



## SRMUN ATLANTA 2016

*The United Nations Post-2015 Agenda:  
Peace, Security and Development for a Sustainable Future*  
**November 17 - 19, 2016**  
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Greetings Delegates,

Welcome to SRMUN Atlanta 2016 and the Security Council (SC). My name is Desiree Kennedy, and I will be serving as your Director. This will be my fourth conference as a SRMUN staff member. Previously, I served as the Director for the African Union at SRMUN Atlanta 2015. I hold a Masters in Political Management from The George Washington University, as well as a Bachelors of Arts in Political Science and a Bachelors of Science in Legal Studies from Nova Southeastern University. Instead of having an Assistant Director this year, Ryan Baerwalde will be serving as our Deputy Director-General of Crisis. In his role, Ryan will be running the crisis simulation for the committee and may sit on the dais when needed. This is Ryan's third time on SRMUN Staff, recently serving as the Director of the Security Council at SRMUN Charlotte 2016 and Assistant Director of the Security Council and SRMUN Atlanta 2015.

The SC, as the only body with the power to enforce its decisions, was created to serve as the world leader in maintaining international peace and security. The SC serves as the primary body of the UN in carrying out the organization's four purposes outlined in the UN Charter, and is constituted of fifteen Member States, five of which maintain permanent seats.

As the SC at Atlanta 2016 will have an open agenda, no predetermined topics will be provided to delegates. Instead, delegates should prepare for two topics relating to international peace and security that are most important to your respective Member State. In addition, it is essential for delegates to remain informed of international affairs. The SC will engage in an international crisis simulation at some point during the conference, which will pull significantly from real-world situations. Delegate success in this committee depends largely upon knowledge of current international affairs and the position of their Member State on these affairs.

The security updates provide a strong introduction to a few pressing international security issues and should be utilized as a foundation for the delegate's independent research. While we have attempted to provide a holistic analysis of the issues, the background guide should not be used as the single mode of analysis for the topics. Delegates are expected to go beyond the updates and engage in intellectual inquiry of their own. The position papers for the committee should reflect the complexity of these issues and their externalities. Delegations are expected to submit a position paper and be prepared for a vigorous discussion at the conference. Position papers should be no longer than two pages in length (single spaced) and demonstrate your Member State's position, policies and recommendations on each of the two topics. For more detailed information about formatting and how to write position papers, delegates can visit [srmun.org](http://srmun.org). **All position papers MUST be submitted no later than Friday, October 28, 2016 by 11:59pm EST via the SRMUN website.**

I am enthusiastic about serving as your Director for the SC. I wish you all the best of luck in your conference preparation and look forward to working with you in the near future. Please feel free to contact SRMUN Atlanta's Director-General J.B. Desselle or myself if you have any questions while preparing for the conference.

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## Committee History for the Security Council

The Security Council (SC) was created under Article V of the United Nations (UN) Charter in June 1945, as one of the six original organs of the UN.<sup>1</sup> As the only body in the UN with the power to make binding decisions, which Member States are obligated to follow, the SC is the only organization in the UN structure with concrete power.<sup>2</sup> Fifteen Member States, five of which maintain permanent seats, constitute the SC, while the remaining 10 seats are filled by Member States to achieve “equitable geographic distribution,” according to a majority vote of the General Assembly (GA).<sup>3</sup> The five permanent members, or the P5 as they are interchangeably known, are the People’s Republic of China (China), the French Republic (France), the Russian Federation (Russia), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK or United Kingdom), and the United States of America (USA).<sup>4</sup> Each non-permanent member of the SC serves a two-year term on a rotational basis; every year, five non-permanent Member States are replaced.<sup>5</sup> The presidency of the SC is selected in alphabetical order and is rotated monthly amongst the current members.<sup>6</sup> All decisions made by the SC become effective upon a concurring vote of a majority, or nine members, including the votes of the P5.<sup>7</sup> As the P5 maintain the power to veto a decision of the SC, should one of the P5 vote against a resolution, the resolution will not pass.

The SC, as the only body with the power to enforce its decisions, was created to serve as the world leader in maintaining international peace and security.<sup>8</sup> The SC serves as the primary body of the UN in carrying out the organization’s four purposes outlined in the UN Charter: to maintain international peace and security, to promote and develop amicable relations amongst Member States, to assist in solving international conflicts and disputes as well as encouraging a respect for human rights, and to serve as the international center for coordinating peaceful actions amongst Member States.<sup>9</sup> More specifically, according to the UN Charter Chapter V, the SC has the sole power of making and implementing decisions, which all Member States are bound by the UN Charter to uphold.<sup>10</sup> Meeting whenever there is a perceived threat to international security, the SC considers the situation and whether there is, in fact, need for further action.<sup>11</sup>

In an attempt to fulfill its mandate, the SC has developed an array of enforcement measures that encompass peaceful measures, such as economic sanctions and arms embargoes, as well as measures that utilize intervention, including peacekeeping operations or the authorization of military action.<sup>12</sup> Upon convening, if the SC determines that a threat to peace does exist, the Council investigates the situation, followed by a recommendation as to how to peacefully resolve the conflict.<sup>13</sup> Should a peaceful resolution fail to institute peace and a dispute leads to hostilities, the Council then shifts its focus to ending all hostilities as soon as possible by means of declaring a ceasefire or dispatching peacekeeping forces to the afflicted area.<sup>14</sup> Should these methods prove ineffective as well, the Council then resorts to more drastic actions, including collective military action against the aggressors and the severance of diplomatic relations.<sup>15</sup> Additionally, the SC serves to “recommend the admission of new Member States, exercise the trusteeship function of the UN in ‘strategic areas,’ and recommend to the GA the appointment of the Secretary-General and, together with the GA, elect the Judges of the International Court of Justice (ICJ).”<sup>16</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> “About,” United Nations Security Council. <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/>. (Accessed July 27, 2015).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> “Current Members,” United Nations Security Council. <http://www.un.org/en/sc/members/>. (Accessed July 27, 2015).

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Charter of the United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter5.shtml>. (Accessed July 27, 2015).

<sup>8</sup> “The Security Council,” United Nations Security Council. <http://www.un.org/en/sc/>. (Accessed July 27, 2015).

<sup>9</sup> “About,” United Nations Security Council. <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/>. (Accessed July 27, 2015).

<sup>10</sup> Charter of the United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter5.shtml>. (Accessed July 27, 2015).

<sup>11</sup> “About,” United Nations Security Council. <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/>. (Accessed July 27, 2015).

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

Financing for the SC, as well as the GA, Economic and Social Council, ICJ, the Secretariat, and the UN's special political missions, are funded through the UN Regular Budget.<sup>17</sup> According to the current payment structure, a Member State is expected to pay between 0.001 percent and 22 percent of the annual costs, based on each Member State's financial situation and ability to pay.<sup>18</sup> Voluntary contributions by Member States are also utilized to finance a majority of the humanitarian relief operations.<sup>19</sup> Additionally, peacekeeping operations are funded by a separate budget, compounded in a similar fashion to the Regular Budget but with greater discounts for those Member States who cannot afford to pay.<sup>20</sup> As a result, members of the P5 are required to contribute more than most Member States to make up for the deficit.<sup>21</sup>

All members of the SC are expected to be available at all times in case a matter of consideration arises.<sup>22</sup> While all members must be present whenever the SC convenes, Member States who are not currently members of the SC are permitted to attend, upon invitation, to discuss with the Council matters that specifically affect the interests of that Member State.<sup>23</sup>

**Member States Represented on the Security Council at SRMUN Atlanta 2016 include:**

ANGOLA, EGYPT, JAPAN, CHINA, FRANCE, MALAYSIA, NEW ZEALAND, RUSSIAN FEDERATION, SENEGAL, SPAIN, SPAIN, UKRAINE, URUGUAY, UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND VENEZUELA.

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<sup>17</sup> "The UN Budget Process," Better World Campaign. <http://www.betterworldcampaign.org/issues/funding/the-un-budget-process.html?referrer=https://www.google.com/> (Accessed July 27, 2015).

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>20</sup> "Financing Peacekeeping," The United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/financing.shtml>. (Accessed July 27, 2015).

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> "The Security Council," United Nations Security Council. <http://www.un.org/en/sc/>. (Accessed July 27, 2015).

<sup>23</sup> "About," United Nations Security Council. <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/>. (Accessed July 27, 2015).

## Security Council Update Libyan Civil War

### *Introduction*

Libya, an oil-rich Member State in North Africa, has been engulfed in violence and turmoil since 2011. Under supervision of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in concurrence with A/RES/398 Libya was granted its independence from French and British rule in 1951.<sup>24</sup> Under a new federalist constitution, which created the Libyan National Government, Libya became an independent state under the governance of King Idris al-Sanusi.<sup>25</sup> However, once oil was discovered, the state began to accumulate immense wealth, leading to the seizure of power by Colonel Muammar Gaddafi via military coup in 1969.<sup>26</sup>

Upon his seizure of power, Gaddafi eradicated the Libyan constitution and government, instead organizing the government into “people’s committees” designed to offer recommendations to the central government, but with no power or budgets, and the threat of prison if they spoke out against the government.<sup>27</sup> Draconian laws were put into place, demanding the death of anyone who spoke about changing the constitution and a sentence of life imprisonment for anyone speaking ill of the government or the Member State, and Gaddafi served as an authoritarian ruler for four decades.<sup>28</sup> His rule came to an end in early 2011, due to the escalation of an event known as the “Arab Spring,” a movement for freedom from oppressive regimes throughout the Middle East.<sup>29</sup> The calls for democracy in Libya began in Benghazi with the raiding of arsenals and self-arming of the rebels. The UN Security Council, under SC/RES/1973, authorized NATO involvement in the area, leading to the toppling of Tripoli, the exile and death of Gaddafi, and the beginning of the Libyan civil war.<sup>30,31</sup>

### *Current Situation*

Following the death of Gaddafi, the armed militias, which helped to topple his regime, remained intact.<sup>32</sup> State territory was divided amongst these ruling militias, and semi-autonomous regions were formed, posing a direct threat to the political process.<sup>33</sup> Now numbering nearly 2,000, militias, such as the Libya Dawn, Libya Shield, and the Libyan Petroleum Facilities Guard, are in battle for territory and power.<sup>34</sup> A transitional government was formed in an attempt to satisfy the call for democracy.<sup>35</sup> For the first time in Libyan history, democratic elections were held in July of 2012.<sup>36</sup> The elections were successful, with 62 percent of eligible voters turning out to the polls.<sup>37</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> “Libya: The Making of State; Libya's Independence.” <http://www.libya-watanona.com/libya/istiklal.htm> (Accessed May 25, 2016).

<sup>25</sup> “Libya country profile,” BBC. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13754897> (Accessed May 25, 2016).

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> Martin Asser, “The Muammar Gaddafi Stor,” BBC New, 21 October 2011. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-12688033> (Accessed May 25, 2016).

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> Ibid.

<sup>30</sup> SC/10200. *Security Council Approves ‘No-Fly Zone’ over Libya, Authorizing ‘All Necessary Measures’ to Protect Civilians, by Vote of 10 in Favour with 5 Abstentions.* United Nations Security Council. (Accessed May 25, 2016).

<sup>31</sup> Martin Asser, “The Muammar Gaddafi Stor,” BBC New, 21 October 2011. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-12688033> (Accessed May 25, 2016).

<sup>32</sup> Primoz Manfreda, “Current Situation in Libya,” About News. <http://middleeast.about.com/od/libya/tp/Current-Situation-in-Libya.htm> (Accessed May 25, 2016).

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> “Guide to key Libyan militias,” BBC News. <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-19744533> (Accessed May 29, 2016).

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> “THE UN’S RESPONSE TO THE ARAB SPRING AND THE EVOLVING ROLE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL,” UN All Party Parliamentary Group. <http://www.una.org.uk/sites/default/files/Address%20to%20the%20UN%20APPG%20by%20Sir%20Mark%20Lyall%20Grant.%20%20May%202012.pdf> (Accessed May 29, 2016).

<sup>37</sup> Primoz Manfreda, “Is Libya a Democracy Now,” About News. <http://middleeast.about.com/od/libya/fl/Is-Libya-a-Democracy-Now.htm> (Accessed May 29, 2016).

However the rule of the central government remains weak and instable at best.<sup>38</sup> The balance of power is still unclear, as the state is not governed by a written constitution.<sup>39</sup> Instead, the regions governed by militias have begun to form their own regional identities, responding not to the authority of a central government but to the authority of the militias.<sup>40</sup> The militias, using intimidation and physical force to block decisions made by the central government that they view as detrimental to their rule or region, continue to remain a barrier to the effective governance of the central government by preventing the enforcement of policies.<sup>41</sup> Additionally, the level of corruption throughout the government continues to increase as a combination of former government officials, rebels, and businessmen work to control the oil industry.<sup>42</sup>

Furthermore, the absence of a viable government and weak security presence has resulted in continued violence throughout the state. An increase in criminal activity attributes to the rising violence levels, in addition to turf wars between militias.<sup>43</sup> Perhaps the most extreme threat to Libya is the rise of political Islam in the area, as well as the spread of Islamic Extremism throughout the region. Militant Islamists are working to overthrow the current central government, in favor of establishing an Islamic regime instead.<sup>44</sup> The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has infiltrated a number of Libyan militias, working with militants to establish an opposing governmental force to the central government, intent on seizing the government and its assets.<sup>45</sup>

The continued escalation in violence, as well as the rise of power of ISIL has led to nearly 400,000 Libyans fleeing their homes in search of refuge in neighboring states.<sup>46</sup> The UN, in attempt to end the civil war and bring peace to Libya, began to broker a peace process in January of 2015.<sup>47</sup> The talks, hosted in Geneva, Switzerland, were rather unsuccessful because of the absence of the rebel government officials.<sup>48</sup> Ultimately, the current situation in Libya remains one that threatens not only the safety and security of Libyans, but also of North Africa.

## ISIL

The prevalence of ISIL in Libya exaggerates the security implications of the Libyan Civil War for both the Middle East and the rest of the world.<sup>49</sup> On May 20, 2015, ISIL was able to take control of the city of Sirte, transforming it into a training camp.<sup>50</sup> Sirte is located only 450 kilometers east of Tripoli and is the historic capital of the Member State.<sup>51</sup> Since its siege of Sirte in 2015, ISIL has continued to move along the southern coast of Libya and capture villages, highways, and people.<sup>52</sup> With an estimated 5,000 fighters in Libya, as well as constant national and international recruitment campaigns, the threat that ISIL presents to the security of Libya and the surrounding Members States is extreme.<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>38</sup> Primoz Manfreda, "Current Situation in Libya," About News. <http://middleeast.about.com/od/libya/tp/Current-Situation-in-Libya.htm> (Accessed May 25, 2016).

<sup>39</sup> Primoz Manfreda, "Is Libya a Democracy Now," About News. <http://middleeast.about.com/od/libya/fl/Is-Libya-a-Democracy-Now.htm> (Accessed May 29, 2016).

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> Rebecca Murray, "Libya anniversary: 'The situation is just terrible'." Al Jazeera. <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/02/libya-anniversary-situation-terrible-150216082028555.html> (Accessed May 29, 2016).

<sup>43</sup> Primoz Manfreda, "Current Situation in Libya," About News. <http://middleeast.about.com/od/libya/tp/Current-Situation-in-Libya.htm> (Accessed May 25, 2016).

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> Rebecca Murray, "Libya anniversary: 'The situation is just terrible'." Al Jazeera. <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/02/libya-anniversary-situation-terrible-150216082028555.html> (Accessed May 29, 2016).

<sup>46</sup> Ibid.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> "Heavy combat raging in Sirte, ISIS stronghold in Libya," AfricaNews.com <http://www.africanews.com/2016/06/13/heavy-combat-raging-in-sirte-isis-stronghold-in-libya/> (Accessed May 29, 2016).

<sup>50</sup> "ISIL advances in Libya's Misrata," Al Jazeera <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/05/isil-advances-libya-misrata-160506183550158.html> (Accessed May 29, 2016).

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

In attempt to oust ISIL from Libya, the United States of America, France, and Britain have joined forces (known as the Allied forces) to gather surveillance and launch attacks.<sup>54</sup> However Member States such as Italy have refrained from engaging in the effort, weary of becoming involved in an unstable Member State that lacks a legitimate government.<sup>55</sup> Thus, unorganized forces of militia, UN-backed government forces, and members of the Allied forces launch uncoordinated attacks on ISIL in attempt to achieve the same goal of eradicating the organization from Libya. However, without a legitimate government to assist in directing attacks, the success of these attacks is limited at best.

### **Economic Implications**

Economically speaking, Libya, which maintains the largest oil reserves on the continent of Africa, relies on oil and gas production for 65 percent of gross domestic product, and 98 percent of government revenues.<sup>56, 57</sup> However, with continued civil war and conflict between the UN-backed government, the armed militias, and ISIL over who owns the oil reserves, Libya dropped from the 19<sup>th</sup> largest oil producer in the world in 2012, producing 1,482,000 barrels per day, to 30<sup>th</sup> in the world in 2014, producing only 516,000 barrels per day.<sup>58</sup> This has caused the Libyan economy to contract by 62 percent since 2011, and pushed the Member State to the brink of economic collapse.<sup>59</sup>

The economic turmoil of Libya produces security implications for the rest of the world, as it affects the global economy. A decrease in the production of oil in Libya results in the increase of oil prices internationally, putting a strain on the global economy.<sup>60</sup> From 2013 to 2014 alone, the global petroleum export value dropped by 8.2 percent, and the percentage of oil exports dropped by 4.6 percent.<sup>61</sup> The continuing decrease in oil exports and increase in oil prices, a trending phenomenon since 2011, will only be maintained as civil way and unrest plague the Member States with the largest oil producing capabilities, resulting in increased pressure on the global economy.

### **Security Council Action**

The UN Security Council (SC) has taken steps in attempt to end the Libyan Civil War, as well as eradicate the terrorist threats throughout the state, which threaten its survival. In 2011, the Security Council passed S/RES/2009 creating the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) with the mandate to support Libya's transition to a stable and unified government as well as assist with post-conflict efforts.<sup>62</sup> Since the creation of UNSMIL, the SC has continually extended the mandate of the group, most recently through December of 2016 with S/RES/2291.<sup>63</sup> In December of 2015, through UNSMIL, the Libyan Political Agreement was signed in attempt to transform the

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<sup>54</sup> Barbara Bibbo. "Who will take on ISIL in Libya?" Al Jazeera <http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2016/04/italy-isil-libya-diplomacy-fails-160412114429858.html> (Accessed June 3, 2016).

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>56</sup> "International Energy Statistics," U.S. Energy Information Agency. <http://www.eia.gov/beta/international/rankings/index.cfm#?iso=LBY&cy=2014> (Accessed June 3, 2016).

<sup>57</sup> MOHSIN KHAN AND SVETLANA MILBERT, "Libya: Facing Economic Collapse in 2014," Atlantic Council <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/libya-facing-economic-collapse-in-2014> (Accessed June 3, 2016).

<sup>58</sup> "International Energy Statistics," U.S. Energy Information Agency. <http://www.eia.gov/beta/international/rankings/index.cfm#?iso=LBY&cy=2014> (Accessed June 3, 2016).

<sup>59</sup> MOHSIN KHAN AND SVETLANA MILBERT, "Libya: Facing Economic Collapse in 2014," Atlantic Council <http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/menasource/libya-facing-economic-collapse-in-2014> (Accessed June 3, 2016).

<sup>60</sup> Emanuele Santi, et al. *Impact of Libya's Conflict on the Tunisian Economy: A Preliminary Assessment*. African Development Bank. <http://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/The%20Impact%20of%20Libyan%20Conflict%20on%20Tunisia%20ENG.pdf> (Accessed June 3, 2016).

<sup>61</sup> *Annual Report 2014*. Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. [http://www.opec.org/opec\\_web/static\\_files\\_project/media/downloads/publications/Annual\\_Report\\_2014.pdf](http://www.opec.org/opec_web/static_files_project/media/downloads/publications/Annual_Report_2014.pdf) (Accessed June 3, 2016).

<sup>62</sup> S/RES/2009. Un Security Council

<sup>63</sup> S/RES/2291. *Adopted by the Security Council at its 7712th meeting, on 13 June 2016*. UN Security Council

Libyan government into a legitimate government.<sup>64</sup> However, the absence of the militias throughout the dialogue and agreement process makes the agreement difficult to enforce.<sup>65</sup>

The SC has heard pleas from numerous organizations, such as the International Criminal Court and top UN officials, for increased support to the Libyan government to unify the Member State and assist in its fight against ISIL.<sup>66</sup> In response, the SC has passed resolutions calling for the uniting of the armed militias, security forces, and government to overcome the terrorist threats to the State.<sup>67</sup> In June of 2016, the SC passed S/RES/2292, banning the flow of arms and “related materials” into the Member State of Libya, as well as permitting Member States to combat the flow of arms into Libya by “all means.”<sup>68</sup> However, these limited actions taken by the SC have done little to improve the situation in Libya, and the fate of the Member State is still unclear.

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<sup>64</sup> “Libyan Political Agreement,” United Nations Support Mission in Libya.

<https://unsmil.unmissions.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=miXuJYkQAQg%3D&tabid=3559&mid=6187&language=fr>  
(Accessed June 3, 2016).

<sup>65</sup> Ibid.

<sup>66</sup> Ibid.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid.

<sup>68</sup> S/RES/2292 *Adopted by the Security Council at its 7715th meeting, on 14 June 2016.* UN Security Council

## Security Council Update Cyber-security

### *Introduction*

Cyber-security, also known as information technology security, is the use of an interconnected web of technologies to protect computers, networks, programs, and data from outside access.<sup>69</sup> Cyber-attacks, or socially or politically motivated attempts by hackers to attain access to, damage, or destroy computer networks or data, are threats to businesses, hospitals, militaries, and governments across the globe.<sup>70</sup> Every Member State is subject to cyber-attacks from governmental, non-governmental, and terrorist organizations. Due to increasing technological capabilities, many Member States have named cyber-attacks and digital spying amongst the top threats to national security.<sup>71</sup>

Since the Internet has grown to become an integral and vital piece of economic and national life, the overarching threat of cyber-attacks will only continue to increase in prominence.<sup>72</sup> The amount of information made available over internet-connected systems (including computers, data networks, medical devices, mission control centers, etc.) and the lack of security focus in the design of many internet-connected applications makes them easy and prime targets for hackers.<sup>73</sup> Over time, governments have launched attacks on other governments. Most commonly, these attacks are aimed at a Member State's nuclear capabilities and facilities as well as prime economic industries. For example, in 2009 a government-created worm, later suspected to be designed by western Member States, known as Stuxnet was used in attempt to disable Iranian nuclear plant facilities that could be used to make uranium.<sup>74</sup> In October of 2014, hackers believed to be based in the Russian Federation (Russia) were discovered accessing the data and networks of Microsoft, gathering intel on the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the government of Ukraine.<sup>75</sup> Even more prevalent than large-scale cyber-attacks, smaller cyber-attacks are attempted every day and present a high threat level to Member States.

### *Current Situation*

The cyber-security threat continues to escalate as technological capabilities become more advanced. Member States are continually under threat of attack, and many fall victim to hacking. While more than 2,100 Malaysian servers have been successfully attacked, Israel is faced with fighting off nearly 2,000 cyber-attacks a day.<sup>7677</sup> Ukraine was the target of an attack, which took out a large part of its power grid, and Sweden lost control of its airspace due to hackers.<sup>7879</sup> The compromise of internal governmental servers by outside sources results in the sharing of private

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<sup>69</sup> "Cyber Security Primer," University of Maryland University College. <http://www.umuc.edu/cybersecurity/about/cybersecurity-basics.cfm> (Accessed August 18, 2016).

<sup>70</sup> "What Constitutes a Cyber Attack?" NEC Group. [http://www.nec.com/en/global/solutions/safety/info\\_management/cyberattack.html](http://www.nec.com/en/global/solutions/safety/info_management/cyberattack.html) (Accessed August 18, 2016).

<sup>71</sup> Ibid.

<sup>72</sup> Lee Rainie et. Al., "Cyber Attacks Likely to Increase," October 29, 2014. <http://www.pewinternet.org/2014/10/29/cyber-attacks-likely-to-increase/> (Accessed August 18, 2016).

<sup>73</sup> Ibid.

<sup>74</sup> Ibid.

<sup>75</sup> Lee Rainie et.al., "Cyber Attacks Likely to Increase," October 29, 2014. <http://www.pewinternet.org/2014/10/29/cyber-attacks-likely-to-increase/> (Accessed August 18, 2016).

<sup>76</sup> Kuala Lumpur, "More than 2,100 servers in Malaysia have been hacked," June 17, 2016. <http://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/more-than-2100-servers-in-malaysia-have-been-hacked-says-cybersecurity-agency> (Accessed August 18, 2016).

<sup>77</sup> Dov Benovadia, "Israel Faces 2 Million Cyberattacks a Day," June 17, 2016. <http://hamodia.com/2016/06/17/official-israel-face-2-million-cyber-attacks-day/> (Accessed August 18, 2016).

<sup>78</sup> Elias Groll, "Preventing a Blackout by Taking the Power Grid Offline," June 10, 2016. <http://foreignpolicy.com/2016/06/10/preventing-a-blackout-by-taking-the-power-grid-offline/> (Accessed August 18, 2016).

<sup>79</sup> Reid Standish, "Fearing Russian Bear, Sweden Inches Toward NATO," May 25, 2016. <http://foreignpolicy.com/2016/05/25/fearing-russian-bear-sweden-inches-toward-nato-finland-moscow-military/> (Accessed August 18, 2016).

information, most likely through a sale from a hacker to another source, which places the internal matters of a Member State at risk.<sup>80</sup>

## Political Capabilities

Some of the primary current threats involving cyberspace regard the manipulation of political parties and the outcomes of elections through cyber-attack. This type of threat was first revealed to the public eye in 2009, when the website of the British National Party was hacked and unable to be accessed for a weekend leading up to the election.<sup>81</sup> Over time these attacks have grown in severity. In March of 2016, the website of the Swiss People's Party was attacked, resulting in the exposure of the data of thousands of users, followers, and party members.<sup>82</sup> The release of such information to the general public and to the international community can pose a threat not only to the party members whose information was accessed but also to the functioning of the government as a whole, should that information be utilized once party members are elected.

Furthermore, the political organizations of the United States of America (U.S.) experienced numerous attacks throughout 2016, resulting in the release of classified security information, personal information of members of the federal government, recorded voicemails, and emails between members of the parties.<sup>83</sup> These attacks not only had the effect of swaying public opinion in regards to the election, but also increased the fear the electronic voting machines used during the election may fall prey to a cyber-attack, therefore allowing a foreign body the power to determine the outcome of an election.<sup>84</sup>

## ISIL

Throughout its existence, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) has used its cyber capabilities to disseminate its message, recruit new members, and ensure that the world knows what the group is capable of. Beginning in the spring of 2015, chatter began on dark web jihadi forums, particularly between members of ISIL and Boko Haram, discussing how to launch local cyber-attacks.<sup>85</sup> Coded messages used by jihadist organizations are becoming more and more difficult to recognize, intensifying the effectiveness of their cyber-capabilities.<sup>86</sup> ISIL also maintains a form of a cyber help desk, offering 24-hour assistance to any person looking to use malware, send encrypted messages, or launch a cyber-attack.<sup>87</sup>

The utilization of cyber capabilities to expand the reach of ISIL creates a perilous and challenging situation for the future of the fight against ISIL. Cyber-attacks can serve as an effective means for committing acts of terrorism, both domestic and international, as generally every government, business, and household is connected in some way to the

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<sup>80</sup> Kuala Lumpur, "More than 2,100 servers in Malaysia have been hacked," June 17, 2016. <http://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/more-than-2100-servers-in-malaysia-have-been-hacked-says-cybersecurity-agency> (Accessed August 18, 2016).

<sup>81</sup> John Leyden, "BNP pleads for cash after reported DDoS assault," May 27, 2009. [http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/05/27/bnp\\_ddos/](http://www.theregister.co.uk/2009/05/27/bnp_ddos/) (Accessed August 18, 2016).

<sup>82</sup> India Ashok, "Switzerland hit by series of cyberattacks as hackers expose security vulnerabilities," March 22, 2016. <http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/hackers-breach-swiss-political-party-federal-railways-websites-exposing-vulnerabilities-1550907> (Accessed August 16, 2016).

<sup>83</sup> Mark Hosenball et al., "Clinton Campaign Also Hacked in Attacks on Democrats," July 30, 2016. <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-cyber-democrats-investigation-exc-idUSKCN1092HK> (Accessed August 18, 2016).

<sup>84</sup> Bruce Schneier, "Hackers are putting U.S. election at risk," July 28, 2016. <http://www.cnn.com/2016/07/28/opinions/hackers-election-opinion-schneier/> (Accessed August 18, 2016).

<sup>85</sup> Harriet Taylor, "The 'cyber jihad' is coming, says this security think tank," June 15, 2016. <http://www.cnbc.com/2016/06/15/the-cyber-jihad-is-coming-says-this-security-firm.html> (Accessed August 18, 2016).

<sup>86</sup> Edith Lederer, "UN experts: Extremists foiling governments with encryption," August 17, 2016. [http://bigstory.ap.org/article/c4ec0a5efe5a4ef48ac2ff8114f268c6/un-experts-extremists-foiling-governments-encryption?utm\\_source=Sailthru&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=New%20Campaign&utm\\_term=%2ASituation%20Report](http://bigstory.ap.org/article/c4ec0a5efe5a4ef48ac2ff8114f268c6/un-experts-extremists-foiling-governments-encryption?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=New%20Campaign&utm_term=%2ASituation%20Report) (Accessed August 18, 2016).

<sup>87</sup> Harriet Taylor, "The 'cyber jihad' is coming, says this security think tank," June 15, 2016. <http://www.cnbc.com/2016/06/15/the-cyber-jihad-is-coming-says-this-security-firm.html> (Accessed August 18, 2016).

internet. Power outages, security breaches, and control of internal systems can have debilitating effects on the military, financial capabilities, and service sectors in, and therefore the security of, any targeted Member State.<sup>88</sup>

### *Security Implications*

Perhaps the most serious threat to the security of Member States presented by technological advances is that of cyber-warfare. Although organizations such as NATO and individual Member States have attempted to clarify the definition of cyber-war, there is not yet a widely accepted definition in international law.<sup>89</sup> That being said, generally the term “cyber-war” is used to define an action by an organization or Member State, which attempts to cause damage to another organization or Member State through the use of computers or information networks.<sup>90</sup> The constantly increasing threat of cyber-war creates the possibility that a cyber-attack could be as devastating, if not more devastating, than an attack by conventional military means.<sup>91</sup> The threat of cyber-attack has become significant enough for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to classify cyber as “an official operational domain of warfare” such as air, land, and sea, therefore authorizing the organization with the power to react to a cyber-attack.<sup>92</sup>

Cyber-attacks can manifest in numerous forms, extending beyond the attainment of protected data. By accessing an internal framework, those infiltrating a cyber-attacks can capture and manipulate the function of power grids, railways, nuclear plants, and service providers.<sup>93</sup> Should this happen, not only would the attack cause extreme fear and panic within the affected area and potentially cause loss of life, but also would provide those conducting the attack with complete control over the affected area, increased bargaining power with the government of the Member State, and access to all data housed within both internal and external servers of the affected service. One factor, which makes cyber-war particularly afflicting, is the fact that a Member State may determine that the appropriate response to a cyber-attack is a response which utilizes conventional military means and force, escalating a cyber-attack to an armed conflict.<sup>94</sup>

Furthermore, as technology continues to improve at a rapid pace, nuclear missile control systems grow more vulnerable to cyber-attack. Member States, particularly the U.S. and the Russia, are investigating and reconstructing their missile control systems to prevent from potential cyber-threats.<sup>95</sup> While actions have been taken to secure nuclear forces from cyber-attack, as recently as 2010 glitches in system controls have proven that complete protection from outside interference is nearly impossible.<sup>96</sup> With one-half of the U.S. and Russian nuclear forces on high alert at all times (nearly 1,800 nuclear warheads), the possibility of cyber-attacks from governmental, non-governmental, and terrorist organizations creates the threat that a Member State may not be able to maintain complete control of its own nuclear forces.<sup>97</sup>

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<sup>88</sup> Gabriel Weimann, “Cyberterrorism – How Real is the Threat?” United States Institute of Peace. <https://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/sr119.pdf> (Accessed August 18, 2016).

<sup>89</sup> Eric Geller, “Senators want a clear definition of cyberwar, but international law remains murky,” May 11, 2016. <http://www.dailydot.com/layer8/cyberwar-definition-senate-bill-international-law/> (Accessed August 18, 2016).

<sup>90</sup> “Cyber Warfare,” RAND Corporation. <http://www.rand.org/topics/cyber-warfare.html> (Accessed August 18, 2016).

<sup>91</sup> Robert Morgus, “NATO Tries to Define Cyber War,” October 20, 2014. <http://www.realcworld.com/articles/2014/10/20/nato-tries-to-define-cyber-war-110755.html> (Accessed August 18, 2016).

<sup>92</sup> Andrea Shalal, “Massive Cyber attack could trigger NATO response,” June 16, 2016. <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-cyber-nato-idUSKCN0Z12NE> (Accessed August 18, 2016).

<sup>93</sup> Dov Benovadia, “Israel Faces 2 Million Cyberattacks a Day,” June 17, 2016. <http://hamodia.com/2016/06/17/official-israel-face-2-million-cyber-attacks-day/> (Accessed August 18, 2016).

<sup>94</sup> Andrea Shalal, “Massive Cyber attack could trigger NATO response,” June 16, 2016. <http://www.reuters.com/article/us-cyber-nato-idUSKCN0Z12NE> (Accessed August 18, 2016).

<sup>95</sup> Andrew Futter, “War Games Redux?” *European Security*, 25:2, 163-180, DOI. <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/09662839.2015.1112276> (Accessed August 18, 2016).

<sup>96</sup> John Reed, “Keeping nukes safe from cyberattack,” September 25, 2012. <http://foreignpolicy.com/2012/09/25/keeping-nukes-safe-from-cyber-attack/> (Accessed August 18, 2016).

<sup>97</sup> Franz-Stefan Gady, “Could cyber attacks lead to nuclear war?” May 4, 2015. <http://thediplomat.com/2015/05/could-cyber-attacks-lead-to-nuclear-war/> (Accessed August 18, 2016).