CyberSecurity: A New Priority Amongst Today's Most Developed Countries.
By Shalev Widen

Did you know, as of today, 2.3 billion people are at risk of having their personal records extorted? As Cyber Security becomes a higher concern for the nations of the world, it also becomes better grounds for discussion. Today the Security Council at Model United Nations San Antonio (MUNSA) XXIV discussed, examined, and analyzed the topic of cyber warfare and cybersecurity.

Around 25 delegates from a wide range of countries came together to address the growing problem of cyber-warfare and cybersecurity. In the first moderated caucus, the delegate of Poland was the first to speak and expressed concern over the increasing use of the internet to commence cyber attacks to steal, tamper with, and destroy information. When discussing this the country used Russia's cyberattack against Poland as an example. Sweden proposed adding a clause to the Geneva Convention (a convention that establishes the standards of international law for humanitarian treatment in war) to fight cyber warfare, and multiple countries agreed. Kuwait explained how cybersecurity is extremely important to them and talked about how they put one million dollars into protecting their online information. Following this, the U.S, Kuwait, and Bolivia brainstormed possible solutions including harsher penalties like sanctions and a U.N peacekeeping force.

A new moderated caucus was then passed, igniting a new conversation. Poland made a point which seemed to have great effect: before a clause can even begin to be considered, definitions for cyber attack and cyber warfare need to be created to better establish proper punishments. This, in turn, was followed up by the delegation of the Russian Federation providing a definition: "The use of technology to disrupt or destabilize a country… for financial or political gain." Shortly after, the United States proposed a new U.N body to combat cyber warfare. Sweden commented on that saying the new convention should focus on less developed countries that don't have the technology or resources to cope with cyber attacks as opposed to larger countries like the United States or China. Later in an interview, the delegation of Bolivia expressed concern over most of Latin America, stating they aren't technologically mature enough to defend themselves from cyber-attacks.

Another large topic of debate was punishments for cyber attacks. Sanctions were brought up multiple times by various countries as a suitable punishment. However, tension arose when the delegation of the Russian Federation proposed the idea of monitoring countries that are responsible for major cyber attacks, as opposed to sanctions. The U.S responded saying that it wasn't civil and privacy should be respected. The UK bounced back saying "it is a proven fact that the United States has used cyber technology to influence other countries."

Right after the 3rd session commenced, an unmoderated caucus was passed where resolution papers were drafted talking about large corporations or government parties to help protect nations against cyber attacks. The resolution paper was headed by the delegation of the United Kingdom and received signatures from the U.S, Kazakhstan, Sweden, Russia, and many others. A request was made for the caucus to be extended and it was lengthened by 15 minutes.

In those 15 extra minutes, solutions like starting a U.N council that would monitor cyberwarfare were discussed and created by the delegates. Throughout this first day, the Security Council was able to put many good ideas on the table, and although no foolproof solutions were proposed delegates were taking the right first step into having less cyber warfare.