



*General Assembly*

# Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)

Rewa Totey and Anish Aruru  
*Co-Chairs*



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# Disarmament and International Security Committee

## *Letter from the Chairs*

Dear Delegates and Sponsors,

Welcome to GSMUN XXVI's DISEC Committee! As delegates within the DISEC Committee, you discuss the issues which affect the international security of citizens. Specifically, the focus in this committee will be on European Immigration along with Cybersecurity and Warfare. These two topics' connections are extremely relevant to today's world, so it's your job to combat these issues with innovative solutions. Your chairs are so excited to witness all the discussions and debate in this conference!

Rewa Totey, a sophomore at Maggie Walker, is so honored to be chairing the DISEC Committee this year! Involved as a crisis staffer last year, Rewa's participation in the club and conference extends to her freshman year. At school, Rewa is on the JV Volleyball team, Treasurer of the Bring Change 2 Mind Club, and Assistant Head of Costuming for the Drama Department. Additionally, she loves to be a part of the Bhangra Club's performances! In her free time, Rewa loves playing the piano, baking, listening to music, or volunteering for Jacob's Chance. She cannot wait to meet all the delegates and looks forward to a wonderful and productive committee!

Anish Aruru, a sophomore, is delighted to be a co-chair in the esteemed GSMUN. This is his third year participating in Model UN, with being a crisis staffer last year. Outside of Model UN, Anish participates in the school's sprint team and is in a plethora of clubs such as Robotics, the Badminton club, and Chess club. He loves to go biking and play sports with his friends in his free time. He also enjoys reading and cooking. He is extremely excited to chair such a fantastic and fun committee, and is hoping for a great GSMUN XXVI.

Delegates are expected to discuss the different aspects and solutions for the topics of European immigration as well as Cybersecurity. Delegates must highlight their own country's struggles as well as their needs in order to provide a full picture of their situation to the committee and the chairs. Since DISEC will be a double delegation committee, the chairs strongly encourage the writing of position papers which address the questions mentioned in the background guide itself. Additionally, please note that position papers should be written in size 12 with the Times New Roman font, and all writing must be double spaced. Moreover, Chicago Manual Style citations are required for all information included which is not your own. As a GSMUN delegate, you are required to follow the Maggie Walker Honor Code which mentions that plagiarism will not be tolerated, along with the use of AI mechanisms such as ChatGPT. All position papers should be emailed before 5 pm the day of the conference.

Finally, a huge part of the work here at GSMUN is to impact lives through charity. This year, GSMUN is supporting the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, a nonprofit devoted to furthering cancer research while providing support and education to patients. The donations will be collected through the sale of snacks, merch, and many more fun items through GSMUN's charity cart— so be sure to bring money! Please do not hesitate to contact your chairs for any questions or concerns. Your chairs are looking forward to some marvelous debate and cannot wait to meet you all! Best of luck and see you in March for the 26th iteration of GSMUN!!

Your Chairs,

Rewa Totey  
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Anish Aruru

# DISEC Background Guide Draft

## *Committee Overview*

### **Background**

The first of the main committees created, the United Nations' Disarmament & International Security Committee (DISEC) discusses topics relating to the upholding of international peace. The committee was first established in 1978 by a special United Nations General Assembly session. DISEC focuses on addressing issues related to disarmament, global security, and international conflicts.<sup>1</sup>

DISEC is composed of two parts: the Conference of Disarmament (CD) and the UN Disarmament Commission (UNDC). DISEC is also an institution of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). The UNODA, created in January 1998, followed the Secretary-General's second special session on disarmament in 1982. The UNODA focuses on disarmament at all levels such as nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction, and conventional weapons. Additionally, the commission assists DISEC through its work conducted in the General Assembly for a firm standard of support to further its disarmament efforts.<sup>2</sup>

Through resolutions and policy recommendations, DISEC has significantly influenced the UN's decision-making process, shaping international agreements and treaties aimed at reducing arms proliferation and enhancing global security measures. The committee's actions encourage cooperation among member states, serving as a place for dialogue and collaboration in addressing pressing security concerns. DISEC's impact extends beyond the UN, influencing global perceptions and strategies for maintaining peace, ultimately contributing to the advancement of a safer and more secure world.

### **Topic I: European Immigration**

#### **History of the Issue**

The aftermath of the Industrial Revolution, the time period when the production of goods by machine instead of hand was introduced, led to an influx of migrants from within Europe to settle in Britain. Seeking economic opportunities and better wages, many European immigrants supported and advanced the urbanization of Britain. This transition lasted until the 1840s, after which Britain implemented a gradual reduction of restrictions on labor-based mobility.<sup>1</sup> Prior to the first World War, many Europeans freely traveled across nations, motivated by the possibility of better working prospects. However, during the war, many began to view crossing borders without security measures in place as dangerous. Following this concern, European nations introduced passports and visas.<sup>2</sup> Even with cross-border migration resuming after 1918, it occurred on an extremely small scale with numerous restrictions in place.<sup>3</sup> The Cold War also inspired a change in immigration policy, aligning with the economic needs of the region at the time. Specifically, the market and economic conditions controlled many migrants' entry into certain nations.<sup>4</sup>

These constant transformations led to an insecure structure regarding immigration policy in Europe during the 1900s. For instance, families were required to analyze logistics such as travel costs, employment struggles, psychological well-being, and separation from family members. As a result, the idea of the "Investment Theory" developed because wealthier families were more likely to immigrate as they gained more benefits. The specific benefits and sacrifices, especially during World War I, resulted in the formation of strong divisions between the upper, middle, and lower classes within



Europe itself. Additionally, the World War resulted in many escaping from dangerous homelands and unsafe conditions. Over 400,000 Belgians escaped to Holland during the first couple of months in the war and another 200,000 migrated to France following the German invasion. France and the United Kingdom were among the main nations with a growing immigration rate, as many different refugees fled to them for protection.<sup>5</sup>

In the immediate aftermath of World War 1, numerous labor migrations occurred in France, Switzerland, Sweden, England, and Germany, including many individuals residing in Italy and Spain between the years of 1945 to 1955. The International Committee for European Migration (ICEM) was established during this era, aiming to provide assistance to displaced individuals during the war. After its primary purpose expired, the organization evolved into the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in 1989, broadening its scope to address diverse migration challenges worldwide.<sup>6</sup> The IOM continues to play a significant role in organizing global campaigns focusing on immigrant rights, healthcare access, climate change, and many more.<sup>7</sup>

The formation of the European Union (EU) in 1993 brought about significant changes to immigration policy, in regards to managing migration across member states. Concerns arose regarding the influx and integration of immigrants into European societies, prompting the Union to impose limitations on the number of immigrants allowed within its borders. However, despite these efforts, issues pertaining to racism and xenophobia persisted, posing challenges to effective immigration control and integration strategies within the Union.<sup>8</sup> Furthermore, The Schengen Agreement, associated with the "Treaty of Amsterdam" due to the strengthening and incorporation of human rights in the Schengen agreement itself, aimed to eliminate internal borders among participating European nations, allowing for unrestricted short-term travel within the region. While the agreements took a step

towards regional unity and cooperation, nations such as Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Ireland, and Romania expressed concerns about potential security threats posed by an unregulated influx of immigrants.<sup>9</sup>

Specific historical scenarios illustrate the complex nature of post-war immigration. For instance, Irish and Italian immigration during earlier periods stemmed from religious conflicts, economic hardships, and crises like the Potato Famine.<sup>10</sup> Similarly, Jewish immigration, particularly towards Central and Eastern Europe, was fueled by persecution threats and significantly impacted the geopolitical relations during World War II, affecting global efforts during the period.<sup>11</sup>

### **Current Status of the Issue**

Europe is currently experiencing various socio-political concerns. A primary focus is the ongoing struggle for cultural integration within the region, particularly in light of significant Muslim immigration. The influx of individuals seeking work opportunities has created a cultural dissonance due to the predominant Christian heritage of many European nations. The Charlie Hebdo shooting, a terrorist attack by two Muslim men on January 7th, 2015 in France, was in response to a newspaper's publications of cartoons depicting the Muslim Prophet Muhammad. This attack left 12 people dead and many more injured.<sup>12</sup> Instances of religious violence, such as the Charlie Hebdo attack and similar incidents across European countries, have increased tensions, emphasizing the urgent need for cohesive cultural integration strategies.<sup>13</sup>

Simultaneously, the complex landscape of refugee and asylum policies remains a critical issue. While the 1951 Geneva Convention defines the fundamental right to seek asylum, the establishment of the Common European Asylum System and frameworks like the Dublin Regulation attempt to streamline asylum processes.<sup>14</sup> However, increased border control measures reveal disparities in treatment, notably evident

in the Russo-Ukrainian War. The conflict has triggered the displacement of approximately 8 million individuals, spotlighting differential treatment towards Ukrainian refugees compared to those from non-European nations. Though previously known for their strict asylum policies and view of immigrants, following the Russo-Ukrainian crisis, several European governments and individuals opened their borders and homes. The immediate European response to the Ukrainian immigrant crisis highlighted the double standards regarding Europe's prioritization of humanitarian action.<sup>15</sup>

The influx of Middle Eastern and African immigrants further compounds Europe's challenges. The Syrian Civil War and the subsequent 2011 Refugee Crisis led to several negotiations and discussions between the European Union and neighboring countries like Turkey. The negotiations revolved around the management of the new wave of immigrants now entering those countries.<sup>16</sup> Through this process, many individuals fall victim to human trafficking or endure inhumane conditions while making the journey to Europe.<sup>17</sup> Moreover, the public discourse on immigration policies often targets Muslim-majority countries, contributing to a polarizing narrative surrounding immigration issues. Moreover, the recent Taliban takeover in Afghanistan has triggered extensive European-sponsored evacuation efforts. Over 150,000 Afghan refugees have sought escape from Taliban rule, making the implementation of specialized resettlement programs for Afghan refugees extremely necessary.<sup>18</sup>

The fallout from Brexit caused substantial challenges in Europe. The enforcement of border actions, cessation of "Free Movement," and the emergence of cultural divisions between the UK and the EU have prompted stringent visa and work permit requirements, leading to complications in settlement for EU nationals in the UK.

## Analysis and Solutions

The European continent continues to grapple with many challenges surrounding migration, prompting a reevaluation of policies and strategies. The issue of asylum and refugee policies remains prominent, emphasizing the dire need for providing adequate protection to refugees while also strictly adhering to international refugee laws and human rights standards. The urgency to create frameworks to address this humanitarian crisis is evident, with an emphasis on both offering sanctuary to those fleeing persecution and ensuring compliance with global legal statutes.<sup>19</sup> However, labor migration programs are under scrutiny, making it necessary to establish legal pathways for economic opportunities. It is necessary to create systems that benefit both host nations and migrants, recognizing the contribution of migrants to the economy while safeguarding their rights and well-being. Striking this balance is crucial for sustainable and mutually beneficial migration.<sup>20</sup>

In the pursuit of integration and inclusion, Europe's cultural and social agendas place an emphasis on fostering inclusive societies and addressing the impact of diversity.<sup>21</sup> The challenge lies in nurturing environments that celebrate diversity while navigating the potential tensions arising from it. Strategies must focus on harnessing the advantages of diversity while proactively managing its complexities.

Border management and security occupy a prominent position in the discourse, urging for the enhancement of security measures to combat irregular migration. The call for humane border control methods aims to secure borders without compromising human rights or resorting to inhumane practices. Similarly, regional agreements emerge as a potential avenue for managing migration flows effectively. Forming cohesive regional initiatives highlights the significance of cooperation between European nations in addressing migration challenges collectively. These agreements serve as a testament to the

acknowledgment of shared responsibilities and the recognition of the connections regarding migration issues in Europe.

Simultaneously, developmental aid stands as a critical strategy in addressing the root causes of migration. By improving conditions in countries from which a significant number of asylum seekers originate, the high amount of forced migration may be reduced. Providing aid to underdeveloped nations is pivotal in creating environments where individuals are less compelled to seek refuge elsewhere due to dire circumstances.

### Questions to Consider:

1. How can international policies be restructured to accommodate modern migration patterns and global humanitarian crises more effectively? What adjustments should be made to existing frameworks to address the challenges faced by migrants and refugees worldwide?
2. Should European countries have to share the responsibilities regarding migration issues? Should more nations be involved in ensuring a proper and connected address of immigration issues?
3. How can labor migration programs be reevaluated to ensure fair and equitable treatment of migrant workers while meeting the economic needs of host nations? What measures should be taken to safeguard the rights and well-being of migrant laborers without compromising the economic contributions they make?
4. Considering recent geopolitical events such as the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan and the Russo-Ukrainian War, how can Europe and surrounding nations effectively manage crisis-driven migration? What measures should be taken to assist with the safe resettlement and

integration of displaced populations from these regions?

5. With a focus on the future, how should countries address the root causes of the immigration crisis occurring in Europe, specifically focusing on the conditions of underdeveloped nations?
6. What strategies can be employed to promote inclusive societies in Europe while effectively managing the complexities arising from cultural diversity?

### Further Research

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2. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/eu-migration-policy/>: Discusses the role of the European Union in managing and regulating immigration policy within the continent of Europe. Provides the current rules and legal processes associated with immigrant arrival in any European nation.
3. <https://journalistsresource.org/politics-and-government/france-muslims-terrorism-integration-research-roundup/>: A detailed article on the acts of terrorism and their connections with religious tensions. Places special focus on the nation of France and the struggling attempts to blend different religious beliefs within all of Europe.
4. [https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/migration-management/migration-management-welcoming-refugees-ukraine\\_en](https://home-affairs.ec.europa.eu/policies/migration-and-asylum/migration-management/migration-management-welcoming-refugees-ukraine_en): Statistics paired with explanations of Europe's management of an influx of

refugees from Ukraine. Focuses on connecting several organizations and countries to assist in the proper supervision of the issue.

## **Topic II: Cybersecurity & Warfare**

In modern warfare, cybersecurity is essential for defense as it protects networks and data from harmful attacks. Defined as the practice of safeguarding computers, servers, mobile devices, electronic systems, networks, and data from malicious attacks, cybersecurity plays a pivotal role in protecting nations from the ever-growing threat of cyber warfare.<sup>22</sup> The significance of warfare cybersecurity is evident; in just the first nine months of 2019, a staggering 7.9 billion records were exposed due to data breaches.<sup>23</sup> Such breaches not only compromise sensitive information but also have the potential to disrupt important infrastructures and national security. To address this escalating challenge, countries are increasingly investing in cybersecurity measures. According to predictions by Kaspersky, a cybersecurity company, global cybersecurity spending was expected to reach \$188.3 billion in 2023 and is projected to surpass \$260 billion by 2026.<sup>24</sup> As the world becomes more digitally interconnected, people must collaboratively address the complexities of cybersecurity and warfare to ensure the stability and security of nations in the face of cyber threats.

### **History of the Issue**

The history of cybersecurity in warfare is marked by a series of significant milestones and challenges, which have shaped today's defenses against digital threats. In the late 1960s, the US Department of Defense created the Advanced Research Projects Agency Network (ARPANET), one of the first computer networks, which is a collection of interconnected devices.<sup>25</sup> This was the stepping stone to establish the modern-day internet. However, as systems became more interconnected, they also became vulnerable to hacking and cyber espionage. Hacking

incidents have occurred even before personal computers were commonplace. The late 1990s saw a significant increase in hacking because there were no security measures, leading to the development of cyber warfare tactics such as vulnerability scanners, penetration testing, and red teams. The 1990s laid the groundwork for the modern cybersecurity landscape.

Cyber espionage is the covert and unauthorized practice of infiltrating computer systems and networks to gather sensitive information.<sup>26</sup> This practice is typically conducted by governments, intelligence agencies, or cybercriminal organizations. These attacks usually have a covert nature and can occur without the knowledge of the target. Organizations and governments employ various cybersecurity measures to detect and prevent cyber espionage including robust firewalls, intrusion detection systems, and encryption.

Warfare cyber attacks can have serious consequences. The 2018 elections in Russia, for instance, demonstrated how cyber attacks could be employed to influence political processes in foreign nations. Additionally, the Stuxnet attack, a sophisticated computer worm, made headlines for targeting Iran's nuclear facilities, causing significant disruptions to their operations. The NotPetya was a highly destructive and widespread cyberattack that occurred in June 2017 which was a destructive wiper malware disguised as ransomware.<sup>27</sup> This attack also stood out as a notable example of how cyber attacks could inflict widespread economic damage and have a global impact on numerous companies and critical infrastructure of some governments. As technology continues to evolve, so do the threats in the digital realm. Understanding the history and developments of cybersecurity in warfare is essential to solving the problem at hand.

### **Current Status of the Issue**

Cyber warfare involves a wide range of players, including countries and non-state groups, each using their digital skills to pursue

their goals. For example, Russia is notorious for its involvement in state-sponsored cyber attacks, employing its cyber capabilities to pursue various objectives, including political influence, economic espionage, and military advantage. The United States also possesses significant cyber warfare capabilities and has been known to utilize them strategically to gain intelligence on foreign countries. These efforts often involve cyber espionage activities aimed at collecting critical information on potential adversaries and enhancing national security.

The motivations behind state-sponsored cyber attacks are multifaceted and complex. Typically the countries want to acquire valuable information from rival states or competitors. Cyber warfare for these countries serves as a means to achieve political and strategic objectives by exerting influence over foreign governments. Moreover, cyber warfare provides a means for achieving military advantage by targeting critical infrastructure and defense systems of adversaries.

In addition to state actors, non-state entities have also become big participants in cyber warfare. Hactivist groups, like Anonymous, LulzSec, Syrian Electronic Army, and Telecomix have demonstrated their impact by launching cyber campaigns for various causes, often motivated by ideological or social objectives.<sup>28</sup> These groups utilize their skills to disrupt online services, deface websites, and raise awareness about their causes. Additionally, ransomware groups have gained notoriety for their extortion tactics by encrypting data and demanding hefty ransoms from targeted entities. Advanced Persistent Threat (APT) actors engage in sophisticated and prolonged cyber intrusions, primarily for espionage purposes, targeting governments and corporations worldwide.<sup>29</sup> Furthermore, carding and financial fraud networks specialize in stealing financial information and exploiting vulnerabilities in payment systems for illicit gains.

In the world of cybersecurity and

warfare, countries are taking various measures to protect themselves and assert their positions. On the defensive side, they use tools like Intrusion Detection and Prevention Systems (IDPS) and create laws that regulate against cybercrime.<sup>30</sup> National Cybersecurity Strategies are also developed to safeguard infrastructure and citizens from cyber threats. Encryption and network security protocols play a crucial role in keeping sensitive information safe from outsiders.

Although defense is very important, countries such as the United States and Russia are also investing in offensive cybersecurity capabilities. Offensive cyber operations let them target and disrupt enemy digital infrastructure, gather intelligence, and influence their decisions. Countries are even developing cyber weapons designed to exploit vulnerabilities in enemy systems and gain military advantages.

### **Analysis and Solutions**

The intersection of cybersecurity and warfare brings significant challenges and implications, demanding careful consideration from the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC). One pressing issue is attribution and accountability, as it is difficult to identify the true culprits behind cyber attacks, leading to tensions and mistrust among nations. The role of international law in governing cyber warfare is complex, and ongoing discussions and revisions are necessary to ensure accountability in the digital realm.

Another critical concern is the potential consequences of cyber attacks. When critical infrastructure is targeted, it can cause severe damage, disrupt essential services, and lead to humanitarian crises, endangering civilian lives and well-being. Addressing these challenges requires international cooperation, and comprehensive legal frameworks. By recognizing the impact of cyber attacks and enhancing defensive capabilities, nations can work together for a



safer digital landscape in the context of warfare.

In the face of growing cyber threats in warfare, international cooperation is crucial. Initiatives like the United Nations Group of Governmental Experts and the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime have fostered global cybersecurity cooperation and have improved defenses against cybercrime.<sup>31</sup> However, challenges such as differing national interests and attribution issues can hinder progress because every country has their own selfish desires.

The future of cybersecurity and warfare will be transformed by advanced technologies like Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Quantum Computing. Quantum Computing is a technology that uses quantum mechanics to solve complex computer problems.<sup>32</sup> AI will play a key role in improving cybersecurity defenses through its ability to quickly detect and respond to cyber threats. However, the use of AI in warfare also raises concerns about accidental escalation and possible vulnerabilities that could be exploited by malicious people. Quantum Computing, on the other hand, has the potential to enhance encryption and make conventional methods vulnerable. This presents both challenges and opportunities for cybersecurity.

### Questions to Consider

1. Should cyber attacks be considered acts of war, and how should they be addressed under international law?
2. What role should the United Nations play in regulating and preventing cyber warfare activities?

3. How can countries balance the need for offensive cyber capabilities for self-defense with the risks of escalation and unintended consequences?
4. Should there be global regulations and standards for the development and deployment of autonomous weapons systems in warfare?
5. How can states effectively attribute cyber attacks to specific actors or nations, and what are the implications for response and accountability?
6. How might the advent of quantum computing and Artificial Intelligence impact current standards and protection methods for cyber attacks?

### Further Research

1. <https://www.dhs.gov/topics/cybersecurity>: The US Department of Homeland Security's page on cybersecurity.
2. <https://www.csis.org/programs/strategic-technologies-program/significant-cyber-incidents>: Covers a number of recent cybersecurity incidents.
3. <https://www.fortinet.com/resources/cyberglossary/cyber-warfare>: Discusses the various types of cyberwarfare.
4. <https://www.ibm.com/topics/cybersecurity>: A reputable source talking about cybersecurity.
5. <https://www.britannica.com/topic/cyberwar>: Detailed explanation of cyberwarfare.

## Endnotes

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