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Preparation Paper/Study Guide:

**First Committee - Disarmament and International Security
(DISEC)**

“Cyber Security and Digitalization”

1) Introduction to 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:

- General debate
- Thematic discussions
- Action on drafts

It is the only Main Committee of the General Assembly entitled to verbatim records coverage pursuant to Rule 58 (a) of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

Working Methods

Over the years, efforts have been made to rationalize the work of the Committee, concentrating on rearranging its agenda and improving its organization of work (see resolution 42/42 [N] of 30 November 1987).

- During the 48th session of the Assembly, in 1993, the item entitled “Rationalization of the work and reform of the agenda of the First Committee” was included in the agenda of the Assembly. Thereafter, the Assembly has focused on improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the First Committee (see resolutions 48/87 of 16 December 1993, 49/85 of 15 December 1994, 57/300 of 20 December 2002, 58/41 of 8 December 2003, 58/126 of 19 December 2003, 58/316 of 1 July 2004 and 59/95 of 3 December 2004).
- During the 59th session, in response to a request of the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on improving the effectiveness of the methods of work of the First Committee, a report compiling those views was submitted by the Secretariat (see A/59/132 and addenda 1 to 6).
- Since the 60th session, under the item “Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly”, the Committee has adopted its programme of work and timetable for the forthcoming session. Please also see the note by the Secretariat (A/C.1/68/INF/4).

Landmark Documents

- Resolution 1 (I): The very first General Assembly resolution, entitled “Establishment of a Commission to Deal with the Problems Raised by the Discovery of Atomic Energy”, was adopted on recommendation by the First Committee on 24 January 1946, in London.
- Resolution 1378 (XIV): The very first General Assembly resolution that was co-sponsored by all Member States at that time.
- Special sessions on disarmament (resolutions and decisions adopted at the 10th, 12th and 15th special sessions of the General Assembly)
 - A/S-10/4 (23 May – 30 June 1978)
 - A/S-12/6 (7 June – 10 July 1982)
 - A/S-15/6 (31 May – 25 June 1988)

Webcast

In line with General Assembly resolution 66/246, the formal meetings of the First Committee are webcast live on UN Web TV.

Live coverage of the formal meetings is available in the six UN official languages plus the original language of the speaker. Archive videos are also available on a [dedicated Committee page](#).

Electronic Resources

The First Committee is taking part in the implementation of [PaperSmart](#) meetings arrangement as a way of modernizing the working methods of the General Assembly and as a means of promoting sustainability and cost-effectiveness.

2) Introduction to the Topic (Article published on 23 January 2017 by [MIT Technology Review Custom](#))

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Cybersecurity in the Age of Digital Transformation

As companies embrace technologies such as the Internet of Things, big data, cloud, and mobility, security must be more than an afterthought. But in the digital era, the focus needs to shift from securing network perimeters to safeguarding data spread across systems, devices, and the cloud.

Technologies such as big data analytics, the Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain, and mobile computing are reinventing the way companies handle everything from decision making to customer service. The automation of virtually all business processes and the increasing digital connectedness of the entire value chain create agility, but they also significantly raise cybersecurity risks and threat levels.

The key to addressing those risks and threats is building security into applications, as well as into interconnected devices, right from the start.

Running IT systems in the cloud supports organizational flexibility. To that end, companies are increasingly moving both data and business functions (e.g., human resources and procurement) between the cloud and on-premises legacy systems.

But as companies embark on their journeys of digital transformation, they must make cybersecurity a top priority, says Michael Golz, CIO, SAP Americas. "We have to maintain confidentiality, integrity, and availability of data in all these contexts: on premises, in the cloud, and in hybrid environments," Golz says.

Both the value and the volume of data have never been higher, and end points are more vulnerable than ever. That's especially the case with the IoT, which is still in its infancy. As the IoT is extended to everything from industrial equipment to consumer devices, attacks are growing not just in number, but also in sophistication. Next-generation devices are now deployed in potentially vulnerable environments such as vehicles, hospitals, and energy plants, vastly increasing the risks to human welfare. Concerns about such devices being hacked, turned into botnets, and used to attack targeted computers and organizations are growing as well.

"Any vulnerabilities in the supply chain now have a wildfire effect that results in millions of dollars being lost and trust being destroyed on impact," says Justin Somaini, global CSO, SAP. "It used to take a while to exploit these weaknesses. Nowadays, it's very fast and the damage is immediate."

With the stakes so high, senior IT leaders, including both CIOs and CSOs, need to adopt a more proactive approach to securing critical data. Forensic analysis of what went wrong after a breach won't be enough to save lives—or C-level careers.

Focusing on Both Applications and Data

Cybersecurity professionals are accustomed to securing access to their networks and applications. But digital transformation leads to an explosion of connected environments where perimeter protection is no longer enough. Attackers and other malicious individuals will continue to compromise weak links, resulting in deep access to companies' networks, systems, and data.

In a digital world, the classic, contained enterprise network no longer exists. For that reason, security must be embedded into all applications as the first line of defense, Somaini says. To achieve that level of security, SAP favors the "security by default" approach, in which an application's embedded security controls are, by default, set at the highest levels of protection. "The idea is to build in security, rather than asking users to opt

in,” he says. That’s one of the hallmarks of being more proactive in securing data: protection is the default posture.

So-called “self-defending apps” are another example of proactive security. This active-protection technique provides applications with advanced access-control capabilities, allowing them to react to malicious source-code modifications and debugging at runtime. Encryption of all data in transit is another core tenet of preemptive cybersecurity, according to Somaini. SAP HANA, for example, features encryption services for data both at rest and in flight.

Among the most important factors for heading off insider threats are two-factor authentication (which verifies a user’s identity via two different methods) and role-based access controls (which limit the user’s access to data by job role), Golz says. “The insider threat is very real. There are a lot of data breaches today by people who have a legitimate authorization that is too broad. They get to see more than they are entitled to. Two-factor authentication dramatically increases the security of the communications.”

Bringing Two Worlds Together

The cybersecurity issues raised by digital transformation are driving the need for a better understanding between the organization’s cybersecurity professionals and those who provide application security. “Traditionally, those groups don’t speak the same language and don’t understand what the other side is doing,” Golz says.

Today, responsibility for cybersecurity is generally shared by the application team, which tends to focus on hardening and securing enterprise applications, and the cybersecurity professionals, who handle aspects such as access controls and firewalls. “Those are different roles, and they use different technologies and terms,” Golz says. Going forward, with the focus shifting from traditional network-perimeter security to securing application data, those two worlds need to join forces to prevent issues from falling through the cracks, he adds.

Digital transformation makes it essential that the cybersecurity and IT teams find a common understanding, a shared terminology, and a unified approach to securing applications and data. “Systems are being opened in ways that they weren’t before,” Golz explains. “There is more direct connectivity with suppliers, partners, customers, and consumers. There are tighter connections between a company’s Web presence and back-end systems. The seamless process flows mean more things can go wrong.”

When it comes to digitally transforming a company’s business, cybersecurity must be part of that conversation from the start. As a case in point, many companies now sell software along with their products. For example, a large industrial vendor such as GE today provides not just the equipment used in production environments but also subscription-based monitoring and maintenance services to ensure that equipment does not experience an unexpected outage. “That means all the challenges and requirements a software company faces now apply to you. The way you protect the data is paramount. It’s a whole set of new challenges,” Golz says.

As one of the top providers of business-critical applications, SAP will continue to build security into the heart of its applications and to secure cloud operations to protect content and transactions, Golz says. “We are working to help customers define, plan, and execute measures for their secure digital transformation.”

3) Points of VIMUN Negotiations and Resolution

Analyse the implications of cyber crime for the public and especially for the political sector (eg. national elections).

Analyse what the International Community can do.

4) How to Get Prepared

You probably cannot wait until it is the end of July and VIMUN is about to start – at least we cannot!

However, before the conference starts, there is still some work to be done.

You are the ones that fill the conference with life, that lead interesting discussions and fruitful debates and make innovative resolutions reality. This requires some preparation on your side. **While conducting research, try to keep in mind that your primary goal is to represent your country as realistically as possible.**

In advance to the conference we expect all delegates to research your state's position and become experts for the given agenda topic, to familiarize yourself with the rules of procedure (which you can find on our VIMUN homepage) and to practice your debating and writing skills.

Here are some useful hints on how to get prepared for the VIMUN conference:

Do Some Research

The first step after you have been assigned your state and committee will be to do some research in order to prepare for the conference. These are areas you should look into:

- The structure and history of the UN
- Your assigned member state
- Research your committee
- Your member state's role in the committee
- Your agenda topics

Central Questions that Should Guide your Research

- What sort of government does your country have?
- What types of ideologies (political, religious or other) influence your country's government?
- Which domestic issues might influence your country's foreign policy?
- What are some major events in your country's history? Why are they important?
- Which ethnicities, religions and languages can be found in your country?
- Where is your country located and how does its geography affect its political relationships?
- Which countries share a border with your country?
- Which countries are considered allies of your country?
- Which countries are considered enemies of your country?
- What are the characteristics of your country's economy?
- What is your country's gross domestic product (GDP)? How does this compare to other countries in the world?
- When did your country become a member of the UN?
- Does your country belong to any intergovernmental organizations outside the UN system such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) or the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)?
- Does your country belong to any regional organizations such as the European Union (EU), the African Union (AU) or the Organization of American States (OAS)?
- Does your country belong to any trade organizations or agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) or the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)?
- What are the key issues of your agenda topics?
- Why are these issues important?
- What are possible solutions?
- What is hindering those solutions?
- What has the UN (or other international agencies) done so far, in order to solve these problems?
- What should be done from the perspective of your state to resolve the issues?
- Which other states share your view, which are opposed to your position?

For further research apart from reading the study guide we greatly recommend:

- The UN homepage
- NGO (particularly those accredited by the UN)
- Country reports and data published by international or regional organizations such as the World Bank, WHO, OECD, APEC, etc.
- General socio-economic data: e.g. CIA World Factbook has served delegates in previous years in gaining a first overview of a particular member state
- Your country's government website
- Search for speeches made by your country on the topic
- Search for important resolutions regarding your topic

How to Write a Position Paper

Writing a position paper might appear to be a daunting task, especially for new delegates. But with enough research, you will find that writing a position paper will be easy and useful.

Position papers are usually one to one-and-a-half pages in length. Your position paper should include a brief introduction followed by a comprehensive breakdown of your country's position on the topics that are being discussed by the committee. A good position paper will not only provide facts but also make proposals for resolutions.

Many conferences will ask for specific details in a position paper, so be sure to include all the required information. Most conferences will provide delegates a background guide to the issue. Usually, the background guide will contain questions to consider. Make sure that your position paper answers these questions.

A good position paper will include:

- A brief introduction to your country and its history concerning the topic and committee;
- How the issue affects your country;
- Your country's policies with respect to the issue and your country's justification for these policies;
- Quotes from your country's leaders about the issue;
- Statistics to back up your country's position on the issue;
- Actions taken by your government with regard to the issue;
- Conventions and resolutions that your country has signed or ratified;
- UN actions that your country supported or opposed;
- What your country believes should be done to address the issue;
- What your country would like to accomplish in the committee's resolution; and
- How the positions of other countries affect your country's position.

Position Paper Tips

- **Keep it simple.** To communicate strongly and effectively, avoid flowery wording and stick to uncomplicated language and sentence structure.
- **Make it official.** Try to use the seal of your country or create an "official" letterhead for your position paper. The more realistic it looks, the more others will want to read it.
- **Get organized.** Give each separate idea or proposal its own paragraph. Make sure each paragraph starts with a topic sentence.
- **Cite your sources.** Use footnotes or endnotes to show where you found your facts and statistics. If you are unfamiliar with bibliographic form, look up the Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines at your school's library.
- **Read and reread.** Leave time to edit your position paper. Ask yourself if the organization of the paper makes sense and double-check your spelling and grammar.
- **Speech! Speech!** Do you plan to make an opening statement at your conference? A good position paper makes a great introductory speech. During debate, a good position paper will also help you to stick to your country's policies.

- **Let the bullets fly.** Try not to let your proposals become lost in a sea of information. For speechmaking, create a bulleted list of your proposals along with your most important facts and statistics so that you will not lose time looking for them during debate.

Sample Position Paper

Delegation of the **Republic of India**

Represented by **XXX**

Topic: Primary Education

The Republic of India acknowledges and has responded to the call of the United Nations for a universalization of primary education with fierce engagement and enthusiasm over the past 10 years. India firmly believes that the challenge of guaranteeing every child the opportunity to primary education can and shall be overcome by raising greater awareness among the public and by public involvement through respectful regional cooperation, e.g. the cooperation with Village Education Committees and Local Government substate Bodies. Furthermore it is crucial not only to focus on the quantity of students, but on the quality of the education they receive.

The Republic of India recognizes the need and urgency to address universal primary education. Primary Education is of crucial importance to India. Although India is still facing difficulties in its efforts to guarantee every child the education it deserves, the Indian country will not succumb, but face the challenge with effective policies which have shown immersive and lasting effects in the past.

In 2010 The Right of Free and Compulsory Education Act was ratified, making the fundamental Right To Education Act the first of its kind in the world, which puts the responsibility of ensuring enrollment, attendance and completion of primary education to the government. To enforce implementation of this act, India strongly supports its governmental organizations, which have brought positive long-term effects, e.g. "The Education for All"- Movement, which has as a main objective the universalization of elementary education, making education free and compulsory for children between 6-14 years. In addition to this program, India launched the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in 1995, revised and improved it over the last ten years. Mid-Day Meal Scheme, as the world's largest school feeding program, reaches 1.2 million children across the country.

Furthermore a stronger emphasis is put on unprivileged and disadvantaged sections of the Indian society. As a result to the 10th five year plan of India the joined forces to tackle illiteracy, the number of elementary schools has increased by 216.054, the number of enrolment in the lower and upper primary school classes has increased about 30 million students, only in the period between 2000 and 2006.

In the 11th five year plan of the Republic of India, the focus is set on achieving an 80%- literacy rate, on reducing the gender gap in literacy rate to 10%, to reduce dropout rates of children at the elementary level from 52, 2% in 2003-04 to 20% by 2011-12, and to support low literacy States, disadvantaged groups, minorities and to reduce regional, social and gender disparities and on granting the quality of the given education.

However, universal education cannot be established in isolation, therefore the Indian government has successfully joined hands with the UN on this matter, as extensive cooperation within the United Nations Development Program prove. Together we can bring the MDGs in achievable and reachable range. Therefore the issue of primary education should be discussed realistically and on a basis, where not only providing quantity, but quality plays an immense and even more important role. Due to India's ideals which are Socialism, Democracy, Justice, Equality, Fraternity the Indian Republic believes that the question on how to provide and ensure qualitative education with well-equipped and modern schools and on the basic training of teachers should be raised.

In conclusion, India is striving to guarantee its pupils the universal access to education, regardless of their gender. Moreover it is of the main concerns to support tribal States, rural areas, disadvantaged groups, religious/ethnic minorities and to extinguish any kind of disparities which influence the access to education. These main concerns remain to be: access, equity, quality, relevance, resources, planning and management of educational programmes.

Therefore the Republic of India highly approves of all expenditures which were made to tackle the problem of primary education and warmly welcomes every effort made on capacity building, modern education programmes, teacher training programmes and progressive use of instructional materials.

Sources

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How to Make an Opening Speech

- First, you should thank the presiding official by saying "Thank you Mr./ Madame/ Honorable Chair/ President..."
- Then begin by providing a brief history on the issue as it relates to your country.
- Speak about how the issue is currently affecting your country.
- your country's position on the issue. Include an explanation for your country's stance, such as economic or security concerns or political or religious ideology.
- You may choose to give an explanation of how your country's position relates to the positions of other member states such as the major powers or countries in your regional bloc.
- You should discuss some of the past actions taken by the UN, member states and NGOs to address the issue.
- Present ideas for a resolution, stressing your country's objectives for the resolution.
- Talk about the role that NGOs or regional organizations have to play in addressing the issue.
- Indicate to the committee members whether your country is willing to negotiate.

Vocabulary: Sample Preambulatory Phrases

Accept	Notes Proclaims	Designates
Affirms	Reaffirms	Draws the attention
Approves	Recommends	Emphasizes
Authorizes	Regrets	Encourages
Calls	Reminds	Endorses
Calls upon	Requests Solemnly affirms	Expresses its appreciation
Condemns	Strongly condemns Supports	Expresses its hope
Confirms	Takes note of Transmits Trusts	Further invites
Congratulates	Encourages	Further proclaims
Considers	Endorses	Further reminds
Declares accordingly	Expresses its appreciation	Further resolves
Deplores	Expresses its hope	Has resolved
Designates	Further invites	Further recommends
Draws the attention	Deplores	Further requests
Emphasizes		