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**BACKGROUND GUIDE**



## **Letter from the Chairs**

Welcome delegates!

It brings us immense joy to greet you all and we truly are honored that you all have decided to spend your time, during a crucial period, where you will be faced with the pressures of academics and simultaneously strive to work harder as you all compete to promote the agendas of your allocated nations. Along with working hand in hand with your peers to provide a longstanding, majority consensual solution.

MUN's provide that complacent balance between the finer points of a conference, including the development of soft skills together with those of critical analysis, evaluation as well as networking. We highly recommend you get a head-start on your research! Our main advice to you is that you be into what you're doing. Keeping a full mind on debate will help you notice the tiniest of details which you can use for your speeches. For any information or questions, feel free to contact us. We wish you the best of luck for the conference and look forward to seeing you!

Sincerely,

**Chairs of the DISEC**

**Gisha Reji & Arjun Kumar**

## *Disarmament and International Security Committee*

The United Nations Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) was the first committee established in the General Assembly when the charter of the United Nations was signed in 1945. It considers all disarmament and international security matters within the scope of the Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any other organ of the United Nations. The Committee comprises all member nations of the United Nations, and even though its mandate is limited to recommendations, it has proven to be one of the most influential bodies in the United Nations. Chapter IV, Article 11 of the United Nations Charter outlines the role of DISEC and its fundamental principle as cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security. Therefore, DISEC is in charge of global challenges concerning disarmament and manages issues affecting the international community in the sphere of international security management. As DISEC is a General Assembly Committee, they do not have the mandate to deploy a mission in the fight against international terrorism. They instead focus on the establishment of conventions and treaties to prevent attacks and the use of weapons for terroristic issues. With that being said, it is important to note that DISEC can only consider matters of international security, in case these issues are not already under the Security Council. DISEC adopts its resolutions with a simple majority, in which all member states have equally weighted votes.

## ***“Neo-colonialism and its impact on International peace and security”***

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, neo-colonialism is a word used to describe the use of economic, political, cultural, or other pressures to control or influence other countries, especially former dependencies. When the UN started in 1945, about a third of the world’s population lived in territories under colonial rule. Now, there remain only 17 non-self-governing territories with fewer than 2 million people living under colonial rule. As a result of decolonization and independence, many countries have joined the UN. Even though many of these countries may seem independent of colonial rule, the influence of the colonizers still exists in the day-to-day lives of those who live in these countries.

This influence is mostly seen in less developed countries who are controlled by developed countries through indirect capitalistic means such as transnational corporations and previous economic arrangements. These colonizers had set up economic systems in these smaller states that allowed for seemingly extensive exploitation. These influences practically annihilate the potential for the development of smaller states and contribute to the capital gain of developed countries.

The leaders of these independent colonies are under the impression that former colonialists are superior and more civilized and look up to these imperialists when it comes to politics, economics, religion, and education. This, in turn, encourages people to practice laws and cultural practices of the colonialists rather than improving their own indigenous culture and practices. Through neo-colonialism, the former ruler aims at colonial subjugation. These colonizers make sure these independent colonies remain dependent on them but indirectly.

### **Keywords**

**Colonialism** - Broadly construed, the term colonialism can be described as the deliberate imposition of the rules and policies of a nation on another nation. Its strategy is the forced placement of a nation over another that gives room for the opportunity to exploit the colonized nation to facilitate the economic development of the colonialist home state.

**Decolonization** - The term decolonization can be described as the abolishment of colonialism and the enthronement of a people/nation’s powers over its own territories. It is typically referred to as not merely as independence from colonialism but a total liberation from the influences and powers of imperial neocolonialism.

**Neo-colonialism** - Neocolonialism is the practice of using economics, globalization, cultural imperialism, and conditional aid to influence a developing country instead of the previous colonial methods of direct military control or indirect political control.

**Imperialism** - An understanding of the basic modus operandi of imperialism suggests that foreign governments can govern a territory without a significant settlement, quite unlike colonialism in which settlement is a key feature. Imperialism is merely an exercise of power over the conquered regions without immigration of any form or in simple words Imperialism is a policy or ideology of extending the rule or authority of a country over other countries and people, often by military force or by gaining political and economic control.

**Cultural Imperialism** - The term cultural imperialism refers most broadly to the exercise of domination in cultural relationships in which the values, practices, and meanings of a powerful foreign culture are imposed upon one or more native cultures.

**Hegemony** - Hegemony is the political, economic, or military predominance or control of one state over others.

**Cultural Hegemony** - In Marxist philosophy, cultural hegemony is the domination of a culturally diverse society by the ruling class who manipulate the culture of that society, the beliefs, explanations, perceptions, and values so that the imposed, ruling-class worldview becomes the accepted cultural norm.

## **History**

The emergence of the term neo-colonization can be traced back to European policies in the 20th century. The term was first used to refer to the continuing dependence of former colonies countries. Jean-Paul Stare was one of the first to express the term through his works. In his work “Colonialism and Neo-colonialism (1964)”, he argued for the immediate disengagement of France’s grip on their ex-colonies referring to France’s grip on Algeria during its post-independence period. Soon after this terminology was soon used by many other French thinkers such as Frantz Fanon and Jacques Derrida. However, as years passed by the meaning has evolved vastly after being exposed to many circumstances internationally and has been used to describe a variety of contexts since its first use during the post-WWII period. Neo-colonialism can also be looked through from a Marxist perspective. Marx viewed it as a part of the global capitalist system, which has led to social change, exploitation, and uneven development and robbed the indigenous people of health and opportunities. He

argued it was destructive and produced dependency. Marxist theory blames neo-colonialism and colonialism for poverty within the world system.

Now different methods are applied to implement neo-colonialism, resulting in manipulation, control, and infringement of international treaties and arrays. Economically, colonial powers would maintain direct trade treaties with their ex-colonies and guarantee these powers advantageous benefits. These benefits include the exclusive imposition of foreign currency and the complete dominance of banking policies and departments. Political influence would include political system execution, military presence, and restructuring of government personnel through foreign laws that benefit the colonial power.

The most evident impact of neo-colonialism is the use of colonizers' language in the country even after years of independence. This impact can be seen in Francophone countries in Africa and other parts of the world. This is one of the major and most manipulative impacts of neo-colonialism. This cultural influence plays a huge role in the nation's well being and peace. This impact has created distress in many countries throughout the world during their post-independence period leading to social clashes, civil war, and discrimination caused by citizens mimicking colonial thoughts that were based on western ideologies.

## **Key Issues**

Neocolonialism has been considered to pose a more dangerous threat than colonialism. Since neo-colonialism implies a state of dependence, newly formed nations are unable to develop beneficially, not only nationally, but regionally. The activities of the corporations in Africa, particularly those from Europe and America reveal nothing but economic exploitation and cultural domination. To this day, more than one million Chinese are African residents, and Chinese investment in Africa exceeds 40 billion dollars. Their culture has been spread throughout the continent. The United States of America is another core country that is heavily invested in neo-colonial quests. One of the shrewd concepts that illustrate the worldwide flow of American culture by mostly economic means is called "Coca-Colonization". This concept calls attention to Coca-Cola's global prevalence as a symbol for the Americanization of nearly every corner of the earth. Through huge multinational corporations such as Coca-Cola, American values and culture have been strongly instilled all over the world. As one of the most dominant countries in the world, there are certainly many other tools that America uses to engage in neo-colonialism. Growing countries such as China and India need to secure access to fuel and food to provide for their citizens, and neo-colonialism has been shown to allow them the influence to exchange access to these resources.

Diplomatic power also seems to be a motive to engage in neo-colonialism. Even if they don't agree, countries that are dependent on another nation may feel obliged to act in the wishes of their neo-colonizer as a puppet state. Although Britain may have continued to maintain an

indirect economic influence through multinational corporations on its former colonies, the direct effects of British's neo-colonial socio-political and political ideologies have diminished significantly over the years. However, the West, in general, maintains an indirect form of domination over all developing African countries through means such as loans from the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This form of neocolonialism is done through foreign aids or foreign direct investments where strict or severe financial conditionalities are imposed. Such conditionality often renders the neocolonial state compliant to the economic and sometimes political will of the foreign donor.

## **Major parties involved**

### **1. UNITED NATIONS**

The United Nation set up a special committee on decolonization in the year 1961. It is officially known as the "Special Committee on the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence of Colonial Countries and Peoples". This committee is better known as the "C-24". The committee was set up to ensure the implementation of Decolonisation. Though the UN and its other organs such as the Economic and Social Council, these former colonies were able to go through impressive political and economic changes and bring in development.

### **2. INTERNATIONAL BANKS**

countries are granted loans by an organization such as the World Bank, the IMF, the Group of 9, and the World economic forum. These countries heavily in debt are often unable to pay the loans taken and fall largely in control of these banks. These organizations are meant to help the countries they help flourish and develop; however, the burden of debt and repayment is so heavy on these countries that their current economic problems aggravate.

### **3. MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS (MNCs)**

MNCs exert an immense influence on poorer countries. MNCs exploit cheap labor pools instead of building lasting improvements. As a result, the host country is unable to make any progress and become heavily dependent upon these MNCs. This halts the development process in the country and results in a high rate of unemployment, an increase in poverty, and a low per capita income in the country.

### **4. FRANCE**

France's soft power can be seen in the usage of the French language in Francophone countries. These Francophone countries include India, Egypt, Lebanon, and many other

countries especially in *Francafrique* countries. France has the highest level of military engagement with Africa with over 3,000 troops deployed in many parts of Africa. France also has development aid and diplomatic commitments across Africa.

## 5. CHINA

China's global capitulating power can be seen in many sectors. The major influence can be seen in the "Made in China" label seen in products ranging from toys to electronics to cooking appliances around the world. China has established the protection of sea lanes that are critical for the transport of energy and has also established military facilities to protect China's growing global interests. China has implemented the Belt and Road program to increase trade and connectivity between Asia and Africa and Europe. However, this program can undermine the sovereignty of many nations. China's propensity to conduct negotiations behind closed doors has resulted in a debt trap for the partner country with most of the work in the partner country going to Chinese state-owned countries.

### **Past efforts to resolve the issue**

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 19th May 2015 recalled that, since the birth of the United Nations 70 years ago, more than 80 nations once under colonial rule, with some 750 million inhabitants, were now sovereign Member States. The international community had an obligation to ensure that a full measure of self-government was achieved in the remaining Territories. In that connection, he urged all to work towards the fulfillment of that "noble goal" before the end of the Third International Decade of decolonization in 2020. Let us look at a few attempts taken to solve this issue:- An All African People's Conference (AAPC), a movement of political groups from countries in Africa under colonial rule held conferences in the late 1950s and early 1960s in Accra, Ghana. At the AAPC's "1961 Resolution on Neocolonialism," the term *neocolonialism* was given its first official definition. It was described as the deliberate and continued survival of the colonial system in independent African states, by turning these states into victims of political, mental, economic, social, military, and technical forms of domination carried out through indirect and subtle means that did not include direct violence.

- December 14th, 1960 Resolution 1514 calling for a prompt and unconditional end to colonialism in all its forms and manifestations
- December 21st, 1965 Resolution 2106 reaffirming the condemning of colonialism and all segregationist and discriminatory practices
- November 22nd, 1988 Resolution 43/47 declaring 1990/2000 the international decade for the eradication of colonialism



- December 8th, 1997 Resolution 55/146 declaring 2001-2010 second international decade for eradication of colonialism in all form

The United Nations General Assembly resolution 3201 (s-vi): declaration on the establishment of a new international economic order and The United Nations General Assembly resolution 3202 (s-vi): a program of action on the establishment of a new international economic order are few other attempts made to solve the issue.

## Timeline

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>EVENT</u>
<b>1776</b>	Thirteen colonies of British America declare their independence from Great Britain
<b>1852</b>	Montenegro declares their independence from the Ottoman Empire. In 1918, voluntarily united with Serbia as Yugoslavia.
<b>1867</b>	Canada is granted self-autonomy by the United Kingdom.
<b>1869</b>	Serbia declares its full independence from the Ottoman Empire, renamed as Yugoslavia in 1918.
<b>1877-1912</b>	The United Principalities of Romania, Bulgaria, and Albania declare their independence from the Ottoman Empire.
<b>1916-1918</b>	Proclaimed the independence of Russian Poland as a new kingdom. Finland, Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, Republic of Georgia, Republic of Armenia, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania declared independence, although still occupied by the Soviet Union until 1991.

<b>1918</b>	Bohemia, Moravia, and sections of Silesia, Galicia, and Hungary declare their independence as Czechoslovakia from Austria-Hungary.
<b>1991</b>	Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, Armenia, Union Georgia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, and Turkmenistan became independent from the Soviet Union.
<b>2000-2010</b>	Foreign investment in Africa, primary from the Middle East and Asia, spikes.
<b>2008</b>	Daewoo, a South Korean company signs a 99-year lease in Madagascar for about 1.3 million hectares.
<b>2011</b>	South Sudan formally achieves independence

## **Focusing questions**

1. What are the major factors that make these countries vulnerable to neo-colonialism?
2. What activities should countries be allowed to conduct in other countries?
3. Will the dependency of third world countries on other countries continue?
4. Are western countries playing the role of policemen in other countries? Is this the major reason why neo-colonialism still exists?
5. How can local governing be strengthened in countries that are being subject to neo-colonialism so as to eradicate their dependency in the future?

## **Recommended readings**

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# ***“The Establishment of a Middle Eastern Nuclear Weapons Free Zone”***

A nuclear-weapons-free zone is a designated zone (NWFZ) where the nations within the area have prohibited the possession, manufacturing, and testing of nuclear weapons. Middle East Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone is a United Nations-driven proposal to prohibit nuclear weapons in the Middle East which has been in progress since 1974. There have been various resolutions introduced over the years for the formation of the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone but none has lived to its promise. During the 1991 Madrid Peace Convention, a new group was established; Arms Control and Regional Security (ARCS) which is a group focused on the move of the international community toward a Middle Eastern Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone (MENWFZ).

However, the Arms Control and Regional Security talks collapsed in 1995 as a result of Israeli opposition. The Middle East Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone was opposed by Israel as it felt a pre-condition of an Israeli-Arab peace settlement was necessary for the formation of the Middle East Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone. Israel would be in favor of the Middle East Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone only if the pre-condition was considered in a more inclusive arrangement. But, also in 1995 the United States of America, the United Kingdom, and the federation of Russia introduced a resolution in the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference which was agreed by all active members of the treaty.

The current status of the Middle East Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone lies in a gray area. Post Non-Proliferation Treaty review conference in 2010, a plan of action was formed for the establishment of a Middle East Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone prohibiting nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction in the region and a conference was scheduled to be held in Finland in 2012. However, no agreement was reached on the program and various issues, in the end, the conference was called off in November 2012. There have been various attempts for the creation of the nuclear-free zone in the middle east yet there have been objections and doubt for every initiative that was proposed.

## **Key Terms**

1. ***The Middle East:*** The Middle East is a region that encompasses Western Asia, Iran, Turkey, and Egypt.
2. ***NWFZ (Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone):*** An agreement between nations in a treaty or convention that prohibits the possession, manufacturing, and testing of nuclear weapons within a particular region.

3. ***MENWFZ (Middle East Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone)***: The Middle East Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone is a United Nations proposition to impede the possession, manufacturing, and testing of nuclear weapons in the Middle East region.
4. ***ARCS (Arms Control and Regional Security)***: The Arms Control and Regional Security was formed in the 1991 Madrid Peace convention with the intention of peace talks between Israel and its neighbors. Along with providing scope for the formation of the MENWFZ.
5. ***WMD (Weapons of Mass Destructions)***: Weapons of Mass Destructions are weapons that have the caliber to cause significant damage to living beings and man-made structures. These include the likes of nuclear weapons, chemical weapons, bioweapons, etc.
6. ***NPT (Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons)***: The NPT is an international treaty with the agenda of preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote cooperation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament.
7. ***IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency)***: The IAEA is an international organization which intends the peaceful practice of nuclear energy. It strives for discovering the usage of nuclear energy for warfare, especially in the creation of nuclear weapons. The organization was formed in July 1957.

## Timeline

<i>Year</i>	<i>Event</i>	<i>Relevance</i>
1974	United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) approves resolution #3236	Endorsement of establishing an in the Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone in the Middle East
1980	Israel joins international consensus	United Nations General Assembly can pass a resolution without a vote
1989	International Atomic Energy Agency Secretariat publishes a report	Technical Study on Different Modalities of Application of Safeguards in the Middle East.

1990	Conference on Disarmament in Geneva	Egyptian proposal to establish an expanded Weapons Of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East is first submitted
1991	International Atomic Energy Agency General Conference passes resolution	Resolution is on the Application of International Atomic Energy Agency Safeguards in the Middle East
1991	UN Security Council Resolution #687	Ratifies goal of establishing a Weapons Of Mass Destructions Free Zone in the Middle East
1992	Discussions on regional arms control begin under the Arms Control and Regional Security Group (ACRS)	Talks were placed on hold following a disagreement between Israel and Egypt
1995	Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference	Passed a resolution calling upon states in the Middle East to take practical steps for progress in the establishment of
2000	Non-Proliferation Treaty Review conference	Reaffirms the goal of the 1995 Middle East Resolution
2006	Weapons Of Mass Destructions Commission Final Report is issued	Calls for an increase of international efforts to establish a Weapons Of Mass Destructions Free Zone in the Middle East.
2010	Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference	Approves five practical steps towards the goal of establishing a Weapons Of Mass Destructions Free Zone in the Middle East, Weapons Of Mass Destructions Free Zone facilitator is appointed.

2011	International Atomic Energy Agency headquarters meeting	Two-day meetings were held and proposals by 97 nations towards the goal of establishing A in the Middle East were discussed.
2012	Conference postponed	The conference on the establishment of a Weapons Of Mass Destructions Free Zone in the Middle East is postponed by the USA.
2013-14	Consultations for the Middle East States	Five consultations are held for the states to examine moving forward on establishing an agenda for the conference.
2015	Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference	The draft final document was presented which called for a new plan for moving forward on a conference to establish the zone. The USA, UK, and Canada opposed the document based on these requirements, thus preventing consensus and the adoption of the final document.
2018	UN General Assembly adopts a review resolution	The resolution calls upon the UN secretary-general to convene a conference on taking forward a Weapons of Mass Destructions-free zone in the Middle East in 2019 and every year thereafter until a zone is achieved.
2019	New York Conference	22 nations attended the first formal session of a conference process that will hold annual meetings to discuss the goal of establishing a Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone and Weapons of Mass Destructions-free zone.. Israel did not attend

## **Main issues**

1. ***Existence of Weapons of Mass Destructions in conflict areas:*** The Middle East is a region with tensions continually brewing amongst states, quite fatally at times. There is no guarantee of 'responsible' use of weapons, and the extent to which states can go is unpredictable, especially considering their violent histories. This existence of conflict areas in the middle east also provides the opportunity for non-state actors with influence in the region to possibly gain access to weapons of mass destruction. The threat of Weapons of Mass Destructions ending up in the wrong hands would be calamitous for all the parties involved.
2. ***Non-cooperation of states in the middle east:*** The Middle East is infamous for states that do not bode well together. Due to a lack of cooperation and consensus to agree on terms and conditions, there arises conflict in these zones that lead to delays in decision makings and agreements, this has been seen particularly in the case of the Middle East Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone. This can already be seen with the lack of cooperation by certain states in the middle east such as Iran and Israel. This is especially concerning as this may lead up to a greater disagreement on future treaties or agreements which could be fought through proxy wars or nuclear warfare which the countries would possess, which leads us to our next biggest concern.
3. ***Failure to practically implement past treaties:*** The United Nations General Assembly first approved a resolution in December 1974, proposed by Iran and Egypt, calling for the establishment of a Nuclear Weapons Free Zone in the Middle east. The resolution had since been passed in the UN General Assembly every year without the need for a vote and had been ratified within several UN Security Council resolutions, till 2018. There has been extensive international support and the resolutions have been endorsed by all states. However, despite numerous meetings and conferences to review this effort over the years, there has been no successful step towards practical implementation.

## **Major Parties Involved**

### ***Egypt***

The iconic UN General Assembly resolution 3236 to establish a Nuclear-Weapons Free-Zone in the Middle East was first proposed jointly, by Egypt and Israel. In 1990, Egypt also expanded on the proposal, now calling upon the establishment of a complete



Weapons-Of-Mass-Destruction Free-Zone. They have since been actively and continually striving towards efforts to meet the goal.

### ***Iran***

Iran first proposed the milestone UN General Assembly resolution #3226 with Egypt to establish a Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone In the Middle East, they have since been actively pursuing to meet the goal. Iran has also been working with the other Arab Nations through this effort to demolish Israel's clandestine nuclear weapons program.

### ***Israel***

At first Israel was on board and ready for international cooperation to establish a Middle East Nuclear-Weapons-Free Zone in the middle east due to which the UN General Assembly resolution had been annually passed without a vote. However, in recent times due to disagreement on the terms and conditions of the Weapons Of Mass Destruction Free Zone with the Arab Nations, Israel has started opposing the effort with the support of the USA, Canada, and EU member Nations. They view the Arab Nations' pursuit to be negatively targeted towards Israel.

### ***The United States of America***

One of the sponsors of the 1995 resolutions, the USA has since drastically changed its view on the establishment of a Weapons Of Mass Destruction Free Zone in the Middle East. In 2012, the USA postponed the conference on discussing the Weapons Of Mass Destruction Free Zone , hindering progressive efforts. In 2018, the USA further conveyed their opposition by voting against the UN General Assembly review resolution that called for the UNSG to convene a conference every year discussing the goal until the Weapons Of Mass Destruction Free Zone is established.

## **Questions to consider**

1. How can security guarantees be given to reinforce the process of the zone's establishment?
2. What are the implications of non-compliance?
3. What role will the peaceful use of nuclear energy, as well as nuclear safety and security, play in future discussions?
4. What would happen to existing Weapons Of Mass Destruction Free Zone and nuclear weapons capabilities?

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