DISEC

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Letter From the Chairs

Dear Delegates,

My name is Cristian Sanchez and I am thrilled to be one of your chairs for DISEC here at LTMUN this year. I'm a junior here at Lane Tech and have been doing Model UN for 3 years. Outside of Model UN I enjoy running, participating in after school extracurriculars and music to which I dedicate a majority of my time to. This committee is one that is incredibly dear to me as it addresses a multitude of serious issues on an international scale. Hopefully, throughout the duration of the committee, all delegates are able to engage in civil conversations, contribute creative ideas, and be able to collaborate together to help come to a resolution. But, most importantly I hope you all have fun.

Truly, Cristian Sanchez

Dear Delegates,

My name is Elisabeth Benson, and I'm so excited to be chairing DISEC this year at Lane Tech's first conference! Outside of Model UN, I am on the Improv Team, play piano, and listen to Taylor Swift. I am a junior, and this is my first year on the Model UN team at Lane. Although I was initially hesitant to join, I'm glad I did—it has been exceptionally enjoyable to experience the multitude of insightful discussions that interweave serious topics with creativity and innovation. The collaboration, innovative thinking, and leadership that are part of Model UN are skills that I will use for a lifetime. I hope this committee will provide you with opportunities to work effectively together, come up with creative resolutions to global issues, and meet a lot of wonderful people.

Sincerely, Elisabeth Benson

Committee Background

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) is the first committee created in the United Nations General Assembly. Established in 1945 in order to prevent future wars, the international committee aims to foster cooperation through arms regulation and disarmament. Throughout history, DISEC has served as the forum during critical points in time to help create cooperation between rival countries. One example of this was the Cold War (1947-1991), in which intense rivalries between Russia and the United States of America led to a nuclear arms race and as such became a global concern for many. Thus, DISEC became the forum on debates on topics including nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction (WMD), arms control and conference building measures, helping to bring along discussions that influenced major international agreements such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). While DISEC has no ability to enforce the decisions made in committee, in this situation it was essential in shaping international dialogue and cooperation. Moving on to the present day, DISEC has shifted its focus to more modern global security threats such as outer space security, chemical weapons and cybersecurity.

Topic A: Militarization In Outer Space

History Of The Topic

Outer space has played a critical role for modern international security. Satellites have become essential in communication, navigation, military operations, and other global efforts. As such, states have become increasingly more dependent on space-based assets, causing growing concerns over the militarization and potential weaponization of outer space. The launch of the Sputnik I (1957) marked the beginning of the space age, and during the Cold War, space exploration became the symbol of technological and military competition. Despite space exploration being marked as a strive in scientific progress, it was also closely intertwined with ballistic military technology. Recognizing this, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) aimed to address space-related security issues. This eventually led to the establishment of specialized bodies and frameworks to prevent the weaponization of space, including the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS), the UN Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA), etc. Hoping to prevent any more conflicts over the topic of space, the UNGA adopted its first resolutions in 1961 to call for the peaceful use of outer space and emphasizing that space should benefit all of humanity.

However, rising tensions from the Cold War led to the creation of the Outer Space Treaty (OST), declaring outer space as the province for “all mankind,” prohibiting nuclear weapons and forbidding national sovereignty claims over specific celestial bodies. DISEC played a significant role in regulating debate on security implications of space activities, promoting arms control in

relation to space, and supporting treaty development through consensus building. However, the OST does not include the prohibition of conventional weapons or the regulation of more modern technologies in outer space. Rather, it aimed to serve as the framework for future space law and prevent the arms race between Russia and America from reaching space.

Throughout the 1970s-1980s, satellite technology began to advance, causing concerns over the development of anti-satellite (ASAT) weapons, which are weapons that have the ability to disable or destroy satellites in orbit for strategic advantage.

Both major powers in the Cold War had developed these weapons, which created even greater global tensions that needed to be addressed. Thus, DISEC convened in order to create discussions focused on preventing an arms race to occur in outer space. This convention led to the establishment of the Prevention of an Arms Race in Outer Space (PAROS) in 1981, which to this day continues to be an agenda item for the general assembly in DISEC, as it serves as the framework for discussion in hope of amending the OST due to its lack of taking into account modern day technology. However, eventually the issue concerning ASAT weapons came to a close as the Cold War had come to a close, through a series of events that eventually quelled the tensions that had existed between the two superpowers America and Russia.

Following the conclusion of the Cold War, the everlasting threat of future militarization in space continued to exist. An example of this is the Gulf War (also known as the first “Space War”) in 1991. The reason for this is because in the conflict between Iraq and a multinational coalition satellites became essential in warfare, creating reconnaissance that allowed multinational coordinated attacks. Thus demonstrating that a superiority in space also allowed for an upper hand on the battlefield. This forced space assets to be considered the standard doctrine and essential in ensuring equality in modern warfare. Thus leading to many countries to change their space system and become much more advanced in their tactics, that are still used to this very day.

Current Situation

Currently, outer space remains as a vital domain for both civilian infrastructure and military operations. Satellites have now become integral in global communication, navigation, economic systems, etc, and because of this space has become a strategic priority for many states. Leading them to invest heavy amounts of funds into ensuring their space assets soar above the rest. However, the dependency on space has also coincided with a significant increase in activities that still continue to contribute to the militarization of the space environment that are raising international concerns over the long-term stability of space conflict prevention.

The strategic competition between major powers has led to space becoming an area of strategic rivalry between state superpowers such as the United States, China, and Russia. The U.S. Department of Defense and Intelligence assess that Russia and China are both rapidly advancing counterspace capabilities. Including satellites capable of close proximity maneuvers and potential anti-satellite roles. These developments reflect the broader great-power competition in orbit, where satellites have been designed in order to ensure warfare superiority,

National space policies reflect this strategic shift with many countries aiming to become the next top space entity, especially in the development of next-generation missile defense technologies and counterspace capabilities. This also continues to signal the national commitment countries have to maintain military dominance in space. However, at the same time states are also aiming to mitigate the ways in which space is used for violent efforts and rather are aiming to utilize space for Humanitarian reasons and legal advocates. An example of this is the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) who emphasize the urgent need to prevent weaponization and safeguard space infrastructure.

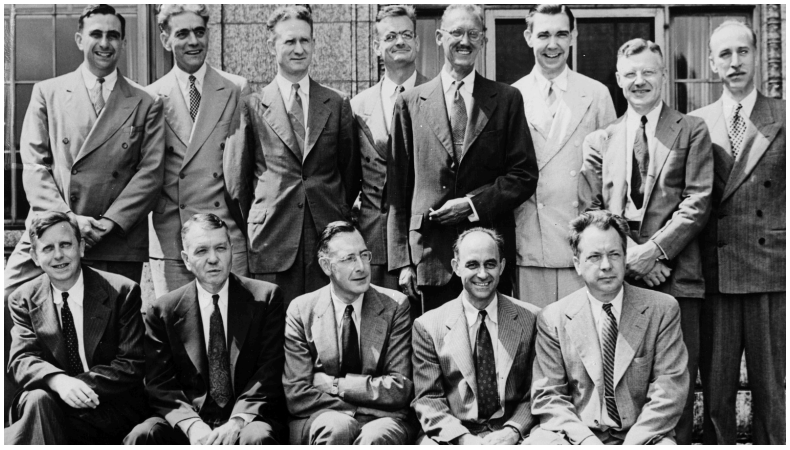
Also, the OST of 1967 remains the foundation of international space law and because of this leaves significant loopholes in regulating military activities. However, efforts within the UN such as the PAROS group continue to facilitate dialogue on space security and yet despite this diplomatic consensus on specific prohibitions remains elusive. Thus the current security in space is characterized by intensifying competition, evolving military technologies and securing national interest through policy actions. These developments underscore the need for renewed multilateral engagement to manage militarization, discourage weaponization, and protect space as a peaceful domain for all.

Questions To Consider

1. Are current military uses of space (GPS, surveillance satellites, communications) compatible with peaceful use?
2. Is the Outer Space Treaty (1967) sufficient to address modern space threats?
3. How does the militarization of space affect global strategic stability?
4. Would a ban on ASAT weapons be effective and realistic?

Topic B: Nuclear Warfare and Disarmament

History of the Topic



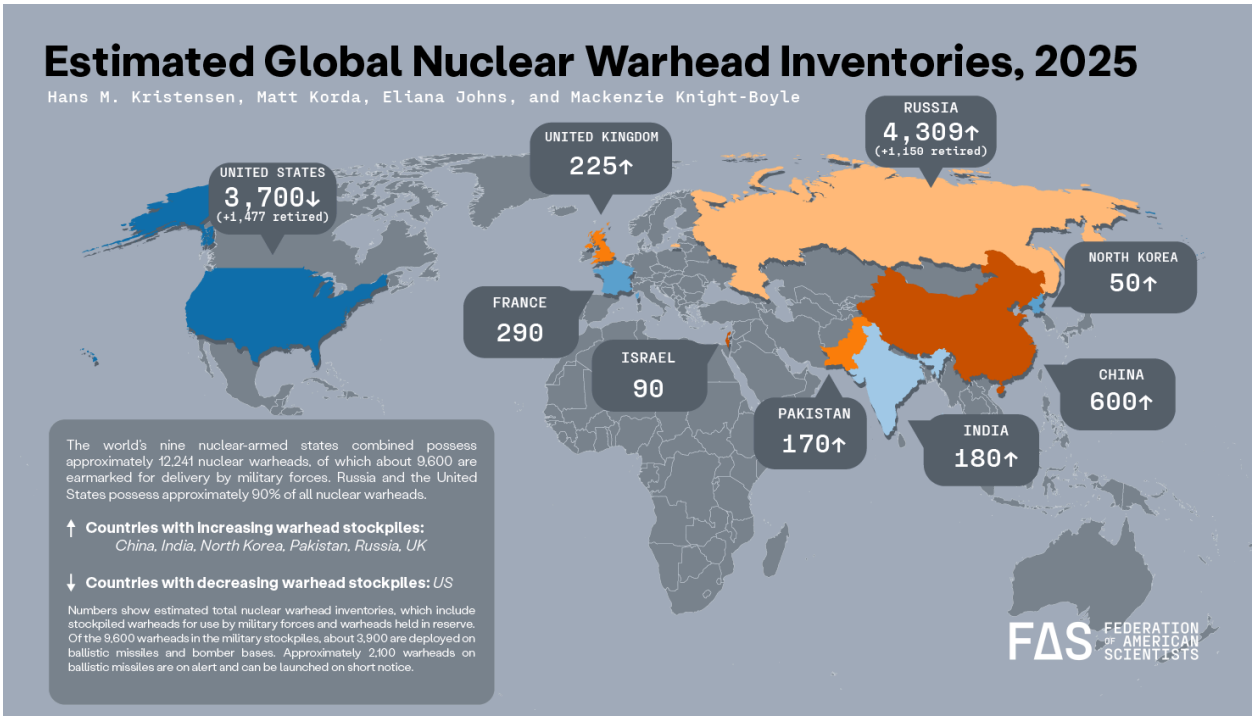
Ever since the Manhattan Project, a United States-led program with the goal of creating the first nuclear weapons in World War II, nuclear warfare and the question of disarmament have been major global issues. The power that nuclear weapons held became clear once the United States bombed Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, effectively destroying these cities and inciting a tense post-World War II fear. During the Cold War, tensions rose between the United States and the Soviet Union, the two most powerful countries at the time. A doctrine of military strategy, Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD) asserted that if one side used all of their nuclear power to attack the other, both sides would be completely annihilated, causing both the U.S. and the USSR to build up their nuclear weapon arsenal in order to deter the other side from attacking. In 1963, the U.S. and the USSR signed the Limited Test Ban Treaty, which prohibited all test detonations of nuclear weapons, except underground. This eventually led to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), with the objective of preventing the spread of nuclear weaponry,

promoting peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and pushing for nuclear disarmament. The treaty also distinguished between Nuclear Weapon States (NWS) and Non-Nuclear Weapon States (NNWS), stating that NNWS must never acquire nuclear weapons and NWS (United States, United Kingdom, Russia, China, France) agree to share the benefits of peaceful nuclear technology and pursue nuclear disarmament. However, some states have not accepted the NPT (India, Pakistan, Israel) and debates continue on rogue countries such as North Korea—which left the NPT agreement in 2003—and Iran, which is part of the NPT but faces scrutiny from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) for noncompliance with parts of it due to its possession of large quantities of enriched uranium. In 2017, the UN adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), with the goal of illegalizing nuclear weapons for participating states; however, no nuclear-armed states have joined.

UN TREATY BANNING NUCLEAR WEAPONS

Current Situation

Right now, there are over 12,000 warheads in the global nuclear stockpile, with Russia and the United States holding 87% of that number. The trend after the Cold War, in which the United States and Russia dismantled their weapons, is reversing, with various countries accelerating the production of warheads. Additionally, nuclear weapons in the countries that have them are being modernized, and fast. China, for example, is close to completing around 350 new ICBM (Intercontinental ballistic missile) silos, and is reported to match the number of missiles in the US and Russia by 2030. The United States is projected to spend nearly $946 billion dollars between 2025 and 2034 on the modernization of its nuclear weaponry. Furthermore, the START treaty between the United States and Russia that limits nuclear arms, was set to expire in February of 2026. In late 2025, the U.S. and Russia raised the possibility of renewing nuclear testing, which would end a 30-year suspension period. Among NNWS, The TPNW continues to gain members, with 70% of the UN supporting it. However, there is a growing rift between nuclear umbrella states (NNWS that rely on security guarantees by NWS to deter potential threats) and NNWS who believe all nuclear weapons should be banned and are immoral, as many argue that nuclear deterrence is unstable and is an objective danger to the planet.



Questions to Consider

1. What are your country's views on nuclear disarmament, and why?
2. What has your country done in the past in terms of nuclear warfare, and how would they work to address nuclear weaponry issues now?
3. How can we work together to encourage nuclear disarmament and incentivize countries to join the TPNW? Considering other countries' motives, is it possible to have a completely nuclear

weapon-free world, and if so, what steps need to be taken to approach this goal?

4. If nuclear disarmament isn't possible, why, and what can be done to quell some of the tensions and conflicts around nuclear warfare? Is nuclear deterrence a plausible solution? What are its advantages/downfalls?
5. What effects and implications does an action on nuclear weapons have politically, economically, and socially, for both your country and for the world as a whole?

Positions

Argentina

Australia

Austria

Brazil

Canada

China

Egypt

France

Germany

India

Iran

Japan

Mexico

Netherlands

Nigeria

North Korea

Norway

Pakistan

Russia

Saudi Arabia

South Africa

South Korea

Spain

Sweden

Switzerland

Turkey

Ukraine

United Arab Emirates

United Kingdom

United States

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