/189>

<http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/spacelaw/treaties.html>

Energy Security

As DISEC⁶ your goal is to ensure the security of energy resources and infrastructure. The idea of energy security is not new but it has traditionally been covered at a national level. There are few agencies in relation to the United Nations that deal with militaristic energy security policies and it is a good chance for you as members of DISEC to forge your mark into history. When looking at the issue of energy security it is important to recognize that there are treaties relating to the uses of nuclear energy and agreements that have been made to help with the use of nuclear resources such as the International Atomic Energy Agency.⁷ Another consideration is to go further than atomic energy and nuclear resources. Since the end of the Cold War, the threat of nuclear weapons being used has declined, and the issue has been seen that attacks on energy infrastructure is more prevalent than any other kind of energy issue. Looking at energy security it is essential to discuss issues such as the storage and protection of stored resources. Currently the subject is mostly considered a matter to be solved by each nation on their own, independent from planned international protections, however, there are agreements between many nations that involve the security of energy resources and distribution methods.

This issue includes the discussion of corporations and international organizations since the issue of acquiring and protecting energy resources is often an issue that these groups deal with on a day to day business, and the practices and resources within these groups can be valuable to the United Nations as a whole. Many discussions on energy security focus on the idea of sharing

⁶ <http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/>

⁷ <http://www.un.org/en/sections/issues-depth/atomic-energy/>

technology and integration within the UN. Sharing technology leads to the concern of cyber security and the implications of cyber attacks on energy systems.⁸ There are organizations in existence that work with cyber security directly, and there are many places around the world that these exist, including areas that have a history with issues in energy security.

Another concern in the area of energy security is the growing fear of terrorism spreading around the world, leaving entire cities or countries without the ability to have energy to power industry and agriculture, shutting down everything that allows the nation to survive. There are concerns of traditional attacks such as shutting down supply lines that could disable large parts of infrastructure, as well as the cyber threat that modern technology has brought us.⁹ There are arguments over what has happened in the past and how to fix issues that can be highlighted by attacks, and arguments over what is the best way to work to prevent attacks on energy.

Maybe one of the largest points of argument may be what the largest threat to energy security is who they believe poses the greatest threat based on geography and comparative military power, and even comparative resource power. The idea of what makes something an energy security threat on an arms basis is complex and not to be considered lightly, placing potential blame on another body can lead to negative developments in relations and must be considered carefully. This matter of contention has, in the past, made the issue of energy security extremely difficult to find agreements on, and even has increased tensions between some nations who have histories of distrust between one another.

The question of energy security will rely on the resource being protected and how resources are being used and stored. This also includes what way they are being transported and what the implications of this is on surrounding nations and nearby groups, essentially, what threats exist in these areas. Consider the dangers of the resources themselves and why they may be seen as a threat in and of themselves and not just about the outside threats such as direct attacks.

Some Solutions to this can be establishment of agreements on protection measures of the resources themselves. Including guidelines and minimum levels of security in the transport of resources from source to destination. This includes materials like oil, nuclear materials, and power supplies like electricity, as well as the protection and shred knowledge of the means to use these resources correctly with minimal risk. The sharing of ideas in agreements can come into play and is important considering that this is DISEC, a committee on the United Nations.

1. What threats exist in energy security? Does your country have any specific areas of concern in energy security?
2. What security risks does the energy industry pose that could be targeted by hostile foreign powers?
3. What steps should be taken in order to improve policy on energy security in the UN
4. Consider your country, in what areas are energy resources most vulnerable, and what is currently in place to help secure these resources? How can this be improved?
5. What can be done to help prevent attacks based in energy security in the future, and what can be done to ensure future updates to security?

⁸ <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/news/ecosoc/cybersecurity-demands-global-approach.html>

⁹ https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Compendium-CIP-final-version-120618_new_fonts_18_june_2018_optimized.pdf

Other Resources

<https://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/docs/2011/res%202011.14.pdf>

<https://www.iea.org/topics/energysecurity/whatisenergysecurity/>

<http://www.un-energy.org/mission-and-activities/>