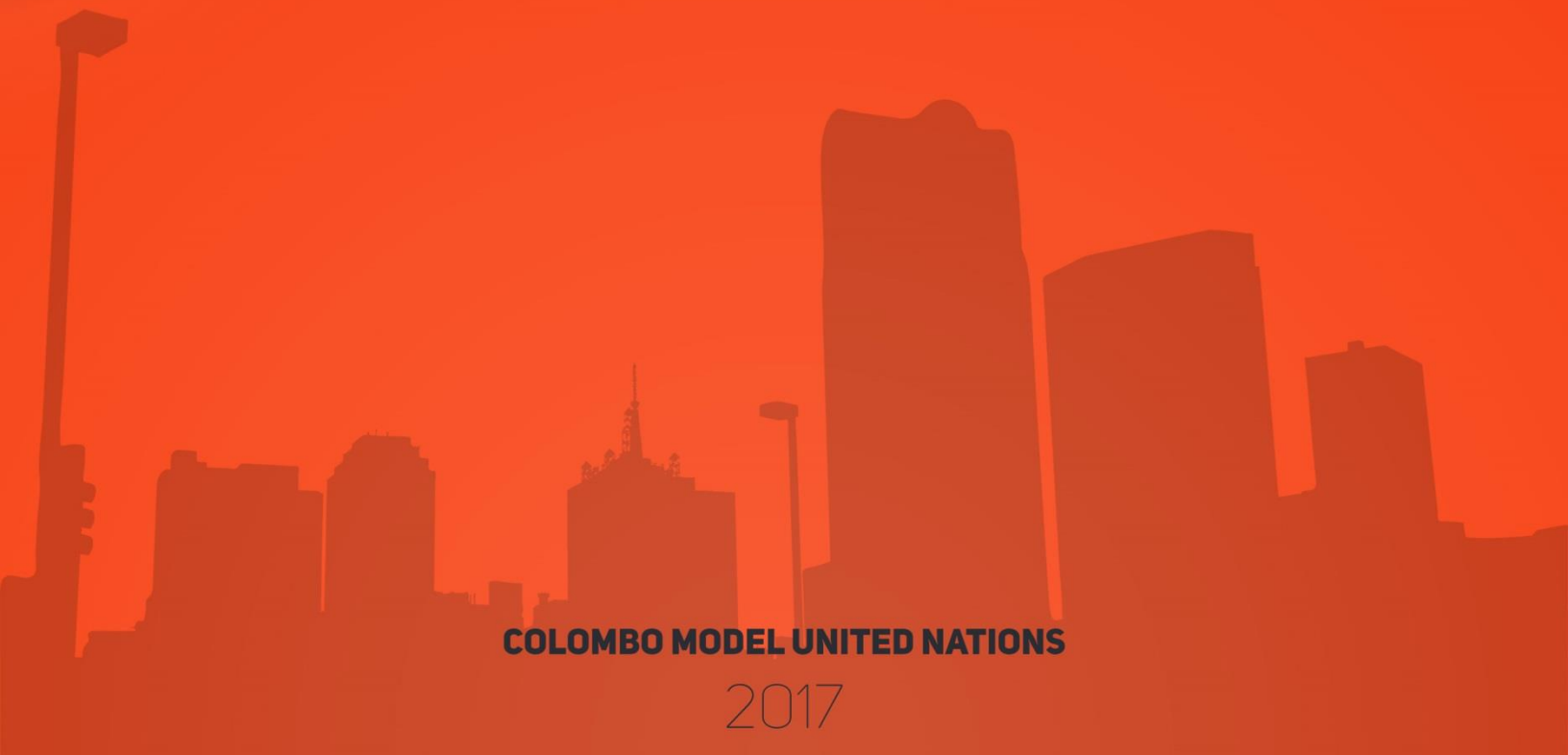
GA1

STUDY GUIDE

2017



COLOMBO MODEL UNITED NATIONS

2017

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 1

MANDATE

Established in 1945 under the UN Charter, the First Committee of the general assembly deals with disarmament and security issues. It seeks to provide solutions under the general principles of peaceful cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security. It works in Co-operation with United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Geneva based disarmament commission. The GA1 is also the only sub organ of GA entitled to verbatim records. The resolutions passed by the general assembly 1 are not legally binding however this does not mean they are ineffective. The resolutions passed by GA1 carries the opinion of a majority of United Nations member states meaning that every nation would have to take some consideration of the imperatives of the resolutions.

SPECIAL POWERS

The Uniting for Peace resolution gives the general assembly the power to consider any matter that has failed to be solved by the Security Council due to a veto or as put more broadly by the resolution itself “Lack of unanimity of permanent member states”. The UNGA may make recommendations to the UNSC or Authorize armed force if necessary. This has provided an avenue for the international community to bypass UNSC gridlocks. The resolution has been implemented a total of 12 times (Counting Korea (1951)).

PD1: ASSESSING AND ADDRESSING THE SECURITY CHALLENGES OF A POST ARAB SPRING MIDDLE EAST

BREAKDOWN

The Arab spring refers to a series of demonstrations and armed uprisings that gripped the Arab world post 2011.It started in Tunisia 2011 and quickly spread to other parts of the MENA region. The countries affected were:

1. Tunisia
2. Algeria
3. Jordan
4. Oman
5. Egypt
6. Yemen
7. Dijibouti
8. Somalia
9. Sudan
10. Iraq
11. Bahrain
12. Libya
13. Kuwait
14. Morocco
15. Mauritania
16. Lebanon
17. Saudi Arabia
18. Syria
19. Iran

Out of the following countries Egypt, Yemen, Libya and Tunisia had their governments overthrown. Libya experienced 2 civil wars and the Syrian civil war is still ongoing. It is important to note that in each of these conflicts state actors not directly party to the conflict and who are often outside the MENA region are often heavily involved. In the Libyan civil war NATO jets bombed pro Gaddafi forces and the French often supplied small arms to Libyan civilians. Russia and the USA continue to provide various forms of military assistance to parties involved in the Syrian conflict.

CONTEXT

All of these factors above have led to political instability, proliferation of small arms to militias increased presence of extremist organizations in the region. In fact ISIS managed to overrun large parts of Iraq with little resistance from Iraqi forces in early 2014. Combined with terrorist attacks on Tunisia, Egypt and France it is nearly impossible to discount the threat of terrorism in the region. With the refugee crisis happening simultaneous to these conflicts it opens up the very real possibility of violent extremists migrating to Europe to commit terrorist attacks.

Prominent terrorist organizations in the MENA regions
Yemen- AQAP,ISIS
Syria-ISIS, Al-Nusra Front
Libya-ISIS, Ansar Al Sharia
Iraq-ISIS
(Note: this is not a comprehensive list.)

State Actors outside currently participating in conflicts
Yemen-USA, Saudi Arabia and other gulf countries
Syria-Russia, USA
(Note: this is not a comprehensive list)

TALKING POINTS

- The proliferation of small arms in these internal conflicts.
- The increasingly prominent role of Islamic extremists in these conflicts.
- Discussing the most effective methods of preventing the infiltration of migrant camps and European countries by jihadists through the steady stream of refugees.
- The training of local armed forces in dealing with terrorist groups.

PD2: DISCUSSING THE USE OF PMCS IN CONFLICT ZONES WITH SPECIAL REGARDS TO UKRAINE AND SYRIA

BREAKDOWN:

The constant leverage towards commercializing security has brought a undeniable limelight for the discussion of this motion in the UNGA. *Prima facie* the countries in question make it clear to delegates were they expected to take the topic. Apart from the countries put into question delegates are expected to be well versed with their foreign policies of former global experiences with PMCs (i.e. Iraq).Topic requires delegates to be armed with the technicalities of past agreements (i.e. Monteux document, ICoC) in order to provide resolution. Since the topic immediately identifies key legal and security aspects necessary committees should be mentioned and understood in committee resolution.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT:

The widening of the scope of use of private military corporations in securing warfare has opened the lack of regularization of a number of stake holders exclusive of the civilians in play. The rights and accountability of the military personal and its penal code and whether or not they apply in certain occasions should all be made vivid through a resolution based mechanism of releasing its convolutions. Delegates are directed towards the proper understanding of the Geneva conventions and IHL in order to draw existing parallels and create new ones between the mentions of PMC's and rules governing it.

Personal from PMC are structured through a certain nomenclature in order to fit into existing rules and laws provided by the UN. They will be held accountable under domestic courts given certain requirements. Delegates are expected to motion out to specific committees that have the mandate to serve such points.

Hindsight will be a very important thing for delegates to grasp since most of the direction and flow of debate will be based on the delegate research into history. The opening of commissions or conventions will all be up for the delegates to decide.

To dwell slightly into hindsight, the motion explicitly states 2 nations which have been stakeholders for the use of PMCs (to understand any policy violations or any specific regarding IHL, delegates should be aware of the *Rules of Engagement* and the *Law of war).*Taking Ukraine into question, delegates should identify when exactly did PMCs appear in Ukraine and provide contrast to the struggle during 2013-2014. The sources of the PMCs and its roots in the United States of America should all be factors that delegates bring up in approaching resolution time. The government of Ukraine has economic ties between the People's Republic of China along with a number of strategic partnerships that have been signed, these too have played a part in the Ukraine situation, and therefore delegates are required to be very careful in dealing with these specific foreign policies.

Considering the use of PMCs in Syria, a lot of controversy is on use of the influence of Russia as well as the USA in his matter. Delegates must be well aware of the Syrian timeline and be able to discuss all possible margins of this topic with regards to Syria. The timeline of the country will aid you following a thematic action plan or strategy in approaching the topic. Delegates are requested to move into the subject of how Syria has been a military exercise in most occasions and little is given to the products of commercialization of warfare. Delegates should think of mechanisms of how and when PMCs are to be used if they are to be brought under the UN, when functioning in international territories or question its involvement with governments.

The legal aspect to the topic can be discussed in the general assembly but delegates are advised to be capable of using the resources provided by the UN in conducting specialized tasks.

TALKING POINTS:

- Syrian crisis and commercialization of warfare
- Ukraine timeline
- Lessons Learnt on past experiences with PMCs
- Analysis of PMCs currently active
- Designing a legal framework

PD3: THE ROLE OF REGIONAL ALLIANCES SUCH AS NATO IN GLOBAL CONFLICT RESOLUTION

BREAKDOWN:

The growing need for foreign policy, economic and political entanglement, reciprocity, and concurrence has made room for regional organizations to rise in a large scale. Though in most occasions this may lead to a financial root the security aspect cannot and should not be ignored. The topic deals with some prime areas of concern, paramount of which being the mention of NATO. Delegates are required to be well versed in the following key regions in order to proceed to not a rhetorical but rather an application based resolution.

Key areas of debate:
- Global Conflict assessment
- Regional Alliance and organization
- Timeline of RO activities in areas of contention

Delegates are required to understand that the mechanisms which regional alliances execute in order to establish what has been agreed upon is governed mostly by the UN.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT:

In approach to the topic the key areas of interest will extend from a security mandate to any link to the legal views that are required in the debate. Delegates are encouraged firstly to be creative on this ground while sticking to the general assembly mandate.

Currently NATO is active in Afghanistan, the Mediterranean, the Horn of Africa and in the middle east region. As the problem that has constantly been pointed out by member nations and stake holders in conflict, is the NATO's elaborate mandate that allows them to intervene even without approval from the UN.

Delegates are requested to go into deep analysis of the NATO (in specific) and its timeline. It should be noted that in a great number of occasions (i.e. Darfur, Somalia, Sudan) the UN security council has in fact approved of the NATO's involvement in peace keeping. Therefore as an approach delegates are requested to structure committee debate on the grounds in which the UN sanctions missions and has requested the NATO involvement especially with the crisis in Syria taken into play.

The recent NATO summit for the year 2016 took place in Warsaw, Poland. Delegates are required to draw attention to its talking points and recent agreements that have taken place. The primary reason for which NATO plays a big role is its UN mission that is colloquially known as the NATO- UN commitment.

In light of other regional organizations such ASEAN, CARICOM, Arab League and African Union it is important to note that decisions basically trickle down to the above mentioned areas of domestic organization.

In exclusion to the above mentioned major regional alliances and convention, delegates are expected to dwell into layers of terrorist development within said regions and well versed with activity timelines. Terrorism is given a mention here to encompass its grave relation to the committee mandate and to deal with primary goals of the regional organizations

Delegates are encouraged to site the committees that are mandated for certain legal and territorial tasks such as the ICJ, in provision to the requirements in areas of concern for the delegates in the committee. Due to the misuse of mandate and protocol over conference, delegates are required to be well aware of the mandate of the General Assembly and all agreed mandates of regional and sub regional alliances in order to cater to the geopolitical requirements that cannot be violated in establishing the final framework or resolution that the committee decides to implement. As a pointer for conference included, it is wise for a delegate to be able to structure committee time properly in bringing in agenda related to the topic such as the restructuring of UN organs.

TALKING POINTS:

- Current operational areas of NATO, with hindsight to military and political operations conducted.
- Definition of crisis management
- Foreign policy commitments to regional organizations
- SOFA and other strategic military mechanisms sanctioned by regional organizations
- Question of the Arab Spring with light to the mandate of the Arab League

CONFERENCE: THE ISSUE OF CYBER TERRORISM AND THE METHODS OF COMBATING ITS DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS

BREAKDOWN:

Cyber terrorism cannot always be dealt with, by claiming it has less identifiable sources or it isn't clearly defined. It is the GA's task to initiate any measures with the use of other required specialized committees. In recent times the MUN circuit in Sri Lanka has forgotten this simple fact and the dynamic nation of the GA1 when it comes to vast security threats like the one which has been focused on by the GA this year. Cyber crime can be state sponsored or anonymous, given both situations the multi lateral approach that was required by this area had constantly grown. A clear set of resolutions have passed by various organs and the General Assembly, therefore it is up to the delegates to conduct a proper R&D session in the committee room. Adequate time is present for the delegates to debate the history and developments in the cyber crime attacks, th question of the deep web and much more intense and technical topics. The Head table will be on their feet in looking into the specifics of solution based argumentation of the delegates.

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT:

The well known Budapest Convention (Convention on Cybercrime), that marked a watershed in the navigation and regulation of national cyber-security, has been under way for sometime after its initiation in the year 2001. It would greatly help the delegates if they are well versed with the countries that have ratified and to which extent this ratification has taken place is noted.

The UNCCPCJ (established by the ECOSC upon the request of the GA by resolution 46/152)and other such committees with the affiliation of the ECOSOC have been mandates for the task of preventing crime in cyber space. The newly found yet existing problems still prevail as regulation on this front is extremely difficult yet crucial. The necessary programming and procedure to be followed in implementation should be a main point of concern for the delegates. The committee should be aware of the country's foreign policies strictly since during conference violation of foreign policy will be heavily marked down on. Delegates that are capable of looking into the technical aspects of the organization of cyber terrorists and the legislatorial issues that arise with transnational activity will be able to come up with the required action plan for the committee.

The growth of connectivity has lead to it being realized a basic human need, even as a human right (quoted form Mark Zuckerberg). Therefore it is pivotal that the General Assembly identifies this and moves into how domestic legislature should encompass this, as it then trickles down to the operational units of a country. The drastic commercialization of the cyber arena is one to not be ignored. This form of commercialization acts as one of

the main reasons, amongst others, as to why it is providing opportunities for threats. The United States of America's Cyber Security Action Plan , which was recently put into motion is a good example of the inclusion of these said arguments into a strategy.

Delegates are expected to be able to identify even as to how and which organ should provide funding if a thematic action plan is brought up in committee debate. National view, foreign policy and adequate representation are all key factors that will go into the decision of the awards.

Special emphasis should be given by delegates on areas that the UN haven't monitored such as the growing threat of cyber warfare, terrorism and hacking which has enabled a lot of sensitive data to be very volatile. The legal views also can be put up for question and the required committees under the UN should be used in providing resolution.

The Study guide acts as a overview of what a chairperson loos for in a delegate to win the awards that they decide, it is pivotal that delegates think outside the box but at the same time use the chairs views to his or her advantage.

Rules of engagement and the identification of the rules of warfare in the internet and the ICT arena hasn't been put up for question and clear defined by the Unmaking it not clear to what the nations should follow in certain regards. It is up to the delegates to draw parallels between modern warfare and show how resource sharing and other such mechanisms can and should be used in the proper regulation of information in cyber space since this topic need to be exercised quickly, concisely and comprehensively.

TALKING POINTS:

- Regulations and rudiments of the deep web
- Encryption systems
- Pseudo Regulations in domestic appliance
- Mandate of the CCPCJ
- Resource sharing and neo terrorism
- Domestic National Plans on Cyber Terrorism
- Capacity Building and Pre-preventive measures in developing nations
- Specialized committee Identification and ad hoc committee establishment
- Crystallization of definitions
- Bilateral and Multi-Lateral Agreements (Council of Europe)