Surrey Model United Nations 2019
Disarmament and International Security Committee

BACKGROUND GUIDE

Director's Letter

Dear Delegates,

My name is Cindy Gao and it is my distinct pleasure to welcome all of you to Surrey Model United Nations 2019. I am currently a senior at Little Flower Academy and I am honoured to be serving as the Director for the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC).

Model United Nations (MUN) holds a special place in my heart; not only did it spark my passion for global affairs, but it also introduced me to some of my closest friends — people I would now consider my second family. DISEC is one of the first and last committees that I will staff during my high school Model UN career, and is a committee that has come to hold great significance for me. It is my hope that after SurreyMUN 2019, you will find value in Model UN as well.

To all first-time delegates: remember that everyone in the committee room was once in your position. The initial feelings of nervousness, confusion, shyness, and excitement are familiar to everyone. I encourage you to introduce yourself to the people that you meet, because I can guarantee that you will emerge with a new friend after the conference, if nothing else. Have fun, ask questions, and most importantly, contribute ideas to the committee as much as possible; you will learn only by putting yourself out there. As your dais team, Jimmy, Cathy, and I will make sure to thoroughly explain the process of Model UN as we move through committee sessions.

We will be discussing the Growing Relevance of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) in International Security this year at SurreyMUN. The heavy usage of these devices has revolutionized the way in which modern warfare is fought, and since UAVs are not explicitly prohibited by international law, countries are currently operating with impunity. Delegates must weigh both sides of the problem and develop solutions that can encompass and satisfy the needs of all nations. A combination of each delegate's unique perspectives and ideas will create both a comprehensive and applicable resolution. I cannot wait to see how each and every one of you will deal with such a pressing issue at hand.

As your Director, I hope to facilitate an innovative and encouraging platform for discussion. Before the conference, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions at all. I look forward to meeting all of you in the near future.

Best of luck,

Cindy Gao
Director of DISEC—SurreyMUN 2018

Committee Description

As the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) is responsible for handling issues regarding "disarmament, global challenges, and threats to peace that affect the international community."[1] DISEC was established as one of the five General Assembly Committees of the UN in the wake of the Second World War to address global tensions and security issues. At present, DISEC's influence has vastly expanded; the committee is one of the most significant forces behind the creation of international peace agreements.

Uniting its 193 member states at annual forums, DISEC works to combat crises that threaten worldwide stability through drafting treaties, making recommendations, and improving current protective measures and systems. The UN established DISEC with the main purpose of serving as an international forum to grant all nations an equal chance to debate issues that concern national and international security.

Although DISEC is unable to enforce any legally binding decisions, the committee promotes cooperation through its widespread global influence and its history of successes in establishing peace. DISEC has been able to protect the lives of millions around the world through past resolutions that have dealt with issues such as black market armaments, biological weapons, chemical weapons, and private surplus weapon stockpiles, among others.

Recently, the topic of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) has come under DISEC's attention due to the rapidly developing UAV capabilities and the lack of regulation surrounding UAV usage. As a committee, DISEC member states must join together in developing resolutions that will fully encompass and combat the issue at hand.

Topic Overview

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), otherwise referred to as drones, are defined as airborne devices that carry no crew or passengers onboard. They are generally divided into six categories: target and decoy, research and development, civil and commercial, logistics, reconnaissance, and combat. Up until 2010, UAV development was reserved primarily for military use; however, over the last decade, UAVs have gained popularity with enterprise data collection, aerial photography, and, more recently, with consumer drone hobbyists.[2]

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[1] http://www.un.org/en/ga/first/
[2] https://www.theflightbay.com/uav/

UAVs have risen in popularity due to the the rapid modernization of warfare technology and weaponry in recent years. They were first launched during World War I, and are most recognized for their use in the ongoing War of Terror headed by the United States. Now becoming a common means of ambush attacks, UAVs have the ability to launch aerial attacks with missiles and bombs; they can be deployed over vast distances and are capable of flying for over 82 hours. Many are concerned that the use of drones desensitizes target killings and dehumanizes conflict, especially when countries prematurely target suspected terrorists in foreign territories without having officially declared war. On the contrary, others argue that UAVs limit the number of warfare casualties as they are very precise and limit unnecessary collateral damage. The main issue is that UAVs are not explicitly prohibited or regulated in international law. The heavy usage of these devices have begun to reshape the way in which modern warfare is fought, and countries must quickly develop a means of regulating UAVs on an international scale.

Timeline

1849 - The infamous Austrian balloons are the earliest record of using unmanned aerial vehicles. On August 22, 1849, the Austrians launched aerial attacks on Venice with balloons armed with explosives. It is debatable as to whether or not to classify these as actual vehicles, but since they are the first instance of unmanned aerial warfare, they act as a precursor to the century of unmanned aerial warfare.[3]

1916 - The first pilotless aircraft is built during the First World War and is named the Hewitt-Sperry Automatic Airplane. The success of this aircraft proves that unmanned flight is possible. The Hewitt-Sperry Automatic Airplane is designed to be controlled through gyroscopes and is intended to act as a flying bomb.

1930s - The United States Navy begins developing radio-controlled aerial aircrafts. The first successful model is created in 1937 and is named the Curtiss N2C-2 drone. The Curtiss N2C-2 drone is able to be controlled via radio from a nearby piloted aircraft.

1940 - Reginald Denny's Radioplane Company wins a United States Army contract to mass produce their radio-controlled aircraft system, Radioplane OQ2. Fifteen thousand Radioplanes are manufactured for military usage during the Second World War.

1982 - In 1982, Israel's Air Force uses drones as the main means of attack during a battle with Syria's Air Force. UAVs sway the battle in Israel's favour—because they are unmanned, Israeli

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[3] https://www.theflightbay.com/uav/

casualties are also kept to a minimum. This event shifts the world's perspective away from doubting the legitimacy of unmanned aircraft systems and the reliability of this technology.[4]

2006 - The United States Federal Aviation Administration (USFAA) authorizes the use of UAVs in civilian airspace to search for survivors of disasters such as Hurricane Katrina. Known as the predator drone, this device is equipped with an infrared camera and can detect heat signatures from as far as 10,000 feet away. Predator drones are developed to be long-endurance, medium-altitude unmanned aircraft system for surveillance and reconnaissance missions.[5]

2010 - The Parrot AR Drone is the first smartphone-controlled quadcopter UAV available for consumers and is first revealed at the International CES in Las Vegas.[6] During this time, an IOS application that acts as a control system for UAVs was introduced to consumers.

2013 - The release of Dà-Jiāng Innovations' (DJI) Phantom 1 quadcopter drone introduces camera equipped UAVs to the mainstream market for the first time and rapidly gains popularity. The Phantom 1 is able to mount a GoPro, opening a whole new world of aerial photography and cinematographic possibilities to hobbyists.[7]

Historical Analysis

The first instance of using unmanned devices militarily was during Austria's balloon bombs. While these balloons do not technically meet today's definition of a UAV, the concept was strong enough that after the technology used to create winged aircraft had been invented, countries were able to revive the old Austrian idea.[8]

The first successful pilotless aircraft was built during the First World War and was named the Hewitt-Sperry Automatic Airplane. This aircraft sparked the international movement of developing UAVs for military use. Soon after, the United States commissioned a project to design an aerial torpedo, and the first prototype was named the Kettering Bug. However, this new UAV technology was largely unused until the Second World War. Several new devices emerged in the period leading up to World War II, such as the Larynx, tested by the Royal Navy between 1927 and 1929, the radio-controlled Fairey "Queen" developed by the British in 1931, and the British "DH.82B Queen Bee" in 1935.[9] Countries continued attempting to advance UAV

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[4] https://www.theflightbay.com/uav/
[5] https://www.airforce-technology.com/projects/predator-uav/
[6] https://www.theflightbay.com/uav/
[7] https://www.theflightbay.com/uav/
[8] https://www.redorbit.com/reference/the-history-of-drone-technology/
[9] https://www.redorbit.com/reference/the-history-of-drone-technology/

technology, experimenting with innovations such as radio-controlled aircrafts. It was evident that no country wanted to fall behind technologically; thus, the race to create the most advanced UAV began.

During the Second World War, drones became the staple to most of the advanced armies. UAVs were produced by the United States and Nazi Germany, and both countries began to integrate their newest creations into combat. The United States of America was the first country to publicly confirm that they had used UAVs during a conflict. In 1973, the US military confirmed that they had been utilizing UAV technology is Vietnam, stating that during the war, more than 3,435 UAV missions were flown.[10] Following the United States' path, Israel developed a UAV with real-time surveillance, which was the first of its kind. This new drone allowed Israel to save countless lives during the Yom Kippur War and the Lebanon War. Due to the large success of pioneering technologies, UAVs have become important actors in modern warfare.

After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the United States significantly increased their creation of military UAVs.[11] Sponsored by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), drone development programs such as the Eagle Program were commissioned after the attacks of the al-Qaeda. Intelligence gathering operations began in 2004, with CIA-operated UAVs flown primarily over Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, and Somalia.[12] The most notable UAV that was developed and deployed by the United States Air Force is the Predator. Armed with Hellfire missiles, this drone has been used intensively, even in the hunt for Osama Bin Laden. The overall success of the Predator missions is clear: from June 2005 to June 2006 alone, Predators carried out 2,073 successful missions in 242 separate raids.[13] As of February 2013, reports state that UAVs were used by at least 50 countries, several of which have been found to produce their own, such as Iran, Israel, and China.

Current Situation

At present, UAVs have become increasingly popular in the commercial and private market, no longer being limited to just military use. These types of aircraft are also often referred to as remotely piloted vehicles (RPV), remotely piloted aircraft (RPA), and remotely operated aircraft (ROA).[14] These devices have been common since the 1930s, when Reginald Denny first mass-produced a radio-controlled (RC) aircraft for the consumer market. However, the recent spike in consumer interest is credited to the technological advancements of UAVs—drones are

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[10] https://www.redorbit.com/reference/the-history-of-drone-technology/
[11] http://science.dodlive.mil/2011/10/03/rise-of-the-drones-uavs-after-911/
[12] Ibid.
[13] Ibid.
[14] Ibid.

now smaller, cheaper, and much more useful due to the introduction of new features such as cameras and GPS trackers. Below, the characteristics regarding the six main categories of UAVs that have distinguished themselves over the past few decades will be detailed.

Military UAVs

Combat

Unmanned combat aerial vehicles, or UCAVs, are used to provide attacks for high-risk missions, and are able to destroy large swaths of land with the release of one missile or warhead. Most UCAVs feature a maximum payload of 3,000 pounds, or 1.5 tons, meaning that they are able to carry a combination of Hellfires or larger 500 pound bombs such as the GBU-12 Paveway II and GBD-38 JDAM.[15] These munitions have a 200 foot blast radius, meaning that once dropped on land, everything within the blast radius will be affected.

Designed by Northrop Grumman, the X-47B Unmanned Combat Air System has received a
2011 Best of What's New (BOWN) Award.[16]

Reconnaissance

Also known as the Class III UAVs, or Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE), reconnaissance drones have a wide range of applications. These drones are used to observe a region to locate a military enemy or ascertain strategic features. For the most part, these UAVs are used to provide intelligence on the battlefield; reconnaissance drones have the ability to determine the position of the enemy or the movement of certain populations and can compile a list of targets.

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[15]https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonk/wp/2013/03/08/everything-you-need-to-know-about-the-drone-debate-in-one-faq/?utm_term=.879adbff0e20
[16] https://www.uasvision.com/2011/11/18/x47-b-gets-popular-science-best-of-whats-new-award-2011/

Designed by the United States, the the MQ-1B Predator is the platform that ushered in the new era of unmanned precision.[17]

Target and Decoy

This category of drones consists of high speed aerial drones that are representative of the next generation of air defense, as these UAVs are a match for any modern air defence system. Proven over many hours of field use, the airframes demonstrate a high degree of modularity, and are predominantly used to provide both ground and aerial munitions at targets such as enemy missiles or aircraft. Additionally, like its namesake suggests, these drones are able to provide a target that simulates an enemy aircraft and act as decoys to confuse enemies during conflicts.

The Nishan TJ - 1000, an target and decoy UAV designed in Pakistan.[18]

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[17] http://www.fi-aeroweb.com/Defense/MQ-1-Predator-MQ-9-Reaper.html
[18] http://www.idaerospace.com/viewcategory.asp?cat=5-0-0

Standard UAVs

Civil and Commercial

Perhaps the most well known category of drones, these UAVs are those that are seen in day to day life. They are mostly used for leisurely purposes, and only raise concerns regarding privacy rights of civilians who may be unintentionally filmed. Many critics worry about the safety of flying UAVs over crowded civilian skies. Moreover, in recent years, commercial drones have become an essential tool for farmers and agriculture service professionals; unmanned aerial vehicles are able to monitor the health of crops and livestock.

The Horizon Hobby Blade Chroma is popular as it has a stabilized camera mount for GoPros.[19]

Logistics

These UAVs are primarily used for the purposes of delivering cargo, such as organs for transplants or emergent medical supplies. Airborne deliveries are a quicker, more efficient option in emergency situations. Logistical UAVs can detect wildfires and monitor the state of natural disasters, which could potentially save thousands, if not millions of lives during search and rescue missions. Furthermore, these drones have been used successfully to relay TV broadcasts for Israel's Channel 2 coverage of a recent election; live TV using UAV Technology was transmitted from the camera crew vehicle which followed the candidates' cars as they raced around the country.[20]

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[19] https://curatedmediatv.wordpress.com/2017/11/02/flying-drones-in-india-going-legal-finally-2/
[20] http://www.uavconsultinggroup.com/uav-uses.php

Bengaluru engineering students devised a high-speed unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) that can deliver intensive medical aid.[21]

Research and Development

Along with the general public, many companies use such drones for mapping sites, film wildlife, record environmental changes, sample mucous, conduct water testing, etcetera. There are many new hyper sensors on the market that are proven on UAVs as detection platforms for radiation, pollution and other missions that could have endangered humans flying manned aircraft performing the same missions.[22]

Known as the DJI Phantom 3 Standard Quadcopter Drone, this UAV is able to film in 4K.[23]

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[21]http://blog.naadle.com/bengaluru-engineering-students-build-drone-ambulance-that-can-redefine-emergency-medicine-and-save-lives/

[22] http://www.uavconsultinggroup.com/uav-uses.php

[23]http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20160426/no-laws-place-govern-drone-use-users-can-be-charged

UN Involvement

Throughout the last few decades, the United Nations has been fairly uninvolved in this developing issue; there has been little discourse regarding the usage of drone strikes. Despite being a prevalent issue that countries such as Pakistan and Yemen have called the United Nations to take action upon, any progress regarding establishing international legislation is halted by the United States' veto power in the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

Despite the lack of action from the UNSC, many high profile representatives of the United Nations have spoken out against the free use of military UAVs. Navi Pillay, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, has publicly denounced the use of unmanned combat aerial devices during her opening statement for the 20th Human Rights Council. Furthermore, Christof Heyns, the special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, has stressed that the use of armed drones is highly problematic if a recognized armed conflict does not exist. Without solidified international governance of UAV usage, these devices can be used for arbitrary attacks and create a precedent for unrestrained drone warfare.

The first step towards addressing the issue was established by the United Nations Human Rights Council Resolution A/HRC/25/L.32. The resolution states that "[e]nsuring use of remotely piloted aircraft or armed drones in counter-terrorism and military operations is in accordance with international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law," is an obligation that all countries must uphold.[24] However, dominant and highly influential countries such as the United States, the United Kingdom, and France have objected to this resolution, claiming that the Human Rights Council was lacking expertise regarding this topic. In addition, Resolution A/RES/68/178 of the General Assembly states that drones must "comply with their obligations under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, human rights law and international humanitarian law, in particular the principles of distinction and proportionality."[25] Evidently, these contributions are far from enough to properly address the entire issue, and it is now up to the member states of DISEC to develop a detailed and comprehensible resolution regarding the usage of UAVs in combat.

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[24] http://www.readimun.org/disec.html
[25] http://www.readimun.org/disec.html

Possible Solutions

When researching potential solutions, it is important to note that the current point of contention for the topic of UAVs is the role that they play within conflicts. Below, only a few solutions will be discussed; countries are encouraged to further explore and develop other methods of tackling the issue at hand.

Only Allowing Military UAVs on UN Mandated Operations
By allowing UAVs to be used in conflicts only if the United Nations is involved, this may ensure more transparency and will severely limit the arbitrary use of drones. It is important to note that combat drones are counterproductive when they are used against civilians without warning; in battles, they are actually capable of reducing collateral damage due to their precision. However, this solution will be difficult to implement as many countries may object to the United Nations' interference, and DISEC is unable to ensure that countries will comply.

Establishing International Policing Measures
Since there is currently no analogous world government with the power to enforce rules internationally, countries must join together through the United Nations when considering the establishment of international policing measures to deal with cases of unwarranted UAV attacks on civilians. On the contrary, the creation of international policing measures brings about challenges such as cooperation among diverse legal systems and priorities, diverse and disparate information channels, and political prejudice. However, it is important to keep in mind that DISEC is unable to implement this solution on its own, and must cooperate with INTERPOL and the UNSC to enforce such regulations.

Creation of Worldwide Regulations
One of the first things on the committee agenda should be to create specific guidelines regarding the usage of all types of UAVs. While most countries have local legislation prohibiting certain uses of civil and commercial drones by the general public, a comprehensive resolution regarding military drones has yet to be agreed upon. While some countries may push to eliminate the use of UAVs altogether, realistically, it is impossible to destroy all existing UAVs. Instead, opting for a set of regulations is the only way to prevent future unwarranted aerial attacks.

Bloc Positions

Support for UAVs
The countries that support the use of UAVs are those that are the most developed and technologically advanced; most members of this bloc have developed a means for regulating commercial and civil uses of drones to protect the privacy of its citizens. However, the main issue lies within the fact that nations such as the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom have initiated the usage and weaponization of UAVs. These countries operate in uncharted territory, and due to the lack of UN involvement, a reliance on drone warfare has already been developed. Members of this bloc will be highly hesitant to agree to any restricting resolutions as it could potentially harm them economically and politically, and many may refuse to halt their current production of military UAVs.

Against UAV Use
Countries that have fallen victim to drone strikes such as Pakistan and Yemen have called upon the United Nations to take action several times. Pakistan has unofficially become a leading international critic of drone warfare, claiming that its national sovereignty has been violated by their usage. Nations that are against UAV usage should urge the international community to establish an internationally binding legal framework on drone use. Most countries that are against the use of UAVs in conflict are developing nations that have no means of counterattacking. These countries are mainly against the military use of drones, rather than commercial. However, many are too poor to have access to military UAVs.

Guiding Questions

1. What type of UAV is most commonly used in your country, if any?

2. What is your country's stance on the issue at hand?

3. Should the use of UAVs be restricted by the international community?

4. What actions can the United Nations take to incentivize countries to restrict the use of drones in combat?

5. Is there a way to successfully prevent the deaths of civilians?

6. Should the civil and commercial use of drones be protected?

7. How can the United Nations ensure that countries are operating UAVs for lawful and beneficial purposes?

Further Resources

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