

# UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL



## BACKGROUND GUIDE

**DEENS ACADEMY MODEL UNITED  
NATIONS 2018**



*Dear Delegates,*

It is my greatest pleasure to welcome you to the first edition of DMUN: *a MUN with a difference*.

Personally, MUNs have been an overcrowding of formalities and strict procedure, hence leaving the true goal of the United Nations to be forgotten which is to solve global issues while encouraging diplomatic negotiations. This is where we are different. DMUN '18 focuses on what truly matters – solutions.

With the support of our beloved principal, Shanti Menon, my team and I have worked tirelessly to make this conference one worth remembering. This year, we have introduced six exciting committees, two of which are fictitious, to create engaging discussions which aim at solving our world's most pressing issues.

Whether you are a first-timer or a MUN veteran, you will definitely learn something from this conference. This MUN will test your problem solving skills and diplomacy in a pressurized, goal oriented environment.

The [DISEC](#) and [Security Council](#) are mainstays of any MUN and they are carried forward at DMUN 18 with nail biting agendas involving demilitarization, and prevention of another catastrophic world war. The oil rich gulf nations have a committee of their own, the [League of Arab Nations](#), to focus specifically on solving the grave problems plaguing their region which are usually overlooked.

The [Advocatus Conclave](#), the moot court, makes an important appearance in this conference as we solve bilateral problems on a legal basis.

Fast paced and filled with unexpected updates, the [Continual Crisis Committee](#) is set to be one of the most thrilling committees ever witnessed. Finally, the [Marvel Summit](#) transports you to a fictional world that we all know and love.

I am looking forward to two days filled with stimulating discussions, enthralling debates and pragmatic resolutions.

See you soon.

Regards,



**Abhilash Madabhushi**

**Secretary General,**

**DMUN '18**

**THE EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR THE SECURITY COUNCIL CONSISTS OF –**

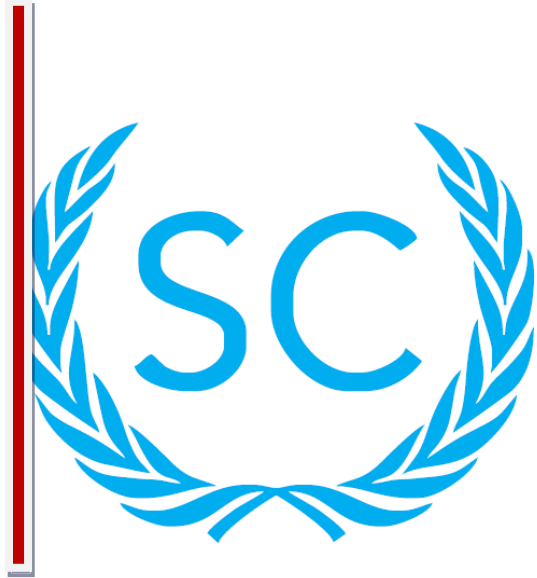
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**ALL THE BEST**



### **The UNSC Mission Statement**

The United Nations Security Council is perhaps the most powerful and important organ of the UN. It is the only UN body which can, within its mandate take severe and affirmative action against those who have violated the UN Charter or any international convention. This gives the Sc a tremendous amount of influence and power since it can, with every decision of its potentially change international geopolitical issues and stances. The subsidiary body of the UNSC is MINUSCA which has very specific and essential goals. The UNSC in short is a crucial organ of the UN and is essential not only to ensure stability within the UN but on a global scale.

The UNSC still however must act within the parameters of the United Nations Charter.

### **Agenda: Biological Warfare**

Biological Warfare and bioterrorism involve the deliberate cause or spread of disease by biological agents, used as a weapon. Such weapons have the potential to cause immense human harm, panic and societal disruption. Although governments have long understood that eliminating the threats posed by these weapons will require extensive international cooperation, the need for such cooperation is more urgent today than ever.

This urgency arises from several converging developments. One concerns the rapid evolution in the life sciences, with possibly unforeseen, dangerous consequences. Another is that the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention lacks a capacity for monitoring and verification, implementation and enforcement. An additional problem is that many governments have not adopted or fully implemented national legislation and other instruments to ensure fulfillment of their obligations. Yet another concern arises from the possible misuse or negative impact of biodefense programs, such as their potential to provide cover for the illegal development or maintenance of

biological weapons-related expertise. Furthermore, there is a heightened fear of the impact of terrorist actions, coupled with profound concern that modern economies may be particularly vulnerable to disruption from the deliberate spread of disease.<sup>[SEP]</sup> The Commission recognizes that strengthening the prohibition embodied in the BTWC is a necessary, but not sufficient, requirement for dealing with these intractable, interrelated problems.

Biological weapons can be subdivided in several ways. One way is to consider the type of agent that causes disease, such as bacteria, viruses or toxins. Another is to look at the types of effects, such as a disease that can be transmitted between humans (contagious) or only affects those directly exposed to the biological agent. A third way is to look at symptoms – for example, some diseases might normally lead to death while others might incapacitate their victims or lead to changes in behavior.

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## **History of Bio Warfare**

There was a major step taken in microbiology during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which has greatly boosted the production and the use of the biological weapons. During the First World War, there were evidences suggesting the existence of a biological warfare program in Germany. The program allegedly featured covert operations of attempts by German operatives to infect military-used animals with glanders and anthrax while they were awaiting their shipment from United States to the Allies. It is believed that Germans also conducted similar operations in Romania, Russia, Norway, Mesopotamia, and Argentina, while obtaining various levels of success. The German bio-warfare program is particularly noteworthy because it is the first national offensive program that has the scientific foundation and the first concrete example of biological weapons use in wartime.

In the Second World War, countries began conducting some rather ambitious biological warfare research programs. Japan is believed to conduct the most notorious biological warfare programs from approximately 1932 until the end of the War. The center of the program was known as 'Unit 731' and was

located in Manchuria; more than 10,000 prisoners have died as a result of experimental infection or even live vivisection. In addition, the Japanese military released the plague-infected fleas from aircraft over Chinese cities to initiate plague epidemics, without well acknowledging the hazards of biological weapons. As a result, an attack on the China city Changteh in 1941 reportedly caused over 10,000 casualties; among them include 1700 accidentally killed Japanese troops' individuals. Thus, this operation came to cease in 1942. As for the Westerners, who perceived the threat of biological warfare, the Great Britain developed its own offensive biological weapons during the War. Gruinard Island, which is near the coast of Scotland, was quarantined because of focal soil contamination by anthrax and has been prohibited from accessing ever since. The anti personnel weapons developed by the British were never massively produced. In the United States it was not the government but an individual who initiated a bioweapons research program. Sir Frederick Banting, the Nobel Prize winner, created the first private biological weapon research centre in 1940. Shortly afterwards, the US government was also pressed to perform such research following its British ally. Nonetheless, due to the lack of adequate safety measures in the production facility, the large-scale production was precluded. Both countries, along with French, all claimed that the research was out of the fear of potential German attack with biological weapons; however the Nazis reportedly actually never had serious intention considering using biological weapons, which is because Hitler himself issued orders prohibiting such development

In the 1960s, public grew concern about the indiscriminate nature, unpredictability, and epidemiological risks of biological weapons, as more information indicating that various national biological weapons programs became more evident. In July 1969, Great Britain submitted a statement to the UN Conference on Disarmament calling for the prohibition of development, production, and stockpiling of biological, bacteriological and toxin weapons. In September, the Soviet Union issued a similar proposal. On November 25<sup>th</sup>, President Nixon announced that the United States unilaterally renounced its development, production, stockpiling, and use of biological weapons. The afterward research would be strictly directed to the



development of vaccines, drugs, and diagnostics as defensive measures. Consequently, the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) was adopted. The Convention currently consists of 169 State Parties and 110 Signatory States. In 1991, the Third Review Conference of the Convention was convened and it established an Ad Hoc Group of Government Experts (VEREX) to identify and examine possible verification measures from a scientific and technical perspective. Unfortunately, during its existence from 1995 to 2001, the Ad Hoc Group failed to reach consensus on such an instrument.

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## WORLD WAR II:

World War II saw a huge upswing in interest in biochemical warfare and is a major reason as to the proliferation of biological weapons in today's day and age. The Japanese and the Soviet Union were the most innovative in this field and set the milestone for future armies through their actions in the 20th century.

## The Japanese (Unit 731):

The Japanese Military viewed World War II as an opportunity to innovate warheads that not only affected soldiers at the border, but crippled the citizens of the nation as a whole. Unit 731, established close to the town of Pingfan near Manchuria, was publicly called "Epidemic Prevention and Water Supply Unit of the Kwantung Army." This seemingly harmless centre comprised of 3000 scientists, 150 buildings and 5 satellite camps, enforced with the duty of developing and testing biochemical weapons to be used on the Allies. Experimental inoculation on prisoners of war led to at least 3000 British, Russian, Chinese, Korean and Mongolian deaths due to anthrax, cholera, plague, gangrene and tetrodotoxin. In fact, Japanese scientists at Unit 731 devised an ingenious method to spread the dreaded plague disease, by spreading fleas that were collected from rats infected with the plague onto Chinese cities. However, due to lack of training and experience,

in the attack on the city of Changteh in 1941, close to 1700 of the 10,000 fatalities were Japanese in nationality.

### THE SOVIET UNION - COMPOUND 19:

In April, 1979, close to the town of Sverdlovsk (now Ekaterinburg), Russia, there were reports of a large anthrax cloud dispersed over Compound 19, a biological research site close to the town for a 50 kilometre radius, infecting livestock and humans alike. In late 1992, it was proven that the KGB has authorised advanced biological warhead synthesis in the region, but with a lack of experienced scientists and proper resources, the anthrax spores had proceeded to infect the population of the region - close to 1.2 million people. The 42 autopsies collected later proved that it was a systemic test, complimented with weather analysis and atmospheric data as well as livestock autopsies by the scientists at Compound 19.

### THE SOVIET UNION- KAZAKHSTAN

After the failed synthesis of anthrax strains in Sverdlovsk, Compound 19 moved to the isolated city of Stepnogorsk, Kazakhstan to continue working on this particular strain. This more virulent strain preceded the weaponized strain of smallpox the Soviet Union managed to produce in remote Siberia. It has been commonly accounted for the sudden smallpox outbreak in the United States of America after it's supposed eradication.

### THE GENEVA PROTOCOL

Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating Gas, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare<sup>[L][SEP]</sup> Signed on 17 June 1925 and entered into force on 8 February 1928<sup>[L][SEP]</sup> Prohibits the use in war of asphyxiating, poisonous or other gases, and of all analogous liquids, materials or devices

Prohibits the use of bacteriological methods of warfare<sup>[L][SEP]</sup> Commits the parties to exert every effort to induce other States to accede<sup>[L][SEP]</sup> The

prohibitions “shall be universally accepted as a part of International Law, binding alike the conscience and the practice of nations”.

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## **The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)**

It was opened for signature on April 10<sup>th</sup> 1972 and entered into force on March 26<sup>th</sup> 1975. It is the first multinational disarmament treaty banning the development, production, and stockpiling of an entire category of mass destruction weapons. Under the convention, the countries are responsible to provide annual reports on activities related to the BWC, including: data on research centers and laboratories; information on vaccine production facilities; information on national biological defense research and development programs; declaration of past activities in offensive and/or defensive biological research and development programs; information on outbreaks of infectious diseases and similar occurrences caused by toxins; publication of results and promotion of use of knowledge and contacts; information on legislation, regulations and other measures.

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## **STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF THE CONVENTION**

The biological threat poses multifaceted challenges and requires multifaceted solutions. So far, however, there is scant agreement on how to move forward. Some states have abandoned any hope of strengthening international confidence in compliance. Some are still seeking to revive the idea of the verification protocol. Others now want to move on and build bridges between collective, treaty-based mechanisms and other approaches.

In the Commission’s view, efforts to achieve some level of multilaterally agreed principles and powers should be pursued, although the complexities of the challenge make it necessary to counter biological-weapon threats from a variety of angles. The international community should focus simultaneously

on the following types of activity, all of which contribute to the overall regime for control of the hostile uses of the life sciences.

Strengthening and effective enforcement of international agreements, including monitoring and reporting increasing public health awareness combined with enhanced health and safety regulations, measures and resources controls on transfers of material and equipment norm building among all those engaged in the life sciences and in society as a whole public information counter-terrorism intelligence and tools.

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## **References**

1. The United Nations (UN) <http://www.un.org/en/index.html>
2. Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) <http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/>
3. United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) <http://www.un.org/disarmament/>
4. The United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) <http://www.unog.ch/>

Sites to be considered for useful research:

<https://www.brookings.edu/articles/chemical-and-biological-weapons-prospects-and-priorities-after-september-11/>

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/>

<https://in.reuters.com/>

<https://www.opcw.org/chemical-weapons-convention/related-international-agreements/chemical-warfare-and-chemical-weapons/hague-convention-of-1907/>

## Questions to be Considered

What is the definition of the 'peaceful-use' of the weapons? [L][SEP]

How to improve the weaknesses of BWC? [L][SEP]

How can we effectively regulate the use of biological and chemical weapons [L][SEP] from non-sponsored countries? Has your country agreed to the CWC? If not, [L][SEP] why? If so, has it completely ceased involvement with chemical weapons? [L][SEP]

What are the possibilities of chemical weapons falling into the hands of [L][SEP] nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), terrorist organizations, or rogue [L][SEP] states? What can be done about this? [L][SEP]

What are ways to make the mechanism under the two conventions more [L][SEP] transparent and effective? [L][SEP]

How to cooperate with diverse bodies when facing the threats of toxin [L][SEP] weapons? [L][SEP]

## Possible Solutions and Reconciliation

As the UNSC, you are the only committee which can establish sanctions, put trade embargos and take military action. However we as The E.B expect you to maintain diplomacy and act within the mandate of UNSC without taking extreme measures. Since the threat posed by bioweaponry is inhumane and life threatening world wide we would prefer if the delegates formed a:-

1. Multilateral agreement which has unanimous approval to ensure complete co-operation amongst members
2. Address and condemn the suspicious activities of nations while also deciding what international action will be or shall be taken if these incidents continue

3. Establishing at least the basic framework for the provision of an independent body directly reporting to the Secretary General which has the core responsibility of acting as a watchdog/task force against usage of bioweaponry
4. An extensive and detailed plan of execution regarding the potential stockpile of bio-chemical weapons which are accessible and how they are to be systematically disposed with.

