





D I S E C

**DISARMAMENT INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE**

Dear delegates,

on behalf of the Disarmament International Security Council Committee, it is my pleasure to welcome you to FOSCAMUN 2019.

My name is Nicolò Giuntoli, and I will be your President; I will be assisted by Claudia Poggi, our Moderator, and Carolina Epifani, our Vice-President.

In this committee, we will explore and analyze two complex issues that might affect global security and military politics for the next years and decades.

The two topics that will be under discussion in the DISEC committee are:

- A) Identifying the different protagonists in the Yemeni crisis and finding strategies for interrupting the humanitarian crisis;*
- B) Limiting the development and deployment of nuclear weapons.*

Acting as the FOSCAMUN 2019 DISEC committee, we long to reach the best solutions for these serious topics that are going to affect the International Community in a short while.

I hope this Chair will let you all live this Foscamun the best and make you enjoy this wonderful experience.

I thank you all for your participation.

ABOUT THE DISEC COMMITTEE

Also known as First Committee, Security Council, Disc and Disec, The Disarmament and International Security Council is one of the General Assembly's six main committees and the only one entitled to verbatim records coverage.

Disec was created in 1945, when the United Nations was founded. The founding members were France, the United States, the Republic of China, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union and they are permanent members of the committee and have maintained a power of veto (P5); There are also other 10 non-permanent member states in the committee that have a two-year term and are elected by the General Assembly.

Until 1978 it was called Political and Security Committee, but it became clear that a single committee would be overwhelmed by the sheer range of topics, it was then decided that it should focus on disarmament. During the Cold War, the committee played an important role in the maintenance of a balance between USA and USSR.

Nowadays DISEC is concerned with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime.

The committee now cooperates with the UNSC and Conference on Disarmament, but it only has powers of suggestion, which means that it suggests and prompts nations to abide by certain action plans, and can make requests to the United Nations, but it does not have the jurisdiction to enforce these plans.

**TOPIC A: IDENTIFYING THE PROTAGONISTS OF THE YEMENI
CRISIS AND FINDING STRATEGIES FOR INTERRUPTING THIS
HUMANITARIAN CATASTROPHE**

The ongoing Yemeni crisis involves conflicts such as the Al-Qaeda Insurgency started in 1998, a South Yemen Insurgency started in 2009, the crisis started in 2011, the Yemeni Civil War started in 2015, and the Saudi-Yemen conflict started in 2015.

Since uprisings in Yemen broke out in early 2011, the United Nations has been engaged, through the good offices of the Secretary-General, in helping Yemenis to find a peaceful solution.

The conflict has its roots in the failure of a political transition supposed to bring stability to Yemen following an Arab Spring uprising that forced its longtime authoritarian president, Ali Abdullah Saleh, to hand over power to his deputy Abdrabbuh Mansour Hadi, in 2011. President Hadi struggled to deal with a variety of problems, including attacks by al-Qaeda, a separatist movement in the south, the continuing loyalty of many military officers to Mr Saleh, as well as corruption, unemployment and food insecurity.

Fighting began in 2014 when the Houthi Shia Muslim rebel movement took advantage of the new president's weakness and seized control of northern Saada province and neighbouring areas. The Houthis went on to take the capital Sanaa, forcing Mr Hadi into exile abroad. The conflict escalated dramatically in March 2015, when Saudi Arabia and eight other mostly Sunni Arab states - backed by the US, UK, and France - began air strikes against the Houthis, with the declared aim of restoring Mr Hadi's government.

The Saudi-led coalition feared that continued success of the Houthis would give their rival regional power and Shia-majority state, Iran, a foothold in Yemen, Saudi Arabia's southern neighbour. Saudi Arabia says Iran is backing the Houthis with weapons and logistical support - a charge Iran denies.

Both sides have since been beset by infighting. The Houthis broke with Saleh and he was killed by Houthi fighters in December 2017. On the anti-Houthi side, militias include separatists seeking independence for south Yemen and factions who oppose the idea.

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In June 2018, Saudi-backed government forces began an assault on the key rebel-held port of Hudaydah, the entry point for the vast majority of aid going into Yemen and a lifeline for the starving. Aid agencies warned the offensive could make Yemen's humanitarian catastrophe much worse.

In fact, after about seven years of escalating conflict, the Yemeni people continue to bear the brunt of ongoing hostilities and severe economic decline. An alarming 24 million people in Yemen, 80% of the population, need some kind of humanitarian or protection assistance, an estimated 17.8 million are food insecure, nearly 10 million people are severely food insecure and at risk of starvation, 16 million lack access to safe water and sanitation, and 16.4 million lack access to adequate healthcare. Needs across the country have increased steadily, with 11.3 million who are in acute need, of humanitarian assistance to survive. More than 3.3 million have been displaced, 600 in the last 12 months.

A severe cholera epidemic began in Yemen during the civil war. In July 2017, the United Nations Humanitarian Relief coordinator Mark Lowcock said that over 320,000 cases had been reported. He also blamed the epidemic on the war and on international forces supporting the combatants. As of October 2017, it was already described as the worst cholera outbreak in recorded history, with over 800,000 cases.

The complex nature of the Yemeni conflict and the decisive role of foreign actors in the initiation and continuation of the military phase of the crisis make it possible to define the situation as a specific form of hybrid warfare. The course taken by the United States under the Trump administration towards escalating the conflict is hampering the peace process in Yemen and undermining the region's security, including by creating additional risks to Saudi Arabia and aggravating the situation within the GCC.

The combination of conventional and irregular methods of warfare (hybrid warfare) is not new and has been used throughout history, one of the most often quoted examples of a hybrid war is the 2006 conflict between Israel and the Hezbollah, but it is not the only one: the current Yemeni crisis is considered another example of hybrid warfare.

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Hybrid warfare is a military strategy that employs political warfare and blends conventional warfare, irregular warfare and cyber warfare with other influencing methods, such as fake news, diplomacy, lawfare and foreign electoral intervention. So hybrid warfare can be described as the synchronized use of multiple instruments of power tailored to specific vulnerabilities across the full spectrum of societal functions to achieve synergistic effects.

USEFUL QUESTIONS

- Is your country involved in this conflict? How?
- How can your country help this conflict to stop?
- What kind of “instruments of power” are used and how are they synchronised in this hybrid conflict?
- With which countries could your country cooperate to find a solution?
- What kind of strategy can be used to end this crisis?

USEFUL WEBSITES

- <https://www.criticalthreats.org/analysis/warning-update-irans-hybrid-warfare-in-yemen>
- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/647776/dar_mcdc_hybrid_warfare.pdf
- <https://www.hybridcoe.fi/hybrid-threats-what-are-we-talking-about/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hybrid_warfare#History
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yemeni_Crisis_\(2011%E2%80%93present\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yemeni_Crisis_(2011%E2%80%93present))
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-29319423>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yemeni_Civil_War_\(2015%E2%80%93present\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yemeni_Civil_War_(2015%E2%80%93present))
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Al-Qaeda_insurgency_in_Yemen
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Yemen_insurgency
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saudi%E2%80%93Yemeni_border_conflict_\(2015%E2%80%93present\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saudi%E2%80%93Yemeni_border_conflict_(2015%E2%80%93present))
- <https://news.un.org/en/focus/yemen>
- <https://unocha.exposure.co/eleven-facts-about-the-yemen-crisis>

- <http://russiancouncil.ru/papers/Yemen-Policybrief14-en.pdf>

TOPIC B: LIMITING THE DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Nowadays, people do not think much about nuclear weapons, disarmament and the consequences of the use of nuclear weapons. Despite this, nuclear weapons are still the most dangerous and catastrophic weapons ever created: just one nuclear explosion could destroy an entire city, causing an unthinkable number of deaths and seriously contaminating and compromising the natural environment and the lives of future generations across vast areas of the planet. Only two nuclear weapons have ever been detonated in warfare (Hiroshima and Nagasaki, 1945, during World War II), however, over 2,000 nuclear tests have been conducted to date and the nuclear arsenals of major powers have since been increased enormously. Even though widespread nuclear disarmament would be the best option for humanity, it is clear that the governments of nuclear powers and the international community in general are at odds over this option.

Despite the clear consequences of nuclear weapons, still nowadays many countries are debating about the importance of these for the security of their own country. Indeed, the nuclear-weapon States, such as France, United Kingdom and Democratic People's Republic of Korea, continue defending Deterrence Policy as an essential part of national security.

The year after the terrible explosions that destroyed Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the UN General Assembly adopted its first resolution, establishing a principle objective to control atomic energy to the extent necessary to ensure its use for peaceful purposes only and to reach “the elimination from national armaments of atomic weapons and of all other major weapons adaptable to mass destruction.”

Since then, other rules have been established in order not only to tackle nuclear proliferation and testing, but also promoting the adoption of nuclear disarmament in all countries. These include the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), aimed at promoting the use of nuclear energy only for peaceful purposes and avoiding the spread of nuclear weapons and in general to strive for nuclear disarmament. However, the NPT exempted five

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de jure Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) (France, the People's Republic of China, the Soviet Union (subsequently the Russian Federation), the United Kingdom and the United States) from this ban because they had tested nuclear weapons before the treaty was negotiated in 1968.

Three other states (India, Israel and Pakistan) subsequently developed nuclear armaments but never joined the NPT despite possessing nuclear weapons. North Korea also possesses nuclear weapons, it was previously a member of the NPT but withdrew in 2003, it has since tested nuclear devices multiple times since 2006 despite international opposition and the imposition of sanctions.

Another important agreement is the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW); this agreement includes a set of prohibitions on participating in any nuclear weapon activities. This Treaty is significant because it is the first international treaty that prohibits nuclear weapons exhaustively and, although no nuclear armed state has signed the treaty, its passage is a significant development in disarmament politics.

New disagreements continue to arise on this issue. Last October the president of the United States of America, Donald Trump, warned that the US would bolster its nuclear arsenal to put pressure on the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China. Indeed, president Donald Trump claims that the Russian Federation has violated the Intermediate-Range of Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty, and has repeatedly threatened that the US will withdraw from the Treaty. The INF treaty, which bans both nuclear and conventional ground-launched medium-range missiles with a range of between 500 and 5,500 km, was signed by President Ronald Reagan and the last Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, in the final years of the Cold War. Knowing the importance of this treaty, especially with regards to European security, European leaders have supported the president of the United States in asking the Russian government to be more transparent about its new missiles and capabilities. However, a spokeswoman for EU foreign policy issued the following statement:

“The INF contributed to the end of the cold war and constitutes a pillar of European security architecture since it entered into force 30 years ago, Thanks to the INF treaty, almost 3,000 missiles with nuclear and conventional warheads have been removed

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and verifiably destroyed, The world does not need a new arms race that would benefit no one and on the contrary would bring even more instability.”

USEFUL QUESTIONS

- What is the political trend in your country related to this topic?
- Does your country possess nuclear weapons?
- Is your country’s geographic position put it in particular risk?
- What nuclear armed countries is your country allied with?
- Has your country already signed any treaty regarding this issue?
- What countries is your country collaborating with?

USEFUL WEBSITES

- <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/>
- <http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/npt>
- <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/tpnw/>
- <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt/>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nuclear_disarmament
- <https://www.nti.org/analysis/reports/nuclear-disarmament/>
- <http://www.atomicarchive.com/Effects/index.shtml>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2006/dec/12/nuclearindustry.climatechange>
- <https://cnduk.org/the-effects-of-nuclear-weapons/>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-45946930>
- <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/oct/22/eu-us-nuclear-arms-race-inf-treaty-bolton-moscow>
- <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/gadis3582.doc.htm>
- https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deterrence_theory#Nuclear_weapons_and_deterrence