



Iowa High School Model United Nations

Development in the field of information and telecommunications relating to international security

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## **Background**

With increasing technologies, the security of important and confidential information that is communicated within nations or between nations is becoming further compromised. There are three major components to this issue: Critical Infrastructure Protection and Information Assurance, Information Operations/propaganda, and Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA). The world has been pushed into an “Information Age” in which information is transmitted at a higher rate and over a wider area, leaving more opportunities for information to be leaked or to end up in the wrong hands. States and other individual entities which rely heavily on Networked Information Systems (NIS) have a very high vulnerability to an attack electronically. As more entities become more dependent on NIS, attacks may become more common as well as more detrimental to security. Globalization also has a huge role in this issue as information can be spread much more easily between states with little national control over what information is provided to citizens of its state. This revolution of information has also led to a RMA, which is an international phenomenon wherein new military technologies advance to become more equivalent to those of Western armed forces.

Information and communication technologies (ICTs) are a force to be reckoned with as the technologies advance and change. Information can be shared globally at a much higher rate among people which increases socialization both now and for the future.

## **What Has Been Done/Past U.N. Actions**

The UN sent out a resolution on information security in 1998 at the request of the Russian Federation’s Minister of Foreign Affairs, I.S. Ivanov, which was adopted by consensus by the General Assembly (GA). This resolution called UN Member States to be more observant of potential and current threats to information security as well as to inform the Secretary-General of their views of the issues of information security, basic notions related to information security, and suggestions for international principles to raise the security of global information and telecommunication systems to combat information criminals. As a result, many nations submitted their needs and opinions and information security was discussed even more in depth during the next year’s session of the GA.

Then, in 2001, a Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) was established by UN Member States to begin working in 2004 with the purpose of reviewing threats to international information security, ways to address them, and to determine better ways to make the security of global information stronger. The Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security met to send a report to the UN Secretary-General, but consensus wasn’t reached because there was a disagreement of whether international humanitarian law and international law would be able to control cases of “hostile” use of ICTs. Even though they could not come to consensus, they still

brought the issue of international information security to been seen by many more people globally than had been aware of it before their meetings.

### **Possible Solutions**

There are many ways through which to approach this issue, so it may be difficult to address all of the parts of the issue. One possible solution would be to require states to directly monitor their information security, and at a smaller level, this would be much simpler rather than creating an new task force to oversee the information security of individual's. Although, there would need to be some sort of force to oversee the results of action taken by individual states to increase information security. Other solutions include possible military intervention to ensure international information security or to prevent breaches in information security. These, along with many other solutions could help to increase international information security.

### **Questions to Consider**

1. *Does your country use technologies affected by this issue?*
2. *Does your country have interest in countries that have these technologies?*
3. *Could your country help or benefit from increased information security?*
4. *Is international information security an issue that the UN can address?*
5. *How can information security be best monitored?*

### **Suggested Sources**

<http://www.unidir.org/>

<http://www.sec2012.org/>

<http://www.unidir.org/pdf/articles/pdf-art2645.pdf>

<http://www.unidir.org/pdf/activites/pdf3-act81.pdf>

<http://www.unidir.org/pdf/articles/pdf-art2642.pdf>

<http://www.un.org/documents/ga/docs/56/a56164.pdf>

