



South Bay Model United Nations 2024



Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)

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<https://www.southbaymun.com/committees/disec>

Co-Chairs: Esha Jagatia and Lily Jiang

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Welcome Message

Co-Chair: Esha Jagatia

Hey Delegates, my name is Esha Jagatia and I will be one of your co-chairs for DISEC! I am currently a junior at Homestead High School and this will be the first conference I am chairing. I have been doing MUN since my sophomore year, and you could say I was immediately passionate about MUN right after attending my first conference. One thing about maritime security in the Indian Ocean is that there are a diverse set of problems that need to be solved, which I hope you all come up with great solutions for! When I am not doing MUN, I listen to music, go to the gym, hang out with my friends, etc. I wish you all luck in writing your position papers, and what solutions you plan to present on the big day!

Co-Chair: Lily Jiang

Hello delegates! My name is Lily Jiang and I am one of your co-chairs for DISEC! I am a junior at Monta Vista High School and the Logistics officer for Monta Vista Model UN; this is also my first time chairing a conference. I have been a part of MUN since my freshman year and I really enjoy the collaborative aspect of it. This topic comes with challenges in the sheer amount and type of issues but I look forward to seeing all of the solutions presented! Outside of MUN, I enjoy hanging out with my friends, spending time with my dog, and traveling!

Position Papers

You will not be eligible for any award if you do not submit a position statement.

To show your research into your topics, we request that each delegate submit a 2–5 page, typed, and double-spaced position paper, to be emailed as a PDF to diseconsbmunviii@gmail.com by **March 31 at 11:59** for research awards, or by **April 5 at 11:59** for any committee award. Google Drive links will not be accepted. In this research paper, we request that you write three sections: one on an overview of your topic, one on your country or individual's policies as extrapolated from the sources you evaluate, and one on the solution(s) you propose in your topic. We would also like for you to cite your sources in this paper to show that you have performed research.

For the crisis committees, you will be expected to put forward a plan for the success of the organization in your solutions section.

The heading should look like this (please do not include your name OR your school name in the heading!):

Country Name
Committee Name
SBMUN VIII

If you have any specific questions about position papers, please feel free to email disec.sbmunviii@gmail.com

Introduction to Maritime Security in the Indian Ocean

The first GA Committee, DISEC (Disarmament and International Security Committee), discusses disarmament and international threats to peace that affect the international community. DISEC was created to establish general policies or values of cooperation while maintaining international peace and security.

Established in 1945 as a part of the founding of the United Nations, DISEC has the authority to discuss and offer recommendations regarding disarmament measures, global security challenges, and policies regarding the regulation of armaments.

Though DISEC itself is one of the six GA committees in the UN, UNODA (United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs), aids DISEC through its contribution of efforts into the GA. UNODA helps in assisting the advancements of international disarmament policies.

Topic Overview

What is maritime security?

In simple terms, maritime security discusses the protection/security of vessels and their cargo from external threats. Examples of these threats can vary, including terrorism, pollution,

smuggling, illegal trafficking, and more. Maritime can be quite significant, as it is in charge of protecting vital operations that heavily support the global economy. The shipping industry is responsible for about 90% of global trade and adds up to \$380 billion to the global economy yearly through freight rates.

Significance of the Indian Ocean

The Indian Ocean plays a pivotal role in global trade, which serves as a key route to a significant fraction of trade that requires transportation by sea. Due to the Indian Ocean being the third largest ocean in the world, the Indian Ocean encompasses diverse economic activities, strategic interests, and geopolitical dynamics. This ocean, however, is home to a plethora of maritime security issues, including piracy, maritime terrorism territorial disputes, and resource competition. The issues faced regarding maritime security have a direct effect on the stability, economic prosperity, and political relations of the countries located near the Indian Ocean.

The understanding of the nature of maritime security in the Indian Ocean provides an in-depth look through various dimensions, such as the strategic interests of major powers in the region. Typical maritime threats such as piracy off the coast of Somalia, are an example of a witness to both successful international collaborative efforts, and persistent challenges. Meanwhile, geopolitical rivalries in the South China Sea extend into the Indian Ocean, adding to its complexity in terms of security.

Past International Action

UNODC

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), played quite a significant role in combating maritime security challenges occurring in the Indian Ocean. Under the UNODC, the Maritime Crime Programme (MPC) is responsible for combatting maritime security while focusing on criminal justice building. The MPC strives for regional cooperation, the exchange of information, and the strengthening of law enforcement. To add on, the UNODC also collaborated with other UN agencies:

- International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL): Facilitates international police cooperation and strives to assist other countries to combat global crimes.
- The Maritime Security Programme (MASE): Sponsored by the European Union, MASE aims to provide the resources and funding to enhance maritime security around the East and South Africa.
- Project COMESA: Aiding specifically Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Seychelles, Mauritius, and Tanzania, the project targets tackling crimes such as maritime piracy, money laundering, and terrorism financing.
- The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA): IORA, established in 1997, was created to strengthen regional cooperation and developments in the Indian Ocean. The IORA's Leaders Summit was held in March 2017, in Jakarta, Indonesia, where the target for a “prosperous and peaceful” Indian Ocean was made.

Similarly, various minor organizations have collaborated with the UNODC in order to combat maritime security, typically representing a branch of a larger organization.

UNSC

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC), is an organization that has passed several resolutions that addressed the varying issues regarding maritime security in the Indian Ocean. Often, they authorized international naval forces to take action against pirates and contribute towards the region's stability. There are various resolutions the organization has passed in recent years to combat the problem. An example of one of these resolutions includes Resolution 2634, which applied only to countries around the Gulf of Guinea. The resolution officially criminalized piracy and armed robbery at sea under their domestic laws. This permits them the right to investigate, prosecute, or extradite them. The document was used as a prompt to action to combat maritime security, and to urge the urgency for a strategic plan to enhance maritime security.

Key Issues

There remain a few key issues within the trade in the Indian Ocean. Illegal, Unreported, and Unregulated fishing (IUU Fishing) is one of these key issues that pose a threat to the marine ecosystems as well as affecting the economies of these coastal communities. In the Arakan region — a coastal region in Burma where much of the population relies on fisheries — it is

reported that their catches have declined so much that many are buried in debt (Khan 2021). IUU fishing also poses a threat to marine ecosystems through overfishing. IUU fishing is valued at billions of dollars annually and is illegal under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) Article 145 (Khan 2021). Large industrial fisheries use mesh nets and drag them through the ocean, creating the issue of bycatch in which other marine species and whole ecosystems are caught or destroyed by this process.

Another key issue lies in drug trafficking as the Indian Ocean is home to routes of various illegal activities, including narcotics, illegal fishing, etc. Smuggling of methamphetamine pills is especially important for local and global organizations. The Bay of Bengal is an area where these issues are increasingly rising. The Bay of Bengal has been used as a location for drugs to be picked up and sent out to places as far as New Zealand (Khan 2021). Heroin is another example of one of the prominent drugs being smuggled as it is in high demand in the islands of Mauritius and the Seychelles (Bird 2021). The growth of these drug markets can be attributed to corruption as in some of these areas, this market is “facilitated by corrupt elements of state institutions (Bird 2021).

Piracy remains a large issue in the Indian Ocean, especially in the Gulf of Aden and the Horn of Africa. At the end of 2009, the IMB reported that 295 of 406 recorded incidents occurred in the Indian Ocean region — 73% of all incidents occurring worldwide (Pandya 2011). Attackers utilize the hours with low light, mainly dawn and dusk, to carry out their attacks. Some operate from the shore while others will be deployed by a mother ship where they are equipped with assault rifles and grenade launchers (AK-47s and RPG-7s, respectively). They then will return to a “haven” off the east coast of Somalia to negotiate a ransom (Pandya 2011).

While there are various other issues, these remain some of the largest key issues that may provide insight into possible solutions of them.

Possible Solutions

Though these issues have remained prevalent in the Indian Ocean, some have lessened due to past actions by various organizations in an attempt to curb these issues. The Indian Ocean Naval Symposium is a “voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime co-operation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region by providing an open and inclusive forum for discussion of regionally relevant maritime issues” (IONS). They have held various events since founding in 2008 where naval professionals can exchange views. However, some issues lie in the fact that there are inconsistencies in country participation in IONS and

the Indian Ocean Rim Association (Sawan 2020). The Indian Ocean Rim Association is an intergovernmental organization aiming to strengthen cooperation throughout countries bordering the Indian Ocean as well as other member states (IORA). However, stronger institutions may be needed to address the main security concerns.

Combined Task Force 150 (CTF 150) regulates areas including the Indian Ocean and the Red Sea to protect them from criminal and terrorist organizations (Combined Maritime Forces). They are operated by various nations and monitor these areas for criminal activity.

These past actions can be used as baselines for new solutions, and it may be beneficial to build upon these.

Questions to Consider

1. How can we combat the issue of drug trafficking in countries where this is facilitated by government organizations?
2. What measures can we implement to improve the security of the Indian Ocean region without affecting the economy and shipping routes of countries?
3. What are some other factors (political, economic, historical) that may affect cooperation between nations in coming to a consensus on solutions
4. What are some ways that we can innovate and use new technology to improve security without infringing on privacy rights?
5. How effective are current laws on these security issues

Selected Sources

If you want, you can add some sources that you think would be helpful for delegates to kick-start their research. Probably more relevant in novice committees; again, up to you.

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