



SRMUN CHARLOTTE 2019

Redefining the Role of International Organizations in the New Global Era

March 28-30, 2019

gafirst_charlotte@srmun.org

Delegates,

Welcome to SRMUN Charlotte 2019 and the General Assembly First Committee (DISEC). My name is Maureen Johnston, and I have the pleasure of serving as your Director. This will be my second time as a Director at SRMUN Charlotte. In May 2016, I graduated from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke with a BA in Political Science, International Studies. Since then, I have been working abroad as an English as a Foreign Language Teacher. Our committee's two Assistant Directors will be LeAnna Christensen and Hayden Venable. This will be both LeAnna and Hayden's first time as SRMUN staff members, but they are by no means new to SRMUN having been delegates at multiple conferences. LeAnna is currently completing her BBA in International Business at Kennesaw State University. Hayden graduated from the University of North Georgia with a BA in International Affairs, with an East Asia Concentration and a minor in Chinese Language.

DISEC is one of the largest committees of the United Nations (UN), and primarily focuses on international disarmament and security. Consisting of all 193 Member States, DISEC is responsible for policy making on matters that concern seeking out solutions to international security challenges. In 1946, DISEC's first Resolution was adopted to address the aftermath of Nagasaki and Hiroshima. Furthermore, DISEC works closely with both the United Nations Disarmament Committee and the Conference of Disarmament. The committee's work is crucial in promoting a more secure and equal future for the entirety of the international community. For the full scope of DISEC, including its responsibilities and powers, please refer to the Committee History section of the Background Guide.

Keeping in mind the direction and focus of DISEC and the SRMUN Charlotte 2019 theme of "*Redefining the Role of International Organizations in the New Global Era*," we have developed the following topics for delegates to discuss at the conference:

- I. Utilizing Advancements in Technology to Improve Global Security
- II. Preventing Violent Extremism by Non-State Actors

The background guide is an introduction to the committee and topics that will be debated at SRMUN Charlotte 2019 and should be utilized as a foundation for a delegate's independent research. However, 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 background guide 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 regarding formatting and how to write position papers, delegates should visit srmun.org. **All position papers MUST be submitted no later than Friday, March 8, 2019, 11:59pm EST via the SRMUN website.**

LeAnna, Hayden, and I are very excited to be serving as your dais for DISEC. We 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 Director-General Zachary Greiger, LeAnna, Hayden, or myself if you have any questions while preparing for the conference.

Maureen Johnston
Director
gafirst_charlotte@srmun.org

LeAnna Christensen and Hayden Venable
Assistant Directors
gafirst_charlotte@srmun.org

Zachary Greiger
Director-General
dg_charlotte@srmun.org

Committee History of the General Assembly First Committee

In the aftermath of the Second World War, the global community was at a turning point. Politically, economically, and socially the world was in an upheaval. The ineffectiveness of the League of Nations, the United Nations (UN) predecessor, to establish a forum for political dialogue between the different facets of the international community led to division and violence.¹ To stabilize the international system, and to prevent such devastation from occurring again, the international community came together to form the beginnings of what would become the United Nations. In forming the UN, the international community took note of documents such as the Atlantic Charter of October 14, 1941, and forums such as the Tehran Conference of November 1943.² Then on October 24, 1945 the Charter of the United Nations was created.³ In the Charter, six principal organs were defined, distributing the work of the international forum.⁴ The most broad-based of these organs was the General Assembly (GA). The GA recognizes all Member States of the UN equally was granted the authority to discuss any question pertaining to the duties of the United Nations.⁵ The GA may also make recommendations to the Security Council and controls the budget of the UN.⁶

In order to tackle the myriad of social, political, and economic issues of the international community and to fulfil the purposes of the UN's Charter, the General Assembly is divided into six standing committees.⁷ The First Committee (DISEC), was established for the purpose of assessing threats to global security.⁸ This purpose extends to dealing with questions and issues that relate to the distribution and production of weapons of mass destruction, the elimination of arms proliferation, technological advancements as a risk to global security, and reducing circumstances where violent outbreaks might occur.⁹ Though DISEC's main is to promote global peace and security, DISEC does not have the ability to pass resolutions that authorize interventions.¹⁰ This right is reserved for the security council.¹¹

Early focus of DISEC resolutions centered on armament stockpiling and technological implications on modern weaponry. Key documents of DISEC's early sessions include, but are not limited to, A/S-10/4, A/S-12/6, and A/S-15/6.¹² Resolution A/S-10/4 was adopted in June of 1978.¹³ It discusses the end of the Disarmament Decade and moving forward to halt the practice of stockpiling weapons.¹⁴ Resolution A/S-10/4 also solidifies the commitment

¹ "History of the United Nations." The United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/sections/history/history-united-nations/> (Accessed November 11, 2018)

² "History of the United Nations." The United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/sections/history/history-united-nations/> (Accessed November 11, 2018)

³ "History of the United Nations." The United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/sections/history/history-united-nations/> (Accessed November 11, 2018)

⁴ "History of the United Nations." The United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/sections/history/history-united-nations/> (Accessed November 11, 2018)

⁵ "General Assembly of the United Nations." The United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml> (Accessed November 11, 2018)

⁶ "General Assembly of the United Nations." The United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml> (Accessed November 11, 2018)

⁷ "General Assembly of the United Nations." The United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml> (Accessed November 11, 2018)

⁸ "General Assembly of the United Nations." The United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml> (Accessed November 11, 2018)

⁹ "Disarmament and International Security (First Committee)." General Assembly of the United Nations. United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/> (Accessed November 11, 2018)

¹⁰ "Disarmament and International Security (First Committee)." General Assembly of the United Nations. United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/> (Accessed November 11, 2018)

¹¹ "Disarmament and International Security (First Committee)." General Assembly of the United Nations. United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/> (Accessed November 11, 2018)

¹² "Disarmament and International Security (First Committee)." General Assembly of the United Nations. United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/> (Accessed November 11, 2018)

¹³ "A/S-10/4: Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the General Assembly During its Tenth Special Session." United Nations General Assembly the First. United Nations. <http://undocs.org/en/A/S-10/4> (Accessed December 17, 2018)

¹⁴ "A/S-10/4: Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the General Assembly During its Tenth Special Session." United Nations General Assembly the First. United Nations. <http://undocs.org/en/A/S-10/4> (Accessed December 17, 2018)

of Member States to the UN to use disarmament as a tool to further social development.¹⁵ In DISEC's 12th special session in July of 1982, A/S-12/6 was passed for the purpose of implementing the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament, which would create collateral measures to reduce nuclear weapon development, reduce the stockpiling of arms, and increase measures in place for international security.¹⁶ An Ad Hoc Committee was also created during this session, consisting of a Chairman, 13 Vice-Chairmen, and a Rapporteur to oversee and implement recommendations made in regards to the Comprehensive Programme of Disarmament.¹⁷ In its 15th Session A/S-15/6 was adopted to update and review decisions made in the 10th and 12th sessions and to further expand upon them based on new information presented at the International Disarmament Conference.¹⁸

Other key documents from more recent years include resolutions that were put forth by DISEC and then later adopted by the General Assembly. During the 64th Session of the General Assembly and DISEC, 48 resolutions were passed – A/RES/64/22 to A/RES/64/70.¹⁹ These resolutions dealt with issues such as, but not limited to: combating the illicit trade of small arms, prevention of an arms race in space, creating more transparency in military expenditures, and the use of technology as a tool in modern-day warfare.²⁰ These documents set precedent for the issues DISEC discusses today.

In the past, DISEC has come under criticism for ineffectual and stagnated resolutions to dynamic and ever-changing problems.²¹ However, in recent years DISEC has attempted to look at further issues and work cooperatively with other committees. In its 67th session, DISEC made resolutions calling Member States to actively contribute to a global solution for combatting human trafficking and removing the danger of nuclear war through disarmament through A/67/L.62, which was later adopted by the General Assembly as A/RES/67/39.²² Another example of relevant DISEC's proposals include resolutions passed in its 72nd and 73rd sessions to work jointly with the Fourth Committee on challenges to space security and sustainability, which can be seen in the report A/72/27.²³ DISEC has further made upholding the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) an integral part in their most recent sessions, with particular focus on SDG 16: the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development.²⁴ This can be seen through the current, 73rd, session as they discuss A/C.1/73/L.8/Rev.1 which outlines areas of concern where weapons proliferation is a rising problem leading to human suffering. DISEC urges Member States to take appropriate action that will lead to greater transparency and cooperation.²⁵

¹⁵ "A/S-10/4: Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the General Assembly During its Tenth Special Session." United Nations General Assembly the First. United Nations. <http://undocs.org/en/A/S-10/4> (Accessed December 17, 2018)

¹⁶ "A/S-12/6: Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the General Assembly During its Twelfth Special Session." United Nations General Assembly the First. United Nations. <http://undocs.org/en/A/S-12/6> (Accessed December 17, 2018)

¹⁷ "A/S-12/6: Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the General Assembly During its Twelfth Special Session." United Nations General Assembly the First. United Nations. <http://undocs.org/en/A/S-12/6> (Accessed December 17, 2018)

¹⁸ "A/S-15/6: Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the General Assembly During its Twelfth Special Session." United Nations General Assembly the First. United Nations. <http://undocs.org/en/A/S-12/6> (Accessed December 17, 2018)

¹⁹ "General Assembly of the United Nations Documents of the 64th Session: Draft Resolutions and Decisions." General Assembly of the United Nations. United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/64/resolutions.shtml> (Accessed December 18, 2018)

²⁰ "General Assembly of the United Nations Documents of the 64th Session: Draft Resolutions and Decisions." General Assembly of the United Nations. United Nations. <http://www.un.org/en/ga/64/resolutions.shtml> (Accessed December 18, 2018)

²¹ "Amid Growing Humanitarian Toll From Spread of Conventional Weapons, Delegates in First Committee Share Strategies for Combating Illegal Arms Sales." United Nations Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/gadis3610.doc.htm> (Accessed November 11, 2018)

²² "A/RES/67/39: High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on Nuclear Disarmament." United Nations General Assembly. Distributed January 4, 2013. http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/67/39 (Accessed December 18, 2018)

²³ "A/72/27: Report of the Conference on Disarmament to the General Assembly of the United Nations. United Nations General Assembly. Distributed September 22, 2017. <https://undocs.org/A/72/27> (Accessed December 18, 2018).

²⁴ "A/C.1.73.L.8.Rev.1: General and Complete Disarmament: the Arms Trade Treaty." General Assembly First Committee. Distributed 29 October 2018. <http://undocs.org/en/A/C.1/73/L.8/Rev.1> (Accessed December 18, 2018)

²⁵ "A/C.1.73.L.8.Rev.1: General and Complete Disarmament: the Arms Trade Treaty." General Assembly First Committee. Distributed 29 October 2018. <http://undocs.org/en/A/C.1/73/L.8/Rev.1> (Accessed December 18, 2018)

I. Utilizing Advancements in Technology to Improve Global Security

Introduction

The history of technology can be mapped alongside the history of warfare and global security.²⁶ This can be seen in a variety of ways, such as the development of projectile hunting tools that were eventually used for conflict on the Southern African coast 71,000 years ago, or the development of the airplane into a modern fighter jet.

Advancements in technology have, despite their originally intended use, been modified to serve as weapons.²⁷ The understanding of advancements in technology is paramount to prevent future technology from becoming weaponized as it has in the past, but also to deter new mediums of global conflict and create new methods of promoting international peace and safety.²⁸

Contemporary developments in technology have been made in a diverse group of fields including, but not limited to: artificial intelligence and autonomous systems, biology, chemistry, advanced missile technologies, space-based technologies, electromagnetic technologies, and materials technologies which used to turn raw material into products for engineering or manufacturing needs.²⁹ Although the aforementioned fields cover many topics, they all represent broad trends that will help predict the future nature of conflict, including increased speed, information transmission, power, autonomy, and interdependence of state and non-state actors.³⁰ Information sharing and the speed with which it happens impacts labor markets and economic growth as changing mechanizations can spur job losses and increase income inequality.³¹ The interdependence of state and non-state actors, as well as changes in power and autonomy, factor into work DISEC has been doing to establish and develop rules for the proper behavior of Member States in the field of information and technology sharing, as seen in documents A/C.1/73/L.Rev.1 and A/C.1/73/L.27.Rev.1.³² Conflict arises from disparities between those who have, and those who have fallen behind; Liu Zhenmin, the UN's Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, has emphasized that, "globalization can be a powerful driver of economic growth, but to achieve sustainable development, globalization must work for all."³³

²⁶ Klaus Schwab, "The Fourth Industrial Revolution: What It Means and How to Respond," (World Economic Forum) last modified January 5, 2016. accessed September 30, 2018. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/01/the-fourth-industrial-revolution-what-it-means-and-how-to-respond>

²⁷ Kyle S. Brown, et al. "An Early and Enduring Advanced Technology Originating 71,000 Years Ago in South Africa," (Nature: International Journal of Science) last modified November 7, 2012. accessed September 30, 2018. <https://www.nature.com/articles/nature11660>

²⁸ Anja Kaspersen, "8 Emerging Technologies Transforming International Security," (World Economic Forum) last modified September 8, 2015. accessed September 30, 2018. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/09/8-technologies-transforming-international-security/>

²⁹ "A/73/177 - E, Current Developments in Science and Technology and Their Potential Impact on International Security and Disarmament Efforts," United Nations General Assembly: Report of the Secretary-General, distributed July 17, 2018. accessed October 1, 2018. <http://undocs.org/a/73/177>.

³⁰ "New Globalization Report: Three mega-trends expected to impact our future." United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/intergovernmental-coordination/new-globalization-report.html> (Accessed November 17, 2018)

³¹ "New Globalization Report: Three mega-trends expected to impact our future." United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/intergovernmental-coordination/new-globalization-report.html> (Accessed November 17, 2018)

³² "First Committee Approves 27 Texts, Including 2 Proposing New Groups to Develop Rules for States on Responsible Cyberspace Conduct." United Nations. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/gadis3619.doc.htm> (Accessed November 17, 2018)

³³ "New Globalization Report: Three mega-trends expected to impact our future." United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/intergovernmental-coordination/new-globalization-report.html> (Accessed November 17, 2018)

Contemporary developments in technology must be studied and handled with the same or greater caution as in previous years despite the reduction of global conflict.³⁴ Though the last quarter of the 20th century saw the longest peace among great military powers since the early 16th century, and annual battlefield deaths in the 21st century are lower than most recorded years in the entire 20th century.³⁵ Advances in the 21st century have created technology that is capable of causing more destruction and loss of life.³⁶ For example, the Fat-Man atomic bomb, used in combat at the end of WWII had a kill radius of 0.76 km, while the modern B-61 Mod 7, has a kill radius of 4.91 km and is small enough to be launched from a fighter jet.³⁷ Considering the aggregate trends toward peace, as well as the world's advancements in technology, the future of global security will continue on two paths; one is the path of relative peace it has followed in recent years, and the other is where new advancements make global security more difficult to manage for Member States and the United Nations.³⁸

Relevant International Actions

The UN has acted on many occasions through mechanisms such as the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, The United Nations Institute for Disarmament (UNIDIR), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), creating resolutions to tackle differences between cyber warfare and common warfare, and resolutions on concerns relating to cyber armies.³⁹ The first, the United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism, was established through the adoption of General Assembly resolution A/RES/71/291 on 15 June 2017 and became known as the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED).⁴⁰ Its goal was to use the capability of the United Nations to help Member States be a part of a global Counter-Terrorism strategy.⁴¹ The CTED's first initiative to combat cyber-terrorism was to conduct a meeting with the Swiss Foundation's Information and Communication Technology (ICT) 4 Peace, consisting of working with the private sector and civil society to further the understanding of industry responses to the use of new technology for terrorist practices and identify good practices.⁴² An example of good practices identified in the meeting was to use cyber-terrorism lists created by CTED instead of relying on sanction lists created by the home states of global companies; for example, companies like Google and Facebook, which only use the United States' sanction list, were encouraged to use the CTED's list because it contains more identified threats.⁴³ Another good practice mentioned in the report was companies utilizing terms of service agreements to prohibit certain content activity and shape the norms and behaviors of their platform; enforcing the terms of service allows moderators to remove content that is suspected of promoting

³⁴ Steven Pinker, *Enlightenment Now* (New York, Viking Press 2018,) 160.

³⁵ Steven Pinker, *Enlightenment Now* (New York, Viking Press 2018,) 160.

³⁶ "Cutting-edge tech a 'double-edged sword for developing countries': UN report" UN News. United Nations Economic Development. <https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/10/1022542> (Accessed December 4, 2018)

³⁷ "The Nuclear Weapon Archive." Nuclear Weapon Archive.org. distributed September 3, 2007. accessed December 6, 2018. <http://nuclearweaponarchive.org/>

³⁸ Steven Pinker, *Enlightenment Now* (New York, Viking Press 2018,) 161.

³⁹ "A/RES/71/291, Strengthening the Capability of the United Nations System to Assist Member States in Implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy." United Nations General Assembly. distributed June 19, 2017. accessed October 1, 2018. http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/71/291

⁴⁰ "A/RES/71/291, Strengthening the Capability of the United Nations System to Assist Member States in Implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy." United Nations General Assembly. distributed June 19, 2017. accessed October 1, 2018. http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/71/291

⁴¹ A/RES/71/291, Strengthening the Capability of the United Nations System to Assist Member States in Implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy." United Nations General Assembly. distributed June 19, 2017. accessed October 1, 2018. http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/71/291

⁴² A/RES/71/291, Strengthening the Capability of the United Nations System to Assist Member States in Implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy." United Nations General Assembly. distributed June 19, 2017. accessed October 1, 2018. http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/71/291

⁴³ "Private Sector Engagement in Responding to the Use of the Internet and ICT for Terrorist Purposes." Information and Communication Technology (ICT)4Peace Foundation and Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), distributed December 1, 2016. accessed October 6, 2018. <https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Private-Sector-Engagement-in-Responding-to-the-Use-of-the-Internet-and-ICT-for-Terrorist-Purposes.pdf>

terrorist activity and most companies have a zero tolerance policy for terrorist content and activity.⁴⁴ For example, Twitter banned over 235,000 accounts on its platform for promoting extremist related content in 2016, which violates the company's terms of service; although the company could remove that many accounts, they can do little to prevent new accounts from being created that post the same content.⁴⁵ The meeting of CTED with ICT4Peace led to the report between the two organizations titled "Private Sector Engagement in Responding to the Use of the Internet and ICT for Terrorist Purposes," which represents one of many UN initiatives used to help guide the private sector by discussing better security practices against cyber-terrorism.⁴⁶ The report outlined procedures that private business can refer to if they become victims of any sort of cyber-terrorism.⁴⁷ The second initiative of the CTED was conducted with the international association of prosecutors and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, focusing on strengthening the international cooperation among national prosecutors engaged in counter-terrorism issues by enhancing their capacity through technology to obtain evidence in a timely manner.⁴⁸

Other actions include those taken by UNIDIR, such as a research project conducted from December 2013 to January 2015 that examined the threat of the weaponization of increasingly autonomous technologies.⁴⁹ With the possibility of automated learning systems becoming weaponized in the future, tech gaming scenarios were used by policymakers to think through the implications of near-term progress of autonomous weapons systems and artificial intelligence.⁵⁰

The next institution that has taken international action is the ITU; the ITU held the World Conference on International Telecommunications in 2012 located in Dubai.⁵¹ The purpose of the conference was to discuss international telecommunication regulations.⁵² At the conference, the ITU proposed a treaty which would allow government restriction or blocking of information disseminated via the internet and create a global regime of monitoring internet communications, including the demand that anyone who uses telecommunication services to send and receive information be identified by Member States.⁵³ It would also allow governments to limit internet usage if there is the belief that it may interfere in the internal affairs of other Member States or that information of a

⁴⁴ "ICT4Peace presents Tech Against Terrorism to OSCE in Vienna." Information and Communication Technology (ICT)4Peace Foundation, distributed May 23, 2017. accessed December 4, 2018.

<https://www.techagainstterrorism.org/2017/06/02/ict4peace-presents-tech-against-terrorism-to-osce-in-vienna/>

⁴⁵ Katie Benner "Twitter Suspends 235,000 More Accounts Over Extremism." The New York Times. distributed August 18, 2016. accessed December 6, 2018. <https://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/19/technology/twitter-suspends-accounts-extremism.html>

⁴⁶ "Private Sector Engagement in Responding to the Use of the Internet and ICT for Terrorist Purposes." Information and Communication Technology (ICT)4Peace Foundation and Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), distributed December 1, 2016. accessed October 6, 2018. <https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Private-Sector-Engagement-in-Responding-to-the-Use-of-the-Internet-and-ICT-for-Terrorist-Purposes.pdf>

⁴⁷ "Private Sector Engagement in Responding to the Use of the Internet and ICT for Terrorist Purposes." Information and Communication Technology (ICT)4Peace Foundation and Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), distributed December 1, 2016. accessed October 6, 2018. <https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Private-Sector-Engagement-in-Responding-to-the-Use-of-the-Internet-and-ICT-for-Terrorist-Purposes.pdf>

⁴⁸ "Information and Communications Technologies" UN Security Council: Counter-Terrorism Committee. accessed October 6, 2018. <https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/focus-areas/information-and-communication-technologies/>

⁴⁹ "The Weaponization of Increasingly Autonomous Technologies (Phase III)." United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) accessed October 6, 2018. <http://www.unidir.org/programmes/emerging-security-issues/the-weaponization-of-increasingly-autonomous-technologies-phase-iii>

⁵⁰ "The Weaponization of Increasingly Autonomous Technologies (Phase III)." United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) accessed October 6, 2018. <http://www.unidir.org/programmes/emerging-security-issues/the-weaponization-of-increasingly-autonomous-technologies-phase-iii>

⁵¹ "Global Cybersecurity Index" International Telecommunications Union. distributed 2017. accessed October 6, 2018. https://read.itu-ilibrary.org/science-and-technology/global-cybersecurity-index-2017_pub/80f875fa-en#page6

⁵² "Global Cybersecurity Index" International Telecommunications Union. distributed 2017. accessed October 6, 2018. https://read.itu-ilibrary.org/science-and-technology/global-cybersecurity-index-2017_pub/80f875fa-en#page6

⁵³ "Global Cybersecurity Index" International Telecommunications Union. distributed 2017. accessed October 6, 2018. https://read.itu-ilibrary.org/science-and-technology/global-cybersecurity-index-2017_pub/80f875fa-en#page6

sensitive nature might be shared.⁵⁴ The result of this was that 111 Member States signed a treaty that aimed to ensure efficient and widespread use of the internet, while at the same time creating an international standard operating procedure to contain and eliminate threats using a telecommunications medium.⁵⁵

Recently, the UN has also focused on cyber warfare. Cyber warfare differs from common warfare because it functions in a domain independent of the natural world, unlike the common warfare domains of sea, air, and land.⁵⁶ The cyber warfare domain, cyberspace, is entirely man-made; since cyber warfare and cyberspace are entirely man-made they are not subject to geopolitical or natural boundaries, making them collectively owned and operated by Member States, private organizations, and individuals.⁵⁷ In the other domains of modern warfare, only large organizations with enough equipment and personnel are considered an existential threat.⁵⁸ Cyber warfare is different because it is a force multiplier, allowing small independent groups to target larger organizations with very little resources⁵⁹ An example of this happened in 2014, when a series of cyber-attacks on high-profile traveling business executives succeeded in stealing sensitive information from their company and personal records; the attacks were later named the Dark Hotel attacks.⁶⁰ What is unique about these attacks is that the technology used by the attackers was not found to be sophisticated relative to what has been used in previous attacks, implying that the attackers had minimal funding for their objective.⁶¹ Although the victims of the attacks were leaders in the private sector, the technology used may be capable of retrieving classified information from state officials or organizations.⁶²

Another cyber-attack, that occurred before Dark Hotel, and caused much more damage, was an event that would later be known as the Pearl Harbor of cyber warfare.⁶³ On August 15, 2012 a virus called Shamoon attacked the Saudi Arabian government, stealing data and destroying over 35,000 computers.⁴⁸ The virus was unique because it could remove the data from its target, upload it to the attacker, and render the computer inoperable by removing essential programs from the hardware.⁶⁴ The computers that were targeted were used by the nationalized oil company, Saudi Aramco.⁶⁵ The cyber-attack on these computers meant that trucks and ships designed to transport oil were unable to export; this was due to the company's reliance on a computer system to track product output.⁶⁶

⁵⁴ "Global Cybersecurity Index" International Telecommunications Union. distributed 2017. accessed October 6, 2018. https://read.itu-ilib.org/science-and-technology/global-cybersecurity-index-2017_pub/80f875fa-en#page6

⁵⁵ "Global Cybersecurity Index" International Telecommunications Union. distributed 2017. accessed October 6, 2018. https://read.itu-ilib.org/science-and-technology/global-cybersecurity-index-2017_pub/80f875fa-en#page6

⁵⁶ "S/RES/2309." UN Security Council. distributed September 22, 2016. accessed October 6, 2018. [https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2309\(2016\)](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2309(2016))

⁵⁷ "S/RES/2309." UN Security Council. distributed September 22, 2016. accessed October 6, 2018. [https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2309\(2016\)](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2309(2016))

⁵⁸ "GA/DIS/3512: Meetings Coverage" UN General Assembly, 1st Committee. distributed October 28, 2014. accessed October 6, 2018. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2014/gadis3512.doc.htm>

⁵⁹ "GA/DIS/3512: Meetings Coverage" UN General Assembly, 1st Committee. distributed October 28, 2014. accessed October 6, 2018. <https://www.un.org/press/en/2014/gadis3512.doc.htm>

⁶⁰ John E. Dunn "Darkhotel APT hackers campaign 'followed' global CEOs using hotel networks." Tech World. distributed November 10, 2014. accessed December 4, 2018. <https://www.techworld.com/news/security/darkhotel-apt-campaign-followed-global-ceos-using-hotel-networks-3585270/>

⁶¹ John E. Dunn "Darkhotel APT hackers campaign 'followed' global CEOs using hotel networks." Tech World. distributed November 10, 2014. accessed December 4, 2018. <https://www.techworld.com/news/security/darkhotel-apt-campaign-followed-global-ceos-using-hotel-networks-3585270/>

⁶² John E. Dunn "Darkhotel APT hackers campaign 'followed' global CEOs using hotel networks." Tech World. distributed November 10, 2014. accessed December 4, 2018. <https://www.techworld.com/news/security/darkhotel-apt-campaign-followed-global-ceos-using-hotel-networks-3585270/>

⁶³ Jose Pagilery "The Inside Story of the Biggest Hack in History" distributed August 5,2015. accessed October 6, 2018. <https://money.cnn.com/2015/08/05/technology/aramco-hack/index.html>

⁴⁸ Jose Pagilery "The Inside Story of the Biggest Hack in History" distributed August 5,2015. accessed October 6, 2018. <https://money.cnn.com/2015/08/05/technology/aramco-hack/index.html>

⁴⁹ Jose Pagilery "The Inside Story of the Biggest Hack in History" distributed August 5,2015. accessed October 6, 2018. <https://money.cnn.com/2015/08/05/technology/aramco-hack/index.html>

⁶⁵ "Shamoon Virus Targets Energy Infrastructure" BBC News. distributed 17 August 2012. accessed October 6, 2018 <https://www.bbc.com/news/technology-19293797>

⁶⁶ Jose Pagilery "The Inside Story of the Biggest Hack in History" distributed August 5,2015. accessed October 6, 2018. <https://money.cnn.com/2015/08/05/technology/aramco-hack/index.html>

The Saudi Arabian government was forced to sell a large portion of their aircraft to purchase enough replacement hard drives for the attacked computers, causing the price of hard drives in the world market to go up.⁶⁷ Further, this incident nearly caused a global oil crisis due to the integration of Saudi Arabian oil in the global market.⁶⁸ Due to the nature of the virus, the identity of the attacker is unknown.⁶⁹ Experts believe that the Shamoon virus capability could have come from a state or non-state actor.⁷⁰ The Shamoon attacks have served as a warning for other Member States; the investigation later determined the virus entered the system through a user with network privilege, demonstrating how easily security can be bypassed when a government worker becomes compromised.⁷¹ Member States should work to develop cyber-security programs that not only promote strong network defense from outside threats and also establish practices that make it difficult to abuse network privileges.⁷²

Current Situation

As more technology is developed and advanced, more discussions occur around how to properly handle the developments and advancements within the international community. In October of 2017, the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the General Assembly Second Committee (GA 2nd) held a joint conference on “*The Future of Everything - Sustainable Development in the Age of Rapid Technological Change*.”⁷³ Participants discussed issues such as the ethics questions and guidelines when using technology, regulations that should be established, and the risks of current advancing technologies.⁷⁴ One of the main technologies focused on at the meeting was Artificial Intelligence (AI).⁷⁵ AI is the theory, development, and advancement of computer systems able to perform tasks that normally require human intelligence, such as visual perception, speech recognition, decision-making, and translation between languages.⁷⁶ The conference highlighted how human-like AI is becoming. It also discussed concerns on how AI could replace human cognition and lead to the disruption to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by exponentially accelerating automation, compressing time and fostering universal hyper-connectivity linked by a digital mesh.⁷⁷ A common theme in many speeches was that international standards and codes of conduct are needed for AI.⁷⁸ Another issue highlighted was the need for inclusion.⁷⁹ For technology to be beneficial, all must have access, specifically underdeveloped and developing Member States. The main risk addressed was that the continued rapid advancement of technology, specifically AI, would abandon human responsibility.⁸⁰ Many presenters urged that policies should be implemented that value human needs above all else and that all technological advancements should reflect the “future we want” such as: equal technological

⁶⁷ Jose Pagilery “The Inside Story of the Biggest Hack in History” distributed August 5,2015. accessed October 6, 2018. <https://money.cnn.com/2015/08/05/technology/aramco-hack/index.html>

⁶⁸ Jose Pagilery “The Inside Story of the Biggest Hack in History” distributed August 5,2015. accessed October 6, 2018. <https://money.cnn.com/2015/08/05/technology/aramco-hack/index.html>

⁶⁹ Jose Pagilery “The Inside Story of the Biggest Hack in History” distributed August 5,2015. accessed October 6, 2018. <https://money.cnn.com/2015/08/05/technology/aramco-hack/index.html>

⁷⁰ Jose Pagilery “The Inside Story of the Biggest Hack in History” distributed August 5,2015. accessed October 6, 2018. <https://money.cnn.com/2015/08/05/technology/aramco-hack/index.html>

⁷¹ Lucas Tanglen “The Collapse of UN Talks on the Application of International Law in Cyberspace: Why It Matters to U.S. Businesses.” distributed May 24, 2018. accessed December 4, 2018. <http://www.klgates.com/the-collapse-of-un-talks-on-the-application-of-international-law-in-cyberspace-why-it-matters-to-us-businesses-05-24-2018/>

⁷² Lucas Tanglen “The Collapse of UN Talks on the Application of International Law in Cyberspace: Why It Matters to U.S. Businesses.” distributed May 24, 2018. accessed December 4, 2018. <http://www.klgates.com/the-collapse-of-un-talks-on-the-application-of-international-law-in-cyberspace-why-it-matters-to-us-businesses-05-24-2018/>

⁷³ “Joint Meeting of ECOSOC and the Second Committee on “The Future of Everything - Sustainable Development in the Age of Rapid Technological Change,” United Nations Economic and Social Council, November 10, 2017, October 12, 2018, <https://www.un.org/ecosoc/en/events/2017/joint-meeting-ecosoc-and-second-committee-%E2%80%9Cfuture-everything-%E2%80%93-sustainable-development>

⁷⁴ “Joint Meeting of ECOSOC and the Second Committee on “The Future of Everything - Sustainable Development in the Age of Rapid Technological Change” Informal Summary,” United Nations Economic and Social Council, October 11,2017, October 12, 2018, https://www.un.org/ecosoc/sites/www.un.org.ecosoc/files/files/en/2017doc/2017_10-joint-meeting-summary.pdf

⁷⁵ “The Future of Everything Informal Summary,” United Nations Economic and Social Council

⁷⁶ “Artificial Intelligence,” SAS Institute, October 12, 2018, https://www.sas.com/en_us/insights/analytics/what-is-artificial-intelligence.html

⁷⁷ “The Future of Everything Informal Summary,” United Nations Economic and Social Council

⁷⁸ “The Future of Everything Informal Summary,” United Nations Economic and Social Council

⁷⁹ “The Future of Everything Informal Summary,” United Nations Economic and Social Council

⁸⁰ “The Future of Everything Informal Summary,” United Nations Economic and Social Council

access and transparency to everyone, instituting internet access a civil right, and having policies that focus on educating and training populations.⁸¹

To improve global security, the UN has been utilizing technological advancements. In 2014, Under-Secretary-General Hervé Ladsous and Ameerah Haq created the Expert Panel on Technology and Innovation in UN Peacekeeping.⁸² The purpose of the panel was to research different emerging global technologies to advise the UN on how to use them to benefit peacekeeping operations.⁸³ The final report was released in 2016 and recommended various technologies be implemented in peacekeeping operations such as tamper-resistant technology, hand-held explosive composition detection devices, and customizable geographic information systems (GIS).⁸⁴

The panel also recommended the UN consider pushing policies that could benefit all current and future peacekeeping operations.⁸⁵ These policy recommendations included strengthening information security and privacy laws to ensure all information is lawfully obtained, stored, used, and processed.⁸⁶ The policy recommendations also entailed the UN making a more systematic use of commercial satellite imagery in order to maintain sovereignty and privacy, revising current technologies used in peacekeeping operations to support mobile tools, developing a common intelligence software solution across missions with powerful query and cross-referencing capabilities, and the UN reviewing and updating internal policies and procedures as technology advances.⁸⁷ The goal of these policy changes and the panel itself is to make UN peacekeeping operations more efficient. By having better policies in place to use advanced technologies in these operations the UN can save time, resources, and lives in these situations.

Expanding the use of advanced technology outside of UN peacekeeping, the Independent Commission on Multilateralism (ICM) published “The Impact of New Technologies on Peace, Security, and Development” in April of 2016.⁸⁸ This discussion paper stated that emerging technologies, especially those of information and communication technologies (ICTs), are extremely important for conflict prevention.⁸⁹ The ICM researched the different types of technologies such as unarmed unmanned aerial vehicles (UUAVs), satellite imagery, and armed unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), also known as drones.⁹⁰ While these different types of technologies can assist with reducing time between warning/response, track crime and conflicts, and assist in peace operations, there are still risks involved.⁹¹ Some of the risks reported by the ICM are that the technologies are not effective or appropriate for the situation, they can lead to data being compromised, and can add to the conflict dynamic.⁹²

In order to reduce the risks of emerging technologies, the Group of Government Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS) was created in 2016 by the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), a body whose focus is on banning/regulating “the use of specific types of weapons that are considered to cause unnecessary or unjustifiable suffering to combatants or to affect civilians indiscriminately.”⁹³ LAWS discusses

⁸¹ “The Future of Everything Informal Summary,” United Nations Economic and Social Council

⁸² “Press Release: Expert Panel on Technology and Innovation in UN Peacekeeping,” United Nations Peacekeeping, June 4, 2018, October 12, 2018, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/press-release-expert-panel-technology-and-innovation-un-peacekeeping>

⁸³ “Expert Panel on Technology and Innovation in UN Peacekeeping,” United Nations Peacekeeping

⁸⁴ Jane Hall Lute, “Performance Peacekeeping,” United Nations Peacekeeping, December 22, 2014, October 12, 2018, https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/performance-peacekeeping_expert-panel-on-technology-and-innovation_report_2015.pdf

⁸⁵ Jane Hall Lute, “Performance Peacekeeping.”

⁸⁶ Jane Hall Lute, “Performance Peacekeeping.”

⁸⁷ Jane Hall Lute, “Performance Peacekeeping.”

⁸⁸ “The Impact of New Technologies on Peace, Security, and Development,” Independent Commission on Multilateralism, April 2016, October 12, 2018, https://www.icm2016.org/IMG/pdf/new_tech_paper.pdf

⁸⁹ “New Technologies on Peace, Security, and Development,” Independent Commission on Multilateralism

⁹⁰ “New Technologies on Peace, Security, and Development,” Independent Commission on Multilateralism

⁹¹ “New Technologies on Peace, Security, and Development,” Independent Commission on Multilateralism

⁹² “New Technologies on Peace, Security, and Development,” Independent Commission on Multilateralism

⁹³ “2017 Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS),” The United Nations Office at Geneva, October 12, 2018, [https://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/\(httpPages\)/F027DAA4966EB9C7C12580CD0039D7B5](https://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/(httpPages)/F027DAA4966EB9C7C12580CD0039D7B5)

⁹⁴ The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, The United Nations Office at Geneva, October 12, 2018, [https://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/\(httpPages\)/4F0DEF093B4860B4C1257180004B1B30?OpenDocument](https://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/(httpPages)/4F0DEF093B4860B4C1257180004B1B30?OpenDocument)

emerging technologies in the area of Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems. For their 2018 meeting they discussed systems that should be used to promote objectives and purposes of the CWW, the “human” element when using lethal force, aspects of human-machine interactions, reviewing potential military applications, addressing the humanitarian and international security challenges posed by emerging technologies.⁹⁵ The outcome of the 2018 meeting of LAWS resulted in suggestions for Member States on how to define lethal autonomous weapons systems, recommend inter-disciplinary perspectives into research and development, strengthening the group to accomplish their goals better.⁹⁶ It was found that for some Member States a working definition of LAWS is essential to fully addressing all potential risks.⁹⁷ Other results also showed that by strengthening the group on an international level, the group would be able to assist Member States more in preventing risks while still encouraging research and development of emerging technologies.⁹⁸

Conclusion

As we continue to move forward, technology will continue to change and evolve. Most of these advancements are for the greater good of society. However, there are some advancements that can cause great harm if not properly regulated, controlled, monitored, and/or banned. There are many different regulatory bodies or groups that have been established throughout history to either promote the expansion of technology or regulate the uses of the same technologies. That being said there will always be new technologies being developed or improved upon and as they are created and the international community must decide on how or if to integrate it into their societies. Will it be the responsibility of the UN to not only set guidelines for these advancing technologies, but to use positive advancements in technology to prevent, reduce, and end conflicts around the globe? If so, how can this be accomplished without violating Member State Sovereignty? With the actions mentioned above, as well as a coordination of effort between Member States, the various organs of the UN, and non-government bodies, the international community can achieve positive technological advancement, while also protecting global security and well-being.

Committee Directive

During committee, delegates should consider where current legislation is failing and where it is succeeding. They should also ask themselves: Where does the UN stand when it comes to preventing and/or restricting research and development of new technologies? How can the UN enforce measures without infringing on sovereignty? Other factors, such as not letting legislation grow outdated due to rapid changes in technology, need to be considered as well. What, if any, forms of technology are more of a threat to global security? Should those technologies be focused upon?

Overall, delegates should not only address these questions, but also have realistic and implementable goals. They should focus on bodies that are currently in place and how to make them more successful, both in the immediate future and long-term. They should also consider regional bodies and regulations in order to maintain sovereignty.

⁹⁵ “2018 Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS),” The United Nations Office at Geneva, October 12, 2018,

[https://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/\(httpPages\)/7C335E71DFCB29D1C1258243003E8724?OpenDocument](https://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/(httpPages)/7C335E71DFCB29D1C1258243003E8724?OpenDocument)

⁹⁶ “Report of the 2018 Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems,” CWW, August 31, 2018, October 12, 2018,

[https://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/\(httpAssets\)/20092911F6495FA7C125830E003F9A5B/\\$file/2018_GGE+LAWS_Final+Report.pdf](https://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/(httpAssets)/20092911F6495FA7C125830E003F9A5B/$file/2018_GGE+LAWS_Final+Report.pdf)

⁹⁷ “Report of the 2018 Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems,” CWW

⁹⁸ “Report of the 2018 Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems,” CWW

II. Preventing Violent Extremism by Non-State Actors

Introduction

No official definition has been given by the United Nations (UN) nor the European Union (EU) of violent extremism. For the purposes of this committee, violent extremism will be defined as the act of using violence as a tool to advocate for and support an ideologically motivated goal that undermines a society or community's governance, human rights, and institutional frameworks to further a social, economic, or political objective.

The different bodies of the UN have been actively dealing with concerns of violent extremism for more than two decades. Early resolutions by the General Assembly (GA) on countering violent extremism include: A/RES/46/51 and A/RES/49/60. These two resolutions reaffirm the UN commitment to the condemnation of “organizing, instigating, facilitating, financing, encouraging or tolerating terrorist activities.”⁹⁹ They also urge all Member States of the UN “unilaterally and in cooperation with other States, as well as relevant United Nations organs to contribute to the progressive elimination of the causes underlying international terrorism.”¹⁰⁰

Non-State Actors (NSAs) are any entity that are not sovereign states.¹⁰¹ (The UN is technically an NSA.) Of particular importance to DISEC are Violent Non-State Actors (VNSAs), which include, but are not limited to: terrorist organizations, drug trafficking organizations, human trafficking organizations, youth gangs, militias, and transnational criminal organizations.¹⁰²¹⁰³ VNSA's actions can be countered by measures taken on global issues by regular NSAs through multilateral dialogues, unifying response efforts, and strengthening infrastructure.¹⁰⁴¹⁰⁵ The GA's dedication to countering violent extremism by VNSAs is also noted in the aforementioned resolutions A/RES/46/51 and A/RES/49/60.¹⁰⁶

Drivers of Violent Extremism

A primary way to eliminate and reduce instances of violent extremism is to identify drivers of extremism¹⁰⁷. One goal of the UN is to mitigate circumstances where drivers are allowed to grow. Drivers of violent extremism include but are not limited to: poverty, poor infrastructure, few socio-economic opportunities, discrimination, poor governance, prison radicalization, and violations of laws/human rights.¹⁰⁸ ¹⁰⁹ Drivers such as poverty and limitations of socio-economic opportunities are not drivers themselves. The sense of injustice linked to these factors and the perception that exclusion and discrimination occur leads to unrest and pushes communities to take drastic measures where they feel their governments have failed.¹¹⁰ ¹¹¹

⁹⁹ “A/RES/49/60. Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism.” United Nations General Assembly.
<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/49/a49r060.htm>

¹⁰⁰ “A/RES/46/51. Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism.” United Nations General Assembly.
<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/46/a46r051.htm>

¹⁰¹ “Non-State Actors.” Andrew Clapham. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228227478_Non-State_Actors

¹⁰² “Non-State Actors.” Andrew Clapham. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228227478_Non-State_Actors

¹⁰³ “Violent Non-State Actors and National and International Security.” Phil Williams. ETH Zurich.
<https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/93880/vnsas.pdf>

¹⁰⁴ “Violent Non-State Actors and National and International Security.” Phil Williams. ETH Zurich.
<https://www.files.ethz.ch/isn/93880/vnsas.pdf>

¹⁰⁵ “Growing threat of violent extremism demands unified response, UN chief tells summit.” United Nations.
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2015/09/510462-growing-threat-violent-extremism-demands-unified-response-un-chief-tells-summit>

¹⁰⁶ “A/RES/49/60. Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism.” United Nations General Assembly.
<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/49/a49r060.htm>

¹⁰⁷ “Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.” United Nations.
https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism.ctitf/files/plan_action.pdf

¹⁰⁸ “Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.” United Nations.
https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism.ctitf/files/plan_action.pdf

¹⁰⁹ “A/70/674: Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.” United Nations General Assembly.
http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/674

¹¹⁰ “A/70/674: Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.” United Nations General Assembly.
http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/674

¹¹¹ “Drivers of Violent Extremism.” CIPE. <https://www.cipe.org/resources/drivers-violent-extremism/>

Poverty in and of itself is not a driver of violent extremism, rather the sense of injustice due to economic or political extremism is.¹¹² A Member State's inability to meet expectations of citizens who are newly educated or have been promised more economic opportunities has led to unrest.¹¹³¹¹⁴ Other socio-economic issues, such as the unavailability of long-term stable jobs or the elimination of previously available work has also left certain individuals feeling abandoned by their governments.¹¹⁵¹¹⁶ This results in a perception of marginalization and relative deprivation.¹¹⁷ Organizations who practice violent extremism do not emphasize poverty or unemployment, but rather focus on the cultural oppression and failings of governments to meet the needs of the people.¹¹⁸¹¹⁹

Further drivers, such as violations of laws and human rights, tie into violent extremism organizations' agendas which circle around cultural identity assimilation.¹²⁰ Violent extremist groups appeal to ideas based on a society's history.¹²¹ Violent extremists provide moral justification for violence by pointing out violations or grievances that occurred in a particular area, or to a group of people, in the past that were not properly addressed. These might be blatant violations of laws, or small injustices that can occasionally occur in daily life.¹²²¹²³

On December 24, 2015, the GA addressed these drivers in A/RES/70/674 with their "Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism".¹²⁴ In the document, it is expressed that Member States need to adapt to understanding and addressing these drivers better through further cooperation with UN organizational bodies such as but not limited to: the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, and the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre.¹²⁵

Current Situation

Violent Extremism and its consequences play a significant role in today's global society. As such, the UN has created several international frameworks to combat growing concerns. The first of these frameworks is the United Nations' Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism (PVE). The plan was first introduced to the GA by the Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, on January 15, 2016.¹²⁶ In February of that year, the GA adopted a Resolution

¹¹² "Drivers of Violent Extremism." The Doha Declaration. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. United Nations. <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/terrorism/module-2/key-issues/drivers-of-violent-extremism.html>

^{113 113} "Guide to the Drivers of Violent Extremism." United States Agency of International Development. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/Pnadt978.pdf

¹¹⁴ "Drivers of Violent Extremism." Jessica Jones. Center for International Private Enterprise. <https://www.cipe.org/resources/drivers-violent-extremism/>

¹¹⁵ "Drivers of Violent Extremism." The Doha Declaration. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. United Nations. <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/terrorism/module-2/key-issues/drivers-of-violent-extremism.html>

¹¹⁶ "Drivers of Violent Extremism." Jessica Jones. Center for International Private Enterprise. <https://www.cipe.org/resources/drivers-violent-extremism/>

¹¹⁷ "Drivers of Violent Extremism." Jessica Jones. Center for International Private Enterprise. <https://www.cipe.org/resources/drivers-violent-extremism/>

¹¹⁸ "Drivers of Violent Extremism." The Doha Declaration. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. United Nations. <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/terrorism/module-2/key-issues/drivers-of-violent-extremism.html>

¹¹⁹ "Guide to the Drivers of Violent Extremism." United States Agency of International Development. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/Pnadt978.pdf

^{120 120} "Guide to the Drivers of Violent Extremism." United States Agency of International Development. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/Pnadt978.pdf

¹²¹ "Drivers of Violent Extremism." Jessica Jones. Center for International Private Enterprise. <https://www.cipe.org/resources/drivers-violent-extremism/>

¹²² "Drivers of Violent Extremism." The Doha Declaration. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. United Nations. <https://www.unodc.org/e4j/en/terrorism/module-2/key-issues/drivers-of-violent-extremism.html>

^{123 123} "Guide to the Drivers of Violent Extremism." United States Agency of International Development. https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/Pnadt978.pdf

¹²⁴ "A/70/674: Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism." United Nations General Assembly. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/674

¹²⁵ "A/70/674: Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism." United Nations General Assembly. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/674

¹²⁶ "Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism." United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism. Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/plan-action-prevent-violent-extremism>

welcoming the initiative and to further consider actions.¹²⁷ Then, in July of 2016, the GA adopted A/RES/70/291 on recommendations to prevent the further spread of violent extremism.¹²⁸ The PVE has more than 70 recommendations that include engaging local communities and non-government actors to create strategies that limit the enticement of being recruited to extremist groups and terrorist organizations, considering the impact of Counter-Terrorism strategies on women's human rights and women's organizations, uniting Member States on the development of educational programs to empower the work force, instituting mechanisms to involve youth, instituting mechanisms and programs that teach peace, tolerance and an understanding of human dignity, encourage dialogues on intercultural and interreligious understand, as well as the prevention of wide-spread xenophobia, encourages future strategies on Counter-Terrorism to respect the law, and protect child victims under international laws forced into acts of extremism.¹²⁹

Engaging local communities and non-government actors in dialogues to create strategies comes through Member States engagement with influential religious leaders to provide dialogue on intra-faith understanding and tolerance, engaging opposing parties and regional actors, preserving objects and sites that have cultural and religious significance, and furthering government inclusion of marginalized groups.¹³⁰ Furthermore, the recommendations include a review of all national legislation policies, and practices that might have historically allowed discrimination to promote human rights and women's rights, and strengthen infrastructure.¹³¹ To involve youth, the PVE also recommends establishing youth councils, integrating strategies laid out in the Amman Declaration on Youth, Peace, and Security, and continue work following the guidelines seen in the Guiding Principle on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding.¹³² The PVE further recommends working with project journalists, intergovernmental organizations, and non-profit organizations to promote SDG's 5, 9, 10, 16, and 17.¹³³¹³⁴ The PVE outlines that achieving gender equality and equality for marginalized groups– SDG's 5 and 10 – will greatly reduce vulnerability to violent extremism through civil society groups.¹³⁵ Furthermore, the PVE expounds upon how infrastructure, institution, and industry innovation – SDG 9 – will lead to diminishing drivers such as dissatisfaction with opportunities and governmental policies by building vocational education opportunities and the capacity of the Member State.¹³⁶ By improving upon these issues within a region vulnerable to violent extremism,

¹²⁷ "Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism." United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism. Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/plan-action-prevent-violent-extremism>

¹²⁸ "Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism." United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism. Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/plan-action-prevent-violent-extremism>

¹²⁹ "A/RES/70/291: The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review." United Nations General Assembly. http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/291

¹³⁰ "Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism." United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism. Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/plan-action-prevent-violent-extremism>

¹³¹ "Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism." United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism. Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/plan-action-prevent-violent-extremism>

¹³² "Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism." United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism. Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/plan-action-prevent-violent-extremism>

¹³³ "Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism." United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism. Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/plan-action-prevent-violent-extremism>

¹³⁴ "A/RES/70/291: The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review." United Nations General Assembly. http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/291

¹³⁵ "Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism." United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism. Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/plan-action-prevent-violent-extremism>

¹³⁶ "Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism." United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism. Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/plan-action-prevent-violent-extremism>

success in areas for peace and justice within strong institutions, and international cooperation – SDG’s 16 and 17 – can be met.¹³⁷

The second of these frameworks is The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Created on September 8, 2006, the ideology behind the Global Counter-Terrorism strategy was to condemn terrorism in all its forms while putting measures in place to prevent it through collective and individual actions.¹³⁸¹³⁹ The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is comprised of four pillars spoken about in A/RES/60/288.¹⁴⁰ These four pillars are to: address conditions that aide in the spread of terrorism; take measures to prevent and combat terrorism; build the capacity of at-risk Member States to combat terrorism; ensure that there are measures in place that respect both human rights and the rule of law for all people.¹⁴¹ Addressing conditions that aide in the spread of terrorism advocates for creating programs in areas where socio-economic opportunities are scarce and promoting community talks on cultural inclusiveness and respect.¹⁴² Building the capacity of Member States who are at-risk of violent extremist groups seeks to improve governmental infrastructures that identify drivers of extremism and equip citizens with a forum where they can discuss and report concerns.¹⁴³ There is much debate on how to address the other two pillars on taking measures that respect human rights while also combatting terrorism, as different Member States take different actions on regulating the private sector and civil society organizations.¹⁴⁴

It should also be noted that this document is reviewed and revised every two years, the last review taking place in July of 2018.¹⁴⁵ During the last review, Member States reached a consensus that the implementation of a Counter-Terrorism strategy needed to be prioritized through information sharing and the reallocation of political resources to address issues of terrorism.¹⁴⁶ Conversations also focused on the nexus between terrorism and organized crime, and how only by improving impartial mechanisms to regulate terrorism financing and arms proliferation can the threat of violent extremism be reduced.¹⁴⁷ This did not lead to any significant changes in the document.¹⁴⁸ However, the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODOC) did

¹³⁷ “Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.” United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism. Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/plan-action-prevent-violent-extremism>

¹³⁸ “A/RES/70/291: The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy Review.” United Nations General Assembly. http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/291

¹³⁹ “UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.” United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy>

¹⁴⁰ “UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.” United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy>

¹⁴¹ “A/RES/60/288: The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.” The United Nations General Assembly. United Nations. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N05/504/88/PDF/N0550488.pdf?OpenElement>

¹⁴² “UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.” United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/un-global-counter-terrorism->

¹⁴³ “UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.” United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/un-global-counter-terrorism->

¹⁴⁴ “A/RES/60/288: The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.” The United Nations General Assembly. United Nations. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N05/504/88/PDF/N0550488.pdf?OpenElement>

¹⁴⁵ “A/RES/60/288: The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.” The United Nations General Assembly. United Nations. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N05/504/88/PDF/N0550488.pdf?OpenElement>

¹⁴⁶ “Report of the United Nations High-Level Conference on Counter-Terrorism.” United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. United Nations. https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism.ctitf/files/Report_UNHLC_FINAL_WEB.pdf

¹⁴⁷ “Report of the United Nations High-Level Conference on Counter-Terrorism.” United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. United Nations. https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism.ctitf/files/Report_UNHLC_FINAL_WEB.pdf

¹⁴⁸ “Report of the United Nations High-Level Conference on Counter-Terrorism.” United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. United Nations. https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism.ctitf/files/Report_UNHLC_FINAL_WEB.pdf

sign a Strategic Partnership Framework Agreement on October 2, 2018 in an effort to increase synergy and information sharing between Member States.¹⁴⁹

While these frameworks are in place, there are limitations to what the international system can do and has done. The UN is limited in its ability to counter violent extremism for many reasons, the first and foremost being that adopting a single strategy of that magnitude requires cohesion at all levels – planning, implementation, and maintenance.¹⁵⁰ Furthermore, there is a lack of clarity in policy. Violent Extremism is often interchanged with Counter-Terrorism, and while there has been quite a bit of policy on the latter, there has been little substantive work done on the former. An example of policy by the UN on Counter-Terrorism is A/Res/72/194 which focuses on improving upon the implementation of international protocols related to Counter-Terrorism.¹⁵¹ This resolution encourages Member States to adopt international conventions relating to Counter-Terrorism and strengthen both international and national coordination of law enforcement and other relevant entities.¹⁵² Counter-Terrorism has had continuous policy since 2006, while there were no clear strategies for countering violent extremism until the creation of an ad-hoc working group was formed in the beginning of 2015.¹⁵³ Furthermore, funding mechanisms typically favor approaches that center around law-enforcement and police efforts rather than civil society and grassroots approaches.¹⁵⁴ While some successful actions have been taken, such as UNODC's launch of a handbook on the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in prisons in late 2017, very little real measurable action has taken place in recent years, while acts of violent extremism grow exponentially.^{155 156}

Priority Areas

Going forward, there are many areas considered priority when tackling violent extremism, which include but are not limited to: Africa, the Middle East, South-East Asia, and the Western Balkans.^{157 158} Below are just a few examples of violent extremism that have been carried out by VNSAs, that have led to varying degrees of instability, death, and governmental decay in priority at-risk areas.

In the Western Balkans, a region that consists of Member States Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Serbia, and Macedonia, there is a long history of border dispute issues, extremism, violent and organized crime, and ethnic conflict.¹⁵⁹ Since the 1990's, the region has been recovering from previous conflicts trying to regain peace and civility.¹⁶⁰ An example of violent extremism in the Western Balkans can be seen from several violent incidents that occurred in 2015. In Zvornik, a small town in Bosnia, a police station was attacked by Islamic Extremists on April

¹⁴⁹ "Heads of UN Office of Counter-Terrorism and UNODC sign Partnership Framework Agreement." United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. United Nations. <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/frontpage/2018/October/heads-of-un-office-of-counter-terrorism-and-unodc-sign-strategic-partnership-framework-agreemen.html?ref=fs1>

¹⁵⁰ "Countering Violent Extremism: What are the Key Challenges for UN?." Naureen Chowdhury Fink. <https://theglobalobservatory.org/2015/11/countering-violent-extremism-united-nations-ban-ki-moon/>

¹⁵¹ "A/RES/72/194." United Nations General Assembly. United Nations. http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/72/194 (Accessed November 14, 2018).

¹⁵² "A/RES/72/194." United Nations General Assembly. United Nations. http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/72/194 (Accessed November 14, 2018).

¹⁵³ "Preventing Violent Extremism." United Nations Office of Counter-Terrorism. Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/en/preventing-violent-extremism>

¹⁵⁴ "Countering Violent Extremism: What are the Key Challenges for UN?." Naureen Chowdhury Fink. <https://theglobalobservatory.org/2015/11/countering-violent-extremism-united-nations-ban-ki-moon/>

¹⁵⁵ "First UN manual to address violent extremism in prisons launched by UNODC." United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes. United Nations. <http://www.unodc.org/lpo-brazil/en/frontpage/2017/01/unodc-launches-first-un-manual-to-address-violent-extremism-in-prisons.html>

¹⁵⁶ "Countering Violent Extremism: What are the Key Challenges for UN?." Naureen Chowdhury Fink. <https://theglobalobservatory.org/2015/11/countering-violent-extremism-united-nations-ban-ki-moon/>

¹⁵⁷ "Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism." United Nations. https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism.ctitf/files/plan_action.pdf

¹⁵⁸ "Countering Violent Extremism." USAID. <https://www.usaid.gov/countering-violent-extremism>

¹⁵⁹ "Western Balkans Extremism Research Forum." British Council. https://www.britishcouncil.rs/sites/default/files/erf_report_serbia_2018.pdf

¹⁶⁰ "Western Balkans Extremism Research Forum." British Council. https://www.britishcouncil.rs/sites/default/files/erf_report_serbia_2018.pdf

27, 2015.¹⁶¹ This incident killed one policeman and wounded others.¹⁶² It was followed by another incident in Kumanovo, Macedonia in May 2015.^{163,164} At least eight police officers, and 14 members of an armed group were killed in the northern Macedonian town.¹⁶⁵ This led to the arrest of thirty people in relation to terrorist offences, and an outcry for more stringent policy on equality in the region.¹⁶⁶ Just a month later, the extremist group Islamic State (IS) released a video encouraging Muslims in the Balkan region to join their cause.¹⁶⁷ Such instances have led to the rise of programs to counteract extremist messages.¹⁶⁸ One such program, led by the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) led initiatives to help train mayors and others in leadership positions to identify and address risk factors and well as work with the people under their leadership to build community resilience in the face of violent extremism, as well as social cohesion.¹⁶⁹

For another case study of violent extremism committed by VNSAs, one can look to conflicts that have arisen in Sudan in recent years. Sudan is currently embroiled in civil war. The conflict, as of 2018, has resulted in the deaths of more than 50,000 Sudanese people according to UN Reports.¹⁷⁰ Additionally, there are more than 400,000 Sudanese refugees and asylum seekers fleeing to neighboring Member States.¹⁷¹ It is estimated that almost half of the population of Sudan lives beneath the poverty line which has caused more of the population to engage in acts of violent extremism.¹⁷² Targets of these incidents are often nonprofit organizations, such as schools and Christian communities.¹⁷³ The Enough Project is just one example of an organization attempting to help relieve some of the suffering in Sudan with projects such as the “Darfur Dream Team” which partners with other organizations and basketball players in education initiatives and the “Sudan Now Coalition” which aims to use the media and social

¹⁶¹ “Balkan Foreign Fighters; from Syria to Ukraine.” Jelena Beslin and Marija Ignjatijevic. European Union Institute for Security Studies.

<https://www.iss.europa.eu/sites/default/files/EUISSFiles/Brief%202020%20Balkan%20foreign%20fighters.pdf>

¹⁶² “Balkan Foreign Fighters; from Syria to Ukraine.” Jelena Beslin and Marija Ignjatijevic. European Union Institute for Security Studies.

<https://www.iss.europa.eu/sites/default/files/EUISSFiles/Brief%202020%20Balkan%20foreign%20fighters.pdf>

¹⁶³ “Violent Extremism in the Western Balkans.” Policy Recommendations Study Group Regional Stability in South East Europe. Belgrade Centre for Security Policy.

http://www.bundesheer.at/pdf_pool/publikationen/pfpc_31st_rssee_policy.pdf

¹⁶⁴ “Balkan Foreign Fighters; from Syria to Ukraine.” Jelena Beslin and Marija Ignjatijevic. European Union Institute for Security Studies.

<https://www.iss.europa.eu/sites/default/files/EUISSFiles/Brief%202020%20Balkan%20foreign%20fighters.pdf>

¹⁶⁵ “Violent Extremism in the Western Balkans.” Policy Recommendations Study Group Regional Stability in South East Europe. Belgrade Centre for Security Policy.

http://www.bundesheer.at/pdf_pool/publikationen/pfpc_31st_rssee_policy.pdf

¹⁶⁶ “Violent Extremism in the Western Balkans.” Policy Recommendations Study Group Regional Stability in South East Europe. Belgrade Centre for Security Policy.

http://www.bundesheer.at/pdf_pool/publikationen/pfpc_31st_rssee_policy.pdf

¹⁶⁷ “Balkan Foreign Fighters; from Syria to Ukraine.” Jelena Beslin and Marija Ignjatijevic. European Union Institute for Security Studies.

<https://www.iss.europa.eu/sites/default/files/EUISSFiles/Brief%202020%20Balkan%20foreign%20fighters.pdf>

¹⁶⁸ “Countering Violent Extremism in the Western Balkans.” International City/County Management Association.

<https://icma.org/programs-and-projects/countering-violent-extremism-western-balkans>

^{169,169} “Countering Violent Extremism in the Western Balkans.” International City/County Management Association.

<https://icma.org/programs-and-projects/countering-violent-extremism-western-balkans>

¹⁷⁰ “Violent Extremism in Sudan.” PAVE: Partnering Against Violent Extremism. United Nations Development Program. United Nations.

[http://www.sd.undp.org/content/dam/sudan/docs/Violent%20Extremism%20in%20Sudan%20-%20UNDP%20SNCC%202017%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.sd.undp.org/content/dam/sudan/docs/Violent%20Extremism%20in%20Sudan%20-%20UNDP%20SNCC%202017%20(1).pdf)

¹⁷¹ “Violent Extremism in Sudan.” PAVE: Partnering Against Violent Extremism. United Nations Development Program. United Nations.

[http://www.sd.undp.org/content/dam/sudan/docs/Violent%20Extremism%20in%20Sudan%20-%20UNDP%20SNCC%202017%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.sd.undp.org/content/dam/sudan/docs/Violent%20Extremism%20in%20Sudan%20-%20UNDP%20SNCC%202017%20(1).pdf)

¹⁷² “Violent Extremism in Sudan.” PAVE: Partnering Against Violent Extremism. United Nations Development Program. United Nations.

[http://www.sd.undp.org/content/dam/sudan/docs/Violent%20Extremism%20in%20Sudan%20-%20UNDP%20SNCC%202017%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.sd.undp.org/content/dam/sudan/docs/Violent%20Extremism%20in%20Sudan%20-%20UNDP%20SNCC%202017%20(1).pdf)

¹⁷³ “Aid as a Weapon of War in Sudan. Akshay Kumar. Enough Project. <https://enoughproject.org/files/AIDasWEAPON-brief.pdf>

networking as a tool to raise awareness of Human Rights issues in Sudan.¹⁷⁴ On June 29, 2018 the Sudanese Delegation made a statement regarding their collaboration with the United Nations Development Program on a case study of violent extremism in Sudan and their commitment to ending extremism through world solidarity and cooperation.¹⁷⁵ They further spoke on their plan of action to strengthen infrastructure and programs that promote tolerance to counteract extremism.¹⁷⁶

These are just two of many instances of violent extremism. In 2009, as part of its Armed Violence Reduction Project (ARVP), the UNDP did case studies on 13 different areas of concern – Somalia, South Sudan, Nairobi, Kenya, Nepal, Northeast India, Sri Lanka, Nigeria, Algeria, El Salvador, Brazil, Chechnya, and Sierra Leone – to estimate the impact of armed violence on poverty-stricken areas.¹⁷⁷¹⁷⁸ As a result, in Nepal, the Armed Violence Reduction and strengthening Community Security (AVRSCS) program was established by the Nepalese government and the UNDP.¹⁷⁹ Since its formation, trust between the police and the public has increased, community security plans have been put in place to protect women against sexual violence, and community engagement with the government has increased.¹⁸⁰

Additional research and case studies by the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR), have estimated that there are more than 68.5 million people displaced worldwide as a result of generalized violence and conflict.¹⁸¹ UNHCR estimates an average of 44,000 people flee from their homes every day.¹⁸² There has been an estimated six percent increase of accepted asylum applications for individuals fleeing their home of origin due to violent extremism since 2016.¹⁸³ Case studies of the Rohingya population in Myanmar show that more than 655,500 Rohingya were displaced in 2017 after violent attacks on August 25, 2017.¹⁸⁴ The VSNA, the Arakan Rohnigya Salvation Army attacked several security posts, which forced residents of the area to flee from targeted killings and infringements on their human rights.¹⁸⁵ More than 52 percent of all refugees fleeing due to violent extremism are children.¹⁸⁶ To help with refugee relief caused by violent extremism, the UNHCR has implemented its Comprehensive Refugee

¹⁷⁴ “Aid as a Weapon of War in Sudan. Akshay Kumar. Enough Project. <https://enoughproject.org/files/AIDasWEAPON-brief.pdf>

¹⁷⁵ “Sudan Statement: Enhancing Global Action to Prevent Violent Extremism Including Through Involving the Youth and Preventing Terrorists from Using New Technologies and the Internet.” H.E. Galaleldin Elsheikh Eltayeb Elahmer. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism.ctitf/files/S3-Sudan.pdf>

¹⁷⁶ “Sudan Statement: Enhancing Global Action to Prevent Violent Extremism Including Through Involving the Youth and Preventing Terrorists from Using New Technologies and the Internet.” H.E. Galaleldin Elsheikh Eltayeb Elahmer. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism.ctitf/files/S3-Sudan.pdf>

¹⁷⁷ “Armed Violence Reduction Project.” United Nations Development Programme. UNDP. <http://www.ke.undp.org/content/kenya/en/home/operations/projects/peacebuilding/armed-violence-reduction-project--avrp-.html> (Accessed November 30, 2018)

¹⁷⁸ “The Impact of Radicalisation/Violent Extremism on Poverty and Development Outcomes.” Governance and Social Development Resource Centre. <http://gsdrc.org/docs/open/hd671.pdf> (Accessed December 1, 2018)

¹⁷⁹ “Armed Violence Reduction and Strengthening Community Security (AVRSCS) Project.” United Nations Development Programme. United Nations. http://www.np.undp.org/content/dam/nepal/docs/projects/undp_np_avrscs_project_brochure_english.pdf (Accessed December 1, 2018).

¹⁸⁰ “Armed Violence Reduction and Strengthening Community Security (AVRSCS) Project.” United Nations Development Programme. United Nations. http://www.np.undp.org/content/dam/nepal/docs/projects/undp_np_avrscs_project_brochure_english.pdf (Accessed December 1, 2018)

¹⁸¹ “Global Tends: Forced Displacement in 2017.” United Nations Refugee Agency. United Nations. <https://www.unhcr.org/5b27be547.pdf> (Accessed December 3, 2018)

¹⁸² “Global Tends: Forced Displacement in 2017.” United Nations Refugee Agency. United Nations. <https://www.unhcr.org/5b27be547.pdf> (Accessed December 3, 2018)

¹⁸³ “Global Tends: Forced Displacement in 2017.” United Nations Refugee Agency. United Nations. <https://www.unhcr.org/5b27be547.pdf> (Accessed December 3, 2018)

¹⁸⁴ “Global Tends: Forced Displacement in 2017.” United Nations Refugee Agency. United Nations. <https://www.unhcr.org/5b27be547.pdf> (Accessed December 3, 2018)

¹⁸⁵ “Global Tends: Forced Displacement in 2017.” United Nations Refugee Agency. United Nations. <https://www.unhcr.org/5b27be547.pdf> (Accessed December 3, 2018)

¹⁸⁶ “Global Tends: Forced Displacement in 2017.” United Nations Refugee Agency. United Nations. <https://www.unhcr.org/5b27be547.pdf> (Accessed December 3, 2018)

Response Framework to help rebuild displaced communities and enable refugees with the tools to contribute to sustainable development.¹⁸⁷ This has resulted in 102,800 resettled refugees in the year 2017.¹⁸⁸

However, even with these advancements, international statistics continually indicate increases in instances of violent extremism.¹⁸⁹ Research shows that globally, more than 740,000 people die as a result of armed conflicts every year.¹⁹¹ In 2016, there were an estimated 370,000 deaths related to violent extremism.¹⁹³ Despite a decrease in battle-ground deaths since the turn of the century, the world is experiencing a 25-year peak in violence.¹⁹⁴ These same statistics show that if the trend towards violent extremism increases or remains unchecked, by the year 2030 the total number of violent deaths could increase by 50 percent.¹⁹⁵ Furthermore, 23 additional Member States have been added to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development's (OECD) annual report as part of their Fragility Framework.¹⁹⁶ The Fragility framework measures an area's susceptibility to fragility based on contexts such as, but not limited to political stability, socio-economic sustainability, and food and water security.¹⁹⁷ Member States, such as the United States of America, have created task forces for countering violent extremism through its Global Fragility and Violence Reduction Act.¹⁹⁸ Few results have been seen as of yet with these taskforces and newly formed programs. Violent extremism can be directly correlated to the increasing number of internationally displaced peoples, the growing number of Member States with infrastructure instability, and the lack of policy to handle the crisis.¹⁹⁹

Conclusion

The UN is committed to addressing the rise of violent extremist acts through a multi-pronged strategy and has done much to implement this strategy in areas such as those mentioned above. The first aspect of this strategy is dialogue and conflict prevention.²⁰⁰ In Resolution S/2015/730, the Security Council encouraged increasing efforts of

¹⁸⁷ "Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2017." United Nations Refugee Agency. United Nations. <https://www.unhcr.org/5b27be547.pdf> (Accessed December 3, 2018)

¹⁸⁸ "Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2017." United Nations Refugee Agency. United Nations. <https://www.unhcr.org/5b27be547.pdf> (Accessed December 3, 2018)

¹⁸⁹ "Global Violent Deaths 2017: Time to Decide. Claire Mc Evoy and Gergely Hideg. Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/U-Reports/SAS-Report-GVD2017.pdf> (Accessed December 2, 2018)

¹⁹⁰ "Armed Violence Threatens Progress on Millennium Development Goals." United Nations Development Program. UNDP. <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2010/05/11/armed-violence-threatens-progress-on-millennium-development-goals.html> (Accessed December 1, 2018)

¹⁹¹ "Armed Violence Threatens Progress on Millennium Development Goals." United Nations Development Program. UNDP. <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/presscenter/pressreleases/2010/05/11/armed-violence-threatens-progress-on-millennium-development-goals.html> (Accessed December 1, 2018)

¹⁹² "Global Violent Deaths 2017: Time to Decide. Claire Mc Evoy and Gergely Hideg. Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/U-Reports/SAS-Report-GVD2017.pdf> (Accessed December 2, 2018)

¹⁹³ "Global Violent Deaths 2017: Time to Decide. Claire Mc Evoy and Gergely Hideg. Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/U-Reports/SAS-Report-GVD2017.pdf> (Accessed December 2, 2018)

¹⁹⁴ "Global Violent Deaths 2017: Time to Decide. Claire Mc Evoy and Gergely Hideg. Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/U-Reports/SAS-Report-GVD2017.pdf> (Accessed December 2, 2018)

¹⁹⁵ "Global Violent Deaths 2017: Time to Decide. Claire Mc Evoy and Gergely Hideg. Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/U-Reports/SAS-Report-GVD2017.pdf> (Accessed December 2, 2018)

¹⁹⁶ "States of Fragility 2018." Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. <https://www.oecd.org/dac/states-of-fragility-2018-9789264302075-en.htm> (Accessed December 2, 2018)

¹⁹⁷ "States of Fragility 2018." Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. <https://www.oecd.org/dac/states-of-fragility-2018-9789264302075-en.htm> (Accessed December 2, 2018)

¹⁹⁸ "Countering Violent Extremism Task Force." United States office of Homeland Security. <https://www.dhs.gov/cve> (Accessed December 2, 2018)

¹⁹⁹ "Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2017." United Nations Refugee Agency. United Nations. <https://www.unhcr.org/5b27be547.pdf> (Accessed December 3, 2018)

²⁰⁰ Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism." United Nations. https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism.ctitf/files/plan_action.pdf

sustained dialogue between warring parties in areas of unresolved conflict while also starting dialogues in at-risk regions to prevent violent extremism without the use of military task forces.²⁰¹²⁰²The second of these strategies is through the empowerment of youth and women.²⁰³ For the empowerment of youth, there are currently no specific Resolutions, while the empowerment of women has been addressed in Security Council Resolution 2242 and in S/2015/716.²⁰⁴

Other strategies to explore include engaging communities to stem the flow of sympathizers as support.²⁰⁵ Engaging communities comes through multiple programs launched by different organs of the UN. The United Nations Development Program (UNDP), in conjunction with DISEC and the Counter-Terrorism Taskforce has made great strides in building upon community programs such as the Saemaul Initiative, which focuses on creating sustainable communities at a local level.²⁰⁶ The Saemaul Initiative is also part of the South-South program of triangular cooperation.²⁰⁷

However, even as cooperation grows, there are dilemmas of the past to consider. Historically, the UN has put blanket policies in place that do not tailor themselves to the needs of the specific regions. Furthermore, DISEC has focused on collaboration of the issue of violent extremism.²⁰⁸ These collaborations have allowed other committees to create programs and policies to address violent extremism, while DISEC continues to put forth resolutions with a different focus.²⁰⁹ Historically, DISEC has focused frameworks on dealing with terrorism, and not violent extremism as a whole.²¹⁰ As part of the PVE, DISEC has recommended that each Member State create their own national plan of action, that focuses on the local drivers of that Member State, rather than an overarching policy.²¹¹ The PVE has also recommended collaboration between regional Member States who might share ideologies, and drivers.²¹² Building upon the PVE in conjunction with the SDG's will be the main focus of DISEC moving forward.

Committee Directive

As DISEC moves forward, our main objectives should revolve around mitigating the circumstances where violent extremism is likely to occur, as well as building upon successful global initiatives, and innovating outdated international policies. As outlined by Goal 16 of the SDG's, violent occurrences are not limited to acts of terror,

²⁰¹ "Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism." United Nations.

https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism.ctitf/files/plan_action.pdf

²⁰² "S/2015/730: Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations and conflict prevention: a collective recommitment." The United Nations Security Council. United Nations. https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7b65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7d/s_2015_730.pdf

²⁰³ "S/2015/730: Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations and conflict prevention: a collective recommitment." The United Nations Security Council. United Nations. https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7b65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7d/s_2015_730.pdf

²⁰⁴ "Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism." United Nations.

https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism.ctitf/files/plan_action.pdf

²⁰⁵ "Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism." United Nations.

https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism.ctitf/files/plan_action.pdf

²⁰⁶ "Initiative towards inclusive and sustainable new communities." United Nations Development Programme. United Nations. <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/programmes-and-initiatives/initiative-towards-inclusive-and-sustainable-new-communities0.html>

²⁰⁷ "Initiative towards inclusive and sustainable new communities." United Nations Development Programme. United Nations. <http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/programmes-and-initiatives/initiative-towards-inclusive-and-sustainable-new-communities0.html>

²⁰⁸ "Disarmament and International Security (First Committee)." General Assembly of the United Nations.

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/> (accessed October 8 2018).

²⁰⁹ "Disarmament and International Security (First Committee)." General Assembly of the United Nations.

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/> (accessed October 8 2018).

²¹⁰ "Disarmament and International Security (First Committee)." General Assembly of the United Nations.

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/> (accessed October 8 2018).

²¹¹ "Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism." United Nations.

https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism.ctitf/files/plan_action.pdf

²¹² "Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism." United Nations.

https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism.ctitf/files/plan_action.pdf

and therefore our approaches must become more comprehensive.²¹³ It is essential that all Member States recognize the multiple dimensions of the issue of violent extremism. Only when all areas of the issue are addressed can true peace and prosperity occur.

Delegates should keep in mind that while the challenges of preventing violent extremism by non-state actors is a global issue, there are critical needs in each region that require solutions tailored to their needs instead of generalized ones. Delegates should ask themselves which drivers affect each region, and what resources the UN can provide to counteract such drivers. Also, delegates should keep in mind the SDG's, as they play a vital role in the prevention of violent extremism through program and infrastructure development. Pay particular attention to SDG's: 5, 9, 10, 16, and 17: gender equality; industry, innovation and infrastructure; reduced inequalities; peace, justice, and strong institutions; and partnerships for the goals.

Instead of creating new organs, delegates should ask themselves first what programs are in places that they can build upon, and what systems are outdated. Furthermore, delegates should focus on methods of preventing violent extremism that keep in mind the ideas of unity, while also respecting the sovereignty of Member States, and protect human rights. Very little policy has been made by DISEC specifically regarding preventing violent extremism.²¹⁴ Most policy has been made by other UN organs – such as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). and United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). This gives delegates an opportunity to create something new and innovative. Delegates should focus on capacity-building programs that enhance the capacities of different regions in regards to infrastructure and institutional development to prevent violent extremism.²¹⁵

²¹³ “Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.” United Nations.

https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism.ctitf/files/plan_action.pdf

²¹⁴ “Disarmament and International Security (First Committee).” General Assembly of the United Nations.

<http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/> (accessed October 8 2018).

²¹⁵ Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism.” United Nations.

https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism.ctitf/files/plan_action.pdf (accessed 8 October 2018)

Annotated Bibliography

I. Utilizing Advancements in Technology to Improve Global Security

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. *Technology and Innovation Report 2018: Harnessing Frontier Technologies for Sustainable Development*. Accessed December 19, 2018.

https://unctad.org/en/PublicationsLibrary/tir2018_en.pdf

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) post a technology and innovation report annually. This report details how these things can help promote development sustainably in Member States around the global. Some of the key areas UNCTAD focuses on are frontier and advancing technologies, economic and societal challenges, inequality in technological capability across Member States, and policy coherence.

Cision PR Newswire. *Global Security Industry Outlook 2019: Global Political Tensions, Terrorism Threats, and Digital Transformation Threats Based on IoT and Artificial Intelligence*. October 25, 2018. Accessed December 19, 2018.

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/global-security-industry-outlook-2019-global-political-tensions-terrorism-threat-and-digital-transformation-threats-based-on-iot-and-artificial-intelligence-300738065.html>

This site gives an overview of a study completed by Research and Markets. The study is based on all industries related to security and is forced on a global scope. Some of the main highlights of the study is information about “artificial intelligence, Internet of Things, and Blockchain technologies in security operation” as well as key factors of growth in the security industry.

Institute for Global Future. *The Top Ten Trends in the Future of Security*. Accessed December 19, 2018.

<https://www.globalfuturist.com/about-igf/top-ten-trends/trends-in-security.html>

This website gives many different examples on where Security as a whole is heading. It provides possible areas of growth in security threats, as well as areas of growth of how to combat said security threats. These are things to be aware of as you address technologies that can affect them.

Duffield, Mark, and Antonio Donini. *Global Governance and the New Wars The Merging of Development and Security*. London: Zed Books, 2014.

This book gives a detailed accounting of how technology has evolved and been utilized in war globally since the Cold War. It also analyzes how technology has been used by NGOs to help with global security. It is a good source for delegates looking to understand the relationship between NGOs and technology in conjunction with global security.

Kay, Sean. *Global Security in the Twenty-first Century: The Quest for Power and the Search for Peace*. 3rd ed. Place of Publication: Not Identified: Rowman & Littlefield, 2015.

This book is a great resource for delegates who want to look at the history of global security, and how key Member States have traditionally dealt with issues of security and sovereignty. It also explores explosive areas of technology. as The book further explores different ways technology has been used to promote peace as well as dismantle peace.

II. Preventing Violent Extremism by Non-State Actors

Gambetta, Diego, and Steffen Hertog. *Engineers of Jihad the Curious Connection between Violent Extremism and Education*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2018.

This book describes the origins of violent extremism, and what drives it. It specifically focuses on Islamic extremists – their origins, the difference between secular and religious militants, and how education correlates to extremism. The book is relatively short, at only about 160 pages of content. It provides historical insight of extremism in priority regions, and the shortcomings of international policy to combat extremism. It also discusses various mindsets that lead to extremist behaviors where there formerly were none.

De Silva, Samantha. *Role of Education in the Prevention of Violent Extremism*. Washington, D.C. World Bank Group, 2017. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/448221510079762554/120997-WP-revised-PUBLIC-Role-of-Education-in-Prevention-of-Violence-Extremism-Final.pdf>

This working paper provides insight into how the World Bank Group (WBG) has been called upon to create programs to combat violent extremism. It discusses the importance of understanding violent extremism and all that it entails. Also, it discusses the WBG's commitment to improving upon programs already in place in conjunction with Member States and other NSAs. It discusses how violent extremism has evolved, and how tools such as education can be used for countering violent extremism. The paper will provide delegates with further information on programs already in place that could be adapted and expanded up to prevent violent extremism.

United Nations Security Council, *Resolution 2354*, May 2017. <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/2354>

This resolution from the UN Security Council highlights the importance of addressing violent extremism and the responsibility each Member State has to countering terrorist narratives. This document provides delegates with useful information about past actions the UN has taken on this topic. It emphasizes what the UN needs to accomplish in the future as an international body, and what Member States should commit to, so that the world no longer has societies and infrastructure conducive to terrorist and extremist bodies.

United Nations General Assembly, *Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism*, December 2015. http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/674

This document is the foundation of all the United Nations has done and plans to do when addressing the topic of violent extremism. It addresses the drivers of violent extremism, the process of radicalization, and the impact violent extremism has on peace and security, human rights and the rule of law, sustainable development, and humanitarian actions. It highlights how lack of accountability in conflict areas contributes to an increase in violent extremist acts committed by VNSAs. Furthermore, it outlines plans and structures that can be followed by Member States to reduce conflict. This document is the cornerstone that delegates should use to formulate future actions.

Challgren, Jonathan, Ted Kenyon, Lauren Kervick, Sally Scudder, Micah Walters, Kate Whitehead, Jeffrey Connor, and Carol Rollie Flynn. *Countering Violent Extremism: Applying the Public Health Model*. Report. Edited by Robert Morgan Byrne-Diakun. School For Foreign Service, Georgetown University. Washington DC: Georgetown Security Studies Review, 2018. 1-38. <https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/NSCITF%20CVE%20Report.pdf>

This report discusses a framework created by the National Security Critical Issues Task Forces (NSCITF) to better prevent violent extremism. It specifically addresses the utilization of the public health model to prevent violent extremism, which employs strategies using a “primary, secondary, and tertiary” approach. This approach breaks down preventing and countering violent extremism at three levels – society as a whole, individuals or groups that are identified as at-risk, and individuals or groups that are already radicalized. This report can serve as an important resource for delegates seeking a better understanding of how to address the topic of violent extremism through both a holistic and a targeted approach.

Borum, Randy. "Radicalization into Violent Extremism I: A Review of Social Science Theories." *Journal of Strategic Security* 4, no. 4 (2012). 7-36. <http://scholarcommons.usf.edu/jss/vol4/iss4/2>

This article discusses problems when defining radicalization and terrorism as having a single cause. It further explores theories and frameworks for understanding the radical behavior of behavior related to violent extremism and terrorism. This resource will facilitate delegates in understanding how radicalization evolves into violent extremism and drivers of extremism.