

**Committee: Security Council****Topic: Cyber Warfare****Report of the Chairs**

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**I. Theme of the Conference**

Model United Nations San Antonio (MUNSA) is a conference dedicated to fostering authentic and passionate debate amongst delegates in order to generate solutions to current global issues. The theme of *MUNSA XXIV: Envision* encapsulates our mission to urge delegates to foresee a future in which these problems have been dissolved. With collaboration in mind, delegates from every committee are encouraged to visualize innovative resolutions and a prosperous world to come. Together, we will propel ourselves into an age in which brilliant ideas converge to transform our world and address its most paramount issues.

**II. Rationale**

Cyber warfare is used to disrupt a nation's computers or information networks through a computer virus or other technology-based attack. Nations in Europe, North America, and Asia are especially dependent on computers, and, therefore, are more vulnerable to cyber-attacks and information loss. These attacks can be used to target the infrastructure of a nation by shutting down airports, train stations, banks, and other personal information outlets.

**III. Background of the Topic**

Cyber warfare is a computer or network-based conflict involving politically motivated attacks by a nation-state or organized group.<sup>1</sup> Three common types of cyber-attacks include financial gain, disruption, and espionage. There are about ten different ways to execute those attacks.<sup>6</sup> As technology is ever-evolving, so are the attack techniques practiced against nation-states.

The first recognized cyber attack occurred in 1988 when hackers employed a “worm” to impair computers in the US. As of today, 2.3 billion people are at risk of having their personal records extorted.<sup>3</sup> The Director General of the United Nations recognized the occurrence of

cyber-attacks; however, the UN has yet to establish a treaty or resolution explicitly addressing cyber warfare.

#### **IV. Contemporary Evidence of the Topic**

The ramifications of cyber attacks can be felt in almost any developed nation-state. Almost 100,000 groups in 150 countries reported incidences of a Wannacry virus demanding ransom in cryptocurrency. Many affected countries do not have adequately developed security measures to counteract these attacks or rely too heavily on technology to maintain national infrastructure<sup>7</sup>.

Currently, no resolutions exist that directly address cyber warfare, and the issue has only been mentioned a few times by the Director General of the United Nations. Immediate action must be taken to address cyber warfare and its potential threats.

#### **V. References and Research Resources**

- 1) (n.d.). What is Cyberwarfare? - Definition from WhatIs.com. Retrieved from <https://searchsecurity.techtarget.com/definition/cyberwarfare>
- 2) Quora. "How Does Cyber Warfare Work?" *Forbes*, Forbes Magazine, 1 July 2014, <https://www.forbes.com/sites/quora/2013/07/18/how-does-cyber-warfare-work/#48462ab44ce8>.
- 3) Nato. "The History of Cyber Attacks - a Timeline." NATO Review, <https://www.nato.int/docu/review/2013/Cyber/timeline/EN/index.htm>.
- 4) "The UN Secretary-General's Call for Regulating Cyberwar Raises More Questions Than Answers." *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, <https://www.cfr.org/blog/un-secretary-generals-call-regulating-cyberwar-raises-more-questions-answers>.
- 5) "What Are Cyber Threats: How They Affect You and What to Do About Them." *The 5) Missing Report*, 28 Aug. 2019, <https://preyproject.com/blog/en/what-are-cyber-threats-how-they-affect-you-what-to-do-about-them/>.

- 6) Sobers, Rob. "60 Must-Know Cybersecurity Statistics for 2019." *Inside Out Security*, 17 Apr. 2019, <https://www.varonis.com/blog/cybersecurity-statistics/>.
- 7) Wheeler, T. (n.d.). In Cyberwar, There are No Rules. Retrieved from <https://foreignpolicy.com/2018/09/12/in-cyberwar-there-are-no-rules-cybersecurity-war-defense/>

## VI. Note to the Delegates

Greetings Delegates,

Thank you for attending the MUNSA XXIV conference and for joining us in Security Council. We are looking forward to moderating all of you in January! If you have any questions please don't be afraid to contact us.

Best Regards,

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## VII. Director General Contact Information

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