DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE

Bryant Pranboonpluk

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Dais

Dear Delegates,

I am so honored to officially welcome you to Yale Model United Nations China! My name is Bryant Pranboonpluk, and I'm so excited to welcome all of you to the **Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)**. I'm originally from Los Angeles, California and am a current first-year at Yale, studying Political Science and Psychology. In my free time, I enjoy golfing, watching reality television shows, and playing table tennis with my friends!

As the first general assembly committee established by the United Nations, DISEC has a rich history of promoting peace and international stability. The committee has worked to pass resolutions that regulate the use of weapons of mass destruction and establish safe zones within military conflict. Within our DISEC Committee, I am thrilled to watch all of you challenge yourselves over the course of the committee. The committee will be focused on two central issues: The Weaponization of Outer Space and Mitigating War Induced Crises. Both issues were picked with the main intent to create lively debate that can feature a wide array of perspectives and solutions.

I encourage delegates to take risks, apply a leadership style that balances assertiveness with collaboration, have well researched innovative solutions, and the ability to communicate their ideas in a concise and effective manner. Use this committee as an opportunity to try new strategies and solutions outside of the topic guide and be willing to build off of the ideas of fellow delegates! I can't wait to see you all grow during this experience and incredibly eager to be your director for YMUNC 2025! If you have any questions please feel free to reach out through email at Bryant.Pranboonpluk@yale.edu

Signed,
Bryant Pranboonpluk

Committee History

Established in 1945 by the United Nations as the first United Nations General Assembly committee, the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) was established to maintain peace, security, and safety across the international community. In 1946, DISEC made history by adopting the first United Nations resolution, titled "Establishment of a Commission to Deal with the Problems Raised by the Discovery of Atomic Energy", with the goal of eliminating atomic weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction.

DISEC's early work mainly focused on the regulation of nuclear arsenals and maintaining peace between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War period. The committee adopted a series of resolutions preventing a large-scale conflict between the United States and the Soviet Union. One of the most notable aspects of the Cold War was the space race featuring the United States and Soviet Union attempting to get to space first. As a result, DISEC responded by passing a 1967 resolution titled "The Outer Space Treaty". This treaty established a framework for space law, prohibiting the deployment of weapons in outer space. The OST is voted on yearly and has not had any changes since its initial adoption in 1967.

Currently, DISEC meets yearly with the central goal of maintaining diplomatic relationships between countries in an effort to find common ground resolutions in response to issues such as nuclear weapons, regional disarmament, war crises, and terrorism. To date, the committee has been able to pass a series of resolutions that work to combat these issues and continue to promote peace on the international stage.

1

TOPIC ONE

Weaponization of Outer Space
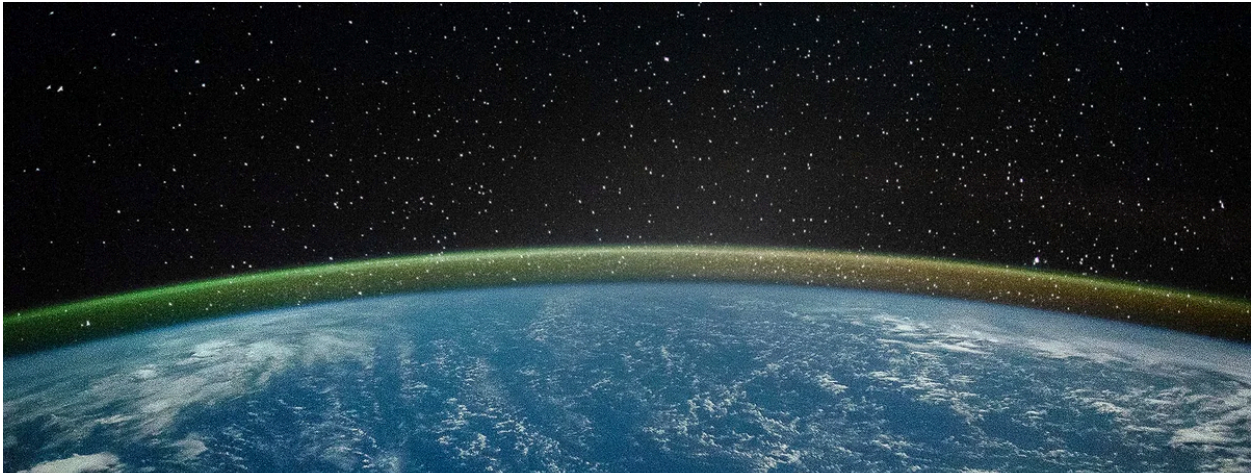
Introduction

As the ability to explore further into outer space expands, technological advancements within the space sector have paved the way for countries to look at space as an area for territorial expansion and mining potential natural resources. The increased focus on space-based technologies such as satellites, advanced propulsion, and land rovers, combined with the world's increased interest in space exploration, have led to growing tensions.

Glossary

Reconnaissance satellites - Intelligence/observation satellites used to gather information about other countries for military or intelligence purposes.

Anti-satellite capabilities - Ability to destroy or disable satellites in orbit.

Nationalists - A perspective on space that embraces avoiding the use of space weaponization because it would reduce a country's power and security relative to potential adversaries and allies.

Idealists - A perspective on space that directly opposes any space weaponization, for reasons that transcend traditional defense policy related concerns.

Internationalists - A perspective on space that is against the deployment of space weapons because of the chance that they would fuel an arms race and crisis instability within the international community.

Space Racers - A perspective on space that takes a prevention position, seeking to avoid rivals gaining military or political advantage against their own country.

Space Controllers - A perspective on space that supports the development of space weapons contingent on the fact that it advances their country's own military interests.

Space Hegemonists - A perspective on space that favors intense development of space weapons to advance political and international goals, display international superiority in relation to other countries.

Topic History

In June 1944, Germany launched a V-2 rocket into space, making history as the first country to successfully send any man-made object into orbit. Initially designed by the Nazis with the purpose of equipping themselves with a weapon that could be deployed from Space, the V-2 rocket increased competition to be the first country to end up in space, effectively kicking off the space race.

The technological and scientific advancements of the mid-1900s paved the way for a space race between the United States and the Soviet Union (USSR). The events of the Cold War increased tensions between the two countries leading to a series of cultural, ideological, and proxy battles in order to claim international dominance. As a result, Space Exploration became another avenue of rivalry between them . The United States and USSR viewed Space Exploration as the ability to demonstrate technological superiority on the world stage.

Given the unknown nature of space combined with the fears of nuclear warfare during the Cold War era, space technology was viewed as a potential outlet for military weapons and defense systems. Space technology such as Reconnaissance satellites used for communication, navigation, intelligence gathering, missile warning systems, and precision targeting was deemed to help advance any country's military interests.

Following the German's success in launching a V-2 rocket into space, the USSR added to the world's space advancements to date through Operation Sputnik. The program launched the first artificial satellite into Space in 1957. One year later, the United States followed this advancement by sending the first satellite containing scientific instruments into Space. The back and forth between the two countries continued with Soviet cosmonaut and pilot Yuri Garigan who became the first person to enter space in 1961. Thereafter, the United States beat the USSR in this space race by reaching the moon in 1969 via the Apollo 11 Expedition.

Since the end of the Space Race era, a total of 47 countries have sent people into space, making the need for space regulations for technology and exploration even more crucial. The growing number of countries making efforts to enter space stresses the further need to establish clear international measures to prevent conflicts over issues in regards to space technology.

Current Situation

Since humans first successfully entered Outer Space in 1961, various countries have been able to make strides in space technological advancements. The discussion focusing on the "Weaponization of Outer Space" aims to explore to what extent countries are able to develop and deploy weapon systems in Outer Space. The United Nations has only passed one major resolution that shapes the regulatory bodies for Space exploration and weaponization titled "The Outer Space Treaty" (1967). The treaty enforces that no state shall have the ability to place nuclear weapons or any kinds of weapons of mass destruction around Earth's orbit. The treaty also bans any countries from storing any of these kinds of weapons in space. Although the OST has been ratified yearly as the standard bearer for space regulations, new satellite and space technology advancements call for the drafting of new regulations that take into account the massive changes in space technology that have occurred since 1967.

Perspectives

There are six different positions that experts on the matter have taken within the debate regarding the Weaponization of Outer Space: Idealists, Internationalists, Nationalists, Space Racers, Space Controllers, and Space Hegemonists. While these stances originated from internal conflicting positions in the United States, they can broadly be applied to most United Nations member states. These six positions, although varying in nuance, could be combined into two separate categories which are Pro-weaponization and Anti-weaponization. The Anti-weaponization positions are comprised of Nationalist, Idealists, and Internationalists. The Pro-weaponization positions are made up of the Space Racers, Controllers, and Hegemonists. The various positions within this debate highlight the nuance within each position and in the case of the United Nations, the different factors countries' have to weigh when establishing a position on the Weaponization of Space.

The possibility of countries using Outer Space as the next weapons deployment location, has placed a high number of United Nations members worried of a possible open Outer Space Arms Race. Although there are no current weapons or weapon systems within Space, developments and projects being pursued by global powers raises suspicion as to moves that lay the foundation for future installment of more complex systems in Outer Space. Notably the United States has been known to make investments in developing space weapons technology. In 2008, the United States, China, and Russia also demonstrated anti-satellite (ASAT) capabilities which has opened a "Pandora's box" for countries outside of the United States and China to develop their own anti-satellite capabilities in response. The main purpose for a country to obtain ASAT weapon capabilities is to have a defense mechanism with which to protect the country from foreign attackers. But the functionality of these weapons lie in the fact that they would destroy space technology belonging to other countries. The potential for battle

within space via the use of ASATs are one of many reasons that states oppose the weaponization of space as a whole.

The possibility of conflicts within space represents a major problem within the United Nations discourse, given the fact that the main purpose of the UN is to maintain international peace and security. Countries such as Russia hold the position that the weaponization of space allows for countries to protect themselves thus maintaining a level of peace. Other countries such as the United States, France, and Japan place themselves at odds with this position by suggesting that the deployment of weapons into space will cause military conflicts to occur within Outer Space. The one major risk that comes with military conflicts in space is the increased amount of space debris these conflicts would create. The increased levels of military debris would present an endangerment to space exploration and non-military satellites from being deployed.

The Discourses

On May 6th, 2024, tensions reached an all time high after the Disarmament and International Security committee failed to reach a resolution in regards to Weapons of Mass Destruction in outer space. The United States and Japan co-introduced a resolution that would work to prevent any state from having the ability to deploy weapons in outer space, but the vote failed once Russia decided to use their veto power on the resolution. Once again the United States and Russia find themselves on opposite sides of this international controversy, with the United States and their allies backing a ban on the weaponization of outer space while Russia has used their veto power to effectively block any resolution from being made. The decision to prevent the resolution from being passed has placed the United Nations at a standstill to place any regulations on countries in regards to the deployment of weapons in outer space. In their statement to the UN DISEC Committee, Japan asks members of the committee to "imagine what would happen with a detonation of a nuclear weapon in outer space", citing the dangers of weapons being stored in outer space.

Within the United Nations, most countries, especially those that don't have the capabilities to weaponize space, heavily oppose the idea of any country being able to weaponize space. Given this fact alone, it would be safe to assume that being able to create resolutions that prevent the weaponization of space would be simple, but the veto power within the United Nations has made this extremely complicated. The Veto Power, which is held by China, Russia, France, and The United States, allows for any of these countries to veto any resolutions on the floor, citing security concerns. The United States, China, and Russia are the main three countries that have developed advanced abilities to deploy satellites and weapons into space thus making their veto power extremely crucial to this debate. The key to being able to successfully pass a resolution within the topic will be the ability for smaller countries to force the United States, China, and Russia to the negotiating table on establishing rules in regards to the weaponization of space. This will be difficult given the massive amount of power these three countries hold economically and internationally on the world stage. The dilemma that the United States, China, and Russia would be placed under this debate is the idea that any country making plans to deploy weapons into outer space would effectively be disarmed by the United Nations.

France became the next country to enter the "Weaponization of Outer Space" discourse. In 2021, France was able to successfully conduct their first outer space military exercise. Codenamed "AsterX", the mission was conducted in Europe and designed to test protective measures from other foreign countries' ASAT weapons fire. France's decision to undergo military exercises in space is meant, as described by the French Ministry of Armed Forces, to "illustrate France's leading role in the military space sector". The main implication of France's entrance into the space discourse is that if France begins to conduct military exercises focusing on space conflicts, how will the international community continue to view the Weaponization of Outer Space?

As technological advancements continue to progress, the tensions surrounding the Weaponization of Outer Space are exacerbated by the movements in these fields around the world. The international community is asking itself what could fuel the flame for an international proxy war in space similar to the Space Race during the Cold War era. The United Nations has yet to come to a resolution which factors in technological advancements that have been made since the 1967 Outer Space Treaty.

Although various resolutions have been brought to both the UN Security County and DISEC Committee, none of these resolutions have changed the rules and regulations placed on states developing and deploying satellite and weapon technology within Outer Space. The various different positions and diplomatic relationships between the various states within DISEC make navigating the creation of a resolution where every state would be in support uniquely challenging. Although there is a lack of clarity as to where the path regarding the Weaponization of Outer Space shall go within the international community, one thing is for certain: the advancements in space technology will tempt leaders around the world to place weapons in outer space if no regulations are created.

Questions to Consider

1. Does the weaponization of space benefit or work against the interests of your country?
2. How will taking a position within this debate affect your diplomatic relationship with other countries?
3. What are the implications of ASATS acting as a part of the discourse surrounding space security and technology?
4. Why did countries such as Russia use their veto power on previous resolutions?
5. How will the presence of weapons in outer space affect the way space exploration, research, and experiments be conducted?
6. Which countries' have the most to gain/lose from a resolution that establishes stricter guidelines on the deployment of weapons into outer space?
7. What are the challenges that have been associated with being able to pass a resolution on this topic?

Additional Resources

https://press.un.org/en/2024/ga12597.doc.htm

https://raf.mod.uk/what-we-do/centre-for-air-and-space-power-studies/aspr/apr-vol7-iss1-1-pdf/

https://www.nti.org/education-center/treaties-and-regimes/proposed-prevention-arms-race-space-paros-treaty/

https://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/resources/fact-sheets/critical-issues/5448-outer-space

https://ndupress.ndu.edu/Portals/68/Documents/jfq/jfq-74/jfq-74_110-115_DeFrieze.pdf

https://press.un.org/en/2024/ga12597.doc.htm

https://ndupress.ndu.edu/Media/News/News-Article-View/Article/577537/defining-and-regulating-the-weaponization-of-space/

2

TOPIC
TWO

Mitigating War Induced Crises

Introduction

Immediately following a military conflict, war induced crises such as mass displacement, infrastructure destruction, and food insecurity have left regions devastated. These war induced crises highlight the need for new regulations and safeguards that help protect the most vulnerable groups.

Glossary

Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) - Missile that is able to intercept and destroy ballistic missiles from striking a specific area.

Famine - In the context of military conflicts, it is food insecurity typically caused by a disruption within food production and distribution.

Population Displacement - When people are forced to flee their homes as a result of military conflicts, citizens often lose their homes and livelihoods in the process.

Economic Sanctions - The deliberate, government-inspired withdrawal of trade with another country in an effort to compel the opposing country to follow a specific outcome.

Weapons of Mass Destruction - Any weapons device that has the ability to cause widespread harm to a large group of people. Common examples are nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons.

Conflict Mitigation - Efforts taken by the UN to prevent conflicts from escalating.

Safe Zones - A designated area within a region experiencing a military conflict that is established by the UN. The safe zone acts as an area of protection for citizens while the military conflict is occuring within the region.

Topic History

The initial formation of the United Nations came at the heels of the events of World War 2 (WW2). The UN was founded with the key purpose of preventing any large scale military conflicts from ever occurring following the atrocities of WW2. Since its founding, the United Nations has acted as the main space for international diplomacy where countries have the ability to negotiate, collaborate, and plan resolutions that would help keep peace and stability throughout the world. The crucial role that the UN plays within mitigating war induced crises is crucial given the fact that the UN serves as diplomatic connecter between various countries.

On May 28, 1948 the United Nations founded the UN Peacekeeping Unit. The group currently works directly under the United Nations Department of Peace Operations (UNDPO) to stabilize regions that had experienced or were experiencing military conflicts. The UN's use of peacekeepers to help mitigate war induced crises was one of many steps that worked to strengthen the UN's presence on the world stage as the main body for maintaining international stability.

Overtime, the UN has created other measures that have contributed to their efforts to mitigate war induced crises. The UN's installation of safe zones, increased humanitarian aid, and protective measures that act as safeguards to protect the most vulnerable groups during a military conflict. The UN also established the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP) in 1965 to promote international peace in 1950.

As a whole, the UN has had a long history of being called upon to address military conflicts. Whether that be preventing disputes before they escalate into full-scale war, or aiding in the restorative efforts following armed conflicts, the entirety of the UN is uniquely positioned to save the international community from war as iterated in the UN Charter. In 1992, during the Bosnian War, under the UNHCR, the UN was able to send necessary humanitarian aid that provided support to citizens displaced from the military conflict. Although the UN was able to assist citizens affected by the military crisis, the UN failed to end the conflict. This dynamic has notably been a common trend in the UN response efficacy, with the UN successfully able to assist those in need during these military conflicts, but failing to end the actual conflict.

Current Situation

Recent military conflicts in Ukraine, Palestine, Myanmar, Yemen, and Central Africa have sparked the need for the UN to find ways to reduce the amount of people affected by these war induced crises. Although the UN has various amounts of resources they can access courtesy of UN peacekeeping operations and agencies such as UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) or the World Food Programme (WFP), the need to find permanent solutions to mitigating war induced crises has never been more prevalent. Since May 2024 over 120 million people have been displaced as a result of military conflicts and the number is only growing as more military conflicts continue to pop up around the world. The most vulnerable groups within these military conflicts often experience a combination of displacement, violence, and food insecurity. As a result, the UN must find a way to implement regulatory measures to help support areas that are currently undergoing a severe military crisis and mitigate any crises that could occur as a result of a military conflict.

The UN's role

The UN's role as a place for international diplomacy and negotiation between countries is one that would be crucial in preventing military conflicts from even occurring, thus mitigating war induced crises. Traditionally, the two main bodies that have been crucial in assisting regions that have been destabilized as a result of military conflicts are the UN Security Council and the Disarmament and International Security Committee. Although the two committees have different sets of responsibilities in terms of what specific powers they are able to use, the UN Security Council and DISEC often work together to establish safety measures that protect the world's citizens and promote peace throughout the world. DISCEC's influence in being able to bring states together in an effort to regulate the use of weapons that could lead to the displacement of citizens and dismantling of infrastructure is crucial in mitigating war induced crises before they even occur.

The UN Security Council is the organ with the primary responsibility of promoting international peace and security. As such, they are responsible for deploying the UN peacekeeping operations in regions that are undergoing a military conflict as well as adopting economic sanctions, enforcement measures, and ceasefire directives. UN Peacekeeping Operations have been deployed not as a military force, but rather as a presence that works to stabilize regions undergoing high stakes military conflicts. The UN Security Council is made up of fifteen states, five permanent members: the United States, France, Russia, United Kingdom, and China. It is important to note that the five permanent members of the UN Security Council are the only five countries in the United Nations that hold veto power on any resolution. This means that any resolution brought to the general assembly can be vetoed by any of these five countries and the resolution can no longer move forward unless revised. The presence of the veto power provides the five main members of the UN Security Council immense power given the fact

that all five would have to be in favor of the resolution in order to even get a vote in the general assembly. Given that DISEC is a general assembly all fifteen of these countries also take part within DISEC meetings as well.

On the other hand, DISEC helps mitigate war induced crises through arms control, policy making, and international cooperation. DISEC's conflict mitigation efforts depend on the committee's ability to regulate arms control and negotiate peace between adversaries in the committee session. The establishment of safe zones by the UN Security Council combined with the work of DISEC have also been another factor that has contributed to their ability to mitigate displacement and mass casualties caused by military conflicts. The combination of arms regulation and safe zones establishment has allowed the UN to prevent some of the damage caused by military conflicts from occurring. Although these methods have been effective, it is important to note that there are various regions and areas that are heavily experiencing the effects of a war induced crises which highlights the fact that there has to be a more robust and cohesive plan that addresses how to keep all vulnerable citizens from war induced crises.

The role of Weapons of Mass Destruction

The use of weapons of mass destruction has been one of the greatest contributors to creating war induced military crises. By identifying the use of weapons of mass destruction as a key contributor to creating war induced crises, the UN has been able to take action adopting a series of resolutions that regulate how countries can use weapons of mass destruction.

In one of the UN's landmark resolutions on July 1st, 1998, DISEC adopted "The treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)". The treaty is an example of one of the many ways DISEC can use their power to mitigate war induced crises by preventing military conflicts or the potential for

mass displacement to occur. The main purpose of the NPT was to prevent states that possessed nuclear weapons from sharing their nuclear resources with countries that don't already have nuclear weapons. The adoption of the NPT was one of many resolutions that DISEC has made to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction, especially in situations that involve heavy military conflicts. Other important resolutions that have been passed with the goal of preventing mass casualties and mass displacements are the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), The Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC), and The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). Together, these resolutions work to prevent states from using these weapons of mass destruction on each other thus preventing mass destruction and displacement.

Case study- Missile Usage and the ABM

The use of missiles within military conflicts have been another contributor to war induced crises. Missiles have been one of the greatest contributors to the destruction of infrastructure and the loss of civilians within military conflicts. The topic has been a point of contention within DISEC as they have been one of the most frequently used weapons in combat. Unfortunately, states have been reluctant to give up the use of missiles on the battlefield. In fact, the UN's only attempt to ban the use of any type of missile was when the US and USSR signed the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty which was adopted with the purpose of restricting the development of ABM's in 1972.

The treaty fell apart in 2002 when the United States under President George W. Bush orchestrated a take down of the treaty in an effort to loosen regulations to test exotic ballistic missile systems and deploy defense systems. The Bush administration believed that the development of the Anti-Ballistic Missile program was crucial to establishing a defense system and a tool to use against rivals following the events of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The use of missiles within the battlefield has caused divisions between various states within the UN. Those in support of the use of missiles within battle cite the need for missiles as a tool for deterrence and protection, while those in opposition argue that missiles are the most destructive weapons used in conflict due to the UN's ban on the use and deployment of Weapons of Mass Destruction. Since the fall of the 2002 ABM Treaty, there has been no preventive measures the UN or any country has taken to restrict usage of this device. The greatest challenges to establishing measures regarding the use of ABMs are due to veto power certain countries hold within the UN and some states' fears of being left vulnerable as a result of them giving up ABMs.

2024

In 2024, the UN adopted four crucial resolutions with the aim of alleviating the pain of citizens throughout the world that were suffering from humanitarian and economic crises. One of these draft resolutions proposed by Sweden focused on a plan that would strengthen the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations to areas undergoing humanitarian crises. The proposal influenced a response strategy combined with safeguards that would protect citizens

within these areas from being harmed. Using a strategy that would focus on an increased UN humanitarian aid presence combined with safe zones and an increased use of peacekeepers, the proposal would keep the most vulnerable groups from any kinds of crises that would occur in countries that are ill-equipped to handle any extreme crises.

The proposal was adopted within this meeting, which added a series of new safeguards to protect world citizens. Although these resolutions have the potential to positively impact world citizens vulnerable during a military crisis, it still does not address preventative measures from war induced crises. The resolutions establish a response plan designed once a military conflict has already occurred to help its citizens, but fails to prevent the actual military conflicts from occurring in the first place. The idea of mitigating war induced crises can be viewed through two approaches. The first would be to establish measures that protect citizens that are victims of displacement, famine, and any other effects that would happen as a result of military conflicts. The second approach would be to create new regulations that prevent countries from carrying acts of mass displacement or find ways to prevent countries from starting any conflicts in the first place. Both can be viewed as effective measures to find ways to mitigate war induced crises which is why in a time of various conflicts, it is imperative for DISEC to find a solution to protect citizens across the world.

Questions to Consider

1. What are the main contributing factors that cause military conflicts to occur around the world?
2. How will your states' positions on issues relating to arms control or economic sanctions affect your relationship with other states?
3. Will nations with similar arms control policies naturally go to form alliances on this matter or are there factors that prevent these alliances from forming?
4. How can the UN maximize their use of safe zones and humanitarian aid efforts?
5. Should the UN Peacekeepers have more control in enforcement in order to stabilize regions affected by military conflicts?
6. Does your country support a ban on the use of ABM's on the battlefield?
7. Which countries could you see yourself aligning with in order to achieve your goals?

Additional Resources

https://www.unrefugees.org/refugee-facts/statistics/

https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/peace-and-security

http://peacekeeping.un.org/en/reforming-peacekeeping

https://press.un.org/en/2024/ga12665.doc.htm

http://armscontrol.org/act/2019-11/features/demise-abm-treaty-insider-recounts-final-days#:~:text=Bush's%20administration%20sought%20to%20lose,what%20they%20called%20rogue%20states

https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/crisis-and-emergency-response

https://www.ohchr.org/en/prevention-and-early-warning/human-rights-prevention-conflict-or-crisis-and-building-resilience

https://www.iberdrola.com/social-commitment/humanitarian-crises-causes-effects-solutions

YALE MODEL
UNITED NATIONS

CHINA
2025

May 23-25, 2025
Shenzhen, China

ymunchina.org