



ANÁHUAC MAYAB



Manual for Delegates

SECURITY COUNCIL

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Gonzalo Vargas Alonso - Moderator

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Greetings Delegates,

It is an honour for me and the Chair to welcome you to the Security Council committee. Without a doubt it has a critical role to play in today's global society and the Chair looks forward to exploring key issues with each and every delegate.

To give some context into the Security Council, it was created at the same time as the UN, on 24 October 1945 upon ratification of the Charter by the five then-permanent members of the Security Council and by a majority of the other 46 signatories

The Security Council held its first session on 17 January 1946 at Church House, Westminster, London. Since its first meeting, the Security Council has taken permanent residence at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. Also, a representative of each of its members must be present at all times at UN Headquarters so that the Security Council can meet at any time as the need arises.

The objects of the Security Council are clear. Well, it has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. It has 15 Members, and each Member has one vote. Under the Charter of the United Nations, all Member States are obligated to comply with Council decisions.

Furthermore, the Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.

With this, the Security Council Committee has a large part to play in global affairs and also does in the 2021 MAYABMUN. With many problems facing the world right now, The Chair is expecting delegates to find pertinent solutions to the problems which face humanity. The two topics which will be explored in this year's MAYABMUN are the following:

a. Protection of civilians in armed conflicts in Afghanistan...

b. Measures to regulate the manufacture, marketing and use of Lethal Autonomous Weapons (LAWS) to prevent a future arms race.

Thus, it is up to each delegate to represent their needs and to come to a consensus on how these issues can be tackled in an efficient and effective way.

Delegates, best of luck.

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Topic A: Protection of civilians in armed conflicts in Afghanistan.

Civilians may lose protection in the midst of an armed conflict, because they are one of the major sectors that take part in hostilities. The levels of harm inflicted on civilians are rapidly increasing in Afghanistan. The number of Afghan people killed, in particular, children and women is of great concern. The beginning of the situation in Afghanistan Peace Negotiations, which took place in September 2020 raised hope for saving lives and improving the quality of life of civilians. A report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflicts documents attacks against people who are not regularly taking part in the hostility, such as teachers, government workers, health clinic workers, election workers, politicians, NGOs employees, and police personnel. Explosive devices, ground engagements, suicide and complex attacks and targeted killings are some sources of civilian casualties.

After the Taliban refused to hand in Osama Bin Laden to the US government back in 2001, after the 9/11 attack, the latter started “Operation Enduring Freedom” which declared war on international terrorism and invaded Afghanistan. From there, the Talibans began an insurgency against International Coalitions and Afghan national security forces.

The geopolitical challenges faced at a regional context are of grave concern. China, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan border Afghanistan. Just like any other international actor, these countries have a wide variety of interests in the conflict and have pursued political strategies. The multi-dimensional conflict has caused a crucial impact on neighbouring countries, internally speaking. Pakistan has sought multiple solutions that could eventually guarantee its influence in Afghanistan, by building military capabilities of the Taliban. On the contrary, Iran has formed its foreign policy by opposing the Talibans, thus seeking to secure its position in the region by giving support to the Northern Alliance. Tajikistan portrays a very particular position by hosting an Air base that gives supplies to the Northern Alliance. Countries such as Uzbekistan and Tajikistan have been damaged by the outpouring effects of the Afghan quarrel. Russia on the other hand, has become a regional power, politically, militarily, and economically speaking.

Civilian casualties continue on the rise throughout the years in Afghanistan. As of 2018, the United Nations amounted to about 10,993 civilian casualties. Even though there was a slight decline in casualties during 2019 and 2020, the first half of 2021 witnessed an unprecedented rise in fatalities with the Taliban boosting their military offensive in the midst of the withdrawal of international troops. Violence in Afghan soil continued to play an important role in 2020 and 2021, with the United States increasing its airstrikes against the Taliban. The latter continued to attack Afghan National Security Forces and the Afghan government itself, thus enlarging their territorial domain. In addition to the Taliban offensive strategies, the Afghan populace faces a similar threat from the Islamic State in Khorasan, which has broadened its presence in many provinces and attacked Kabul, thus targeting innocent civilians with suicide attacks. The International Arena



fears the Taliban could turn Afghanistan into a terrorist safe haven. The Taliban takeover could also undermine the remarkable and outstanding advancement in procuring girls and women rights. On top of that, a mass affluence of refugees, political vulnerability and the rapidly growing humanitarian crisis, could mean an immediate and harsh response from regional powers such as Russia and Iran in order for them to guarantee a spot in the geopolitical competition.

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) is working nonstop to prevent future and unprecedented events in armed conflicts. Their goal is to minimize the impact of armed conflicts on civilians with different methods such as: monitoring of incidents involving injury or loss of life of civilians; initiatives to promote accordance with International Human Rights Law and International Humanitarian Law and the laws and Constitution of Afghanistan among all the actors in dispute. The legal framework for the reports made by UNAMA include a multidimensional legal body, such as International Humanitarian and Criminal Law, binding UN Security Council Resolutions circumscribed on Afghanistan and International Human Rights Law. UNAMA conducts meticulous on-site investigation and consults a range of sources and informational typologies that are evaluated through a rigorous methodology in order to find the credibility and reliability of such. In the midst of evaluating procedure on each incident, UNAMA corroborates information from a vast amount of sources including the amount of witnesses, directly-affected people, military personnel such as: Afghan Special Forces and International military forces and victims, religious and community leaders, and local or district and provincial authorities.



Topic B. Measures to regulate the manufacture, marketing and use of Lethal Autonomous Weapons (LAWS) to prevent a future arms race.

An arms race is a perilous situation which can only have a negative outcome, moreover, Lethal Autonomous Weapons or LAWS, make this an even more delicate situation, which if not managed carefully, can have a serious impact on the world's peace.

Since 2013, discussion of such Autonomous weapons systems has been climbing the arms control agenda of the United Nations. They are a topic at the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly First Committee on disarmament and international security, but the main venue of the debate is the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) in Geneva.

Some have stigmatized these as “killer robots”, well autonomous weapons systems are regarded by most as precursors of a paradigm shift in warfare. To better understand how these weapons work in order to get to grips with the context of the situation, a 2012 Pentagon document stated the following: “[Once] activated, [they] can seek, select and engage targets without intervention by a human operator.” So, these weapons can make decisions on the use of lethal force without a human in the decision-making loop, as suspected, this has potentially many pitfalls.

It should be noted that thus far, only precursor systems and technology demonstrators exist. This makes autonomous weapons systems a candidate for preventive arms control, yet investigation into this field is rapidly growing and eventually, this technology will become more and more sophisticated furthering the need to effectively regulate the manufacture and use of such weapons.

One key point to mention regarding this, is The United Nations (UN) Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) which is the epicentre of the global debate on autonomy in weapons systems. The CCW's purpose “is to ban or restrict the use of specific types of weapons that are considered to cause unnecessary or unjustifiable suffering to combatants or to affect civilians indiscriminately”.

In CCW phraseology, the weapon autonomy issue is called “emerging technologies in the area of lethal autonomous weapons systems” (LAWS). Because of these issues many states have already become debating the future of these weapons, but no clear consensus has as of yet been reached. As the years go by, increased regulation is very likely to be needed. Although discussions surrounding this have already begun, they have yet to be fruitful. Certain state shows no interest in producing new international law in the CCW, arguing that “concerns regarding LAWS can be addressed through faithful implementation of the existing international legal norms”, while others claim that nothing short of “an important milestone” has already been reached, well a 2019 report had made some headway in this field.



Besides this, a proper regulation of LAWS is yet to be reached and states need to carefully analyse the effect this can have in the short and long term as of course act accordingly. An interesting statement of the International Committee of the Red Cross, at the meeting of experts on lethal autonomous weapons systems, in Geneva, in 2016 said the following

“Whether for legal, ethical or military-operational reasons, there is broad agreement on the need for human control over weapons and the use of force. However, it remains unclear whether human control at the stages of the development and the deployment of an autonomous weapon system is sufficient to overcome minimal or no human control at the stage of the weapon system’s operation—that is, when it independently selects and attacks targets. There is now a need to determine the kind and degree of human control over the operation of weapon systems that are deemed necessary to comply with legal obligations and to satisfy ethical and societal considerations.”

The Chair reminds delegates that this is simply a guide to introduce the topics which will be discussed, however, further investigation is strongly recommended. The Chair looks forward to hearing the delegates concerns and thoughts on these matters and is optimistic that solutions can be found.

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