

# GLAMUN

## GUÍA ACADÉMICA DISEC

### ASAMBLEA GENERAL



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## GUÍA ACADÉMICA DISEC

*Dear delegates,*

It is an honor for us to be chairing the First Committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) for GLAMUN 2017. We will introduce ourselves for you to know who we are and what are our expectations for this committee.

My name is Eduardo Bernal Muñoz; I am an International Relations student at the Pontifical Xaverian University (Bogotá). It is an honor for me to be part of this wonderful experience, which promises to be exciting, challenging and amusing for us as a chair and for you as delegates. In my 6 years of experience, I have learned to show the best of me in everything I do, and because of that, Laura and I are expecting the best of you for this conference. Remember we are the future of the world and the leaders being to build their path in these types of scenarios. I invite you to fight for your ideas and let the war aside.

My name is Laura Mateus Ávila. I am an eleventh-grade student from the Gimnasio Los Andes school, I am really proud and excited to welcome and guide you through this experience. I firmly believe that words and not war are the solution to the problems the world face every day, I hope that this platform becomes a tool to develop your qualities and ideals and this way we can all unite and fight for a better world. I compromise to do anything in my hands to make of this the most fulfilling experience and achieve all the personal and general goals of each delegate, on the other hand I hope each of you make the necessary effort to take advantage of this incredible experience, you won't regret it.

DISEC is a challenging committee, in which issues that are related to coercive power, military forces, weaponry and conflict are debated. This being said, it requires the participants to be prepared to use technical language, to understand war-like phenomena and to be prepared to react to crisis. For GLAMUN 2017, we will be debating two issues: -Reaction of states to the new and increasingly frequent asymmetric war. -Are The Private Military Companies a new actor in conflicts or an extension of the State? As you can see, both topics require that you understand current affairs and are able to have a critic point of view in response to them, because they are a part of the international agenda nowadays.

We expect you to be prepared for this experience, because it will be academic, interesting and demanding. Bear in mind that both of us will be preparing this background guide as an aid for your preparation process, but the investigation does not end here. Challenge yourselves and develop a wider understanding of the topics we will be discussing during the conference. Do not hesitate to contact us if you have any doubts on what concerns the dynamics, preparation and development of this experience.

Without further do, we welcome you to the DISEC committee for GLAMUN 2017 and we are excited to meet you in September.

Cordially,

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# GLAMUN2017

## GUÍA ACADÉMICA DISEC



### INTRODUCTION TO THE COMMITTEE

DISEC (Disarmament and International Security Committee) is the first committee of the General Assembly of the United Nations (GA-1). It was established back in 1945 as a response to the aftermath of the Second World War. It “seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime” this is mainly while 193 out of 193 nations that belong to the United Nations have a voice and a vote in this commission. (United Nations General Assembly, 1946)

The committee,

*“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”* (United Nations General Assembly, 1946)

This being said, the Disarmament and Security commission has the huge challenge to include every nation and maintain an open debate in order to establish a program focused on cooperation, peacekeeping and the reduction of funds in regards of arms and missiles, driving this resources to the accomplishment of the “2030 Transforming our world - Sustainable Development Agenda” (United Nations General Assembly, 1946)

Although there are different subsidiary organs in the United Nations in charge of debating the implications and impact that international security has over certain matters, the two main bodies in which these issues are discussed deeply are DISEC and the Security Council. It is important for the delegates to understand the differences between these two, and to draw a line between them, so that they can see up to which point they are able to make decisions and act without exceeding the competences of the committee. The Table 1 will be illustrative for this matter.

# GLAMUN2017

## GUÍA ACADÉMICA DISEC

**Table 1. Differences between the DISEC Committee and the Security Council**

DISEC	SECURITY COUNCIL
<p><b>All the members of the General Assembly are represented here.</b> There is no such thing as a membership. There are annual meetings, which take place in October.</p>	<p><b>15 members</b> of the UN compose it.</p> <p>5 permanent: United States of America, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Russian Federation, People's Republic of China and French Republic) and 10 non-permanent.</p> <p>The non-permanent states have a two-year term membership, and are assigned by geographic regions.</p>
<p>In voting procedures, every single member has a vote.</p>	<p>In voting procedures, every member has a vote. The difference relies on the <b>veto power</b> that each of the 5 permanent members has. All of these should vote in favor of a resolution (or abstain from voting) for it to be adopted.</p>
<p>It <b>may not</b> activate Chapter VII of the UN Charter.</p>	<p>It is the <b>only organism with the ability to activate Chapter VII of the UN Charter</b>, which means that it has the responsibility of deploying troops and establishing peacekeeping, peacemaking or peace building missions.</p>

It is important to bear in mind that these are just a few differences that we as a Chair established for you. They are important and we suggest that you continue with the elaboration of this chart/table to understand the capacities that DISEC has in comparison with the Security Council.

Understanding the Security Council as the organ of the UN that can impose actions and deploy troops while DISEC regulates the armament, the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and other related topics such as peace, stability and global security.

# GLAMUN2017

## GUÍA ACADÉMICA DISEC

### DISEC COMMITTEE

#### Functioning and composition of the committee

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

- All the United Nation's member states form the committee for DISEC. Each of the member states has one vote. A simple vote is passed in the majority to pass the resolutions.
- Members involved in consultations of the DISEC Committee are provided with the most unique opportunities for participating actively in contributing to better understanding and formulating agenda for global security, besides providing solutions and recommendations to different forms of disarmament, conflicts within countries and other matters related to security policies.

### HISTORY

Established to deal with the technological implications of the atomic bomb used against Japan and in development by every other major military power of the day, the General Assembly First Committee of 1946 focused on all political and security questions of the General Assembly's agenda. Along with the then-unnumbered Special Political Committee, the First Committee provided the stage for the liveliest debates between superpowers during the Cold War, centering on armament stockpiling and territorial balance between Soviet communism and Western capitalism. With the transition of the Fourth Committee's focus to special political affairs with the culmination of its mission of decolonization affairs, the First Committee today concentrates on issues of disarmament and threats

# GLAMUN2017

## GUÍA ACADÉMICA DISEC

to international peace and security, pursuant of the clause one of Article One of the Charter. The First Committee further works extensively with the Security Council and Conference on Disarmament, as well as overseeing the Office of Disarmament.

The Sixty-Fourth Session of the General Assembly began on September 15, 2009, was scheduled to complete work on December 22, 2009, but continued work through September 13, 2010. During the session, the General Assembly First Committee passed forty-eight specific resolutions (A/RES/64/22- A/RES/64/70)—among them: transparency of military expenditures, combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and prevention of an arms race in space. The Sixty-Fifth Session opened on September 14, 2010 and, following general debate by the plenary session from September 23 to 30, 2010, the First Committee topical discussion began in early October, under the Chairpersonship of Mr. Miloš Koterec of Slovakia. During the Sixty-Fifth session, the First Committee addressed items 90-106 of the General Assembly agenda (A/65/50), including the risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security, and the relationship between disarmament and development. The Sixty-Fifth Session also faced the ten- year review of the Millennium Development Goals, as the United Nations looks toward the future and aims to shape a better world through consensus and cooperation toward peace.

Though garnering some criticism for static discussion and ineffectuality, the General Assembly and in particular the First Committee remains to be the world forum for open discussion of the issues facing the safety and security of all world citizens. In 2011, the First Committee worked toward addressing desertification, land degradation and drought within the context of the UN Decade for Deserts and the Fights Against Desertification (2010-2020). Additionally, a resolution was passed regarding the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (A/66/L1). The Sixty-Seventh session continued its progress in combatting trafficking in persons, further encouraging Member States to more actively contribute to a global solution (A/67/L.62). In 2013, the Sixty-Eighth Session passed a resolution (A/RES/67/39) requesting a meeting on nuclear disarmament in order to remove the danger of nuclear war.

### **FIRST SUBJECT: REACTION OF STATES TO THE NEW AND INCREASINGLY ASIMETRIC WAR**

The asymmetric warfare is a violent conflict in which there is an abysmal quantitative and qualitative difference between the military, political and media resources of the committed contenders, and that therefore forces the sides to use atypical tactics, that surpass the meted frame

# GLAMUN2017

## GUÍA ACADÉMICA DISEC

of the recurrent military tradition. These means include guerrilla warfare, resistance, all sorts of terrorism, counterinsurgency, state terrorism, dirty war or civil disobedience.

In the asymmetric war, there is no particular front, no conventional military action. On the contrary, it is based on a combination of political and military actions, involvement of the civilian population and other similar operations.

The most recent example of this type of conflict is Israeli operations in the Gaza Strip during the month of January. Given the deadly character of the armed conflict, each party will seek maximum superiority or asymmetry. After all, this is not a medieval fun tournament.

It happens, as in Iraq and Afghanistan, that the United States has such power that its enemy cannot confront it on its terrain, and it then resorts to tactics that are described as asymmetrical.

Regular armies are highly averse to engaging in such conflicts; At the end of the day, they are prepared to fight forces similar to theirs. The military's fire and training powers are not aimed at pursuing guerrilla bands or insurgents scattered among the civilian population. The use of devastating firepower inevitably leads to large losses of innocent lives.

In this sense, it is important to recall that asymmetric warfare involves different amounts of force and in general occasion, the so consider winner is that that haven't loose, since it's not an open conflict.

## Problematic

Having the United Nations worked in international peace and security through the maintenance of stability, it it's important that the committee considers the fact that nowadays most of the actors involved in conflicts are not state to state but, in many cases, state to any other group.

As so, there has been a proliferation of asymmetrical conflicts and so of its weaponry, meaning that civilian population has more direct consequences, consider the following:

- Asymmetric conflicts are not fought between two states.
- Weaponry tends to be not sophisticated for one of the actors and it is usually acquired through the black market.
- It brings more civilian damages than the traditional concept of war.

Note: As stated previously, there has been several examples of asymmetrical conflicts that have escalated to an international level, many of those conflicts preserve today. The task for the GLAMUN 2017 DISEC Committee will be to take guidelines for this type of conflicts but also to attempt solutions to the examples given before,

# GLAMUN2017

## GUÍA ACADÉMICA DISEC

### QARMAS

- What is the asymmetric war?
- Where does the asymmetric war take place?
- How works the asymmetric war?
- What state are part of this war?
- What are the consequences of the asymmetric war?
- What kind of actions take place in the asymmetric war?
- What kind of solutions or proposed can be told to state part of the conflict? (i.e. Israel).

### SECOND SUBJECT

#### ARE PRIVATE MILITARY COMPANIES PARTIES OF CONFLICTS?

A Private Military Company—now forward a PMC—are legally established international firms offering services that involve the potential to exercise force in a systematic way and by military or paramilitary means, as well as the enhancement, the transfer, the facilitation, the deterrence, or the defusing of this potential, or the knowledge required to implement it, to clients (privatemilitary.org, sd, sp.).

The “potential” to exercise force can materialize when rendering, for example, armed protection services in climates of instability (on land

and sea). Transfer or enhancement occurs when delivering expert military training and other services such as logistics support, risk assessment, and intelligence gathering. Defusing is patent when private military personnel engage in the disposal of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and mine clearance (privatemilitary.org).

In this sense, this type of actors is hired either by privates or states but with full capability of action according to their contracts. The problematic arises when this are used to damage widely interest in conflicts, in many cases, generating asymmetrical situations.

As so, it it's important to debate and take considerations into the use of mercenaries and the escalating of their use as parties in disputes, the following is taken from Humanity in war and explains the situation:

- Reliance on private military and security companies (PMSCs) to provide services in armed conflicts has steadily increased since the beginning of the Iraq War in 2003. By 2006, the United States employed about 100,000 government contractors in Iraq, many of them working for PMSCs. Public attention to PMSCs increased significantly in 2007 when members of Blackwater, a PMSC hired by the US to provide security for US diplomats in Iraq, were involved in the death of seventeen Iraqi civilians in Baghdad. Several of those involved were tried last year, sparking discussions regarding accountability for private actors in armed conflicts.
- The presence of contractors in combat situations is controversial in light of reported human rights abuses by private military and

# GLAMUN2017

## GUÍA ACADÉMICA DISEC

security companies. Despite their controversial status, the use of PMSCs continues; faced with the threat of the Islamic State (IS), the US government may once again be sending military contractors to Iraq alongside deployed US troops.

- PMCs and their employees are generally not considered mercenaries. Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, defines a mercenary as a person who is recruited to fight in an armed conflict and takes a direct part in hostilities, but is not a national or resident, nor a member of the armed forces of a state party to the conflict. Mercenaries must be motivated by a desire for private gain through material compensation “substantially in excess” of that paid to members of armed forces of similar rank or function of the state party to the conflict that hired them. Mercenaries are not entitled to the right to be a combatant or a prisoner of war and may face prosecution under both domestic and international law for their actions. PMSC employees, however, are often nationals of the states who employ them. For example, many members of PMSCs hired by the United States are former US military members looking to extend their service. Additionally, what amounts to payment “substantially in excess” is undefined, and salaries provided to members of PMSCs may not reach that threshold.

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### QARMAS:

- Has the country you represent ever served of PMC?
- What other kind of actors are similar to PMC? How do they work?

- Has the UN made something to limit, or define the use of PMC? How it can be improved? If not, what should the UN do and why?

### EXPECTATIONS OF THE PRESIDENTS

Our expectations as chairmen of the committee are to gain the full benefit of this experience and help complement each delegate’s knowledge and skills, helping them to know their strengths and weaknesses so that in the future they can improve and use their new knowledge to excel in events such as This, but more importantly, is to help delegates to grow as human beings and to understand the consequences that acts such as violence can affect the world, also that this event is a preparation for future action on issues that involve the entire international community and help generate a better future, 16 , the future of the world. We wish you an enriching and unforgettable experience in this DISEC committee of the GLAMUN model.

### REFERENCE SOURCES:

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