NMUN•DC

General Assembly First Committee

Background Guide 2018

Written by: Davina Basse, Director; Angelo J. Bechara, Assistant Director;
Jeffrey A. Thorpe II, Director of Conference Services

NATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 2018 National Model United Nations Conference in Washington, D.C. (NMUN•DC)! We are pleased to introduce you to our committee, the General Assembly First Committee. This year's staff is composed of Director Davina Basse and Assistant Director Angelo Bechara. Davina is a graduate student at the Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies and works as a researcher with the Centre for European Studies in Ottawa, Canada. This is her third year on DC staff, and she is excited to return to NMUN-DC. Angelo is a current graduate student at George Washington University working on an MA in Middle East Studies. Angelo lives in Washington D.C. but is originally from both New Jersey and Lebanon and has been involved in NMUN for 2 years as a staffer and 4 years as a delegate.

The topics under discussion for General Assembly First Committee are:

I. Addressing the Use of Chemical Weapons
II. The Role of Emerging Technologies in International Security and Disarmament

The General Assembly is the main deliberative body and one of the principal organs of the United Nations. As the Disarmament and International Security committee of the General Assembly, the First Committee addresses topics of disarmament, threats to international peace and security, and seeks solutions to challenges to the global security regime, among others. The First Committee makes recommendations to the General Assembly Plenary, initiatives international conferences, and requests reports to advance the topics on its agenda. The nature of the topics addressed by the First Committee makes it one of the most collaborative UN bodies; the committee adopts most of its draft resolutions by consensus and without a recorded vote.

We hope you will find this Background Guide useful as an introduction to the topics for this committee. However, it is not intended to replace individual research. We highly encourage you to explore your Member State's policies in-depth, as well as use the Annotated Bibliography and Bibliography to further your knowledge on these topics. In preparation for the conference, each delegation will submit a position paper. Please take note of the NMUN Conduct Expectations on the website and in the Delegate Preparation Guide regarding plagiarism, codes of conduct, dress code, sexual harassment, and the awards philosophy and evaluation method. Adherence to these guidelines is mandatory.

The NMUN Rules of Procedure are available to download from the NMUN website. This document includes the long and short form of the rules, as well as an explanatory narrative and example script of the flow of procedure. It is thus an essential instrument in preparing for the conference, and a reference during committee.

If you have any questions concerning your preparation for the committee or the conference itself, feel free to contact the Under Secretary-General for the committee, Leah Schmidt; the Deputy Secretary-General, Chase Mitchell; or the Secretary-General for the conference, Angela Shively. You can contact them by email at: usgleah.dc@nmun.org, dsg.dc@nmun.org, or secgen.dc@nmun.org.

We wish you all the best in your preparations and look forward to seeing you at the conference!

Sincerely,

Davina Basse, *Director*
Angelo J. Bechara, *Assistant Director*

Committee Overview

Introduction

The United Nations (UN) General Assembly has existed since the creation of the UN and is one of the six principal organs of the UN, as established by the *Charter of the United Nations* (1945).[1] There are currently six General Assembly Main Committees, each with a different mandate; the General Assembly First Committee considers all matters related to disarmament and international security.[2] General Assembly resolution 1378(XIV) of 20 November 1959 on "General and Complete Disarmament" was the first resolution co-sponsored by all Member States and considered the question of disarmament the most important question facing the world at the time.[3] Consequently, the General Assembly established the United Nations Disarmament Commission (UNDC) in 1952 with a general mandate to discuss topics related to disarmament.[4]

> The **General Assembly First Committee** (First Committee) is one of the six Main Committees of the General Assembly. A report is issued to the General Assembly Plenary for each item allocated to a Main Committee.

In its 26th session, the General Assembly declared the 1970s as a Disarmament Decade.[5] During this time, additional institutions were established: in 1979 the Conference on Disarmament (CD) was created as the international community's multilateral negotiation forum on disarmament and in 1980 the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) was created with the purpose of undertaking independent research on questions related to disarmament.[6] Several other disarmament-related entities and other organizations also report to the General Assembly through the First Committee, such as the regional centers on disarmament and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization.[7] The ratification of the *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons* (NPT) in 1970 was a fundamental cornerstone in the field of nuclear disarmament.[8] Efforts leading to this vital agreement started a decade earlier, and an important element in its development took place in the First Committee.[9] In 1958, when nuclear non-proliferation was on the agenda for the first time, the First Committee recommended the creation of an ad hoc committee studying the dangers of nuclear dissemination, but this resolution failed to be adopted by the General Assembly Plenary.[10] Over subsequent years, this subject was recurrent, and the First Committee eventually adopted a series of resolutions recognizing its central role in pushing negotiations on non-proliferation forward.[11]

As the only main body with universal membership, the General Assembly is a unique forum for discussion within the UN system.[12] It represents the normative center of the UN and its main role in the maintenance of international peace and security can be summarized in three principal aspects: a generator of ideas, a place of international debate, and the nucleus of new concepts and practices.[13]

---

[1] *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.
[2] UN General Assembly, *Disarmament and International Security*, 2017.
[3] UN General Assembly, *General and Complete Disarmament (A/RES/1378(XIV))*, 1959.
[4] UN General Assembly, *Regulation, Limitation and Balanced Reduction of all Armed Forces and all Armaments; International Control of Atomic Energy (A/RES/6/502)*, 1952.
[5] UN General Assembly, *Question of General Disarmament (A/RES/2602 E)*, 1969; UN General Assembly, *Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly (S-10/2)*, 1978.
[6] Ibid.
[7] Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2011, p. 63.
[8] Sciora & Stevenson, *Planet UN*, 2009, pp. 77-78.
[9] UN Audiovisual Library of International Law, *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 1968*, 2012, p. 1.
[10] Ibid.
[11] Ibid.
[12] UN General Assembly, *Functions and Powers of the General Assembly*, 2014.
[13] Thakur, *The United Nations, Peace and Security*, 2006, pp. 91, 162.

Governance, Structure, and Membership

As outlined in the *Charter of the United Nations*, the General Assembly is comprised of all Member States of the UN.[14] However, Observer status can also be granted to intergovernmental organizations, specialized agencies, and related organizations such as the African Union, World Bank, and states without full UN membership.[15] Currently, the Holy See and the State of Palestine are the only two non-Member States with permanent Observer status.[16] In the General Assembly, each Member State has one equal vote, and unlike the Security Council, no state has the power of the veto.[17]

Since its 44th session in 1989, the General Assembly is considered in session the entire year, but the most important time is the General Debate, which takes place from mid-September to the end of December.[18] During the remainder of the year, working group meetings take place and thematic debates are held.[19] Except for decisions on important matters, votes in the General Assembly require a simple majority, and the majority of resolutions are adopted without a vote, illustrating the consensual nature of the General Assembly.[20] As determined by the General Assembly Fifth Committee, the budget allocated to disarmament for the biennium 2018-2019 is $25.6 million and is mainly attributed to multilateral negotiations and deliberations on disarmament and arms limitation.[21]

The First Committee receives substantive and organizational support from three important entities: the General Committee, UNODA, and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management.[22] The General Committee is comprised of the President and the 21 Vice-Presidents of the General Assembly, as well as the Chairpersons of all the six General Assembly Main Committees; all positions are elected every session on a non-renewable basis.[23] The General Committee's main duty, besides making recommendations on organizational issues, is to deal with the agenda of the General Assembly Plenary and its six Main Committees.[24] After receiving a preliminary list of agenda items from the UN Secretariat, the General Committee allocates the different items to each Main Committee.[25] The First Committee then votes upon its own agenda based on the allocated agenda items.[26] Within the UN Secretariat, UNODA provides "objective, impartial and up-to-date" information, and promotes the implementation of practical measures on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, disarmament in the field of conventional weapons, and the general strengthening of mechanisms and frameworks bolstering disarmament.[27] It further encourages norm-setting at the General Assembly, CD, and UNDC.[28] Additionally, the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management also provides valuable technical secretariat support and acts as the intersection between the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.[29]

The First Committee works in close cooperation with the UNDC and the CD.[30] The CD has a crucial role in addressing issues of disarmament and has been central to negotiations of international agreements such as the NPT.[31] Unlike the CD, the UNDC is a subsidiary organ of the First Committee and is composed of all 193 Member States.[32] By making recommendations to the General Assembly, it leads the formulation of principles and guidelines that will

---

[14] *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.
[15] UN DPI, *About Permanent Observers*, 2017; UN DPI, *Non-member States*, 2017.
[16] Ibid.
[17] *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.
[18] Ibid.
[19] Ibid.
[20] Ibid.
[21] UN General Assembly, *Proposed Programme Budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (A/72/6 (Sect. 4))*, 2017, p. 5.
[22] UN General Assembly, *Disarmament and International Security*, 2017.
[23] UN General Assembly, *General Committee*, 2017.
[24] Ibid.
[25] Ibid.
[26] Ibid.
[27] UNODA, *About Us*, 2014.
[28] Ibid.
[29] UN DGACM, *Functions of the Department*, 2014.
[30] UN General Assembly, *Disarmament and International Security*, 2017.
[31] UNOG, *An Introduction to the Conference*, 2014.
[32] UNODA, *United Nations Disarmament Commission*, 2014.

subsequently been endorsed by the committee in its own reports.[33] Both bodies report at least once annually to the First Committee.[34] Additionally, as a crucial partner with the UN system, civil society organizations have an important relationship with the General Assembly and are often invited to speak at the General Assembly.[35]

Mandate, Functions, and Powers

The mandate of the General Assembly is established in Article 11, Chapter IV of the *Charter of the United Nations*, and requires the General Assembly to address questions of international peace and security, particularly disarmament.[36] This mandate has evolved over time, and the growing range of issues facing the international community ultimately gave the First Committee its focus on disarmament and international security.[37] The question of disarmament is organized in seven clusters: nuclear weapons, other weapons of mass destruction (WMDs), disarmament aspects in outer space, conventional weapons, regional disarmament and security, other disarmament measures and security, and the disarmament machinery.[38] The mandate of the General Assembly allows it to be a conduit for shared ideas, discussion, and debate that can then become the driver of new policies and norms.[39] This is one of the main differences between the General Assembly and the Security Council.[40] While the Security Council is more concerned with concrete threats to security such as ongoing conflicts, the General Assembly aims to create peace by forming habits of cooperation.[41] It is important to note, however, that the General Assembly considers matters of international security only when the issue is not directly under the consideration of the Security Council.[42]

The General Assembly and its six Main Committees are the center of the UN System and represent its main deliberative, policymaking, and representative organs; their outcomes thus define new norms that can become treaties or conventions among UN Member States.[43] The General Assembly is tasked with initiating studies and making recommendations to promote international cooperation in the political field; encouraging the development of international law; promoting the implementation of cultural, social, and human rights; and promoting fundamental freedoms free from discrimination.[44] The body often reviews reports issued by "the other principal organs established under the Charter as well as reports issued by its own subsidiary bodies."[45] The General Assembly Plenary receives recommendations from the six Main Committees, which can recommend the General Assembly Plenary address the functions or priorities of UN funds and programs.[46] Once the recommendations are sent to the Plenary Committee, the Plenary then votes on whether to adopt the resolutions as presented.[47] Although decisions reached by the General Assembly are non-binding, they are often adopted as customary international law, represent the political will of the body, and serve as a good indicator of key international policy norms.[48] Additionally, the General Assembly can request the Secretary-General or other UN organs to issue a report to one of the Main

---

[33] Ibid.
[34] UN General Assembly, *Disarmament and International Security*, 2017.
[35] Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2011, p. 31.
[36] *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.
[37] UN General Assembly, *Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly (A/RES/47/233)*, 1993.
[38] Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2011, p. 63.
[39] Ibid, p. 10.
[40] Ibid.
[41] Ibid.
[42] Ibid, p. 13.
[43] UN General Assembly, *Functions and Powers of the General Assembly*, 2014.
[44] *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945; UN General Assembly, *Functions and Powers of the General Assembly*, 2013; UN General Assembly, *Statement made by the Chairperson of the Fourth Committee (7 May)*, 2013.
[45] *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945; UN General Assembly, *Functions and Powers of the General Assembly*, 2013; UN General Assembly, *Statement made by the Chairperson of the Fourth Committee (7 May)*, 2013; UN General Assembly, *Statement by the Chairperson of the Fourth Committee (7 May)*, 2013.
[46] *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945; UN General Assembly, *Functions and Powers of the General Assembly*, 2013; UN General Assembly, *Statement by the Chairperson of the Fourth Committee (7 May)*, 2013; UN General Assembly, *About the General Assembly*, 2016; Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2011, p. 20.
[47] UN General Assembly, *About the General Assembly*, 2016.
[48] Ibid; Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2011, p. 13.

Committees on a specified question such as the implementation of recommendations made by the General Assembly.[49]

The First Committee is capable of introducing resolutions that initiate new negotiations on arms control and disarmament, which can in turn lead to the creation and funding of agencies or meetings as well as ad hoc committees or working groups that consider a particular question with the purpose of reporting to the General Assembly.[50] The General Assembly Plenary must also adopt resolutions adopted in the First Committee before they are put into effect.[51] Still, even when adopted by the Plenary, General Assembly resolutions are not legally binding.[52] Nonetheless, the consensus reached in the First Committee often leads to more concrete international initiatives.[53]

Recent Sessions and Current Priorities

The strategic framework of the *Biennial Programme Plan*, adopted on 9 March 2016, covers the years 2018-2019 and consists of five subprograms: multilateral negotiations on arms limitation and disarmament, WMDs, conventional arms, information and outreach, and regional disarmament.[54] In this regard, the main objectives of the First Committee are to: support efforts on agreements toward disarmament, promote non-proliferation of nuclear weapons and other WMDs, facilitate mutual confidence among Member States and the regulation of conventional weapons, increase understanding of Member States and the public on disarmament issues, and promote regional disarmament as a fundamental means toward global disarmament.[55]

During the recent 71st session which began in September 2017, the First Committee adopted a total of 64 resolutions.[56] All of the seven clusters were discussed, with nuclear disarmament being the most reviewed cluster.[57] The subprograms laid out in the *Biennial Programme Plan* continue to be priority topics each session, in addition to emerging security issues reflective of the complex security environment the international community is confronted with today, such as nuclear terrorism and the relationship between gender and disarmament.[58] Among the 64 adopted resolutions there are three major thematic areas examined: cybersecurity, nuclear disarmament, and counter-terrorism efforts.[59] During its 71st session, the First Committee emphasized the importance of preventing terrorists from acquiring WMDs, and suggested methods for this, such as advising Member States to monitor the illegal delivery and manufacturing within domestic borders, and ratifying other First Committee texts that address this.[60] General Assembly resolution 71/38 of 9 December 2016 on "Measures to prevent terrorist from acquiring weapons of mass destruction" expands on this idea by stating it would be helpful to compile a report of all measures currently being taken by international organizations to prevent terrorists from acquiring WMDs.[61] Member States review the issues that are faced domestically and outline which measures can be taken to further meet the needs of the international community.[62]

---

[49] UN General Assembly, *About the General Assembly*, 2016; Switzerland, *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly*, 2011, pp. 36, 47.
[50] Weis, *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*, 2004, p. 161.
[51] UN General Assembly, *About the General Assembly*, 2016.
[52] Ibid.
[53] Ibid.
[54] UN General Assembly, *Proposed Strategic Framework for the Period of 2018-2019, Part Two: Biennial Programme Plan, Programme 3: Disarmament (A/71/6 (Prog. 3))*, 2016.
[55] Ibid.
[56] UN General Assembly, *Resolutions: 71st Session*, 2017.
[57] Ibid.
[58] UNODA, *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, Vol. 39 (Part I)*, 2014.
[59] UN General Assembly, *Resolutions: 71st Session*, 2017.
[60] UN DPI, *States Must support National, Global Action to Stop Weapons from Reaching Terrorist Groups, First Committee Hears, as it Approves 7 texts (GA/DIS/3564)*, 2016.
[61] UN General Assembly, *Measures to prevent terrorists from Acquiring Weapons of Mass Destruction (A/RES/71/38)*, 2016.
[62] Ibid.

The First Committee completed its 72[63] session on 2 November 2017.[63] In total, the First Committee submitted a total of 58 documents to be voted by the General Assembly Plenary.[64] Among the successes, the committee was able to agree on a final draft for the *Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and of Their Destruction* which further unifies the collective UN system's commitment to chemical weapons disarmament.[65] The body engaged in in-depth conversation on two operative clauses of the document, both of which were concerned with the reports and actions that have taken placed in Syria.[66] Other items that the committee discussed ranged from peace in the Indian Ocean, the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free-Zone Treaty, and how science and technology can be used in international security and disarmament.[67] A focus on peacekeeping, particularly financing of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, was also evident throughout the 72[68] Session.[68]

Conclusion

Disarmament has been an important issue for the UN and for the achievement of international peace since its founding.[69] As a place where new ideas are shaped, the General Assembly has the ability to introduce standards and norms to promote disarmament and eventually a more peaceful world; nevertheless, it has been argued that the First Committee has not been able to achieve its full potential and has only been reaffirming its resolutions year after year with no introduction of new or improved substantive work.[70] The General Assembly First Committee is likely to continue its pursuit of international peace and security while continually seeking consensus in collaboration with the whole of the international community.[71]

---

[63] UN DPI, *Closing Sessions, First Committee Approves Draft on Chemical Weapons Convention, Sending Total of 58 Texts to General Assembly (GA/DIS/3594)*, 2017.
[64] Ibid.
[65] Ibid.
[66] Ibid.
[67] UN General Assembly, *Documents of the First Committee (A/C.1/72/INF/1)*, 2017, pp. 2-3.
[68] UN General Assembly, *Resolutions of the 72nd Session,* 2018.
[69] *Charter of the United Nations*, 1945.
[70] Reaching Critical Will, *UN General Assembly First Committee*, 2014.
[71] Ibid.

Annotated Bibliography

Charter of the United Nations. (1945). Retrieved 23 August 2017 from:
http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml
> *The Charter of the UN is the most foundational document of the United Nations. The Charter establishes the General Assembly and its role within the UN system, and determines the mandate and priorities of each of the principal organs of the UN. Understanding the powers and function that has been granted to the General Assembly and the other principal organs is an important and necessary task that this source will provide, and delegates will benefit from understanding the role of the General Assembly and how its mandate differs from other UN bodies.*

Switzerland, Permanent Mission to the United Nations. (2011). *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly.* Retrieved 23 August 2017 from:
http://www.unitar.org/ny/sites/unitar.org.ny/files/UN_PGA_Handbook.pdf
> *This publication undertaken by the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the UN is another contribution by a Member State of introductory information about the UN system. The General Assembly is a central focus of this handbook. A detailed description of its organization, structure, rules, and working methods can be found. Further providing information specific to all six Main Committees, this handbook offers a unique source of information to delegates to understand the work of the General Assembly and its place within the UN system.*

Thakur, R. (2006). *The United Nations, Peace and Security.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
> *Ramesh Thakur, a renowned commentator on the UN, examines the UN from a contemporary perspective and looks at it from new angles such as human security, focusing on questions related to international peace and security. By doing so, he critically analyzes the use of force by the UN with the intention of making it more effective in the light of today's emerging threats. His particular analysis of the role of the Security Council versus the General Assembly's approaches to peace and security are a well-explored study of how different approaches to a global issue yield differing political results. His book is a valuable guide to the UN and will be of useful reading to delegates by offering a critical academic analysis of the General Assembly's role and successes.*

United Nations, General Assembly. (2014). *Functions and Powers of the General Assembly* [Website]. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml
> *This web site of the General Assembly provides an excellent and relatively brief introduction to the General Assembly. It also highlights some of the current efforts to reform and revitalize the General Assembly, which is a shared priority of both the Assembly itself and the UN Secretary-General. Delegate should use this as a starting point to understand what actions the General Assembly can take, how it has operated in the past, and how they can work to achieve consensus on international issues.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-first session. (2016). *Proposed Strategic Framework for the Period of 2018-2019, Part Two: Biennial Programme Plan, Programme 3: Disarmament (A/71/6(Prog.3)).* Retrieved 16 September 2017 from: http://www.undocs.org/A/71/6(prog.3)
> *The Proposed Strategic Framework is drafted biennially and outlines the priorities of each year. In the section on disarmament, there are two main segments, which are Overall Orientation and Legislative Mandates. Under the overall orientation, five priority subprograms are listed, which include multilateral negotiations on arms limitations and disarmament, WMDs, conventional arms, information and outreach, and regional disarmament. Delegates will gain more knowledge on the General Assembly's current priority for the year from this document and gain a good understanding of the UN's upcoming priorities in their research with this information.*

Bibliography

Charter of the United Nations. (1945). Retrieved 20 July 2018 from:
http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml

Reaching Critical Will. (2014). *UN General Assembly First Committee* [Website]. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/unga

Sciora R. & A. Stevenson. (2009). Planet UN: The United Nations Confronting the Challenges of the 21st Century. Geneva: Editions du Tricorne.

Switzerland, Permanent Mission to the United Nations. (2011). *The PGA Handbook: A practical guide to the United Nations General Assembly.* Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://www.unitar.org/ny/sites/unitar.org.ny/files/UN_PGA_Handbook.pdf

Thakur, R. (2006). *The United Nations, Peace and Security.* Cambridge: University Press.

United Nations, Audiovisual Library of International Law. (2012). *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, 1968* [Background Note]. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://legal.un.org/avl/pdf/ha/tnpt/tnpt_ph_e.pdf

United Nations, Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. (2014). *Functions of the Department* [Website]. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://www.un.org/Depts/DGACM/functions.shtml

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2017). *About Permanent Observers* [Website]. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://www.un.org/en/sections/member-states/about-permanent-observers/index.html

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2017). *Non-member States* [Website]. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://www.un.org/en/sections/member-states/non-member-states/index.html

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2016, October 28). *States Must Support National, Global Action to Stop Weapons from Reaching Terrorist Groups, First Committee Hears, as It Approves 7 Texts (GA/DIS/3564)* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/gadis3564.doc.htm

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2017, November 2). *Closing Session, First Committee Approves Draft on Chemical Weapons Convention, Sending Total of 58 Tests to General Assembly (GA/DIS/3594)* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 23 July 2018 from: https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/gadis3594.doc.htm

United Nations, General Assembly. (2014). *Functions and Powers of the General Assembly* [Website]. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/background.shtml

United Nations, General Assembly. (2016). *About the General Assembly* [Website]. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/about/index.shtml

United Nations, General Assembly. (2017). *Disarmament and International Security*. [Website]. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/index.shtml

United Nations, General Assembly. (2017). *General Committee* [Website]. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/general/general.shtml

United Nations, General Assembly. (2017). *Resolutions: 71st Session* [Website]. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/71/resolutions.shtml

United Nations, General Assembly. (2018.) *Resolutions of the 72nd Session* [Website]. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/72/resolutions.shtml

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixth session. (1952). *Regulation, Limitation and Balanced Reduction of all Armed Forces and all Armaments; International Control of Atomic Energy (A/RES/502(VI))* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/2025). Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/502(VI)

United Nations, General Assembly, Fourteenth session. (1959). *General and Complete Disarmament (A/RES/1378(XIV))* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee at the 840th Plenary Meeting Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/1378(XIV)

United Nations, General Assembly, Twenty-second session. (1968). *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (A/RES/2373 (XXII)).* Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://www.undocs.org/A/RES/2373(XXII)

United Nations, General Assembly, Twenty-fourth session. (1969). *Question of General Disarmament (A/RES/2602(XXIV))* [Resolution]. Adopted on a non-recorded vote of the First Committee (A/PV.1836). Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/2602(XXIV)

United Nations, General Assembly, Tenth Special Session. (1978). *Final Document of the Tenth Special Session of the General Assembly (S-10/2)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Tenth Special Session. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://undocs.org/A/S-10/4

United Nations, General Assembly, Forty-seventh session. (1993). *Revitalization of the Work of the General Assembly (A/RES/47/233)* [Resolution]. Adopted without reference to a Main Committee (A/71/1007). Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/47/233

United Nations, General Assembly. (2013, May 7). *Statement made by the Chairperson of the Fourth Committee Ad hoc working group on the revitalization of the work of the General Assembly on 7 May 2013, in New York City.* Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/president/67/issues/revitalization/Statement%20by%20the%20Chairperson%20of%20the%20Fourth%20Committee%20(7%20May%20-%20English)%20.pdf

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-first session. (2016). *Proposed Strategic Framework for the Period of 2018-2019, Part Two: Biennial Programme Plan, Programme 3: Disarmament (A/71/6(Prog.3)).* Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://www.undocs.org/A/71/6(prog.3)

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-second session. (207). *Proposed Programme Budget for the biennium 2018-2019 (A/72/6(Sect. 4))* [Decision]. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://undocs.org/a/72/6(Sect.4)

United Nations Office at Geneva. (2014). *An Introduction to the Conference* [Website]. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://www.unog.ch/80256EE600585943/%28httpPages%29/BF18ABFEFE5D344DC1256F3100311CE9?OpenDocument

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. (2014). *About Us* [Website]. 20 July 2018 from: http://www.un.org/disarmament/about/

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. (2014). *United Nations Disarmament Commission* [Website]. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: https://www.un.org/disarmament/institutions/disarmament-commission/

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (2015). *GGE Information Security* [Website]. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://www.un.org/disarmament/topics/informationsecurity/

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. (2015). *The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook, Volume 39, Part I* [Report]. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: https://unoda-web.s3.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/assets/publications/yearbook/en/EN-YB-VOL-39-2014-part1.pdf

Weis, T., et al. (2004). *The United Nations and Changing World Politics.* Boulder: Westview Press.

I. Addressing the Use of Chemical Weapons

Introduction

Chemical weapons are defined by the United Nations (UN) as toxic chemicals, munitions, devices, and/or any equipment specifically used to cause death or harm others through the release of chemicals on other individuals.[72] Chemical weapons can be delivered or dispersed via air strike, artillery shells, ballistic missile, cruise missile, or unmanned aerial vehicle (drone), and cause indiscriminate damage on their targets.[73] The use of chemical weapons in modern times began with the First World War, when poisonous gases such as chlorine, phosgene, and mustard gas were used to increase casualties on the battlefield beyond the damage inflicted by traditional weapons.[74] In 1925, the international community signed *The Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare,* commonly referred to as the Geneva Protocol, as a first step towards prohibiting the use of chemical weapons in warfare.[75] The Geneva Protocol prohibited the use of chemical weapons in warfare but did not prohibit the development, production, or stockpiling of chemical weapons.[76]

During the Cold War era, the world system saw an increase in the production of chemical weapons, with an estimated 25 Member States then in possession of chemical weapon arsenals.[77] Since the end of World War II, there was a rapid decline in the use of chemical weapons, however reports of chemical weapons use have continued in long-running conflicts, most recently in the Syrian Arab Republic.[78] Regional groups, including the African Union, are developing new methods of addressing chemical weapons through the creation of regional anti-chemical weapons frameworks, but chemical weapons stockpiles persist as does the threat of their use.[79] The UN and regional groups continue to collaborate on methods to address the threat of chemical weapons, including their use by non-state actors.[80]

International Framework

The *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction* (1992), also known as the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), is the framework document for chemical weapons disarmament globally; it establishes a complete ban on the development, production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons.[81] With 24 articles and three annexes on chemicals, verification, and confidentiality, the CWC provides an extensive framework to globally eliminate chemical weapons.[82] The CWC put into place a prohibitory norm that remains applicable under all circumstances, including that of armed conflict.[83] Moreover, the treaty provides for extensive verification measures, including provisions for inspections and for

---

[72] OPCW, *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction*, 1997.
[73] Kimball, *Chemical Weapons: Frequently Asked Questions*, 2018.
[74] UNODA, *Chemical Weapons*, 2018.
[75] League of Nations, *1925 Geneva Protocol: Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of the Bacteriological Methods of Warfare*, 1925.
[76] Ibid.
[77] UNODA, *Chemical Weapons*, 2018.
[78] Ibid.
[79] OPCW, *National Authorities from Africa Review Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and Regional Needs*, 2017; Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, *Weapons of Terror: Freeing the World of Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Arms*, 2006.
[80] OPCW, *National Authorities from Africa Review Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and Regional Needs*, 2017.
[81] Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission, *Weapons of Terror: Freeing the World of Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Arms*, 2006, p. 127.

[82] Ibid.
[83] Zanders, *The Chemical Weapons Convention and Universality: A Question of Quality Over Quantity?*, 2002, p. 23.

investigations on the use of chemical weapons.[84] Verification measures include on-site inspections of national facilities to verify States Parties' declarations pursuant to Articles III, IV, V and VI of the Convention, and the Verification Annex.[85] In its first 15 years, the main contribution of CWC to international peace and security has been the abolition of the majority of chemical weapons stockpiles accumulated during the Cold War era.[86]

There have been a number of strong resolutions since the adoption of the CWC.[87] General Assembly resolution 55/283 (2001) was adopted to create a formalized agreement between the UN and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in order to support an increased capacity for the OPCW's investigative activities and to allow the UN to strengthen international safeguard policies.[88] In December 2017, the UN General Assembly adopted its latest resolution on the use of chemical weapons, resolution 72/43, which focuses on fully implementing the CWC.[89] This resolution explicitly calls for the destruction of chemical weapons, as previous UN resolutions have not explicitly mentioned destruction of chemical weapons to this extent.[90] It also called for the continued destruction of Libya's chemical weapons, and the full implementation of the CWC, despite persisting restrictions on the OPCW's capacity to fully investigate all cases of chemical weapons usage or stockpiling.[91] Additional framework resolutions have also been produced by other UN bodies, including the Security Council in resolution 2118 (2013), which was adopted in response to the chemical attacks in Syria and requested that the Secretary-General submit to the UN recommendations on the role of the UN in mitigating future attacks.[92]

Role of the International System

The General Assembly First Committee plays an important role in discussing the use of chemical weapons as it provides a universal forum for negotiations on disarmament topics which impact international peace and security.[93] The General Assembly regularly adopts resolutions on the ratification status of the CWC and how to ensure its full and effective implementation, as seen most recently in November 2017 when it passed a resolution to increase the accountability of perpetrators of chemical weapons-based violence.[94] Working specifically on the issue of chemical weapons with the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the General Assembly is able to receive specific thematic guidance and strategy on chemical weapon disarmament in order to develop efficient means of disarmament.[95] The UNODA further supports the relationship between the UN and the OPCW through providing support programs such as the "multi-phase lessons-learned" exercises to increase operational preparedness of the Secretary-General's Mechanism utilized as an investigative tool in the usage of chemical weapons in Syria.[96]

Since 1997, the OPCW has conducted 2,800 inspections at 200 chemical weapon-related sites and over 850 industrial sites in 77 States parties."[97] The actions of OPCW are strengthened through close cooperation with the

---

[84] UN CD, *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (A/47/27)*, 1992.

[85] Ibid.
[86] Ibid.
[87] UN Security Council, *Resolution 2118 (2013) (S/RES/2118 (2013))*, 2013.
[88] UN General Assembly, *Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (A/RES/55/283 (2001))*, 2001.
[89] UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (A/RES/72/43)*, 2017.
[90] Ibid.
[91] Ibid.
[92] UN Security Council, *Resolution 2118 (2013) (S/RES/2118 (2013))*, 2013.
[93] UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (A/RES/72/43)*, 2017; UN General Assembly, *Disarmament and International Security (First Committee)*, 2014.
[94] UN DPI, *Closing Session, First Committee Approves Draft on Chemical Weapons Convention, Sending Total of 58 Texts to the General Assembly*, 2017.
[95] UNODA, *Chemical Weapons*, 2018.
[96] UNODA, *Fact Sheet: United Nations Mission to Investigate Allegations of the Use of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic*, 2018.
[97] UN CD, *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (A/47/27)*, 1992.

United Nations, as is made evident by General Assembly resolution 71/250 titled "Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons."[98] Due to negotiation from members, the OPCW is now also able to name Member States responsible for chemical weapon attacks, allowing for a level of accountability.[99] Until this change in OPCW operations, chemical weapons inspectors under the auspices of the OPCW operated in a position where they could gather all information and determine whether or not chemical weapons were used, but could not publicly place responsibility on a single Member State or actor.[100] The work of the OPCW has been such that it has received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2013, and former-Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon stated that the UN "is honored to work hand-in-hand with the OPCW to eliminate the threat posed by chemical weapons for all people and for all time."[101]

In addition to the work of the General Assembly, UNODA, and OPCW, other UN bodies and specialized agencies also support emergency preparedness and response to the use of chemical weapons.[102] The World Health Organization (WHO) has a consistently revised and updated publication guide on healthcare response to the deliberate use of chemical agents that affect health, and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has made several statements on the impact of chemical weapons on children, most recently after the April 2017 attack in Idlib, Syria.[103] Civil society and regional frameworks have also played an important role in the fight against chemical weapons.[104] Organizations such as the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the EU Non-Proliferation Consortium, and the International Union for Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) have been providing the UN with social and technical support on chemical weapons since the early 1970s.[105] Regionally, the European Union has its own restrictive sanctions-based measures against individuals and groups who utilize chemical weapons, and continues to strongly support the work of inter-regional talks in the case of chemical weapons usage.[106]

Stockpiling of Chemical Weapons and their Destruction

The OPCW has been notably successful at destroying stockpiles of chemical weapons, with over 96% of the world's existing stockpiles being destroyed as of 2017.[107] However according to the Arms Control Association, of the 193 Member States that are party to the CWC at least eight of them have admitted to stockpiling chemical weapons since the creation of the CWC, and some of these stockpiles either remain or their destruction has not been verified.[108] The destruction of existing chemical weapons is costly and complex.[109] In order to eliminate chemical weapons safely, extensive precautions are needed, such that the toxic chemicals and "precursors," or substances that aid in the production of chemical weapons, do not cause further harm.[110] During the 1950s and 1960s, states used disposal methods such as dumping decommissioned chemical weapons in the ocean, or burying them.[111] However these tactics proved insufficient when buried chemical weapons resulted in soil contamination and chemical weapons previously disposed of in the sea were caught by fisherman or washed up on beaches, harming civilians.[112] The environmental impact of insufficient chemical weapons destruction has been noted as an on-going concern, particularly in the case of degradation of chemical weapons over time.[113] In response, the OPCW has recommended

[98] UN General Assembly, *Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (A/RES/71/250)*, 2017.
[99] Marcus, OPCW Chemical Watchdog Gains Power to Assign Blame, *BBC*, 2018.
[100] Ibid.
[101] UN DPI, *Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)*, 2013.
[102] UNICEF, *Press release: Statement by UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake on reports of chemical weapons attacks on children and families in Syria*, 2017.
[103] WHO, *Emergencies preparedness, response*, 2004;
[104] Trapp, *Civil Society, Chemical Industry and the Chemical Weapons Convention*, 2018.
[105] Ibid.
[106] European Council, *Use of chemical weapons in Syria: EU adds 4 persons to sanctions list,* 2018.
[107] OPCW, *20 Moments*, 2017.
[108] Kimball, *Chemical and Biological Weapons at a Glance*, 2018.
[109] Kimball, *Chemical Weapons: Frequently Asked Questions*, 2018.
[110] Di Justo, *How to Destroy a Stockpile of Chemical Weapons*, 2013; OPCW, *Destruction Technologies*, 2018.
[111] Di Justo, *How to Destroy a Stockpile of Chemical Weapons*, 2013.
[112] Di Justo, *How to Destroy a Stockpile of Chemical Weapons*, 2013; OPCW, *Destruction Technologies*, 2018.
[113] OPCW, *Environmental Concerns*, 2018.

that chemical weapons be disposed of primarily through closed incineration in extremely hot furnaces, which requires expensive scrubbing of smoke; or by neutralization, wherein chemical reactions render the weapon de-weaponized.[114] These processes require technical expertise, funding, and time, and even after destruction is complete relevant production capabilities must also be destroyed.[115] Researchers have proposed new means of neutralization, such as the use of microorganisms or brine-reduction systems, but more work is needed to ensure the feasibility and affordability of new approaches.[116]

Given the difficulty and danger in transporting chemical weapons from stockpile to incinerator, incinerators often need to be constructed and placed directly by the stockpiling facility.[117] While the US Army has built new incinerators as a step towards destroying its remaining chemical weapons stockpiles, the estimate is that American stockpiles will only be destroyed by the year 2023.[118] Some Member States like the Russian Federation have requested financial and technical assistance in the construction of weapon incinerators for their remaining stockpiles.[119] These requests for funding, support are often accompanied by complicated political agreements and negotiations at the international level that are needed in order to provide necessary support.[120] The destruction of chemical weapons in Syria in 2014 required a "highly complex political agreement between the Russian Federation and the United States," in addition to complementary intergovernmental agreements at the UN before the destruction process could begin.[121] During the 2014 General Assembly thematic debate on weapons of mass destruction, representatives from UNODA also noted the need for long-term capacity-building in order to promote and implement norms on chemical weapons.[122] Therefore while ensuring the destruction of stockpiles of chemical weapons remains a costly and technically challenging process, international cooperation and support remain central in order to ensure that the destruction of these weapons is done efficiently, safely, and sustainably.[123]

Case Study: Chemical Weapon Use in the Syrian Civil War

The Syrian Civil War broke out in 2011 in response to the wave of uprisings in the region that became known as the Arab Spring.[124] The war in Syria drew the attention of many international actors, including the Russian Federation, Iran, and the US.[125] As tensions worsened within Syria, President Bashar Al Assad launched a chemical weapon attack on fighters and civilians on 21 August 2013.[126] At least 3600 civilians were either wounded or killed by the 2013 chemical weapons attacks and demonstrated symptoms including shortness of breath, disorientation, eye irritation, blurred vision, nausea, vomiting, general weakness, and eventual loss of consciousness.[127] There have also been claims that as many as 1,400 were killed from this chemical attack, including more than 400 children.[128] After confirming the use of the chemical weapons in Syria, the US and the Russian Federation agreed to the *Framework for Elimination of Syrian Chemical Weapons* (2013).[129] As part of this deal, Syria has cooperated with the international community by providing information on its chemical weapons stockpiles to OPCW and UN experts.[130] Syria also acceded to the CWC on 14 October 2013 and has commenced destruction activities with the aid of the OPCW and UN inspectors that will facilitate the verification and destruction process.[131] However, despite this

---

[114] Di Justo, *How to Destroy a Stockpile of Chemical Weapons*, 2013; OPCW, *Destruction Timeline*, 2018.
[115] Ibid.
[116] Di Justo, *How to Destroy a Stockpile of Chemical Weapons*, 2013.
[117] Kimball, *Chemical Weapons: Frequently Asked Questions*, 2018.
[118] Ibid.
[119] Ibid.
[120] UN DPI, *Mission to 'Remove and Destroy' Chemical Weapons in Syria Unprecedented, but Reports of Chlorine Gas Use Troubling, First Committee Hears (GA/DIS/3510)*, 2015.
[121] Ibid.
[122] Ibid.
[123] Ibid.
[124] Britannica Encyclopedia Online, *Syrian Civil War*, 2018.
[125] Ibid.
[126] Ibid.
[127] Charbonneau & Nichols, UN Confirms sarin used in Syria attack; US, UK, France blame Assad, *Reuters*, 2013.
[128] Ibid.
[129] United States Department of State, *Framework for Elimination of Syrian Chemical Weapons*, 2013.
[130] Ibid.
[131] OPCW, *Press Release on the Advance Team in Syria*, 2014.

progress, sarin gas attacks against civilians have occurred in April 2017 and 2018, and the Security Council has not adopted a resolution addressing these most recent attacks due to use of the veto.[132]

Some international experts have argued that the case of Syria demonstrated that even with strong international tools such as the CWC, there is a clear need to increase the accountability of individuals and regimes who have used chemical weapons and to improve the investigative abilities of the international community.[133] The General Assembly debate on improving the response to chemical weapons attacks was schismatic, with members expressing concern that the OPCW Technical Secretariat lacked capacity to fully verify inconsistencies and discrepancies in national declarations on the destruction of chemical weapons, such as with Syria.[134] Additionally, determining accountability has become an increasingly complex issue when non-state actors claim responsibility for use of chemical weapons in conjunction with regime usage, such as the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL/Daesh)'s release of sarin gas in the Syria case.[135] Divisions such as these also challenge the consensual nature of international agreements in the GA and present continued challenges to international-level political dialogue on chemical weapons that must be addressed.[136]

Conclusion

Despite the historical effectiveness of the OPCW and the CWC, recent issues in eliminating chemical weapons and the usage of chemical weapons against civilians have emerged.[137] The threat that chemical weapons present to global peace and security remains, and it is up to the General Assembly to examine the capacity of existing mechanisms to quickly, effectively, and affordably addressing the issue of chemical weapons usage through the forum of international diplomacy.[138]

Further Research

In considering how the international community could best work to prevent the use of chemical weapons, delegates should consider the following questions: How can the General Assembly can be more effective in addressing the use of chemical weapons? How can the UN best harness the expertise of its bodies to further address the use of chemical weapons? Are there other ways that the General Assembly can support and enhance chemical weapons safety besides direct assistance to Member States? How can we mitigate the effect of chemical weapons in conflict areas? What role can civil society organizations and regional bodies play in supporting the UN's efforts to fully mitigate chemical weapons? How can the UN intercede in complex political situations where there is a risk of chemical weapons usage?

---

[132] Almukhtar, Most Chemical Attacks in Syria Get Little Attention: Here Are 34 Confirmed Cases, *The New York Times*, 2018; Eastern Ghouta: What Happened and Why, *Al Jazeera*, 2018.

[133] UN DPI, *Closing Session, First Committee Approves Draft on Chemical Weapons Convention, Sending Total of 58 Texts to the General Assembly*, 2017.

[134] Ibid.

[135] Ibid.

[136] Ibid.

[137] UN General Assembly, *Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (A/RES/72/43)*, 2017.

[138] Ibid.

Annotated Bibliography

League of Nations. (1925). *Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare. Geneva, 17 June 1925.* Retrieved 6 July 2018 from: https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Article.xsp?action=openDocument&documentId=58A096110540867AC12563CD005187B9

> *The Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, known as the Geneva Protocol, is the first document designed to address the use of chemical weapons and is essential to understanding the global community's historical efforts to address chemical weapons. The Geneva Protocol does not prohibit the development, production, or stockpiling of chemical weapons unlike future documents, however it did provide a preliminary example of international law on chemical weapons. It is important for delegates to know the Geneva Protocol in order to understand the foundational document of the international community's work towards the nonproliferation of chemical weapons.*

United Nations, Conference on Disarmament. (1992). *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction*. Retrieved 5 March 2018 from: https://www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/CWC/CWC_en.pdf

> *This document serves as the basis for later General Assembly resolutions which address the use of chemical weapons and is the first document to build off the Geneva Protocol and provide further suggestions for action. The Chemical Weapons Convention is the hallmark treaty on chemical weapons and essential for understanding the current approaches to chemical weapons disarmament. This document also discusses stockpiles and their proper disposal, and introduces mechanisms to properly dispose of chemical weapons. Furthermore, this document discusses the varying methods for inspection and calling the need to establish an office or body specializing in the inspection of chemical weapon stockpiles, which served as a motivation behind the creation of OPCW.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Fifty-fifth session. (2001). *General and complete disarmament (A/RES/55/33)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/55/559). Retrieved 4 March 2018 from: http://www.undocs.org/A/RES/55/33

> *This document serves as an important backbone for research regarding chemical weapons since it is one of the first General Assembly resolutions to address chemical weapons via general disarmament. Furthermore, this resolution shows how the General Assembly began discussing this issue in 2001 without going into much depth and is an important anchor to use in comparison with later resolutions on the matter. This document is important for delegate research as it calls on chemical and non-chemical weapon holding Member States to disclose their weapon stocks.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-second session. (2017). *Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (A/RES/72/43)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/72/409). Retrieved 5 March 2018 from: www.undocs.org/A/RES/72/43

> *Building off of the Geneva Protocol and OPCW, this is the latest version of the General Assembly First Committee resolution set out to specifically target the implementation mechanisms of the theories outlined in the 1925 Protocol. This resolution provides one of the most recent perspectives on the General Assembly's approach to addressing the use of chemical weapons, and specifically recognizes the role of emerging technology on chemical weapons. This resolution further focuses on implementation draws from recent chemical weapon prohibition failures and successes, and delegates will find this document particularly useful to guiding their research on the current status of chemical weapons disarmament.*

Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission. (2006). *Weapons of Terror: Freeing the World of Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Arms.* Retrieved 20 April 2018 from: https://ycsg.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/weapons_of_terror.pdf

> *This report discusses both short- and medium-term steps for achieving a complete ban on weapons of mass destruction, advocating for a cooperative approach by the entire international community. The paper includes a summary of the nature of threats from chemical weapons, as well as the unilateral, bilateral, and regional responses to them. The report is an important source for delegates since it addresses key issues, such as the role of companies and the business sector in export controls of chemical materials, and states' trade and finance interdependence. It also addresses the private sector's influence in their willingness to comply or to adhere to the CWC, as well as the role of the UN in the enforcement of the CWC and in achieving universality.*

United Nations, Security Council, 7038th meeting. (2013). *Security Council Resolution 2118 (S/RES/2118)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 4 March 2018 from: http://www.undocs.org/S/RES/2118(2013)
> *On 27 September 2013, Security Council Resolution 2118 on the elimination of Chemical Weapons used by the Assad Regime during the Syrian Civil War was adopted unanimously. This resolution is important since it highlights a unanimous agreement by the international community to eliminate the use of chemical weapons. Delegates will find this resolution useful to understanding the recent dialogue on chemical weapons elimination, and the current status of international dialogue on the issue.*

Bibliography

Almukhtar, S. (2018, April 13). Most Chemical Attacks in Syria Get Little Attention Here Are 34 Confirmed Cases. *The New York Times*. Retrieved 22 April 2018 from: https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2018/04/13/world/middleeast/syria-chemical-attacks-maps-history.html

Charbonneau, L., & M. Nichols. (2013, September 13). UN Confirms sarin used in Syria attack; US, UK, France blame Assad. *Reuters*. Retrieved 22 April 2018 from: https://www.reuters.com/article/us-syria-crisis-un/u-n-confirms-sarin-used-in-syria-attack-u-s-uk-france-blame-assad-idUSBRE98F0ED20130916

Di Justo, P. (2013, November 13). How to Destroy a Stockpile of Chemical Weapons. *The New Yorker*. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: https://www.newyorker.com/tech/elements/how-to-destroy-a-stockpile-of-chemical-weapons

Eastern Ghouta: What Happened and Why. (2018, April 14). Al Jazeera. Retrieved 22 April 2018 from: https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2018/02/eastern-ghouta-happening-180226110239822.html

European Council. (2018, March 19). Use of chemical weapons in Syria: EU adds 4 persons to sanctions list. *The European Union*. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2018/03/19/use-of-chemical-weapons-in-syria-eu-adds-4-persons-to-sanctions-list/

Kimball, D. (2018, June). *Chemical and Biological Weapons at a Glance*. Arms Control Association. Retrieved 20 June 2018 from: https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/cbwprolif

Kimball, D. (2018, June). *Chemical Weapons: Frequently Asked Questions*. Arms Control Association. Retrieved 20 June 2018 from: https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/Chemical-Weapons-Frequently-Asked-Questions#II

League of Nations. (1925). *Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare. Geneva, 17 June 1925.* Retrieved 6 July 2018 from: https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Article.xsp?action=openDocument&documentId=58A096110540867AC12563CD005187B9

Marcus, J. (2018, June 27). OPCW Chemical Watchdog Gains Power to Assign Blame. *BBC*. Retrieved 28 June 2018 from: http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-44634434

Office of the Spokesperson. (2013, September 13). Framework for Elimination of Syrian Chemical Weapons. *United States, Department of State.* Retrieved 22 April 2018 from: https://2009-2017.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2013/09/214247.htm

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. (2017). *20 moments* [Website]. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: https://20years.opcw.org/20-moments/

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. (1994). *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction.* Retrieved 22 April 2018 from: https://www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/CWC/CWC_en.pdf

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. (2014). *Press Release on the Advance Team in Syria.* Retrieved 22 April 2018 from: https://opcw.unmissions.org/opcw-un-press-release-update-advance-team-syria

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. (2017). *National Authorities from Africa Review Implementation of the Chemical Weapons Convention and Region's Needs.* [Website]. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: https://www.opcw.org/news/article/national-authorities-from-africa-review-implementation-of-the-chemical-weapons-convention-and-regions-needs/

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. (2018). *Environmental Concerns* [Website]. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: https://www.opcw.org/our-work/demilitarisation/environmental-concerns-and-provisions/

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. (2018). *Destruction Technologies* [Website]. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: https://www.opcw.org/our-work/demilitarisation/destruction-technologies/

Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. (2018). *Destruction Timelines* [Website]. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: https://www.opcw.org/our-work/demilitarisation/destruction-timelines/

The Editors of the Encyclopedia Britannica. (2018, April 11). Syrian Civil War. *Encyclopedia Britannica Online.* Retrieved 20 April 2018 from: https://www.britannica.com/event/Syrian-Civil-War

United Nations, Conference on Disarmament. (1992). *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (A/47/27).* Retrieved 5 March 2018 from: https://www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/CWC/CWC_en.pdf

United Nations, Department for Public Information. (2013). *Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons* [Website]. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://www.un.org/en/sections/nobel-peace-prize/organisation-prohibition-chemical-weapons-opcw/index.html

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2014, October 24). *Mission to 'Remove and Destroy' Chemical Weapons in Syria Unprecedented, but Reports of Chlorine Gas Use Troubling, First Committee Hears (GA/DIS3510)* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: https://www.un.org/press/en/2014/gadis3510.doc.htm

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2016, October 18). *Chemical Weapon Use Must Not Become 'New Normal', First Committee Speakers Warn, Issuing Calls for New Solutions to Combat Bioterrorism Threats (GA/DIS/3556)* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 4 March 2018 from: https://www.un.org/press/en/2016/gadis3556.doc.htm

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2017, November 2). *Closing Session, First Committee Approves Draft on Chemical Weapons Convention, Sending Total of 58 Texts to the General Assembly* [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/gadis3594.doc.htm

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2018, April 4). *Questions Remain over Syria's Chemical Weapons Programme, Security Council Hears, as Speakers Call for Agreement on Suitable Accountability*

Mechanism (SC/13276) [Meetings Coverage]. Retrieved 20 April 2018 from:
https://www.un.org/press/en/2018/sc13276.doc.htm

United Nations, General Assembly. (2001). *Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (A/RES/55/283)* [Resolution]. Adopted without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.92 and Add.1). Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/55/283

United Nations, General Assembly, Fifty-fifth session. (2001). *General and complete disarmament (A/RES/55/33)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/55/559). Retrieved 4 March 2018 from: http://www.undocs.org/A/RES/55/33

United Nations, General Assembly. (2014). *Disarmament and International Security: First Committee* [Website]. Retrieved 20 April 2018 from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/index.shtml

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-ninth session. (2014). *Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (A/RES/69/67)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/69/440). Retrieved 5 March 2018 from: http://www.undocs.org/A/RES/69/67

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (A/RES/70/41)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/70/460). Retrieved 5 March 2018 from: http://www.undocs.org/A/RES/70/41

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-first session. (2016). *Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (A/RES/71/69)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/71/450). Retrieved 5 March 2018 from: http://www.undocs.org/A/RES/71/69

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-first session. (2017). *Cooperation between the United Nation and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (A/RES/71/250)* [Resolution]. Adopted without reference to a Main Committee (A/71/L.46 and Add. 1). Retrieved 6 July 2018 from: http://www.undocs.org/A/RES/71/250

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-second session. (2017). *Implementation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (A/RES/72/43)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/72/409). Retrieved 5 March 2018 from: http://www.undocs.org/A/RES/72/43

United Nations, Office for Disarmament Affairs. (2018). *Chemical Weapons* [Website]. Retrieved 20 April 2018 from: https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/chemical/

United Nations, Office for Disarmament Affairs. (2018). *Fact Sheet: United Nations Mission to Investigate Allegations of the Use of Chemical Weapons in the Syrian Arab Republic.* Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: https://s3.amazonaws.com/unoda-web/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Syrian-CW-Investigation-Fact-Sheet-July2018.pdf

United Nations, Security Council, 7038th Meeting. (2013). *Security Council Resolution 2118 (S/RES/2118)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 4 March 2018 from: http://www.undocs.org/S/RES/2118(2013)

United States Department of State. (2013). *Framework for the Elimination of Syrian Chemical Weapons* [Website]. Retrieved 20 July 2018 from: https://2009-2017.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2013/09/214247.htm

Weapons of Mass Destruction Commission. (2006). *Weapons of Terror: Freeing the World of Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Arms.* Retrieved 20 April 2018 from: https://ycsg.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/weapons_of_terror.pdf

Zanders, J. P. (2002). The Chemical Weapons Convention and Universality: A Question of Quality Over Quantity?. *The CWC Review Conference*, 4: 23-31.

I. The Role of Emerging Technologies in International Security and Disarmament

"We live in an era of unprecedented technological advances…These have implications for all aspects of modern life, including how we work and the overall security environment. It is clear that what we once considered frontier issues have moved rapidly to the front door."[139]

Introduction

The role of emerging technologies in international security and disarmament has been a focal point of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly First Committee since 1988, when the topic was first added to the General Assembly's agenda.[140] The 1990 report of the Secretary-General titled "Scientific and Technological Developments and Their Impact on International Security" became the foundational document for the role of emerging technologies in international security and disarmament within the General Assembly First Committee; it identified five emerging technologies that became the foundation for the topic.[141] These original five categories identified were: nuclear technology, space technology, materials technology, information technology, and biotechnology.[142] Since the early post-Cold War period when these developments were initiated, the focus of technologies was expanded beyond nuclear and space technologies to also include newer fields, such as information technology.[143] In addition to the expansion of information technology, emerging technologies surrounding devices such as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) have yet to receive international frameworks harnessing their potential.[144] While action has been taken on specific examples of emerging technologies, the General Assembly First Committee continues to discuss and issue reports on the field as a whole, focusing on how different fields of emerging technologies interact and interconnect in international security and disarmament.[145]

International and Regional Framework

The role of emerging technologies in international security and disarmament has grown in significance since the founding of the UN and became a permanent item on the General Assembly First Committee's annual agenda in 1988.[146] The original five categories defined in the 1990 report of the Secretary-General entitled "Scientific and Technological Developments and Their Impact on International Security" (A/45/568) are still discussed, but increasingly in a modern and evolving context.[147] As nuclear technologies, especially nuclear explosive technology, have evolved since 1990 and especially during the early 2000s, the need for an updated definition of emerging technologies continues, despite the continued global movement towards global nuclear disarmament.[148] Emerging materials technology materials technology describes the development of new or improved materials used for a variety of purposes, primarily for military uses.[149] The range of technology that has grown the most in variety and importance since the publication of the report in 1990 is the category of information technology, as evidenced through numerous UN documents within the past 15 years, specifically General Assembly resolution 58/199 of 2004 titled "Creation of a global culture of cybersecurity and the protection of critical information infrastructures" and the

---

[139] UN Secretary-General, *Secretary-General's remarks to Turtle Bay Security Roundtable: Managing the Frontiers of Technology (as delivered) on 23 March 2018, in New York City*, 2018.

[140] UNODA, *The Role of Science and Technology in the context of International Security and Disarmament*, 2017.

[141] UN General Assembly, *Scientific and Technological Developments and Their Impact on International Security: Report of the Secretary-General (A/45/568)*, 1990.

[142] Ibid, p. 1.

[143] UN General Assembly, *DISARMAMENT: New trends in science and technology: Implications for international peace and security*, 1991, pp. 1-2.

[144] *The use of armed drones must comply with laws*, International Committee of the Red Cross, 2013.

[145] UN General Assembly, *Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament (A/RES/72/28)*, 2017.

[146] UNODA, *The Role of Science and Technology in the context of International Security and Disarmament*; UN General Assembly, *Scientific and Technological Developments and Their Impact on International Security: Report of the Secretary-General (A/45/568)*, 1990, p. 3.

[147] UN General Assembly, *Scientific and Technological Developments and Their Impact on International Security: Report of the Secretary-General (A/45/568)*, 1990, pp. 5-20.

[148] Union of Concerned Scientists, *Earth-Penetrating Weapons*, 2005.

[149] UN General Assembly, *Scientific and Technological Developments and Their Impact on International Security: Report of the Secretary-General (A/45/568)*, 1990, pp. 12-14.

note by the Secretary-General (A/70/174) of 2015 entitled "Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security," which were among the first UN documents focusing on information technology.[150]

In addition to action taken on the five categories outlined in the 1990 report, numerous treaties have been created to limit the weaponized and often negative implications of these emerging technologies.[151] However, aside from the 1983 *Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons*, which restricts certain anti-personnel mines and bans blinding laser beams and non-detectable fragments, there are no overarching frameworks for materials technology.[152] While the creation of such treaties and conventions has helped guide emerging technologies, fields that have emerged more recently, such as information technology, have yet to receive such international frameworks despite the UN Secretary-General's call for the creation of one.[153] Moreover, the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), often colloquially referred to as "drones," is covered by some international laws but no international treaty for their use has been negotiated.[154] On a regional level, the European Union (EU) updated and expanded its framework for the civilian use of UAVs in 2017.[155]

Role of the International System

The regulation of emerging technologies in international security and disarmament ranges from the General Assembly First Committee, which provides a forum for global political dialogue and high-level recommendations; to the Security Council, which serves to perform specific actions in response to on-going conflict; to specialized agencies that focus on a specific technology or region.[156] General Assembly resolution 72/28 of 11 December 2017 entitled "Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament" and report of the Secretary-General entitled "Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security" (A/72/315) act as the most prominent recent documents and ensure that the role of emerging technologies remains at the forefront of the General Assembly First Committee's agenda.[157] In October 2017, the General Assembly First Committee hosted a meeting involving the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs and representatives from other UN stakeholders to discuss the benefits and threats of new and emerging technologies, such as autonomous weapons systems.[158] The UN Security Council is the other UN organ responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security; however, it focuses on more specific cases while the General Assembly First Committee provides strategic visions and frameworks surrounding the role of emerging

---

[150] UN General Assembly, *Creation of a global culture of cybersecurity (A/RES/57/239)*, 2003; UN General Assembly, *Creation of a global culture of cybersecurity and the protection of critical information infrastructures (A/RES/58/199)*, 2004; UN General Assembly, *Creation of a global culture of cybersecurity and taking stock of national efforts to protect critical information infrastructures (A/RES/64/211)*, 2010; UN General Assembly, *Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security (A/RES/71/28)*, 2016; UN General Assembly, *Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security: Note by the Secretary-General (A/70/174)*, 2015.

[151] UN General Assembly, *Scientific and Technological Developments and Their Impact on International Security: Report of the Secretary-General (A/45/568)*, 1990, p. 3; UNOOSA, *United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space*, 2002; UNOOSA, *Biological Weapons: The Biological Weapons Convention: Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction*; OPCW, *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction*, 1993.

[152] Arms Control Association, *Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) at a Glance*, 2017.

[153] NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Centre of Excellence, *United Nations*; Khalip, U.N. chief urges global rules for cyber warfare, *Reuters*, 2018.

[154] *The use of armed drones must comply with laws*, International Committee of the Red Cross, 2013.

[155] European Council & Council of the European Union, *Updated aviation safety rules and new rules on drones approved by the Council*, 2017.

[156] UN General Assembly, *Disarmament and International Security (First Committee)*; UN Security Council, *The Security Council*.

[157] UN General Assembly, *Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament (A/RES/72/28)*, 2017; UN General Assembly, *Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security (A/72/315)*, 2017.

[158] UN Meetings Coverage and Press Releases, *Disarmament Machinery Must Sharpen Tools to Harness Largely Ungoverned Game-Changing New Weapons, Security Experts Tell First Committee*, 2017.

technologies in international security and disarmament.[159] For example, the Security Council has recently adopted resolutions focusing on certain conflicts and specific emerging technologies, such as the development and proliferation of improvised explosive devices, or IEDs, in Security Council resolution 2365 of 2017.[160]

The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) has existed since 1982 and has, as technologies have evolved, changed in both name and mandate to fit the changing security environment.[161] In addition to advising the General Assembly First Committee, UNODA provides organizational support, including through transparency initiatives and confidence-building measures.[162] The Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (PoA SALW) is also hosted under the auspices of UNODA.[163] The UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) further supports the General Assembly First Committee by presenting research to the committee annually and helping the General Assembly find viable strategies in achieving international disarmament.[164]

Information technology is currently overseen by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).[165] ITU focuses on matters ranging from climate change to cybersecurity.[166] To strengthen regional support for information technology, ITU has thirteen field offices located in Asia, the Americas, Arab States, Asia and Pacific, Europe, and the Commonwealth of Independent States.[167] In 2017, ITU started to host an annual conference titled "AI for Good Global Summit," which aims to identify practical applications of artificial intelligence to achieve the SDGs.[168] In addition to regional ITU offices, regional organizations, such as the European Union Agency for Network and Information Security and the Science and Technology Division of the African Union, have worked to raise awareness among local populations about the benefits and threats of emerging information technologies.[169] These regional organizations also work to standardize and protect measures of information and cybersecurity.[170]

Some regional organizations, such as the African Union (AU) and EU, have specific cybersecurity frameworks.[171] In 2014, the *African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection* was adopted and became the AU's information technology framework.[172] During the AU's thirty-second ordinary session in January 2018, the organization decided to make cyber security a focal point of the AU's *Agenda 2063* (2013) and created the Africa Cyber Security Collaboration and Coordination Committee.[173] The EU's approach has been more legalistic, especially through the Directive on security of network and information systems (NIS Directive), which was adopted in 2016 and provides legal measures that aim to increase the EU's cyber security.[174]

Private enterprises have also embraced the value of emerging technologies and have become leaders in these fields. Google and SpaceX are two companies that have become global leaders in information and space technologies

---

[159] UN General Assembly, *Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament (A/RES/72/28)*, 2017; UN Security Council, *Resolution 2231 (2015)*, 2015; UN Security Council, *Resolution 2365 (2017)*, 2017.

[160] UN Security Council, *Resolution 2231 (2015)*, 2015; UN Security Council, *Resolution 2365 (2017)*, 2017.

[161] UNODA, *About Us*, 2018.

[162] Ibid.

[163] UNODA, *Programme of Action on small arms and its International Tracing Instrument*; International Action Network on Small Arms, *About IANSA and IANSA Resources*, 2018.

[164] UNIDIR, *The Institute*, 2018.

[165] ITU, *About International Telecommunication Union (ITU)*, 2018.

[166] ITU, *Key Areas of Action*, 2018.

[167] ITU, *Regional Presence*, 2018.

[168] ITU, *AI for Good Global Summit 2018*, 2018.

[169] European Union Agency for Network and Information Security, *About ENISA*, 2018; African Union, *Science and Technology Division*, 2018.

[170] Ibid.

[171] European Commission, *Digital Single Market: Policy: The EU cybersecurity certification network*, 2017; African Union, *African Union Commission and Council of Europe Join Forces on Cybersecurity*, 2018.

[172] African Union, *African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection*, 2014.

[173] African Union, *Executive Council: Thirty-Second Ordinary Session: Decisions*, 2018, p. 7.

[174] European Commission, *Digital Single Market: Policy: The Directive on security of network and information systems (NIS Directive)*, 2018.

respectively.[175] Although Google and SpaceX are private firms, the technological progress these two companies continue to drive is crucial to the role of emerging technologies in international security and disarmament, as demonstrated in their increased influence in international high-level discussions.[176] Google has a long-standing partnership with the UN through the UN Foundation and has partnered with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) to increase the accessibility of tools to manage natural resources.[177] The influence of private enterprises furthermore underlines the importance of achieving SDG 17, emphasizing public-private partnerships in achieving sustainable development through emerging technologies.[178]

Influence of Virtual Technologies

The growth of information technology has had a major impact on the world in the twenty-first century, not only in people's daily lives but also in international security and disarmament.[179] For example, crisis mapping, which is the real-time mapping of local crises on a publicly-accessible map online, has enabled humanitarian organizations to connect digitally, streamlining and improving relief efforts in regions that have been hit by natural disasters, such as after the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, or humanitarian crises, as was evident in Libya in 2011.[180] While the largely unlimited access to the Internet is a positive force, societies' increasing reliance on digital connectedness has created a significant vulnerability to governments and populations.[181] As of 2017, only 38% of Member States had a cybersecurity strategy and another 12% were in the process of developing one.[182] Although the use of cyberspace continues to increase, the most recent General Assembly resolution on cybersecurity, resolution 64/211 (2010), contained an annex outlining a voluntary list of actions for Members States, including determining which national sectors are most vulnerable to a cyber-attack, identifying formal and informal venues of information-sharing among national bodies of government, and other methods by which Member States can strengthen their cybersecurity.[183] While there have been regional efforts to strengthen cybersecurity, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)'s 2013 *Tallinn Manual*, neither the Security Council nor the General Assembly have taken concrete action to overcome the security challenges posed by information technology.[184]

While information technology can be used for positive efforts, non-state actors and criminal groups have also benefitted from the dissemination of this technology.[185] Non-state actors have not only used information technology to facilitate terrorist attacks, but have also used this technology for recruitment, radicalization, and financing of terrorist activities.[186] Cyberattacks against information technologies and critical infrastructure have highlighted the vulnerability of emerging information and communication technologies.[187] Further underlining this growing issue, a 2015 note by the Secretary-General (A/70/174) states that if these threats remain unaddressed they may pose a threat to international peace and security.[188] As such, the note provides an extensive list of measures Member State should

---

[175] Google, *Our company*, 2018; SpaceX, *Company*, 2017.

[176] Fung, *SpaceX wants to beam Internet down to Earth. Here is how it will start.*, 2018.

[177] UN Foundation, *What We Do: Partners: Google Foundation*, 2013; Google, *Data-driven, human-focused philanthropy – powered by Google*, 2017; UN News, *UN agency and Google collaborate on satellite data tools to manage natural resources*, 2016.

[178] UN DESA, *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Goal 17: Targets & Indicators*, 2018.

[179] Meier, *New information technologies and their impact on the humanitarian sector*, 2011, p. 1239.

[180] Ibid, pp. 1241,1244-1248, 1250-1254.

[181] ITU, *Global Cybersecurity Index 2017*, 2017, p. 1.

[182] Ibid, p. 17.

[183] UN General Assembly, *Creation of a global culture of cybersecurity and taking stock of national efforts to protect critical information infrastructures (A/RES/64/211)*, 2010.

[184] NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence, *Tallinn Manual Process*; NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence, *United Nations*.

[185] UN Security Council, *Information and communications technologies (ICT)*.

[186] Ibid.

[187] UN General Assembly, *Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security: Note by the Secretary-General (A/70/174)*, 2015, p. 6.

[188] Ibid.

take to combat and prevent the criminal use of cyber space.[189] Final recommendations are also provided and highlight the importance of protecting cyberspace on both national as well as the international level.[190]

Overcoming Security Challenges from Unmanned Aerial Vehicles

Another security challenge is posed by UAVs, the use of which is becoming more common in a variety of UN initiatives, ranging from providing humanitarian assistances through the UN International Children's Fund to assisting in UN peacekeeping operations.[191] For humanitarian purposes, UAVs can assist in three ways: reconnecting groups and population centers with aid who have been cut off by damaged infrastructure, providing remote sensing capabilities, and connecting remote locations with Wi-Fi.[192] For peacekeeping missions, unarmed surveillance UAVs have been deployed to provide an additional security measure for local populations.[193] Armed drones used in targeting makes the practice considerably more accurate, thus reducing the potential for collateral damage and the deaths of innocent civilians.[194] Yet as it became obvious in 2017 through the publication of armed UAV statistics, scrutiny and accountability mechanisms are crucial in maintaining accuracy and keeping civilian deaths at a minimum.[195]

Additionally, while UAVs have the ability to provide considerable humanitarian assistance, armed UAVs may pose an unregulated threat, which is why UNODA published the document entitled "Study on Armed Unmanned Aerial Vehicles" (2015).[196] According to the report, "UAVs have unique characteristics that make them particularly susceptible to misuse in comparison to other technologies."[197] This potential for misuse can be attributed to the low cost of UAVs, their small size and precision, and minimal risk to their operators.[198] Consequently, the lack of oversight and accountability surrounding the use of drones is a concern that contrasts an individual's right to privacy and general accessibility of drones against the ability to protect the general population against the misuse of unarmed drones or the general use of weaponized drones.[199] Assessing legal and policy implications surrounding armed UAVs, the study raises concerns pertaining to human rights and international security, and asks questions about technological advancements that may render armed UAVs fully autonomous.[200]

Conclusion

The role of emerging technologies in international security and disarmament remains critical in framing and assessing security challenges.[201] Since the publication of the report of the Secretary-General titled "Scientific and Technological Developments and Their Impact on International Security" in 1990, the role of emerging technologies has moved to the forefront of the General Assembly First Committee's agenda and has remained an annual agenda item.[202] Nonetheless, certain technologies, such as information technologies, have been more impactful on Member States than other categories due to their important roles in the growing global interconnectedness.[203] Consequently, the role of emerging technologies in international security and disarmament must remain an integral part of the General Assembly First Committee's agenda and consensus mechanisms.

---

[189] Ibid, pp. 7-12.
[190] Ibid, p. 13.
[191] UN News, *FEATURE: Does drone technology hold promise for the UN?*, 2017.
[192] Ibid.
[193] Ibid.
[194] Shane, *The Moral Case for Drones*, 2012.
[195] Borger, *US air wars under Trump: increasingly indiscriminate, increasingly opaque*, 2018.
[196] UNODA, *Study on Armed Unmanned Aerial Vehicles: Prepared on the Recommendation of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters*, 2015.
[197] Ibid, p. v.
[198] Ibid.
[199] Ibid, pp. 50-52.
[200] Ibid, p. 39.
[201] UNODA, *Reorienting towards the future: Integrating state-of-the-art weapons and ammunition management into DDR programmes*, 2018.
[202] UN General Assembly, *Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament (A/RES/72/28)*, 2017.
[203] Meier, *New information technologies and their impact on the humanitarian sector*, 2011, p. 1239.

Further Research

Seeing the potential but also negative effects emerging technologies have on international security and disarmament, how can the UN implement effective frameworks harnessing the benefits of these technologies while limiting negative consequences? Even though cooperation on drafting an effective cybersecurity framework within the UN has been difficult, how can the UN contribute to helping Member States protect critical information infrastructure? Considering the potential for weaponizing emerging technologies, such as UAVs, how can the General Assembly First Committee strike a balance between encouraging military innovation and protecting civilian populations?

Annotated Bibliography

International Telecommunication Union. (2017). *Global Cybersecurity Index 2017* [Report]. Retrieved 28 April 2018 from: https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/str/D-STR-GCI.01-2017-PDF-E.pdf

> *As a major emerging aspect of information technology, cybersecurity is a topical issue of discussion in the UN. The ITU's annual report assesses the current status of cybersecurity globally. In addition to providing annual key findings, this document also presents a global and regional outlooks and suggests best practices for government actors. This document is important as it frames a crucial aspect of one of the main emerging technologies and streamlines global and UN efforts on the issue. Delegates should specifically focus on the key findings, global outlook, and regional outlooks when using this document, as they provide an up-to-date overview of the current cybersecurity environment.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Twenty-second session. (1968). *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (A/RES/2373 (XXII)).* Adopted on the report of the First Committee. Retrieved 1 March 2018 from: http://www.undocs.org/A/RES/2373(XXII)

> *This treaty is the hallmark treaty for the prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons. Signed in 1968, the treaty limits the possession of nuclear weapons to the five permanent Members of the UN Security Council. In addition to limiting the spread of nuclear weapons, parties to this treaty benefit from their membership by gaining access to a legal exchange of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. Although the treaty limits production, possession, and proliferation of nuclear weapons, it does not aim to achieve global nuclear disarmament. Nevertheless, this treaty acts as the foundation of the global non-proliferation regime and underlines the significance of the 2017 Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Forty-fifth session. (1990). *Scientific and Technological Developments and Their Impact on International Security: Report of the Secretary-General (A/45/568)*. Retrieved 1 March 2018 from: http://undocs.org/A/45/568

> *This report of the Secretary-General was the first document created on the topic of emerging technologies, as was discussed by the General Assembly during its forty-third session in 1988. This report provided the framework overview of the role of emerging technologies in international security and disarmament. Although published at the end of the Cold War, the document continues to remain relevant and underline ongoing flaws within the international system's response to emerging technologies in international security and disarmament. The report also highlights technology trends in five selected areas: nuclear technology, space technology, materials technology, information technology, and biotechnology.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security (A/70/174)*. Retrieved 27 April 2018 from: http://www.undocs.org/A/70/174

> *Recognizing the vulnerability of critical infrastructure to cyber threats, this note provides an extensive list of measures Member States should take to combat and prevent the criminal use of cyber space. The list includes steps to ensure responsible state behavior, confidence-building measures, capacity-building and international assistance, and the international legal framework pertaining to cybercrimes. The document also provides final recommendations, which highlight the importance of protecting cyberspace on both national and international levels.*

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-second session. (2017). *Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security: Report of the Secretary-General (A/72/315)*. Retrieved 3 March 2018 from: http://undocs.org/A/72/315

> *Following General Assembly resolution 71/28 (2016), 23 Member States submitted points they deemed to be important in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security. The aspects that are highlighted and discussed in this report underline positive aspects of information and telecommunications, such as the promotion of human rights through a free cyberspace, to negative consequences of information technology, such as*

*distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) attacks. Delegates will find this report useful as the growth
of the field of information and telecommunications has moved information technology to the
forefront of emerging technologies in the context of international security.*

Bibliography

African Union. (2014). *African Union Convention on Cyber Security and Personal Data Protection*. Retrieved 31 May 2018 from: https://au.int/sites/default/files/treaties/29560-treaty-0048_-_african_union_convention_on_cyber_security_and_personal_data_protection_e.pdf

African Union. (2018). *Executive Council: Thirty-Second Ordinary Session: Decisions (EX.CL/Dec.986-1007(XXXII))*. Retrieved 31 May 2018 from: https://au.int/sites/default/files/decisions/33909-ex_cl_decisions_986-1007_e.pdf

African Union. (2018). *Science and Technology Division* [Website]. Retrieved 26 April 2018 from: https://au.int/en/st-division

African Union Commission and Council of Europe Join Forces on Cybersecurity. (2017, April 12). African Union. Retrieved 31 May 2018 from: https://au.int/en/pressreleases/20180412/african-union-commission-and-council-europe-join-forces-cybersecurity

Arms Control Association. (2017). *Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) at a Glance*. Retrieved 31 May 2018 from: https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/CCW

BioWeapons Prevention Project. (n.d.). *About BWPP*. Retrieved 1 June 2018 from: http://www.bwpp.org/index.html

Borger, J. (2018, January 23). US air wars under Trump: increasingly indiscriminate, increasingly opaque. *The Guardian*. Retrieved 2 June 2018 from: https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2018/jan/23/us-air-wars-trump

European Commission. (2017, September 19). *Digital Single Market: Policy: The EU cybersecurity certification network*. Retrieved 31 May 2018 from: https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/eu-cybersecurity-certification-framework

European Commission. (2018). *Digital Single Market: Policy: The Directive on security of network and information systems (NIS Directive)* [Website]. Retrieved 31 May 2018 from: https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/network-and-information-security-nis-directive

European Council & Council of the European Union. (2017, December 22). *Updated aviation safety rules and new rules on drones approved by the Council*. Retrieved 2 July 2018 from: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2017/12/22/updated-aviation-safety-rules-and-new-rules-on-drones-approved-by-the-council/

European Union Agency for Network and Information Security. (2018). *About ENISA* [Website]. Retrieved 26 April 2018 from: https://www.enisa.europa.eu/about-enisa

Fung, B. (2018, February 16). SpaceX wants to beam Internet down to Earth. Here is how it will start. *The Washington Post*. Retrieved 28 April 2018 from: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/innovations/wp/2018/02/16/spacex-wants-to-beam-internet-down-to-earth-heres-how-itll-start/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.8ed9c7ad80d9

Google. (2018). *Our company* [Website]. Retrieved 26 April 2018 from: https://www.google.ca/intl/en/about/our-company/

Google.org. (2017). *Data-driven, human-focused philanthropy – powered by Google* [Website]. Retrieved 30 May 2018 from: https://www.google.org/

International Action Network on Small Arms. (2018). *About IANSA and IANSA Resources* [Website]. Retrieved 1 June 2018 from: https://www.iansa.org/

International Atomic Energy Agency. (n.d.). *History* [Website]. Retrieved 30 May 2018 from: https://www.iaea.org/about/overview/history

International Atomic Energy Agency. (2017). *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)* [Website]. Retrieved 26 April 2018 from: https://www.iaea.org/about/overview/sustainable-development-goals-sdgs

International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. (n.d.). *The Treaty*. Retrieved 1 June 2018 from: http://www.icanw.org/the-treaty/

International Telecommunication Union. (2017). *Global Cybersecurity Index 2017* [Report]. Retrieved 28 April 2018 from: https://www.itu.int/dms_pub/itu-d/opb/str/D-STR-GCI.01-2017-PDF-E.pdf

International Telecommunication Union. (2018). *About International Telecommunication Union (ITU)* [Website]. Retrieved 26 April 2018 from: https://www.itu.int/en/about/Pages/default.aspx

International Telecommunication Union. (2018). *AI for Good Global Summit 2018* [Website]. Retrieved 30 May 2018 from: https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-T/AI/2018/Pages/default.aspx

International Telecommunication Union. (2018). *Key Areas of Action* [Website]. Retrieved 26 April 2018 from: https://www.itu.int/en/action/Pages/default.aspx

International Telecommunication Union. (2018). *Regional Presence* [Website]. Retrieved 26 April 2018 from: https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Pages/Regional-Presence.aspx

Khalip, A. (2018, February 19). U.N. chief urges global rules for cyber warfare. *Reuters*. Retrieved 2 July 2018 from: https://www.reuters.com/article/us-un-guterres-cyber/u-n-chief-urges-global-rules-for-cyber-warfare-idUSKCN1G31Q4

Meier, P. (2011). New information technologies and their impact on the humanitarian sector. *International Review of the Red Cross*, 93 (884):1239-1263.

NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Centre of Excellence. (2017). *Tallinn Manual Process* [Website]. Retrieved 28 April 2018 from: https://ccdcoe.org/tallinn-manual.html

NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Centre of Excellence. (2017). *United Nations* [Website]. Retrieved 28 April 2018 from: https://ccdcoe.org/un.html

North Atlantic Treaty Organization. (2017, September 20). *North Atlantic Council Statement on the Prohibition of the Use Nuclear Weapons*. Retrieved 30 May 2018 from: https://www.nato.int/cps/ua/natohq/news_146954.htm

Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. (n.d.). *OPCW Mission Statement*. Retrieved 1 June 2018 from: https://www.opcw.org/about-opcw/mission/

Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization. (n.d.). *Who We Are* [Website]. Retrieved 1 June 2018 from: https://www.ctbto.org/specials/who-we-are/

Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity. (2000). *Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety to the Convention on Biological Diversity*. Retrieved 25 April 2018 from: https://www.cbd.int/doc/legal/cartagena-protocol-en.pdf

Shane, S. (2012, July 14). The Moral Case for Drones. *The New York Times*. Retrieved 2 June 2018 from: https://www.nytimes.com/2012/07/15/sunday-review/the-moral-case-for-drones.html

SpaceX. (2017). *Company* [Website]. Retrieved 26 April 2018 from: http://www.spacex.com/about

The use of armed drones must comply with laws. (2013, May 10). International Committee of the Red Cross. Retrieved 2 July 2018 from: https://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/interview/2013/05-10-drone-weapons-ihl.htm

Union of Concerned Scientists. (2005). *Earth-Penetrating Weapons* [Website]. Retrieved 25 April 2018 from: https://www.ucsusa.org/nuclear-weapons/us-nuclear-weapons-policy/earth-penetrating-weapons#.WuDTW5ch3b0

United Nations, Conference on Disarmament. (1992). *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (A/47/27)*. Retrieved 25 April 2018 from: https://www.opcw.org/fileadmin/OPCW/CWC/CWC_en.pdf

United Nations Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, Leading Towards their Total Elimination. (2017). *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*. Retrieved 2 July 2018 from: https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/2017/07/20170707%2003-42%20PM/Ch_XXVI_9.pdf

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (n.d.). *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Goal 9: Progress of Goal 9 in 2017* [Website]. Retrieved 26 April 2018 from: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg9

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (n.d.). *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Goal 17: Progress of Goal 17 in 2017* [Website]. Retrieved 26 April 2018 from: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg17

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs. (2018). *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform: Goal 17: Targets & Indicators* [Website]. Retrieved 31 May 2018 from: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg17

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2016, April 15). *UN agency and Google collaborate on satellite data tools to manage natural resources* [News Article]. Retrieved 30 May 2018 from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2016/04/526802-un-agency-and-google-collaborate-satellite-data-tools-manage-natural-resources

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2017, September 6). *FEATURE: Does drone technology hold promise for the UN?* [News Article]. Retrieved 27 April 2018 from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2017/09/564452-feature-does-drone-technology-hold-promise-un

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2017, September 20). *Treaty banning nuclear weapons opens for signature at UN* [News Article]. Retrieved 30 May 2018 from: https://news.un.org/en/story/2017/09/565582-treaty-banning-nuclear-weapons-opens-signature-un

United Nations, Department of Public Information. (2017, October 11). *Disarmament Machinery Must Sharpen Tools to Harness Largely Ungoverned Game-Changing New Weapons, Security Experts Tell First Committee (GA/DIS/3578)* [Press Release]. Retrieved 31 May 2018 from: https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/gadis3578.doc.htm

United Nations Foundation. (2013). *What We Do: Partners: Google Foundation* [Website]. Retrieved 30 May 2018 from: http://www.unfoundation.org/what-we-do/partners/corporations/google-foundation.html

United Nations, General Assembly. (n.d.). *Disarmament and International Security (First Committee)* [Website]. Retrieved 26 April 2018 from: http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/

United Nations, General Assembly. (n.d.). *Seventy-Second Session of the General Assembly: First Committee: Disarmament and International Security: Press Releases, Draft Resolutions, Statements, Secretary-General's*

Reports, and Side Events [Website]. Retrieved 31 May 2018 from: https://www.un.org/disarmament/firstcommittee-72/

United Nations, General Assembly, Twenty-second session. (1968). *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (A/RES/2373 (XXII)).* Adopted on the report of the First Committee. Retrieved 1 March 2018 from: http://www.undocs.org/A/RES/2373(XXII)

United Nations, General Assembly, Twenty-sixth session. (1971). *Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction (A/RES/2826 (XXVI)).* Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/8574). Retrieved 25 April 2018 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/2826(XXVI)

United Nations, General Assembly, Forty-fifth session. (1990). *Scientific and technological developments and their impact on international security (A/RES/45/60)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/45/780). Retrieved 1 June 2018 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/45/60

United Nations, General Assembly, Forty-fifth session. (1990). *Scientific and Technological Developments and Their Impact on International Security: Report of the Secretary-General (A/45/568)* [Report]. Retrieved 1 March 2018 from: http://www.undocs.org/A/45/568

United Nations, General Assembly, Forty-seventh session. (1991). *DISARMAMENT: New trends in science and technology: Implications for international peace and security* [Report]. United Nations, Department for Disarmament Affairs. Retrieved 23 April 2018 from: http://www.iaea.org/inis/collection/NCLCollectionStore/_Public/23/037/23037427.pdf

United Nations, General Assembly, Fifty-first session. (1997). *The role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament (A/RES/51/39)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/51/566/Add.3). Retrieved 1 March 2018 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/51/39

United Nations, General Assembly, Fifty-seventh session. (2003). *Creation of a global culture of cybersecurity (A/RES/57/239)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Second Committee (A/57/529/Add.3). Retrieved 1 March 2018 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/57/239

United Nations, General Assembly, Fifty-eighth session. (2004). *Creation of a global culture of cybersecurity and the protection of critical information infrastructures (A/RES/58/199)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Second Committee (A/58/481/Add.2). Retrieved 1 March 2018 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/58/199

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-fourth session. (2010). *Creation of a global culture of cybersecurity and taking stock of national efforts to protect critical information infrastructures (A/RES/64/211)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the Second Committee (A/64/422/Add.3). Retrieved 1 March 2018 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/64/211

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security (A/70/174)*. Retrieved 27 April 2018 from: http://www.undocs.org/A/70/174

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-first session. (2016). *Developments in the field of information and telecommunications technology in the context of international security (A/RES/71/28)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/71/445). Retrieved 3 March 2018 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/71/28

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-second session. (2017). *Prevention of an arms race in outer space (A/RES/72/26)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/72/407). Retrieved 3 March 2018 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/72/26

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-second session. (2017). *No first placement of weapons in outer space (A/RES/72/27)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/72/407). Retrieved 3 March 2018 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/72/27

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-second session. (2017). *Role of science and technology in the context of international security and disarmament (A/RES/72/28)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/72/408). Retrieved 23 April 2018 from: http://www.undocs.org/A/RES/72/28

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventy-second session. (2017). *Convention on the Prohibition of the Use of Nuclear Weapons (A/RES/72/59)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/72/410). Retrieved 3 March 2018 from: http://undocs.org/A/RES/72/59

Untied Nations Institute for Disarmament Research. (2018). *The Institute* [Website]. Retrieved 1 June 2018 from: http://www.unidir.org/about/the-institute

United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. (2017). *UNICRI Centre for Artificial Intelligence and Robotics* [Website]. Retrieved 27 April 2018 from: http://www.unicri.it/in_focus/on/UNICRI_Centre_Artificial_Robotics

United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute. (2017). *The Risks and Benefits of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics: A workshop for media and security professionals* [Report]. Retrieved 27 April 2018 from: http://unicri.it/in_focus/files/Report_UNICRI_Cambridge_Workshop_Feb_2017.pdf

United Nations, Office for Disarmament Affairs. (n.d.). *Programme of Action on small arms and its International Tracing Instrument* [Website]. Retrieved 2 June 2018 from: https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/salw/programme-of-action/

United Nations, Office for Disarmament Affairs. (n.d.). *The Role of Science and Technology in the context of International Security and Disarmament* [Website]. Retrieved 23 April 2018 from: https://www.un.org/disarmament/topics/scienceandtechnology/

United Nations, Office for Disarmament Affairs. (2015). *Study on Armed Unmanned Aerial Vehicles: Prepared on the Recommendation of the Advisory Board on Disarmament Matters* [Report]. Retrieved 27 April 2018 from: https://unoda-web.s3-accelerate.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/assets/publications/more/drones-study/drones-study.pdf

United Nations, Office for Disarmament Affairs. (2018). *About Us* [Website]. Retrieved 26 April 2018 from: https://www.un.org/disarmament/about/

United Nations, Office for Disarmament Affairs. (2018, January 22). *Reorienting towards the future: Integrating technology in the context of international security and disarmament (A/RES/72/28)* [News Article]. Retrieved 30 April 2018 from: https://www.un.org/disarmament/update/reorienting-towards-the-future-integrating-state-of-the-art-weapons-and-ammunition-management-into-ddr-programmes/

United Nations, Office for Disarmament Affairs, Department of Peacekeeping Operations. (2018). *Effective Weapons and Ammunition Management in a Changing Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Context: A Handbook for United Nations DDR Practitioners*. Retrieved 29 June 2018 from: https://s3.amazonaws.com/unoda-web/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/ddr-handbook.pdf

United Nations, Office for Outer Space Affairs. (2010). *Space Debris Mitigation Guidelines of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space* [Report]. Retrieved 25 April 2018 from: http://www.unoosa.org/pdf/publications/st_space_49E.pdf

United Nations, Office for Outer Space Affairs. (2017). *What is UN-SPIDER?* [Website]. Retrieved 28 April 2018 from: http://www.un-spider.org/about/what-is-un-spider

United Nations, Office for Outer Space Affairs. (2018). *Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space* [Website]. Retrieved 26 April 2018 from: http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/copuos/index.html

United Nations, Office for Outer Space Affairs. (2018). *Fifty years since the first United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (1968-2018): UNISPACE+50* [Website]. Retrieved 26 April 2018 from: http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/unispaceplus50/index.html

United Nations, Office for Outer Space Affairs. (2018). *United Nations Platform for Space-based Information for Disaster Management and Emergency Response (UN-SPIDER)* [Website]. Retrieved 26 April 2018 from: http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/un-spider/index.html

United Nations, Office for Outer Space Affairs. (2018). *United Nations Programme on Space Application* [Website]. Retrieved 26 April 2018 from: http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/psa/index.html

United Nations, Office for Outer Space Affairs. (2018). *UN-Space* [Website]. Retrieved 26 April 2018 from: http://www.unoosa.org/oosa/en/ourwork/un-space/index.html

United Nations, Secretary-General. (2018, March 23). *Secretary-General's remarks to Turtle Bay Security Roundtable: Managing the Frontiers of Technology (as delivered) on 23 March 2018, in New York City.* Retrieved 23 April 2018 from: https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2018-03-23/secretary-general%E2%80%99s-remarks-turtle-bay-security-roundtable-managing

United Nations, Security Council. (2018). *The Security Council* [Website]. Retrieved 26 April 2018 from: http://www.un.org/en/sc/

United Nations, Security Council, Counter-Terrorism Committee. (n.d.). *Information and communications technologies (ICT)* [Website]. Retrieved 27 April 2018 from: https://www.un.org/sc/ctc/focus-areas/information-and-communication-technologies/

United Nations, Security Council, 7488th meeting. (2015). *Resolution 2231 (2015) (S/RES/2231(2015))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 1 June 2018 from: http://www.undocs.org/S/RES/2231(2015)

United Nation, Security Council, 7992nd meeting. (2017). *Resolution 2365 (2017) (S/RES/2365(2017))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 1 June 2018 from: http://www.undocs.org/S/RES/2365(2017)

Unmanned Peacekeepers in Africa. (2016, September 2). Aviation Week Network. Retrieved 27 April 2018 from: http://aviationweek.com/defense/unmanned-peacekeepers-africa