



II AASCA MUN

DISEC

Topic A: International terrorism and
covert state funding

Topic B: Chemical and biological
weapons—truly banned or just quietly
hidden?

Letter From the Committee Leaders

Hello, my name is Allain Zamora, and I am so excited to be your committee leader during the second AASCA Model United Nations. I am a junior in high school at the American International School of Costa Rica, and I have about 5 years of experience in the Model United Nations. In my time as a delegate, I have made many friends and other acquaintances. I have learned many skills and honed my social abilities. I am grateful and honored to attend this conference as your committee leader and see your unique approach to issues as well as your debate skills throughout the conference. As committee leaders, we find great importance in recognizing how the corruptions in today's politics affect us as citizens. Therefore, I look forward to seeing you perform with great determination while debating these important topics.

Hello, my name is Rommel Lopez, and it is a great pleasure and honor for me to be a committee leader for the second AASCA Model United Nations. I am in the 10th grade at Freedom High School. I have about 4 years of experience in MUN. As a delegate, I've had a great opportunity to speak out loud. I've learned a lot, and my speaking skills have gotten better and better throughout the years. Leadership is a deeply important skill for moving forward in our conference. I really am looking forward to this conference; moreover, it's my first time as a chair! I believe that conferences like this one provide us with tools that are absolutely important to identify the corruption that the world has suffered and how it will affect us in the future. Let's bring ourselves to a great resolution by uniting our willpower and finding a good and reasonable solution for our problem!

Hello, my name is Paulina Castellanos, and I am delighted to be your committee leader for the second AASCA Model United Nations. I am currently a junior at Escuela Americana in El Salvador and have been doing MUN since my sophomore year. During this time, I fell in love with the process and conferences of MUN. I have been fortunate to make lifelong friendships and acquire essential skills such as communication, teamwork, and leadership abilities. I am so excited and honored to be your chair, and I really hope we can make this conference an unforgettable experience. Recognizing the impact of international terrorism and the dangers of hidden chemical and biological weapons is essential to ensuring global security. We should all collaborate to create a balanced and fair resolution for this problem!

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Introduction

Topic A

The topic of international terrorism and covert state funding is vital for future generations to be knowledgeable about. People need to see how complex and dangerous the issue is and how much it affects our lives. These secret networks and political motives that bring fear into our lives must be stopped. When people become more knowledgeable about these, nations can work together to stop terrorism and promote peace. Citizens, especially those who are part of the new generation, need to understand this topic so they can be informed about the threats faced worldwide.

International terrorism is a serious global issue that affects innocent people worldwide. This type of terrorism occurs when groups or individuals use violence to create fear among populations and achieve political or religious goals. These attacks often affect innocent civilians and cause widespread damage that shakes countries and communities worldwide. Understanding how terrorism works and what support it has is important for finding ways to stop it and keep everyone safe.

An aspect of terrorism, both national and international, that is largely hidden is covert state funding. Covert state funding means some governments are secretly providing money, weapons, or other forms of support to terrorist groups. Other ways this may happen include that governments turn a blind eye to any terrorist activity, only catching a small, selective number of them so they look good in the eyes of the public. This alliance helps terrorists carry out attacks, spread their influence, and cause more harm, while those getting paid by these groups to be allowed to carry out such events are living the high life. These secret connections make fighting terrorism even harder, as governments deny involvement, and the true sources of money remain hidden.

Key Terms

Topic A

1. **Covert funding**—Hidden financial support given to terrorist groups by states or organizations to fund their violent actions without public knowledge.
2. **Clandestine operations**—secret activities conducted by governments or their proxies to support terrorism without revealing direct involvement.
3. **International cooperation**—when countries work together to fight terrorism and its funding by sharing information, enforcing laws, and stopping illegal funding.
4. **Logistical support**—Non-financial help like providing weapons, training, intelligence, or transportation to terrorist groups to aid their missions.
5. **Political violence**—violence used by groups or states to influence or change political decisions or power structures, including terrorism.
6. **Proxy groups**—Terrorist organizations or militias that receive support from states but operate independently, often used to carry out attacks on behalf of those states.
7. **Sanctuary**—When a state allows terrorists to live, train, or rest within its borders without interference, providing a safe place for their operations.
8. **State-sponsored terrorism**—Terrorist acts supported secretly by a government that provides funding, weapons, or safe havens to terrorist groups to achieve political goals.
9. **Terrorist financing**—The process of providing or collecting money to support terrorist activities, often done secretly to avoid detection.
10. **Terrorist networks**—groups of individuals and organizations connected across different countries that work together to plan and carry out terrorist attacks.

Historical Background

Topic A

International terrorism and covert state funding have a long and complex history intertwined with global political conflicts. During the Cold War era, many states secretly supported terrorist groups as proxies to advance their ideological and geopolitical goals without direct military confrontation. Some examples of this are the Soviet Union and the United States, which financed various militant factions in regions like Latin America, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia. This indirect funding helped terrorist organizations grow in size and capability. It made it difficult for international law enforcement agencies to trace their funding sources. As a result, terrorism became more organized and deadly, marking a significant evolution in the nature of global violence.

A major turning point came after the 9/11 attacks in 2001, when international awareness of the links between state actors and terrorist groups increased dramatically. The United States and its allies intensified efforts to cut off covert funding through financial sanctions and global cooperation among intelligence agencies. This introduction of measures such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) recommendations aimed to prevent money laundering and terrorist financing worldwide. At the same time, investigations and the guise of national defense or political resistance complicate diplomatic relations and counterterrorism strategies.

More recently, the rise of non-state terrorist actors and the use of sophisticated financial networks have challenged traditional approaches to combating covert state funding. Terrorist groups now exploit cryptocurrencies, front companies, and informal money transfer systems, making detection and disruption more difficult. Additionally, some states use covert funding to maintain influence in fragile regions, contributing to ongoing instability and conflict. This ongoing evolution underscores the persistent threat that covert state funding poses to international security. It also highlights the need for enhanced transparency, stronger regulations, and multinational cooperation to effectively counter terrorism in the 21st century.

Current Situation

Topic A

The global landscape of international terrorism in 2025 remains complex and volatile, marked by persistent threats from groups such as ISIS and Al-Qaeda affiliates. High-profile attacks have continued into early 2025, particularly by ISI-K, the Afghan branch of the Islamic State, which focuses on mass-casualty events. The turmoil in regions like Syria, with the Assad regime weakened, has created safe havens for militant groups, allowing them to expand their influence and operational reach. Additionally, ongoing humanitarian crises in Gaza and southern Lebanon have fueled radicalization, increasing the risk of violence spreading beyond these regions. These developments highlight how terrorism adapts and survives even amidst global security efforts.

International responses to terrorism have varied, with notable challenges in sustaining coordinated counterterrorism operations. Western military withdrawals from key regions such as the Sahel have left power vacuums that jihadist groups exploit, while some affected countries have shifted alliances toward states like Russia, which provides alternative security support. Efforts by international bodies include enhancing intelligence sharing, countering digital propaganda, and addressing the root causes of radicalization.

Statistics show that terrorism's geographic footprint has expanded, with the number of countries affected rising from 58 to 66 in 2024, the highest in several years. Terrorism-related deaths globally have declined slightly, but attacks have become more intense and deadly in certain hotspots, particularly in the Sahel region, which accounts for over half of all terrorism fatalities worldwide. Europe has experienced a significant increase in lone-wolf attacks, doubling in 2024, with many perpetrators linked to extremist ideologies. Rising hate crimes, including antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents, underscore the growing complexity of the terrorist threat environment. These statistics depict a troubling reality where terrorism evolves faster than some countermeasures can adapt.

A critical dimension of the present state involves covert state funding of terrorism, now recognized by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) as a global security threat. FATF's 2025 report highlights how some states provide direct financial aid, logistical support, and training to terrorist entities, posing challenges to international peace and regional stability. Despite global standards to suppress terrorism financing, deficiencies remain widespread, with 69% of assessed jurisdictions struggling to combat terrorist funding effectively. The rise of digital commerce and online payment abuses has further complicated efforts to track and block terrorism financing channels. This covert funding undermines counterterrorism progress and exacerbates conflict in affected regions.

Presently, terrorism threatens multiple regions with diverse stakeholders involved in responses ranging from military actions to financial regulation reforms. In the Middle East and Africa, local governments, international coalitions, and organizations like the UN face ongoing struggles to stabilize conflict zones and dismantle terrorist networks. Western countries work on intelligence and community-level interventions to prevent radicalization, particularly targeting youth recruitment. Meanwhile, global watchdogs and financial institutions intensify efforts to cut off funding sources, recognizing the nexus between finance and terrorist operations. The situation demands continued international cooperation and innovative strategies to address both the symptoms and causes of terrorism effectively.

Block Positions

Topic A

Western Alliance

The western block strongly condemns terrorism and prioritizes international cooperation through intelligence sharing, sanctions, and military alliances. These countries have often led efforts to track and freeze financial networks linked to extremist groups. They advocate for transparency in state funding and push for accountability mechanisms to prevent covert support of terrorism. Western powers also emphasize the role of democratic governance and civil society in countering radicalization. Their common interest lies in protecting national security and global stability through coordinated antiterrorism strategies.

- United States
- Canada
- United Kingdom
- France
- Germany
- NATO Members

Middle Eastern Powers

The Middle East is deeply affected by terrorism and allegations of covert funding. Regional rivalries complicate cooperation, with mutual accusations of supporting armed groups. While all members officially condemn terrorism, strategic interests often influence their actions. The bloc are divided on enforcement mechanisms and definitions of terrorism. Their shared interest is regional security, but internal divisions make unified positions difficult in DISEC.

- Saudi Arabia
- Iran
- Israel

Authoritarian & Non-Aligned States

These countries often reject Western-led narratives about terrorism financing and accuse Western powers of political bias or interference. They emphasize state sovereignty and accuse Western powers of using counterterrorism as a cover for intervention. Allegations of covert funding are frequently dismissed as politically motivated. These states prioritize international security and may support proxy groups for strategic influence. Their shared interest is maintaining geopolitical autonomy and resisting Western-led narratives in global security forums. This block often focuses on combating terrorism within their borders while resisting external pressure or sanctions linked to alleged funding activities.

- Russia
- China
- North Korea
- Belarus
- Syria
- Venezuela

Guiding Questions

Topic A

1. How can the international community improve transparency and monitoring mechanisms to detect covert state funding of terrorist groups?
2. What diplomatic and economic measures can be taken to hold states accountable that secretly finance terrorism without escalating geopolitical tensions?
3. In what ways can technology and intelligence-sharing between countries be enhanced to disrupt terrorist financing networks effectively?
4. How can development aid and anti-corruption efforts in vulnerable regions destabilized by terrorism be better coordinated with counterterrorism policy?
5. What role should regional organizations play in combating transnational terrorism and its financial support systems?
6. How can international frameworks be strengthened to prosecute and sanction individuals and entities involved in covert terrorism funding?
7. What strategies can be implemented to prevent the exploitation of digital currencies and online platforms in terrorist financing?
8. How can affected communities be empowered to resist radicalization and recruitment fueled by illicit funding?
9. What balance should be struck between national security and human rights protections in counterterrorism operations targeting financing networks?
10. How can policymakers address the root causes that motivate states to secretly fund terrorism as part of their foreign policy objectives?

Introduction

Topic B

Chemical and biological weapons are a type of weapon that uses toxic chemicals or harmful bacteria and viruses to cause damage, injury, or death to people. Such weapons have been used to damage a nation's agricultural production, so they no longer have a way to trade, and their economy is affected. In more extreme cases, these weapons can hurt and kill people and make the area affected unsafe for a long time. An example of this is the atomic bombs created by Oppenheimer, which greatly affected Japan and its citizens. Many countries have agreed to ban these weapons to prevent their use and protect people around the world from having to suffer such attacks again.

Even though chemical and biological weapons are officially banned by international law, there are questions about whether they have completely disappeared. Many theorize that some nations may have secretly kept these weapons or continue to develop them without making this information public. The atomic bombs were also hidden from the world as they were being developed, and, as many will know, the consequences of it. This hidden activity involving such dangerous weapons makes it difficult to know the full truth. Like a domino effect, it raises concerns about whether the bans are really being followed, and if not, what else are we not being told?

Understanding whether these deadly weapons are truly gone or just hidden helps us recognize how serious this problem is. It shows the importance of governments working together to enforce rules and ensure safety. When governments are corrupt or turn on each other, tensions rise, and many countries turn to expanding their militaries and stockpiling weapons. This leads to the development of weapons in secret, which may include chemical and biological weapons. Learning about these weapons encourages people to think critically about global security and the risks we still face today. Those with more knowledge make better decisions on dangerous topics than those with little knowledge.

Key Terms

Topic B

1. **Biological weapons**—infectious agents (bacteria, viruses, and toxins) used deliberately to cause illness or death in humans, animals, or plants.
2. **Chemical weapons**—toxic chemicals designed to harm or kill through inhalation, absorption, or ingestion (e.g., nerve agents, mustard gas).
3. **Dual-use technology**—scientific tools or substances that can be used for both peaceful purposes and weapon development, complicating regulation.
4. **Weaponization**—The process of adapting biological or chemical agents for military use, including delivery systems like aerosols or missiles.
5. **Non-proliferation**—Efforts to prevent the spread or development of weapons of mass destruction, including chemical and biological arms.
6. **Gene editing and synthetic biology**—emerging fields that could be misused to create more potent or targeted biological weapons.
7. **Verification mechanisms**—International procedures (like inspections) to ensure countries comply with disarmament treaties and aren't hiding banned weapons.
8. **Biological Weapons Convention (BWC)**—A 1972 treaty banning the development, production, and stockpiling of biological weapons.
9. **Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC)**—A 1993 treaty prohibiting the use and production of chemical weapons, enforced by the OPCW.
10. **Stockpile concealment**—the secret storage or undeclared retention of banned weapons by states, violating international agreements.

Historical Background

Topic B

Chemical and biological weapons have a profound and troubling history marked by development, use, and controversy. The earliest recorded use of biological warfare dates back to 1347, when Mongol forces catapulted plague-infected bodies into the besieged city of Caffa, spreading disease among the defenders. In the 20th century, scientific advances enabled the production of deadly weaponized biological agents such as anthrax and botulinum toxin, and chemical weapons like chlorine and mustard gas saw large-scale use for the first time in World War I. The horrific casualties and suffering caused by these weapons led to growing international condemnation and calls for bans, culminating in treaties such as the 1925 Geneva Protocol, which prohibited the use of chemical and biological weapons in warfare, though enforcement and compliance would prove challenging.

Despite these treaties, both chemical and biological weapons programs continued covertly during and after World War II. Countries, including the United States, the Soviet Union, Japan, and the United Kingdom, developed and tested such weapons, sometimes in secret. Notably, Japan's Unit 731 conducted unethical human experiments with biological agents during the Second Sino-Japanese War. After the Cold War, further international agreements like the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) and the 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) sought to eliminate entire classes of these weapons through legally binding commitments and verification mechanisms. Nonetheless, evidence surfaced that some countries continued secret programs or stockpiles, raising doubts about the total eradication of these weapons and the sincerity of some signatories.

Today, the question remains whether chemical and biological weapons are truly banned or simply hidden away. While the CWC has seen significant destruction of declared chemical stockpiles under international supervision, skepticism lingers about undeclared stockpiles and ongoing clandestine research in certain states. The Soviet Union's biological weapons program, uncovered after its collapse, revealed massive secret production and weaponized efforts that defied treaty obligations. Moreover, non-state actors pose a new threat, with fears of bioterrorism and chemical attacks on civilian populations. These realities demonstrate that despite formal bans, chemical and biological weapons persist in shadowy corners, concealed from public view, posing enduring risks to global security and raising critical questions about international transparency and enforcement.

Current Situation

Topic B

Chemical and biological weapons (CBWs) remain a critical international security concern in 2025, with recent developments revealing that while officially banned, these weapons may be quietly hidden or stockpiled by certain states. Despite global treaties banning them, allegations of covert programs, particularly involving Russia and North Korea, continue to persist. Advances in biotechnology and synthetic biology have also raised fears of a new biological arms race, as some states explore dual-use technologies that could be weaponized. The war in Ukraine has revived global concerns about CBW use, with several incidents alleged but not conclusively verified, complicating international trust and cooperation.

International responses to terrorism have varied, with notable challenges in sustaining coordinated counterterrorism operations. Western military withdrawals from key regions such as the Sahel have left power vacuums that jihadist groups exploit, while some affected countries have shifted alliances toward states like Russia, which provides alternative security support. Efforts by international bodies include enhancing intelligence sharing, countering digital propaganda, and addressing the root causes of radicalization. However, international cooperation suffers due to mistrust, reduced funding, and diminished development aid, complicating the fight against terrorist groups. The United Nations and regional organizations continue to advocate for multilateral strategies to combat these threats effectively.

Statistics show that terrorism's geographic footprint has expanded, with the number of countries affected rising from 58 to 66 in 2024, the highest in several years. Terrorism-related deaths globally have declined slightly, but attacks have become more intense and deadly in certain hotspots, particularly in the Sahel region, which accounts for over half of all terrorism fatalities worldwide. Europe has experienced a significant increase in lone-wolf attacks, doubling in 2024, with many perpetrators linked to extremist ideologies. Rising hate crimes, including antisemitic and Islamophobic incidents, underscore the growing complexity of the terrorist threat environment. These statistics depict a troubling reality where terrorism evolves faster than some countermeasures can adapt.

The present state of affairs illustrates a fragile norm against CBW use, constantly challenged by geopolitical tensions and advances in science. For example, Russia's potential reliance on chemical and biological weapons in its conflicts has caused NATO and European countries to enhance joint deterrence strategies, including intelligence sharing and strategic ambiguity in military responses. Technological progress in gene editing and synthetic biology demands urgent policy updates to prevent misuse, with calls for whole-of-government approaches to biosecurity. While international bodies work to close gaps, the lack of a formal verification mechanism in the BWC remains a critical vulnerability.

In conclusion, chemical and biological weapons, though officially banned, are not fully eradicated and may be quietly concealed by some states. The international community's challenge lies in reinforcing existing treaties, developing new verification tools, and adapting to modern scientific advances. Cooperation among states, including through organizations like the OPCW and the UN, is crucial to deter violations and respond to incidents effectively. Ongoing vigilance, transparency, and updated legal frameworks will be key in ensuring that chemical and biological weapons remain truly banned rather than just hidden or forgotten.

Block Position

Topic B

Western Powers

Their common position focuses on counterterrorism through intelligence sharing, military cooperation, and economic sanctions against states suspected of funding terrorism covertly. They emphasize the need to dismantle terrorist financing networks globally, enhance financial transparency, and impose accountability on rogue actors. The Western bloc generally advocates for robust multilateral cooperation and enforcement of international laws while balancing security with human rights concerns.

- United States
- Italy
- United Kingdom
- Germany
- France

Non-Aligned Block

The countries that are in this block do not formally ally with either major power bloc. Their position often stresses sovereignty and non-interference, which are often perceived as infringing on national autonomy. They support combating terrorism but call for more inclusive dialogue on the root causes, like poverty and political instability. This bloc also advocates for addressing economic inequality and enhancing development programs in vulnerable regions to reduce terrorism's appeal.

- India
- Brazil
- South Africa
- Egypt
- Indonesia

Rising Powers

As this bloc highlights a multipolar approach, they call for a balanced view of terrorism that distinguishes between legitimate state security concerns and accusations used for political gain. Russia and China, in particular, push back against unilateral sanctions and emphasize diplomatic solutions and regional security partnerships to combat terrorism financing. This bloc also focuses on cybersecurity and technological methods to monitor illicit financial flows without compromising economic sovereignty.

- Russia
- China
- Saudi Arabia
- United Arab Emirates

Guiding Questions

Topic B

1. How effective have international treaties like the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) and Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) been in eliminating chemical and biological weapons worldwide?
2. What are the main challenges facing verification and enforcement mechanisms to ensure countries comply with bans on chemical and biological weapons?
3. How can the international community address allegations of non-compliance or covert stockpiling of chemical and biological weapons by certain states?
4. What new scientific and technological developments pose risks for the proliferation or resurgence of chemical and biological weapons?
5. In what ways could geopolitical tensions, such as conflicts involving Russia or North Korea, impact biological and chemical weapons disarmament efforts?

6. How can transparency and confidence-building measures be enhanced between states to reduce mistrust and potential misuse of dual-use technologies?
7. What role should the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and similar bodies play in adapting to emerging threats?
8. How can international cooperation be improved to strengthen investigations and responses to alleged uses of chemical or biological weapons?
9. What policies can be implemented to balance the promotion of peaceful scientific research and the prevention of weaponization of biological agents?
10. How can the UN and member states hold violators of chemical and biological weapons bans accountable while maintaining global peace and security?

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