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**Special Political and
Decolonization
Committee
(SPECPOL)**

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

Honourable delegates,

It is a pleasure to welcome you all to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee of NottsMUN 2016. The topics for this committee have been chosen with the purpose of reflecting issues that will and have importance in the global system, being positioned in an important place of the international agenda.

This committee will be conducted by two chairs who were born and raised in Barcelona:

Patricia Aguado is a Political Science and Public Administration graduated, with a special mention on International Relations. Nowadays, she is pursuing a master's degree in International Relations, Security and Development in the Autonomous University of Barcelona. Being engaged in the MUN world since her first year of university, she is really excited to chair the SPECPOL committee.

Lucia Tamames is a Law student at Pompeu Fabra University. She has already attended several MUN as delegate, being this conference her first experience as a chair. Interested in pursuing a career in international relations she has done an internship for the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs at the Consulate General of Spain in Chicago. She has also worked on ways to address the refugee crisis in a International Summer Academy in Denmark.

The following study guide should be the starting point towards your preparation for this conference. Use it as a guide to enhance your research and search additional information in order to provide new points of view during the conference. We hope you find this guide useful and you have an exciting stay in Nottingham. We both are really excited to begin the conference and meet you all in Nottingham. Prior to that, we encourage you to contact us regarding any doubt that you may have.

Sincerely yours,

Patricia Aguado

Chair

Lucia Tamames

Co-Chair

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE 4TH COMMITTEE OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY: SPECPOL

The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (SPECPOL) is the fourth within the six main committees of the United Nations General Assembly. It was created in 1993 as a mix of the Decolonization Committee (formerly the Fourth Committee in the General Assembly of UN) and the Special Political Committee. At first, SPECPOL was created to deal with issues related with trusteeship and non-self-governing territories. After the end of trusteeship system, the Committee tackles various issues of international politics. It is important to take in mind that in 1945, when the United Nations were created, 750 million people lived in a colonized territory. However, over 80 former colonies have become independent since then. Today this number has decreased to approximately two million an amount that SPECPOL is determined to address.

SPECPOL covers a wide variety of subjects such as the University for Peace, peacekeeping, decolonization, human rights and refugees - particularly Palestinian, atomic radiation, outer space, mine action and public information. The 4th Committee includes all 193 Member States and it derives power from the Chapter XI of the United Nations Charter, which leads to the preservation of the rights and dignities of people living in non-self-governing territories. The committee passes resolutions with suggestions on the ideal ways for the United Nations and member states to address the issues of colonized people. Unlike other committees, SPECPOL points out issues related with occupation and colonization with the aim of making all countries independent and self-sufficient from outside powers.

The committee holds a unique role in the United Nations because it aims to ensure that all countries enjoy the benefits of the independence to which they are entitled, and only when all countries are economically, culturally, and socially liberated can the world move forward. We would like to finish this brief introduction pointing out that SPECPOL is not able to take military action and for that reason many of the resolutions are passed to the Security Council as mere suggestions.

A. REVIEW OF THE PURPOSE, IMPLEMENTATION AND EFFECTS OF INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

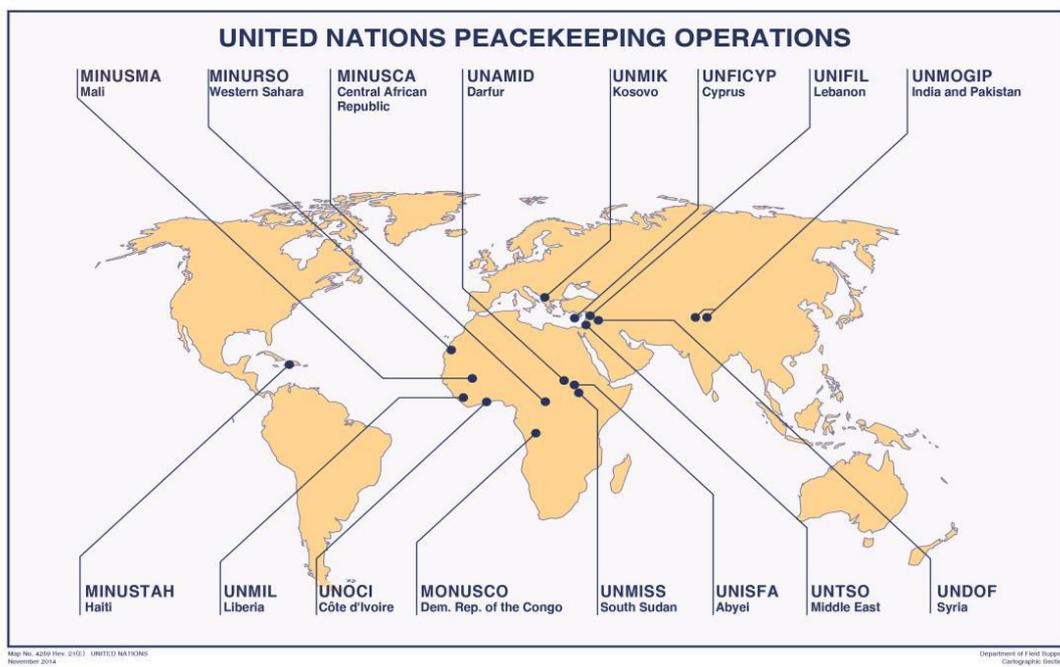
I. Overview of the topic

Peacekeeping operations began under United Nations authority in 1948 with the deployment of an unarmed military observation team following the armistice between Israel and its Arab neighbors.

The United Nations was established to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war” and one of its main purposes is to keep international peace and security. Peacekeeping has evolved into one of the main tools used by the United Nations to achieve this purpose although not explicitly provided for in the Charter has traditionally been associated with Chapter VI. Nevertheless, the Security Council does not need to refer to a specific Chapter of the Charter when passing resolutions authorizing the deployment of an operation—despite that it usually invokes Chapter VII about operations where the State is unable to support security and public order. International human rights law is an integral part of the normative framework for United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights emphasizes that human rights and fundamental freedoms are universal and guaranteed to everybody. The peacekeeping operations should be conducted in full respect of human rights and should seek to advance human rights through the implementation of their mandates. The personnel—whether military, police or civilian—should act under international human rights law and actions taken by unofficial and non-governmental groups, or by a prominent personality working independently.

Over the past sixty years, United Nations peacekeeping has evolved into one of the main tools to manage difficult crises that pose a serious threat to international security and peace. During that time, their actions have followed a broadly unwritten group of principles and have been informed by the participation of the many thousands of people who have served in the 71 operations launched since 1948. Nowadays, 16 peacekeeping operations are taking place around the world employing around 119,523 personnel. 8.27 billion dollars constitute the approved budgets for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.

Since the new millennium started, peacekeeping operations are a multi-dimensional reality. They are aimed to help the political process through the promotion of national dialog, protection of civilians, reestablishment of the rule of law, aid in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants and promotion of human rights.



Before moving to the next point, some concepts should be clarified: Peace building, peacekeeping and peace enforcement. The first one involves a great number of measures directed to reduce the risk of lapsing into conflict by strengthening national capacities. It is a long-term process because it seeks to establish the necessary conditions for sustainable peace. The second one is defined as a technique to preserve the peace and to assist in implementing agreements achieved by the peacemakers. The third concept includes the application –always authorized by the Security Council – of coercive measures, also the military force. That tool applies when international peace and security have to be restored because there is a breach or threat of the peace.

II. Current situation

i. The recent evolution of peacekeeping operations

“The boundaries between conflict prevention, peacemaking, peacekeeping, peacebuilding and peace enforcement have become increasingly blurred. Peace operations are rarely limited to one type of activity. While UN peacekeeping operations are, in principle, deployed to support the implementation of a ceasefire or peace agreement, they are often required to play an active role in peace making efforts and may also be involved in early peacebuilding activities. Today’s multidimensional peacekeeping operations facilitate the political process, protect civilians, assist in the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of former combatants; support the organization of elections, protect and promote human rights and assist in restoring the rule of law. UN peacekeeping operations may use force to defend themselves, their mandate, and civilians, particularly in situations where the State is unable to provide security and maintain public order.”¹

¹ <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/operations/peace.shtml>

In the more than sixty years of its existence, UN Peacekeeping has evolved significantly as a tool of international crisis response. UN peacekeepers have served across the globe to prevent the outbreak of conflict, to manage and contain violence and to support national actors in protecting and building peace after conflict.

An initiative called New Horizon was launched by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support against a backdrop of considerable strain on United Nations peacekeeping. Peacekeeping found itself stretched like never before and increasingly called upon to deploy to remote, uncertain operating environments and into volatile political contexts. It faced a varied set of challenges, including challenges to deliver on its largest, most expensive and increasingly complex missions, challenges to design and execute viable transition strategies for missions where a degree of stability has been attained and challenges to prepare for an uncertain future and set of requirements.

These challenges remain as UN Peacekeeping has begun to move from a period of an unprecedented surge to a period of consolidation, in which the global peacekeeping partnership is called upon to realize the ambitious goals it has identified to strengthen the effectiveness and efficiency of UN Peacekeeping.

Thus, the most recent reform document is “The New Partnership Agenda: Charting a New Horizon for UN Peacekeeping (2009)”. The New Horizon process is designed to assess the major policy and strategy challenges facing UN Peacekeeping and reinvigorate the dialogue with stakeholders on possible solutions to better calibrate UN Peacekeeping to meet current and future requirements. Since the appearance of the New Horizon document, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support have issued periodic progress reports summarizing the principal outcomes of the peacekeeping dialogue and implementation efforts in the context of the New Horizon process. The most recent progress report, The New Horizon Initiative: Progress Report No. 2 was issued in December 2011. It outlines progress on implementation of reform priorities and highlights ongoing efforts to improve the effectiveness of UN Peacekeeping.

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon established a High-level Independent Panel on UN Peace Operations in October 2014, to make a comprehensive assessment of the state of UN peace operations today, and the emerging needs of the future. Announcing the decision, the Secretary-General said that “the world is changing and UN peace operations must change with it if they are to remain an indispensable and effective tool in promoting international peace and security.”

With the 15-year anniversary of the Brahimi report approaching, the Secretary-General felt that it was necessary to again take stock of evolving expectations of UN peacekeeping and how the Organization can work toward a shared view of the way forward. The 16-member Panel was chaired by Timor-Leste and Bangladesh was Vice-Chair. The Panel considered a broad range of issues facing peace operations, including the changing nature of conflict, evolving mandates, good offices and peace building challenges, managerial and administrative arrangements, planning, partnerships, human rights and protection of civilians. The review encompasses both UN peacekeeping operations as well as special political missions, which are referred to collectively as “UN peace operations”.

ii. The future of peacekeeping operations

Peacekeeping operations are becoming more complex and comprehensive. In particular, with many of their tasks increasingly focusing on peace building in post-conflict transitions, peace operations are now linked to longer-term development approaches, which call for integrated programs both within and outside the UN system. Despite growing in size and complexity, they have not experienced an equivalent increase in political and financial support from member states. Although the expansion of operations, the peacekeeping picture is not an optimistic one. There are multiple challenges such as the limited resources that peacekeeping mobilizes, the way it functions and how it is being called upon by member states. In fact, peacekeeping is so much of an uphill battle that its capacity to address the security and humanitarian crises associated with failed or failing states is questionable.

III. Past UN actions already undertaken on the issue

In 2000, the UN started a major exercise to analyze its peacekeeping experience and introduce a series of reforms to strengthen its capacity to manage and sustain field operations. This was brought about by the surge in demand for UN peacekeepers, with the 'blue helmets' being increasingly asked to deploy to remote and often volatile environments. Peacekeeping also faced a varied set of challenges which included:

- a. deploying its largest, most expensive and increasingly complex operations;
- b. designing and executing transition strategies for operations where stability has been achieved;
- c. equipping communities as far as possible with the capacity to ensure long-term peace and stability.

In March 2000, the Secretary-General appointed the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations to assess the shortcomings of the then existing system and to make specific and realistic recommendations for change. The panel was composed of individuals experienced in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The panel noted that in order to be effective, UN peacekeeping operations must be properly resourced and equipped, and operate under clear, credible and achievable mandates.

The result, known as the "Brahimi Report", after Lakhdar Brahimi, the Chair of the Panel, called specifically for:

- a. renewed political commitment on the part of Member States;
- b. significant institutional change;
- c. increased financial support.

Following the Brahimi report, UN Member States and the UN Secretariat continued major reform efforts, including through:

- Peace operations 2010 (2006), containing the reform strategy of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations

- “Capstone Doctrine” (2008), outlining the most important principles and guidelines for UN peacekeepers in the field
- 2005 World Summit [A/RES/60/1] establishing the Peacebuilding Commission
- High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change [A/59/565] setting out a broad framework for collective security for the new century.

The major structural change as part of peacekeeping reform took place in 2007. To strengthen the UN’s capacity to manage and sustain new peace operations, the Secretary-General restructured the peacekeeping architecture by:

Splitting the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) into two, creating a new, separate Department of Field Support (DFS) and bolstering the support for new activities in DPKO. He also increased resources in both departments and in other parts of the Secretariat dealing with peacekeeping. Then, the Department of Field Support developed the Global Field Support Strategy in 2010 aimed at transforming “service delivery” to the field and adapting it to the requirements of today’s peacekeeping operations.

Other reforms have been introduced in the field of conduct and discipline: The Secretary-General imposed a zero tolerance policy following allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN peacekeepers in host countries. In 2008, an UN-wide strategy for assistance to the victims of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN personnel was adopted by the General Assembly in resolution A/RES/62/214.

Historically, the countries who provide troops for peacekeeping missions were reimbursed for their contribution by the UN. The question of the rates is, therefore, extremely important for a large number of countries -whether it's through the direct provision of military personnel or through the financial obligations that make deployment of a peacekeeping presence possible. In 2011, the General Assembly decided to tackle this subject in a comprehensive manner. The GA requested the Secretary-General to establish a Senior Advisory Group (SAG) to examine the "rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries and related issues". The SAG's membership, stipulated in the Resolution, includes five eminent persons of relevant experience appointed by the Secretary-General, five representatives from major troop contributors, five representatives from major financial contributors and one member designated from each of the regional groups.

IV. Bloc positions

When preparing the position of your country regarding that topic, you should take into account several issues. The most important aspect to be well-prepared for the conference is to develop a general understanding of your country’s policy regarding foreign conflicts. To develop a strategy, you should study the level of involvement of your country in the UN reading about the nation’s position on current and past interventions in conflict areas. Also, learn about peacekeeping operations conducted in your country and neighboring countries.

AFRICA

The African Union, a fifty-four country group that comprises all African states except for Morocco, establishes "peace support operations" when authorized by its Peace and Security Council (PSC), a fifteen-member body with no permanent members. Peacekeeping missions have had mixed results in Africa. Those

that took place nearly a decade ago in West Africa in cooperation with ECOWAS—in Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Ivory Coast—are widely hailed as successes, whereas current missions to CAR, DRC, Mali, South Sudan, and Darfur, have not improved stability.

That happens because UN peacekeepers are increasingly deployed to war zones when not all the main parties have consented, such as in Mali and eastern DRC. There is also mounting international pressure for peacekeepers to play a more robust role in protecting civilians. “Contemporary mandates have often blurred the lines separating peacekeeping, stabilization, counterinsurgency, counterterrorism, atrocity prevention, and state-building,”²

THE AMERICAS

The United States of America is really involved in the conflicts outside its borders. It has an extraordinary suite of allies and multiple permanent and temporary military bases. The United States recognizes the critical importance of UN peacekeeping in promoting peace and security all around the world, and their contributions reflect this—from its assessed dues, which at more than \$2 billion make it by far the largest financial contributor to UN peacekeeping, to additional support that it often provides through both UN and bilateral channels.

In general, there is a large presence of Latin American peacekeepers in Haiti, which is the only mission in the Western Hemisphere. However, Latin American countries send their troops to many other missions around the world. Their contributions are not highlighted as much as the large presence of Latin American peacekeepers in Haiti. In terms of numbers, Brazil and Argentina send the most troops and police to missions around the world. At the same time, there is a general push to try to get more countries in the region to send peacekeepers through organizations such as the Latin American Association of Training Centers for Peace, based in Rio de Janeiro. To sum up, despite its participation in various missions, Latin America appears to be an untapped resource for UN peacekeeping operations. The hemisphere is at peace and many countries are emerging as global actors. The UN should attempt to recruit more peacekeepers from Latin America both because of its military and police experience in handling conflict and because many countries have invested resources in their security forces.

EUROPE AND RUSSIA

The region is facing a worsening security situation on many fronts. The Ukraine crisis threatens to upset the post-Cold War order on the continent. Violence in the Middle East and North Africa presents multiple challenges to European policy-makers. Security officials fear an influx of Islamist extremists radicalized by the wars in Syria, Iraq and Libya. Those conflicts have also contributed to the growing numbers of migrants attempting to reach the EU’s shores across the Mediterranean – thousands have died trying. Europe needs new tools to stabilize its neighborhood. European decision-makers have turned with striking frequency to the United Nations, and specifically UN peace operations, to help manage these threats. The UN provides a framework to address these issues. It ostensibly offers a neutral political brand and relatively cheap mechanism for political and military actions. UN officials appreciate that European governments have

² George Washington University’s Paul, D. Williams writes in a CFR report.

specialized assets – ranging from engineers to drones – that many other troop and police contributors cannot easily generate. In some cases, these can operate most effectively outside UN command. In others, they can be integrated into UN structures. However, an emphasis on the positive aspects of specialized European contributions to UN missions cannot entirely obscure continued problems in the relationship.

In recent years, Russian military along with the other members of the international community have repeatedly participated in prevention or elimination of internecine and inter-ethnic conflicts in the territories of both the former USSR Republics and in the foreign far-abroad countries. Another important aspect of Russia's participation in international peacekeeping activities is sending to the UN missions of military observers. They serve in the Middle East, Western Sahara, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sudan. It is noteworthy that Russia has one of the first places in the world in the number of military observers at the United Nations.

ASIA-PACIFIC COUNTRIES

They can strengthen the UN's capacity by providing greater resources, equipment, and coordination efforts. In 2015, military personnel from Asia-Pacific countries make up around 37 percent of the UN peacekeeping troops, although it has about 60 percent of the world population. Furthermore, as members of the United Nations, those countries are part of the reforms that will help improve UN's capacity to meet new security threats. Post-conflict countries are witnessing a growing fragmentation and proliferation of violent actors. There are myriad insurgent organizations operating in countries where peacekeeping missions are deployed, such as Mali, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, Sudan, and South Sudan. For instance, Australia has been actively involved in peace operations for nearly 70 years. Australia has played a leading role in successful regional missions in Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste and Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. Acknowledging the strain on the peacekeeping system, Australia remains closely engaged on implementing the recommendations of the UN Peace Operations Review.

V. Areas to consider in a resolution

There are several aspects to consider about that topic. As an introduction, it is crucial to know if the original principles of consent and non-use of force are still relevant and if not, which ones should apply. If they are still important we should discuss whether they need modification. We should focus on what role UN Peacekeeping operations play to reduce conflicts and whether they are just responsive after the conflict or also involved before. Other areas to consider should be:

- a. How does your government view the effectiveness of recent peacekeeping missions?
- b. How can UN missions be more effective and efficient (both internally and in cooperation with other regional and international bodies)?
- c. How should accountability for each operation be distributed?
- d. How can the UN best address the disparities between peacekeeping missions and the broader needs of peace enforcement in areas where a conflict still exists?

e. How can better funding be achieved?

f. How can the cost of UN peacekeeping missions be kept to a minimum without sacrificing the effectiveness of the missions?

VI. Bibliography and useful links

- UN peacekeeping operations website: <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/>
- Peacekeeping country profiles: <http://www.providingforpeacekeeping.org/>
- Panel on United Nations Peace Operations, Report of the Panel on United Nations Peace Operations: http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/55/305
- Peace Operations in Africa: <http://www.cfr.org/peacekeeping/peace-operations-africa/p9333>
- Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation: http://eng.mil.ru/en/mission/peacekeeping_operations.htm
- Enhancing contributions from Asia Pacific countries to UN PKO: <http://www.cscap.org/index.php?page=enhancing-contributions-from-asia-pacific-countries-to-un-pko>
- Latin America and UN Peacekeeping: <http://www.americasquarterly.org/latin-america-and-UN-peacekeeping>
- SPECPOL Study Guide on Topic B, 15th Session of the London International Model United Nations (2014)
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- Mazzei, Cristian Peacekeeping, UN Stand-by force and Rapid Deployment: a Critical Analysis, 2009 <http://cdn.peaceopstraining.org/theses/mazzei.pdf>
- The Korean Journal of Defense Analysis, Vol. 26, No. 3, September 2014, 389–406: An Analysis of Assessment of Peacekeeping Operations: <http://apcml.org/uploads/bd123ec84a87dec2984602ec75c9f9b02e5187be.pdf>
- Nick Witney, Why Europe must stop outsourcing its security (ECFR, December 2014).

B. CYBERTERRORISM

I. Overview of the topic

Since the emergence of the internet in the 1980s, the number of its users has increased over time. The information systems have evolved along with the expansion of the Cyberspace. It is important to note that the digital world has created new threats, some of them still relatively unknown to the public.

The increasing dependence on information systems and virtual connections has raised the concerns about Cybersecurity throughout the world. This concern grew exponentially after the terrorist attack of September 11, 2001. The War on Terror represented a turning point on how countries approached the issue.

The internet has increasingly become a valuable tool for terrorist groups. It has advantages that conventional terrorism does not have. First of all, cyberterrorism is seen as cheaper than conventional terrorism for a similar impact on the population. Cyberattacks can also be performed anonymously and there is the added difficulty of finding the origin of the attack as well as the identity of the attacker as the attack is executed remotely. In addition, terrorists can increase the number of targets and of people affected [1].

II. Current situation

Nowadays, there is no clear and consensual definition of Cyberterrorism. One of the most used definitions is the one given by Denning, which states that “Cyberterrorism is the convergence of cyberspace and terrorism. It refers to the unlawful attacks and threats of attacks against computers, networks and the information stored therein when done to intimidate or coerce a government or its people in furtherance of political or social objectives. To qualify as cyberterrorism, an attack should result in violence against person or propriety, or at least cause enough harm to generate fear” [2].

However, more recent definitions tried to merge the principal precepts of terrorism - term which lacks a consensual definition as well - with the conceptual idea of cyberspace. We have, for example, the definition of Berner stating that cyberterrorism is a “premeditated, politically motivated attack against information, computer systems, computer programs and data which results in violence against non-combatants targets by sub-national groups or clandestine agents” [3].

The main problem encountered while trying to legally or normatively define the term of Cyberterrorism and Cyberterrorist attacks is the existence of a blur line between those practices and other illegal practices on the Cyberspace.

This particularly happens when trying to separate what is considered hacktivism³ to what it is considered Cyberterrorism. While both of them are political motivated, they do not have the same goal. Hacktivism attacks are aimed to perform protests or disruption, whereas Cyberterrorist attacks aimed to cause fear, kill, or cause massive disruption and losses. The thin line between these concepts makes it urgent for the international community to address the issue of Cyberterrorism in order to avoid and prevent a misuse of the international or national laws regarding this issue.

The most known Cyberterrorist attack was perpetuated in 1988. It was performed by the Black Tigers, a terrorist group which was actively striking terrorist attacks physically in Sri Lanka. They email bombed by using the internet of some of the embassies of Sri Lanka around the world, collapsing their systems and disturbing their work.

After that attack, only a few Cyberattacks have been considered terrorist. A lot of Hacktivism attacks have also been mistaken as Cyberterrorism by media or governments. Even though the Cyberspace leaves an enormous room to perpetuate attacks which could cause, at least, important monetary losses, terrorist groups have not added those practices to their strategies and tactics. Furthermore, to generate those kinds of attacks would require experts with years of training. Therefore, terrorist groups may lack the required skills, yet, to successfully conduct a severe cyberterrorist attack. However, Cyberterrorism is still a significant threat as specialists can be hired by terrorist group or some terrorist groups can reach the level of skills needed in the years to come.

There are several different types of attacks that terrorists can perpetrate in the Cyberspace [4]. As Berner points, the most likely to take place are viruses, cracking, sniffing, social engineering and Dumpster diving.

However, attacking is not the only opportunity that cyberspace opens to terrorist groups. While the number of cyber-attacks performed by terrorist groups has increased, other uses of the cyberspace by terrorists are frequent and take place every day. The most appreciable nowadays is the propaganda of those terrorist groups, which include recruitment, incitement to terrorism, and radicalization of people online, using social media. Cyberspace is also used as a mechanism to finance their activities. More importantly, part of the training and planning of terrorist attacks causing physical damage is conducted online, since as has been stated before, cyberspace offers the opportunity to control remotely those attacks and protects the identity of the creator of the attack.

When looking at the most widely used definitions of cyberterrorism, it is clear the lack of inclusion of the different uses cyberspace can provide to terrorist other than to perpetrate attacks. However, some researchers and experts argue that since cyberterrorism englobes the terms of cyberspace and terrorism as a whole, the definition should also englobe those other dimensions.

Even if there has not been a large number of Cyberterrorist attacks, Cyberterrorism still represents a great threat to the international community, for countries, population, and scholars. From a psychological perspective, Cyberterrorism uses the fear of random and violent victimization with the fear of computer technology. If we add the lack of information of most of the population, cyberterrorism provokes fear because of its unknown nature. The attacks perpetrated by hackers to some governments and enterprises

³ Hacktivism is a mix of the terms "Hacker" and "Activism".

have shown the lack of ability to defend computer systems and the vulnerability of private enterprises, which have increased the concerns on this topic.

As national security is a national matter, there are some reticence by states when deciding to engage in international conventions on those issues which could undermine their own sovereignty. Whereas all countries point Cybersecurity as a matter of global concern, there has been difficulties in achieving international consensual norms regarding the aforementioned topic and Cyberterrorism. However, it is indispensable for the international community to reach an agreement to prevent and combat Cyberterrorism worldwide.

III. Past UN actions already undertaken on the issue

Until this day, the United Nations has not provided either clarity about the concepts surrounding Cyberterrorism or countermeasures against possible future Cyberterrorist attacks.

Even if the UN did not tackle this issue in a proper way yet, it has actively discussed matters related to Cybersecurity and the development in the field of information and telecommunications in international security [5]. In 2013, Secretary General Ban Ki Moon expressed that “Cyberattacks have the potential to destabilize on a global scale. Cybersecurity must therefore be a matter of global concern. The United Nations is promoting dialogue and cooperation among Member States to ensure an open, secure, peaceful and accessible ICT environment.” However, the General Assembly of United Nations has been discussing issues concerning Cybersecurity and the implications of the security of information since the 90s.

The first resolution addressing the issue of Cybersecurity - term which was not developed yet - is the Resolution 53/70, adopted by the General Assembly in 1998 [6]. In this resolution, the following points are articulated:

- 1.1. Calls upon Member State to promote at multilateral levels the consideration of existing and potential threats in the field of information security;
- 1.2. Invites all Member States to Inform the Secretary - General of their views and assessments on the following questions:
 - a) General appreciation of the issues of information security
 - b) Definition of basic notions related to information security, including unauthorized interference with or misuse of information and telecommunications systems and information resources;
 - c) Advisability of developing international principles that would enhance the security of global information and telecommunications systems and help to combat information terrorism and criminality;

These articles were formulated in view of the concern about the topic and the possible misuse and exploitation of information sources and technology.

Another important tool has been the group of Governmental experts (called GGEs), created by the Disarmament and International Security Committee. Four GEEs have taken place discussing and negotiating international norms to create a joint outcome document which should summarize all the visions of the participant countries and the conclusions of their discussions during the meetings about Cybersecurity as concern for the whole international community. However, this is a recent addition. As the topic is recent and cyberspace evolves swiftly, different countries have different views on how the question of Cybersecurity should be tackled. Whereas the firsts GGEs did not provide the international community with any report or joint statements, the third one represented a turning point in how the international system views Cybersecurity. In the report of 2013, the international community agreed to apply the same international humanitarian law offline and online. This was a very important move towards recognizing the equivalence of the same acts whether offline and online [7].

These GGEs have been remarkably useful to advance in the development of international norms and costumes about global Cybersecurity. However, those improvements have not reached the level demanded by the international community.

Regarding the develop of Cyberterrorism as a matter of discussion within UN, as stated before, it is still embryonic. Nevertheless, some organizations and committees of the UN have given this issue some consideration. Some of them are the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, and specially the Working Group on countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes, which in 2009 concluded that “there were not yet an obvious terrorist threat in the area”. Other organisms and Committees would be the Counter-Terrorism Committee, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (including its Terrorism Prevention Branch) and the International Criminal Police Organization, among others.

IV. Block positions

EUROPEAN UNION

The European Union has been since 1998, when the topic of Cybersecurity began being discussed in the UN, very concerned about Cybercrimes, Cybersecurity and Cyberterrorism.

In 2001, the Cybercrime European Commission released a document titled “Network and Information Security: Proposal for a European Policy Approach” [8]. In this document, there were some points that should be considered important by all European countries to tackle Cybercrimes and fix the vulnerabilities of information and computer systems. Following the document’s recommendations, in 2005, the European Council launched the “eEurope 2005 Action Plan” [9], which put the focus on protecting information infrastructures with security of networks given their vulnerable nature.

However, the most important effort to tackle Cybercrimes would be the creation of the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA) in 2004 [10]. As it is stated in their web page, the agency “works closely together with Members States and private sector to deliver advice and solutions. This includes, the Pan-European Cyber Security Exercises, the development of National Cyber Security Strategies, CSIRTs cooperation and capacity building, but also researches on to secure Clouds, addressing data protection issues, privacy enhancing technologies and privacy on emerging technologies, eIDs and trust services, and identifying the cyber threat landscape, and others”.

CHINA, RUSSIA, AND ALLIES

China and Russia have presented in the past another conceptual proposal of what cybersecurity is [11]. They used the term of Information Security, being defined by them as the “dissemination of Information that incites terrorism, secessionism or extremism or that undermines other countries’ political, economic and social stability, as well as their spiritual and cultural environment”. Such proposal has been hardly criticized by the rest of the international community, the UN and a large amount of scholars and experts in the field. As seen by the differentiation of Hacktivism and Cyberterrorism, there is the concern of the possible abuse of the term.

Furthermore, both countries have been accused numerous times of performing Cyberattack to other governments. However, such accusations have been denied by each government firmly accusing individual nationals acting by their free will. Due to these issues, both countries positioned themselves in the international community against Cybercrime and Cyberterrorism, trying to tackle those practices within their borders while maintaining their sovereignty over the issue.

Authoritarian regimes have agreed with China’s and Russia’s vision. Wanting to protect their sovereignty on such an important matter as security. Those countries try to elaborate a term broader to give the government more capacity to interpret it. However, this does not mean they do not see Cyberterrorism as a future threat. They do. However, their view differs from other countries when creating and implementing a common solution to the issue.

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Due to the strong link between the country and the cyberspace, the United States is ahead other countries taking measures to respond to threats, with one of the most advanced legislation on Cybercrime.

In 2003, the “National Strategy to Secure Cyberspace” was released [12]. The document identified the strategic objectives of the nation and the security priorities of the government to reduce cyber threats and vulnerabilities that could stir the country. In addition, since the presidency of Clinton, there has been a President Commission on Critical Infrastructure Protection. Also, the United States have been cooperating actively with the European Union via NATO in assuring transatlantic Cybersecurity and matching strategies to increase their effectiveness.

In Latin America [13], Cybersecurity has become an important issue to take care off in the last years. The Mining and manufacturing sectors have proven to be the most vulnerable ones, showing the vulnerability of critical infrastructures in the state. Whereas Cyberterrorism is still not a big issue in the agenda of the region, some countries have expressed their worries and have pointed Cyberterrorism as an issue that needs to be solved with the international community cooperation.

V. Areas to consider in any resolution

After considering the aforementioned information and reviewing the topic, it is expected that some areas should be included in the resolution that delegates are supposed to create during the conference:

- a. It is important to define cyberterrorism, differentiating which practices should be included as cyberterrorism and which not.

- b. In addition, it is needed to include the question of how to tackle Cyberterrorism and how to prevent Cyberterrorist attacks given the current development of those practices.
- c. How should the international community regulate the cyberspace? It would be ideal to include in the resolution the best approach to do so and how the international framework can include ideas to tackle all forms of Cyberterrorism.

These three points are a guide in order to prepare for the conference. However, any other issue that might emerge during the sessions of the committee are welcomed into the resolution.

VI. Bibliography and useful links

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- [9] eEurope 2005 Action Plan: http://www.etsi.org/WebSite/document/aboutETSI/EC_Communications/eEurope2005_actionPlan.pdf
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- [13] Cybersecurity in Latin America: <http://www.as-coa.org/articles/latam-minute-james-bosworth-state-cybersecurity-latin-america>