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COMMITTEE & COUNCIL UPDATES

CONCURRENT GENERAL ASSEMBLY PLENARY

The General Assembly Plenary suggests the establishment of an International Anti-Terror Academy (IATA) through which representatives have the ability to gain knowledge on strategies for combating terrorist organizations.

GA FIRST COMMITTEE

Israel, with the help of the United States, wrote a resolution detailing their recommendations for controlling the illicit trade of small arms. They gained the necessary number of signatures to bring it to a vote, but the effort fell flat on the floor when it came to a vote.

GA SECOND COMMITTEE

Myanmar, Malaysia, Venezuela and Bosnia held a press conference, generating contrasting responses. Subsidizing energy consulting services in developing countries, having state-control over energy industry and funding clean gas/oil/timber are their goals.

GA THIRD COMMITTEE

The United Kingdom withdrew from a resolution entitled Protecting, Empowering and Advocating for Children Everywhere (PEACE) because the bloc removed their contributions to the resolution.

WORLD CONFERENCE ON YOUTH

The World Conference on Youth (WCY) moved into their second topic, Empowering marginalized youth emphasizing the most at risk young people, on Sunday evening.

ECOSOC

The Economic and Social Council has been working to fight against extreme poverty by utilizing public services, such as education.

INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION

ITU recognizes the specific cybersecurity needs of developing Member States, the role of NGOs and the private sector operating within their borders to address cybersecurity.

PAVING THE WAY FOR MARGINALIZED YOUTH

Laura Meloy

World Conference on Youth

The World Conference on Youth (WCY) moved onto their second topic, Empowering marginalized youth emphasizing the most at risk young people, on Sunday evening. The body passed two resolutions on the previous topic, Promoting healthy lives and access to quality health care.

Brazil, the Philippines, Sweden and El Salvador all shared their plans for addressing marginalized youth. Brazil wishes to establish a walking library program that will increase literacy in Portuguese. El Salvador notes there is an

increase in violence and gang activity among their youth population. They are looking to increase education, which could drastically decrease the youth in the prison system.

Representative Olivia Nelly from Austria addresses female marginalization with Ukraine, Palestine and the Czech Republic. Their plan focuses on education, political leadership and employment of youth. Austria wants youth involved at all levels, stressing that their input is imperative.

Representatives from the Czech Republic requested that Paul Farmer, the co-founder of a non-

profit organization, Partners in Health, speak before the committee after he read his memoir. Farmer created a clinic in Haiti, which existed primarily to provide care to those without healthcare. Andrew Prozorovsky of the Czech Republic discussed the effect Farmer had on the committee. "We got his advice on how to better infrastructure in those hard to reach areas and how to avoid infringing on culture. I saw at least every group taking notes while he was speaking and accessibility is more conducive to success," Representative Prozorovsky stated.

HSC 2003 MAKES HEADWAY AGAINST INFLUENZA

Kelby Reichard

Historical Security Council 2003

The Historical Security Council of 2003 has worked towards drafting two new resolutions, one of which has been passed with two abstentions. This newly adopted resolution, Resolution HSC 2003/1, works to address the recent influenza outbreak in the Western Region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The resolution "directs the World Health Organization to conduct research," as well as reaffirms "the importance of a free flow of information about influenza prevention." This resolution also requests funding from both

Associated United Nations organizations and contributing Member States. Representative Zac Nelson from Germany describes the importance of this new resolution. "The position of Germany is that we are very proud of the ability of this Council to come together and create this resolution. By supporting action in the Republic of the Congo, we hope to bring stability and prosperity to the region," Representative Nelson stated. Having passed a resolution addressing the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Council now turns towards a resolution to further the cooperation by Iraq towards disarmament. To aid in

drafting this resolution, the Council called upon the United States Secretary of State Colin Powell to appear. Reflecting on remarks made by Secretary Powell, Representative Dylan Thorson from Bulgaria stated, "Mr. Powell provided a valuable service to this Council today. He was able to outline pressing actions needed in response to violations by Iraq. He made it clear that there is a need for some kind of punishment. Bulgaria disagrees with some of his suggested actions, though." The Council has yet to present resolutions that address the situations in Afghanistan as well as the situations in Sierra Leone.

ICU CALLS FOR RE-INVESTMENT IN CYBERSECURITY INITIATIVES

Christopher Riehl

International

Telecommunications Union

Discussions on Sunday in the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) centered on the working paper ITU/II/2 regarding cybersecurity. However, there is an additional resolution on the floor that some delegations believe covers cybersecurity more in depth.

ITU/II/2 grows the duties of Computer Incident Response Teams (CIRTs). CIRTs will extend privileges to Member States who do not have access to CIRT. The CIRT structure will help implement preventative measures that

defend against cyberterrorism and cyber attacks from internal and external threats. Through the CIRT, Member States will establish a centralized communications commission that coordinates with leaders of the communication and information technology sector in order to create a best practices outline. The centralized communications commission will emphasize the public outreach in order to inform consumers of cybersecurity. ITU/II/2 encourages Member States to expand the Global Cybersecurity Index to better handle the cybersecurity concerns of private organizations. The resolution also calls

for the creation of a committee to implement an incentive program that would further encourage private organizations to reinvest into the cybersecurity sector. ITU/II/2 calls upon Member States to increase their involvement in the operations of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) within their borders to the best of their ability.

Discussions relating to resolution ITU/II/2 will continue as other working papers are being drafted. ITU will likely pass a wide range of resolutions regarding the topic area of cybersecurity.

EDUCATION A KEY TO ERADICATION OF POVERTY

Cam Ulloa

Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has recently indicated the need to achieve quality education for all Member States. Poverty is not distributed equally around the world and the opportunity of education is absent in many places. Women are more likely to live in poverty than men. Despite all efforts to prevent the progression of global poverty, it has not been enough to battle against the lack of education, malnutrition and social discrimination that fuels its speed. In spite of significant inequalities, ECOSOC has proactively addressed the issue of poverty with remarkable work to which Member States have collaborated.

Representative Gustavo Flores of Canada said, "Focusing on education in developing states may be the first direct solution." During the discussion while speaking on behalf of Denmark, Norway, Germany and France, Representative Isaiah Trimbo of Norway said, "Wealthy countries helping impoverished nations thrive through mutually beneficial investment will bolster communities and Member States." Representatives from France, Germany and Denmark all supported Representative Trimbo's statement. One of the points that has been emphasized is focusing on finding best practices to properly strategize against poverty.

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COMMITTEE UPDATES CONTINUED

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

The Economic Commission for Africa continued to make progress through three subcommittees. Despite challenges that have arisen, Members of the Commission are confident that there will be a completed report by Monday night.

COMMISSION ON CRIME PREVENTION AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE

After much debate, the Commission gathered enough signatories and passed Resolution CCP-CJ/II/3 during the evening session on 24 November 2019.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION ON INQUIRY

A press release from the Commission calls on nations with information to step forward to the United Nations as they continue their top secret hearings on the assassination on Former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

CONTEMPORARY SECURITY COUNCIL

As the Security Council gets news of new developments in the Sahel, they move closer to closing talks regarding the situation in Venezuela and South America.

HISTORICAL SECURITY COUNCIL 1961

As Former Congo Premier Patrice Lumumba is relocated by his captors and the Congolese situation continues to deepen, the Security Council takes action.

HISTORICAL SECURITY COUNCIL 2003

The Historical Security Council of 2003 adopted Resolution HSC 2003/1 by consensus. This resolution addresses the issues in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The Council also tabled a resolution focusing on the disarmament of Iraq.

INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

Justices heard oral arguments today surrounding *Mexico v. The United States*. The Justices read the opinion on 25 November 2019.

COMMISSION RECEIVES NEW WITNESSES IN ASSASSINATION CASE

Gia Clarke
*Historical Commission of
Inquiry*

The Historical Commission of Inquiry has issued a press release to the International Press Delegation on 3 August 2005 as their deadline for a final report on the assassination of Prime Minister Rafik Hariri approaches. The release expresses gratitude to the Lebanese government for their support in the investigation and, as Representative Greg Taushani of Egypt said to the Commission, “We look forward to continued cooperation with the Middle Eastern nations in this matter.”

This press release comes in the wake of new developments in the case. Dutch ballistics experts and a British underwater recovery

group, two specially tasked forensics teams, have been able to get more information about the details of the crime scene. This information includes the types of explosives used in the car bombing, the make and model of the car and evidence from the blast site itself. This has eliminated certain theories about the assassination, such as an underground explosion, and leads the Commission closer to summarizing their findings in the final report.

Two witnesses, who must remain unnamed for the time being, have also come to the Commission to give their testimony. These witnesses came to the Commission after the United Nations Secretary General expanded the Commission’s mandate, allowing them

until 15 December 2005 to finish their report. The mandate also gave them permission to investigate the multiple bombings that followed the Hariri assassination in order to make any connections and keep international and regional peace. The press release encourages more witnesses to share their stories, stating, “We encourage anyone with relevant information to come forward.”

As the date of the report approaches, the Commission will continue to hash out the details of the crime, question witnesses and come to their final conclusions about who is responsible for the assassination of Prime Minister Hariri.

COMMITTEE DEBATES CHILDREN’S RIGHTS AND HEALTHCARE

Laura Meloy
GA Third Committee

Forty Member States have signed onto a working paper entitled Protecting, Empowering and Advocating for Children Everywhere (PEACE) which discusses healthcare and incentive programs for ensuring children’s rights. Initially, Member States, such as the United Kingdom, were working on this resolution, but they left.

Representative Grace Rowley of Nigeria accused the body of “spreading lies” about PEACE. Representative Rowley stated that the UK withdrew their support from the resolution, noting

their concern on sovereignty by imposing sanctions, peacekeepers and other punishments on States that don’t agree to the resolution. “There are seeds of distrust within the committee because everyone thinks it infringes on sovereignty which is something the General Assembly can’t do at all,” Representative Rowley said.

The United Kingdom disagreed with the assumption of their withdrawal of support. Representative Nadeen Elsayed of the United Kingdom said the bloc removed the United Kingdom’s contributions to the resolution. “We thought that that resolution was

very vague and general all around which they repeatedly admit that it is a general resolution. The United Kingdom is concerned as to how a general resolution is going to solve any serious problems. You have to get into the nitty and gritty of it,” Representative Elsayed said.

Iraq has joined the PEACE resolution because they are concerned about children in the conflict zone. They want to ensure that there are no children in their military ranks and suggests Member States provide mental health assistance to those in need.

DEATH PENALTY FOR FOREIGN NATIONALS ARGUED

Carrie Ritter
International Court of Justice

“No country is above the law,” stated the advocate for Mexico during the oral arguments in the case of *Mexico v. The United States*. Mexico argued that the United States was in blatant violation of articles 5 and 36 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations. In at least 52 of the cases, the Mexican nationals sentenced to death were solely of Mexican nationality, yet their consulate

was not promptly notified. The United States counter argued stating “it was not the United States responsibility to know the nationality of each individual national.” Mexico further stated “The United States violated international law with the precedent set by a previous International Court of Justice case, *LaGrand v. The United States*. However, the United States was adamant that the International Court of Justice decisions are not legally binding. The Justices were quick to

assure the United States advocate that the outcome of *LaGrand v. The United States* was, in fact, was legally binding. Mexico made a final claim that “international law takes precedence over federal law,” as the United States argued that the sentencing of the nationals to death was based on the individual state’s laws and was not determined by the United States government as a whole. The Justices are set to read the opinion tonight, 25 November 2019 at 6:30 p.m.

CONGO ON TOPIC

Kevin Lane
Historical Security Council 1961

As the United Nations Historical Security Council of 1961 enters the second month of 1961, the main topic of the meeting is still Congolese politician Patrice Lumumba. On 14th February, Lumumba was transported to Katanga, where his current health and exact location are unknown. The Security Council, which has focused on Lumumba’s safety for most of the year, is extremely concerned with the current developments.

Ceylon’s representatives brought Resolution HSC/1961/2 to the floor. The resolution asked the Secretary-General to establish a formal Commission of Inquiry, with its goals being to find official

sources for all arms in the Republic of the Congo and to figure out the health of Patrice Lumumba. The resolution failed due to lack of consensus with the Republic of China and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

After the failure of Ceylon’s resolution, the United Kingdom brought resolution HSC/1961/3 to the floor. The resolution allows for an increase in peacekeeping forces in the Republic of the Congo, as well as gives the peacekeeping forces present the authority to use any necessary force in self-defence. The consensus in the room appears to be concerned with some of the language in the resolution.

Representatives Andrew Kline and Madeline Anderson of France

say that their delegation is committed to humanitarian efforts in the Republic of the Congo. Representatives Kline and Anderson also stated that France will not repeat the mistakes of Belgian decolonization, which they say was carried out too hastily.

Representative Ryan Del Main of the United Arab Republic, which has been accused of smuggling weapons into the Republic of the Congo, reaffirmed that President Gamel Abdel Nasser is opposed to non-United Nations intervention in the Republic of the Congo. It was also revealed that the United Arab Republic is conducting an internal investigation about how foreign weapons ended up in Stanleyville.

THE IMPACT OF THE WEB ON ILLICIT ARMS SALES

Lucas Michel
GA First Committee

A resolution was drafted by the General Assembly First Committee Member States Israel and the United States. In the third clause of their resolution they address combating the sale of weapons over the dark web with the use of blockchain. Unfortunately, this resolution failed when it came to getting votes, but it’s still an important step in stopping the illicit sale of small arms over the dark web.

When people hear the term “deep web,” they tend to think of the seediest parts of the internet, but what they really are thinking of is in fact the dark web. The dark web can be a breeding ground for criminals who are technologically inclined. Websites on the dark web are encrypted which means that you can only gain access to them if you are given that access by someone who works on the site. So naturally this level of anonymity will draw some unsavory characters. Some websites on the dark web are in fact what many would describe as good and helpful. For example there are encrypted sites on the dark web that help whistleblowers get their messages out. Many sites on the dark web will allow users to purchase illegal and stolen goods. Many people know the example of the Silk Road which deals in illegal substances, but many black market sites deal in illegal firearms, a mandate of the General Assembly First Committee.

A study was done by the research group Rand Europe. They listed several objectives. One of the objectives was to identify shipping routes that sellers use. They were unable to identify the shipping routes but what they did find was that about 60 percent of the weapons sold on these black market websites come from a United States based manufacturer. Another important objective they had was to uncover the potential impact that dark web purchased weapons can have on the international level. Their results found that using the dark web to fuel conflicts would be ineffective because these weapons are not traded on a large enough scale to properly arm a militia type group. On the other hand these types of off the record purchases could be very effective for an individual terrorist or a small group. As a result, hundreds of people could be killed because people failed to recognize a problem and fix it before a tragedy occurred.

PRESS CONFERENCE SHEDS LIGHT ON CLEAN ENERGY NEEDS

Yueh-Ning Chiang
*GA Second Committee
Committee*

Representative Daoud Malik of Myanmar, Representative Andrew Tull of Malaysia, Representative Ryan Anderson of Venezuela and Representative Brian Blackwell of Bosnia-Herzegovina held a press conference together Sunday afternoon. When questioned about their intent, Representative Tull said they sought to voice a different point of view and wanted to get support from others. “Having a NATO [North Atlantic Treaty Organization] country on this panel

will shed a different light...we need to cross different party lines to find real solutions,” Representative Tull said.

The four developing countries reached consensus and put forward numerous ideals: (1) Subsidizing energy consulting companies in developing countries. Representative Malik used examples such as PricewaterhouseCoopers and KPMG. (2) State-control over energy industry. Energy industry in Venezuela is all nation-owned, and it is better than privately-owned ones because “capitalists will abuse the normal working people and

take advantage through the profit motive,” said Representative Anderson. (3) Recognizing “petro” as the international currency. (4) Greater international funding for innovative clean energy research, such as clean gas/oil/timber. However, the last point was facing criticism from the Committee.

Participants of the press conference asked how other nations or international agencies will actually fund Venezuela when their international credit is so low. Representative Anderson used their new president, Nicolas Maduro, as a promise. “If he guarantees he will

pay a debt, he will,” Representative Anderson said.

However, Representative Artem Smith of Ukraine opposed their opinions. He said, “There’s no such thing as green coal. There’s no such thing as green natural gas. It comes out black. They lied to everyone when they said it comes out green.” Representative Logan Minch of the United States agrees with Representative Smith. “We will move towards reliance on nuclear energy more for every nation,” Representative Minch said.



GA Second Committee Press Conference with Myanmar, Malaysia, Venezuela and Bosnia-Herzegovina held on Sunday, 24 November 2019. Photo by Joe Spaulding, American Model United Nations

COUNTER-TERRORISM TRAINING KEY TO SUCCESS

Christopher Reihl
GA Concurrent Plenary

The General Assembly Plenary (GA Plen) suggests the establishment of an International Anti-Terror Academy (IATA) in resolution GA Plen/I/1. The IATA is a voluntary educational program available to all Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Member States that are accredited to the Conference of State Parties, through which representatives have the ability to gain knowledge on strategies for combating terrorist organizations.

Resolution GA Plen/I/1 encourages voluntary reception of training facilities that would be dependent on the Member States and NGOs mitigating externalities through formal denunciations of all extremist and terrorist groups. The resolution highly suggests officially ratifying the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The IATA will be supervised by the Geneva Center for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (GCDCAF). This mandate of the IATA is in place

to empower the populations of regions against terrorist groups and to not promote violence. Training involved with the IATA would include intensive field medical instruction reflecting the design of the Remote Medical International’s Tactical Medicine Awareness Training (TMAT) and Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC). Additional training would include a rigorous two month field training that is based upon the structure of the Czech Anti-Terror Academy’s Special Forces Ultimate Combat System (SF-UCS) covering tactical procedures, shooting tactical skills and covering the rescue of hostages.

GA Plen/I/1 and the suggestion to establish the IATA was inspired by the alarming acts of intolerance, violence and extremism which have been conducive to terrorism in various parts of the world. Other working resolutions are being discussed in addition to resolution GA Plen/I/1. GA Concurrent Plenary will likely pass various resolutions in the upcoming sessions.

FOCUS ON CULTURAL SENSITIVITY AND PROTECTIONS FOR CCPCJ

Carrie Ritter
*Commission on Crime
Prevention and Criminal Justice*

In the last hour of the session on Sunday, 24 November 2019 for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), a resolution was passed. The resolution, CCPCJ/III/3 seeks to “establish a middle ground between

cultural sensitivity and protections for vulnerable populations from harmful social and cultural practices.” The resolution emphasizes the importance of Non-Governmental Organizations and non-profits to act in the areas where government action is limited. It also requests the forming of a specialized group to work within the CCPCJ to re-

DECISIONS COMING FROM SECURITY COUNCIL ON VENEZUELA

Oliwia Nazaruk
Security Council

The Security Council is currently deliberating over draft resolution SC/I. This draft resolution lead, in part, by Poland, establishes the United Nations Mission in South America (UNMSA), based out of Montevideo, Uruguay. In regard to the draft resolution, Representative Cassidy Ozersky of Poland said, “Through this paper, we will be providing aid to all [South American] countries willing to accept aid. This is being done through channels like the World Water Quality Alliance, World Food Programme and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. We are allocating 500 million USD to these organizations to do work in the region.”

As the Security Council gets closer to a decision on the situation in Venezuela and South America, the situation in Sahel moves closer to a state of turmoil. On 10 December, the Mali-Niger patrol opened fire on unknown foreign actors. In

the process, four of the unknown actors and ten Malian soldiers lost their lives. The unknown bodies were transferred to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) base. The building in which the bodies were being housed was subsequently flattened in an attack claimed by ISIL—the identities of the unknown actors will remain unknown, although it is believed they are state, and not terrorist, actors.

While no definitive moves have been made in regard to the situation in Sahel, Kuwait is one state trying to move towards a solution. Representative Elizabeth Potterf of Kuwait spoke in regard to some of their ideas saying, “We want to move toward an investigation of recent actions including the Malian encounter with foreign actors, the flattening of the UN [MINUSMA] facility and any foreign operatives in the region. We would also like to see an increase of peacekeepers in the region.”

view criminal codes and processes within individual Member States and provide subsequent recommended changes to the respective code and/or processes needed. The resolution also stresses the need for more communication throughout regions of the world “specifically to the training of members of the judiciary, law enforcement and

public officials.” With regards to violence against women, most of the heinous acts are committed by domestic partners and it is important for all government agencies to be adequately equipped with the proper knowledge and resources to deal with these acts of violence. .

PRESS RELEASES

*Historical Security Council 2003
Pakistan*

The delegation of Pakistan expresses its alarm at the recent hostilities occurring in Afghanistan. The proximity of the attack to key border crossings along the Afghanistan-Pakistan border is of heightened concern. Pakistan has taken an active role in the Security Council on this issue, and requests Member States to address the situation at hand to bring peace and stability to the Afghan people.

ECA NEARING REPORT COMPLETION

Kelby Reichard
Economic Commission for Africa

The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) worked toward finishing a draft of the Commission’s first report. The report will look to draw upon the progress made by the three subcommittees in this Commission. Representative Isaac Shultz of South Africa said the ECA has “been focused on organizing reports. Some subcommittees have taken longer than others, but there will definitely be a report before the end of the day.” Challenges have arisen in the making of this report however. Representative Eliana Rodriguez of Algeria discussed these challenges. “It is all organization and communication. When consensus is required, communication is essential. We are confident though that there will be a report by the end of the night,” Representative Rodriguez stated. Representative Blaine Dearth of Burkina Faso also highlighted some of the challenges in forming a report for the Economic and Social Council, stating, “Proofreading and formatting have been part of the struggle.” Despite the challenges, morale and confidence are both high in the ECA. “We have been very productive. This morning we came in here without any report. Tonight we should leave with a completed one,” Representative Dearth stated.

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