DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE
Topic: Regulation of Foreign Military Interventions in Internal Conflict and Restoration of Justice and Sovereignty in the Society.

Contents:

- About the committee
- Overview
- History and information
- Current scenario
- Conclusion
- Committee Mission
- Questions to consider
- Bibliography
About the committee:

DISEC (Disarmament and International Security Committee) created on October 24, 1945, constitutes one of the six committees of the United Nations General Assembly. All the 193-member states are invited to attend. DISEC meets for 3-4 weeks on an annual basis to discuss various issues concerning international security and peace.

It is the First Committee which deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime.

It takes into consideration all the disarmament and international security matters, within the room of the Charter or relating to the functions of any other organ of the United Nations; the general principles of cooperation in the preservation of global security and peace, as well as the ideologies governing the disarmament and the regulation of weaponries; promotion of cooperative arrangements and measures aimed at strengthening stability through lower levels of arms.

The committee works in close collaboration with the Geneva-based Conference and the United Nations Disarmament Commission. It is also the only core committee of the General Assembly entitled to verbatim records coverage.

The First Committee sessions are structured into three distinctive phases:

1. General debate
2. Thematic discussions
3. Action on drafts

COMMITTEE MISSION:

It is the duty of this committee to recognize the threats posed by this situation and address this issue at the earliest. Delegates are not only expected to research the
topic well, but also identify ways in which their country can help ease the situation. Please feel free to contact me regarding any queries that you may have. I look forward to hearing all your innovative ideas and solutions!

Topic background

Overview:

An internal conflict or a civil war is a war between organized parties or groups within the same state or republic. Foreign intervention in a civil war refers to military, political, diplomatic, logistical, and effective support given to parties, involved in the war, by foreign countries. Military intervention is the cautious act of a single nation or group of nations to introduce its own military forces into an existing internal conflict or controversy in another nation.

There is a difference between foreign interventions and international interventions. The former refers to a specific country’s actions in a conflict while the latter refers to actions by international institutions, like the UN, in taking part in existing internal conflicts.

Ever since the end of the Cold War, the military intervention used for humanitarian reasons and conflict resolution has increased dramatically. Sometimes, foreign states send in troops for unconventional reasons like disaster relief. This was done by the United States in 1990 when they sent troops to Honduras for the same reason. However, the far more common and controversial intervention type is when nations send troops to influence the direction of a controversy or conflict.

It is also well known that the conflict between two contradicting viewpoints of major countries often makes it much harder for areas where the conflict is occurring to maintain a status of long-term peace. Success is usually qualified as ending the conflict that is at hand, but one major issue is that the larger powers that intervene in conflicts sometimes end up abusing the humanitarian rights of the weaker powers and the people who are involved.
History and information of the Topic:

Ever since its creation, the UN has often been called upon to prevent disputes from intensifying into a war, and if some kind of conflict does break out, then it is their job to promote peace and restore justice within these societies. There have been 138 intra-state wars since the end of World War-II, and foreign parties have been estimated to have intervened in roughly two-thirds of them. The US alone has been intervened in 35 of them. In approximately 30 percent of the instances, outside intervention helped settle the war. Interventions on behalf of the government has been more successful than that on behalf of the opposition. Over the past 70 years, more than a million men and women have served in more than 70 UN peacekeeping operations. More than a hundred thousand military, police and civilian personnel from 125 countries currently serve in 14 peacekeeping operations.
The 1980’s was the deadliest and most dangerous decade after the warfare, since most assassinations were caused by civil conflicts. After WWII, many countries were in armed combat to decide what type of government they would have. During this time period, multiple global interventions took place to try and persuade other countries to implement the same type of government they had. UN peacemaking expanded during the nineties, as the termination of the Cold War created new opportunities to stop civil wars through negotiated peace settlements.

Colonialism in Africa fell apart after the end of World War II, opening up political and military intervention opportunities for major cold war powers that competed with older imperial powers to control the entire decolonization process. External support for many African regimes, that promoted outside interests, led to many decades of corruption and misruling that served as the foundation for many post-war conflicts. After the cold war, the motive for military intervention was no longer the “communist threat” or African liberation, but rather the “responsibility to protect”. As a result, foreign political and military intervention often harmed the people whom they had officially planned to help.

Despite the US military’s significant involvement in major conflicts such as the Korean War, the Vietnam War and several Middle East conflicts, there hasn’t been an official US declaration of war since WWII. The US constitution specifically gives the US Congress the power to declare war, but provides no specifics describing how such a declaration should be made.

The Korean war started in 1950 after the invasion of South Korea by North Korea. The invasion represented communist advancement in Asia and scared the United States because of the popular domino theory where if one nation fell to the Soviets and communism, many others would fall soon after. As a result, the United States felt a need to intervene in the conflict for the sole purpose of stopping the rise of communism and the
Soviet Union. A total of 21 nations from the United Nations came to the aid of South Korea but the United States still represented 90% of the total troops that were fighting. The fighting between the two sides continued until 1953 when an armistice was signed creating the Korean demilitarized zone that separated North and South Korea. However, there was no real peace treaty signed to end the conflict, so many still believe that North and South Korea are still technically at war.

The concept of independent nations having the right to be an organized and reserved society, without other nations interfering is called “national sovereignty”. When an exterior body interferes in a country’s armed civil conflicts, the national sovereignty of that country is violated and justice for the people is not properly restored. Global intervention in armed civil conflicts is a threat to a country’s national sovereignty and may lead to bigger confrontations outside the host country.

In accordance to the Westphalian System in the mid-1600s, if a country’s sovereignty is violated, then they have the right to self-defense. If the nation was not capable of a counterattack, they have the right to ask other states for assistance. Considering the tragic events since the established date, in the 1990’s, this principle was renovated and improved so that foreign countries could intervene in civil conflicts when genocidal events and massive human right violations were taking place. The violation of national sovereignty is not necessarily a physical trespass into a country, but also a country being advised and even threatened to modify the nation’s way of governing by another country.

National sovereignty gives people the right to be independent and proud of their origins, and global intervention may take away this right. The feeling of national sovereignty and justice for the people is necessary and even more in developing countries, so they can achieve a stable political, social and economic place. It takes a lot of sacrifice to recover
from the loss of sovereignty, so when another country interferes, it harms the country enormously. On the other hand, if the global intervention was for support and guidance, it helps the nations advance and progress. Global intervention might destroy a country's national sovereignty, which is why this act needs to be done with caution.

Sometimes after a foreign country has intervened in an internal conflict to reestablish peace, there is no proper restoration of justice done among the people in the society.

Global interventions might be both tragic and necessary. If a country is having trouble, global intervention helps bring peace and stability. If things do not go as planned it could lead to tragedy and disaster, making the country's system collapse. Sometimes certain nations take advantage of countries in need of help, since those countries need help, they do not see it as a threat but as a noble gesture from another country. Measures need to be taken to ensure that if global intervention takes place it is handled correctly.

The laws of global intervention in armed civil conflicts are always going to continue changing as time goes by. Depending on what occurs around the world, the agreements of global intervention will change with it. However, national sovereignty will always be an influential and crucial topic that affects the world. The role of global intervention in armed civil conflict and its role in national sovereignty will always be in dispute on whether it should be permitted and when. National sovereignty and justice hold an important role in today's society and global intervention may interfere at times.

***Delegates are expected to dive deeper into the nature of these civil wars and understand the situation during the years following the wars to better comprehend the factors that have influenced the scene today.

CURRENT SCENARIO:

Syria: The Syrian conflict is one of the most important and complicated intervention conflicts occurring currently. Intervention in Syria has caused a lot of religious conflicts and can also provoke many other civil wars could later become an international war. More than 250,000 Syrians have lost their lives over multiple years of conflict, it began with anti-government protests and escalated into a war soon after. More than 11 million Syrians have been displaced from their homes as forces devoted to President Bashar al-Assad and the Islamic State (ISIS) battle rebel troops. In 2014 the United States held a series of air strikes in an attempt to wipe out groups that are part of the Islamic State. Around the same time, the Russian Federation also carried out air strikes targeted at Syrian terrorists but it is said that these strikes mostly killed Western backed rebels and
civilians instead of the terrorists. Russia and China support Syria for significant trade and military reasons. This comes to a complete contrast to the position of the US, France and the UK, who support the rebel groups in the war. In 2012, US, France and UK have done well by providing mostly material aid for the rebels including communications equipment and medical supplies, but they have not provided anything like lethal weapons. There have been many attempts to come up with resolutions that oppose the Assad regime, however, they have been impossible to pass as Russia and China, being the major powers that they are, constantly veto these resolutions. Until an agenda is created by the United Nations that demands peace, there will be no effective solutions to combat the foreign conflict intervention currently taking place.

**Afghanistan:** Afghanistan has suffered greatly from foreign military interventions and due to the battles between rival nations. This country lost its national sovereignty on October 7th, 2001 and has lacked it since then. Even though, many countries are withdrawing their military, nevertheless some countries are still refusing to completely eradicate their bases. Many global interventions have occurred in Afghanistan after the 9/11 attacks. The UN has also stated that the bombings that took place in Afghanistan provoked by the US and the Great Britain were illegal. The government in Afghanistan desires help from other countries, but it would be a catastrophic loss to them if it worked against them.

**Egypt and Libya:** In the month of February in 2015, Egypt conducted a series of airstrikes in Libya targeting the Islamic State (IS). The current president of Egypt, Abdel Fattah al-Sis, named the current situation in Libya as a threat to global peace and security, and urged foreign nations to intervene in this issue. Though Egypt conducted the attack to only damage training camps and weapon warehouses belonging to the IS, it also hurt the city of Derna, killing an estimation of 50 citizens. One of Libya’s politician, Omar al-Hassi, spoke out regarding the attack and stated: "This horrible assault and this terrorism that’s been conducted by the Egyptian military represents a violation of sovereignty in Libya and is a clear breach of international law and the UN charter.”
ISRAEL: Nowadays, Israel's region is having a lot of armed clashes and disputes. It began as a simple civil armed dispute, and has now grown and spread throughout the Middle East. Since then, many other problems have been created. Civilians are desperate for protection, they are no longer secure. The affected people have call for help, wanting other governments to intervene to try and reduce the power the government has over the country. Intervention has taken place to soften the conflict's intensity. Innocent citizens are dying every day as there is no one to protect them, even when the government has the duty of defending its people.

***Delegates are expected to know the interventions made by their countries and other related information in not only the above-mentioned regions but also other regions such as Yemen, Iraq, Mexico, Africa, Ukraine, etc.

Conclusion:

Global Intervention may become at times a serious problem that could not only physically harm the hosts country, but also hurts its national sovereignty and leads to injustice among the people. National sovereignty is what makes a country free and unique. Foreign intervention may have a positive or a negative influence in an internal conflict of a country, it may bring peace in the country or may make the situation worse, which may in turn lead to an international war. It is important that every country intervenes, with permission, in another country’s matters with proper planning of a resolution which must in turn be executed in the right way. This would keep the national sovereignty intact and there would also be proper restoration of justice among people, which would maintain the peace inside the country and also globally.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

1. How can the UN best serve countries that need help during an internal conflict?
2. When is the UN allowed to intervene in a civil conflict, and when is the UN obligated to do so?
3. Do single nations have the right to intervene in another sovereign nation’s conflicts?
4. How will the UN monitor and protect refugees in a civil crisis, as well as ensure their return and establishment in a post conflict scenario?
5. How will the UN manage social reconciliation in areas where conflict may have been happening for years?
6. How will peacekeeping operations be coordinated in view of the wider issue of social and infrastructure reconstruction?
7. Are the three Charters used by the UN peacekeeping forces efficient and do they need to be changed or expanded?
8. Could a regional military intervention plan be created for future internal conflicts?
9. Has your country ever been invaded? How did it impact your nation?
10. What actions does your country perceive as a violation on national sovereignty and why?
11. What does the government of your delegation think about global intervention?
12. Has your country invaded other nations during armed conflict? What was the motive?
13. Is this topic a major concern in your country? If not, what ways can it help struggling nations?
14. Have other countries helped your country with this issue? In which ways?
15. Is there any armed civil conflict in your country? If so, would global intervention aid or harm the situation?

***Delegates are expected to know the answers to these questions as it would help them in the committee sessions.

Bibliography:
*Vipul Girish Kumar*

*Mohith Kalekar*