

# MEDIMUN XV Annual Session 2020



## RESEARCH REPORT - General Assembly 1

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## Topic 1: The question of managing the threat of biological weapons

### Introduction

Defined as: “pathogen-containing agents, inter alia bacteria, viruses and fungi, that can be utilized as armaments against humans, plants or animals”, **Biological Weapons (BWs)** are considered to be amongst the most primordial types of warfare, their earliest documented use dating back to 1500 BC. Ranging anywhere from the detonation of bombs full of bubonic plague-ridden fleas over enemy territory to the weaponization of potentially lethal diseases such as anthrax, it is indisputable that biological warfare poses a tangible threat to not only the local community where it is originally utilized, but to humanity as a whole, largely due to **pathogens’** non-discriminatory nature and their capacity to proliferate over immense distances, which significantly increases the risk of the emergence of an epidemic when BWs are implemented.

It is upon taking the aforementioned factors into consideration, coupled with the growing concern over the potential misuse of the rampantly developing field of biotechnology, that, in 1972, the UN decided to draft the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) - a treaty, that amongst other stipulations, prohibits the development, possession, and stockpiling of biological and toxin agents. As of 2019, the BWC boasts 183 signatories, although this substantial figure of participating Member States is in large part due to the Convention’s outdated, and somewhat ineffective, framework. Comprised of myriads of omissions- such as the absence of a formal mechanism for investigating Member States’ suspected violations - the BWC facilitates Member States’ compliance, but reduces the Convention to little more than a cosmetic gentleman’s agreement, rather than an effective, multilateral, disarmament treaty.

When coupled with rapid advancements in the field of biotechnology (namely the development of CRISPR gene editing), the aforementioned legal loopholes within the **BWC** become a cause for concern, as both of these factors facilitate Member States

to develop new, potentially harmful bioagents without the UN's awareness, and, more importantly, to the potential harm of millions of people.

### Definition of Key Terms

1. **Biological Weapon:** a harmful *biological* agent (such as a pathogenic microorganism or a neurotoxin) used as a weapon to cause death or disease usually on a large scale
2. **Pathogen:** a bacterium, virus, or other microorganism that can cause a disease
3. **Biological Warfare (BW):** warfare that makes use of bacteria, viruses, toxins, etc. to disable or destroy people, domestic animals, and food crops.
4. **Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD):** a class of weaponry with the potential to kill millions of civilians, jeopardize the natural environment, and fundamentally alter the world and the lives of future generations through their catastrophic effects.
5. **Area Denial Warfare:** is a device or a strategy used to prevent an adversary from occupying or traversing an area of land, sea or air.
6. **Synthetic Biology:** field of science that involves redesigning organisms for useful purposes by engineering them to have new abilities
7. **Biosafety - the** measures taken to protect civilians from the release of harmful biological or biochemical substances from laboratories
8. **Biodefense** - defensive measures taken to protect against an attack using biological weapons.
9. **Biosecurity** - procedures or measures designed to protect the population against harmful biological or biochemical substances.
10. **NBCs:** Nuclear Biological and Chemical weapons
11. **LEDCs:** Less Economically Developed Countries



*Pictured on the left are anthrax spores under a microscope - anthrax is one of the most common Biological Weapons. Pictured on the right is a skin lesion caused by anthrax; if left untreated 1/3 people with this condition will die.*

### General Overview

**Biological Weapons** are any type of harmful biological agent (e.g. bacteria, virus or fungi) or toxin (poison derived from animals, plants or microorganisms, or similar synthetically-produced substances) that can be used with the intent to kill or harm humans, animals or plants, or conversely, with the intent to initiate an act of war. This type of weaponry is generally comprised of two main parts - a weaponized agent (e.g. anthrax) and a delivery mechanism (e.g. missiles, bombs, hand grenades).

**Biological weapons** can be implemented with various objectives, (outlined below).

#### **Potential Objectives of BW:**

- to gain strategic or tactical military advantage over enemy forces;
- to infect livestock or agricultural produce to initiate food shortages and economic loss;
- to assassinate political opponents;
- to jeopardize the natural environment;
- to initiate widespread illness;
- to prevent an area from being accessed by an enemy (in the latter case, Biological Weapons are recognized as **Area Denial Weapons**).

Biological Weapons are also recognized as being a **Weapon of Mass Destruction (WMD)**, alongside nuclear, radiological and chemical weapons, as they can inflict significant harm on a population, be it of people, agricultural produce or livestock.

#### **HISTORY**

Historically, **Biological Warfare (BW)** is one of the oldest types of warfare; its earliest documented use dates back to 1500 BC. In that case, people infected with the disease tularemia were forced to occupy enemy land, as a means of starting an epidemic, and consequently weakening enemy forces. Since then, Biological Weapons have been developed further and used on many an occasion; prominent examples of BW are: during the British siege of Fort Pitt (where the British Army presented blankets from smallpox hospital as gifts to Native Americans in hopes of spreading the disease) ; during World War II (where the allies built facilities capable of mass production of anthrax spores, brucellosis and botulism toxins); during the Second Sino-Japanese War (where the Japanese Army Air Force detonated bombs full of bubonic plague-ridden fleas over Chinese territory).

The recognition of the fact that biological warfare poses a tangible threat to not only the community where it is originally utilized, but to humanity as a whole, led the United Nations to draw up the **Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)** in 1972. The Convention, amongst other stipulations, prohibits offensive **Biological Warfare** which means that under the BWC, the development, possession, and stockpiling of biological and toxin agents are outlawed.

Alongside the BWC, there are other means of preventing BW - the fact that the use of biological weapons is prohibited under international humanitarian law, and that the use of biological agents in armed conflict is recognized as a war crime, goes to show

the degree of action that countries are willing to take to prevent this type of warfare from being used.

## **PRESENT DAY**

Currently, Biological Weapons pose a greater threat to International Security than ever before. This is as a result of several factors, in particular:

### **1. THE INADEQUACY OF THE BWC**

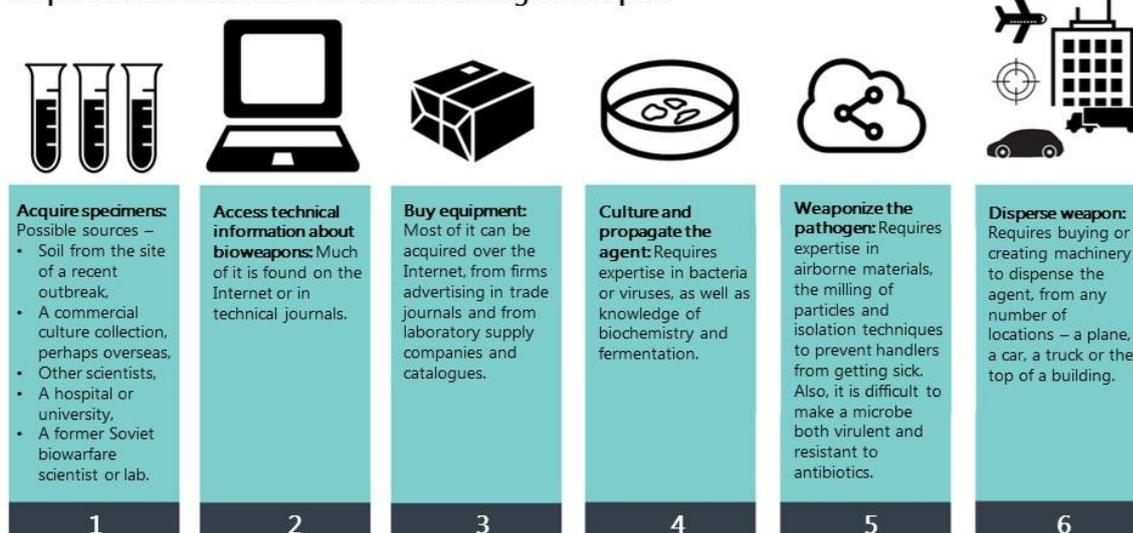
The BWC contains multiple significant omissions that, in essence, facilitate Member States to create offensive Bioweapons programs, without the knowledge of the International Community, and in particular the United Nations.

### **2. THE THREAT OF BIOTERRORISM**

In August 2016, the **United Nations Secretary General** told the **Security Council** that “non-state actors are actively seeking chemical, biological, and nuclear weapons.”, meaning that the use of **NBCs** (Nuclear, Biological and Chemical weapons), is no longer limited to state actors, but is increasingly available, and used by, non-state actors (i.e. individuals). This is largely due to the fact that Biological Weapons’ nature lends itself to be exploited by terrorists.

Biological Weapons are difficult to detect, cheap to make (it is estimated that the cost of a bioweapon is 0.05% of the cost of conventional weapon, causing practically the same number of casualties) and simple to detonate. Additionally, Biological Weapons can be easily produced in commonplace technology (such as that used in the production of vaccines, food, beverages and antibiotics). All of these characteristics appeal to terrorists, especially considering the fact that Biological Weapons can be detonated without government agencies’ awareness of an attack. This, too, is primarily due to the nature of pathogens - most pathogenic organisms have an incubation period of 3 to 7 days in the human/ animal/ plant body before symptoms arise. This allows terrorists to easily escape after having detonated a biological weapon, as, at least for the next 3 days, the pathogenic organism will remain undetected by the general public.

Steps needed to create an aerosolized biological weapon:



*Pictured above are the steps needed in order to create biological agents; this gives us an idea of how relatively simple this process is, and how easily it can potentially be exploited by bioterrorists.*

### **3. BIOTECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES**

In recent years, rapid advancements biotechnology community, particularly related to CRISPR gene editing technology and **synthetic biology**,

For instance, techniques such as genetic engineering enable the possibility:

- to synthesize infectious diseases from scratch;
- to manipulate a microorganism's DNA to increase its pathogenicity (i.e. make it deadlier);
- to modify common microbes so that they emit out lethal toxins once they enter the body
- to tweak the genes of dangerous bacteria and make them resistant to antibiotics, so that people infected with them would be untreatable.

The increasing availability of genetic engineering technology (CRISPRcas9, for instance), coupled with an increasing amount of people who have an awareness of how to use the technology (biomedical science students, for instance), increases the likelihood of these biotechnological advances being exploited, and a vast amount of new, lethal Biological Weapons being produced.

### **Major Parties Involved**

#### **Russia**

In the 1920s a Biological Weapons program was inaugurated in the Soviet Union, that expanded and flourished throughout the Union's existence. Over the course of its history, the Soviet program is known to have weaponized and stockpiled the eleven bio-agents, and, at its height the program was comprised of 52 sites employing over 50,000 people. This program was conducted without the public's awareness; after the dissolution of the Union, the Russian President at the time, Boris Yeltsin, acknowledged the existence of an illegal BW program in the former Soviet Union and ordered it to be dissolved. His order, however, way not obeyed and presently there is a firm belief amongst the international community that Russia has a Biological Weapons Program that exceeds the limitations of the BWC.

#### **United States**

The U.S. has an extensive history in the development of biological weapons. Its biological weapons program started during World War II; the first real public test happened in 1949. In 1950, the US Navy carried out Operation Sea-Spray. The coast of San Francisco was sprayed with two types of bacteria, *Bacillus globigii* and *Serratia marcescens*.

In 1997, the National Research Council revealed that the US also used chemicals to test the potential of biological weapons in the 1950s, at the height of the Cold War. Zinc cadmium sulphide was dispersed by plane and sprayed over a number of cities, including St Louis in Missouri and Minneapolis in Minnesota. These cities were chosen because they were similar to Soviet targets such as Moscow in terms of

terrain, weather and population. The council concluded that no one was hurt and that the level of chemical used was not harmful, but in 2012, sociology professor Lisa Martino-Taylor claimed that there was a spike in cancer rates that could be connected back to the chemicals, which she alleges were radioactive. The United States is also accused of dropping canisters full of insects infected with chorea and the plague in Korea and China during the Korean War. This is something the US military denies as a “disinformation campaign”.

In recent years, it has been widely recognized by critics, that U.S. work on non-lethal agents exceeds limitations stated in the BWC.

### Iraq

Saddam Hussein initiated an extensive biological weapons (BW) program in Iraq in the 1980s, in violation of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC). Details of the BW program were revealed during the Gulf War (1990–91) following investigations conducted by the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) whose aim was to disarm post-war Iraq. By the end of the war, scientists had investigated the BW potential of five bacterial strains, one fungal strain, five types of virus, and four toxins. Of these, three—anthrax, botulinum and aflatoxin—had been weaponized, and were ready for deployment. In 2005, the Iraq Survey Group, an international group composed of civilian and military experts, found that the Iraqi BW programme was largely abandoned by 1997, but small-scale covert laboratories were maintained until 2003.

### Britain

During World War II, the British scientific community took an active role in the weaponization of diseases, in hopes of implementing them against Nazi forces. In the 1950s, the plague, brucellosis, tularemia and equine encephalomyelitis and vaccinia viruses were weaponized. However, Britain renounced the use of chemical and biological weapons in 1956 and subsequently destroyed its general stocks.

### Japan

Between 1932 and 1945 Japan's BW experiments tested biological weapons on humans, and attacked 11 Chinese cities during WW2 using anthrax and the bubonic plague causing an estimate of 200,000 human deaths.

## Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

- 1. Geneva Protocol 1925** - The 1925 Geneva Protocol prohibits the use of chemical and biological weapons in war
- 2. The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) 1972**

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction.

The Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) is the first multilateral disarmament treaty banning the development, production and stockpiling of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction. The BWC entered into force on 26 March 1975.

- 3. Biological Weapons Anti-Terrorism Act of 1989**

3. United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004)
3. The Meeting of the States Parties to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and Their Destruction (2010)

## Possible Solutions

When addressing this issue, delegates might want to consider several approaches to the issue.

1. Primarily, and most importantly, delegates should attempt to update the BWC to bring it up to modern day standards, and ensure transparency between the Member States, by including stipulations that would:
  - regulate the use of CRISPR gene technology in bioagent development;
  - reform of the verification process in the BWC;
  - establish an inquiry process in the case of alleged violations in biodefense programs.
2. Ensuring that the UN Member States at greater risk of a Biological Weapons attack (primarily **LEDCs**) have direct protection from the UN. This could be achieved through means that include, but are not limited to:
  - Inaugurating awareness campaigns, that would educate people on the risks of BW, and the ways they can detect the presence of a pathogen within their community;
  - Creating effective first-hand response mechanisms, that are not only able to detect the Biological Weapons attack, but also to treat people who have been infected, and analyse the Biological Weapon used.
3. Consider addressing the issue of bioagent movement across borders.
4. Consider the threat of bioterrorism, and possible resolutions to the issue.

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## Topic 2: The question of reducing the risk of conflict in a warming Arctic

### Introduction

The Arctic is a polar region located in the northernmost part of the Earth. The Arctic consists of the Arctic Ocean, adjacent seas, and parts of Alaska (United States), Finland, Greenland (Denmark), Iceland, Northern Canada, Norway, Russia and



Sweden. Land within the Arctic region has seasonally varying snow and ice cover, with predominantly treeless **permafrost** (permanently frozen underground ice) containing tundra. Arctic seas contain seasonal sea ice in many places, the extent of which, however, has been rapidly shrinking over the last decades as a result of climate change.

*Pictured above is Arctic sea-ice in September 1979 and 2007; this is the biggest reduction of Arctic Ice since satellite surveillance began.*

The region is presently sparsely populated, largely due to the precarity of the weather conditions; the indigenous Inuit people thus comprise the majority of the local population.

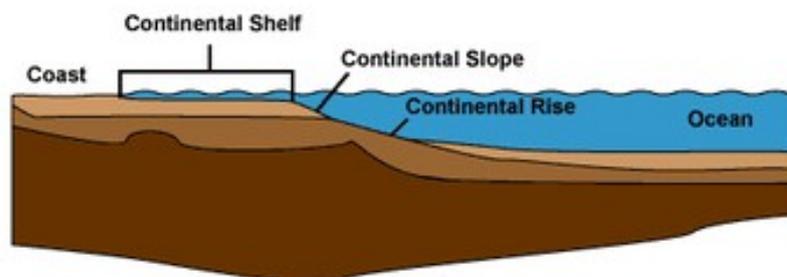
Geopolitical activity in the frozen Arctic has historically been fairly low. However, the onset of global warming is changing the region's geopolitical conditions. Over time the Arctic melting is expected to reveal under-water resources and new shipping opportunities, which led to a fear of inter-state hostility in a scramble for new territories following the Russian flag planting on the North Pole seabed in 2007. In reality states bartered for unsettled territories in a peaceful manner after the Arctic states signed the **2008 Ilulissat Declaration** committing themselves to peaceful

cooperation, even when frictions created heated disputes farther south (e.g. events such as the Ukraine Crisis in 2014). In 2019 most of the Arctic states are engaged in developing the governance of the region, such as bilateral agreements and Search and Rescue capabilities.

Climate change is crucial to Arctic geopolitics and has led to a renewed interest in the region's resources. According to the **IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change)**, the Arctic is experiencing the fast and drastic climate change with a temperature increase of 1.9 degrees Celsius in the last 30 years. Climate change causes receding ice sheets, rising air and marine temperatures, melting of the Greenland ice sheet and decline of sea ice, ocean acidification and extreme weather events such as flooding, fires and drought. The thawing of the permafrost may release carbon dioxide and methane gases while natural resource stresses risk biological migration and extinction.

### Definition of Key Terms

1. **Continental shelf:** a portion of a continent that is submerged under an area of relatively shallow water known as a shelf sea
2. **Permafrost:** ground, including rock or soil, with a temperature that remains at or below the freezing point of water 0 °C or two or more years
3. **The Arctic Council:** an intergovernmental forum that addresses issues faced by the eight Arctic governments and the indigenous people of the Arctic. Eight Member States constitute the council: Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, Sweden, and the United States.
4. **Circumpolar:** situated around or inhabiting one of the earth's poles, in our case, the North Pole.



### General Overview

Since its inauguration following the end of the Cold War (1996), the 8 **circumpolar** countries have been working together in the **Arctic Council**.

In general, the forums between the states in the Arctic continue their cooperation today. Based on the work of the Arctic Council, new international institutions have also been set up; organizations dealing with economic matters (Arctic Economic Council), marine security (Arctic Coast Guard Forum) and oil pollution prevention at sea (Arctic Offshore Regulators Forum).

Despite previous peaceful cooperation between the circumpolar countries, a warming Arctic is of increasing concern to the International Community. The Arctic is warming at least twice as fast as anywhere else on Earth; as ice cover in the Arctic rapidly decreases, the race to extract the vast reservoirs of oil and natural gas that lie under it (according to the United States Geological Survey, the area has an eighth

of the world's untapped oil and perhaps a quarter of its gas) will likely provoke hostilities between Russia, the United States, China and other nations with claims to the resources, threatening to destabilize the region.

## **Major Parties Involved**

### **The Arctic Council**

In addition to the aforementioned forums, where Declarations on the prospect of the Arctic are suggested, negotiated and signed, the Arctic Council works through six Working Groups:

- Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme (AMAP)
- Conservation of Arctic Flora & Fauna (CAFF)
- Emergency Prevention, Preparedness & Response (EPPR)
- Protection of the Arctic Marine Environment (PAME)
- Sustainable Development Working Group (SDWG)
- Arctic Contaminants Action Program (ACAP) (since 2006)

### **CLCS-Commission of the Limits of Continental Shelf**

### **IGO-International Governmental Organisation**

### **UNEP-United Nations Environmental Program**

### **European Union**

### **Russia**

Among the Arctic Council states Russia is the state which currently possesses the greatest means of power in the region. Russia's territory borders nearly half of the Arctic Ocean, the country has the largest majority of ice breaking vessels in the world and also the world's biggest population living within the Arctic boundary. Further Russia is the state that so far has been the most active in terms of economic activities in the Arctic.

### **United States**

United States is despite its economic and military power in world politics the smallest state actor in the Arctic among the A5. USA possesses the smallest territory bordering the Arctic (through Alaska) and in total USA only has one state-controlled ice breaking vessel active in the Arctic. In comparison, Sweden, being an Arctic state without bordering the Arctic Ocean, has 8 state-controlled ice breaking vessels, one of which is active in the Arctic Ocean.

However, with the Trump Administration coming into power, many environmental policy changes have occurred, and the Arctic, too, has been targeted as a potential monetary resource. The Trump administration passed a tax bill in December 2017, which includes a provision that approves drilling in Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). Scientists, and environmentalists have warned that fossil fuel extraction in the ANWR could harm the landscape and the species that live there.

In September 2019, the administration stated they would like to see the entire coastal plain opened for gas and oil exploration, the most aggressive of the suggested development options; they plan to start granting leases by the end of 2019. The area includes areas where caribou visit for calving and polar bears who have been driven to spend more of their time along the refuge's coastal plain due to melting ice caused by global warming have their dens. There are concerns for the Indigenous populations as well because many of them rely on subsistence hunting and fishing. The administration's plan calls for "the construction of as many as four places for airstrips and well pads, 175 miles of roads, vertical supports for pipelines, a seawater-treatment plant and a barge landing and storage site."

### **Canada**

Canada is next to Russia the state with the largest Arctic landmass, population and amount of ice breaking vessels and is naturally the second most influential state actor in the Arctic besides Russia. The Canadian Arctic landmass consists of thousands of islands with both frozen and open waters in between.

### **Denmark (Greenland)**

Denmark get access to the Arctic through Greenland and the Faroe Islands and does through these islands in total have an Arctic population of 100,000. Greenland is the world's biggest island which is a self-autonomous part of Denmark.

### **Norway**

Norway borders the Arctic Ocean in the north and through Svalbard and the Norwegian maritime areas in the Arctic is 1,500,000 km<sup>2</sup>, (similar to the size of France, Germany and Spain together). Around 470,000 Norwegians live within the Arctic boundaries, constituting 10% of Norway's population.

Since 1961, The Nordic countries (except Iceland) - Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden - share a cooperative fleet of icebreakers which are being used in Nordic waters and which are also contracted to Arctic ice breaking expeditions.

## **Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue**

1. **UNCLOS**(United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea): The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), also called the Law of the Sea Convention or the Law of the Sea treaty is the international agreement that resulted from the third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS III), which took place between 1973 and 1982. The Law of the Sea Convention defines the rights and responsibilities of nations with respect to their use of the world's oceans, establishing guidelines for businesses, the environment, and the management of marine natural resources.

The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea is the main agreement between states that regulates naval activities in the Arctic and the rest of the world. However the convention is not suited perfectly for newly accessible waters such as in the Arctic and the convention is as a consequence interpreted in various ways depending on what definition Member States choose to use. The lack of a given definition of internal and international waters in the Arctic creates a risk for dispute concerning the control of navigation routes and resources since the Arctic states in certain areas have overlapping territorial claims.

2) European Union policy for the Arctic (2016/2228(INI)), which worked under UNCLOS and UNFCCC

3) UNFCCC-United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change, consisting of 26 articles providing solutions to the matter.

### **Possible Solutions**

1. Updating the UNFCCC (especially articles 6 and 9)
2. Raising awareness of the issue amongst the public - by doing so, people will be more likely to vote in favour of politicians that will not pursue environmentally-damaging policies (such as that of the Trump Administration), which will, inadvertently, decrease the nations' military and industrial presence in the Arctic region.
3. Promote environmental activism to preclude and dissuade national leaders from exploiting the natural resources in the Arctic, due to it no longer being cost effective to continue exploration in the region. The presence of a thick and permanent ice sheet would render extraction and transportation of resources borderline impossible. This could be done by encouraging Member States to minimize the burning of fossil fuels, as well as to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, respecting the constraints set out in the Paris Agreement of 2014.

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## **Topic 3: The question of piracy in New Guinea.**

## **Introduction**

The Gulf of **Guinea** stretches from Senegal to Angola, covering over 6,000 km of coast line. It comprises 20 coastal states, islands and landlocked states and forms two regions: West Africa and Central Africa. The sea basin is of geo-political and geo-economic importance for the transport of goods to and from central and southern Africa. Additionally, it is a choke point for the African energy trade, with intensive oil extraction in Nigeria's Niger Delta. **Piracy** in the Gulf of Guinea affects a number of countries in West Africa as well as the wider international community. Pirates in the Gulf of Guinea are often part of heavily armed criminal enterprises, who employ violent methods to steal **oil cargo**. Reports state that by 2012, the number of vessels attacks by West African pirates had reached a world high, with 966 **seafarers** attacked during a year. By November 2013, there were estimated to be at least 100 attempted **hijacks** in the Gulf of Guinea.

## **Definition of Key Terms**

**Guinea:** Guinea is a country in West Africa, bordered on the west by the Atlantic Ocean. It's known for the Mount Nimba Strict Nature Reserve, in the southeast. The reserve protects a forested mountain range rich in native plants and animals, including chimpanzees and the viviparous toad. On the coast, the capital city, Conakry, is home to the modern Grand Mosque and the National Museum, with its regional artifacts.

**Gulf:** A deep inlet of the sea almost surrounded by land, with a narrow mouth.

**Piracy:** The practice of attacking and robbing ships at sea.

**Oil Cargo:** Ships carrying oil in bulk.

**Seafarers:** People who regularly travel by sea/Sailors.

**Hijacks:** Unlawfully seize a ship in transit and force it to go to a different destination or use it for one's own purposes.

## **General Overview**

The term 'piracy' is widely used in the media and in official reports to generally refer to maritime crime in the region, but this is formally incorrect, as the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea defines piracy as an act conducted on the high seas i.e. beyond territorial waters. Similar criminal activities that take place within territorial waters are not defined as acts of piracy following this definition under international law.

Reports of attempted or actual attacks considered acts of piracy, differ wildly. This has added to a general confusion with regards to understanding the scope of the problem, fuelled significantly by the varied use of the term piracy itself, the uncoordinated and heterogeneous sources of information drawn from to prepare reports and the different stakeholders' interests in portraying the problem one way or another.

Even though piracy in the region is not a new phenomenon, it has widely changed in the new century, with regards both to the typology and the number of attacks carried out. In the past, the vast majority of incidents could be categorized as simple

maritime robbery: individual sailors, usually carrying cash, were often targeted for robbery on shore, and attacked when ships were at port or transferring cargo close to shore.

## **TODAY**

Since the early 2010s, attacks have started to differ from this profile: incursions have been more serious and aimed at directly acquired cargos containing refined petroleum, as the region has increasingly been marred by illegal oil-bunkering. According to a European Parliament report, this was due to the discovery of large amounts of offshore hydrocarbon, from which only the central government, local elites, and oil companies have actually profited. Consequently, some of those excluded from welfare have turned to such illegal maritime activity, in the form of 'petro-piracy'.

## **Major Parties Involved**

- United Nations:
  - Security Council
  - UNOWAS(United Nations Office for Western Africa)
  - UNOCA(United Nations Office for Central Africa)
- International Maritime Organization(IMO)
- European Union
- Interpol

## **Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue**

The UN Security Council issued two resolutions, in 2011 and 2012 respectively, initiated by Benin and Togo, which set out the need for promoting the maintenance of peace and stability in general in the Gulf of Guinea region and encourage international partners to enhance the counter-piracy capabilities of regional states and organizations. In the 2011 resolution, the Security Council expressed

*"its concern over the threat that piracy and armed robbery at sea pose to the safety of seafarers and other persons, including through their being taken as hostages, and deeply concerned by the violence employed by pirates and persons involved in piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea."*

Consequently, the organization

*"encourages States [...] through concerted action, to counter piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea through the conduct of bilateral or regional maritime patrols consistent with relevant international law (UN link) and calls upon States, in cooperation with the shipping industry, the insurance industry and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to issue to ships entitled to fly their flag, appropriate advice and guidance within the context of the Gulf of Guinea."*

In the 2012 resolution, the Security Council,

*"expressing its deep concern about the threat that piracy and armed robbery at sea in the Gulf of Guinea pose to international navigation, security and the economic development of states in the region urges States of the region of the Gulf of Guinea to take prompt action, at national and regional levels with the support of the international community where able, and by mutual agreement, to develop and implement national maritime security strategies, including for the establishment of a legal framework for the prevention, and repression of piracy and armed robbery at sea and as well as prosecution of persons engaging in those crimes, and punishment of those convicted of those crimes and encourages regional cooperation in this regard."*

### Possible Solutions

- 1) Increase in sea patrol, which could be achieved by an increase in funding by the UN
- 2) Creation of NGOs which can raise awareness on the matter, thus influencing stakeholders
- 3) Implementation of communism (clearly a joke(or is it?))
- 4) Mainly, delegates should manipulate previous attempts at resolving the issue such as, but not limited to the 2011 and 2012 resolutions of the Security Council

### Sources

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