

## **Committee: Special Political and Decolonization Committee**

### **Topic: Managing the Removal of Unexploded Ordnances from Warzones**

#### **Report of the Chairs**

---

#### **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**

As international conflicts have grown in intensity, military technology has advanced quickly to match demand. Explosives, particularly mines, have devastated warzones and killed many. A great number of mines and explosives remain in war zones today and are known as unexploded ordnances (UXOs). Over 70 people are killed or badly injured by these explosives every day.<sup>1</sup> Today, many countries are still affected by UXOs, with many innocent civilians frequently being killed or mutilated. Victims who survive have to live with missing limbs, burns, and other injuries and are often unable to execute basic tasks. Currently, there are about 110 million active explosives planted in the ground and 100 stockpiled around the world.<sup>2</sup> This committee encourages delegates to collaborate in order to discover solutions that create a safer environment for all.

#### **III. Background of the Topic**

Explosives were used more frequently in the past and resulted in extremely high rates of civilian deaths and injuries. Although the implementation of explosives and landmines is decreasing exponentially, casualties from these mines remain an issue. Eighty percent of

incidents involve civilians, and a majority involve children. Victims who survive these explosions are often left with post-traumatic stress disorder and anxiety. Landmines also have a devastating impact on wildlife and nature.<sup>4</sup> Governments have lost track of the locations of mines previously used in war, which poses an enormous threat to civilians.

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

Currently, there are an estimated 76 million unexploded mines. 78 countries possess unexploded ordnances, which kill 15,000 to 20,000 people a year and injure countless more. In 2017, Algeria and Mozambique were declared free of landmines; however, 67 countries still have active mines and stockpiled UXOs. Between 2016 and 2018, the Houthi forces laid approximately 300,000 landmines.<sup>3</sup> In the past, the Houthi forces have been known for placing UXOs near the coast, key cities, and roads. Plantation workers have also been seriously injured by encounters with UXOs. This problem can be resolved through collaboration and cooperation.<sup>5</sup>

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

1. Jordan, S. (2018, August 14). Northcom Leader Pushing for Modernization of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology. Retrieved from Northcom Leader Pushing for Modernization of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technology
2. (2019, July 3). landmines, explosive remnants of war, weapons of societal disruption. Retrieved from <https://research.un.org/en/mines/statistics>
3. Frost, A., Boyle, P., Autier, P., King, C., Zwijnenburg, W., Hewitson, D. and Sullivan, R. (2019). The effect of explosive remnants of war on global public health: a systematic mixed-studies review using narrative synthesis. [online] ScienceDirect. Available at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S2468266717300993> [Accessed 10 Sep. 2019].
4. Airforce.com. (2019). *U.S. Air Force - Career Detail - Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD)*. [online] Available at: <https://www.airforce.com/careers/detail/explosive-ordnance-disposal-eod> [Accessed 10 Sep. 2019].

5. Goarmy.com. (2019). *Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Specialist Jobs (89D)*.  
[online] Available at:  
<https://www.goarmy.com/careers-and-jobs/browse-career-and-job-categories/intelligence-and-combat-support/explosive-ordnance-disposal-specialist.html> [Accessed 10 Sep. 2019].

## **VI. Note to the Delegates**

Thank you for deciding to participate in MUNSA XXIV. The experiences at MUNSA will allow you to explore the complexity of the world, accumulate knowledge, and find what YOU can do to take action and find solutions! We encourage you to take advantage of your time during and before the conference to actively engage in debate and to build research skills. If you have any questions, comments and/or concerns, please contact us. We look forward to meeting you come January 2019 and wish for a successful two days!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact us.

- Harrison Doyle - [hdoyle7324@stu.neisd.net](mailto:hdoyle7324@stu.neisd.net)
- Lamya Abidi - [labidi6999@stu.neisd.net](mailto:labidi6999@stu.neisd.net)

---

## **VII. Director General Contact Information**

Joseph Ruelas - [jruelas4856@stu.neisd.net](mailto:jruelas4856@stu.neisd.net)

Dana Marion - [dm Marion0455@stu.neisd.net](mailto:dm Marion0455@stu.neisd.net)