

Disarmament and Intl.
Security Committee

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TOPIC B:

“Regulation of Military
Drones”

NC
MUN
2018





“Drone attacks subvert the rule of law – we become judge, jury and executioner – at the push of a button.”

-Mark McKinnon

Luis C. Bosques Carmona
Undersecretary of General Assembly

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Regulation of Military Drones

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (First Committee), DISEC, deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime within the scope of the Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any other organ of the United Nations.

UAVs, unmanned aerial vehicles, are aircraft which are intended to operate without a pilot on board. Although UAVs have their origins in military contexts, they have also become valuable for scientific and commercial applications. In this case, however, the Disarmament and International Security Committee will specifically discuss UAVs used for military purposes, for example drone strikes and surveillance.

Since the beginning of the 21st century modern methods and means of warfare are stretching the limits of international law. These laws are becoming insignificant, irrelevant and inadequate to deal with this new method of warfare.

Drones are controlled by computers within the aircraft or a pilot in another location.

The use and development of drones increased after 9/11, with the use making them a weapon of choice in the War of Terror on countries like: Yemen, Somalia, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Human loss due to the use of drones, especially civilians' casualties, has led to the high criticism of this technology and

to the evaluation of their benefits and downfalls.

UAV regulations focus upon two key aspects:

1. Targeting the regulated use of airspace by UAVs;
2. Imposing operational limitations.

All UAV regulations aim at one common goal; minimizing the risks for other airspace users and for both people and property on the ground and a distinct heterogeneity of national regulations exists.

The UN should assert a firm stance on military drone usage is a major controversy that needs to be addressed; consequently, should a firm stance be beneficial, the next question is what that stance should be?

Militarily, drones are obviously beneficial, performing strikes without endangering troops. Ethically, the separation of killing from killer is rather questionable, although no more disconcerting than the idea of killing itself. If a terrorist would be killed anyway, why not use a simpler and safer weapon? Also, under the Geneva Conventions, civilians are protected from any kind of conflict, however many strikes were targeting innocents rather than terror groups. How should the international community act towards the use of drones in populated and unstable areas?

Points to address:

- Drones have generally accepted military advantages. Are these outweighed by the legal and moral quandaries surrounding their use?
- Do states using drones violate the imperatives of international law concerning the protection of

civilians?

- Which kind of measures can be taken in order to increase the transparency and allow for data collection on drones strikes without compromising intelligence operations or national security interests?
- What can be done to keep drones out of the hands of violent non-state actors?

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