

General Assembly First Committee Topic Summaries

Topic A: The Control of Biological Weapons in the Modern Era

Biological weapons (BW) deliver a toxin with the intent of cause sickness in people, animals, or crops.¹ One of the dangers of BWs is that they are unpredictable.² BWs are especially appealing to non-state actors because they are relatively easy and cheap to create.³ The *Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)* entered into effect in 1976 and was the first multilateral disarmament treaty dealing with BWs.⁴ Since its passage, there have been a total of eight conferences that reviewed the *BWC* which have created a variety of structures to ensure adherence to the convention.⁵ Under the *BWC*, States Parties agreed to increase confidence-building measures and information sharing on BWs through annual reports.⁶ Lack of formal verification processes has resulted in slow implementation of *BWC*.⁷ A recent study by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute suggests that emerging technologies such as artificial intelligence, robots, and 3D printing, pose a risk to control of biological weapons.⁸

Topic B: The Relationship between Disarmament and Development

Disarmament and development are two important pieces to promoting and creating world peace.⁹ Disarmament and development are two of the international community's most important tools for building a prosperous and peaceful planet.¹⁰ While disarmament deals with the reduction of weapons, development deals with the bettering of civilization through efforts such as the reduction of poverty. The *Charter of the United Nations* states that "armaments drain resources that could otherwise be used for human and economic concerns."¹¹ It has been noted that military expenditure deters and detracts from development spending.¹² It is important to note that disarmament does not automatically lead to development and vice versa.¹³ They are two different yet linked policies. Therefore, it is important to realize the function that the two policies have. For instance, disarmament creates a secure world in which development can be realized.¹⁴

¹ <https://fas.org/programs/bio/bwintro.html>

² <https://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/321030.php>

³ Ibid.

⁴ <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/bio/>

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ <https://www.armscontrol.org/factsheets/cbwprolif>

⁸ <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/emerging-technologies-pose-challenges-to-the-control-of-biological-weapons-new-sipri-report-300811103.html>

⁹ https://read.un-ilibrary.org/disarmament/the-relationship-between-disarmament-and-development-in-the-current-international-context_7f55f8e8-en#page13

¹⁰ <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/unga>

¹¹ <https://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/>

¹² https://read.un-ilibrary.org/disarmament/the-relationship-between-disarmament-and-development-in-the-current-international-context_7f55f8e8-en#page13

¹³ <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/resources/fact-sheets/critical-issues/4646-disarmament-and-development>

¹⁴ https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/RtD/oic_roundtable/OIC_NAM_UNOG_DG_statement.pdf

General Assembly Second Committee Topic Summaries

Topic A: International Migration and Development

In 2006, the international community met for the first ever plenary session of the General Assembly that was dedicated to discussing migration issues.¹ Since 2000, the number of international migrants has increased in 172 countries.² Most of these countries reported an average annual growth rate of 6%.³ There are several international frameworks relating to migration and development, such as the *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families*, but they do not have universal support within the international community.⁴ Migration can have a positive impact on development. For instance, migration has an impact on the financial well-being of individuals, families, and communities.⁵ One way that migration can aid in development is through multilateral cooperation through the countries of origin and destination.⁶ One of the key areas for dialogue is an exploration of how migration and development are linked and can be leveraged.

Topic B: Entrepreneurship and Human Capital Development for the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 8

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 8 promotes employment and decent work for all.⁷ Although progress has been made toward achieving this goal, that progress has recently plateaued.⁸ In order to achieve this goal, the international community will need to focus on creating quality jobs, promoting access to financial institutions, and promoting policies that enable the work of entrepreneurs.⁹ One component of SDG 8 is human capital. Human capital refers to the economic value of a worker's skills and education.¹⁰ The World Bank has called upon the international community to recognize that investment in human capital is key to achieving sustainable economic growth.¹¹ One issue with human capital development is the uneven development between nations and groups of people within nations.¹²

¹ <http://www.un.org/migration/>

²

https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2017_Highlights.pdf

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/what-we-know-about-migration-and-development>

⁶ <https://www.unhcr.org/protection/basic/44d711a82/international-migration-development-report-secretary-general.html>

⁷ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg8>

⁸ <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development-goals/goal-8-decent-work-and-economic-growth.html>

⁹ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/economic-growth/>

¹⁰ <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/nationalaccount/consultationDocs/HumanCapitalGuide%20Global%20Consultation-v1.pdf>

¹¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2018/oct/09/sustainable-development-goals-bali-human-capital>

¹² Ibid.



General Assembly Third Committee Topic Summaries

Topic A: Increasing Access to Preventative Health Services

Ensuring the good health and well-being of all peoples has consistently been significant priority for the international community, and is highlighted in the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* as Sustainable Development Goal 3.¹ Due to increased access to preventative health services, the international community has seen great strides in child health, maternal health, and the treatment of preventative diseases; however, there is still significant progress to be made.² Training and education and healthcare workers, access to healthcare facilities, and access to preventative health measures such as vaccines and condoms are all essential factors in ensuring access to preventative health services. One crucial aspect of addressing good health and well-being in the context of preventative health services is universal access to formal health care coverage.³ Access to health care is a precondition for and an outcome of sustainable development, and necessary to any development initiative.⁴ Engaging healthcare as a preventative health measure is necessary to achieving the full spectrum of human rights, described in Article 25 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.⁵

Topic B: International Cooperation to Address and Counter the World Drug Problem

New and emerging illicit drugs, as well as the non-medical use of opioid painkillers represent one of the biggest public health crises in the world today.⁶ Due to the common and shared responsibility that all Member States have in addressing the world drug problem, a multilateral approach is needed from all Member States to effectuate comprehensive, balanced, and scientific evidence-based solutions.⁷ The negative effects of drug addiction, drug trafficking, and the systems that enable them are widespread and devastating. The international community has continued to address the world drug problem through conventions on narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, and multiple protocols; however, due to the ever-evolving nature of the world drug problem, further action is necessary. The Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the policy-making body of the UN with prime responsibility for drug control matters, seeks to mobilize resources to combat the world drug problem by focusing on organized crime as well as corruption and illicit drug trafficking through regional development frameworks.⁸ As the diversity of, and markets for, illicit drugs continue to expand, it has never been more urgent to mitigate the production, transfer, and use of illicit drugs.⁹

¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld>

² <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/health/>

³ <https://undocs.org/a/res/73/131>

⁴ <https://undocs.org/A/RES/71/159>

⁵ <https://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/>

⁶ https://www.unodc.org/wdr2018/prelaunch/WDR18_Booklet_3_DRUG_MARKETS.pdf

⁷ <https://undocs.org/a/res/73/192>

⁸ <https://undocs.org/E/2009/28>

⁹ <https://www.unodc.org/wdr2018/>



United Nations Environment Assembly Topic Summaries

Topic A: Combating Illegal Trade in Wildlife

One of the most lucrative illegal activities is the illegal poaching, trafficking, and trade in wildlife.¹ The protection of wildlife is essential to biological diversity, and is a common concern of all mankind.² The illicit capture, killing, and trade of wildlife hurts not only wildlife, but also has a significant detrimental impact on the regional economies and communities.³ The illegal trade in wildlife damages ecosystems and rural livelihoods, including those based on ecotourism, undermines good governance and the rule of law and, in some cases, threatens national stability.⁴ The protection of wildlife is of the utmost importance to the international community, especially developing countries, and must be considered in sustainable development efforts.⁵ The General Assembly has discussed the trafficking and trade of wildlife on multiple occasions and the UN system has mobilized funds and programs to protect wildlife against poaching, trafficking, and trade.⁶ The international community holds the values of biological diversity and protection of ecosystems both underwater and on land, that these priorities are enshrined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as SDG 14 and 15.⁷

Topic B: Responsible and Sustainable Production and Consumption

According to current projections, by 2050, the global population will reach 9.6 billion people and will require the equivalent of three planets to provide the natural resources needed to sustain current lifestyles.⁸ Responsible and sustainable production and consumption refers to the promotion of resource and energy efficiency, sustainable infrastructure, and providing access to basic services, green and decent jobs and a better quality of life for all.⁹ Sustainable production and consumption shares an inherent and significant link with sustainable development.¹⁰ In order to address responsible and sustainable production and consumption, Member States must work multilaterally to include sustainability at all levels of development.¹¹ Development efforts aimed at the eradication of poverty requires a special focus on sustainable production and consumption in order to enact sustainable initiatives without multilateral assistance.¹²

¹ <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/sustainable-development/environment-and-natural-capital/tackling-wildlife-crime.html>

² <https://www.cbd.int/convention/text/default.shtml>

³ <https://undocs.org/a/res/71/326>

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ <https://undocs.org/a/res/73/234>

⁶ <http://ask.un.org/faq/88717>

⁷ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/outcomedocuments/agenda21>

⁸ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-consumption-production/>

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/outcomedocuments/agenda21>

¹¹ https://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/AAAA_Outcome.pdf

¹² <https://undocs.org/a/res/73/245>



Economic and Social Council Topic Summaries

Topic A: Sustainable Education Infrastructure for the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 4

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4 sets up the children of our world for success by providing them an education for sustainable livelihoods in their adult lives. Providing adequate education for all comes with overcoming obstacles procuring well-trained teachers, safe schooling facilities for children, safe passage to and from school, and the easing of financial burdens related to sending children to school.¹ While more children are attending and staying in school than ever before, there are still many barriers to achieving an equal education for all. The United Nations Children's Fund and its partners work with countries and agencies to allow for children in all situations to receive a safe education. This is especially important for helping children continue to go to school during and throughout armed conflicts, as many children have been kidnapped to be trained as child soldiers on their way to school in regions experiencing violence.² The most recent Education for All report primarily focused on the unique challenges presented to children who have immigrated or emigrated on their educational endeavors and how providing them with proper educations will set them up for success.³ As noted by the UN Secretary-General, we are in a fourth wave of industrialization, and lifelong learning is becoming a must.⁴ The world now not only needs educational opportunities for adolescents and children, but more technical and vocational schools for adults trying to find work.

Topic B: Empowering Vulnerable Groups through Access to Information and Communications Technology

Information and Communications Technologies (ICTs) have the power to transform economies and empower vulnerable people through knowledge sharing, educational opportunities, and employment opportunities.⁵ A 2013 report from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs indicated that ICTs have taken on a vastly more personal nature through advancements in internet access and development of social media in the past decade.⁶ The report noted that populations can benefit from the unique advantages of ICTs, but that the international community must focus on promoting equitable internet access and fair government practices in order to reap these benefits.⁷ Notably, expanded access to ICTs have given global youth more opportunities to learn and find ways to become involved in larger social and political movements.⁸

¹ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/education/>

² <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/six-grave-violations/abduction-of-children/>

³ <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000265866>

⁴ <https://www.weforum.org/press/2019/01/un-secretary-general-fragmented-response-to-global-risk-a-recipe-for-disaster/>

⁵ <http://www.unesco.org/new/en/unesco-liaison-office-in-new-york/areas-of-action/communication-and-information/icts-for-development/>

⁶ <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/egms/docs//2013/ict/final-report-egm-geneva-july2013.pdf>

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Ibid.



Persons with disabilities have also seen great benefits from ICTs, especially in the form of expanded ability to participate in society and have their voices be heard.⁹ Sessions of the Commission for Social Development in recent years have discussed the new facets and challenges that ICT freedoms bring to the world. An interesting factor in the world of ICTs is the ability to guarantee education to those who would not otherwise have had reliable access to critical tools, as ICTs can give a young person starting a business the ability to share that business, or a woman making her own income the ability to pay for bills online, or a person going back to school the ability to take classes from home.¹⁰ These potential for economic and social growth offered by developments such as those above have made it vital to secure and improve access to ICTs worldwide.¹¹

Topic C: Strengthening the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance

Streamlining and improving the way in which Humanitarian Assistance is delivered in times of crisis has been a topic the international community has tried to address many times over.¹² At present, the United Nations is working to streamline many of its organizations and pillars for the more effective use of funding and efficiency improvements of response times. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is the key group regarding the coordination of humanitarian assistance, as they create and direct the global emergency response to humanitarian crises.¹³ Excessive levels of bureaucracy often impedes a timely humanitarian response, an outcome that the streamlining mentioned above is intended to prevent.¹⁴ The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), which was created by the UN General Assembly meets to prepare for rapid and coherent responses to humanitarian crises.¹⁵ Their 2019 strategic priorities are enhancing operational responsiveness, accountability and inclusivity, outcomes of collective advocacy, humanitarian-development collaboration, and humanitarian resourcing.¹⁶

⁹ <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/egms/docs//2013/ict/final-report-egm-geneva-july2013.pdf>

¹⁰ <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/about-iasc-0>

¹¹ <https://undocs.org/E/2018/26>

¹² https://www.un.org/en/ga/63/plenary/E_ha_emergency.shtml

¹³ <https://www.unocha.org/our-work/coordination>

¹⁴ <https://www.unocha.org/es/themes/humanitarian-access>

¹⁵ <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/>

¹⁶ <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/about-iasc-0>



Food and Agriculture Organization Topic Summaries

Topic A: Improving Access to Markets for the Promotion of Food Security

Food security has been a longstanding goal of the international community and continues to be promoted through the Sustainable Development Agenda. It is estimated that by 2050, the world will need to increase food production by 70% in order to feed a larger, more urban, and, hopefully, wealthier global population.¹ Currently, smallholder farms and fisheries supply 80% of food produced in Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and Latin America and over 70% of the extremely poor live in rural areas with limited access to markets.² In order to adjust for this, the international community will need to overcome shrinking availability of arable land and water as well as boost the productivity and accessibility of markets.³ Access to local, domestic, and international agri-food markets helps to promote the economic independence of farmers and helps prevent food loss and food waste.⁴ Inclusive and accessible markets benefit producers, consumers, wage earners, and vulnerable populations through job creation and access to affordable goods and services.⁵ Access to markets also improves the quality and competitiveness of products, which in turn results in higher income, reduced migration, and empowerment of rural communities.⁶ Infrastructure investment, capacity building, policy reform, and local integration tactics are necessary steps in increasing access to markets for all populations.

Topic B: The Role of Science and Technology in Agricultural Development and Nutrition

Research has shown that sustained investment in agricultural science and technology helps to increase agricultural productivity, reduce poverty, and foster local and global economic growth.⁷ Science and technology have enabled great strides in the fight for food security and improved nutrition through improved soil management, crop fortification, improved tools and equipment and many other aspects of agricultural development.⁸ Practices such as biofortification are a highly effective approach to combat malnutrition and stands to benefit several hundred million people in the coming decades.⁹ While the international community has taken great strides to combat severe global hunger, as of 2017, about 795 million people globally remain undernourished.¹⁰ Science

¹ https://csis-prod.s3.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/legacy_files/files/publication/100622_Hebebrand_RoleOfMarkets_WEB.pdf

² <http://www.fao.org/cfs/home/activities/smallholders/en/>

³ Ibid.

⁴ <http://www.fao.org/europe/regional-initiatives/iatmi/market-access/en/>

⁵ http://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/partners/private_sector/IMD.html

⁶ <http://www.fao.org/europe/regional-initiatives/iatmi/market-access/en/>

⁷ <http://www.ifpri.org/topic/science-technology-and-innovation>

⁸ https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/ecn162017d3_en.pdf

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/CSTD2017_Issues02_STI_en.pdf



and technology can also improve the long-term viability of harvests, improve storage and transport practices, and improve the preservation of nutritional content in food.¹¹

Topic C: Strengthening National Capacity to Combat the Influence of Agricultural Production on Climate Change

Adapting food production to the effects of climate change is vital to ensure sustainable and reliable agricultural practices.¹² Agricultural production is one of the largest drivers of climate change and it is simultaneously the sector that is most affected by these changes.¹³ Projected effects of climate change such as temperature and rainfall pattern fluctuations will cause a significant decline in major staple crop productions if agricultural production practices do not adjust.¹⁴ Current agricultural practices limit freshwater resources, impact desertification, and have a large carbon footprint.¹⁵ Adaptation measures are vital in order to not only meet the food security and nutritional needs of a growing population, but also neutralize and hopefully reverse the influence of climate change.¹⁶ Agricultural production can be adapted in a multitude of ways in order to decrease its impact on climate change such as new cropping practices, water conservation practices, increased agrobiodiversity, and improved management of pest control practices.¹⁷ Significant and sustainable financial investments in agricultural capital and capacity will need to be put in place in order to enable Member States to adapt their domestic agricultural practices to accordingly combat climate change.¹⁸

¹¹ https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/CSTD2017_Issues02_STI_en.pdf

¹² https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/ecn162017d3_en.pdf

¹³ https://unctad.org/meetings/en/SessionalDocuments/CSTD2017_Issues02_STI_en.pdf

¹⁴ <http://www.fao.org/3/a-i2228e.pdf>

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ https://ccafs.cgiar.org/sites/default/files/assets/docs/accpolicy_english.pdf

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.



Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Topic Summaries

Topic A: Strengthening the Criminal Justice System to Better Address Gender-Based Violence

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a prominent issue throughout the international community that robs victims of their dignity, security, health, and autonomy. The international community has addressed gender-based violence on numerous occasions, but it persists throughout all countries and geographic regions.¹ GBV not only violates human rights, but it also restrains productivity, diminishes human capital, and undermines economic growth. Loopholes in criminal legislation, poor enforcement of criminal laws and regulations, lack of proper capacity in the criminal justice systems, diminishing and discriminatory attitudes among relevant professionals, and lack of sufficient and sustainable dedicated resources among Member States and their criminal justice systems attributes directly to continued GBV.² Therefore, strengthening criminal justice systems in all Member States through access to legal aid for survivors, understanding cultural patterns and traditions that influence criminal justice systems, and increasing the expediency of justice can allow for better reporting, prosecution, and punishment of perpetrators of gender-based violence and lead to the future prevention of gender-based violence.³

Topic B: Strengthening Prevention Measures and Criminal Justice Responses to Human Trafficking

Human trafficking is regulated by both the *United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime* and the *Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children*.⁴ Human trafficking is within the scope of international organized crime and, in a general sense, consists of the recruiting and transporting of persons for the purpose of exploitation.⁵ Traditionally, the criminal justice system has focused primarily on the penalty aspect of human trafficking and less on prevention measures and criminal justice response, which are both important and necessary steps to combat human trafficking.⁶ However, the criminal justice system requires a much more holistic approach which focuses on the criminalization of human trafficking in domestic law; the protection of victims during legal proceedings; measures to provide social and psychological recovery for survivors; compensation for damages suffered; and rules on the repatriation of victims.⁷ Generally, human trafficking is a crime in which multiple

¹ <https://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r104.htm>

²

<https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/handbook/Handbook%20for%20legislation%20on%20violence%20against%20women.pdf>

³ <https://undocs.org/a/res/65/228>

⁴ <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CTOC/travaux-preparatoires.html>

⁵ <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/human-trafficking/2011/first-aid-kit.html>

⁶ <http://projects.essex.ac.uk/ehrr/V3N1/Wuiling.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/protocoltraffickinginpersons.aspx>



Member States are involved, which creates inherent difficulties in preventing human trafficking due to the crime's transnational nature.⁸

Topic C: Establishing International Legal Norms to Counter the Scourge of Maritime Piracy

Piracy has existed for centuries and often times, “lawful piracy” was encouraged by states in order to attack foreign vessels and protect the state itself.⁹ As the importance of international maritime trade increased, an agreement was reached by states that piracy was unlawful, and piracy became the first example of a universally punishable crime during the 19th century.¹⁰ In 1958, the first internationally agreed upon definition of piracy was adopted in the *Convention on the High Seas*, which paved way for the most important document codifying international piracy law, the *United Nations Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS)*.¹¹ *UNCLOS* has been ratified by a large number of Member States signaling that *UNCLOS* is considered to largely codify existing customary international law. Despite the vast international framework to combat piracy, the prosecution of piracy remains problematic. Many Member States prefer the “catch and release” policy which often disarms pirates and releases them with sufficient fuel and food in order to reach land but doesn't criminally punish those who partake in piracy.¹² Many Member States have adopted this policy because of difficulties implementing piracy into their national legislation or due to the lack of adequate resources to assist in punishing piracy. Prosecuting pirates and piracy crimes is often a long and expensive process and Member States often do not have access to best practices enabling prosecution.

⁸ [https://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/An Introduction to Human Trafficking - Background Paper.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/An_Introduction_to_Human_Trafficking_-_Background_Paper.pdf)

⁹ http://www.nids.mod.go.jp/english/publication/kiyo/pdf/bulletin_e2002_2.pdf

¹⁰

<https://lawdigitalcommons.bc.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=https://www.google.com/&httpsredir=1&article=1078&context=iclr>

¹¹ https://treaties.un.org/doc/Treaties/1963/01/19630103%2002-00%20AM/Ch_XXI_01_2_3_4_5p.pdf

¹² <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/international-and-comparative-law-quarterly/article/counterpiracy-law-enforcement-and-human-rights/4DDFE463721681901FEEE1CE6A6FD750>



Security Council Topic Summaries

Topic A: Threats to Peace and Security Caused by Cyberterrorism

There exists in the international community the threat of large-scale cyber attacks that target national infrastructure with significant and devastating effects.¹ Therefore, there is an urgent need for innovative and coordinated action to prevent terrorist abuse of information and communication technologies.² As cyberterrorism and cybercrime is fairly new to the international stage, the international community has worked to adapt to the ever-changing tactics of cyberterrorists through strengthening infrastructure, establishing criminal responsibility for cyberterrorism and cybercrime, and encouraging the sharing of best practices to mitigate the risks of cyberterrorism.³ One way to abate the risk of harm caused by cyberterrorism is to equip Member States with the tools they need to protect vital infrastructures from cyber attacks, and to provide the resources to stay alert and engaged in their own cyber protection.⁴ Member States that remain informed on the risks of cyberterrorism and introduce efforts aimed at public awareness, engagement, and public-private partnerships toward the common goal of cyber protection, have a more resilient defense against cyber attacks and have a decreased threat to peace and security.⁵

Topic B: The Situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo

The current iteration of Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) began as a Belgium colony in 1908 and gained its independence in 1960.⁶ Since that time, the country has been marred by violence. The most recent violence commenced in 2009 when attempts were made to integrate the National Congress for the Defense of the People into the government.⁷ This group eventually defected from the military and formed a different military group which was defeated in 2013.⁸ One of the reasons for the violence is that fact that the country has a significant amount of mineral wealth.⁹ After elections were postponed for two years, they were finally held in 2018, but the results of this election were contested.¹⁰ While the opposition candidate, Felix Tshisekedi, was sworn in, violence has persisted throughout the DRC.¹¹ In addition to internal struggle, the country is also

1

https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/ctitf/sites/www.un.org.counterterrorism.ctitf/files/20181009_USGVoronkov_EN_MinskConf_PreventingCounteringTerrorismnDigitalAge.pdf

² Ibid.

³ <https://www.un.org/press/en/2017/sc12714.doc.htm>

⁴ <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/2341>

⁵ <https://undocs.org/a/res/73/266>

⁶ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/cg.html>

⁷ <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2009/country-chapters/democratic-republic-congo>

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-13283212>

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ <https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/02/14/dr-congo-post-election-killings-test-new-president>



experiencing multiple health crises. One of these is the world's second largest Ebola outbreak.¹² It has been especially difficult to combat this outbreak because Ebola centers have been attacked.¹³ In addition to Ebola outbreak, the World Health Organization reports that the pneumonic plague has broken out on the border between Uganda and the DRC.¹⁴

Topic C: The Protection of Civilians in Peacekeeping Operation

The responsibility to protect civilians includes all parts of a peacekeeping mission, civilian, military and police functions.¹⁵ All work done by peacekeepers, including action that requires the use of deadly force, is done so in line with the Protection of Civilian mandate (POC), which is guided by a set of agreed upon principles.¹⁶ Peacekeepers must always adhere to the POC, and any lapse in adherence constitutes misconduct, which must be prosecuted as a violation of international humanitarian law.¹⁷ Women and children must be especially protected in peacekeeping operations against any attack, particularly rape, or any form of indecent assault.¹⁸ Despite the protections and strict standards of conduct that have been put in place for peacekeeping operations, widespread accusations of abuse and misconduct have been reported in many peacekeeping operations.¹⁹ In addition to the special protection of socially vulnerable groups, there are limits to the actions and means of enforcement available to peacekeepers in order to respect and protect the human rights of civilians. For example, restricting access to food, or any other humanitarian resource, is strongly condemned.²⁰

¹² <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/03/community-mistrust-worsening-dr-congo-ebola-outbreak-study-190328062938247.html>

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2019/03/deadly-plague-breaks-uganda-congo-border-190314075949596.html>

¹⁵ <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/protection-of-civilians-mandate>

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ <https://undocs.org/st/sgb/1999/13>

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/04/world/americas/united-nations-sexual-abuse.html>

²⁰ http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2417.pdf