



DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE

Study Guide

Agenda: “Discussing the threat of drone proliferation and with emphasis on Uninhabited Aerial Vehicles and Remotely Piloted Aircrafts”

ANNUAL WORLD SUMMIT 2024



INDEX

- 1. Letter from The Executive Board**
- 2. Introduction to the Committee**
- 3. Introduction to the Agenda**
 - a) What is Drone Proliferation?**
 - b) What is an Uninhabited Ariel Vehicle?**
 - c) What is a Remotely Piloted Aircraft?**
 - d) Important terms to be noted**
- 4. Contemporary Situation & Current Landscape**
- 5. Key Stakeholders**
- 6. Existing legalities and Bodies**
- 7. Moderated Caucus topics**
- 8. Questions a Resolution Must answer**
- 9. Bibliography**



Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

It is indeed a great honour and privilege to be welcoming you all to the Disarmament and International Security Council (DISEC) for the 13th Annual World Summit. Unlike conventional simulations, we harness the collective intellect of each delegate to navigate the intricate landscape of technological challenges and security threats. Our approach is rooted in the application of rigorous analysis, innovative problem-solving, and strategic foresight to craft effective solutions.

Kindly note that while understanding and acknowledging the constraints and limitations of the individual you represent, We're seeking an innovative, out-of-the-box solution that deviates from typical responses and pre-established statements. We're seeking fresh perspectives and innovative solutions that break the mould, all while remaining grounded in the realities your nation faces. This guide provides you with an idea of what to expect from the committee and areas for focused research. The content provided in this guide is a skeletal overview of the agenda and does not represent the personal opinions of the executive board.

The broad scope of the agenda will test your intellectual ability to dissect the nuances of the issues at hand. Don't limit your research to the highlighted areas; push your boundaries!



Letter from the Executive Board

As we embark on this simulation, let us embrace uncertainty as an opportunity for innovation. Let us challenge ourselves to think differently, to draw inspiration from diverse perspectives, and to craft solutions that defy convention while remaining grounded in reality. I look forward to engaging with each of you as we navigate this important agenda together.

Wishing you all very good luck!

Sincerely,

The DISEC Executive Board

Chairperson; Krishna Lalwani

Vice-Chairperson: Pratham Kulshreshtha

Moderator: Rafah Ansari

Rapporteur: Khushi Agarwal



Introduction to the Committee

DISEC (“The First Committee”) is one of the six principal committees within the United Nations General Assembly. Its task is to address disarmament and international security concerns, a key area of the United Nations. The Committee convenes each year following the conclusion of the General Debate of the General Assembly. In these sessions, all 193 UN member states discuss the most pressing global security issues, ranging from regional conflicts to navigating the complex dynamics of technological advancements on a broader scale.

This also encompasses the realm of non-proliferation, working to mitigate the spread of weapons of mass destruction and curb illicit arms trade. In tandem with these efforts, the committee actively supports UN peacekeeping missions in conflict-affected regions. Through collaborative engagements with diverse stakeholders and international bodies, DISEC remains at the forefront of global peace and security discourse. DISEC contains two main bodies that report to it: the Disarmament Commission (UNDC) and the Conference on Disarmament (CD). All resolutions passed by this committee are non-binding resolutions and must be formatted as recommendations to the 193 nations in the committee.



Introduction to the Committee

DISEC MANDATE

The First Committee deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime.

It considers all disarmament and international security matters within the scope of the Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any other organ of the United Nations; the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments; promotion of cooperative arrangements and measures aimed at strengthening stability through lower levels of armaments.

The Committee works in close cooperation with the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament. It is the only Main Committee of the General Assembly entitled to verbatim records coverage.

The First Committee sessions are structured into three distinctive stages:

1. General debate
2. Thematic discussions
3. Action on drafts



Introduction to the Agenda

“Discussing the threat of drone proliferation and with emphasis on Uninhabited Aerial Vehicles and Remotely Piloted Aircraft.”

The proliferation of unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs) has become an increasing concern over the past few years. With the advent of modern-day military technologies, the question of whether UCAVs are tipping the balance in favour of stronger countries and jeopardizing global peace becomes all the more pertinent. Recently, the use of UCAVs, or combat drones, in the Russo-Ukrainian War³ and other wars such as the AzerbaijanArmenia War in 2020,⁴ have raised concerns over how such military innovations might change what we used to perceive as conventional warfare.

The rapid advancement of drone technology has brought about a new era of aerial capabilities, one that is both promising and concerning. Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) have become increasingly accessible and sophisticated, presenting a multitude of opportunities as well as potential threats. While these systems have proven invaluable in various sectors, such as agriculture, search and rescue operations, and military applications, their proliferation has also raised significant concerns regarding security, privacy, and the potential for misuse.

The ease of access to drone technology and the lack of comprehensive regulations have fueled fears of malicious actors exploiting these systems for nefarious purposes, including terrorism, espionage, and illegal surveillance. As the technology continues to evolve, it becomes imperative to address the challenges posed by drone proliferation, striking a delicate balance between harnessing their benefits and mitigating the associated risks to ensure a safe and secure environment for all.

Introduction to the Agenda

WHAT IS DRONE PROLIFERATION

"Drone proliferation" simply means the widespread increase in the use of drones by different groups, like governments, organisations, and individuals, for various reasons.

This proliferation can involve the acquisition, development, production, and deployment of drones for various purposes, including military, civilian, commercial, and recreational uses. The term often implies concerns about the potential implications of widespread drone use, such as impacts on security, privacy, safety, and international relations.

WHAT IS AN UNINHABITED AERIAL VEHICLE

Uninhabited aerial vehicles" (UAVs), also known as "drones" or "unmanned aerial vehicles," are aircraft operated without a human pilot onboard. They are typically controlled remotely or autonomously and are used for various purposes, including

reconnaissance, surveillance, aerial photography, package delivery, and in some cases, military operations.

WHAT IS A REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT

It is an aircraft that is controlled by a remote pilot from a ground control station or a command centre. RPAs can range from small drones used for recreational purposes or aerial photography to larger vehicles used for military reconnaissance, surveillance, or even combat missions. They are equipped with various sensors, cameras, and other payloads depending on their intended use.



Introduction to the Agenda

IMPORTANT TERMS TO BE NOTED

Drones: are unmanned aerial vehicles that can operate remotely or autonomously for both civilian and military purposes. Increasing importance due to cost-effectiveness, preciseness, and as a low-risk alternative to manned aircraft. However, ethical, legal, and strategic implications, such as the question of accountability, protection of civilians, international law, escalation, arms control, and stability, must be considered.

Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV): an aircraft operated without a human pilot on board.

Remotely Piloted Aircraft System (RPAS): UAV and associated support equipment, control stations, data links, and other components required for its operation.

Blue on Blue: a friendly fire incident in which military forces mistakenly engage or attack their own personnel, vehicles, or positions during military operations.

Close Air Support (CAS): use of aerial firepower to provide direct assistance to ground forces engaged in combat operations.

Collateral damage: unintended or incidental harm or destruction inflicted on persons or property that is not the intended target of a military operation.

Double-tap strike: a military tactic in which a target is subjected to multiple consecutive attacks, typically with a short interval between strikes.



Introduction to the Agenda

Disposition Matrix / Kill List: a database or list of individuals designated as targets for lethal action by military or intelligence agencies.

Personality Strike: a targeted military operation aimed at eliminating or incapacitating a specific individual deemed to pose a significant threat to national security or international stability.

Signature Strike: a type of targeted military operation in which individuals or groups are targeted based on their observed behaviour or activities rather than their specific identity.

Micro- and nano-drones: the smallest class of drones, measuring around 10cm. Mostly controlled by soldiers on the battlefield via handheld terminals and used to scout terrain beyond barriers.

Large combat and surveillance drones: the best-known military drones are large-scale combat drones that are used for high altitudes and long flight times. They are almost always operated via satellite link-up from home territory and carry similar weapons to fighter jets, like air-to-surface missiles or laser-guided bombs.

"The proliferation of drones poses a significant challenge to national security and public safety. These unmanned aerial systems can be exploited by rogue actors, criminal organisations, and terrorist groups to conduct illicit surveillance, traffic contraband, or even launch attacks. As the technology becomes more accessible and sophisticated, we must remain vigilant and proactive in our efforts to counter the nefarious use of drones while preserving their legitimate applications."

In the vast expanse of our modern skies, a silent revolution unfolds, one that transcends the conventional boundaries of flight and redefines the



Introduction to the Agenda

very essence of aerial dominance. At the forefront of this paradigm shift stand Uninhabited Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPAs), symbols of technological prowess and harbingers of both promise and peril. As we stand on the precipice of an era dominated by unmanned flight, it becomes imperative to navigate the labyrinth of implications woven by the proliferation of these airborne marvels.

“The threat of drone proliferation, particularly concerning Uninhabited Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) and Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPAs), underscores the critical need for discussions on various fronts due to the following instances”

National Security: The widespread availability of drones raises concerns about their potential misuse by terrorist organisations, criminal groups, or rogue states. These aerial systems could be exploited for reconnaissance, surveillance, or even as delivery platforms for weapons or hazardous materials, posing a grave threat to national security and public safety.

9

Public Safety: The unregulated use of drones in civilian airspace can lead to mid-air collisions with commercial aircraft, endangering the lives of passengers and crew. Additionally, drones equipped with weapons or explosives could be used for targeted attacks, putting innocent lives at risk.

Privacy and Civil Liberties: The proliferation of drones, particularly those with advanced imaging and surveillance capabilities, raises concerns about privacy violations and infringement on civil liberties. Without proper regulations and oversight, these devices could be used for unlawful monitoring and data collection.



Introduction to the Agenda

Critical Infrastructure Protection: Drones could be utilized to conduct reconnaissance or launch attacks on critical infrastructure such as power plants, communication networks, and transportation hubs, potentially causing significant disruptions and economic damage.

Regulatory Challenges: The rapid pace of technological advancement in the drone industry has outpaced existing regulatory frameworks, creating a need for comprehensive and internationally coordinated regulations to ensure responsible use and mitigate potential threats.

Contemporary Situation and Current Landscape

NAGORNO-KARABAKH WAR

The Nagorno-Karabakh War was an armed conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan over the disputed region of Nagorno-Karabakh, which was part of Azerbaijan under international law but de facto controlled by Armenia.

The war broke out on September 27, 2020, and ended on November 10, 2020, with a ceasefire agreement brokered by Russia. A key feature of the war was the intensive and successful use of drones, particularly by the Azerbaijani side.

Azerbaijan had a large and modern drone inventory consisting mainly of Turkish and Israeli models that had a long-range, long flight duration, high precision, and powerful firepower. They could be used for both reconnaissance and attack purposes. Azerbaijan used drones to destroy or damage Armenian tanks, artillery, air defences, command centres, and other targets.

The drones allowed Azerbaijan to gain an asymmetric advantage over Armenia, which had outdated and inadequate air defences. The drones also allowed Azerbaijan to monitor and disrupt Armenian troop movements and support its own ground offensive. The drones were also a means of psychological warfare, as they gave the Armenian soldiers a sense of helplessness and fear.

Contemporary Situation and Current Landscape

ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

The Israel-Hamas War is an armed conflict between Israel and the Palestinian terrorist organization Hamas that has been ongoing since 7 October 2023. The war began with a surprise terrorist attack by Hamas on Israel in which more than 1,100 civilians were killed.

Israel responded with a massive military operation against Hamas in the Gaza Strip, which continues, as of the writing of this study guide, to this day and, according to unconfirmed information, has claimed up to 30,000 victims so far. Hamas used drones as part of its strategy to surprise and terrorize Israel. Hamas had a small and primitive fleet of drones, consisting mainly of homemade or Iranian models. These drones had a short range, short flight duration, low precision, and weak firepower. They could mainly be used for jamming or suicide purposes, but not for reconnaissance. Hamas used drones to overload or evade Israeli air defence systems, as well as to carry out targeted attacks on Israeli tanks, vehicles, buildings, or people. The drones allowed Hamas to achieve a psychological effect on the Israeli population and military by increasing feelings of fear and terror. Israel uses drones as a key element of its strategy to fight and defeat Hamas. Israel has a large and modern fleet of drones, consisting mainly of its own or American models.

These drones have a long-range, long flight duration, high precision, and powerful firepower and allowed Israel to gain an asymmetric advantage over Hamas, which had outdated and inadequate air defences. Israel also claims that their drones allow its air force to support and protect its own ground offensive and support efforts to minimize civilian casualties.



Contemporary Situation and Current Landscape

THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has demonstrated that innovations in drone technology can change the balance of power in the air defence domain especially. While Russia seeks to build pockets of air superiority and bolster its drone production and anti-drone defences, Ukraine continues to develop both more and less sophisticated solutions.

In a recently uncovered partnership project with Iran, Russia finished constructing a drone factory in Tatarstan, 500 miles (805 kilometres) east of Moscow, where it could produce an estimated six thousand Shahed-136 prototypes (renamed the Geran-2 by Moscow) by mid-2025. This expanded drone production could be enough to counter Russia's shortage of drones on the front lines and turn the tide of the conflict in its favour.

Ukraine's government and Western intelligence agencies reported that Russia has been using Iranian-made Shahed-136 drones in the conflict since the autumn of 2022. Also called the Geranium-2 by Russia, it has explosives in a warhead on its nose and is designed to loiter over a target until it is instructed to attack. The Shahed-136 has a wingspan of about 2.5m (8.2ft) and can be hard to detect on radar. Iran's government says it supplied "a small number" of drones to Russia before the war. But the US and the European Union have accused Iran of sending regular deliveries of drones to Russia, and the EU has imposed sanctions in response.

The Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) have evolved from being tools of reconnaissance to deadly weapons. Drones have changed the way wars, especially low-intensity conflicts, are being waged. The global interest in drone acquisition makes its proliferation inevitable if the global market for UAVs, weaponised or otherwise, remains unregulated. China's emergence as a drone "superpower" signifies a need to rethink the utility

Contemporary Situation and Current Landscape

THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

of the Missile Technology Control Regime. For regions grappling with low-intensity conflicts, drones could complicate the security environment further. Threats from drones would also result in countries developing countermeasures.

The UN General Assembly's resolution 68/43, adopted in 2013, emphasised the importance of transparency, accountability, and oversight in the deployment of drones.

The UN has also convened expert panels and working groups to examine the implications of drone technology for peace and security. These efforts have facilitated dialogue among member states, experts, and civil society organisations. Furthermore, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) has provided guidance on the application of International Humanitarian Law to drone operations, emphasising the importance of distinguishing between combatants and civilians, proportionality in the use of force, and precautions to minimise harm to non-combatants. Moreover, regional organisations such as the European Union (EU) have pursued regulatory measures to address the proliferation of drones and ensure compliance with international law.

The EU's efforts include the development of common standards for the export and import of military drones, as well as initiatives to enhance transparency and accountability in their use.

One of the primary challenges facing the regulation of drones is the rapid evolution of drone technology. Advancements in autonomy, artificial intelligence, and miniaturisation have expanded the capabilities of drones, enabled more complex missions, and reduced the barriers to entry for both state and non-state actors. This technological proliferation

Contemporary Situation and Current Landscape

THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

has outpaced regulatory efforts, making it difficult to anticipate and address emerging threats and risks associated with drones and to bind them in a concrete legal framework. There have also been concerns about the moral responsibility of remote operators, the potential for indiscriminate harm to civilians, and the erosion of accountability in targeted killings raise profound ethical dilemmas. Moreover, the psychological impact of drone warfare on operators and the communities affected by drone strikes underscores the need for ethical guidelines and safeguards to mitigate harm and uphold human dignity.

Key Stakeholders

These are countries that have used UCAVs in past battles, military operations, or assassination attempts. Amongst them is the USA, which conducted the state's first drone strike in Afghanistan in 2001. Azerbaijan was also proven to have used UCAVs in the Azerbaijan-Armenian War, with footage showing Bayraktar drones striking Armenian targets. These countries have used and will most likely use combat drones in future conflicts, and hence are the most likely to frown upon too many limitations on the use of UCAVs.

Delegates should also consider the stances of countries that are mass producers of UCAVs. These countries may produce several models of combat drones, but may not necessarily be complicit in using these drones in warfare. A case in point is China: Chinese-manufactured drones have been exploited to combat extremism beyond the borders of China, but the Chinese military has never used their own drones for any lethal operations. Iran, on the other hand, has been accused of warmongering for supplying Russia with UCAVs in the recent RussoUkrainian war, and was condemned for violating UN Security Council Resolution 2231, though



Contemporary Situation and Current Landscape

Iran herself was not involved in the conflict. Hence, such countries might not be absolutely against laws restricting the use of armed drones, but will be vehemently against regulations that threaten their export of drones. However, take note that drone producers can be countries that have used their drones to combat extremism as well, such as the USA.

There are also countries that are developing their own armed drones. Countries such as Pakistan, Turkey, Iran, Russia, Taiwan, and India have taken concrete steps towards their independent armed drone production and most of them have proven promising results. Of interest is the EURO UCAV project, a project launched by France and undertaken by a few European countries such as Italy, Sweden, Spain, Greece, and Switzerland. The project aims to bring together multiple European countries to share technological know-how and improve on the current developing EUROOn drone. In the near future, there will only be more of such projects as countries strive to produce the most capable armed drones in this newly commenced drone race. Evidently, countries that aim to develop their own UCAVs will frown upon any regulations that serve as a liability to their own national interests of upgrading their military capabilities.



Potential Solutions

Should UCAVs indeed land in the wrong hands, defeat systems and countermeasures could be utilised. Delegates can look into the different defence mechanisms, such as geofencing, RF jamming or nets. However, there can still be issues that arise from utilising such systems and measures. For example, should RF jamming be used to defeat UCAVs, it would also interfere with any technology operating inside the standard 2.4 to 5.0MHz range in which RF jammers work. This, for example, can then pose a serious disturbance to day-to-day communications, which can ultimately become a problem to society. Delegates would therefore have to consider whether such anti-UAV systems are feasible, or propose solutions that can address the loopholes and better tackle the threats of UCAVs.

Under the United Nations (UN) Charter, the use of UCAVs for military purposes must be in accordance with international law and the principles of the UN Charter, which focuses primarily on the prohibition of the use of force by one state against another except in cases of self-defence or with permission from the UN Security Council. However, many countries have launched UCAV attacks on other states, which are considered violations of international law. Despite the violation of the UN Charter, these countries generally do not face any penalties for their actions, and hence the safe usage of UCAVs has not been suitably enforced. Delegates could consider if a legally binding framework is necessary regarding the usage of UCAVs or UAVs, and the type of penalties incurred should the framework be breached.

Existing Legalities and Bodies

- 1. Disarmament | United Nations**
- 2. Discussing Drones at the UN Headquarters – UNODA**
- 3. Legal Instruments – UNODA**
- 4. Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS) – UNODA**
- 5. Conventional Arms – UNODA**
- 6. Study on Armed Unmanned Aerial Vehicles – UNODA**
- 7. United Nations study on disarmament and non-proliferation education**
- 8. Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education**
- 9. Conference on Disarmament – UNODA**
- 10. Transparency in Armaments – UNODA**
- 11. The Drone Dialogues: New challenges for States on Armed Drones Use and Proliferation – UNODA**

One of the key legal frameworks within which DISEC operates is the United Nations Charter, which establishes the principles and purposes of the United Nations and governs the conduct of member states in international relations.

Article 2(4) of the Charter prohibits the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, except in cases of self-defense or when authorized by the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security. This principle of non-intervention and prohibition of the use of force underpins the work of DISEC in promoting disarmament and preventing conflict.



Existing Legalities and Bodies

In addition to the UN Charter, DISEC also operates within the framework of international legal instruments, such as treaties and conventions, aimed at regulating arms control and disarmament. One of the most important treaties in this regard is the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which seeks to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and promote disarmament. The NPT has played a significant role in shaping the global nuclear non-proliferation regime, with countries committing to nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measures under its provisions.

Furthermore, DISEC works closely with other international bodies and organizations involved in disarmament and arms control, such as the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW). These organizations play a crucial role in verifying compliance with disarmament agreements and ensuring the safe and secure storage and disposal of weapons of mass destruction.

In conclusion, DISEC operates within a complex legal framework that includes the UN Charter, international treaties, and the work of other international organizations in promoting disarmament and international security. Through its deliberations and resolutions, DISEC plays a key role in advancing disarmament efforts and addressing global security challenges.



Moderated Caucus Topics

1. Regulatory frameworks and policies:

- **Discussing Existing regulations governing drone use in different countries/regions.**
- **Discussing Challenges in developing and enforcing drone regulations.**

2. Military and defence applications:

- **Use of drones for surveillance, reconnaissance, and combat operations.**
 - **Implications for national security and geopolitical tensions.**
- c. Ethics of drone warfare.**

3. Legal and regulatory challenges:

- **International and cross-border regulations for drone operations.**
- **Liability and accountability issues in case of accidents or misuse.**
- **Challenges in law enforcement and preventing illegal drone activities.**

4. Addressing Security Concerns: Regulating Drone Usage in Armenia for Regional Stability.

5. Escalating Tensions: Managing Drone Warfare in the Russia-Ukraine Conflict.

6. Unmanned Warfare: Balancing Security and Stability in Israel-Hamas Drone Conflict.

7. Countermeasures and Defense: Strategies to Mitigate the Threat Posed by Weaponized Drones.

8. Non-State Actors: Assessing the Role of Non-State Actors in the Proliferation of Drone Technology.



QARMA

(Questions a Resolution must Answer)

- 1. How can DISEC discourage the illegal use of UCAVs(Uninhabited Combat Ariel vehicles) both in general and during an armed attack?**
- 2. Should the international community limit the trade of armed drones? If so, how can this be done without worsening the defence inequality between countries with different defence capabilities?**
- 3. How should those prone to or affected by drone attacks be protected?**
- 4. How can countries prevent combat drones from falling into the hands of terrorist organisations or malicious non-state actors?**
- 5. How can the international community achieve a balance between leveraging drone technology for legitimate security purposes and establishing strict regulations to prevent misuse?**
- 6. What steps can be taken to bridge gaps in existing international legal frameworks, and are there specific provisions that should be established or strengthened to regulate the proliferation and use of drones in warfare?**

Bibliography



1. Un-Charter for the First Committee:

2. Geneva paper 25/20 :

3. Nagorno-Karabakh:

4. Israel & Hamas:

5. “Combat Drones: We Are in a New Era of Warfare - Here's Why.”

6. “Drone Strikes and Targeted Killings: Domestic and International Perspectives”

7. Iran International. “Iran Finally Admits Providing Drones to Russia.” Iran International. Iran International, November 5, 2022.

8. “Non-State Actors and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles - Arms Control.” Accessed February 18, 2023.

9. “Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle (UCAV) Definition.” Law Insider.

10. “World of Drones.”

11. <https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/ukrainian-drones-attack-several-russian-regions-officials-say-2024-05-13/>