

Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)

Topic 1: The Conflict in Yemen

The Conflict in Yemen has ravaged the country for years, resulting in a humanitarian crisis of over 10,000 deaths and 3.1 million displaced persons.¹ While the conflict is at its core a civil war between vying groups within Yemen, including between Houthi rebels and the Yemeni government, it has escalated into a larger conflict involving multiple foreign actors. As Iran, Saudi Arabia, various Gulf states, and United States provide support for the opposing sides in the conflict, the power vacuum left by the collapsed Yemeni government has also allowed for the growth of both Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), a merger of two Al-Qaeda branches, and the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

The conflict is broad and complex, and involves extensive issues for DISEC to address. These include the active military conflicts and international interventions, humanitarian crises, territorial conflicts, political rifts, violations of human rights and international law, the Shia-Sunni divide, expansion of terrorist groups and activities in the region, and others. Delegates will need to prepare for the conference fully by researching the conflict and its many components and their country's views on them. Research into the regional, political, military, and religious tensions that involve the many state and non-state actors active in the conflict will be necessary. It is also crucial that delegates remain up to date on new developments and news in the country and the conflict as they arise.

In preparation for the conference, delegates should consider the many important questions raised by the topic. The active war and fighting within Yemen, as well as the larger scale clashes between nations supporting the fighting, are the most concerning aspects of the

¹ <https://www.cfr.org/interactives/global-conflict-tracker#!/conflict/war-in-yemen>

conflict to DISEC. The security and safety of the country's citizens are under direct assault. What is the best way to resolve the conflict and restore peace to the country? Some options to consider include military intervention, targeting specific groups involved in the conflict or those providing resources that fuel the conflict, and achieving a peaceful resolution through negotiations between the Houthi and the Yemeni government. What type of pressure, if any, should the committee exert on state actors involved in the conflict? How should the committee address the growth in terrorist groups in the country? Should the committee strive to end the war, or to simply address the individual issues raised by the conflict, if not the entire conflict?