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Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC)

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1.1. Welcome

Dear Delegates,



Welcome to the inaugural session of the CRRSMUN. As the heads of the Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC), it is an honor for Noel Garcia and Tabata Fayad to address you today. We are thrilled to see representatives from various delegations gathered here, ready to engage in meaningful discussions, negotiations, and problem-solving.

Your presence here reflects a shared dedication to fostering global cooperation, understanding, and diplomacy. Together, let us embark on this journey of collaboration and dialogue, working tirelessly towards solutions that will shape a better world for all. May our discussions be fruitful, our exchanges enlightening, and our collective efforts pave the way for a brighter future.



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We encourage all delegates to express their thoughts, raise questions, and engage in constructive dialogue. This session is an opportunity for us to work together towards common goals and address the pressing issues facing our world today.

Once again, welcome to this pivotal session of the Model United Nations Disarmament and International Security Committee. We look forward to productive deliberations and impactful outcomes.

If there are any doubts or questions, please do not hesitate to ask. We are here to assist you every step of the way. Thank you.

Any doubts or questions are more than welcomed, ask ahead!

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1.2. About Disec

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) is the first committee of the United Nations General Assembly. This committee addresses and deals with issues that are related to disarmament challenges to global security as well as threats to international peace.

Topic A: Houthi Attacks in the Strategic Bab el-Mandeb Strait

The armed attacks by Houthi militants from Yemen against vessels in the Bab el-Mandeb strait, a crucial route for international trade, have sparked significant tensions. These attacks prompted military responses from the U.S. and the U.K., which targeted Houthi-controlled areas. The Houthis justified their attacks as a response to Israel's war against Hamas in the Gaza Strip, although in practice, they have impacted ships bound for other countries unrelated to Israel.

The geopolitical importance of the Bab el-Mandeb strait is evident due to its proximity to regional conflicts, such as the civil war in Yemen. This strait is vital for global trade, with around a quarter of global maritime trade and approximately 4.5 million barrels of oil passing



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through it daily. Incidents in this region have an immediate impact on global oil and gas prices.

Houthi attacks have led to the suspension of shipments by major shipping companies, which could cause significant disruptions in global supply chains and increases in transportation costs, potentially leading to consumer price hikes. These attacks have raised concerns about their impact on the global economy and prompted businesses and governments to take measures to counter these consequences.

In summary, the Houthi attacks in the strategic Bab el-Mandeb strait have triggered international tensions, affected global maritime trade, and raised concerns about their impact on the world economy.

Important Subtopics

1. **Strategic Importance:** The Bab al-Mandab strait is a crucial link between the Mediterranean Sea and the Indian Ocean, serving as a gateway for exports to Western markets from the Gulf and Asia. This strategic location handles a significant portion of global maritime trade and is a vital route for international shipping
2. **Geopolitical Tensions:** The conflict involves geopolitical tensions, with the U.S. and its allies, including Saudi Arabia, responding to Houthi attacks in the region. The involvement of Iran, including its support for the Houthi militants, has further escalated tensions in the Red Sea and the broader region.
3. **Impact on Global Trade:** The attacks on commercial vessels in the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden have caused major disruptions to global trade, as approximately 12% of global trade passes through the Red Sea. Furthermore, the narrowness of the shipping channels in the Bab al-Mandab strait has led to occasional congestion, impacting international shipping routes.
4. **Military Responses:** The conflict has seen military responses from the U.S., the U.K., and their allies, who have conducted airstrikes on Houthi-controlled areas in Yemen in an effort to counter the attacks on ships and maintain freedom of navigation in the region .
5. **Humanitarian Concerns:** The conflict has raised humanitarian concerns due to the impact on international shipping and the potential risks to vessels passing through the



region. The attacks have also led to concerns about the safety of crews and the potential impact on global commodity markets.

6. **International Diplomatic Efforts:** The United Nations Security Council has been engaged in efforts to address the conflict, adopting resolutions demanding an immediate cessation of attacks on merchant and commercial vessels by the Houthi militants. Additionally, there have been diplomatic calls for enhanced efforts to support dialogue and the peace process in Yemen.

Historical Context:

1. **Yemen's Complex Political Landscape:** Yemen has a history of internal divisions and conflicts, stemming from its unification in 1990 and the subsequent power struggles and marginalization of various groups. The Houthi movement, rooted in the Zaidi Shia community, has historically sought greater representation and autonomy, reflecting broader socio-political grievances in the country .
2. **Arab Spring and Political Upheaval:** The 2011 Arab Spring uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa had a significant impact on Yemen, leading to mass protests and the eventual resignation of President Ali Abdullah Saleh. This period of political upheaval created a power vacuum and exacerbated existing fault lines within Yemeni society, setting the stage for increased instability and conflict .
3. **Houthi Insurgency and Rise to Power:** The Houthi movement's insurgency gained momentum following the Arab Spring, fueled by grievances over political and economic marginalization. The group's seizure of Sanaa in 2014 and the subsequent ousting of the internationally recognized government of President Hadi marked a critical turning point, leading to the escalation of the conflict and the intervention of regional actors, particularly Saudi Arabia and its allies.
4. **Saudi-led Intervention and Regional Dynamics:** The Saudi-led military intervention in Yemen in 2015, supported by a coalition of Arab states and with backing from Western powers, was driven by concerns over Iran's alleged support for the Houthi rebels and the broader regional rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran. The intervention aimed to counter the perceived expansion of Iranian influence in Yemen and restore the Hadi government to power.
5. **Humanitarian Crisis and International Response:** The protracted conflict in Yemen has led to a devastating humanitarian crisis, characterized by widespread food insecurity, a collapsing healthcare system, and one of the world's worst cholera outbreaks. The conflict's impact on civilians has drawn international condemnation



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and calls for a peaceful resolution, as well as increased humanitarian aid efforts to address the dire situation.

6. Maritime Security and Global Implications: The conflict's impact on maritime security, particularly in the Red Sea and the Bab al-Mandab Strait, has raised concerns about the safety of international shipping routes and the potential disruption to global trade flows. Houthi attacks on commercial vessels have prompted international responses to safeguard freedom of navigation and mitigate the risk to maritime trade in the region .

Relevant Dates (CCW)

- 2014: The Houthi movement, also known as Ansar Allah, seized control of Yemen's capital, Sanaa, and subsequently expanded its influence in the country.
- 2015: A Saudi-led coalition intervened in Yemen to counter the Houthi rebels, leading to a protracted conflict and a humanitarian crisis in the country.
- 2018: Houthi rebels targeted international shipping in the Red Sea and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait, raising concerns about the safety of maritime routes and the impact on global trade.
- 2019: Houthi attacks on commercial vessels in the region prompted international responses to safeguard freedom of navigation and mitigate the risk to maritime trade.
- 2023: The conflict escalated significantly, with a series of Houthi attacks on commercial ships in the Bab el-Mandeb Strait and the Southern Red Sea. These attacks targeted vessels from various countries, impacting shipping activities and raising concerns about maritime security.



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- October 8, 2023: U.S. Secretary of Defense directs the Gerald R. Ford carrier strike group to the Eastern Mediterranean in response to the Hamas attack on Israel.
- October 19, 2023: The USS Carney intercepts three cruise missiles and eight drones launched by Houthi militants in Yemen.
- November 8, 2023: An American MQ-9 Reaper is shot down off the coast of Yemen in the Red Sea by Houthi forces.
- November 22, 2023: The USS Thomas Hudner shoots down multiple drones launched by Houthi groups.
- November 26, 2023: Houthi forces try to seize an Israeli-affiliated ship near the coast of Yemen.
- November 30, 2023: USS Carney shoots down an Iranian-made drone launched from a Houthi-controlled area in Yemen.
- December 3, 2023: Houthi forces target two ships in the Red Sea using drones and ballistic missiles. The USS Carney is attacked in the Red Sea by drones and ballistic missiles fired from Houthi-controlled areas in Yemen.
- December 5, 2023: The United States holds talks on the establishment of a multinational naval coalition to counter the attacks by the Houthi armed forces in the Red Sea.
- December 6, 2023: Houthi forces announce their bombardment of military targets in the Umm Al-Rashrash area with multiple ballistic missiles. The Israeli army intercepts a ballistic missile heading towards the city of Eilat using the Arrow missile defense system.
- December 8, 2023: The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) reports an entity declaring itself the Yemeni Authorities ordering a vessel south of the Red Sea to alter course.
- December 10, 2023: The French Ministry of Armed Forces announces that a French frigate in the Red Sea downed two drones launched from Yemen.



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Current Situation



The current situation in the conflict related to the Houthi attacks in the Bab al-Mandab Strait and the Southern Red Sea is characterized by ongoing disruptions to international trade and maritime activities. Iranian-backed Houthi forces have targeted shipping vessels passing through the Red Sea, leading to significant disruptions to global trade on the shortest shipping route between Europe and Asia. These attacks have resulted in numerous incidents, with at least 40 vessels being targeted, impacting shipping activities and prompting major shipping carriers to redirect their fleet around the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa. The conflict has also led to international military responses, including airstrikes by the United States and Britain on Houthi-linked targets in Yemen, as well as the establishment of naval initiatives to protect cargo ships in the region. Tensions have escalated, with concerns raised by international actors such as the European Union, Russia, and China, adding complexity to the situation. The conflict's impact on maritime security and global trade remains a critical concern as the retaliatory cycle between the Houthis and the Western coalition continues, posing challenges for diplomatic efforts and regional stability.



Guide Questions:

1. What are the key factors and actors contributing to the conflict in the Bab al-Mandab Strait and the Southern Red Sea?
2. How have the Houthi attacks impacted maritime security and international trade in the region, and what measures have been taken to address these challenges?
3. What are the military and diplomatic responses to the conflict, and how have they influenced regional stability and international relations?
4. What are the humanitarian and economic consequences of the conflict, particularly for Yemen and the surrounding region?
5. What are the future prospects for resolving the conflict and mitigating its impact on maritime activities and global trade flows?

Relevant Information

Certain words such as “war” and “terrorism” are not included in the parliamentary language, however, they can be included if the committee wants through a motion passed by the table. The huties group is considered as an observer, therefore, it has voice but can't vote in the voting procedure of the working papers. However, if the committee considers necessary the vote of this group, they are in the right of making a motion to give a vote to huties.

Sources

1. ["Iran continues to support Yemeni Huthis, with devastating consequences for the region"](#) - International Crisis Group
2. ["Iranian Spy Ship Helps Houthis Direct Attacks on Red Sea Vessels"](#) - The Wall Street Journal
3. ["The U.S. Must Restore Deterrence in the Red Sea"](#) - National Review
4. ["Houthi attacks on shipping in Red Sea persist, U.S. and allies strike back"](#) - Reuters
5. ["Deterrence and Coercion of Non-State Actors: Analysis of Case Studies"](#) - National Institute for Public Policy