THE SPECIAL POLITICAL AND DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE

TOPIC BULLETIN

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CHAIRS

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Academy Model United Nations
- THE TWENTY-SECOND ANNUAL CONFERENCE -

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Hello, delegates!

My name is Anjali Anbu, I'm a junior in the Engineering academy at BCA, and I am SO EXCITED to chair your SPECPOL committee this AMUN XXII! This has always been one of my favorite committees, and being able to chair this committee means a lot to me. I hope that I can show all of you the interesting, multifaceted discussions we can have in a committee like SPECPOL, which, I believe, is truly the perfect harmony between all of the various types of General Assembly committees held by the United Nations.

A little bit about my experience on BCA's MUN team: being a member of the Model UN travel team here at BCA has been one of the most rewarding experiences that I've been able to partake in during my time here. I have been to 10 different conferences since I first joined the team as a freshman, including conferences at Yale, Princeton, and George Washington University, and I always make sure to learn something new at every single one. In this AMUN XXII committee, I hope that you not only have the opportunity to improve your skills as a delegate--writing working papers and amendments, giving persuasive speeches, and working as a group with passionate blocs--but that you also take a moment to see what you can learn from the other delegates who have come to debate alongside you in committee. From all the conferences I have been to, I believe it is AMUN that provides both an accessible experience for new delegates while also providing a challenge for experienced ones, and I hope every single one of you can walk away from our conference next February having at least learned something new.

Okay, I know that was a pretty long rant about what I hope you get from Model UN, but I should tell you a little bit about myself as a person before I sign off this letter. The first thing you should know about me is that I love cats. And dogs, of course dogs, but also cats. The second thing you should know about me is that I am allergic to cats, and clearly I needed to fill this cat-less void with something, so I chose yarn. I love knitting and crocheting, especially while reading, and I'm currently spending my time either studying or studying while crocheting ear savers for front line workers. Like my co-chair, Devin Crowley, I'm also a lifelong learner, and, as nerdy as it might sound, I genuinely enjoy learning new things every day, especially beyond my schoolwork. Outside of schoolwork--I swear, schoolwork and studying aren't all I do!--I really enjoy reading and watching video games on YouTube because I can't make the commitment to actually play the games myself. (If you like Fire Emblem: Three Houses, the Persona series, or Zero Escape, or have any video game recommendations that I should watch, send me an email; it's at the end of this letter.) Anyway, this letter is long enough as is, so I won't continue--I'm really looking forward to meeting every single one of you as delegates and as people this February, and I can't wait to get to know your unique debating styles in committee. <3

Best,
Anjali Anbu, Chair, SPECPOL
anjanb22@bergen.org

Hi, delegates!

My name is Devin Crowley, I am a junior in the Academy of Technology and Computer Science at BCA, and I am privileged to be a chair of your AMUN XXII for the SPECPOL committee! I'm hoping to engage you all in a spirited conversation about the ways in which the United Nations is involved in these issues of human rights and regulations. SPECPOL is one of my favorite committees to be a part of, and I hope I allow each and every one of you to have similar experiences as I have had. We chose topics that we hope will engage both your political side as well as an empathetic side of your inner civil leader.

Since joining the Model UN team here at BCA during the middle of my sophomore year, I have found delegates whom I consider to be not only spirited debaters who will not give me a minute of comfort but also friends who will back me up when I need it most. Though I am fairly new to the team, I have participated in last year's AMUN, as well as chairing the WHO committee for BCA's very own JAMUN. Due to COVID, my experience with college conferences has been limited, but I've made sure to continue debating and furthering the conversation online through digital communication and conferences. I will try my best to give you an accurate, authentic, and most importantly welcome MUN experience. Anjali and I will do our best to ensure you, your blocs, and your fellow delegates foster good communication and grow and nurture the excellent ideas you bring with you.

A bit about me: I have been involved in formal debating since middle school and will always give someone a hard time if I feel they are sitting a bit too pretty. Outside of politics, I'm an avid computer scientist and life-long learner. I appreciate the opportunities I have been given in and out of the classroom. I know eight computer science languages, have participated in algorithmic and cybersecurity competitions, and have self-studied and researched artificial intelligence, specifically machine learning. If you have any questions or just want to talk about it, reach out! Other than CS and politics, I love running and staying active as well as baking and binging TV, as we all so lovingly do. I am a proud Potterhead and fan of Black Mirror and other dystopias, novels too!

I appreciate all of you taking the time to discuss these issues, working on your parliamentary procedure and formalities. Model UN is a challenging and engaging activity, and it takes a certain type of person to be able to calmly and effectively communicate their ideas in a respectable manner. Another thanks for taking an interest in our committee. We have worked hard to ensure that this committee will be a site of great progress and yield papers that make us--and, of course, you!--proud. We hope you leave with not only a better understanding of the topic but a growth in your ability to be a delegate and a fantastic member of the Model UN community.

Be brave, be bold, and play the game!

Devin Crowley, Chair, SPECPOL, devcro22@bergen.org

Topic A:
Planning for Displacement From and Accountability for Rising Sea Levels

Introduction:

With almost 187 million people at risk of displacement by 2100, the threat of rising sea levels (RSL) has quickly become more and more urgent, not only for coastal cities threatened by a rise of up to 6.5 feet, but also for entire nations that might find themselves without adequate shelter or even the population necessary to sustain themselves. Consider: what is a nation without civilians to call it home? However, sea levels are not the only things that are rising; as RSL grows as a global threat, calls for reparations and accountability from nations significantly contributing to the global carbon emissions crisis are also on the rise. While discussing this topic in committee, consider the roles of all nations in this crisis, and explore how exactly even landlocked nations may be affected by RSL. Remember: when a topic reaches the United Nations, it's the responsibility of all member nations to agree and vote upon a solution that works best for the international community.

History of the Issue:

The largest contributor to RSL is melting ice sheets, most notably the large ones in Greenland and Antarctica, which, over the past several decades, have undergone a well-documented size decrease. The Greenland ice sheet is melting six times faster than it was four decades ago, now at an accelerated pace of 286 billion tons of melted ice per year. (To understand the scope of this ice sheet, consider the following: it has an area three times that of the state of Texas and, along with the Antarctic ice sheet, contains 99% of the world's fresh water.) Similarly, the Antarctic ice sheet lost 40 billion tons of ice annually from 1980 to 1990. Between 2010 and 2020, the same sheet lost 252 billion tons of ice. The rapid pace with which major ice sheets are melting and the alarming increase in rate over the past few decades set an alarming precedent for future ice levels; if current rates continue or worsen, sea levels worldwide could rise by over 6.5 feet with a 5°C increase in temperature. However, melting ice sheets are not the only contributor to RSL that has grown in severity recently. Though it is the largest source, other sources of additional water have also increased in magnitude in the recent past.

Thermal Expansion & RSL:

By definition, thermal expansion is an object's increase in size due to temperature. In the case of water, as the temperature increases, the amount of area the same water molecules take up increases. This is because temperature is simply the increased movement of particles because of increased energy, and thus adding energy increases the size of the water. Thus, as the global temperature increases, the amount of area the water takes up increases because the water has become warmer.
While this seems ultimately inconsequential in the grand-scheme of things, it means that on a large scale the water is taking up much more space. In fact, one-third of the sea level rise is estimated to

be due to thermal expansion. From this, it is understood that not only is the temperature increase resulting in the melting of millions of tons of ice but also increasing the size of the melted ice itself. In fact, it is currently one of the three key points that NASA claims to be a contributing factor in RSL.

Groundwater in Irrigation & RSL:

Though the melting of ice sheets and the role of thermal expansion in RSL are well-documented and well-known, there is one more main cause of global sea level rise: the pumping of groundwater for irrigation, thus changing the amount of water that remains on land. This phenomenon, though less-known, is so severe that 42% of the sea-level rise between 1961 and 2003 is claimed to be due to "human impacts on terrestrial water storage". This includes everything from reservoir operation and irrigation to generalized human water consumption and changes in terrestrial water storage due to global warming and climate change. The majority of groundwater usage is unsustainable, and water is pumped out to the oceans at alarming rates, drastically inflating sea levels. However, because there is very little documentation available on this source of RSL, it is largely unknown just how much it is inflating sea levels, making it a very dangerous source of sea level rise.

Global Warming: Natural and Artificial Causes of RSL:

In 1850, a spike was shown in the growth of sea levels, rising faster than in the previous 6000 years. This was towards the beginning of the industrial revolution, when fossil fuels started to be burned for energy, literal carbon emissions. Since the beginning of the twentieth century, the global waterline has risen 15 to 20 centimeters. At the same time,

the climate naturally started heating as a part of its natural cycle. Claiming, however, that the dramatic rise in temperature is completely accomplished by nature would be false. In fact, the major cause is due to the emission of greenhouse gasses within the last two-hundred years, specifically carbon dioxide. A natural heating cycle might have shown an ease in heating; however, 1.2 millimeters was the average rise in global sea level between 1900 and 1990, when the rate effectively tripled to 3.2 millimeters per year, eventually 3.4 is 2016. Of course, if the global temperature were to no longer increase or decrease as it was in 1980, the sea level would continuously rise, simply at a slower rate.

Current Situation:

In today's world, a change as small as 2°C would uproot and displace peoples in Hong Kong, Mumbai, Osaka, and Bangkok. Each is a city of five million people of which more than one million would be forced to evacuate. These statistics are a fraction of the 300 million people whose homes are projected to fall below sea level by 2050. Even at this very moment, ~110 million people live below the high tide line.

Faults in Data for Displacement Due to RSL:

Experts, however, have large uncertainties in the data collected. Whereas certain sources list values of 200 million displaced people in the next century, others say two billion, approximately one-fifth of the estimated population in 2100. This uncertainty lies in the unpredictability of melting glaciers. The disparity of 2% and 20% comes from heating levels and the tons of subsequent melting ice. The current culprits of RSL are the Greenland and Antarctic glaciers as noted, and with their leading the pack comes the daunting 6-times greater loss of ice. The unknowability of how drastic a change could come from temperatures increasing in both the atmosphere and water

temperatures forces data scientists to follow many moving parts, including the consideration of the glaciers ultimately submerging into the ocean, which makes exponential growth infinitely harder to correctly estimate. Thus comes the argument of whether data is truly accurate.

Major Threats of RSL:

Rising sea levels have impacts that stretch far beyond human displacement; however, this committee will likely open debate with the goal of tackling this specific issue. Human displacement as well as land loss are the primary issues facing civilization as a result of RSL. Not only are underdeveloped areas under the stress of losing ports, homes, and crops, but developed communities see very similar issues. Manila, the capital of the Philippines, is currently shaped as a bowl, and with an already low level in terms of sea level, this could mean a rise in sea level may come to fill the nation's most prominent city. In California, USA, the San Francisco Bay Area has structures built on the coast line that could be easily flooded and ruined due to RSL, including houses, buildings, and even airports. These and more additional losses can and will lead to the estimated millions of displaced peoples. These climate refugees and migrants must abandon their state for purposes either directly or indirectly threatening their lives, whether flooded ports prevent trading, rundown farmland inhibits crop and livestock growth, or if one's home is overtaken by RSL. These peoples' nations will need to act swiftly, or those displaced may leave, causing the development of an area to be stunted. Preparation needs to occur now with sweeping agreement to ensure the safety of all parties put at a disadvantage by RSL.

Issues to Address:

Effects of RSL on Coastal Populations:

Whether sea levels rise 3 feet or up to 6.5, coastal populations in all affected nations are at significant risk of displacement in the near future. For developing coastal nations like those in the Alliance of Small Island States, rising sea levels at the magnitude given by current predictions could put major cities or even entire nations underwater. For some nations, it might be at a great enough scale to completely dissolve the nation or drive it bankrupt. What happens to populations displaced by RSL? Whose responsibility is it to care for displaced populations? If the origin nation no longer exists, who is next? Where can refugees go?

Rising sea levels have already started to affect coastal populations in present time, and the precedent does not bode well for the future: according to the Environmental Protection Agency, the rise of sea levels "could erode...coastal ecosystems and [completely] eliminate wetland [ecosystems]. Warmer and more acidic oceans are likely to disrupt coastal and marine ecosystems," killing marine life. Rising sea levels and warmer seas also hinder "the ability of natural systems to respond to climate changes", exaggerating changes and creating greater effects. Many coastal nations have economies that rely majorly, if not almost completely, on coastal-born goods, services, and materials. For example, 3% of the entire GDP of Belize is reliant solely on the fisheries sector, which does not even encompass all ocean goods that contribute to that nation's economy. A major contributor to the economies of many coastal nations is tourism; if rising sea levels create uncertainty as to the safety of a nation, tourism rates will go down, resulting in a massive cut to economic inflow for dependent nations.

When considering the consequences of what is predicted to be a significant rise in sea levels, remember to approach the topic

from several different perspectives: though people may be displaced and housing destroyed, rising sea levels have an enormous effect on the surrounding environment that cannot be ignored. The effect of RSL on the economy drastically affects anyone who remains safe from the direct damage and handicaps the ability of a nation to contribute to anyone displaced or harmed if necessary or part of committee-made papers. Rising sea levels displace people, but they also have the capability to devastate a nation on multiple fronts.

Accountability of Major Carbon Emission Contributors:

As RSL takes the international stage, many nations and individuals have called for major carbon emission contributor nations (CC, carbon contributors) to pay reparations or otherwise support coastal nations severely affected by RSL. Because many of the factors that lead to RSL are due to carbon emissions and climate change, many countries have called for the nations who contribute greatly to this factor to be held accountable for the damage rising sea levels and other factors wreak on their populations. Additionally, countries could also be held accountable for unsustainable groundwater usage that results in higher levels. While this is an attractive option, there are also many issues with this plan that must be addressed for it to be considered in an official working paper or draft resolution, and of course CC nations themselves would likely not look very favorably upon this type of solution. It is difficult to quantify exactly how much damage an individual country would be responsible for, so any delegates who proposed a plan such as this one would need a way to quantify this.

Climate Migrants v. Refugees:

As RSL drives people out of their homes all over the globe, it is important to recognize the

difference between climate migrants and climate refugees. Climate refugees are those who are directly driven out of their homes due to the climate crisis; it is physically impossible for them to live there anymore, often because their homes are destroyed. For climate refugees, fleeing their nation of origin is not a choice. Climate refugees can, thus, qualify for refugee status and protection. By contrast, climate migrants leave their lands by "choice", typically because to stay would mean risking their lives. However, climate migrants often do not qualify for refugee status and thus do not get the protections that official refugees get. They may not be accepted into other countries or they may be forced back into dangerous, nearly-uninhabitable lands. When discussing those displaced by RSL in committee, it is important to consider both of these categories and how any plan proposed will treat these groups.

Positions (Country Policy):

Industrialization and global warming (along with a few other main concepts) are the large takeaways for where the majority of the issues were created. As are many issues, money and land is the forefront of this issue, money being the leading force behind the industrialization and specifically nonrenewable energy sources, mostly made up by fossil fuels, and land being coveted locations and regions with access to the sea in a safe location.

Developed Nations:

These nations may have the blame placed onto them for industrialization and contributing to global warming. A developed nation may have a stance, depending on how liberal they stand, that global warming is part of the bigger "climate change" issue, bringing to light that this is the responsibility of the entirety of

the nations or push responsibility onto nations who contribute more to the warming climate.

Coastal Nations:

The most directly-impacted nations are these coastal regions, both countries completely surrounded by water or partially encased by the ocean. These nations have the imminent threat of RSL as opposed to landlocked nations who do not have the immediate concern of flooding. These nations would likely fight for capital or resources to be set aside for the purpose of preventing water from overtaking the land via dams, walls, etc. Depending on a nation's wealth, blame may be assigned to nations who largely contribute to heating the atmosphere from industrialization or the like; the converse might branch this as equal responsibility or an entire global issue of "climate change."

Non-coastal Developing Nations:

Developing nations without a coast are still at risk for an influx of migrants and refugees who find shelter in their nations as well as the negative effects of the warming globe. This can be due to fewer port cities with whom they can trade or losing developed access to the outside world. These nations might attack more developed nations as opposed to the coastal regions for their contributions to RSL from industrialization and global warming.

Possible Solutions:

There are several different ways to attack this problem, and various categories that all plans must account for in order to fully address the problem.

Firstly, and perhaps most importantly, how will your plan address those who are displaced due to rising sea levels? Will your plan allow them to seek refugee

status in neighboring nations? Who pays for damage to a nation: that nation or nations that caused the problem?

Delegates should focus on three main aspects: countries majorly affected by RSL, countries around those countries, and major contributors to RSL. Consider where refugees and/or migrants will be allowed to go: will your country be able to accept them? Will they be able to go to neighboring nations? Also consider who will pay for damage, especially in the scenario that a nation dissolves or goes bankrupt.

One major possible solution to this problem is pinning accountability on contributing nations, but consider the consequences of this plan before determining if it aligns with your country policy. How will this plan be executed? To what extent will these nations to held accountable, and in what way? Taxes, tariffs, fines, infrastructure, refugees/migrants?

Another possible solution is to ask nations damaged by RSL to pay for the damage, perhaps with the

reasoning that they should have invested in better infrastructure. Delegates must consider the various factors that lead to this point, and may also wish to consider ways for how these nations can get that infrastructure in the first place. If your country does not agree that contributing nations should be punished, then perhaps a clause that claims accountability as something out of the UN's jurisdiction

is in order. Consider your clauses carefully based on country policy, precedent, and position. All plans should include something about at-risk nations as well as a plan for those displaced, but they certainly do not have to do it in the same way.

Key Questions:

1. Whose responsibility is it to care for displaced populations due to RSL: the nations from which they were displaced from or major contributors to RSL themselves?

- If countries of origin:

    i. To whom will reparations be paid?

    ii. What happens if a country is dissolved, falls apart, or goes bankrupt after major population displacement?

- If carbon emission contributors:

    i. To whom will reparations be paid?

    ii. Some countries contribute to global carbon emissions more than others. Will they be held more accountable? How can we determine their accountability?

2. Should countries with high carbon emissions be held accountable for RSL and other effects of their emissions? Or, because the exact extent to which a country directly contributed to RSL cannot be specified, should affected countries pay for their own damage?

3. How can the international community help to prevent damage from RSL in the first place?

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Topic B: Regulating Usage of Private Military Companies (PMCs) by Nations in Conflict

Introduction:

Following the 2001 United Nations Mercenary Convention, which banned the use of mercenaries in armed conflict, the international fight against private military companies (PMCs) seemed over. However, PMC usage continues to go on behind the scenes in countries that did not ratify the convention, not only giving countries deniability in claims of human rights violations, violent crimes, and wars by proxy, but also promoting economically-efficient and accessible wars and battles. The 2001 Convention can no longer stand in its current form; it is time for this committee to redefine the acceptable usage of PMCs globally. The plans and resolutions produced by this committee will forever define who gains or loses ground in this conflict; will PMCs rise back to prominence, or will more countries agree to ban their usage?

History of the Issue:

Mercenaries have existed for as long as conflict has, which is to say forever. Where there is conflict, there is someone to take advantage of it. In fact, a key topic of contention is whether PMCs qualify as mercenaries; while mercenaries are defined as an individual who works only for monetary gain, serving the highest bidder even at the sacrifice of ethics, there is no official definition of what a PMC is, and they can provide several different services. This is important because mercenaries are banned under the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing, and Training of Mercenaries of 1989. Though this document was not widely agreed upon like the 2001 Convention, it does establish precedent for a push against PMCs.

Before the 2001 Convention, PMCs were used globally as a method of making wars more accessible and affordable, even without public support. When a nation can simply buy fighting power and pay for soldiers, there is no need to appeal conflicts to the general public to recruit; a nation can go to war without popular favor. PMCs began to be seen as a conflict of interest; as they benefit from war, it is in the interest of a private military company or consultant to keep a war going rather than end it. To demonstrate this, 2 specific case studies have been highlighted to show the usage of PMCs in the modern era.

Case Study 1: Nigeria:

Nigeria is one of several countries that did not ratify the 2001 convention. Now, Nigeria employs PMCs as functional mercenaries to help fight back against Boko Haram, one of the region's most infamous terrorist organizations. Their actions have garnered great suspicion and sparked many questions about the future of conflict in the region. On one hand, by employing PMCs, Nigeria can boost their military forces and help protect its citizens against a group that is known to

have no qualms about hurting civilians. Nigeria could not defeat Boko Haram for six years despite the strength of its military. PMCs completed the task in weeks. PMCs allow countries like Nigeria to defend themselves without sacrificing their own troops to do it, and they also give an opportunity to turn the tides on a conflict that they may have even been losing before. PMCs are often well equipped with weaponry and vehicles, aiding defensive forces in the country and giving countries a second shot if only they can pay up.

On the other, calling on the strength of PMCs to defeat Boko Haram is a statement about the strength of Nigeria itself. In Africa, Nigeria is known to have one of the strongest militaries in the region. To quote Sean McFate, a former PMC member who has operated in Liberia and Burundi as well as a professor at the National Defense University and Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, "Nigeria is West Africa's regional superpower. It has the most powerful military in the region, and for six years, it couldn't control Boko Haram. Then the government hired mercenaries to do it, and within weeks, those mercenaries did it. So that suggests that mercenaries are more powerful, or at least as powerful as, the most powerful military in West Africa." When the government outsources the battle to foreign fighters, it's a political statement. When those foreign fighters do a better job at winning the fight than the strongest military in the region , that is an even bigger political statement, one that is frightening to many. When foreign fighters with extremely heavy weaponry that are better than the strongest military in the region can be purchased and bought by the highest bidder, everyone is at risk. PMCs benefit from conflict, and they make conflict accessible to those who don't have the resources or normally could not afford it.

Case Study 2: USA:

50% of all American forces deployed in Iraq are PMCs, and 75% of all American forces in Afghanistan are contracted. Private

contractors from the United States are stationed in countries all around the world, including Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq.

To quote McFate once again, "today, America can no longer go to war without the private sector."

The involvement of the private sector of military corporations has become so ingrained in American military presence that hiring out soldiers has become a part of American culture: the way around sending American troops overseas is simply sending non-Americans. Starting with the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the obvious failure to win what was originally perceived as a quick and easy war left policymakers with three options.

1) Surrender, which was hardly even an option at the time;
2) Adopt another draft, which would destroy any chance of reelection;
3) Hire contractors to fill the gaps while sending American troops home.

It was the perfect solution. Appease the general population by returning troops while keeping a strong front against the enemy. This solution expanded into what is quickly becoming a military force that is primarily composed of paid contractors. America is the quintessential example of the benefits that PMCs can bring; more paid contractors die in American wars than American troops, protecting American lives while still showing a strong face.

However, America is not alone-- several other developed nations, including the UK, France, and Russia all use PMCs as well, for similar purposes and reasons. In general, the usage of PMCs benefits countries with the money to support them, which developed nations do, but also give opportunities to nations that otherwise would not be able to win certain battles as quickly, such as Nigeria, sustain a large military/ take advantage of situations.

Current Situation:

Argument against PMCs:

Deniability

Outsourcing conflicts to PMCs gives countries a certain level of deniability that would not be possible with troops. For example, some nations do not track contractor numbers in war zones, meaning that they do not count against troop caps and they can place more people on the ground than officially stated. If these PMCs commit any crimes, the government of that nation can claim they did not know or did not give the order. This renders contractors invisible, giving them the nickname the "invisible army". Additionally, PMCs do not have to report directly to the government like official government agencies do, so they can shield information and operate independently. Unlike military and intelligence units, they do not have to share what they find and do; this gives their contractors plausible deniability because, truly, they do not know what PMCs are doing. The hiring of PMCs to perform tasks rather than official soldiers gives nations the ability to "dirty someone else's hands", per se, keeping them from being held accountable.

History of Human Rights Abuses

PMCs have been documented to commit atrocities like sexual abuse and assault, rape, femicide, forced prostitution, and impregnation, among others in countries all over the world, including Mexico, Guatemala, Israel, and Colombia (Karska et. al. 2016). As stated above, their nature as hired soldiers means that it is hard to hold them accountable; compounding that, many PMCs are not citizens of the country they are hired by. Therefore, even if caught, it is difficult to say what set of laws they can be held accountable by, and often they are simply let free. (An example of this includes CACI International, a PMC famous for a viral picture of members torturing Iraqi prisoners of war while smiling, and the way the corporation evaded punishment and continued selling and extending

contracts with member nations.) Because of the frequencies of crimes and the difficulty of prosecution, many people have called for PMCs to be called immoral and struck from use. However, it must be noted that controlling and prosecuting any military, even a national one, has always proved to be a challenge, so this may not be an issue specifically with hired soldiers.

Argument for PMCs:

While of course there are several disadvantages, drawbacks, and outright dangers of using PMCs, hence why they have been outlawed by several nations, PMCs remain in use today because they truly make defense more accessible. Even nations that cannot afford a large national military can afford to use PMCs, giving them the opportunity to defend themselves. A militia built out of hired PMCs is cheaper to maintain than a national army. Additionally, because PMCs typically do not have a vested political interest in the war or an urge to rise in the ranks, there is

less of a risk of political corruption. All nations have the right to defend their borders and operate as a sovereign nation. If PMCs give them the ability to do so, it is within their sovereignty as a nation to take advantage of this and keep their country safe.

The majority of standing bodies, including UN Peacekeepers and national militaries, have been associated with human rights abuses in the past. As terrible as it is, this is not unique to PMCs; even a national army could, theoretically, have this problem. For countries that have the money but not the support or the demographics in the population, PMCs give them an opportunity to take advantage of the same opportunities that hold them back at success. Without PMCs, many countries, especially developed ones, would not have the troops or resources to fight in as many wars as they do. Whether this is a good or bad thing is to be determined by the country, but one thing is for sure: it is a nation's choice whether or not they want to use PMCs, but it is within their sovereignty, and everyone has the right to defense.

Issues to Address:

In addition to the following specific issues, it should be noted that the issue of PMCs as a whole in relation to mercenaries and the legitimacy of the two conventions should be addressed and discussed and debated upon.

impossible to pin to a specific cause other

than monetary gain. This also raises questions about the safety of the public and groups without access to these resources. It should be noted that these sources have been used in private sectors across the world in addition to nationally. This committee will be discussing the issue of international safety.

Unknown PMC Usage:

In countries where information is made public on typicals of war, numbers become overwhelmingly powerful to keep the public informed. In certain developed nations, specifically where PMCs are used more heavily, contract-bound assailants are not required to be counted as a troop, meaning numbers are skewed as to how many are on the battlefield. This is not the only threat that gives PMCs the label of "The Invisible Armies." PMCs can be hired by anyone who can afford the price, making private military and security companies virtually

Sovereignty

At what point does the limiting of PMCs infringe on a nation's right to its well-regulated militia? The issue of sovereignty can be claimed as a nation's right to determine its military power for its own use. PMCs are privatized, and thus argumentatively a nation may consider PMCs to be a right for it to decide upon. There are many nations that were not signatories on the 1989 or 2001 convention papers for the purpose that they felt their rights were being infringed upon to choose who can be included in the fight for their state. Some have proposed that the UN should not

even be able to declare anything about PMCs, as it goes against sovereignty, which would render the 2001 and 1989 Conventions invalid. The issue of to what extent PMCs are subject to a nation's sovereignty should be discussed, coexisting with a nation's right to use mercenaries, whether or not these statements are valid.

Possible Solutions:

There are several answers to the presented problem that may be reached as the proper solution by the delegates.

For one, a principle issue is that of the Mercenary Conventions and each's ruling. Both countries who were and who were not signatories may find it best to amend the judgement here and foster a different resolution. Definitive answers from necessary parties may be included as to determine PMCs relation to mercenaries as well as the responsibility of each nation to uphold certain values on what is recommended and recognized in debate. Each delegate

may outline specific goals on which values are important to incorporate into these amendments as well as pointing out and discussing the flaws of the previously agreed upon values. If no amendments are necessary, assessing why the use of PMCs is a continuing practice if mercenaries are not a viable option for war.

In addition, sanctions may be incorporated as a possible agreement. If nations do not agree with what is established and continue to go against the recommendations, international sanctions may be placed to enforce payments to be made to deter against or bode for the use of PMCs. These political or economic efforts may entice a country to follow these decisions or encourage a lessening in the opposing view while the international community gains compensation for this regulation.

All plans should incorporate values from each nation in a bloc as well as outlining specific views on PMCs in relation to mercenaries and plans on actualizing its values.

Key Questions:

1. Does your country support or decry the usage of PMCs in conflict?
2. How do PMCs benefit or hurt your country and others?
3. If your nation believes PMCs should be limited:
   - How will you do this without impeding on the private sector of other nations?
   - How will you support nations that are currently dependent on PMCs?
   - How will you deviate from previous conventions?
4. If your nation believes countries should be free to use PMCs as they wish:
   - Should action be taken to prevent the rates of human abuses with PMCs?
   - Does the UN have the authority to pass conventions limiting nations' usage of PMCs?
   - Should there be any regulations and/or restrictions on their usage?

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