Ayelet Friedman

Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC): Welcome Paper

YUNMUN XXXVII

Distinguished Delegates,

It is with great excitement that I welcome you to YUNMUN XXXVI! My name is Ayelet Friedman, and it is my privilege to serve as your Chair for the United Nations Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC). I am eager to guide you through what promises to be a challenging and rewarding committee experience.

To introduce myself: I was raised in Baltimore, Maryland, where I attended Bais Yaakov, and later continued my studies at MMY in Israel. I am currently a senior at Yeshiva University, pursuing a dual degree in Political Science and Philosophy with a concentration in international studies. My academic and professional aspirations are directed toward law school, with a focus on human rights advocacy and international relations. So it is safe to say – our conversations should be quite interesting.

This marks my third year chairing for YUNMUN, and I am eager to once again facilitate meaningful debate on issues of global relevance. Beyond my involvement in YUNMUN, I serve as a Sacks-Herenstein Leadership Scholar; I am the E.I.C. of the YU Political Science journal, *The Clarion*; and I was a Resident Advisor and the Shabbat Coordinator at Stern. Outside of YU, I am actively engaged with the Tikvah Fund and AIPAC, and I have gained valuable experience through various think tanks, as well as internships in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. These experiences have significantly strengthened my commitment to policy, leadership, and international cooperation, values that I hope will guide our committee's work throughout the conference.

DISEC was established as the First Committee of the General Assembly and was mandated to address security threats to international peace and security. Originally focused on nuclear disarmament and state-to-state arms control, its mandate has expanded dramatically to address modern 21st-century challenges, where threats are no longer just missiles and armies, but lines of

code and autonomous algorithms. DISEC operates at the intersection of security, technology, and international law.

At the center of DISEC's mandate is its commitment to maintaining international stability while respecting state sovereignty and international law. As technology evolves faster than our legal frameworks may adapt, our committee must find a balance between preventing new forms of violence and protecting legitimate technological innovation as well as freedom of information.[1] Therefore, this year, our committee will focus on two of the most pressing and relevant security dilemmas of our time.

Our first topic at hand: **the Proliferation of Untraceable Firearms: Regulating 3D-Printed Ghost Guns and Digital Blueprints.** What was once considered a futuristic hypothetical is now our global reality! For less than $500, you can now print your *very own* functional, untraceable firearms from blueprints (downloaded via Telegram and other encrypted platforms). INTERPOL has documented a sharp rise in the seizures of these weapons, which have no serial numbers and evade all traditional tracing mechanisms under the International Tracing Instrument and the Arms Trade Treaty.[2] It's that easy! As a result, this issue forces the international community to find a bridge between regulating these digital files and whether such restrictions would infringe on free expression.

Our second topic remains within the realm of international technological development, yet we face a far more unsettling dilemma: AI warfare. We have all debated the risks of AI in our everyday lives, but we have yet to face its most chilling implication: giving it the authority to kill. We will debate **Accountability and Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems (LAWS)**. Perhaps one of the most profound moral debates of our generation, this topic examines what happens when artificial intelligence is given the power to select and kill a target without meaningful human influence. If an autonomous drone, as allegedly seen in Libya in 2020, misidentifies a civilian convoy and engages, who is responsible?[3] The programmer? Or perhaps the commander? Even the state? Or no one! Since 2017, the Group of Governmental Experts on

[1] United Nations General Assembly. "First Committee (Disarmament and International Security)." UNGA Rules of Procedure
[2] INTERPOL. "INTERPOL Report on 3D-Printed Firearms and Illicit Manufacturing." November 2022
[3] United Nations Security Council. Final report of the Panel of Experts on Libya, S/2021/229, March 8, 2021

LAWS under the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons has been deadlocked on whether we need a legally binding ban on fully autonomous weapons or whether existing international humanitarian law is sufficient.[4]

Delegates will consider how the international community can navigate the rapid advancement of emerging technologies and the long-term regulatory challenges they present, as well as the immediate security and ethical crisis posed by AI in warfare.

As you prepare for the conference, keep in mind that you are representing the official stance of your assigned country rather than your personal opinions. I strongly encourage you to conduct thorough research so that you arrive ready to engage in substantive and thought-provoking debate. When drafting your position papers, you must follow **YUNMUN's updated AI policy: UG 1, Polish, with disclosure.** You may use AI to check and correct the grammar, vocabulary, spelling, and mechanics of text you have already written. AI may not generate, rewrite, or restructure your content, and any use of AI must be disclosed. In this committee, we encourage original ideas, and you will be rewarded accordingly.

Please also keep in mind that DISEC delegates should be juniors, seniors, or select students with relevant prior experience.

I look forward to convening, collaborating, and drafting resolutions that balance urgent security needs with long-term ethical considerations. I am beyond eager to review your research and witness how you merge your creative approaches into a wonderfully stimulating conversation.

Please feel free to email me at afried21@mail.yu.edu or wedabestatdisec@gmail.com (because we are) with any questions or comments leading up to the conference. I am here for you! You got this.

Warm regards,

Ayelet Meisels

Chair, Disarmament and International Security Committee

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[4] UN CCW. Group of Governmental Experts on LAWS, 11 Guiding Principles, CCW/MSP/2019/9, 2019