



Arizona Model United Nations 64

Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)

Short Research Guide

DISEC, or the Disarmament and International Security Committee, is one of the six main bodies of the United Nations. The committee typically deals with questions of nuclear weapons and other such weapons of mass destruction, regional and international security, including the use of drones in warfare, protecting civilians, preventing nuclear war, and promoting disarmament. It is quintessential to note that DISEC does not possess the same powers as the Security Council. DISEC is allowed to recommend positions on topics and encourage collaboration on human rights treaties; however, they are not allowed to take any immediate action.

Topic I: Protecting Civilians During Armed Conflicts

While DISEC does not directly manage humanitarian responses or civilian protection, its involvement in these matters is crucial. DISEC supports and promotes the elimination of Weapons of Mass Destruction, otherwise known as WMDs. This committee also emphasizes the Arms Trade Treaty, or ATT, which has the goal of stopping the trade of weapons that would arm civilians. DISEC is limited in how much it can interfere and directly assist people with issues of weapons or conflict; however, it does have involvement in the International Humanitarian Law and urges parties to respect the Geneva Convention, which also adds to the safety protections added for civilians. In collaboration with other United Nations committees, such as the UN Security Council, the UN Human Rights Council, and the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, or OCHA, DISEC aims to continue pushing for respect for others and their right to safety in any aspect, and by fostering multilateral cooperation against these issues that threaten that safety..

Questions to consider:

- 1) Has your country signed or ratified key disarmament treaties (e.g., Arms Trade Treaty, Chemical Weapons Convention, Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons)?
- 2) Does your country export arms, and how does it ensure that such weapons don't end up in the hands of actors who target civilians?
- 3) What support does your country need from DISEC or the international community to better equip peacekeepers?

Topic II: Preventing the Spread of Nuclear Weapons

As mentioned previously, DISEC has a massive involvement in eliminating all WMDs; the catastrophic damage these could cause to more than just the target is devastating in multiple aspects. DISEC also supports the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, or NPT, which prevents countries without these weapons of mass destruction to keep from acquiring them, as well as international safeguards and encourages nuclear states to reduce and/or eliminate their weapons arsenal. DISEC has a very active stance on WMDs and by constantly involved in collaborations with other committees to reduce and eventually fully get rid of these weapons. Despite their inability to fully insert themselves into anything on the front lines of this, they support groups that also support these efforts. Without being able to impose sanctions on terrorist groups or non-state actors, they run into many limitations; however, they still collaborate with and encourage other groups and treaties such as 'Towards a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World', 'The Risk of Nuclear Proliferation in the Middle East', and 'United Action with Renewed Determination towards the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapon'.

Questions to consider:

- 1) Does your country have nuclear power capabilities? If so, how does it ensure peaceful use under international safeguards?
- 2) Is your country willing to collaborate on nuclear disarmament education, capacity building, or verification technologies?

- 3) What is your country's official stance on nuclear weapons — should they be eliminated entirely or maintained under deterrence?

Topic III: Addressing the Use of Drones in Warfare

DISEC's position on drones is more neutral in this case, rather than some of their previous stances as mentioned above. Drones have been argued to be good for the use of precise military targeting to reduce mass casualties and help defeat terrorists. On the other hand, some countries have argued that the risk of destabilization with drones makes people uneasy and more likely to act out of stress. DISEC urges transparency in drone locations and uses to reduce stress among countries where drones are not as well-liked. However, to allow for the continuation of drones in countries that utilize them, codes of conduct and other international agreements are needed to allow for no disparities in drone usage to make them less stressful, less harmful, and much more safe to civilian life. There is no specific treaty currently urging any one side; however, DISEC believes in urging safety, and this debate is to be continued in collaboration with other United Nations security groups.

Questions to consider:

- 1) Should drone technology transfers be restricted, similar to nuclear or missile technology under the MTCR (Missile Technology Control Regime)?
- 2) Would your country support expanding the use of drones for peacekeeping, humanitarian aid, and surveillance rather than armed conflict?
- 3) How does your country propose to address the rapid spread of armed drones to non-state actors and terrorist groups?

