

# S'MUN2030

SINGULARITY MODEL UNITED NATIONS

## U N S C

The use of war technology in  
peacekeeping & peacebuilding  
operations



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## Index:

1. Introduction
2. Current situation
3. What to tackle: QARMA
4. Vocabulary
5. Sources

# Introduction

- **What is the United Nations Security Council (UNSC)?**

The United Nations Security Council is one of the most powerful and influential organs of the United Nations, it is one of the six principal organs of the UN. It is charged with maintaining international peace and security, accepting new members to the UN, and approving any changes to the United Nations Charter. Its powers include the establishment of peacekeeping operations, the imposition of economic and diplomatic sanctions, and the authorization of military action.

The Security Council is made up of fifteen members: Five permanent members (the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China) and ten elected members. The elected members serve two-year terms and are chosen by the General Assembly of the United Nations.

The Security Council meets regularly to address threats to international peace and security, including the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, territorial disputes, and other threats to international peace and security. It is also responsible for the implementation of UN-authorized peacekeeping operations and other measures designed to promote international security.

- **What are peacekeeping & peacebuilding operations?**

**Peacekeeping operations (PKOs)** are a mechanism created under the UN charter to restore places of conflict. PKOs have had mandates ranging from traditional methods of resolving disputes peacefully, such as promoting reconciliation, assisting with the implementation of a peace agreement, or performing mediation and good offices, and even more forceful action as authorized under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which can authorize a range of measures including the use of force under Article 42. (Highly advisable to review Chapter VII of the UN Charter).

**Peacebuilding Operations** are another mechanism established by the UN that aims to support peace efforts in conflict-affected countries and is a key addition to the capacity of the International Community in the broad peace agenda. Its main organ is the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC), an intergovernmental advisory body, composed of 31 Member States.

- **How is war technology used in peacekeeping & peacebuilding operations**

Peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations benefit from the same advances in technology that have made war more efficient and effective. Technology can be used to increase the situational awareness of peacekeepers, allowing them to detect and respond to threats quickly and effectively. Technology can also be used to facilitate communication between different peacekeeping operations and between the peacekeepers and local populations, it can also be used to monitor, verify and enforce agreements between conflicting parties and to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Finally, technology can be used to collect data and analyze it to help inform decision-making and to better understand the dynamics of conflict.

War technology has been used in peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations in a variety of ways. Some useful examples may include unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) which can be used to monitor cease-fires, detect and monitor potential threats, and provide intelligence in conflict prevention and resolution. Satellite imagery can be used to detect and monitor human rights abuses, track the movement of troops, and map out potential trouble spots. GPS technology can be used to locate and track peacekeepers and aid workers in the field, as well as to monitor the movement of refugees. In addition, military-grade communications technology can be used to help facilitate dialogue between conflicting parties and to coordinate the deployment of peacekeeping forces. Finally, social media can be used to spread awareness of peacebuilding operations, help organize protests, and encourage peaceful conflict resolution.

## Current situation

- **Introduction:**

In recent years, there has been a significant rise in investments in crime prevention initiatives and the development of new technology. To understand the importance of these advances, it is essential to examine crime from its roots. Crime affects an area's value, creates a feeling of insecurity, causes physical, psychological, and economic harm to victims and those close to them, and demands large investments for protection, trials, incarceration, and more. Crime can be broken down into several different categories, such as violent, property, white-collar, and organized crime, or victimless crimes such as drug use, prostitution, gambling, and pornography. However, all criminal acts are committed by humans who share similar patterns in their brains, which has been studied extensively by criminal psychology and sociology. This has led to the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology that can predict the risk of reoffending, speed up legal interpretation, predict potential victims of violent crime, and create maps of potential crime scenes. Though AI-driven crime prevention has the

potential to be beneficial, there are ethical issues, such as privacy, fairness, transparency, security, and accountability, that need to be addressed. There is also a public fear of mass surveillance and a lack of trust in the technology, as well as worries about its accuracy and bias.

In 2018, the UN released the new strategy for digital transformation of the UN peacekeeping operations. A reform that was needed to put up to date with the new advancements in technology. In this context, and in the effort to respond to these challenges, the Secretary-General launched “Action for Peacekeeping (A4P)” on 28 March 2018 to renew mutual political commitment to peacekeeping operations. The Secretary-General called on Member States to join him in developing a set of mutually agreed principles and commitments to create peacekeeping operations fit for the future. On 25 September 2018, the Secretary-General hosted a GA73 High-level meeting on Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) which brought the international community together in pursuit of these goals.

In 2021, understanding the ongoing improvements of technology and the necessity of the UN to be before these challenges to be able to prevent breaches of peace, it developed the A4P Plus (A4P+) Strategy. This Strategy builds upon earlier and ongoing targeted initiatives and strategies, in areas such as, peacekeeping-intelligence, performance assessment for planning and decision making, information security or data management, and addresses challenges such as the weaponization of technologies by non-state actors, cyberattacks, misinformation, disinformation and hate speech, and key ethical questions related to the use of digital technologies in UN peacekeeping. At the same time, the Strategy aims to maximize the potential of current and emerging technologies, conceiving of digital technologies as a potential enabler that allows UN peacekeeping to achieve an analysis-driven, forward-looking understanding of the conflict environment, strengthen the safety and security of its personnel, and shape agile and responsive mandate implementation. Setting up peacekeeping for the future requires addressing both cross-cutting and cultural issues and taking targeted action to support peacekeeping operations in the field. The comprehensive nature of the undertaking suggests that this represents nothing less than a digital transformation of UN peacekeeping.

The Strategy has multiple target audiences, including:

- **Mission and Headquarters staff working in and/or supporting peacekeeping operations.** The strategy should provide tangible support when introducing, expanding and managing the use of digital technologies and identify gaps where guidance and clear direction may be required, with a

particular focus on the role of senior leadership in the stewardship of transformation.

- **Member States**, including troop and police contributors, as well as Member States contributing equipment, training and capacity-building support. The strategy recognizes Member States as an integral actor in safety and security and mandate implementation and seeks Member State engagement and support for equal opportunities when it comes to access and use of technology as well as their responsible application.
- **UN system and external partners in international organizations**, research communities and civil society. Peacekeeping's path towards digital transformation will be strengthened by learning from others; the strategy will cultivate opportunities for practical and multidisciplinary collaboration.

Also, in line with the principles of the UN PKOs and Peacebuilding operations, the strategy counts with the following principles:

- **Accessibility.** In accordance with the UN Disability Inclusion Strategy, and relevant bulletins and conventions, the introduction, design and operation of digital information and communication technologies ensures that persons with disabilities have access, on an equal basis with others.
- **Data protection and privacy.** Data gathered is managed in accordance with UN confidentiality, classification and privacy standards and rules; and used solely for mandate implementation.
- **Demand-driven.** Technology employed by peacekeeping missions is driven by their needs for solutions, not by supply, and based on consultations with peacekeeping missions throughout development and implementation.
- **Do-no-harm.** Digital technologies in peacekeeping place the best interests and needs of people first, as subjects and users of new technologies.
- **Gender-sensitive.** The design and use of technology factor in gender considerations, including differences in access, literacy and bias.
- **Human-centered.** Technology used in peacekeeping is simple, intuitive, and enables accessibility to all relevant peacekeepers.
- **Human rights compliant.** Technology use is consistent with the legal framework governing UN peacekeeping operations, in particular with full respect for human rights standards and obligations.
- **Inclusion and transparency.** The adoption of advanced technology by peacekeeping operations is in support of mission mandates and used in an inclusive and transparent manner.
- **Multidisciplinary.** Technology builds upon strength in diversity and incorporates different skills, experience and perspectives.

- **Partnerships.** Peacekeeping seeks to engage and work closely with diverse partners as part of a multistakeholder approach, including Member States, other international organizations, the technology sector, research institutes, and civil society organizations, to increase and share collective knowledge and overcome challenges.
- **Realistic expectations.** Technology is an enabler, but will not resolve or compensate for fundamental operational or strategic challenges.
- **Sustainability and scalability.** Technology used is interoperable with other systems in use, build on what has already been achieved and learned, be sustainable over time, with training, hand-over, maintenance and continuity measures in place, and flexible enough to be easily adapted and deployed to multiple missions to achieve greater returns on the investment.

In October 2022, the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) unanimously adopted the Delhi Declaration on countering the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes. Among the listed items in the Declaration include the decision to continue to work on recommendations on the three themes of the Special meeting and the intention to develop a set of non-binding guiding principles to assist Member States to counter the threat posed by the use of new and emerging technologies for terrorist purposes. The declaration aims to cover the main concerns surrounding the abuse of drones, social media platforms, and crowdfunding, and create guidelines that will help to tackle the growing issue. Members of the Committee will draft recommendations to counter the terrorist exploitation of Information and Communications Technology, such as payment technologies and fundraising methods and misuse of unmanned aerial systems (UAS, or drones). The Declaration also decided on a new set of non-binding guiding principles to assist Member States in countering the digital terrorism threat will be issued, with a compilation of good practices on the opportunities offered by the same set of technologies to tackle threats.

Another important topic in modern warfare technology are the unmanned military drones. For now, military drone use is dominated by lightweight surveillance unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and larger attack UAVs. This situation is unlikely to change in the near future, but its use is expected to drastically increase. Since they are a new tool for warfare, its legal status is not yet defined. Under international humanitarian law – the rules of war, i.e. the set of laws governing armed conflicts – drones are not expressly prohibited, nor are they considered to be inherently indiscriminate or perfidious. In this respect, they are no different from weapons launched from manned aircraft such as helicopters or other combat aircraft. It is important to emphasize, however, that while drones are not unlawful in themselves, their use is subject to international law.

It is worth pointing out that not all drones are actually armed and used to fight. Unarmed surveillance drones can be used for a range of civilian purposes. They can, for example, help detect fires and therefore save lives. They can also be used to collect vitally important information for relief personnel working in areas affected by natural disaster. In the future, drones might also help deliver emergency aid in remote areas. Even most military drones are unarmed and used for surveillance, in particular for transmission of information on the location and identification of enemy targets.

However, most of the current debate has been generated by the use of armed drones for combat operations, in Afghanistan, Gaza or Yemen for example. Advocates of the use of drones argue that they have made attacks more precise and that this has resulted in fewer casualties and less destruction. But it has also been asserted that drone attacks have erroneously killed or injured civilians on too many occasions.

## What to tackle

### **Questions a resolution must answer:**

- How can we adapt to the upcoming breaches of security?
- How can we use AI to anticipate a security crisis? Is AI an ally to international security?
- How can we prevent peace perpetrators from making use of current technology for conflict purposes?
- Should technological firms have some sort of corporate responsibility towards the production and selling of technology to third parties?
- Is the creation of a regulatory framework in AI necessary? If so, what are the steps for its creation?

# Vocabulary

**Peacebuilding:** The United Nations defines peacebuilding as "the prevention of violence and the promotion of lasting peace by addressing root causes of conflict through inclusive and participatory approaches". Peacebuilding operations are activities undertaken by international and local actors to prevent and end violence, build sustainable peace, and address the root causes of conflict.

**War technology:** War technology refers to the tools and techniques used to fight wars and battles. This includes weaponry and military equipment, such as tanks, aircraft, submarines, missiles, and bombs; communication systems, such as radios and satellites; and military tactics, such as camouflage, recon, and intelligence.

**Artificial Intelligence (AI):** systems or machines that mimic human intelligence to perform tasks and can iteratively improve themselves based on the information they collect. It's about enhancing human capabilities and contributions through its superpowered thinking and data analysis.

**Repeat victimization:** phenomenon where the victim of a past criminal offense repeated. This means that a person, household, place, business, or vehicle that has been targeted once statistically has a higher chance of being targeted again. Repats can be of the same or a different crime. Such statistics can be used to prevent crime because more attention can be focused on these targets.

**Near-repeat victimization:** similarly, to the phenomenon presented above but refers to the repeat in a target with similar characteristics or situations. Some examples would be robberies in a house expanding through the neighboring houses or the victimization of people of similar age groups, gender, race, economic situation, etc.

**Presumption of innocence:** legal principle indicating that any defendant in a criminal trial is assumed to be innocent until they have been proven guilty, meaning that they can't be convicted until a court has proven beyond a reasonable doubt that the person committed the crime. This concept clashes with the prevention of crime since often the systems in place put legal consequences (like temporary incarceration to decrease danger levels) before the crime has been committed at all.

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