

## **Committee: Disarm**

### **Topic: Urging the Regulation of Biological 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**

Finding ways to regulate biological warfare along with preventing and containing biological outbreaks is this committee's main focus. Every region of the world is at risk of being subjected to the effects of biological warfare. A bacteria or virus engineered to kill would result in a global epidemic upon its release, as many countries would not have the resources to combat the issue.<sup>1</sup> Terrorists may even access biological weapons and use them against a country. For example, a group of people laced anthrax letters to send to U.S senators, which killed five people.<sup>3</sup> Terrorists can acquire biological weapons through the black market; however, only sixteen countries around the world, including China, Cuba, France, Syria, North Korea, Russia, and the United States, have access to biological warfare. The spread of these weapons would endanger the lives of many and must be stopped.<sup>4</sup> The world would be much safer without the threat of terrorists gaining access to a bioweapon or even a country's bio lab contents escaping, causing a major outbreak. Bioterrorism resurfaced after March of 1995 when a terrorist in Japan attacked a subway with sarin gas. This warfare cannot continue to exist as a silent killer. This committee foresees a future without the threat of bioweapons terrorizing our world.<sup>3</sup>

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

Biological warfare is the use of biological toxins or infectious agents, such as bacteria, viruses, and fungi, with the intent of killing or incapacitating humans, animals, and plants as an act of war.<sup>1</sup> Biological warfare was first utilized in World War 1 by Germany and was also implemented in World War II by the Japanese. Various countries have established bio labs, England being the first in 1972, and conducted testings as an intimidation tactic. Recently, foreign countries such as Russia and the People's Democratic Republic of Korea have continued the development of biological weapons in retaliation against enemies to their state.<sup>4</sup>

After seeing the suffering that occurred from utilizing biowarfare during WWI, the Geneva Protocol was enacted in 1925.<sup>4</sup> This treaty prohibited the use of chemical and biological weapons in international armed conflicts; however, because there weren't any official ramifications, the protocol was not effectively enforced. As a result of this, many violations from foreign countries that have occurred since World War I have not been punished. In the end, countries that have suffered biological attacks have adapted to deal with the prominence of these new diseases.<sup>2</sup>

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

Biowarfare may be used to target a single location; however, everyone is at risk because of how rapidly diseases spread without warning. Developed countries, such as the United States, have established concealed detectors designed to detect bioweapons, including anthrax, in public areas. Unfortunately, various terrorist organizations possess bioweapons or the tools needed to develop new weapons.<sup>4</sup>

It is difficult to detect bio attacks because they are often utilized as acts of terrorism. The UN instituted the Biological Warfare Convention (BWC) in 1975, which banned the development, production, and stockpiling of biological weapons.<sup>2</sup> A solution is necessary because abrupt outbreaks of an unfamiliar disease have the power to cause sudden mass destruction.

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

1. *The Biological Threat* | NTI. (2015). *Nti.org*. Retrieved 6 September 2019, from <https://www.nti.org/learn/biological/>
2. *Biological warfare*. (2013). *En.wikipedia.org*. Retrieved 6 September 2019, from [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biological\\_warfare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biological_warfare)
3. *Hackers could have breached US bioterrorism defenses for years, records show. We'll never know if they did*. (2019). *Task & Purpose*. Retrieved 6 September 2019, from <https://taskandpurpose.com/us-bioterrorism-defense-cybersecurity-vulnerabilities>
4. Edmond Hooker, D. (2019). *Biological Warfare Facts & History of Biological Agents*. *eMedicineHealth*. Retrieved 6 September 2019, from [https://www.emedicinehealth.com/biological\\_warfare/article\\_em.htm](https://www.emedicinehealth.com/biological_warfare/article_em.htm)

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

Greetings, Delegates! We are looking forward to your intuitive problem-solving skills and cannot wait to see what this conference has in store for you. We are eager to witness your abilities to collaborate and provide inventive responses pertaining to the Disarmament Committee. Below you can find our information if you wish to contact us for information relevant to the topic or any other necessary preparations. We are enthusiastic to work alongside you at the upcoming MUNSA XXIV Conference in January!

Best Wishes,

Chloe Steele ([csteele4351@stu.neisd.net](mailto:csteele4351@stu.neisd.net))

Madison Stevenson ([mstevenson6028@stu.neisd.net](mailto:mstevenson6028@stu.neisd.net))

Axel Wilson ([awilson4071@stu.neisd.net](mailto:awilson4071@stu.neisd.net))

Alejandra Luna ([aluna4542@stu.neisd.net](mailto:aluna4542@stu.neisd.net))

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## **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)