

Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)

Background Guide Topic:

**Discussing Extremism and the Use of Unconventional
Weapons**



Director's Note

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the Disarmament and International Security Committee of Japan Metropolitan Model United Nations 2022! The chairs of this committee truly appreciate your participation and are delighted to be able to work with all of you.

My name is Marina Takahashi, and I am a second-year student at Senzoku Gakuen Senior High School. I will be chairing this Committee as Director for the two days, along with two co-Directors. I lived in Greenwich, Connecticut when I was in Elementary School and spent six years there; afterwards I came back to Japan for Middle School and have been living here since. I have been a part of Senzoku Gakuen's MUN Club for five years and currently am part of the club as vice-president. While I haven't been able to participate in any MUN conferences abroad due to the pandemic, I have participated in an online conference and previous JMMUN conferences including last year's JMMUN 2021 in which I was co-director of the Intermediate II committee.

This year, the Advanced II committee's conference will be taking place online. Although many people might be disappointed about not being able to meet delegates in person, an online conference means a more international conference. We will be welcoming delegates from all over the world and I hope to have a high-level debate over the course of two days. Since we will be debating over a rather difficult topic, I am looking forward to hearing many new and innovative ideas that have not been brought up yet through discussing the conflict from multiple aspects. Make sure to come with a deep understanding of the topic, a clear idea on your country's stance, and most importantly, confidence!

Let's create an enjoyable conference experience and make unforgettable memories!
Please feel free to reach out to the chairs with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Marina Takahashi, Director
Disarmament and International Security Committee
Senzoku Gakuen Model United Nations Club
Japan Metropolitan Model United Nations 2022



Introduction of the Committee

The Disarmament and International Security Committee of JMMUN 2022 will discuss extremism and the use of unconventional weapons on an international scale. As modern warfare has changed form from being issues between individual countries, to conflicts involving many states, the United Nation is required to play a vital role in maintaining global peace and security.

Founded in 1945 as the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly, the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC), composed of all 193 UN member states, deals with “all disarmament and international security matters within the scope of the Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any other organ of the United Nations; the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments.”¹

¹ United Nations, Main Body, Main Organs, General Assembly. UN News Center. UN. (n.d.). Retrieved July 22, 2021, from <https://www.un.org/en/ga/first/>

Current Situation

Multiple measures against global armaments have been taken by the United Nations.

One major armament that the UN has sought to eliminate since its establishment is nuclear weapons. Including the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), which aims to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, many treaties have been signed for progress in the disarmament of nuclear weapons, as well as prevention measures for nuclear proliferation and testing. A major treaty to be noted is the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, effective since 2021, January.² Despite the aim of the treaty, major countries with nuclear weapons, such as China and the United States, have refused to take part. With the measures being taken for nuclear weapon disarmament, it must be recognized that the countries advanced in nuclear weaponry are refusing to ratify the treaty.

² United Nations. (n.d.). *Treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (npt)* – unoda United Nations. <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/nuclear/npt/>.



Case Studies

Subtopic I: The Invention of Weapons and its Purpose

Regardless of the situation, weapons have been made for many different purposes. Though there are many reasons for weapons to be made, the main reason is “because possession of such a weapon appear[s] to be the only defense against an enemy similarly armed.”³

Case Study 1: The Dawn of Atomic Bombs

Created near WW2, the key to atomic bombs, nuclear fission, was founded accidentally in Nazi Germany on December 21st, 1938. This new prospect of nuclear fission was discovered by German radio-chemists Otto Hahn and Fritz Strassmann, both employees at Kaiser Wilhelm Institute for Physical Chemistry in Dahlem. Word of this discovery spread quickly among the community of physicists. Though this reaction was bound to be found, regardless of whether Hahn and Fritz had discovered nuclear fission as they had,⁴

³ Conca, J. (2013, December 8). *Why did we make the atomic bomb?* Forbes.
<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jamesconca/2013/12/07/why-did-we-make-the-atomic-bomb/?sh=7be1ecdf6e90>.

⁴ Conca, J. (2013, December 8). *Why did we make the atomic bomb?* Forbes.

many immediately saw the possibilities of its use.

A result of one of its possibilities was the invention of atomic bombs. Though accidentally found, this discovery of nuclear fission led to the birth of atomic bombs, a highly dangerous weapon that led to many deaths in the bombings in Japan.

Case Study 2: The Creation of Landmines

Widely used during WWII, landmines were made as a trump card for America. The value of weapons lies apparently in its ability to bring physical trauma. In this aspect, landmines changed the history of war weapons.

There are two different types of landmines: anti-personnel, and anti-vehicle. Both brought many casualties, not only during war time but also after.

Anti-personnel weapons have been prohibited by the treaty adopted in 1997, the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines. With more than 150 countries involved in this treaty, the effect is clear with the evident decrease of casualties by anti-personnel landmines.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/jamesconca/2013/12/07/why-did-we-make-the-atomic-bomb/?sh=7be1ecdf6e90>.



As for anti-vehicle mines, regulation of these types of mines have been called for by the Secretary-General.

Despite the fact that many countries have called for a complete ban of mines, over 10 million stockpiled mines await destruction.

Subtopic II: The Misuse of Biological Warfare

Implemented by 183 UN Member States, discluding the following countries: Chad, Comoros, Djibouti, Eritrea, Israel, Kiribati, Micronesia, Namibia, South Sudan, and Tuvalu, the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) “effectively prohibits the development, production, acquisition, transfer, stockpiling and use of biological and toxin weapon”.⁵

The Biological Weapons Convention does not ban the use of biological and toxic weapons but reaffirms the Geneva Protocol, established in 1925, a treaty prohibiting the usage of biological and chemical weapons in international armed conflicts.⁶

⁵ United Nations. (n.d.). *Biological weapons convention – unoda* United Nations. <https://www.un.org/disarmament/biological-weapons/>

⁶ United Nations. (n.d.). *1925 Geneva Protocol – unoda*. United Nations. <https://www.un.org/disarmament/wmd/bio/1925-geneva-protocol/>.

Case Study 1: Early 1930s and Japan’s biological warfare during World War II

In the early 1930s, Japan acquired new methods in developing biological warfare on a big scale. This was experimented largely in China. In the midst of World War II, the Sino-Japanese war occurred simultaneously from 1937 to 1945, in which the Imperial Japanese Army conducted human experimentation of biological weapons on the Chinese, Korean, Russian and American prisoners. Additionally, the movement led by General Shirō Ishii of Unit 731 used plague-infected fleas and flies covered with cholera to infect the population in China. This information was obtained because Unit 731 was originally an agency to promote public health to the Japanese soldiers that would benefit them.⁷ Although the Geneva Protocol banned the usage of biological and chemical weapons in warfare, the Japanese army wanted to prepare for this situation.⁸ It is important to note here that cholera is a very fatal disease that can lead to death

⁷ Unit 731. Atomic Heritage Foundation. (2018, May 4). <https://www.atomicheritage.org/history/unit-731>.

⁸ Google. (n.d.). *Public health issues in disaster preparedness* Google ubNX. https://books.google.co.jp/books?id=AiWKXMn66YcC&pg=PA87&dq=%22entomological%2Bwarfare&client=firefox-a&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=%22entomological%20warfare&f=false.



within a matter of hours.⁹ These prisoners would likely have died before getting any treatment.



Figure 1: The Japanese Imperial Army testing biological weapons on Chinese prisoners¹⁰

As well as the Changde chemical weapon attacks, the Japanese again employed biological warfare by intentionally spreading infected fleas.¹¹ Despite killing a range of 200,000-500,000 people, Japan only acknowledged their faults recently. Because Japan itself has not yet apologized upon this

⁹ Mayo Foundation for Medical Education and Research. (2020, February 1). *Cholera*. Mayo Clinic. <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/cholera/symptoms-causes/syc-20355287>.

¹⁰ Stockton, R. (2018, November 5). *6 horrifying Human "experiments" That WWII Japan got away with*. All That's Interesting. <https://allthatsinteresting.com/unit-731>.

¹¹ Riedel, S. (2004, October). *Biological warfare and bioterrorism: A historical review*. Proceedings (Baylor University. Medical Center). <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1200679/>.

matter, China decided to take it upon themselves to create a museum where Unit 731 was located to reaffirm the tragedies. When it became clear that Japan was going to lose the war in 1945, they started to erase much of the information gained from these experiments, and so not much of Unit 731 and its atrocities are not known to this age very widely. Additionally, Japan has not been tried for their faults as the United States of America has decided that getting the medical information that Unit 731 was able to gather would be enough in exchange for the immunity of the soldiers. General Douglas MacArthur believed that if he were to put Unit 731 on trial, it would get in the way of America getting the information.¹²

Subtopic III: The Responsibility to Protect

The Responsibility to Protect

Adopted by all UN Member States at the 2005 UN World Summit, The Responsibility to Protect (R2P) “seeks to ensure that the international community never again fails to halt the mass atrocity crimes of genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes

¹² *Unit 731*. Atomic Heritage Foundation. (2018, May 4). <https://www.atomicheritage.org/history/unit-731>.



against humanity.”¹³ The norm consists of three pillars: 1) the responsibility of each State to protect its populations, 2) the responsibility of the international community to assist States in protecting their populations, and 3) the responsibility of the international community to protect when a State is manifestly failing to protect its populations.¹⁴

Case Study 1: The Rwandan Genocide

The Responsibility to Protect was adopted, responding to the 1994 Rwandan Civil War, where the Hutu government of Rwanda persecuted the Tutsi minority group along with extremist allies. Using firearms, machetes, and a variety of garden implements, the war led to the genocide of 800,000 Tutsis and politically moderate Hutus.¹⁵ However, countries ignored the genocide and the United Nations’ faced limitations post-Cold War due to lack of military resources. In addition, the standoff between the United States and Soviet Union,

¹³ What is R2P? Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect. (n.d.). Retrieved July 25, 2021, from <https://www.globalr2p.org/what-is-r2p/>.

¹⁴ Šimonović, I. (n.d.). *The responsibility to protect* United Nations. Retrieved July 30, 2021, from, <https://www.un.org/en/chronicle/article/responsibility-protect>.

¹⁵ Power, S. (2019, September 8). Bystanders to genocide. *The Atlantic*. Retrieved July 28, 2021, from <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2001/09/bystanders-to-genocide/304571/>.

countries that held vetoes created obstacles that made it difficult to take action. Therefore, the United Nations failed to properly respond to and intervene in the Rwandan genocide.¹⁶

Case Study 2: The Tokyo Subway Sarin Attack

On March 20, 1995, members of AUM Shinrikyo, a religious organization in Japan and Russia, released a highly toxic chemical gas which was invented by the Nazis, in the subway of Tokyo called sarin, which resulted in 13 deaths and over 5,800 injuries.¹⁷ While the motive is still a mystery, the terror attack left many victims with after effects including mental illnesses and physical disabilities.

¹⁶ *BRIA 12 3 a The United Nations: Fifty years of keeping the peace* Constitutional Rights Foundation. (n.d.). Retrieved July 29, 2021, from <https://www.crf-usa.org/bill-of-rights-in-action/bria-12-3-a-the-united-nations-fifty-years-of-keeping-the-peace>.

¹⁷ History.com Editors. (2009, November 13). *Tokyo subways are attacked with sarin gas* History.com. <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/tokyo-subways-are-attacked-with-sarin-gas>.





Figure 2: Rescue workers in hazmat suits and gas masks helping the injured. (Source: The Japan Times)

The attack has shown the possibility of terrorists easily using chemical gas such as sarin, declared by the United Nations as a “weapons of mass destruction.”¹⁸ Due to the advancement of technology, anyone can obtain unconventional weapons with ease.



Figure 3: Japan Self-Defense Forces chemical troops removing poisonous substances. (Source: Britannica)

¹⁸ Tokyo subway attack Crime Museum. (2021, June 11). Retrieved August 30, 2021, from <https://www.crimemuseum.org/crime-library/terrorism/tokyo-subway-attack/>.

Case Study 3: The 2001 Anthrax Attacks

One week after an Islamic terrorist group hijacked airplanes and carried out suicide attacks in America on September 11, 2001, the Anthrax Attacks occurred where 5 Americans were killed and 17 were sickened, due to letters laced with anthrax appearing in the U.S. mail.¹⁹ Anthrax, a serious infectious disease, opened possibilities for many forms of terror attacks and the need to be prepared for any type of attack in the future. Anthrax can be placed in letters, food, or released in air.²⁰ While preparing for attacks in the future is vital, preventing the attacks from occurring again is the most essential obstacle the world must overcome.

¹⁹ FBI. (2016, May 17). *Amerithrax or anthrax investigation* FBI. <https://www.fbi.gov/history/famous-cases/amerithrax-or-anthrax-investigation>.

²⁰ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, November 20). *The threat of an anthrax attack* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. <https://www.cdc.gov/anthrax/bioterrorism/threat.html>



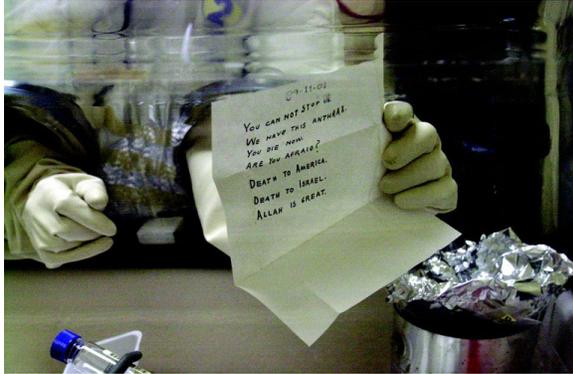


Figure 4: A Laboratory technician holding the anthrax-laced letter in November 2001. (Source: FBI)

Case Study 4: The Libyan Civil War

The Second Libyan Civil War which began in 2014 was a conflict that occurred due to multiple governments that competed for legitimacy and territorial control.²¹

The citizens of Libya have protested against foreign aid, claiming for “no foreign intervention, Libyan people can do it alone.”

²¹ Everything you need to know about human rights in Libya 2020. Amnesty International. (n.d.). Retrieved September 14, 2021, from <https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/libya/report-libya/>.



Figure 5: Libyan citizens calling out to the international community to stop intervention. (Source: Reuters)

While foreign aid is necessary, we must have a wider perspective and consider the negative effects of too much foreign intervention on a country, especially a state under disorder.

Case Study 5: Myanmar coup d'état

In 2021 February 1, following a general election won by Aung San Suu Kyi, military commander-in-chief Min Aung Hlaing's forces seized control of Myanmar. Although under a strict night-time curfew due to COVID-19, the peaceful protests against the military rule quickly progressed and the streets of Yangon and Mandalay were filled with the letters “R2P” in March the same year calling on the international community not simply to condemn, but to act.²²

²² Cuddy, A. (2021, April 1). Myanmar coup: What is happening and why? BBC News. Retrieved July 29, 2021, from <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-55902070>.





Figure 6: Young people seeking help from the international community on the streets of Yangon, Myanmar. (Source: GCR2P)

Improving the Responsibility to Protect

Numerous countries have responded to atrocity crimes against humanity including ASEAN countries, which have not taken effective action, and eschew R2P, believing in “the ASEAN way.”²³ China and Russia have vetoed resolutions authorizing international action in Myanmar, arguing that the situation in Myanmar was not a threat to peace and security, choosing to continue giving political and military support.²⁴

²³ Vanessa Chong and Tanyalak Thongyoojaroen May 14, Thongyoojaroen, V. C. and T., Chong, V., & Thongyoojaroen, T. (2021, May 19). *Beyond the coup in Myanmar: The asean way must change*. Just Security. Retrieved July 30, 2021, from, <https://www.justsecurity.org/76126/beyond-the-coup-in-myanmar-the-asean-way-must-change/>.

²⁴ User, G. (2020, January 10). *The Rohingya crisis and the challenges of IMPLEMENTING R2P PRINCIPLES*. The Security Distillery. Retrieved July 30, 2021, from, <https://thesecuritydistillery.org/all-articles/the-rohing>

In August 2015, responding to the difficulties the Security Council faced with the veto power, France, with the support of Mexico, launched the “Political Declaration on Suspension of Veto Powers in Cases of Mass Atrocity.”²⁵

While countries have condemned the military takeover, no concrete action has been taken to tackle the problem. R2P is neither a law nor a legally binding framework, countries remain uncertain of which cases the principle should be applied, and the existence of great powers in the Security Council make intervention difficult.

In addition, the world must not forget that terrorists are gaining easy access to unconventional weapons which are cheap, but of mass destruction. The UN has the responsibility to protect all people and find a solution to tackle extremism. Terror attacks are in many cases a problem of multiple countries; therefore the international community must cooperate to overcome

ya-crisis-and-the-challenges-of-implementing-r2p-principles.

²⁵ *Political declaration on suspension of veto powers in cases of mass atrocities*. Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect. (n.d.). Retrieved July 31, 2021, from, <https://www.globalr2p.org/resources/political-declaration-on-suspension-of-veto-powers-in-cases-of-mass-atrocities/>.



extremism. Who causes the attacks? Who provides the weapons? Where does the attack occur? Aside from protecting the citizens, actions to suppress future terrorism and use of unconventional weapons are necessary.

The Responsibility to Protect all people

Case Study 6: The Rohingya Crisis

Minorities being left out of the Responsibility to Protect is a major issue the United Nations faces. Rohingya, an ethnic Muslim minority group in Myanmar, have been systematically persecuted by Myanmar military for decades. They are not given citizenship of Myanmar, so the regulations of the Responsibility to Protect fail to protect them.²⁶

²⁶ Council on Foreign Relations. (2020, January 23). *What Forces are Fueling Myanmar's Rohingya Crisis?* Council on Foreign Relations. Retrieved August 3, 2021, from, <https://www.cfr.org/backgroundunder/rohingya-crisis>.



Figure 7: Rohingya refugees protesting for citizenship on the Bangladesh-Myanmar border. (AsiaNews)

Due to the influence the power to veto has, the Security Council has failed to take meaningful action to protect the Rohingya people. In addition, the international community has ignored the Rohingya crisis, considering it as Myanmar's internal affair.²⁷ The Security Council has only responded to the genocide, stressing the "primary responsibility of the Myanmar government to protect its population."²⁸

Case Study 7: The Xinjiang Conflict

²⁷ User, G. (2020, January 10). *The Rohingya crisis and the challenges of IMPLEMENTING R2P PRINCIPLES*. The Security Distillery. Retrieved July 30, 2021, from, <https://thesecuritydistillery.org/all-articles/the-rohingya-crisis-and-the-challenges-of-implementing-r2p-principles>.

²⁸ *Myanmar (Burma)*. Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect. (2021, May 31). Retrieved August 3, 2021, from, <https://www.globalr2p.org/countries/myanmar-burma/>.



Uyghurs, muslim minorities that reside in Xinjiang, China, are facing arbitrary detention, mass surveillance, family separation, and forced labor from the Chinese government.²⁹ However, the United Nations is unable to take significant action towards extremism, due to China's authority in the United Nations and fear towards the corruption of bilateral relationships.

Case Study 8: Afghanistan

In Afghanistan, women have been facing extreme discrimination and deprivation of rights. Weapons that the US-backed Afghanistan military possessed are now in the hands of the Taliban, allowing the Taliban to gain authority over the city once again. So far, the Taliban has not yet clarified their stance towards women except by saying that they will respect the rights of women as long as it fits within the context of sharia law.³⁰

²⁹ Foot, R. (2021, February 16). *R2P SIDELINED: The international response to China's repression of Muslim minorities in Xinjiang* Brill. Retrieved July 31, 2021, from, https://brill.com/view/journals/gr2p/13/1/article-p29_29.xml?language=en.

³⁰ Guardian News and Media. (2021, August 22). *'Progress is on THE Line': Former Afghan ambassador warns of WOMEN'S fate under Taliban rule*. The Guardian. Retrieved, August, 30, 2021, from,



Figure 8: Posters of women at a Kabul beauty salon painted over as Taliban fighters seize the city. (Source: The Guardian)

At the emergency session of the Security Council, during chaos at the Kabul airport, the Secretary-General highlighted that “now is the time to stand as one” and voiced concern over “mounting violations against women and girls,” stressing the need to protect “the hard-won rights of Afghan women and girls.”³¹ It is obvious that Afghanistan is in need of aid from the international community. The effects the situation in Afghanistan has on the world forces countries to take action and provide support, not only for Afghanistan, but for its own country as well. Currently, roughly 18

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/aug/21/afghanistan-taliban-women-rights-progress>.

³¹ United Nations. (2021, August 16). *Afghanistan: 'now is the time to stand As one', UN chief tells Security Council* | | UN NEWS. United Nations. Retrieved, August 30, 2021, from, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/08/1097872>.



million people depend on humanitarian aid in Afghanistan.



Figure 9: People clinging to US planes in Afghanistan as the Taliban captures Kabul. (Source: CNN)

The failure of the Responsibility to Protect is not in the doctrine, but in the states that are unwilling to commit to civilian protection. Should not human lives be prioritized over international relationships?

Past Actions

Other organizations of the United Nations have also contributed to the continuation of peace.

The General Assembly implemented the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in September 2006.³² It was the first time that countries agreed to a global, strategic, framework to counter terrorism.

³² What is R2P? Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect. (n.d.). Retrieved July 25, 2021, from <https://www.globalr2p.org/what-is-r2p/>.

The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force was established by the Secretary General in which several working groups were made to carry forward a set of initiatives to help Member States implement this strategy. One of these groups include the “Addressing Radicalization and Extremism that Lead to Terrorism” which offer Member States 58 assistance in identifying how radicalization and extremism may lead to terrorism and ideas for undermining the appeal of terrorism.

Questions to Consider

In the past, the UN has called on the five permanent members to “voluntarily and collectively pledge not to use the veto in case of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes on a large scale,” but only France and UK has supported the initiative. How should the United Nations overcome the power of the veto and come up with resolutions to help countries under mass atrocity crimes?

Keeping in mind that state sovereignty and the Responsibility to Protect are codependent, how can the international community improve R2P to better follow the three pillars and protect all people equally?



What action can the international community take to avoid all extremism and use of unconventional weapons before occurring?

How should the international community authorize intervention and the usage of force? Is it ideal for the United Nations to act without passing a resolution at the Security Council? Or should the international community seek a way to act on intervention with the agreement of the Security Council?

Keeping in mind that terror attacks can occur within multiple countries, how should the international community deal with unconventional weapons used by terrorists within multiple countries?

Guidelines for Position Papers

Position papers must clearly articulate the current situation of your country and briefly explain the past actions it has taken, further denoting possible solutions. Papers may also include international resolutions and strategies; however, the main focus **must** be on your country. Every year, a handful of delegates submit position papers with very basic information about their countries, such as geographical location and major trade

exports. Unless such information directly relates to the topic, it should not be addressed in position papers at all.

Closing Remarks

Congratulations on completing the background guide! Hopefully you have gained a solid understanding of the committee and the problems surrounding “Extremism and the Use of Unconventional Weapons.” The word “extremism” is a very difficult word to define. What is extremism? What is extreme and what is not? I am sure many people will face this question while researching because I did too. To answer the question, anything the majority of people believe is unacceptable would be considered extremism. I hope the many case studies included in the background guide will help you understand extremism and the use of unconventional weapons.

However, this background guide is not comprehensive enough and reading it is just the beginning of your research. Further research is necessary to understand your country's stance and be able to come to the conference with confidence. The world is constantly moving forward and situations will likely change, which can be understood from the recent situation in Afghanistan. Please keep an eye out on world affairs to deepen your understanding! I am truly looking forward to hearing everyone's



discussions at the conference and hope delegates will come prepared, full of confidence!

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