

MADMUN XVI

DISEC

BACKGROUND GUIDE



First Committee of the United Nations
Chairs: Lily Zea and Cecilia King

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Chair.....	2
Topic A: The Weaponization of Artificial Intelligence.....	4
Historical Background.....	4
Past Action.....	4
Current Situation.....	4
Guided Questions.....	6
Potential Sources.....	7
Topic B: Transnational Gangs.....	8
Historical Background.....	8
Past Action.....	8
Current Situation.....	9
Guided Questions.....	11
Potential Sources.....	11
Works Cited.....	12
List of Positions.....	13

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR:

Hey y'all! My name's Lily, and I am a senior at Monona Grove High School. This is my fourth year in Model UN, and I am my delegation's president! I am so excited to be chairing MADMUN as I've had plenty of experience chairing our sims, but this is my first time chairing at an official conference. I hope y'all enjoy the topics we chose, as DISEC is my favorite beginner committee! Outside of school, you can see me competing in forensics or being a camp counselor at First Act Children's Theater. My specialty is helping our beginner members, so please, don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about DISEC or MUN in general at lily.zea@mgschools.net

Hi! My name is Cecilia, and this is my fourth year in Model UN! I've really enjoyed participating as a delegate in MADMUN and am super excited to be a chair this year. Outside of Model UN, I play rugby, tennis, and run (kind of), but overall, I love to be outside in any way and as often as I can. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out! My email is cecilia.king@mgschools.net. Can't wait to meet you all!

The committee decided on two substantial topics fitting to our theme of Propaganda: The Weaponization of Artificial Intelligence and Transnational Gangs. We recommend not using any resources about AI that are older than 2021. Since AI has been developing very quickly in the past few years, any information older than the early 2020s most likely won't be relevant. For the second topic, if your country does not have a prominent gang issue, look at whether your country takes in immigrants displaced by gangs, and how that affects the economy, public health, and culture.

In this committee, we hope that through intensive research about your country's perspectives and also extensive collaboration with others in your blocs in the committee, we can come up with effective solutions and regulations regarding the use of Artificial Intelligence and Transnational Gangs.

Please make sure you keep your papers relevant, and try to answer at least three of the guiding questions in your essay. The more you research for your position paper, the more information you have to use in committee!! Overall, our biggest goal in this committee is to have fun and to be a learning opportunity for all.

DISCLAIMER: Due to the sensitive nature of the Israel-Palestine conflict, we will have a no-tolerance policy for discussions around this matter that might make other delegates uncomfortable. We WILL be discussing this, but only in a civil manner. Please express no personal opinions on the conflict, and even if your country has a strong stance on the war, we ask that you act overall neutral in committee.

TOPIC 1: WEAPONIZATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Precursors to Artificial Intelligence have long been warfare, such as Alan Turing's work on code-breaking Germany's Enigma code during World War II. In 1991, the United States employed the Dynamic Analysis and Replanning Tool (DART), an AI program used to solve logistical problems, saving the United States millions of dollars. AI came to the international spotlight in the early 2010s, with the United States Department of Defense's directive on autonomy in weapon systems and the Human Rights Watch's call for an outright ban on autonomous weapons. As AI is a rapidly developing issue, history and past actions are not something you can rely on as a delegate. This topic will require delegates to think outside the box.

PAST ACTION:

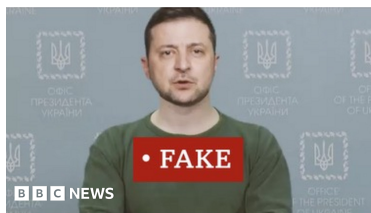
Since artificial intelligence is a very new development in technology, many nations are still in the process due to the rapidly developing nature of Artificial Intelligence; most of the United Nations and the world have not caught up with regulating AI. The World Health Organization has created guidelines for the use of AI in medical fields, but these are the only official, extensive regulations in place. The United Nations Secretary General has called for a global ban on autonomous weapon systems, yet no concrete action has been taken. Many have called for the United Nations' Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW), the main resolution restricting or prohibiting certain weapons within global conflict, to be amended to more strictly regulate LAWS and military AI.

CURRENT SITUATION:

One aspect of artificial intelligence is its adaptability, allowing it to take many uses within modern warfare:

DEEPPAKES/PROPAGANDA:

The media plays a significant role in influencing voters' minds, making deepfakes particularly dangerous to a nation's stability. Before a 2023 Slovakian election, a fake audio of a well-known journalist and the chairman of the Progressive Slovakia Party discussing election fraud cast doubt on both the media and the Progressive Party. A more common form of using AI for propaganda is deepfakes: a video of a person in which their face or body has been digitally altered so that they appear to be someone else, typically used maliciously or to spread false information. During the 2024 United States presidential election, a deepfake Joe Biden told New Hampshire voters not to vote in the Democratic Primary. Further examples of deepfakes of various candidates popped up throughout the election, but it is unclear how much damage these deepfakes did. Since the Russian-Ukrainian war, deepfakes have been brought to the forefront of international conflicts. In 2022, a deepfake video of President Volodymyr Zelensky asking Ukrainian troops to lay down their weapons surfaced on both Facebook and YouTube. Zelensky quickly dispelled any rumors of his surrender, but in the current Israeli conflicts with both Gaza and Iran, deepfakes have been harder to identify. While the majority of images of children within the conflict are real, more and more deepfakes meant to garner sympathy for both sides have been appearing. Within the first few days of the war, both sides had accused the other of victimizing children and babies, some using deepfakes of missile strikes, ruined neighborhoods, and families combing through rubble as 'evidence'. Within the Iranian conflict, civilians' social media was flooded with deepfakes that showed missiles as more precise than they were, erasing the rubble and extra damage from the videos. This lulled many Iranians into a false sense of security, making many believe that the best option was to carry on with life as normal rather than evacuate an active warzone.



USE IN WARFARE:

LAWS, or lethal autonomous weapons systems, have been used for years, with the most basic form being a simple grenade. However, as technology advances, so do LAWS. Drones are the most common form of modern-day LAWS, being popularized in the late 20th century and extending their use to most major world conflicts. While there is no evidence of any drones being fully autonomous, AI is still deeply entrenched within modern warfare. Ukraine has reportedly used long-range drones with AI that can detect military targets, successfully attacking Russian refineries. The Lavender AI system has been used by Israel to detect 37,000 Hamas targets within Gaza, dubbing the Israeli-Gazan conflict as the first “AI War”.



GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- Can autonomous weapons distinguish between soldiers and civilians?
- Who is responsible for the mistakes of autonomous weapons?
- Is it ethical to put human lives in the hands of machines?
- Should a set of guidelines be put into place to govern the use of autonomous weapons?
- Is artificial intelligence widening the gap between developed and underdeveloped countries?

POTENTIAL SOURCES:

<https://disarmament.unoda.org/>

<https://www.un.org/en/ga/first/>

https://www.hrw.org/report/2020/08/10/stopping-killer-robots/country-positions-banning-fully-autonomous-weapons-and#_ftn12 (States most countries position on LAWS)

https://unidir.org/files/2023-05/UNIDIR_Publications_AI_Lethal_Autonomous_Weapons_04052023.pdf

<https://disarmament.unoda.org/the-convention-on-certain-conventional-weapons/>

TOPIC 2: TRANSNATIONAL GANGS:

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Transnational gangs are criminal organizations that operate across international borders, taking advantage of legal differences to conduct illegal activities such as human smuggling, drug trafficking, and money laundering. These gangs often emerge from countries facing poverty and social inequality, and grow under corrupt governments. Gangs like these have been around for centuries, now most common in South American countries such as El Salvador or Haiti. The MS-13 and 18th Street gangs are two influential gangs based in El Salvador, and are known to be spread all across the Americas and even reaching into some European countries like Italy and Spain. Transnational Gangs pose large threats to the integrity of a country and its culture, economy, and government, and affect any potential alliances. Even if your country doesn't specifically have a gang issue, it still affects you, whether it be through trade or immigration.



PAST ACTIONS:

In November 2000, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, which is now the main international instrument in the fight against transnational gangs. The focus of this convention was based on the “three protocols”: the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition; and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. States that ratify this agreement must commit to keeping up these protocols through the training of national authorities, the creation of new framework for

extradition and any overall policy changes that would slow the spread of transnational gang activity.

CURRENT ACTION:

In 2024, the United Nations declared November 15th the “International Day for the Prevention of and Fight against All Forms of Transnational Organized Crime”, aiming to raise awareness about the topic. Along with this declaration, they also released a list of the different types of organized crime:

DRUG TRAFFICKING:

Drug trafficking produces the most revenue for International Crime Industry, making over 500 billion dollars annually. The digital age has revolutionized the drug market, with social media platforms making it even easier to buy and sell across different nations. In the past ten years, drug use disorders have increased by over 40 percent, fueled by growing access to cocaine and synthetic drugs. Synthetic drugs are cheap and easy to manufacture anywhere in the world, and in the case of fentanyl, for example, deadly even in the smallest doses.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING:

Human trafficking is the modern day form of slavery, with traffickers often taking people from poverty, refugees or other people experiencing displacement, or lone wolves awoooo. This crime disproportionately targeting women and children, making up 60% of all trafficking victims and 90% of trafficking with the intent of sexual exploitation. This issue is especially urgent, as the proportion rate of children among trafficking victims has tripled within the last 15 years.

SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS:

The migrant smuggling trade is an extremely dangerous enterprise. This practice accounts for thousands of deaths annually due to many migrants perishing from drowning, freak accidents, extreme weather, and harsh terrain. There has been a documented increase in systematic killings along smuggling routes, including accounts of extreme violence, rape, kidnapping, extortion, and human trafficking.

MONEY LAUNDERING:

Money laundering is the process of concealing the origins of ‘dirty money’, or money obtained through crime, and turning it into ‘clean money’. Around \$1.6 trillion dollars are estimated to be laundered every year, according to a UN report on Financial Integrity, often funding many other criminal activities. There are a variety of techniques to launder money, but the most common methods are smurfing, using shell companies and offshore accounts, and ‘investing’ into high-value assets.

ILLICIT FIREARMS TRADE:

Small firearms account for 45 percent of all violent deaths worldwide, and the illicit firearms trade is intrinsically linked with this issue. The growing trade is fueling small and large scale conflicts that contribute to a large increase in criminal activity around the world.

ENVIRONMENTAL CRIME:

Through the trafficking of wildlife and natural resources, criminals speed up climate change and damage ecosystems. From 2015 to 2021, governments from 162 nations seized 13 million plants and animals, according to the latest World Wildlife Crime Report. In 2016, INTERPOL estimated that environmental crime generates profits between \$91 billion and \$259 billion, making it the fourth-largest transnational activity. However, the allure of illegal mining is growing, and quickly becoming the face of environmental crime, with profit often flowing into the hands of armed groups.

CYBERCRIME:

The age of technology has opened the door for many new and very dangerous types of crime. Technology has created an increase in all issues listed above, especially human trafficking through the exploitation of vulnerable children. AI enabled cyber operations are amplifying the threat, and many countries don’t have the resources to protect themselves from these threats due to the rapidly developing nature of artificial intelligence.

GUIDING QUESTIONS:

- What measures can be taken to protect vulnerable populations and prevent young individuals from joining these gangs?
- How can international partnerships and multilateral cooperation be strengthened to address this global threat?
- How can technology be leveraged to combat transnational gangs?
- What are the primary obstacles faced by law enforcement agencies in investigating and prosecuting transnational gang members?
- What type of transnational crime affects your position the most?

POTENTIAL SOURCES:

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/UNTOC.html>

<https://www.un.org/en/peace-and-security/transnational-crime>

<https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/artificial-intelligence>

<https://unsceb.org/topics/artificial-intelligence>

<https://www.unodc.org/documents/middleeastandnorthafrica/organised-crime>

<https://www.fbi.gov/investigate/transnational-organized-crime>

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- "'Politically Unacceptable, Morally Repugnant': UN Chief Calls for Global Ban on 'killer Robots' | UN News." *United Nations*, news.un.org/en/story/2025/05/1163256. Accessed 20 Aug. 2025.
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www.fbi.gov/news/stories/transnational-gangs. Accessed 20 Aug. 2025.

"United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime." *United Nations : Office on Drugs and Crime*, www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/UNTOC.html. Accessed 20 Aug. 2025.

"What Is Transnational Organized Crime?" *United Nations*, www.un.org/en/peace-and-security/transnational-crime. Accessed 20 Aug. 2025.

LIST OF POSITIONS:

1. United States
2. China
3. France
4. Russia
5. United Kingdom
6. Algeria
7. Denmark
8. Greece
9. Guyana
10. Pakistan
11. Panama
12. Republic of Korea
13. Sierra Leone
14. Slovenia
15. Somalia
16. Brazil
17. Morocco
18. Poland
19. Japan
20. Canada
21. Mexico
22. India
23. Nigeria

24. Italy
25. Sudam
26. Iran
27. Iraq
28. Switzerland
29. Germany
30. Ukraine