



# Security Council

Directed By: Roman Ramos

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## TSMUN XXIII BACKGROUND GUIDE 2019

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**Topic I: The Situation in Venezuela**

**Topic II: Cyberwarfare at a Global Scale**



Dear Delegates,

We would like to welcome you to the Tallahassee Southern Regional Model United Nations (TSMUN)! Here at TSMUN, it is our goal to be able to provide an atmosphere in which you can improve your knowledge of international relations as well as further improve your writing, speaking, and diplomacy skills. My name is Roman Ramos and I will be your Director for Security Council of TSMUN 2019. Several years ago, I was the recipient of the TSMUN scholarship which helped me achieve my associate of arts at Tallahassee Community College while participating in Model United Nations. Now I am a student at Florida State University pursuing a degree in International Relations and Political Science.

The topics under discussion for TSMUN 2019's Security Council are:

1. The Situation in Venezuela
2. Cyberwarfare at a Global Scale

The United Nations (UN) Security Council is one of the six organs of the UN. The Security Council's role in the international community is to maintain peace and security across the world. It is the only organ with the unique powers to pass legally binding resolutions and may also impose economic sanctions as well as invoke peacekeepers if deemed necessary. This body is composed of 15 UN members. There are Five permanent members of the Security Council: the United States, Russia, China, the United Kingdom, and France, which all have vetoing power. The coordination and the execution of the powers possessed by the Security Council make it a unique body.

This background guide has been written to assist delegates through their research and throughout the conference. This background guide is meant to introduce and contextualize these topics as well as the challenges the international community faces in creating new solutions to these problems. Delegates should conduct their own research on each topic in addition to reading this background guide especially because the guide will have been published as both issues continue to develop. Delegates are encouraged to research past frameworks, countries in association with the topics, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) that have been involved with these topics.

Each delegate is responsible for submitting their own position paper. They may either be submitted electronically, through a physical copy, or a USB drive before the beginning of committee. If you choose to email your position paper, you may do so at [sc@tsmun.org](mailto:sc@tsmun.org). Plagiarism of any sort will not be tolerated. Questions regarding formatting and content of position papers can be found on <http://www.tsmun.org/position-papers.html>. For conference, scholarship, and information that might be useful to you visit <http://www.tsmun.org> . If you have any questions in relation to the conference feel free to contact me at [sc@tsmun.org](mailto:sc@tsmun.org) .

Sincerely,

Roman Matthew Ramos,

Security Council Director



## Committee Overview

### ***Introduction***

After its ratification in 1945, the UN Charter established the Security Council (UNSC) as one of the six main branches of the UN.<sup>1</sup> Within the UN Charter, the UNSC is granted the following role of maintaining international peace and security.<sup>2</sup> The UNSC gathers throughout the year at the UN headquarters in New York City but they may also be summoned during times of crisis.<sup>4</sup>

### ***Committee Mandate***

The UN Charter dictates that the four main purposes of the UN are to: develop friendly relationships among states, attain international cooperation in solving international problems, maintaining international peace and security, and promoting human rights by coordinating actions that support these pillars.<sup>5</sup> The members of the UNSC collectively determine whether an act of aggression is sufficient to deter peace in any given geographical area.<sup>7</sup> This council, composed of 15 members, summons conflicting parties to settle any acts of violence or aggression through peaceful settlements and negotiations.<sup>8</sup> The UNSC is given the power to issue military actions or determine sanctions on a party in order to settle the conflict if deemed necessary.<sup>9</sup> Under the U.N. Charter, every Member State must comply with any resolution proposed by the UNSC as they are legally binding.<sup>10</sup> The UNSC also submits a recommendation for a new Secretary General and the admission of any new state into the General Assembly.<sup>11</sup>

### ***Governance, Structure, and Membership***

The UNSC is made up of fifteen Member States.<sup>12</sup> Five of the members have guaranteed seats while the remaining ten are rotated in a cyclical basis.<sup>13</sup> The five permanent members have the authority to veto any important decisions or resolutions.<sup>14</sup> The five permanent members of this council are: China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, and the United States.<sup>15</sup>

The other ten members are selected by the General Assembly for a two-year term.<sup>16</sup> If a Member State is invited by a UNSC member, that Member State may attend a UNSC meeting.<sup>17</sup> The members invited are not allowed to vote, however, they retain the right to assist with resolutions in regards to the matter at hand.<sup>18</sup> For any proposal to be heard and voted on it must be submitted

<sup>1</sup>“Security Council About,” *United Nations*.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

<sup>5</sup>“Chapter I,” *United Nations*.

<sup>6</sup>“Security Council About,” *United Nations*.

<sup>7</sup>“The Security Council,” *United Nations*.

<sup>8</sup>Ibid.

<sup>9</sup>Ibid.

<sup>10</sup>Ibid.

<sup>11</sup>“Functions and Powers,” *United Nations*.



by a member of the UNSC itself.<sup>19</sup> The President of the UNSC holds the authority to call a meeting or for an agenda to be approved on the floor.<sup>20</sup> Each member of the council has the opportunity to serve as president.<sup>21</sup> The role of the presidency begins in alphabetical order and their term is one month.<sup>22</sup>

The powers held by the UNSC give it a unique role in the international community. The UNSC holds special powers such as the use of military powers and economic sanctions. These actions are taken to support the mandate of maintaining international peace and security. The UNSC plays a vital role to settle humanitarian struggles all across the world and to establish peace between parties in conflict.

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<sup>12</sup>“Chapter V,” *United Nations*.

<sup>13</sup>“Voting Systems and Records,” *United Nations*.

<sup>14</sup>“Chapter V,” *United Nations*.

<sup>15</sup>“Current Members,” *United Nations*.

<sup>16</sup>“Provisional Rules of Procedure of the Security Council,” *United Nations*, 1983.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*

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## The Situation in Venezuela

### *Introduction*

After their separation from Gran Colombia, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela is a country in which throughout its history has been ruled by strict military leaders.<sup>23</sup> The government has heavily relied on the oil industry for revenues for the state spending.<sup>24</sup> Venezuela has been under the rule of authoritarian regimes since the 1946 revolution known as “La revolución de Octubre.”<sup>25</sup> Venezuela has been practicing democratic norms such as democratic elections and independent judiciaries since 1959, however there has been a large increase of political power in the executive branch that allows the president to elect its parliament members and overrule the court systems ever since.<sup>26</sup> Venezuelan citizens, in the past, attempted to protest the rise of these regimes, however, they often have little success.<sup>27</sup> In 1989, there were protest of measures taken by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) to manage currency in Venezuela that took to the murder of 400 protestors known as the “Caracazo”.<sup>28</sup>

From 1999-2013, President Hugo Chavez began his authoritarian reign over the other branches of government.<sup>29</sup> In his retirement, Hugo Chavez handpicked the next leader of Venezuela, President Nicolas Maduro, who is currently in power.<sup>30</sup> In 2016, President Maduro issued a vote to create what is known as a “Constituent Assembly,” which is a parliament of members of his choosing.<sup>31</sup> Although the government has parliament known as the National Assembly, and a Supreme Court, known as the TSJ, which stands for the Tribunal Supremo de Justicia, Maduro’s latest actions have removed all powers from these two branches and he holds control over the Constituent Assembly.<sup>32</sup> This gives Maduro complete control over legal, economic, social, civil, and military policies. Once the assembly was accepted into power in 2017, it granted the executive branch with almost complete control of all other branches of government.<sup>33</sup> Due to these series of events and Maduro’s reliance on the oil industry there have been several drastic consequences suffered by Venezuela such as the deterioration of democratic institutions, freedom of press has been minimized, and political oppression has ensued.<sup>33</sup> This has led to, among other things, human rights violations, shortage of necessary goods such as food and medicine, violent crimes, and high inflation.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> “World Fact Book: Venezuela,” *Central Intelligence Agency*.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>25</sup> “Review: Harvard Review of Latin America,” *Harvard*.

<sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>27</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>29</sup> “Venezuela Human Rights Report,” *State Department*.

<sup>30</sup> “World Fact Book: Venezuela,” *Central Intelligence Agency*.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>32</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*



## ***Current Situation in Venezuela***

The current leadership of Venezuela has caused it to stumble on plenty of difficult hardships.<sup>35</sup> Since the establishment of the Maduro regime, Venezuela's political and economic institutions have become debilitated.<sup>36</sup> Corruption is also a common theme amongst the Venezuelan government.<sup>37</sup> As a result of the rampant corruption in Venezuela, recent reports in 2016 have found that over 300 billion dollars in state assets were diverted over a decade into multiple accounts of government officials.<sup>38</sup> Venezuela's economic mismanagements have also led to difficulty in borrowing money from other nations.<sup>39</sup> Venezuela has neglected to pay back its debts and as a result Member States are refusing to lend money to Venezuela.<sup>40</sup> Due to Venezuela's dependency on oil, economic needs are not being met and scarcity has begun to occur.<sup>41</sup> Necessities such as toilet paper, food, and medicine are becoming more difficult to receive in Venezuela.<sup>42</sup> In 2015, 72 percent of Venezuelans reported losing weight indicating that the country may be on the brink of a famine.<sup>43</sup> This has led to large protest by Venezuelan citizens.<sup>44</sup> As of May of 2017, over 40 have been killed, 130 have been injured and over 1,300 have been arrested for protesting.<sup>45</sup> Political opposition has not been welcomed by the Maduro regime.<sup>46</sup> Several political opponents to the Maduro regime has faced strong consequences for their actions.<sup>47</sup> After running a campaign against Maduro in 2014, Leopoldo Lopez was sentenced by the government to 13 years under house arrest for inciting violence in the city of Caracas.<sup>48</sup> There is no appropriate evidence that Leopoldo Lopez incited any violence of any form.<sup>49</sup> Furthermore, people involved in Lopez's campaign have been placed in prison or under house arrest.<sup>50</sup> In 2016, the Venezuelan intelligence agency known as SERBIN began detaining people planning campaigns against President Maduro.<sup>51</sup> This included people that planned campaigns against him and those that participated in peaceful protest.<sup>52</sup> For example, on August 29<sup>th</sup> of 2016, Yon Goicoechea, the campaign manager of the popular will opposition party, was detained by SERBIN on his way to a rally.<sup>53 54</sup> After his detainment, Yon was reported missing and after a 56 hour search his case was dismissed.<sup>55</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> "The Collapse of Venezuela and its impact on the Region," *Military Review*.

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> Ibid.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid.

<sup>46</sup> "Venezuela 2016," *Human Rights Watch*.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid.

<sup>48</sup> Ibid.

<sup>49</sup> Ibid.

<sup>50</sup> Ibid.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.

<sup>52</sup> Ibid.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.



## *Actions Taken by the UN*

In 2008, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) met in order to address the Global Food Crisis found in Venezuela.<sup>56</sup> However, this meeting didn't end with a solution due to Venezuela's non-compliance to discuss solutions.<sup>57</sup> Samuen Monada Ancosta, Venezuela's ambassador to the UN, went on to say that Venezuela is doing "better than ever."<sup>58</sup>

The UN has taken many cautions while addressing the situation in Venezuela.<sup>59</sup> One of the highest priorities in the UN is that of respecting state sovereignty.<sup>60</sup> In May of 2017, the Security Council began discussions on possible actions that can be taken to lessen the damages in Venezuela.<sup>61</sup> However, several UN bodies have taken several actions addressing the situation in Venezuela.<sup>62</sup> As early as January of 2015, governmental watch dogs and NGOs such as Amnesty International, the Center of Justice for International Law, and Human Rights Watch issued a resolution to the Human Rights Council stating that the UN must take a stance on the situation.<sup>64</sup> In 2017, the Human Rights Council has issued a draft resolution which condemned the Venezuelan states on the matter however it has yet to be voted on by the committee.<sup>65</sup> Sanctions imposed by several states have also been previously condemned by the UN.<sup>66</sup> Since 2015, Member States such as Canada, the United States, and members of the European Union have imposed sanctions on Venezuela.<sup>67</sup> These actions have been condemned by the Human Rights Council. *A/HRC/37/L.34* mentions that "states to refrain from imposing unilateral coercive measures (and) condemn(s) the continued unilateral application and enforcement by certain powers of such measures as tools of political or economic pressure," due the fact that "such measures prevent the full realization of economic and social development of nations."<sup>68</sup> In 2017, the United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner released a report titled "Human Rights Violations and Abuses in the Context of Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela from 1 April to 31 July 2017."<sup>69</sup> The report indicates that the Bolivarian National Police (PNB) and the Bolivarian National Guard (GNB) use weapons such as tear gas and water cannons at peaceful protest without any warning.<sup>70</sup> Since Maduro's election over 124 protesters have been murdered with 46 of the killings being directly related to the GNB.<sup>71</sup>

<sup>56</sup> "Special Meeting of ECOSOC on the Global Food Crisis 2008," *ECOSOC*.

<sup>57</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>58</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>59</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>60</sup> UN Charter

<sup>61</sup> "Venezuelan Crisis: UN calls for investigation into possible crimes against humanity," *The Guardian*.

<sup>62</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>63</sup> "Venezuela," *Amnesty International*.

<sup>64</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>65</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>66</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>67</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>68</sup> "A/HRC/37/L.34," *United Nations*.

<sup>69</sup> "Human Rights Violations and Abuses in the Context of Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela from 1 April to 31 July," *Human Rights Council*.

<sup>70</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>71</sup> *Ibid.*



Over 1,500 people have been detained for protesting with 400 of those being children and have been put in long term confinement.<sup>72</sup> It has been reported that those detained have been victims of severe beatings, stress, sexual violence, and have even been killed.<sup>73</sup>

### ***Regional and International Frameworks***

At an international level, the global community has been imposed several sanctions against Venezuela.<sup>74</sup> In 2016, The United States imposed sanctions on Venezuela that included the prohibition of transactions with the state.<sup>75</sup> As of July, of 2018, the United States has imposed three more sanctions which include the barring of property purchase in Venezuela as well as the admittance of certain Venezuelans into the United States.<sup>76</sup> In 2017, the Canadian government-imposed sanctions on the Venezuelan government.<sup>77</sup> These sanctions were imposed on 40 individuals within the Maduro regime.<sup>78</sup> These sanctions impose asset freezes and the prohibition of dealing with the 40 people listed.<sup>79</sup> The European Union has also imposed several similar sanctions on the Bolivarian state.<sup>80</sup>

Venezuela has a history of dispute with regional neighbors.<sup>81</sup> Since 2017, it claims that it owns the Essequibo River which borders Guyana.<sup>82</sup> This river stretches through the Amazon Forest and is filled with resources that may benefit multiple parties, Venezuela's refusal of discussion has created tension in South America.<sup>83</sup> Due to their persistence of ownership of the portion of the river, Guyana has reached a lot of difficulty in being able to commit Maritime trade with Barbados, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.<sup>84</sup> These Member States have stated claims based on the UN Convention of Law of the Sea, however, without Venezuela's cooperation they may not be able to reach any exchange with one another.<sup>85</sup>

The current situation in Venezuela has also led to an influx of refugees in the region.<sup>86</sup> Since 1999, approximately 1.5 million of the 32 million citizens have fled Venezuela to seek refuge in Colombia, Brazil, Trinidad and Tobago, and other states within the region.<sup>88</sup>

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<sup>72</sup> Ibid.

<sup>73</sup> Ibid.

<sup>74</sup> "Venezuela Related Sanctions," *U.S. Department of Treasury*.

<sup>75</sup> Ibid.

<sup>76</sup> Ibid.

<sup>77</sup> "Venezuela Sanctions," *Government of Canada*.

<sup>78</sup> Ibid.

<sup>79</sup> Ibid.

<sup>80</sup> Ibid.

<sup>81</sup> "World Factbook: Venezuela," *Central Intelligence Agency*.

<sup>82</sup> Ibid.

<sup>83</sup> Ibid.

<sup>84</sup> Ibid.

<sup>85</sup> Ibid.

<sup>86</sup> "The Collapse of Venezuela and its impact on the Region," *Military Review*.

<sup>87</sup> Ibid.

<sup>88</sup> Ibid.



## ***Conclusion***

It is very difficult to define the current situation in Venezuela. Although there is an economic and political crisis, it should be noted that Venezuela is going through a regime transition that is unprecedented in Latin America. Therefore, there are very few institutional and multilateral solutions the United Nations has offered before in this context.

The Security Council has yet to take any actions, but direction is necessary for the sake of the Venezuelan people. Although sanctions have been placed by individual member states, some UN bodies have not condoned these actions stating that it does more harm than good.

Some questions you may want to consider researching and becoming knowledgeable about are the following: Will UN peacekeepers be necessary to address the situation? In the international community has there ever been a regime like Maduro's? Should the Maduro regime be removed from power and if so, how will there be a guarantee of government stability in the future to come? How can the UN deliver resources to Venezuelan citizens in need?



## Cyberwarfare at a Global Scale

### *Introduction*

During the Second World War, a British mathematician and cypher known as Alan Turing invented the first computer.<sup>89</sup> This was done to decipher codes of the Nazi army and gain an advantage in the war.<sup>90</sup> For years to come computers would be part of government domain and government use.<sup>91</sup> In the late 1970's, the public was able to buy computers and use them for basic tasks such as formulating taxes and planning future meetings.<sup>92</sup> In the 1990's, the internet became available for public use.<sup>93</sup> The internet, as many of us know, gives us the ability to be interconnected.<sup>94</sup> The internet gives us many positive advantages in the modern world such as communication, the ability to share information, and plenty of entertainment.<sup>96</sup> For all the good the internet can do, it is also known to cause harm. Cyberterrorism can be defined as using the internet for the purposes of harm, injury, or death.<sup>97</sup> In the context of this background guide, cyberterrorism will be used to explain the acts of terrorist organizations such as the Taliban and ISIS in using the internet to gain popularity or cause harm to others.<sup>98</sup> One of the first acts of Cyberterrorism was in 1997 in South London.<sup>99</sup> A man named Babar Ahmad created a website to fund Jihad organizations like the Taliban.<sup>100</sup> He would do so by manipulating people of Muslim heritage to donate to an anonymous charity which he would then use that money to help fund the Taliban.<sup>101</sup> While this situation was occurring, Younes Tsouli who also resided in South London created an anonymous presence on the internet which a username known as "Irhabi 007."<sup>102</sup> He would post videos on several social media websites of terrorist acts being committed.<sup>103</sup> The fake organization would steal credit card numbers through these websites used the money acquired to help AQI which stood for al-Qaeda, a terrorist organization from Iraq.<sup>104</sup> Before these people were arrested they were able to accumulate 37,000 credit cards and give AQI over 3.5 million dollars.<sup>105</sup> This money was able to reach the terrorist organization by being laundered through gambling websites.<sup>106</sup> The concept of funding terrorist organizations through the internet is known as Cyber-Finance Terrorism.<sup>107</sup> Cyber-Finance Terrorism gives terrorist organizations the ability to recruit people for their cause, update their equipment, and buy more weapons.<sup>108</sup>

<sup>89</sup> "A Brief History of the Internet," *Computer Communication Review*.

<sup>90</sup> Ibid.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid.

<sup>92</sup> Ibid.

<sup>93</sup> Ibid.

<sup>94</sup> Ibid.

<sup>95</sup> Ibid.

<sup>96</sup> Ibid.

<sup>97</sup> "Cyberwarfare and Cyberterrorism: In Brief," *Congressional Research Service*.

<sup>98</sup> Ibid.

<sup>99</sup> "Terrorist Financing on the Internet," *Combating Terrorism Center*.

<sup>100</sup> Ibid.

<sup>102</sup> Ibid.

<sup>103</sup> Ibid.

<sup>104</sup> Ibid.

<sup>105</sup> Ibid.

<sup>106</sup> Ibid.

<sup>107</sup> Ibid.

<sup>108</sup> Ibid.



In 2004, social media began to be used as a recruitment method for terrorist.<sup>109</sup> Al-Qaeda became notorious for requesting followers through the social media site known as Myspace.<sup>110</sup> They would do so through the creation of their account known as, “Al-Shabaab Media Production.”<sup>111</sup> This account posted audio and video files in the Arabic language about actions taken such as executions or speeches about the importance of Jihad.<sup>112</sup>

### ***Cybercrime in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century***

New technological advances have allowed more methods of hacking to be accessible to the public. Governments as well as private companies are affected by Cyber Terrorism.<sup>113</sup> The most famous example to date is in 2014 when the Japanese company Sony entertainment in 2014 was being hacked by the Guardians of Peace, a group of hackers from North Korea.<sup>114</sup> This hack was due to Sony releasing a movie titled “The Interview,” which involved the assassination of Kim Jong Un, the president of North Korea.<sup>117</sup> The Guardians of Peace were able to obtain data on the Sony company and threatened them through multiple emails that they would leak the company’s data unless they deleted the film.<sup>118</sup> Sony believing this threat to be a bluff refused the demands.<sup>119</sup> Afterwards, over a period of 24 hours, the Guardians of Peace released over 100 Terabytes of information over 8 leaks.<sup>120</sup> In these 8 leaks, over 34 million files of data were released which included movies, unreleased scripts, emails, social security files, email addresses, passports, and employee passwords.<sup>121</sup> Currently, no actions have been taken against the Guardians of Peace.<sup>122</sup>

Cyber Terrorism also includes the hacking of infrastructure.<sup>123</sup> For example, in 2016, twelve hospitals located in the United States were hacked by anonymous users.<sup>124</sup> This includes the deactivation of electrical components, obtaining health data of individuals, stolen credential information, and releasing medical information of patients.<sup>125</sup>

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<sup>109</sup>“Al-Qa’ida’s “Myspace”: Terrorist Recruitment on the Internet,” *CTC Sentinel*.

<sup>110</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>111</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>112</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>113</sup>“The 2014 Sony Hack and the Role of International Law,” *Clare Sullivan*.

<sup>114</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>115</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>116</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>117</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>118</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>119</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>120</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>121</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>122</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>123</sup>“Hacking Hospitals,” *Independent Security Evaluators*.

<sup>124</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>125</sup> *Ibid.*



## ***Regional and International Frameworks***

Due to the ever-growing uses of the internet for good or for bad, regions throughout the world have begun establishing frameworks as to what can be done to take on the new challenges they may encounter.<sup>126</sup>

Although technological advancement in Africa is not at the same pace as the North American or European regions, it cannot be denied that technology is rapidly progressing there.<sup>127</sup> As their technological capabilities continue to develop, challenges arise, and they become more susceptible to hacking.<sup>128</sup> As of 2018, Africa hosted its first cyber security regional conference.<sup>129</sup> This conference is known as the “Africa Cyber Defense Summit”.<sup>130</sup> The summit was attended by 51 countries with 28 of those countries being from Africa.<sup>131</sup> The purpose of the conference is to improve leadership perspective, facilitate development, foster collaboration, build capacity, and establish frameworks pertaining to cyber security.<sup>132</sup> The conference provides tech talks, panels, workshops, meetings, potential partnerships, and showcasing and possible networking.<sup>133</sup> The conference contains experts of diverse backgrounds such as governors, IT experts, CEO’s, academics, researchers, and students.<sup>134</sup> Highlights shown by the success of the conference include explaining to governments how to counter malware, create firewalls, combat phishing, certification requirements, and vulnerability management.<sup>135</sup> Governments were also further exposed to cybersecurity challenges, separating IT and information security, understanding privacy and security, and understand cybersecurity from a banking perspective.<sup>136</sup>

As Latin American governments continue to improve their technological advancements they have also begun to create conferences with the purposes of discussing cyber security.<sup>137</sup> The name of the conference is known as “Workshop on cybercrime legislation in Latin America” and has been held in Mexico City since 2014.<sup>138</sup> Member States that participate are Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, Mexico, and Panama.<sup>139</sup> Paraguay and Peru are also expected to attend future conferences.<sup>140</sup>

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<sup>126</sup> “The Largest Cybersecurity Gathering in Africa,” *Africa Cyber Defense Summit*.

<sup>127</sup> Ibid.

<sup>128</sup> Ibid.

<sup>129</sup> Ibid.

<sup>130</sup> Ibid.

<sup>131</sup> Ibid.

<sup>132</sup> Ibid.

<sup>133</sup> Ibid.

<sup>134</sup> Ibid.

<sup>135</sup> Ibid.

<sup>136</sup> Ibid.

<sup>137</sup> “Workshop on cybercrime legislation in Latin America,” *Mexico and the Council of Europe*.

<sup>138</sup> Ibid.

<sup>139</sup> Ibid.

<sup>140</sup> Ibid.



The conference is aimed at legislative parliaments as well as ministries of justice and foreign affairs.<sup>141</sup> Rather than focusing on technological aspects of improving cybersecurity, the purpose of this conference is to educate lawmakers to creating legislation to improve cyber infrastructure and combat cyber warfare.<sup>142</sup><sup>143</sup> The conference takes place over a two day period each day covering different subjects in both Spanish and English.<sup>144</sup> Some of the technological subjects it covers include handling digital evidence, cataloguing cybercrime, and prosecution of cybercrime.<sup>145</sup> They also include discussions on human rights, international cooperation, and child protection.<sup>146</sup> For government leaders in attendance also learn the roles of cybersecurity in the executive, legislative, and judicial fields.<sup>147</sup>

The most highly attended regional conference in terms of cybersecurity is the “Budapest Convention on Cybercrime.”<sup>148</sup> As the first conference on crimes committed on the internet, the international convention began in 2001 and was initially only attended by members of the European Union, however it has since expanded to 56 members including countries such as Argentina and Australia.<sup>149</sup> This conference is often used as a framework for other regional conferences previously mentioned in the background guide.<sup>150</sup> The primary purpose of the convention is to assist governments and help them deal with copyright infringement, combat fraud and child pornography, and violations of network security.<sup>151</sup> The conference’s main purpose, as stated in the signed treaty, is as follows: “Its main objective, set out in the preamble, is to pursue a common criminal policy aimed at the protection of society against cybercrime, especially by adopting appropriate legislation and fostering international cooperation.”<sup>152</sup> This conference has lead the way of future cyber conferences to come.<sup>153</sup>

### ***Actions Taken by the UN***

In February 2009, the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) created the “Report of the Working Group on Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes,”<sup>154</sup> This report established measures the UN could take in situations such as illegal data mining, secret communications, propaganda, and radicalization over the internet.<sup>155</sup> The report also analyzes the significance of using the internet as a tool to combat hacking and cyber terrorism.<sup>156</sup>

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<sup>141</sup> “Workshop on Cybercrime Legislation in Latin America,” *Mexico and the Council of Europe*.

<sup>142</sup> Ibid.

<sup>143</sup> Ibid.

<sup>144</sup> Ibid.

<sup>145</sup> Ibid.

<sup>146</sup> Ibid.

<sup>147</sup> Ibid.

<sup>148</sup> “Convention on Cybercrime,” *Council of Europe*.

<sup>149</sup> Ibid.

<sup>150</sup> Ibid.

<sup>151</sup> Ibid.

<sup>152</sup> Ibid.

<sup>153</sup> Ibid.

<sup>154</sup> “Report of the Working Group on Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes,” *CTITF*.

<sup>155</sup> Ibid.

<sup>156</sup> Ibid.



The purpose as stated in the document is to help Member States share best practices and documents with regards to cybersecurity. Some other items of importance are: to build databases of research into the use of the internet for terrorist purposes, counter extremist ideologies that are spread through the internet, as well as explore the added value, viability, and desirability of creating international legal measures aimed at limiting dissemination of terrorist content on the internet, and to foster partnerships with the private sector industry.<sup>157</sup>

In 2012, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime created a report titled “The use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes.” This document emphasizes the importance of data preservation, operating cybercrime units, intelligence-gathering, and training.<sup>158</sup> The document also approaches challenges and issues found by the group. Some of these issues include protecting sensitive information, sovereignty interfering consequences on states using cyber hacking, retention of internet-related data, handling evidence, international cooperation, jurisdiction, protection laws.<sup>159</sup>

### ***Conclusion***

As stated by former Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon “the Internet is a prime example of how terrorist can behave in a truly transnational way; in response, states need to think and function in an equally transnational manner.”<sup>160</sup> It is important that in committee delegates find solution to utilize the internet for the common good. Some of the questions delegates should focus on include: How can delegates get the international community to collaborate on cyberlaw? How do delegates approach cyber terrorist organizations and hold them accountable? How do we know how much illegal internet activity is occurring and how can we combat it?

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<sup>157</sup> “Report of the Working Group on Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes,” *CTITF*.

<sup>158</sup> “The use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes,” *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*.

<sup>159</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>160</sup> *Ibid.*



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