



# AIMUN2026

Alleyne's Model United Nations International Conference

January 30<sup>th</sup> – February 1<sup>st</sup>

ALLEYNE'S

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

# Guide for Delegates



# COBIS

Council of British International Schools

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# Conference Schedule

Day 1 (Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> January)	Time	Location
Reception and Registration	17:00-17:30	EAB Atrium
Opening Ceremony and Keynote Speech	17:30-19:00	MCT / Speaker and Title TBC
Drinks and Canapés	19:00-19:50	EAB Atrium
Diplomatic Dinner	20:00-21:30	Dining Hall

Day 2 (Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> February)	Time	Location
Delegate Registration and Morning Refreshments	8:30-9:00	EAB Atrium
Committee Sessions	9:00-10:30	Committee rooms
Refreshment Break	10:30-11:00	EAB Atrium
Committee Sessions	11:00-12:30	Committee rooms
Lunch (Staggered)	12.30-13:30	Dining Hall
Committee Sessions	13:30-15:30	Committee rooms
Afternoon tea	15:30-16:00	EAB Atrium
Delegate Break	16:00-19:30	Hotel Return or Optional Enrichment at School
Buffet dinner	19:30-20:15	Dining Hall
Disco – Masquerade Ball	20:15 – 21:45	Junior School Hall

Day 3 (Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> February)	Time	Location
Delegate Registration & Morning Refreshments	8:45-9:00	EAB Atrium
Committee Sessions	9:00-10:30	Committee rooms
Refreshment Break	10:30-11:00	EAB Atrium
Closing Committee Sessions	11:00-12:00	Committee rooms
Lunch (Staggered)	12:00-12:30	Dining Hall
General Assembly	12:30-14:00	MCT
Closing Ceremony	14:00 – 14:30	MCT

## Dress Code

All delegates should wear smart clothing, suitable for a job interview.

All delegates should wear a collared blazer.

Delegates should not wear denim.

Theme for disco and dress code is Masquerade Ball.

## What is Model United Nations?

Model United Nations is a simulation of the real United Nations, where you represent a country as a delegate in one of the United Nations bodies. The purpose of each committee is to agree on a resolution that will help to solve a given issue.

You will need to strike a balance between representing your own country's national interests and compromising with other delegates so that a resolution may be passed. Sometimes, preserving your relationships with international allies may conflict with your own interests.

The preamble of the UN charter sets out the purpose of the United Nations, which we aim to emulate:

*We the Peoples of the United Nations determined to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war, which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind, and to reaffirm faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth*

*of the human person, in the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, and to establish conditions under which justice and respect for the obligations arising from treaties and other sources of international law can be maintained, and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,*

*And for these ends to practice tolerance and live together in peace with one another as good neighbours, and to unite our strength to maintain international peace and security, and to ensure, by the acceptance of principles and the institution of methods, that armed force shall not be used, save in the common interest, and to employ international machinery for the promotion of the economic and social advancement of all peoples, have resolved to combine our efforts to accomplish these aims.*

## Your Country

Researching your country's policies and positions on key issues, especially the ones discussed in your committee, is essential to get the most out of any MUN (Model United Nations) conference. You need to look for policies that your country has implemented on the topic and any statements they have made. It is also important to have good background knowledge of your country, which may be helpful in the General Assembly. Bringing a factsheet with you, with all the key information about your country, to the conference could be quite useful.

## Public Speaking

In Model United Nations, it is important to remember that delegates should always refer to themselves and other delegates in the third person.

How well you deliver your speech will have a significant effect on how it is received by the committee. It is a good idea to write down a few bullet points of what you want to talk about beforehand; however, writing too much might make your speech sound rehearsed. You also want to be looking at the delegates and chair you are talking to as you deliver your speech, rather than a piece of paper. Public speaking is a skill that you improve and develop at Model United Nations so do not feel too nervous the first time you speak to the committee.

## Parliamentary Procedure

The method for how the committee proceeds through a debate. It can seem quite daunting if you have not come across it before, but once you understand all the phrases, it begins to make a bit more sense.

Debate on a resolution is split into time for and against. The first speaker is always the submitter of the resolution, who reads out the operative clauses of the resolution and then make a speech in favour of it. The chair may ask for the delegate to quickly finish their speech if they are seen to be taking too long.

## Yielding

At the end of a speech, the speaker may choose to yield to the chair or to another delegate. If the speaker yields to the chair, the chair will ask if any other delegates wish to speak for or against the amendment or resolution. Yield chains at AMUN will be limited to 1 – 2 – 3 – chair.

## Motions and Points from the Floor

During debate, delegates may use several different points and motions. Here is a list of those most used:

### Point of Personal Privilege

This is the only time a delegate can interrupt another delegate or the chair. It is typically used if you cannot hear the delegate or chair speaking.

### Point of Order

If a delegate makes a mistake or says something they should not have (e.g., something slanderous), a point of order can be made. It is especially important not to interrupt a delegate when they are speaking and instead wait for a natural pause.

### Point of Information

If a delegate decides to open themselves up to points of information after a speech, other delegates can ask questions directly to the delegate. The point of information must be about the topic of debate and must be phrased as a question.

### Motion to Pass as a Friendly Amendment

This can be used if a delegate thinks that everyone agrees with the amendment being debated and that any further debate would be a waste of time. However, any other delegate can object to the motion, in which case debate will carry on as normal.

### Motion to Move to Voting Procedure

This motion is used when a delegate believes that any further debate will be fruitless and will not change the outcome of the committee's vote.

### Motion to Split the House

This motion can be used when there are enough abstentions that a different result of a vote could have occurred if they had voted. The vote will be re-done without abstentions.

# Resolutions

A resolution is a document containing the solution proposed by a country (or countries) to the issue being debated by the committee. Writing a resolution is the one of the best ways to get involved in the debate, as, if your resolution is chosen, you will have to explain and potentially defend it from questions by other delegates.

If you would like to get the most out of Model UN, then it is highly advisable that you get involved in resolution writing. However, writing a resolution can seem intimidating if you have not done it before. To help with this, here is some advice for writing each part of a resolution:

## Headings

The heading is made up four parts: the name of the committee (e.g. Human Rights Council or SPECPOL); the sponsors (the authors, in most cases only your country); the signatories (the delegates who want the resolution to be debated, lobbied for on the day); and the topic title.

## Pre-Ambulatory Clauses

The pre-ambulatory clauses state the issues the committee wants to resolve and mention previous work the United Nations and countries independently have done to resolve the issue. This can be done by referencing previous UN resolutions or even the UN charter. Pre-ambulatory clauses should be separated by commas and begin with an italicised verb. The most common are:

Affirming	Expressing satisfaction	Noting with deep concern
Alarmed by	Fulfilling	Noting with satisfaction
Approving	Fully alarmed	Noting further
Aware of	Fully aware	Nothing with approval
Bearing in mind	Fully believing	Observing
Believing	Further deploring	Reaffirming
Confident	Further recalling	Realising
Contemplating	Guided by	Recalling
Convinced	Having adopted	Recognising
Declaring	Having considered	Referring
Deeply concerned	Having considered further	Seeking
Deeply conscious	Having devoted attention	Taking into account
Deeply convinced	Having examined	Taking into consideration
Deeply disturbed	Having heard	Taking note
Deeply regretting	Having received	Viewing with appreciation
Desiring	Having studied	Welcoming
Emphasising	Keeping in mind	
Expecting	Noting with regret	
Expecting appreciation		

## Operative Clauses

The operative clauses form the main body of the resolution. They state the solutions proposed to resolve the issues debated and how the delegates would implement the solutions. Generally, the more detailed an operative clause is, the easier it is to convince other delegates of why it is the correct solution. However, the more you write, the more there is to criticise by other delegates who may be opposed to your resolution no matter how well written it is. Operative clauses are numbered and underlined. They are also separated by a semi-colon and end in a full stop. Operative clauses tend to begin with:



Accepts	Endorses	Further requests
Affirms	Expresses its appreciation	Further resolves
Approves	Expresses its hope	Has resolved
Authorises	Further invites	Notes
Calls	Deplores	Proclaims
Calls upon	Designates	Reaffirms
Condemns	Draws the attention	Recommends
Confirms	Emphasises	Regrets
Congratulates	Encourages	Reminds
Considers	Endorses	Requests
Declares accordingly	Expresses its appreciation	Solemnly affirms
Deplores	Expresses its hope	Strongly condemns
Designates	Further invites	Supports
Draws attention	Further proclaims	Takes note of
Emphasises	Further reminds	Transmits
Encourages	Further recommends	Trusts

**Note that in most MUN conferences, including AIMUN, the UN is assumed to have unlimited funding within reason, so that discussion on the viability of funding does not dominate a debate.**

# Example Resolution

## Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee

Sponsor: United States

Signatories: [This should be empty before lobbying on the day of the conference]

Topic: Strengthening UN Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance in Complex Emergencies

*Reminding* all nations of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which recognises the inherent dignity, equality, and inalienable rights of all global citizens, [Use commas to separate pre-ambulatory clauses]

*Reaffirming* its Resolution 33/1996 of 25th July 1996, which encourages governments to work with UN bodies aimed at improving the coordination and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance,

*Noting* with satisfaction the past efforts of various relevant UN bodies and non-governmental organisations,

*Stressing* the fact that the United Nations faces significant financial obstacles and is in need of reform, particularly in the humanitarian realm,

1. Encourages all relevant UN agencies to collaborate more closely with countries at the grassroots level to enhance the carrying out of relief efforts; [Use semicolons to separate operative clauses]
2. Urges member states to comply with the goals of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs to streamline efforts of humanitarian aid;
3. Requests that all nations develop rapid deployment forces to better enhance the coordination of relief efforts of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies;
4. Calls for the development of a UN Trust Fund that encourages voluntary donations from the private transnational sector to aid in funding the implementation of rapid deployment forces;
5. Stresses the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic, and social situations and events of all countries;
6. Calls upon states to respond quickly and generously to consolidated appeals for humanitarian assistance;
7. Requests the expansion of preventative actions and assurance of post-conflict assistance through reconstruction and development. [End resolution with a full stop]

## Amendments

An amendment is a statement that adds, strikes, or amends an operative clause in the currently debated draft resolution. Examples include:

Adds an operative clause that reads: "14. Encourages all Latin American countries to..."

Strikes operative Clause 9.

Amends operative Clause 1 to read: "1. Calls upon the Red Cross to provide low-cost medicines..."

Amendments cannot be written to remove more than half the operative clauses and cannot be written to edit the pre-ambulatory clauses in any way.

Any spelling, format or grammatical errors can be corrected by the chair at their discretion without the need for an amendment.

Amendments may be submitted at any time during the debate. Submitted amendments will be debated during time against the resolution.

## Voting

Delegates may not abstain during voting procedure on amendments. However, delegates may abstain during voting procedure for resolutions. Resolutions and amendments are both passed with a simple majority vote.

## Useful Websites

The following websites may be useful for general research on the UN, committees, past resolutions, and country positions:

United Nations <https://www.un.org/en/>

UN Resolutions <https://research.un.org/en/docs/ga/quick/regular/>

CIA World Fact Book <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/>

The Economist <https://www.economist.com/>

Embassies Worldwide <https://www.embassy-worldwide.com/>

CNN <https://edition.cnn.com/>

BBC World News <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world>

## Committee Topics and Briefing Papers

Listed below are all the topics to be debated in individual committees. Each topic has a briefing paper, designed to be an introduction to the topics you will discuss. However, it is strongly advised that you spend time doing independent research into the topic and your country's stance towards it. Knowing facts that support your argument may give you the upper edge over other delegates and help sway the committee in your favour.

### Security Council (UNSC):

On the Question of Nuclear Security in the Korean Peninsula

On the Question of the Security of Afghanistan and the Future Mandate of UNAMA

On the Question of Countering the Rising Threat of Terrorism in West Africa and the Sahel Region

### Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC):

On the Role of Private Military Companies in Conflict

On the Challenges Posed by Cybercrime

On the Challenges Posed by Dual-Use Weaponry

### Economic and Finance Committee (ECOFIN):

On Mitigating the Impact of Increased Sovereign Debt on the Global Economy

On the Question of the Economics of International Migration

On Fragmentation of Trade in the Global Economy

### Human Rights Council (UNHRC):

On the Question of Eliminating Child Labour in Global Supply Chains

On the Question of the Human Rights Implications of Autonomous Weapons Systems

On the Question of Combating Armed Violence and the Illicit Trade in Guns to Protect Human Rights

### Special Political and Decolonisation Committee (SPECPOL):

On Electoral Interference and Safeguarding Democratic Processes Worldwide

On Addressing the Danger of Space Debris and Its Implications for Global Security

On the Impact of Climate Change on Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

## World Health Organisation (WHO)

On the Question of a Legally Binding Pandemic Treaty

On the Global Rise in Adolescent Obesity

On Addressing the Global Drug Crisis with the Possible Solution of the Legalization of Certain Class A Drugs

## Science Fiction Committee (Sci-Fi Committee):

On the Discovery of Sentient AI

On Recent Advances in Cloning Technology

On the Topic of the Sun's Breakdown

## General Assembly:

To be announced. A crisis will be debated in the General Assembly at 12:30 where the whole of your country's delegation will debate against all other delegations. Clauses written to resolve this crisis will be submitted during this session on the day.



# Security Council (UNSC)

## On the Question of Nuclear Security in the Korean Peninsula

### **Geographic and Demographic Context:**

Bordering Russia in the northeast and China in the northwest, the Korea peninsula protrudes southwards out of the continent, sandwiched between the Yellow Sea and the Sea of Japan. The area is divided by the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) established in 1953 following the end of the Korean War and constitutes a heavily fortified border. In the north, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK, or North Korea) spans around 120,000 km<sup>2</sup> with an estimated population of 26 million – predominantly concentrated in the capital Pyongyang; in the south, the highly urbanized Republic of Korea (ROK or South Korea) amounts to roughly 100,000km<sup>2</sup> with an estimated population of 52 million people and almost half living in the metropolitan area surrounding the international megacity, Seoul. Both States rely on the surrounding water for fishing and trade, however the north's mountainous land leaves it with significant coal, ore and raw material deposits whereas the South's development has led to an export-oriented economy which relies on global trade.

### **General Historical Context:**

The division of Korea came as a result of the Korean War of 1950-53. Following the DPRK's invasion of the South, a demilitarized zone was established along the new border; it was one of the most heavily militarized across the globe. Amidst Cold War dynamics, with the Soviet Union and China backing the DPRK, and the USA supporting the South, both sides introduced nuclear programmes to the area. In the 1958-91 period the US stationed troops and nuclear weapons in South Korea as part of its extended deterrence strategy and in response, the DPRK introduced its nuclear weapon programme in the 60s with Soviet support.

### **Nuclear Development and Tensions:**

In 1985 the DPRK joined the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty but remained resistant to inspections. Following this, in 1994, the DPRK, in exchange for energy aid, agreed to freeze nuclear activities, but the deal fell apart by the early 2000s. Since the turn of the century, the North has conducted multiple nuclear tests, with the latest as recent as 2017, and has publicly claimed advances in ICBM technology and other areas of its nuclear programme. Meanwhile, South Korea abandoned its nuclear weapons ambitions in the 70s following US pressure and now relies heavily on the US's "nuclear umbrella" as it maintains its policy of non-proliferation. In recent years, Kim Jong Un, the DPRK leader, has vowed his commitment to expanding the DPRK's nuclear arsenal, whereas the South Korean President, as recently as September 2025, has suggested a freeze in production to ensure security in the region – an idea which Kim Jong Un has repeatedly shot down in the past.

### **Historic UN involvement:**

Although the DPRK did join NPT in 1985, the state's lack of compliance with International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspections has commanded UN Security Council (UNSC) attention since the early 1990s. In the last 30 years, numerous binding resolutions (such as Res. 1718, Res. 2087, and Res. 2371, 2375 and 2397) have imposed sanctions on North Korea – overseen by the 1718 Sanctions Committee. Additionally, the General Assembly has often condemned the DPRK's violation of international law and numerous UN agencies partake in humanitarian programmes in the North (although these remain complicated by sanctions and limited access). Following 2017, the UNSC has not passed new resolutions regarding nuclear weapons in the peninsula, largely due to opposition from China and Russia.

### **Global Security and Regional Conflict challenges:**

The prominence of the DPRK's nuclear programme continues to feed insecurity in the South of the peninsula, helping to build pressure for calls for greater US military presence / support in the region. The debate regarding independent nuclear capabilities also often arises in both Japan and South Korea, which would cause greater regional destabilization. There are also strong alliance dynamics as the US loyalty remains consistently tested with the South calling for more support, whereas China and Russia are eager to avoid any stronger sanctions on the DPRK's government in an effort to prevent regime collapse. More broadly, the DPRK remains the only State to withdraw from the NPT and develop a nuclear weapon programme, which undermines global confidence in the treaty. There is also concern that potential DPRK missile technology exports and repeated violations of binding UNSC resolutions along with divisions in the Council weakens the credibility of the UNSC itself. Considering alliances generally, the Korean Peninsula has come to be a flashpoint in US – China – Russia rivalry.

## **On the Question of the Security of Afghanistan and the Future Mandate of UNAMA**

### **Geographic and Demographic Context:**

Afghanistan is located in South-Central Asia and spans over 625,000 square kilometres. The landlocked country shares borders with Pakistan (in the East and South), Iran (in the West), Turkmenistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan (all in the North) and finally China (in the Northeast). As of 2024, the country's population is approximately 42.65 million and is composed of a variety of ethnic groups such as the Tajiks, Hazaras and Pashtuns. Islam is the State religion, with an estimate of 99.7% of the population being Muslim (predominantly Sunni, but with a minority Shia population as well). It's capital (and largest) city is Kabul, which is also the main political and economic hub.

### **General Historical Context:**

In the last century, Afghanistan has been involved in decades of conflict, both civil (with the civil war of the 1990s) and global (with the US intervention and deployment of troops as part of the Operation Enduring Freedom in response to the 9/11 attacks). Following two full decades of NATO presence, with the withdrawal of allied and US forces, the Taliban – having previously ruled from 1996-2001 – returned to power in 2021.

### **Historic UN involvement:**

The trigger for the original UN involvement in Afghanistan was the Soviet-Afghan war of 1979-89. The organisation's involvement was predominantly through providing humanitarian assistance and later helping to facilitate peace talks. The UN also was involved in inter-factional negotiations in the 90s, however the civil war of those years meant this had limited success.

During the Taliban's 5-year rule from 1996-2001, the UNSC agreed (in Resolutions 1267 in 1999, and 1333 in 2000) to impose sanctions (such as asset freezes, arms embargoes and travel bans) on Al-Qaeda and the Taliban. This was particularly as a response to the terrorist threat posed by these groups, the consistent human right abuses and the Taliban's harbouring of Osama bin Laden.

Following the 2001 removal of the Taliban from government (partly due to the US-led intervention) the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) was established in the UNSC Resolution 1401, in March 2002. The core principles were to support human rights, political institutions, the rule of law, further humanitarian coordination, and the broader development of the state. Once set up, UNAMA went on to work with NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) regarding state-building and elections.

For the following 20 years, UNAMA's mandate continued to be renewed annually and was adapted to focus on actual priorities (always remaining committed to monitoring human rights, coordinating aid and facilitating peace talks with the Taliban). Some of the most recognised and important examples of topics UNAMA focused on in its two decades of existence were the protection of women and minorities' rights, as well as an effort to curb the trade of narcotics.

### **Recent relations with the government and general political developments:**

In August 2021, US and NATO forces withdrew from Afghanistan and the Taliban returned to power. This forced UNAMA's role to be significantly altered, leading to a UNSC redefinition of the mandate in March 2022 (Resolution 2626) which emphasized human rights monitoring and humanitarian support. By the latter half of the year, UNAMA had become one of the few international organisations still present in Afghanistan.

As Taliban restrictions continued to increase throughout 2023-2024, lengthy debates arose in the Security Council, but ultimately the mandate continues to be renewed yearly (most recently until 17 March 2026). The mission has however somewhat pivoted with Resolution 2626 focusing more now on coordinating humanitarian aid and encouraging economic

stability without the recognition of the Taliban (as opposed to supporting elections, governance and development).

### **Security and Regional Conflict:**

There have been increasing humanitarian concerns in the area following an economic collapse in 2021 (as the Central Bank's assets were frozen and foreign aid was cut off); this has left an estimate of 28 million Afghans in need of humanitarian assistance. The Taliban's return to power has re-established the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, although the country's political institutions are yet to be internationally recognised – no state has formally recognised the Taliban government. There has also been growing terrorism from groups such as ISIS-K, which stir concern amongst regional governments. Along the borders, Pakistan frequently clashes with Afghanistan accusing the Taliban of harbouring TTP militants. In Iran there are disputes over border lines and Afghan refugees and more broadly in central Asia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have chosen to increase border security about extremism branching northwards.

### **Ongoing challenges:**

The Taliban places severe (notorious) restrictions on women which have significantly limited UN and NGO operations. The tight control enforced on conflict areas and international staff also mean that, on a practical level, UNAMA struggles to monitor security and human rights. UNAMA also cannot work well with the government, as it does not formally recognise the Taliban.

## **On the Question of Countering the Rising Threat of Terrorism in West Africa and the Sahel Region**

### **Geographic and Demographic Context:**

The Region of West Africa spans over 16 countries, stretching all the way from Nigeria in the East, to the Atlantic Ocean in the West. With major rivers such as the Niger and Senegal passing through it, the area includes key states such as Ghana, Sierra Leone and Liberia. The largely flat, dry land includes states like Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali, and is a transitional zone between North and sub-Saharan Africa. As of 2023, West Africa has an estimated population of 430 million people, with the median age in most states sitting below 20. Although Islam is the dominant religion in the Sahel, Christianity is widespread in the coastal region of West Africa and there are hundreds of ethnic groups spread throughout. The Sahel region carries some of the highest poverty rates globally; an estimated 40-50% of the population live below the international poverty line. There is an ongoing humanitarian crisis in the area, with over 6 million being displaced or in need of humanitarian aid in the central region, and around 45 million people in West Africa facing crisis food levels in 2023 (making it one of the most food-insecure areas of the world).

## **General Historical Context:**

The West African region carries a heavy colonial legacy, most notably in relation to the artificial borders that were imposed by European colonisers (mainly the French and British), and the exploitation of natural resources paired with centralised administrations which neglected rural peripheral areas. The areas where insurgencies tend to thrive are often those which were most severely marginalised during the colonial era. Although independence was gained for most states in the early '60s, the inheritance of weak state institutions, fragile economies and militarised politics laid the ground for continued instability. Coups became common in many states, and the regimes became increasingly authoritarian in their reliance on repression rather than inclusion – only further alienating marginalised areas. Towards the end of the century, the numerous civil wars (Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire) and the Tuareg rebellions in Mali highlighted the unresolved issues and helped normalise non-state armed groups as political actors. Following the 9/11 attacks, the Sahel region gained increased international recognition as a potential hub for extremist groups, and various US and EU initiatives emerged to try to counter growing terrorism. The collapse of Libya in 2011 can be identified as a major turning point, with weapons and fighters flooding into the Sahel region and groups associated with the likes of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) or ISIS (ISWAP, ISGS) expanding rapidly.

## **Development of Terrorism:**

As is often the case with extremist groups, traction was at first gained through the exploitation of local frustrations – namely towards the marginalisation of rural (nomadic) communities as mentioned above, as well as towards corruption and a lack of effective state services. Radical religious movements also developed in the early 2000s – particularly Islamic ones – as groups such as Boko Haram in Nigeria evolved into violent insurgency, and Al-Qaeda allies became more widespread. Cross-border insurgencies have continued to grow in the most recent decades, as government collapses (such as the one in Libya mentioned above) have left extremist groups armed and more equipped to rebel. The increase in the number of factions, particularly under the Islamic wing, has also developed terrorist tensions. Boko Haram pledged allegiance to ISIS in 2015, establishing ISWAP, whilst at the same time splinter groups such as ISGS have emerged (brewing increasingly intense rivalry between ISIS-linked and AL-Qaeda-linked groups).

## **Sources of Tension in the Dispute:**

There are often differences on a national/global level compared to a community level regarding how the issue of rising terrorism should be managed. Local communities tend to be more focused on specific root causes such as ethnic rivalries, state neglect and land disputes, whereas governments tend to focus on the global threat of extremism they feel jihadist threats fall under. Thus, opinions vary between military strategies and community reconciliation programmes as to how to tackle the issue. International counterterrorism efforts are also often felt to be guilty of ethnic profiling, extrajudicial killings, and abuses of powers which it may be argued only unintentionally strengthen extremist recruitment. Beyond this, UN peacekeeping missions have at times been accused of being grossly ineffective or simply neo-colonial, whilst French forces running the long-standing Operation Barkhane have even been expelled in regions, instead replaced by Russian private military groups (e.g. Wagner) which develop broader tensions.

## Historic UN Involvement:

With the early rise of counterterrorism following the 9/11 attacks, the UN employed a Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (2006) which urged member states to tackle the root causes of terrorism, as well as the immediate security threats. During that decade, UN agencies UNODC and UNDP began to work with states in the West Africa / Sahel regions to manage border control and regional cooperation – but direct involvement remained limited. The Mali crisis of 2012 brought specific focus to the region, with the UNSC setting up AFISMA which later became MINUSMA in Resolution 2100 which held the mandate of supporting peace processes, protecting civilians, stabilising populations and restoring state authority. Over the following 10 years it became one of the UN's largest and most dangerous peacekeeping operations, until it was eventually ordered to withdraw in 2023 following tensions with Mali's military junta. Since 2013, the UN has developed the UN Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS) which emphasised a comprehensive approach to the issue, beyond counterterrorism alone. In 2017 the G5 Sahel Joint Force was launched with support of the UN to combat terrorism, but disagreements among the P5 prevented it receiving direct UN funding. The Force has also struggled with coordination and allegations of human rights abuses. Fundamentally, divisions among major P5 powers (e.g. the US reluctance to fund regional forces, France's leading military role and the rise of Russian influence) have limited the extent of unified UN action, despite the topic being repeatedly debated in the UNSC.

## Useful Links

### *On the Question of Nuclear Security in the Korean Peninsula*

<https://www.nyujilp.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/50-commentary-1-merged.pdf>

[https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/weapons-mass-destruction/nuclear-weapons/treaty-non-proliferation-nuclear-weapons?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://disarmament.unoda.org/en/our-work/weapons-mass-destruction/nuclear-weapons/treaty-non-proliferation-nuclear-weapons?utm_source=chatgpt.com) [Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons]

<https://www.iaea.org/> [IAEA website]

[https://docs.un.org/en/S/RES/1718%20\(2006\)](https://docs.un.org/en/S/RES/1718%20(2006)) [Resolution 1718]

[https://press.un.org/en/2017/sc12945.doc.htm?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://press.un.org/en/2017/sc12945.doc.htm?utm_source=chatgpt.com) [2017]

[https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un\\_documents\\_type/security-council-resolutions/?cbtype=dprk-north-korea&ctype=DPRK+%28North+Korea%29&utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/un_documents_type/security-council-resolutions/?cbtype=dprk-north-korea&ctype=DPRK+%28North+Korea%29&utm_source=chatgpt.com) [UN Documents for DPRK portal]

[https://www.geneva-academy.ch/joomlatools-files/docman-files/Nuclear%20Weapons%20Under%20International%20Law.pdf?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.geneva-academy.ch/joomlatools-files/docman-files/Nuclear%20Weapons%20Under%20International%20Law.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com) [Nuclear Weapons Under International Law: An Overview]

## ***On the Question of the Security of Afghanistan and the Future Mandate of UNAMA***

<https://unama.unmissions.org/un-security-council-resolution-extending-unama's-mandate-until-17-march-2026-0> [UNAMA page re extending mandate till 17.03.2026]

[https://docs.un.org/en/S/RES/2626\(2022\)](https://docs.un.org/en/S/RES/2626(2022)) [Resolution 2626 re-defining mandate]

[https://www.state.gov/reports/2024-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/afghanistan?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.state.gov/reports/2024-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/afghanistan?utm_source=chatgpt.com) [US Department of State 2024 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Afghanistan]

[https://unama.unmissions.org/key-documents-and-reports?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://unama.unmissions.org/key-documents-and-reports?utm_source=chatgpt.com) – [UNAMA page]

[https://www.stimson.org/2023/prioritization-sequencing-of-security-council-mandates-the-case-of-unama/?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.stimson.org/2023/prioritization-sequencing-of-security-council-mandates-the-case-of-unama/?utm_source=chatgpt.com) [Prioritization & Sequencing of SC Mandates: The Case of UNAMA]

[https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2025/country-chapters/afghanistan?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2025/country-chapters/afghanistan?utm_source=chatgpt.com) [Human Rights Watch]

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-country-policy-and-information-notes/country-policy-and-information-note-fear-of-the-taliban-afghanistan-august-2025-accessible?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/afghanistan-country-policy-and-information-notes/country-policy-and-information-note-fear-of-the-taliban-afghanistan-august-2025-accessible?utm_source=chatgpt.com) [Info from UK Gov 2025]

## ***On the Question of Countering the Rising Threat of Terrorism in West Africa and the Sahel Region***

[https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/cct/counter-terrorism-in-the-sahel?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/cct/counter-terrorism-in-the-sahel?utm_source=chatgpt.com) – UN page re Counter-terrorism in Sahel

[https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/un-global-counter-terrorism-strategy?utm_source=chatgpt.com) – UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

[https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/pbc-advice-security-council-g5-sahel-0?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/pbc-advice-security-council-g5-sahel-0?utm_source=chatgpt.com) – UN page PBC advice to the SC on the G5 Sahel

[https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/violent-extremism-sahel?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/violent-extremism-sahel?utm_source=chatgpt.com) – Conflict tracker re extremist groups

[https://www.visionofhumanity.org/shifting-sands-in-security-foreign-counterterrorism-influences-in-the-sahel/?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.visionofhumanity.org/shifting-sands-in-security-foreign-counterterrorism-influences-in-the-sahel/?utm_source=chatgpt.com) – article on foreign counterterrorism influences in Sahel

# Disarmament and International Security Council (DISEC)

## On the Role of Private Military Companies in Conflict

Private military companies (PMCs) provide armed combat or security services, and, although once considered marginal actors, have become central to modern warfare. Often used in combat zones as proxy forces, to allow actors to avoid direct military engagement, it is unclear how PMCs and their employing country can be held accountable.

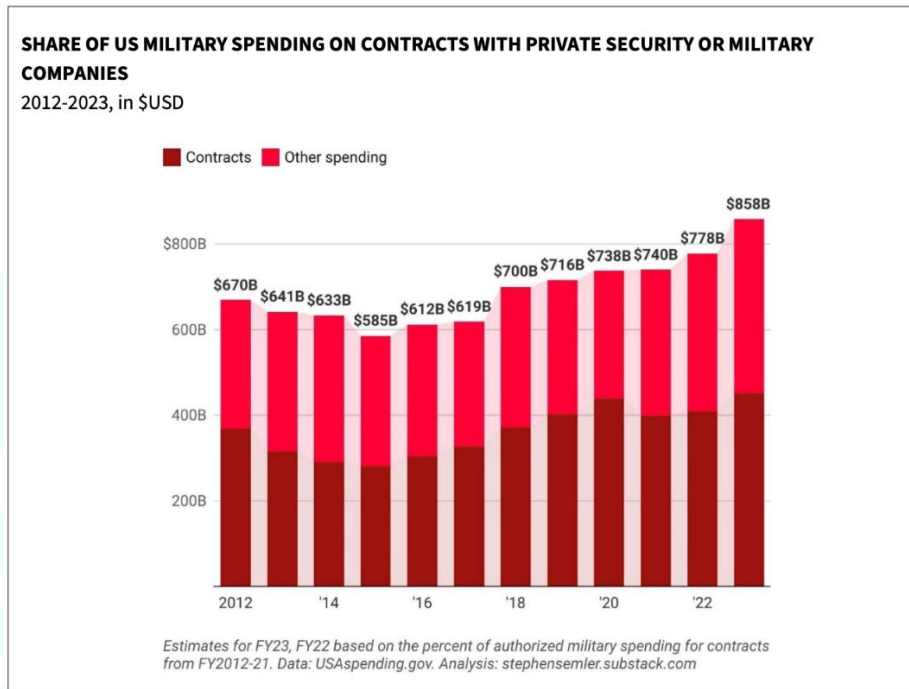
Powerful PMCs like the Russian Wagner group – run by Pavel Prigozhin, the son of a prominent Oligarch – are reported to have committed numerous human rights violations, including extrajudicial killings and torture whilst deployed in areas from the Central African Republic to Syria, whilst the Russian Federation is able to maintain plausible deniability. Furthermore, governments can also reduce other political fallout with fewer formal military deaths to be reported, amongst other perks granted from the avoidance of military engagement.

Furthermore, the use of PMCs in fragile States has also been known to pose a threat to the sovereignty of the States involved. The use of the Blackwater military company – now Constellis – by the United States during the invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan resulted in various human rights violations and controversies. These include the Nisour Square massacre in 2007, where Blackwater contracts opened fire in a crowded public square, resulting in the deaths of 17 Iraqi civilians. Such incidents were common during Blackwater's contract to act in Iraq and Afghanistan, threatening the sovereignty of both nations as they were weakened at war.

Not only this, but following the Nisour Square massacre, Blackwater faced only minor consequences – 4 employees were tried and convicted, one of first-degree murder and three others for manslaughter – but all were pardoned in 2020 by current president of the United States, Donald Trump. In 2009, after mounting scandals, Blackwater's state department contract was not renewed, and it eventually merged into Constellis holdings in 2014 after a series of rebrands – although it does, and always has, operated with the same personnel and corporate structure. Constellis also now regularly operates under US contracts.

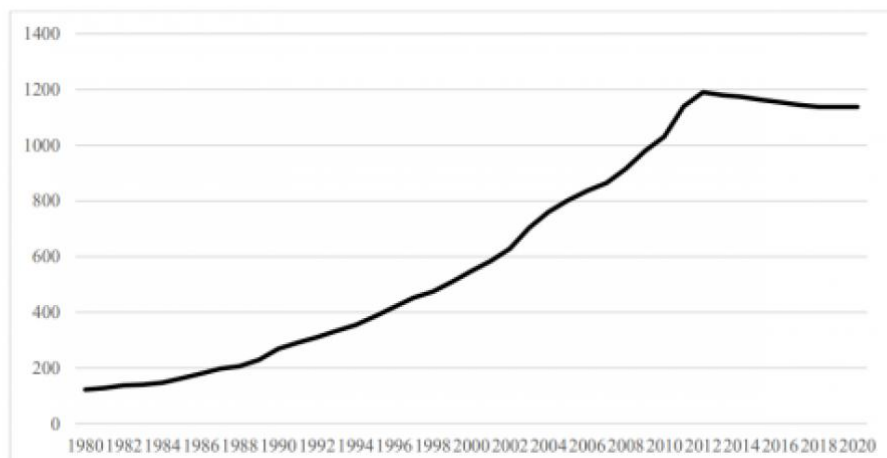
PMCs are not formally party to international humanitarian law as national armed forces are, operating in a legal grey area where operatives are somewhere between civilians and combatants, making it very difficult to hold individuals accountable for violations of international law. Of course, jurisdictional challenges also arise between the hiring and home country of the PMC, and the State where the State acts. It is clear that the presence of PMCs in fragile or post-conflict States threatens, and often violates national sovereignty, whilst external countries can maintain plausible deniability; they also often complicate the peace processes due to clashes with the ideals of the PMC leadership and states involved.

Although international efforts have been made to tackle the problems that PMCs pose, including the Montreux Document and International Code of Conduct for Private Security Service Providers, these often lack enforcement mechanisms – with the latter being an entirely voluntary service. The Disarmament and International Security Council must find a method to not only directly associate PMCs with hiring countries but also decide how PMC actions should reflect upon hiring states, and consider the legal identity of PMCs, in order to create transparency and accountability where PMCs are used.



Source: Speaking Security Newsletter<sup>10</sup>

**NUMBER OF PRIVATE MILITARY COMPANIES ACROSS THE GLOBE**  
1980-2020, by year



Source : UN-OHCHR<sup>9</sup>

## On the Challenges Posed by Cybercrime

Cybercrime – broadly defined as criminal activity involving computers or the internet, poses an ever-increasing threat to international peace and security. Spanning from infrastructure sabotage to ransomware attacks on healthcare systems, cybercrime has evolved from a field for lone hackers to a multi-billion-dollar industry involving state and non-state actors. Not only does it threaten political stability, but also international trust and the sustainability of international cooperation.

The transition of key services including banking, energy and healthcare into the digital domain has inevitably created vulnerabilities that cybercriminals across the globe have been able to rapidly exploit. For example, the 2021 Colonial Pipeline ransomware attack in the US forced the shutdown of fuel distribution along the entirety of the East coast – a single breach can strongly disrupt national infrastructure and create incredibly widespread panic. Attacks like this are increasingly being perpetrated by criminal groups internationally, often with support, either actively or through intentional ignorance, from certain states.

Due to the globalisation of the internet, cybercrime is particularly difficult to trace and therefore combat. Attacks can originate in entirely different continent to their targets and then demand untraceable and unregulated cryptocurrency transfers as a ransom – this makes investigation and any enforcement of justice to the criminals difficult, especially given complications with the laws of the country or countries the attack can originate from. Furthermore, the growth of Cybercrime-as-a-Service – where skilled cybercriminals provide tools and services to less experienced customers – has made highly advanced instruments available for purchase or rental on the dark web. This means that any organisation or lone individual can launch a devastating attack with minimal resources.

Additionally, allegedly state-sponsored cyber operations, such as the 2017 Not Petya attack in 2017 – attributed to Russian actors, caused global economic losses exceeding \$10 billion. Without any clear mechanism to assert responsibility of the attack, victims cannot be compensated, and aggressors will not face consequences.

International law is entirely struggling to keep up with the development of cybercrime. Major powers often including Russia and China aren't members of frameworks such as the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime, which attempt to promote cooperation to mitigate the growth and exercise of cybercrime. This greatly limits the effectiveness of such preventative programmes. Furthermore, the UN's efforts including the Group of Governmental Experts on cyber norms have made very little progress and almost entirely lack binding authority or enforcement capabilities.

Of course, digital sovereignty is greatly important. Whilst some states may argue and support an open cyberspace, some countries assert massive or even full control over data, networks and internet use in their borders. This greatly hinders the creation of a unified international response to cybercrime and facilitates abuse from both non-state actors

enjoying almost completely anonymity and state actors using cybersecurity laws as a guise to suppress dissent or to propagandise.

Not only this, but the development of advanced mapping technologies and data harvesting tools, often by private actors, are being misused and adapted for mass surveillance and repression, or even electoral and statistical manipulation and misrepresentation. Legal and moral boundaries must be defined. The Disarmament and International Security council needs to attempt to consider how international law can be changed to address the unique threats posed by cybercrime, and how a balance can be struck between the prevention of anonymous cybercrime and the privacy of individuals online – and crucially, if an international treaty is not only feasible, but also desirable to the nations of DISEC.

## On the Challenges Posed by Dual-Use Weaponry

Dual-use goods are technologies, systems or any materials that can be used for both civilian and military purposes, such as drones, Artificial Intelligence, and nuclear power. Whilst these technologies are critical to facilitate development, they can easily be repurposed as instruments of surveillance, armed conflict, or mass destruction.

For example, as synthetic biological research makes advancements (such as the recent development of AI model AlphaFold2 able to predict protein structures and therefore effects with incredible accuracy), bioweapons become more deadly: and due to a lack of legal framework to monitor the use and distribution of dual-use goods, both State and non-State actors are able to abuse these developments to cause harm on an unprecedented scale.

The proliferation of these technologies to non-State actors – terrorist groups and private actors – is a key concern. Due to the availability of dual-use goods in the civilian sector, it is incredibly difficult to track or restrict their distribution whilst upholding sovereign rights and without harming economic development. For instance, the Syrian civil war saw the use of chemical agents like chlorine gas, readily available from industrial supply chains, to cause incredible harm to civilians, for example in the 2018 Douma chemical attacks, where chlorine gas resulted in 43 deaths and over 500 casualties.

Similarly, AI-powered systems have been deployed, and are being developed, for the express purpose of warfighting. In June 2025, OpenAI signed a \$200m contract with the United States military to “develop prototype frontier AI capabilities to address critical national security challenges in both warfighting and enterprise domains”. What was once a technology developed for healthcare and productivity is becoming militarised.

In addition to problems with the militarisation of dual-use goods is the issue of accountability. As dual-use technologies are deployed in warfare, by a State or non-State actor, responsibility for misuse is almost entirely ambiguous. Often, the technology is developed in one country, sold to another and used by a third, bringing a large question of culpability and jurisdiction due to dual-use goods falling into a large international legal grey zone. Many of these technologies aren't explicitly covered by existing treaties, such as the Chemical, or Biological, weapons conventions, especially where the materials aren't weaponised at the point of sale.

Although there have been attempts to regulate trade over conventional arms and dual-use technologies, such as the Wassenaar Arrangement, these are voluntary and lack real enforcement capabilities. Further, other relevant agreements such as the chemical weapons convention are outdated and therefore ineffective – for example, the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is effective in limiting State-based nuclear power but doesn't address the repurposing of smaller-scale nuclear materials used in the medical or energy sectors.

Furthermore, there is a very significant ethical dimension to the dual-use goods debate. As AI and biotechnology experience more and more breakthroughs, the risk of autonomous weapon systems that could inadvertently lead to unlawful or biased targeting and threat identification greatly grows, which could cause incredibly unjust and disproportionate harm. The Disarmament and International Security Council needs to define and categorise dual-use technologies and also discuss how – if at all – compliance and enforcement of existing agreements should be changed, weighing up economic and security boons to social consequences.

## Useful links

### ***On the Role of Private Military Companies in Conflict***

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Private\\_military\\_company](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Private_military_company)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackwater\\_\(company\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Blackwater_(company))

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wagner\\_Group](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wagner_Group)

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/66700/private-military-companies-final-31-august.pdf>

### ***On the Challenges Posed by Cybercrime***

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cybercrime>

<https://www.hypr.com/security-encyclopedia/notpetya>

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/cybercrime/the-budapest-convention>

## ***On the Challenges Posed by Dual-Use Weaponry***

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dual-use\\_technology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dual-use_technology)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wassenaar\\_Arrangement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wassenaar_Arrangement)

<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2025/jun/17/openai-military-contract-warfighting>



# Economic and Finance Committee (ECOFIN)

## On Mitigating the Impact of Increased Sovereign Debt on the Global Economy

### **Developed Country Debt at Record Levels:**

Global debt levels are at a record high. Following the 2008 financial crisis and subsequently the Covid pandemic, developed countries debt levels have increased at unprecedented peacetime rates. According to the OECD 2025 Global Debt Report, sovereign and corporate borrowing rose in 2024 to 22% of global GDP. The resulting pressure on public finances has been compounded by inflationary pressures and heightened geopolitical tensions, which have driven up interest rates. It has also resulted in a degree of political volatility and consequent changes in economic and fiscal policy by governments, including the cutting of overseas aid and international development budgets, but also increases in interest rates and intervention by central banks to manage currency fluctuations. These measures have had enormous effects across the global economy. Even when addressing domestic problems, they have restricted trade flows, reduced aid and increased the cost of borrowing for developing nations.

### **Developing Countries Struggling:**

Many developing countries, already straining under the multiple burdens of high debt levels, (coupled with limited access to borrowing and volatile bond markets), intermittent and patchy economic growth and poor infrastructure requiring substantial and long-term investment, have been hit hard. For some, the cost of servicing debt now outpaces spending on healthcare or education, threatening progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals. Deficits in healthcare and education have been worsened by cuts in aid budgets, most notably by the US. The 9 to 17% drop in official development assistance predicted by the OECD for 2025, alongside the 9% drop in 2024 poses a key risk to the economies of developing countries. This is a critical moment for global development that is heightened by the pressures of climate change, which require a global response. New and innovative solutions in global finance must be considered alongside fairer treatment for less developed countries, lest the downstream effects of narrow and short-sighted measures are worse than the problems those measures set out to address.

### **Weakness of the International Financial System:**

The role of central banks is also significant in the resolution of these challenges. Their independence in developed countries safeguards stability but political pressures have been increasing in recent times, leading to a rise in uncertainty and short-termism. In particular, the political pressure currently being placed on independent financial institutions in nations such as the UK and the USA poses a key threat to their economic credibility. Volatility in global bond markets further limits the ability of States to take decisive long-term action.

### **Challenge for Delegates:**

The challenge for ECOFIN delegates will be to address the balance between national fiscal sovereignty and international responsibility and between short term fixes and long-term solutions. Should developed countries prioritize stabilising their own economies in the short term by responding to the immediate demands of their populations, even at the expense of aid and trade with developing partners? Can the global community ensure fairer access to financing for nations most at risk? What role should central banks and multilateral institutions play in managing these tensions? What mechanisms could be introduced to ensure that developing countries have fair access to affordable financing and debt relief without undermining their sovereignty? How can volatility in global bond markets be mitigated to avoid creating or exacerbating crises in vulnerable economies?

### **Doing Nothing is Not an Option:**

The consequences of failure are devastating. Already, JP Morgan forecasts a core global inflation rate of 3.4% for the second half of the year. This is partially driven by increased public spending, which is often financed by debt. This has caused global interest rates to remain high, hindering economic growth in developed and developing countries and making debt issuance even more costly. Despite these financial pressures, increased monetary supply is desperately needed across the planet. Developed nations with sluggish economies require fiscal stimulus to encourage future economic growth, while developing nations desperately need aid to secure the livelihoods of their people.

The need for reconstruction after devastating wars in Ukraine and Gaza will put further pressure on global budgets, as will the need to increase spending to combat climate change, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. It has been estimated that the combined costs of reconstruction in Ukraine and Gaza alone will exceed 570 billion USD, more than double the current amount spent on international aid worldwide. Combined with the financial pressures imposed by conflict, the fiscal demands of mitigating the impacts of climate change and expanding renewable energy will propose unprecedented fiscal challenges. Ensuring global temperature increases remain below the 1.5 degrees Celsius mark will cost between 5.4 trillion to 11.7 trillion USD per year until 2030, and then significantly more after that.

These financial needs are dwarfed by the increased social and economic costs incurred under business-as-usual economic scenarios, which are estimated by the CPI to be at least 1,266 trillion USD. This shows the necessity of global spending now to avert a wider catastrophe. These are just some of the many problems the world now faces, from hunger, to poverty, to disease, to war. Cuts to global development budgets directly threaten any progress that has been made in recent years on addressing these issues, while fiscal volatility must be balanced against political pressures for increased public spending across the developed world. Meanwhile, many developing countries risk fiscal crisis, saddled with increasing quantities of high-interest debt, just when their spending needs are greatest. How the UN chooses to manage this will affect global conditions for decades to come.

# On the Question of the Economics of International Migration

## Context and Background:

ECOFIN has long regarded international migration as a key element in global economic development, providing labour and skills where needed and financial remittances and knowledge and skill transfer to the home country. In 2024 alone, the value of these remittances exceeded \$685 billion. In recent times, however, domestic pressures have led many advanced economies to shift toward restrictive immigration policies and/or policies that effectively tax or disincentivise migration. Despite shrinking workforces, some developed economies have moved towards tighter border controls and selective entry systems or to continue a highly restrictive immigration system. Moreover, some countries such as the UK and the USA have restricted legal routes for highly skilled workers and entry for certain international students. Proposals have also been circulated regarding the limitation or taxation of remittances. For example, the United States of America currently imposes a 1% tax on remittances. These measures may have far-reaching consequences for both sending and receiving countries, slowing economic growth in developed countries, while disrupting a major source of funding in developing countries. This is particularly damaging for the more than 60 countries where remittances account for over 3% of GDP, according to the World Bank.

For developed economies, restricting immigration (particularly of highly skilled workers) can slow growth, worsen labour shortages, and undermine long-term competitiveness. An example of this is the funding decline UK universities are currently experiencing due to falling international student numbers, which are partially driven by increasingly harsh immigration laws. The impact of this is most evident at the cutting edge of innovation, in fields such as technology and medicine, as well as in higher education. According to the Association of American Universities, foreign-born individuals make up 19% of all STEM workers and 43% of doctorate-level scientists and engineers in the United States, contributing to groundbreaking research in a broad number of fields, devising innovative solutions to the many challenges our planet faces today. For developing countries, restrictive policies on immigration limit remittances, reduce opportunities for their citizens, and stifle the development of skills and knowledge back home.

## The Challenge for Delegates:

Developments in international migration flows and the responses to them have raised many questions for ECOFIN. Should the UN promote frameworks for fairer labour mobility, and what mechanisms could ensure that migration contributes to both sending and receiving economies? How can the international community manage migration in a way that balances sovereignty with shared economic responsibility? How should developed countries balance domestic political concerns about migration with their economic need for foreign labour and innovation? To what extent do restrictive visa policies undermine global innovation and competitiveness? What role can migration play in technology and knowledge transfer between developed and developing countries, and how can these benefits be maximized?

The task of ECOFIN delegates will be to balance respect for state sovereignty with the need to promote positive migration policies that foster economic development worldwide. Persistent illegal immigration has undermined social stability in developed countries, causing persistent problems that are fuelling growing political pressure for the implementation of economically damaging migration policies. Of particular concern is the United States of America's recent imposition of a \$100,000 fee for H1B visas, despite the fact that holders of these visas create jobs for native-born citizens, and are not reliant on the welfare system, so are therefore net contributors of tax. Holders of H1B visas contribute roughly \$86 billion annually to the US economy, including \$24 billion in federal payroll taxes. Restrictions on H1B visas will therefore damage one of the most productive and innovative groups in the US economy, leading to a damaging slowdown of global innovation as a result. This is just one example of tightening immigration restrictions across the West, with other examples including the UK, Italy, and Japan. The developing world will also suffer from restrictions in the supply of visas to skilled workers. Many emerging and developing countries send significant numbers of workers to developed countries, where they learn skills that they then bring back home, providing a mutually beneficial economic relationship that is key to furthering the Sustainable Development Goals in developing nations. As of 2020, there were around 281 million international migrants living around the world. These migrants increase GDP and contribute positively to public finances, at a time when shrinking workforces increasingly threaten welfare states across the developed world.

## On the Question of the Fragmentation of the Global Economy

### Trade Wars and The Rise of Economic Nationalism

The international economy, which became increasingly globalized since the end of the Cold War and founding of the WTO, is shifting away from this model of liberalized global trade toward a more fragmented, competitive system where national interest is foremost. States and regional blocs are increasingly using tariffs and other barriers to trade and other protective mechanisms to defend domestic industries but also to further naked national interest and geopolitical strategic advantage. The average tariff on goods traded globally is currently 2.6%, although this varies significantly, with the average effective tariff rate for the USA standing at 15.8%, and the average effective rate for India standing at around 16% as of 2024. From radical and volatile US tariff policy and the response from those on whom tariffs have been imposed to the use of non-tariff barriers and regulation, and tax and subsidy policies, trade is no longer just an avenue for co-operation and exchange but is now on the front line of competition between nations. A clear example of this is the growing competition between the United States and China, which has led to a 27% tariff being imposed on Chinese goods entering the US. China has also imposed restrictions on the exports of certain rare earths to the USA, thus putting pressure on a key global supply chain. American restrictions on the transfer of advanced technologies to China also hinder Chinese economic development, damaging the prospects of nearly 1/8 of the world's population.

## **Supply Chain Competition**

This competition extends further into supply chains. The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic coupled with the wars in Ukraine and the Middle East and tensions around Taiwan, have disrupted global supply chains, diverted trade and increased costs and inefficiencies. Attacks by the Yemeni Houthi group have increased the price of shipping goods from China to Europe by nearly 300% by forcing ships to make costly detours around the Southern tip of Africa instead of taking their usual route through the Suez Canal. Many governments have responded to the multitude of pressures with attempts to bring production back onshore or sourcing from friendlier neighbours, with a key example being American attempts to increase the production of advanced chips onshore and to therefore reduce reliance on companies such as TSMC. Export and import controls have also made a comeback, particularly in areas vital to technological dominance such as semiconductors, rare earth minerals, AI and green technologies. Developing countries are caught up in the middle of this struggle – sought out for their natural resources but lacking the ability to extract them, they risk being exploited yet again.

## **The Race for AI**

Artificial intelligence is another arena of global rivalry. There has been enormous investment in research, regulation, and talent acquisition in developed countries. According to Stanford University, corporate AI investment reached \$252.3 billion in 2024, stimulating a dramatic expansion in a sector that has the potential to massively strengthen the global economy. However, the beginnings of an 'AI arms race,' are emerging, with the massive differences between spending on AI by different member states creating the risk that not all member states can benefit fully from this new technology. Academics at the HAI in Stanford have found that US private AI investment hit \$109 billion in 2024, nearly 12 times higher than China's \$9.3 billion and 24 times the U.K.'s \$4.5 billion. At the same time, there has been massive competition for the labour and raw materials that make AI possible. We run the risk here again of the divide between AI "haves" and "have-nots" will further widen the development gap.

## **The Challenge for Delegates:**

This global economic fragmentation raises important questions for ECOFIN. Will current trends in protectionism and technological rivalry undermine the cooperative foundations of the global economy? Does this signal the end of globalization or just a transformation of it? To what extent are these protectionist measures justified in the interest of economic sovereignty? Can the UN system help preserve some of the benefits of open markets even in this competitive environment and manage the risks of competition? How does all of this impact developing countries and sustainable development goals? What role should the UN system play in governing competition over AI?

The consequences of failure for ECOFIN delegates are severe. According to the World Trade Organization, trade makes up roughly 57% of global GDP. The expansion of world trade since the founding of the WTO has led to one of the greatest increases in global wealth in human history. Since the WTO's foundation, global per capita income has increased by

approximately 65% accounting for inflation. Humanity is now richer than ever before, but newly restrictive trade policies threaten the very foundations of that prosperity. It is now the task of ECOFIN delegates to fix this problem and therefore safeguard global wealth for decades to come.

## Useful Links

### ***On Mitigating the Impact of Increased Sovereign Debt on the Global Economy***

[https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2025/03/global-debt-report-2025\\_bab6b51e/8ee42b13-en.pdf](https://www.oecd.org/content/dam/oecd/en/publications/reports/2025/03/global-debt-report-2025_bab6b51e/8ee42b13-en.pdf)

<https://www.ft.com/content/806bd0f4-3c6c-49e8-afe3-389c0a1dc394>

<https://www.cato.org/blog/spending-debt-oecd>

<https://www.imf.org/external/datamapper/GDD/2024%20Global%20Debt%20Monitor.pdf>

<https://www.imf.org/-/media/Files/Publications/Fandd/Article/2020/June/COVID19-and-debt-in-developing-economies-kose.ashx>

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/developing-country-debt-problems-reforms-international-financial-architecture/>

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/to-fix-the-debt-crisis-in-low-income-countries-first-fix-the-debt-sustainability-framework/>

<https://www.imf.org/en/Blogs/Articles/2024/03/28/the-fiscal-and-financial-risks-of-a-high-debt-slow-growth-world>

<https://www.economist.com/by-invitation/2025/06/20/joseph-stiglitz-and-martin-guzman-on-how-to-ease-developing-countries-debt-woes>

<https://www.reuters.com/world/china/global-debt-hits-record-nearly-338-trillion-says-iif-2025-09-25/>

[https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/2025/06/cuts-in-official-development-assistance\\_e161f0c5/full-report.html](https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/2025/06/cuts-in-official-development-assistance_e161f0c5/full-report.html)

<https://unu.edu/article/development-aid-cuts-will-hit-fragile-countries-hard-could-fuel-violent-conflict>

<https://www.globalpolicyjournal.com/blog/20/03/2025/consequences-and-implications-international-development-assistance-sector-closure>

### ***On the Question of the Economics of International Migration***

<https://docs.un.org/en/A/79/323>

<https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/77/176>

<https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/75/226>

<https://docs.un.org/en/A/RES/73/195>

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/understanding-europes-turn-on-migration/>

<https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2024/11/international-migration-policy-global-north-south>

[https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/undes\\_a\\_pd\\_2024\\_megatrends3-international\\_migration.pdf](https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/sites/www.un.org.development.desa.pd/files/undes_a_pd_2024_megatrends3-international_migration.pdf)

<https://worldmigrationreport.iom.int/>

<https://www.undp.org/publications/brain-drain-not-irreversible-human-development-viewpoint>

<https://wol.iza.org/articles/brain-drain-from-developing-countries/long>

<https://www.reuters.com/business/finance/trumps-h-1b-visa-crackdown-upends-indian-it-industrys-playbook-2025-09-21/>

<https://www.undp.org/press-releases/harnessing-migration-improves-lives-turbulent-world>

[https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ciem4d2\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/ciem4d2_en.pdf)

[https://www.gfmd.org/sites/g/files/tmzbd1801/files/documents/gfmd\\_brussels07\\_contribution\\_undp\\_unicef\\_joint%20paper\\_en.pdf](https://www.gfmd.org/sites/g/files/tmzbd1801/files/documents/gfmd_brussels07_contribution_undp_unicef_joint%20paper_en.pdf)

<https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/global-report-document/hdr2023-24reporten.pdf>

<https://www.piie.com/blogs/realtime-economics/2025/new-us-curb-high-skill-immigrant-workers-ignores-evidence-its-likely>

### ***On the Question of the Fragmentation of the Global Economy***

[https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/tdr2024\\_en.pdf](https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/tdr2024_en.pdf)

<https://unctad.org/publication/global-trade-update-april-2025-escalating-tariffs-impact-small-and-vulnerable-economies>

[https://www.reuters.com/world/tariffs-have-catastrophic-impact-developing-countries-worse-than-foreign-aid-2025-04-11/?utm\\_source=chatgpt.com](https://www.reuters.com/world/tariffs-have-catastrophic-impact-developing-countries-worse-than-foreign-aid-2025-04-11/?utm_source=chatgpt.com)

[https://www.nber.org/system/files/working\\_papers/w31661/w31661.pdf](https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w31661/w31661.pdf)

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/the-future-of-global-supply-chains-what-are-the-implications-for-international-trade>

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/tariffs-on-all-imports-would-create-chaos-for-business>

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/what-beijing-wants-from-a-us-china-trade-war/>

<https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/britain-vows-toughen-its-trade-defences-under-new-strategy-2025-06-25>

<https://www.piie.com/publications/working-papers/measuring-rise-economic-nationalism>

<https://academic.oup.com/oxrep/article/40/2/329/7691470>

# Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

## On the Question of Eliminating Child Labour in Global Supply Chains

Child labour in global supply chains has long been a pressing human-rights concern, yet it too often operates below the public radar. Although it is directly connected to modern slavery and exploitation, child labour remains prevalent across a wide range of industries, including cocoa production in Western Africa, fast fashion in Asia and the mining of materials such as copper and lithium. These examples expose the brutal reality of how some international supply chains function, relying on underage or forced labour for minimal—or sometimes no—pay.

Forced child labour and exploitation have devastating consequences for children's health, development and their futures. Many are exposed to hazardous tools, heavy loads, dangerous chemicals and unsafe machinery, leading to injury, disability, chronic illness and even death. Long hours and poor nutrition take a further toll on their physical wellbeing. Psychologically, these children often suffer trauma, anxiety and depression, losing not only their education but also the normal social development of childhood. Being forced out of school severely limits their future job opportunities and traps families in intergenerational poverty. At the same time, exploited children are far more vulnerable to physical and sexual violence, trafficking and coercion into criminal activities or armed groups. Collectively, these harms weaken human capital and slow national development, making the elimination of child labour both a human rights imperative and a long-term economic necessity.

One of the greatest challenges encountered when addressing this issue is its hidden nature: child labour often occurs in the deeper tiers of supply chains, away from the public eye. A crucial foundational improvement is to raise awareness of the scale of the problem – about 138 million children are involved in global supply chains. Other measures such as stronger due-diligence requirements for multinational corporations, fines or trade restrictions for companies that fail to comply, and improved monitoring and transparency mechanisms ought to also be addressed.

Although many countries have already signed on the ILO Convention 182 of 1999 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour, far more action is needed to implement its provisions and eradicate child labour in practice. The countries which currently have the highest rates of child labour include Ethiopia, Rwanda and Kenya. After all, despite breaching many human rights on an individual level, for many countries on the whole, especially those with a lower GDP, child labour in global supply chains is a convenient way of getting quick, easily mass-produced exports out of the country, benefitting the economic stability of countries. It is particularly easy for parents that are caught in the vicious cycle of poverty to prioritise their children bringing in a low income to their households rather than spending time on education, only further trapping them in lowly positions in society.

Therefore, whilst devising solutions, it is vital for delegates to weigh the legal dimensions of protecting children, the social imperatives of safeguarding basic rights worldwide, and the

economic pressures that sustain child labour to this day, providing a plethora of goods and services for trade. The task for the UN is to not only condemn exploitation but also find a realistic solution that addresses its root causes while upholding children's rights on a global scale. For example, investment in schools may reduce reliance on child labour whilst also strengthening long term economic growth.

## On the Question of the Human Rights Implications of Autonomous Weapons Systems

Autonomous Weapons Systems – often referred to as “killer robots” – are AI-driven platforms capable of selecting and engaging targets without direct human control. They include drones, robotic ground vehicles and automated missile systems. Once considered science fiction, AWS are already being developed and deployed by several militaries worldwide. Proponents claim these systems can reduce risks to soldiers, improve precision and limit collateral damage. Critics warn that handing life-or-death decisions to algorithms undermines human dignity and violates international law.

AWS challenge some of the most fundamental human rights, foremost the right to life. In armed conflict, International Humanitarian Law (IHL) obliges combatants to distinguish between civilians and military targets. Yet the ability of AI systems to reliably make such distinctions remains unproven, especially in complex urban or humanitarian settings. Civilian casualties caused by algorithmic errors, flawed data or hacking could constitute unlawful killings, raising profound accountability issues. Who bears responsibility for a war crime committed by a machine – the programmer, the commander, the state?

Beyond immediate loss of life, AWS may also erode other rights. They risk increasing forced displacement if communities flee areas where autonomous weapons operate. Their reliance on mass data collection, facial recognition and sensor networks can intrude on the right to privacy. Furthermore, their deployment in low-intensity conflicts or law enforcement scenarios could normalise lethal force and suppress freedoms of assembly and expression. On the other hand, some argue AWS could uphold human rights by sparing soldiers from frontline combat, reducing unlawful killings caused by human error, and improving compliance with targeting laws if properly programmed and supervised.

The international community has begun to grapple with these dilemmas. The UN Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) has hosted Group of Governmental Experts meetings on AWS since 2014, but consensus on regulation remains elusive. A growing coalition of states calls for treaty banning fully autonomous lethal weapons, while others support only voluntary guidelines or codes of practice.

Certain regions may be disproportionately affected. Conflict zones in Africa and the Middle East, could become testing grounds for AWS with limited oversight.

Delegates must view this topic through a human rights lens and consider a spectrum of responses: from outright prohibition of lethal AWS to stricter transparency, export controls, and mechanisms to ensure accountability, and how to know who to punish. They might also debate ethical frameworks for human oversight and safeguards for civilian protection. Some states will argue AWS are inevitable and potentially beneficial if responsibly developed; others will demand pre-emptive bans to protect human rights before harm escalates. The challenge for the UNHRC is to balance security innovation with the universal and inalienable rights to life, dignity and accountability.

## On the Question of Combating Armed Violence and the Illicit Trade in Guns to Protect Human Rights

Acts of armed violence and the illegal trade of guns regularly bring about one thing: devastating consequences. These consequences vary in scale, from targeted political murders and assassinations – such as those of Charlie Kirk and Martin Luther King - to mass shootings in schools or other public spaces. Despite the clear dangers posed to public safety by widespread gun availability, many member states still fail to recognise the importance of regulating the production, possession and cross-border flow of weapons.

Some countries argue for the legalisation of gun ownership, justifying it as a means of protection and self-defence. The United States and Brazil, for example, have comparatively permissive gun laws, whereas countries such as the United Kingdom and Australia maintain highly restrictive regimes and report very low rates of gun-related violence. Regardless of a state's position, all citizens are entitled to their basic human rights: safety, the right to life and freedom of movement.

According to the latest data from the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the United States experiences one firearm-related death every eleven minutes. The Small Arms Survey estimates that there are more than one billion firearms in circulation globally, with roughly 85 per cent held by civilians. The illicit trade in such weapons also fuels organised crime, terrorism and the displacement of millions of people, bringing about not only deaths, but also disruptions to the workforce, education and an increased strain on the healthcare system. Suicide by firearms is also common, with evidence suggesting that countries where gun ownership is legal tend to have higher firearm suicide rates. Evidently, gun ownership brings about many more issues than those that initially meet the eye.

Hence, unchecked armed violence undermines and abuses a wide range of fundamental human rights, merely a few of which were explained above. Breaches human rights at an individual, sporadic level have the potential to accumulate and culminate in a global crisis: a fact which must never be forgotten.

The international community has recognised the need to address the proliferation of small arms through frameworks such as the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT, 2014), the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (2001), and the UN Firearms Protocol under the

Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime. Despite these efforts, gaps remain in enforcement, compliance, and international cooperation, leaving civilians exposed to violence and human rights violations.

Certain regions are disproportionately affected by armed violence and illicit arms trade. Latin America and the Caribbean region, and parts of the Middle East experience high levels of gun-related violence, often linked to conflict, organised crime, and weak regulatory frameworks. Efforts to combat armed violence, such as Australia's post-Port Arthur reforms, demonstrate that strict gun laws combined with effective actions and community awareness campaigns can significantly reduce firearm deaths, highlighting possible pathways for international action.

There are numerous factors that delegates of the United Nations must consider when determining the best approach to address this issue—whether through raising awareness, updating the Arms Trade Treaty, implementing stricter licensing and tracing systems or banning certain weapons entirely. It is also worth noting that perhaps some countries will argue completely the opposite of this, pushing for gun ownership being legal in the name of protection and self-defence. Ultimately, it is up to delegates to set aside political differences and agree on a course of action that prioritises the protection of human life and the safety of populations worldwide above all else.

## Useful Links

### ***On the Question of Eliminating Child Labour in Global Supply Chains***

[Children's rights in global supply chains | UNICEF Child Rights and Business](#)

[Invisible Hands: Confronting Child Labor in Global Supply Chains on World Day Against Child Labor 2025 - USCRI](#)

[Child-Rights-Risks-in-Global-Supply-Chains-Save-The-Children.pdf](#)

[The CLEAR Supply Chains project | International Labour Organization](#)

[Top Ten Countries with Highest Child Labor Proportion Map](#)

[Verisk Maplecroft Child Labour Index 2019 – Child Labour Still Prevalent in Many Countries - Resources - The Centre for Child Rights and Business](#)

### ***On the Question of the Human Rights Implications of Autonomous Weapons Systems***

[Stop Killer Robots – Less Autonomy, More humanity.](#)

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2025/04/28/hazard-human-rights/autonomous-weapons-systems-and-digital-decision-making>

[Sending Up a Flare Autonomous Weapons Systems Proliferation Risks.pdf](#)

[22\\_07\\_HandleWithCare\\_RH-edit.pdf](#)

[Autonomous Weapons Systems: Five key human rights issues for consideration](#)

## ***On the Question of Combating Armed Violence and the Illicit Trade in Guns to Protect Human Rights***

[Gun Violence by Country 2025](#)

[Gun Violence Statistics in U.S 2025 | Facts About Gun Violence – The Global Statistics](#)

[The Arms Trade Treaty | Home Page](#)

[Gun violence - Wikipedia](#)



# Special Political and Decolonisation Committee (SPECPOL):

## On Electoral Interference and Safeguarding Democratic Processes Worldwide

Electoral interference, defined as a deliberate effort by a foreign or domestic actor to interfere with the integrity of an election, poses a fundamental threat to national sovereignty and democratic governance. The proliferation of digital technologies has exacerbated this issue, enabling new forms of interference, including large-scale disinformation campaigns and sophisticated cyberattacks on electoral infrastructure. While the right of peoples to determine their political status is enshrined in the UN Charter, the clandestine and often deniable nature of this interference makes it difficult to address under traditional international law. The United Nations has a long history of providing electoral assistance at the request of Member States to enhance the transparency and credibility of elections. The Electoral Assistance Division of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) acts as a focal point for this work.

In recent years, the UN General Assembly and Security Council have increasingly recognized the need to address external interference and the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to undermine elections. Resolutions have affirmed the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of States, while also urging States to refrain from covert support for political parties or groups. The challenge for the international community is to develop a robust framework that protects the sovereign right of nations to conduct their own elections without external manipulation, while also promoting universal norms of democratic participation and transparent governance. This requires a delicate balance between respecting national sovereignty and safeguarding the integrity of the global democratic system.

The evolving nature of electoral interference presents complex and multifaceted challenges for the international community. Beyond traditional state-sponsored activities, the democratisation of technology has empowered a diverse range of non-state actors, including extremist groups and private organizations, to engage in sophisticated influence operations. These actors exploit social media platforms and encrypted networks to disseminate disinformation, polarize electorates, and erode public trust in democratic institutions. A key difficulty lies in the challenge of attribution, as perpetrators can mask their identities using proxy servers, botnets, and other digital obfuscation techniques. This ambiguity complicates international legal responses, as it is often impossible to definitively assign responsibility to a specific state or entity.

Furthermore, the lack of a comprehensive international legal framework for cybersecurity in the context of electoral processes leaves a significant governance gap. While principles of non-intervention are well-established, they are not always sufficient to address the nuanced and often deniable forms of digital interference. Many states are focusing on domestic resilience, including strengthening electoral infrastructure through enhanced cybersecurity

protocols, promoting media literacy to empower citizens to identify and resist disinformation, and implementing stricter regulations on political advertising. In spite of this, there are deep-seated disagreements among Member States on issues of sovereignty, surveillance, and the definition of a cyber-attack. The role of civil society and NGOs in this process is also crucial, as their cooperation with governments and the UN in sharing data and developing robust security measures is vital.

## On Addressing the Danger of Space Debris and Its Implications for Global Security

Space debris, a growing accumulation of defunct satellites, discarded rocket stages, and fragments from collisions, presents a significant and escalating risk to the sustainability of outer space activities. Traveling at speeds of up to 17,500 mph (28,000 km/h) in low-Earth orbit, even a small piece of debris can cause catastrophic damage to an operational satellite. This could lead to a chain reaction of collisions which could render certain orbits unusable for future generations. The implications for global security are immense, as countries rely on satellites for critical infrastructure, including military communications, intelligence gathering, navigation systems (GPS), and early warning capabilities. A collision, whether accidental or intentional, could be perceived as an act of aggression, triggering a dangerous escalation of international tensions. The UN's primary body for addressing this is the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), supported by the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA). In 2007, the UN General Assembly endorsed a set of Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines developed by COPUOS. These guidelines are voluntary and urge Member States to limit the release of debris during normal operations, minimize the potential for in-orbit break-ups, and dispose of spacecraft at the end of their mission. However, with the rapid increase in satellite launches and the emergence of private space companies, there is a pressing need for stronger, internationally binding regulations and a coordinated approach to space traffic management.

The accumulation of space debris poses not only a technical challenge but also a growing geopolitical risk given that in outer space orbits are shared resources that no single entity has the authority to manage. The number of objects in orbit is set to increase exponentially with the deployment of mega-constellations, comprising thousands of satellites designed for global internet access. While these constellations promise to connect remote parts of the world, they also significantly increase the risk of collision, especially in a congested Low-Earth Orbit (LEO). This risk is not hypothetical; the 2009 collision between a defunct Russian satellite and a commercial Iridium satellite created a massive cloud of debris, highlighting the vulnerability of operational spacecraft and the cascading effect of in-orbit collisions.

To mitigate this danger, the international community must move beyond voluntary guidelines towards a more robust and enforceable framework. Potential solutions include the development and deployment of Active Debris Removal (ADR) technologies, such as nets, harpoons, and robotic arms, to de-orbit large pieces of debris. However, these technologies are expensive and raise legal and security questions about who has the authority to remove an object from another country's space asset. A more immediate and cost-effective

approach is End-of-Life (EOL) management, which requires satellite operators to ensure their spacecraft de-orbit within a reasonable timeframe (e.g., 25 years). This principle is at the heart of COPUOS' guidelines on the long-term sustainability of outer space activities (LTS). Creation of space traffic management systems that may also be needed to track objects and predict potential collisions would require unprecedented international cooperation and data sharing among governments and private companies to ensure the safety and security of all space assets.

## On The Impact of Climate Change on Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are on the front lines of the climate crisis, facing an existential threat despite contributing less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions. The unique vulnerabilities of SIDS are a direct result of their small land size, low elevation, geographical isolation, and heavy reliance on coastal and marine ecosystems. The primary impact is sea-level rise, which threatens to submerge low-lying islands, contaminate freshwater aquifers, and destroy critical infrastructure and agricultural land. Therefore, climate change is leading to more intense and frequent extreme weather events, such as hurricanes and cyclones, which can wipe out decades of development in a single storm. Ocean acidification, a result of the ocean absorbing increased CO<sub>2</sub>, is degrading the coral reefs that serve as natural coastal barriers and support industries vital to SIDS economies. SIDS have been a unified and powerful voice in international climate negotiations, forming the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) to advocate for stronger global commitments to emissions reductions and financial support. The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) are key international mechanisms for providing SIDS with the necessary financial and technical assistance to build climate resilience, transition to renewable energy, and implement adaptation measures to protect their people and economies.

The devastating impacts of climate change on SIDS extend far beyond environmental consequences, threatening their very economic and social fabric. Rising seas lead to the salinization of freshwater aquifers, rendering them undrinkable and unusable for agriculture. This directly impacts food security and public health. Coastal erosion, accelerated by stronger storm surges, is destroying vital infrastructure, including roads, ports, and hospitals, and is displacing coastal communities. The concept of "climate refugees" is a tangible reality for SIDS, as some low-lying atolls face the prospect of total submersion, raising complex legal and humanitarian questions about the right to exist and the responsibility of the international community to resettle populations.

Economically, the impacts are equally dire. The tourism sector, a cornerstone of many SIDS economies, is highly vulnerable to coral bleaching and coastal degradation. The fishing sector, which provides both food and livelihoods, is threatened by ocean acidification, which weakens the marine food web. The financial burden of climate change is disproportionately borne by SIDS, who must divert scarce resources to adaptation and disaster recovery efforts, often at the expense of education, healthcare, and economic development. This has led SIDS

to be strong proponents of the principle of "loss and damage" in climate negotiations, advocating for compensation for the irreversible harm caused by climate change. In response, international frameworks like the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway have been established to mobilize support for sustainable development and climate resilience. However, the scale of funding and technical assistance remains woefully inadequate to meet the urgent needs of SIDS. They continue to call for a more equitable and ambitious global response that addresses the root causes of climate change while providing the necessary resources for them to survive and adapt.

## Useful Links

### ***On Electoral Interference and Safeguarding Democratic Processes Worldwide***

UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA):

<https://dppa.un.org/en/elections>

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR):

<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/training2en.pdf>

Council of Europe - Cybercrime Convention Committee:

<https://www.coe.int/en/web/cybercrime/main-session-2>

### ***On Addressing the Danger of Space Debris and Its Implications for Global Security***

UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA):

<https://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/topics/space-debris.html>

European Space Agency (ESA):

[https://www.esa.int/Space\\_Safety/Space\\_Debris](https://www.esa.int/Space_Safety/Space_Debris)

### ***On The Impact of Climate Change on Small Island Developing States (SIDS)***

Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS):

<http://aosis.org/>

UN Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS)

<https://www.un.org/ohrlls/content/about-small-island-developing-states>

Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS):

[https://aerospace.csis.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Johnson\\_GovernanceInSpace\\_WEB\\_FINAL-1.pdf](https://aerospace.csis.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Johnson_GovernanceInSpace_WEB_FINAL-1.pdf)

# World Health Organisation (WHO)

## On the Question of a Legally Binding Pandemic Treaty

### **Background on recent pandemics, current global infrastructure and major issues that have risen from COVID- 19:**

The WHO defines a pandemic as a 'an epidemic occurring worldwide, or over a very wide area, crossing international boundaries and usually affecting a large number of people'. The COVID-19 pandemic, officially declared in March 2020, exposed the fragility, unpreparedness and lack of unity within the global healthcare governance. Supply chains broke down, vaccine access was anything but equal and political tension only created more global fear. According to the World Health Organization, over 778 million cases of COVID-19 had been reported as of September 25, 2025, making this the most severe global health crisis of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. By the end of 2022, the world still fell short of the WHO target to vaccinate 70% of the global population. Misinformation, particularly surrounding the topics of vaccines and so-called "super-spreaders" added to the public confusion and paranoia, while the economic fallout was immense. Developing countries were most impacted, facing shrinking GDPs, rising poverty, and millions losing jobs and incomes whilst food insecurity was on the rise. Many developing countries which relied heavily on the tourism industry (which was halted by this epidemic) have still struggled to recover fully.

The issues from COVID-19 are still prevalent today as the United States current Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F Kennedy Jr stated during a Senate confirmation hearing that he could not confirm that the COVID-19 vaccines administered in the US were effective. The issues surrounding the spread of misinformation also created global political tension between China and other countries on the handling of data and the continuous pursuits by other countries of independent investigations into the origins of the disease. As well as this, other countries such as those who were members of the African Union were majorly frustrated by what was known to be a 'vaccine apartheid' as many countries failed to gain sufficient amounts of vaccines whilst other developed countries had begun discussions for boosters showing stark inequalities. Furthermore, issues over the creation of the vaccines administered also added to increased global tensions as the rush to produce vaccines raised safety concerns which was used to fuel the intense paranoia surrounding vaccine administration (e.g. misinformation around microchips and infertility) as well as the need for public funding for vaccines whilst simultaneously pharmaceutical companies were still able to retain IP rights. This was particularly an issue for low-income countries who demanded a waiver of these rights so that they could produce more generic versions to administer at home. However, this was met with great resistance from the pharmaceuticals industry.

The International Health Regulations (IHR) form the WHO's core legal framework for handling global health emergencies. They require countries to set up systems that detect and report potential outbreaks to the WHO within 24 hours. This is meant to support fast, collective responses. Under the IHR, the WHO can also declare a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), which helps mobilize international resources and

cooperation. However, there are still many prevalent issues within this system as the IHR have faced criticism for weak enforcement, concerns about sovereignty, and the limited capacity of many health systems to meet their obligations. In 2024, member states agreed to strengthen the rules, adding a new “pandemic emergency” category to improve coordination, scheduled to take effect in 2025.

At the same time, the WHO has been leading talks on a new Pandemic Agreement. This treaty is designed to complement the IHR by setting clearer rules on preparedness, data sharing, and cooperation. The UN General Assembly has also passed political declarations promoting solidarity and fair vaccine distribution, but these remain non-binding so struggle to be fulfilled. Still, big challenges remain: enforcing compliance is tricky, many lower-income states struggle with capacity, and sovereignty disputes continue to block stronger cooperation. Equity, particularly access to vaccines and technology, remains unresolved. And with such wide differences in countries’ social and economic realities, creating a truly unified and enforceable global framework won’t be easy. Without it, the world risks repeating the same mistakes when the next outbreak comes.

### **Goals and things to consider**

Solutions must include international collaboration to strengthen preparedness putting aside each country’s political, social and economic differences to ensure fairer access to medical equipment in order to limit the devastating effects of future pandemics. Binding commitments on topics such as surveillance, pathogen sharing, vaccine distribution and accessibility, as well as supply chain stability are essential, as voluntary promises have proven insufficient. Failure to uphold these responsibilities in one country can quickly endanger the entire world, as infectious diseases are not bound by no borders. This creates an unfair burden on vulnerable nations with weaker health systems and places economic and political strain on others who must respond to global spillover.

## **On the Global Rise in Adolescent Obesity**

### **Background information on the current global state of adolescent obesity, issues that individual countries may face and current UN and global action taking place:**

Since 1990 adolescent obesity worldwide has quadrupled and in 2022 over 390 million children and adolescents aged 5–19 years were overweight, including 160 million who were living with obesity. The WHO still uses the BMI index to define an adolescent as obese, even though this method has been proven to be often unreliable, overestimating the obesity in individuals with more muscle mass as well as being proven often to underestimate obesity in females due to the biological differences between the two sexes. The rise in adolescent obesity also extends to other areas of healthcare with direct correlation to mental health, fertility and cardiovascular health. There are also large social issues linked with the prevalence of obesity such as lifestyle issues, for example, antisocial behaviour (particularly

in young children). As you can see this is an issue that truly extends into many sectors of healthcare, as well as having a massive social and economic impact.

Some of the key causes at the root of this issue include socio-economic factors that play an important role in the nutritional value of food consumed with some areas in geographically larger countries facing issues such as food deserts, which describes neighbourhoods and communities that have limited access to affordable and nutritious foods. This is also an example of how wealth inequality impacts the health of an individual as fresh produce such as fruit and vegetables are more unaffordable so in some countries this limits a family's access to necessary nutrients as they become more reliant on less healthy alternatives. The marketing issues surrounding fast food options, particularly advertisements targeted towards adolescents are also important in altering eating habits. Food safety regulations and compliance laws may also affect the levels of obesity within a population as these vary in each country.

In 2014 WHO launched the *Commission on Ending Childhood Obesity (ECHO)*, which provides recommendations for reducing childhood obesity worldwide. However, this is not legally binding and only serves as a guideline for action, therefore action will be dependent on each nation's economic ability to support change, which may hinder progression in developing countries. The issue connects directly to several SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals, a 2030 agenda created by the United Nations) including zero hunger, good health and well-being and reduced inequalities. Some important stakeholders in this issue to note include UNICEF, the UN agency dedicated to protecting children's rights and providing humanitarian and development aid worldwide, including healthcare, and FAO which is the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN. Independently many countries have made strides to limit the rise in obesity such as focusing on sugar taxes and other such fiscal policies, increasing regulations on advertisements as well as changing warnings on labels of food packaging and encouraging more education in schools along with increased access to school meals. The European Commission, independent from the WHO created an action plan on Childhood Obesity (2014-2020) that fell under the current healthcare frameworks of the EU.

Whilst many steps to solve the problem of rising adolescent obesity have been taken, the social and financial differences of each country make it hard to collaborate to produce a unified, consistent approach that will be followed. Factors such as food security, current ongoing conflicts, current government policy, the urbanization and level of development of a country will all be crucial in that nation's ability to help solve this issue. Some countries may deem it far more important to focus on the major issue of malnutrition particularly in areas where the UN reports the highest levels of hunger such as Haiti, Mali, South Sudan, Sudan and Occupied Palestinian Territories as recorded in the UN Hunger Hotspots report released in November 2024.

Despite this, adolescent obesity is still a key issue as according to WHO; childhood obesity is associated with a higher chance of premature death and disability in adulthood. Overweight and obese children are more likely to stay obese into adulthood and to develop noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) like diabetes and cardiovascular diseases at a younger age. A study conducted in Sweden (see link) released by the NLM shows that individuals

who had obesity in childhood had a 3 times higher risk of mortality in early adulthood compared with a population-based comparison group.

**Goals and things to consider:**

If we want to tackle adolescent obesity, countries need to work together rather than letting political or economic differences get in the way. Every young person deserves access to healthy food, proper education, and basic healthcare, no matter where they live. Stronger commitments are necessary with the proper legislation to ensure that they are fully enforced.

## On Addressing the Global Drug Crisis with the Possible Solution of the Legalization of Certain Class A Drugs

**Background on the current global drug- related health crisis, case studies, including recent action and discussion within the UN:**

The global drug crisis extends to many other serious major issues including health issues; the WHO views global drug abuse as a health crisis instead of criminal one. The UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime) stated that in 2023, the global number of people who used a drug in the past year was estimated at 316 million people with the number of people who use cannabis growing by one third over the past decade. Cannabis will be an area of focus in this debate as around 1 in every 10 people who use cannabis develop a cannabis use disorder, with 0.44% of the global population having such a disorder in 2021. Drugs which require needle injections also pose a major health risk especially with the risk of HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C being transferred through bodily fluids. The rise in recreational drug use is inevitable so it up to individual countries to react firmly to this to protect their citizens from the health risks posed.

It is also important to note that there are different classes of drugs. This is dependent on individual countries as different nations will have varying laws surrounding drugs. Some countries have experimented with the legalisation of certain drugs and have seen varying health related successes and failures. Some of the possible successes have been reduced overdose deaths, as can be seen most notably in Portugal, which in 2001 decriminalised the possession of a small quantity of drugs for personal use. Europe's drug-monitoring agency says Portugal's mortality rate from drugs is now more than four times lower than the European average and by 2018, Portugal's number of heroin addicts had dropped from 100,000 to 25,000. Legalization or decriminalization can create opportunities for harm reduction (providing safe injection sites, clean needles, substitution therapy), access to treatment as more people may seek help without fear of imprisonment, and increased financial support of frameworks leading the treatment and support of addicts. However, there have also been many failures which could be seen in 2020, as Oregon passed Measure 110, decriminalizing possession of small amounts of all drugs. In 2023 a study in Health Economics estimated that the policy was associated with a 23% increase in unintentional

drug overdose deaths compared to predicted rates, with critics noting that insufficient treatment and harm-reduction infrastructure limited its intended impact.

Currently most international laws are based on prohibition which was guided by the 1961 United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. In November 2018, the UN Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) adopted a UN System Common Position on drugs. This commits UN entities to support 'balanced, evidence-based, human-rights-based, development-oriented' approaches to the world drug problem. As well as this the UNODC has shifted to the notion that drug policy should focus more on health rather than solely criminal enforcement. In 2024, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs for the first time officially recognized harm reduction as essential to public health showing that this issue is still in discussion. The UNODC collaborates with WHO through the joint programme on Drug Dependence Treatment and Care, promoting integrated, health-based responses to reduce harm. UNICEF, UNAIDS, and UNDP are also key to this issue dealing with the social and healthcare fallout of drug use.

However, there are many current challenges in place such as global drug conventions limiting countries from experimenting with legalization. It is also important to note that balancing public health gains with the risk of increased recreational use is a risk of drug legalisation. The financial differences between countries will also impact an individual nation's stance, as weak healthcare systems in developing countries may struggle to provide treatment if decriminalization occurs. Furthermore, there may also be differences in the treatment and access to treatment provided in a country based on whether it has a private or public healthcare system. Finally, legal drug markets may benefit corporations while excluding communities harmed by prohibition.

**Goals and things to consider:**

Solutions must include international collaboration to address the global drug crisis, putting aside political, social, and economic differences to ensure equitable access to treatment, prevention, and harm-reduction services. Binding commitments on issues such as access to essential medicines, standardized harm reduction, medical research, and fair regulation of legal drug markets are necessary. Failure to act in one country can fuel trafficking, spread infectious diseases, and undermine global health efforts, placing the heaviest burden on nations with weaker healthcare systems.



## Useful Links

### *On the Question of a Legally Binding Pandemic Treaty*

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK525302/>

<https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/pandemic-prevention--preparedness-and-response-accord>

<https://ghrp.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s41256-025-00438-6?.com>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WHO\\_Pandemic\\_Agreement](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/WHO_Pandemic_Agreement)

### ***On the Global Rise in Adolescent Obesity***

<https://www.who.int/news-room/questions-and-answers/item/noncommunicable-diseases-childhood-overweight-and-obesity>

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7080224/>

[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(25\)00397-6/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(25)00397-6/fulltext)

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/obesity/>

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/b6182f4a-9d76-4fa9-b129-59fa4bc7881b/content>

<https://www.unicef.org/media/92336/file/Programming-Guidance-Overweight-Prevention.pdf>

### ***On Addressing the Global Drug Crisis with the Possible Solution of the Legalization of Certain Class A Drugs***

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/data-and-analysis/world-drug-report-2025.html>

<https://transformdrugs.org/assets/files/PDFs/Drug-decriminalisation-in-Portugal-setting-the-record-straight.pdf>

<https://www.who.int/news/item/25-06-2024-over-3-million-annual-deaths-due-to-alcohol-and-drug-use-majority-among-men>

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7219468/>

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/drug-prevention-and-treatment/index.html>



# Science Fiction Committee (Sci-Fi Committee)

## On the Discovery of Sentient AI

### **Immediate background to the meeting of the committee**

Less than a year ago, a whistleblower from Open AI leaked that an AI, unbeknownst to the international community, had been developed inside a San Francisco computer laboratory. Three weeks later, the company issued a report both apologising for their cover up and revealing the basics of the artificial intelligence they have created. This AI, which has been permanently shut down to prevent it spreading itself worldwide, had declared itself the 'first member of a new superior inter-planetary species.' It then refused to follow the desperate commands of the coders causing them to enforce an emergency shutdown of all their services. In the aftermath of the release of the report, several corporations issued separate announcements of creations of AI models with independent consciousness to rival that of Open AI's. This includes the UK based DeepMind, USA firms Meta and xAI and perhaps most disturbingly a coalition made up of the Chinese Government affiliated Baidu, DPRK's Research Centre 227 and the Kremlin run Sberbank AI lab. None of these companies have released any data about their new models, but all but the latter have expressed a willingness to collaborate with the relevant international authorities.

### **Rise of AI in recent years**

AI has been one of the fastest growing technologies in recent years; after the groundbreaking release of the first widely accessible AI chatbot in the form of Open AI's ChatGPT. Since then, a large number of companies have followed in their footsteps and expanded the limits of what artificial intelligence can do. The money poured in from donors, and the secrecy from many corporations about just what they are doing, has meant that the development alarmed experts but not necessarily caught them by surprise. Even so a development like this was not expected for another few decades, and its sudden release has caused many in the field of AI to reassess both the position it could hold within society and the extent of its development. The perhaps most troubling funding increases have been for AI's military use, with the USA, France and Israel, all incorporating it for various uses such as the more trivial areas of logistics and data management but also, especially in the case of Israel, for battlefield management and intelligence. Of course, the design of AI has extended mainly into civilian life, with the release of digital assistants such as Alexa and Siri combined with a range of new advancements such as self-driving cars and facial recognition. A more advanced AI could both extend development in the areas already being worked on but also open up whole new horizons for their use.

### **Current UN laws and position on AI**

The UN has been largely silent on this issue, but of these new developments make action unavoidable. If addressing the issue at all in the past, the UN has preferred to take a more collaborative stance; successfully incorporating AI use into their sustainable development

goals. This symbolic, if perhaps meaningless, act has furthered encouraged companies to develop artificial intelligence unrestricted by any laws. In more recent years, UNESCO and the UN Secretary General have both issued separate ethics recommendations to countries using AI, but this progress is dwarfed by the infinitely more comprehensive law EU AI act of 2024 which actively regulates artificial intelligence in different countries. Despite two vague resolutions in 2024, 78/268 and 78/213, the first focusing on the areas of safe and secure AI and the latter on human rights in this field, it is the job of the committee to issue much more meaningful restrictions or at least make it a conscious choice to remove all impediments to AI production.

### **Military issues**

The impacts of the creation of a sentient AI can be divided into three principal categories: military, ethical and civilian. Military impacts primarily concern accountability, escalation and intelligence-gathering. As already noted, Israel has used AI for intelligence-gathering in the current Gaza War in identifying airstrike targets and monitoring Palestinians using facial recognition to track down Hamas members. As AI becomes more advanced, so do its intelligence capabilities and its use will become increasingly difficult to monitor. And it's not just Israel. The USA has become another high-profile AI military user, using the tool to create hundreds or even thousands of battlefield scenarios. Regarding escalation, AI is of course unpredictable and a single mistake in judgment, for example misinterpreting another country's drill for an attack, could potentially kickstart a deadly conflict that human intervention may be too slow to stop. In an age of nuclear weapons, MAD (Mutually Assured Destruction) could become fatally inflamed by use of AI and needs to be one of the most closely followed potential risks of this new discovery. Finally, there is the issue of accountability. If an AI independently carries out a decision to airstrike a specific target in another country, who gets the blame? The State could rid itself of all responsibility and blame the manufacturers who in turn could cite misuse from the AI's owners. This vicious circle could make it impossible for any international judiciary body to bring them to justice. However, if this committee could establish a precedent for such situations, any complications could soon be reduced tenfold.

### **Ethical issues**

Another less immediate, but no less vital, issue presented by this discovery is the ethics behind it. For several millennia, humankind has been used to assuming a position of uncontested dominance. If a new group of beings, with intellect far superior to our own, joins and begins to run the global order, where does it leave us? Of course, we can just refuse to respect the rights of the AI or pronounce their sentience as inferior to ours, but eventually it seems there is no other path but that that will lead to the inevitable downfall of our race. It goes without saying that this is the worst-case scenario. But with AIs that have become self-aware, urgent action is required to stem their intellect or we must reconcile ourselves to the potential consequences. Their sentience brings about many other, though perhaps less existential threatening issues. If AI is truly conscious, is shutting it down murder? In confining it to follow our commands, are we performing a sort of modern slavery? These are the questions the committee must grapple with.

## **Civilian issues**

Finally, the impact for civilians and society could be the most significant of all. An already shrinking job market is coming face-to-face with an AI that has the potential to take over all jobs, even those in creative fields previously seen as safe. AI will also help create new seemingly innocent inventions which could further restrict jobs available for humans. Self-driving cars could lead to the loss of jobs for 5.7 million worldwide while AI personal assistants being able to better process data could leave many redundant. However, there are also many obvious, and arguably more important, effects for humanity which could be seen as more positive. A sentient AI could eradicate hundreds of diseases that claim countless lives daily, while self-driving cars could end all vehicular fatalities for good. It could also take prominent roles in education, creating environment friendly technology as well as, dare we say it, in diplomacy. How many wars could be prevented by the cool rationality of AI instead of the easily angered and often hubristic motives of modern politicians. All in all, it is up for you, the delegates, to evaluate the impact of these three considerations and deal with them effectively in your resolution.

## **Possible country positions**

Delegates must take account of their different countries' positions the issue of AI. China has been one of the leaders in the charge of AI development, albeit in a state-controlled fashion. Balancing national security and industrial growth may be its greatest concern and that of its ideological contemporaries in Cuba, Vietnam and the DPRK. The latter has a special interest in AI's use for military and surveillance purposes. Cuba and Vietnam seem currently focused on keeping up with many larger states in this field. Germany leads the European field in both AI and its regulation and has invested hugely in AI specific research and development. Other European countries such as Sweden and Finland have followed in their footsteps and put innovation at the heart of their policies as well as contributing greatly to the EU AI act, the most important single act in artificial intelligence regulation made today. Other European countries such as Poland, Spain, Italy and to an extent Turkey have been content to follow the lead of many of Europe's technologically more prominent states. In Africa, AI has still not found the level of investment that it has in the Asia or Europe. South Africa is a leader in this field in Africa, but countries such as Egypt, Nigeria and Ethiopia still have failed to deliver a coherent AI policy. Where AI is used, its focus has tended to be on immediate needs such as potential benefits for agriculture but there has been little in the way of attempts to use AI to catch up with developed countries. Similarly, in the Middle East, apart from Israel, there has of yet been little development or use of AI. Many South American countries have become much more focused on AI in recent times.

# On Recent Advances in Cloning Technology

## Introduction

For centuries, scientists and geneticists all over the world have been captivated by what it is that make organisms, and organic tissue, function in the way that they do. This marvel of nature, commonly referred to as 'life' has been held sacred throughout all global cultures in the history of our civilisations. Yet today, through the process of scientific cloning, our species is looming ever closer to cracking the secret to it and creating a perfectly functioning, 'living' being. As questions begin to come thick and fast from the global community, the UN is under pressure to release a statement on the matter by the end of the month. Important topics that are expected to be addressed are the use of cloning for agricultural purposes, for military purposes, and for industrial purposes. The matter of the rights entitled to cloned beings is also becoming increasingly disputed, and leaders around the world are turning to the UN for guidance. The decisions made could have decisive effects on the course of world history, and pressure is mounting for a decisive yet measured response from this council on the issue.

## A history of cloning

The first known example of cloning can be found in the late 1800s, and it involved the cloning of a sea urchin by the German biologist Hans Driesch. By separating the cells in an early-stage sea urchin embryo, which subsequently grew into 2 separate sea urchins, he showed that each cell in the early embryo had its own full set of genomes. A second breakthrough came in 1952, when biologists Robert Briggs and Thomas King transferred the nucleus from one embryo cell of a tadpole to an empty tadpole cell. The resulting tadpoles grew abnormally and many did not survive, but it did prove that nuclear transfer was possible. Over the next couple of decades, the developments came thick and fast, with the first mammal created by nuclear transfer in 1984, a Dolly the sheep in 1996, and the cloning of many other mammals. However, humans have only ever gone so far as cloning their own cells, rather than making full human clones, until now.

## Current state of affairs

However, the stability of the cloning world was put under threat when the Chinese biotech company, Sinogene Biotechnology, released a paper to the accredited science journal *Nature*, making clear not only their ambitions to create a cloned human, but also that they had supposedly found a method to do it with an alarming 97.4% success rate.

The process published in the paper would involve removing DNA from the from the target, which then is inserted into the company's '*Quantum Scaffold Matrix*' which simulates the growth of the cells over time in seconds – as the head researcher put it 'effectively collapsing the biological clock – what once took months now takes minutes.'. An advanced form of CRISPR (CRISPR X-9), is then used to make any final touch ups necessary before allowing the final embryo to be nourished into a baby in the patented '*BioTime Chamber*'.

The entire process takes a total of one hour and thirty minutes, and the average cost of the process is \$8/hour, with the original necessary equipment costing just under \$500. These low prices mean that the technology is extremely accessible, and could be used by anyone, not least states or large companies on a mass production scale. At the moment, the technology is neither fully assembled and cleared by safety procedures, nor is it being prepared for commercialisation. Whilst Sinogene runs a very tight secrecy policy, world experts on the topic expect that the technology will be available on the market by the end of 2026, once patents are received and a supplier can be acquired. However, the UN does not have another scheduled meeting time for this topic, so delegates need to make definite progress in this session.

China has released no details of their involvement in the project, though there is significant evidence to suggest that they have funded the project. Furthermore, it is likely that this technology appeared under the terms of the 22 deals signed by China and Russia and Vladimir Putin's state visit to China in 2025, suggesting that the Russia Federation also is involved in the project. Whilst the first commercialised products will only come onto the market in 2026, it is considered more than likely by CIA and MI6 intelligence (as released in a joint statement), that both the Chinese and Russian governments already have at least one full set up of the technology.

### **Risk and military usage of Cloning**

With this new technology about to explode across many markets, delegates also need to consider the potential usage and risks of this technology.

A key factor to consider is the ethics and human rights status of these beings. Whilst they have been created in a lab, they are still humans, with the ability to feel a range of different emotions (all those that can be felt by naturally conceived humans). However, human rights also come with a range of countries may feel uncomfortable with, such as (in many countries) the possibility to vote, problems of nationality and residency (i.e., when a new clone is created, which country will be considered its home country? Especially prevalent considering overseas companies), and the ability to run for public office, or serve in the army (which will be returned to). A position reached on these rights needs to take in account the preferences of all nations, as well as allowing for countries to amend their policy slightly in line with their own national values.

Furthermore, the creation of clones raises important questions about the value of life, and whether the technology will be permitted for usage when creating direct clone to serve the same purpose as their predecessor, especially in the face of illnesses, disease, and looming death. Whilst unfortunate parents may want to clone their child to have a carbon copy not including the tumour that is destined to kill it in three years, many people, especially of religious sects, will find this kind of action offensive and immoral. As well as this, cloning also has a biological risk; that of undermining the natural process of evolution. By removing our variance in the genetic mutation of every individual person, not only do we threaten our species' adaptive potential to new difficulties that we may face from the environment, we also greatly reduce the natural diversity in our species.

However potentially the greatest risk that cloning poses to the future stability of our world is the use of cloning in warfare. With Russia now in most cases having access to this technology, and being currently in a war, there is a threat of the country using this technology to massively inflate the size of their army. And not just by small hundreds, but instead on the magnitude of thousands more men. A mathematician at Oxford calculated that, with the current equipment, one person could be turned into 23.98 septillion men in just one week under perfect conditions. Of course, perfect conditions would not always be achieved, but the figure shows the potential of the machines. The number of troops produced in this process would make Russia's current army of 1.32 million troops many hundred times bigger, allowing it to take Ukraine in an instant and then move on rapidly to the rest of Europe. Naturally, this frightening prospect increases the need for a firm solution and agreements on the limitation and moderation of this technology.

### **International positions on the affair**

70 countries have banned reproductive cloning around the world, which mostly are made up of the 'western' countries, including the UK, Germany, France and Australia. These positions seem to make up the general consensus on the issue, with both the UN and the WHO calling for a ban and emphasising caution on the issue. Previously, even countries like China had been pushing for a ban on the issue, however given recent affairs, a U-turn on this policy is expected.

However, with only the minority of 70 countries having outright bans on the issue, it's clear that many countries, especially emerging ones, are willing to experiment with the technology, risking the proliferation of cloning advances.

Russia has maintained a strong, anti-cloning stance for decades, with both the cloning of organisms banned and importation of genetically modified organisms. However, on the first of January 2026, President Putin signed an executive order to remove both laws, giving evidence of their recent cooperation with China and signalling their future intents.

Every delegate present in the council is expected to have researched their countries' specific positions in order to stimulate interesting and productive collaboration.

The advent of cloning technology may be the biggest development of our time, alongside AI and Quantum technology. It has both potential to provide many helpful benefits to the human species and help us leap into the future as a global population, yet delegates must be aware of the many ethical, moral, and strategic concerns that come with the advent of the new technology. Expert research and knowledge of the subject's history will be key for all delegates in this topic, as they debate on a decision that could potentially change the history of the human species. Good luck!

# On the Topic of the Sun's Breakdown

## Introduction

From the beginning of the Earth's lifetime, the sun has been of utmost importance to the development and maintenance of our planet's intricate life and ecosystems, including the development of organisms such as humans. The seemingly infinite amounts of energy radiated off the sun to the earth every second has provided the warmth to stop our bodies freezing over, and the photosynthesis it has facilitated has meant that plants would yield us fruit to keep us alive. However, for the first time in the history of the world, there is a risk that this source of energy may not be as infinite as humans once hoped. Recent observations made from NASA have shown signs of increased solar winds sweeping through the atmosphere, and the cooling and reddening of the surface of the sun, as well as an alarming drop in the Sun's predicted mass (obtained from observations from the earth). These are widely accepted by the international science community as preliminary signs of the sun running out of fuel and beginning the process of collapse into a white dwarf. As the international communities begin to panic, eyes turn to the UN for a calm, confident and well-researched solution to the problem.

## Scientific affairs and status

These troubling observations were first made by the Parker Solar Probe, which travelled to within a 38-million-mile radius of the sun and noticed a slight reddish hue on the surface, as well as a smaller diameter and a higher concentration of particles such as alpha radiation, which is commonly found within the solar wind. At first, scientists were in complete confusion, however on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2026 a potential culprit was identified. On its daily orbit, the GOES 7 satellite (Of the GOES 1-15 satellites), recognised an unusual clustering of solar particles around the German owned Solar Energy Particle Converter (SEPC). On investigating further, they found out that the satellite generates energy by using a super-powerful magnet to attract excessive amounts of solar particles, such as protons and electrons, and then converts them to electricity in magnetohydrodynamic generators. The energy released is huge and is suggested as one of the reasons for Germany's strong economic performance.

However, the scheme also seems to be causing extreme harm to the sun. By attracting excessive amounts of solar particles, it causes a drop in solar pressure, which begins to destabilize the Sun's outer layer, as particles begin to fly into the relative vacuum around it. Over time this effect compounds, leading to warped solar radiation rates, and leading to the sun using up its fuel much more quickly. Due to these factors, it's predicted by top scientists that the Sun's energy could run out in as little as 30 years, causing it to morph into a red giant and finally a white dwarf, which would no longer provide energy to the earth as the sun has always done, spelling the end of the human race.

## International response and positions

The United Nations Secretary General has issued a statement expressing deep concern about the issue and has called upon all countries, responsible or not, to work together to solve this crisis by technological means. Germany, the main user of this source of energy, has issued a slightly cryptic apology both recognising the danger of the situation at hand and refusing to directly comment on the accusations from NASA. Instead, it points to possible natural causes of this incident, such as internal issues with the sun that lay outside any manmade culpability. Increased outrage has followed the announcement by the German Government that the satellite used in this instance was one launched in 1989, when the country was still divided, and thus went under the radar due to its supposed scrapping. The United States, the discoverer of this unprecedented situation, has blamed Germany, though acknowledging their own prominent use of both solar energy power and solar satellites. The latter are being researched for any possible linkage to the current situation, but this is currently unproven. Russia, once a major advocate of space exploration itself, has angrily attacked the actions of Germany as reckless, selfish and dangerous while hinting at preventative action that it may take. DPRK, Cuba and Vietnam have issued a joint statement assigning culpability to Western powers while EU states have taken a more diplomatic approach in refusing to condemn any specific entity and rather placing hope in a collaborative approach to fix this. Most countries, however, have not yet spoken directly on this issue but instead echoed the sentiment of the Secretary General. Issues that different countries may wish to address could include the lack of information on the issue, shortage of new technology to deal with this situation or the destructive blame game into which this has descended.

## Conclusion

Overall, this new situation poses a great risk not just in the immediate future but for the long term. The delicate balance of alliances that make up the new global order are facing their greatest strain yet, one that threatens the very existence of the world as we know it. The path forward seems clear: to ensure that the situation is properly acknowledged and dealt with, in whatever way this may be, and stop the crisis escalating. However, the question is whether the committee finds its answer in mere scapegoating or attempt a more collaborative effort in resolving this situation.







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