



1st Disarmament and International Security Committee

President: Hanna Aglaé Martínez Montero

Moderator: Sebastián Martínez Sánchez

Conference Officer: Nirel Nava García



WELCOME LETTER TO DELEGATES

Dear delegates,

It is a true honor to welcome you to the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC). This goes beyond a standard greeting or routine exercise, it's a direct call to action.

We all know the feeling after turning off the news or closing our screens. The state of the world today is deeply concerning and, at times, overwhelming. It's completely natural, while sitting behind a desk studying, to wonder:

"What difference can I really make as a student?"

As your Chair, we want to ask you to throw that idea out the window. The biggest shifts in diplomacy were never driven by unapproachable figures; they were driven by young, brave minds who dared to question the status quo when staying silent would have been easier. In this committee, we're not here to read off cold stats or memorize treaties on a page. Every number you come across in your research represents real human lives, broken communities, and millions of people hoping for peace. We want this experience to spark deep empathy, critical thinking, and the courage to push for real solutions where others see dead ends. Your ideas are more than welcome here; they are essential.

Approach your preparation with the seriousness the world demands, but also with the confidence that this space belongs to you. From day one, you're not in this alone. We aren't here to judge your mistakes, but to support your growth. Consider us a bridge to help turn your doubts into confidence, and a team you can count on every step of the way. Trust your ability as much as we already trust your potential.

Beyond the intensity of debate, we want you to enjoy every single second of this journey. Allow yourselves to truly live this MUN, not just as an academic challenge, but as an experience that will stay with you forever. In between the negotiations and the resolution drafts, you'll discover an incredible community. You'll meet people who share your passion and walk away with friendships that might just last a lifetime. Prepare your positions thoroughly, question everything, lead with heart, and let this experience impact you even before stepping into the committee room.

The story of DISEC starts today, and you are the ones writing it.

With great admiration,

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ABOUT THE COMMITTEE

As documented by the United Nations Department of Global Communications (UN, 2023), when the Charter of the United Nations was signed in San Francisco back in 1945, the founders faced a crucial decision: out of all the challenges facing a broken world, where should international cooperation actually start?

The answer was written directly into Article 11, establishing the Disarmament and International Security Committee, known ever since simply as The First Committee, created in 1945 as the very first of the General Assembly's six main bodies. Before turning to economic development or social progress, the international community agreed on one fundamental truth: none of those goals matter if nations cannot keep each other safe.

That origin story defines everything about how DISEC operates today. Rather than reacting to wars after they break out, this committee was built to tackle the root causes of global conflict, focusing on arms control, non-proliferation, and establishing clear boundaries for state behavior. Working alongside specialized bodies like the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), established to support disarmament efforts at all multilateral levels, DISEC addresses the full spectrum of modern threats, from nuclear arsenals to emerging cyber tactics and conventional arms oversight.

Unlike the Security Council, where five permanent members hold veto power, DISEC operates under the principle of sovereign equality: every single Member State of the United Nations has an equal voice and an equal vote.

The committee's agenda is broadly organized into seven distinct thematic clusters that cover the entire landscape of global vulnerability:

- Nuclear Weapons:

Preventing proliferation, securing existing stockpiles, and advancing toward complete nuclear disarmament.

- Other Weapons of Mass Destruction:

Monitoring chemical and biological threats under strict international verification.

- Outer Space (Disarmament Aspects):

Preventing an arms race in Earth's orbit and safeguarding satellite infrastructure.

- Conventional Weapons:

Controlling small arms trafficking, regulating ammunition supplies, and clearing landmines from former combat zones.

- Regional Disarmament and Security:

Addressing localized arms races and confidence-building measures in volatile zones.

- Other Disarmament Measures and International Security:

Regulating emerging military technologies, autonomous systems, and cyber warfare.

- Disarmament Machinery:

Strengthening the institutional framework of global peace councils.

What makes DISEC particularly unique is its direct relationship with the rest of the UN structure. While its resolutions represent recommendations rather than binding mandates, DISEC possesses the explicit authority under Article 11 to submit proposals directly to the UN Security Council. In practice, this means the discussions happening in this room set the agenda for the highest decision-making bodies on earth, turning delegate recommendations into the baseline for international security law.

The world of international security is no longer confined to traditional battlefields or formal declarations of war. Today's diplomats in DISEC face a dual crisis: maintaining decades of hard-won historical frameworks while rapidly modernizing policies for threats that the 1945 founders could never have imagined.

For decades, foundational agreements like the *Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT)*, the *Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)*, and the *Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)* served as the bedrock of global stability. However, the rise of asymmetric warfare, nonstate armed groups, 3D printed untraceable weaponry, autonomous drone swarms, and malicious cyber infrastructure has stretched these traditional treaties to their limits..

You chose DISEC for its rigor and relevance. The issues on our agenda press against the volatile edges of international order, where national interests clash, alliances are tested, and strategic decisions directly shape regional stability.

When the doors close and the first motion is called, you won't just be debating policies; you will be navigating the delicate, high-stakes game that dictates peace itself.

Success in this committee demands strategic clarity, diplomatic poise, and a principled vision for international security.

The MUN is waiting. We'll see you on the floor.

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TOPIC A: Mitigating the Social and Urban Impacts of the underground use and distribution of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Small Arms and Light Weapons, ranging from handguns and assault rifles to portable air defense systems, are frequently described by United Nations experts as the true weapons of mass destruction of our era due to their incalculable human cost. The trafficking and entry of these weapons into the underground market fracture community life in cities and leave local governments without the tools to maintain order (Mishra, 2026). In urban centers, black-market weapons fuel a continuous cycle of violence where transnational criminal networks and armed gangs contest territorial control, disrupt local commerce, and displace local authorities by imposing their own control over the community. This directly compromises civilian safety, leading to the disruption of essential public services, the collapse of emergency medical care due to firearm trauma, and forced internal displacement. According to a June 2026 report by UN News, the landscape has become increasingly complex with the rise of untraceable ghost guns assembled from unregistered kits and 3D printing technologies, which evade traditional serial marking and challenge international law enforcement tracking mechanisms.

Why is it important for DISEC?

This topic is of critical importance to the Disarmament and International Security Committee because the boundaries between traditional armed conflict and urban criminal violence have become increasingly blurred. Illicit arms flows directly weaken state institutional authority and territorial control, compromise peacebuilding operations, and hinder progress toward Sustainable Development Goal 16.4 on reducing illicit arms flows (Martin, 2026). DISEC provides the essential multilateral platform to modernize international agreements, such as the International Tracing Instrument and the UN Program of Action, adapting global security measures to the digital age and integrating border control policies with municipal social mitigation strategies.

While attention is usually focused on how weapons enter cities, a practical detail is often overlooked: a weapon alone cannot function without a constant supply of consumables to operate it. Unlike a metal weapon that can last for decades on the streets, armed groups rely on a continuous supply chain to maintain their presence and control. Delegates must analyze which elements of this supply chain go unnoticed and how the lack of control over these inventories allows urban violence to persist over time.

To truly stop criminal networks in cities requires looking beyond the weapons themselves, we have to dismantle bullets, financial sources, and illegal delivery channels. According to United Nations disarmament officials speaking at the Ninth Biennial Meeting of States (Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, 2026), a weapon without ammunition is completely useless, yet international tracking rules often treat bullet control as a secondary issue.

To guide the committee's deliberations, delegates should address several key questions:

1. If your country is an arms exporter: What measures does your government take to prevent them from ending up in other countries' black markets? If your country is a recipient and suffers from urban violence: How do you hold the nations where these weapons are manufactured accountable?
2. In what ways does your state's national legislation on the purchase, sale, or manufacture of weapons and supplies affect the security of neighboring countries, and how willing is your government to modify its domestic laws for an international agreement?
3. Given the rise of ghost guns, should the international community regulate the sale and software of 3D printers and assembly kits, or should it be the responsibility of each state to monitor these technologies within its borders?
4. What specific programs or strategies has your state implemented to reduce illicit weaponry in cities, and how could these models be replicated in other countries?
5. Beyond traditional policing, what other resources and security infrastructure can your country provide or request to curb arms trafficking?

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TOPIC B: Standardizing Cooperation for the Clearance of Explosive Remnants of War and Landmines in Urban Environments

When a war ends, the firing stops, but the danger does not. For decades, the global international community understood landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) as hazards of open terrain, hidden threats buried under farm soil, desert sands, or distant border paths. But modern warfare has fundamentally changed. As noted by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC, 2025), armed conflicts have moved into densely populated cities, turning concrete homes, school corridors, and municipal water plants into frontline battlegrounds. The tragic consequence is that when armies pull back, they leave behind an invisible, static enemy.

Unexploded artillery shells, undetonated aerial bombs, and improvised landmines do not disappear when peace treaties are signed. They lie buried beneath tons of unstable rubble, trapped inside high rise residential buildings, and tangled in city power grids. Every day, displaced families returning home face a terrifying reality: the simple act of stepping over a pile of bricks to find a lost belonging or turning on a water valve can instantly trigger a lethal detonation. Urban explosive contamination paralyzes entire cities. It freezes humanitarian aid, halts emergency medical response and, as highlighted by UN News (2026), global demining work is increasingly strained by rising conflicts and shrinking aid, locking communities in a permanent state of fear, proving that a city cannot truly rebuild while its very ground remains weaponized.

Why is it important for DISEC?

The clearance of explosive hazards in urban environments presents a security crisis that traditional, open-field demining techniques were never designed to solve. In a rural field, deminers can clear land using heavy machinery, metal detectors, or controlled detonations. In a city, using heavy machinery can collapse an unstable building on civilians, metal detectors are blinded by the endless rebar in reinforced concrete, and a controlled explosion can rupture municipal gas lines or destroy vital clean water infrastructure.

As the General Assembly's principal body for multilateral security policy, DISEC holds the political responsibility to modernize international mine-action frameworks. Existing treaties such as the *Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (Ottawa Treaty)* and the *Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW)* were forged in an era of rural warfare. Today, DISEC serves as the necessary global platform to establish binding operational standards, govern real-time hazard mapping in urban zones, and drive technological cooperation (such as high-precision autonomous detection and specialized structural engineering tools) to protect human life without destroying essential civic infrastructure.

While public attention naturally focuses on the brave technicians disarming individual bombs, a critical operational bottleneck goes almost entirely unnoticed: urban mine action cannot be separated from city reconstruction. Clearing a city street requires specialized,

multi-agency coordination between military, engineers, municipal utility workers, and international aid teams .

To guide the committee's deliberations, delegates should address several key questions:

1. How do the unique physical challenges of urban environments alter your nation's national demining protocols, and what specialized technology or training can your state provide or require?
2. Should DISEC advocate for a unified, legally binding international standard specifically for urban mine action clearance, or should operational protocols remain flexible guidelines managed strictly by host national authorities?
3. Property & Infrastructure Rights: What legal and practical frameworks does your country support regarding the demining of privately-owned urban properties, heritage sites, and critical public utilities without violating property rights or compromising civilian safety?
4. Given the astronomical financial and technological costs of urban clearance, what formal mechanisms should be established to guarantee fair resource allocation and technological transfer from high-income donor states to affected, developing nations?
5. Beyond technical clearance, what long-term frameworks, such as urban risk education, digital hazard mapping apps, and victim assistance strategies, has your state implemented to protect populations living alongside uncleared urban rubble?

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Upload your position paper via the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vsHPK1P70MyvGA7yRcRdfSl3m3i-55bL?usp=sharing>

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*"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful,
committed citizens can change the world;
indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."* —

Margaret Mead