

Committee: General Assembly 4 - Special Political Committee
Topic: Methods for Handling Cyber-Warfare
Country: Republic of Belarus

Topic One: Methods for Handling Cyber-Warfare

In the late 20th century, the use of technology and the Internet was just starting to come into view as a major aid for governments worldwide. With the rise in use of technology came the rise in technology exploitation, as hackers found ways to bypass firewalls and wreak havoc on global systems. The first major cyber attack was considered to be the Morris Worm¹, where it spread around computers largely in the United States. It slowed down computers to the point of being unusable, and it was the first attempt to test how large the Internet was and how easily exploitable it was. After this instance, cyber attacks and cyber warfare took off as a way to undermine government security, such as the 2008 United States election hacking, where Chinese hackers searched for the two candidates' campaign positions and on plans for Pentagon weapon systems, critical United States infrastructures, and major news organizations². Most recently, in 2016, United States intelligence officials found that the Democratic National Committee (DNC) was hacked by Russian intelligence by using phishing emails to gain access to Party emails³. These cyber attacks in one way or another undermined state infrastructure or tried to exploit state intelligence.

The Republic of Belarus has also been a victim of cyber warfare on multiple occasions. In 2008, the country was bombarded with a DOS (Denial of Service) attack⁴ against websites such as Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, online resources essential for Belarusians to obtain their news. Additionally, Belarusian independent websites Belapan and Naviny experienced DDOS (Distributed Denial of Service) attacks during October 2015⁵. Belarus has learned from these past lapses in security, and in 2013, Belarus introduced CERT (National Computer Emergency Response Team of the Republic of Belarus.) to the international community in order to reduce the level of informational security threats⁶. As made evident by these attacks, the Republic of Belarus believes that more steps need to be taken in order to ensure security, such as the implementation of failsafes and better training programs for government employees.

Belarus implores the international community to adopt higher levels of security pertaining to technology critical to state security. First, every country in the international community should dedicate one agency solely on cybersecurity and follow the United States' example on running simulations on a regular basis. Second, governments should actively work with technology companies and universities in order to help moderate and secure the Internet. With more manpower, more and more cyber threats and cyber attacks can be detected and prevented. Finally, if a cyber attack get through these defenses, two options can be used in order to prevent further damage: the kill switch and the electric wall. The kill switch can shut down the Internet in certain areas in order to stop the worm or malware, and the electric wall can scan incoming "packages" coming into the country's network and can check to see if any known malware is among those packages.

¹ NATO Review. "The History of Cyber Attacks - a Timeline." *NATO Review*, NATO, www.nato.int/docu/review/2013/Cyber/timeline/EN/index.htm.

² Ohlheiser, Abby. "Chinese Hackers Spied on the 2008 Elections, Too." *The Atlantic*, Atlantic Media Company, 6 June 2013, www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2013/06/chinese-hackers-spied-2008-elections-too/314506/.

³ Satter, Raphael. "Inside Story: How Russians Hacked the Democrats' Emails." *AP News*, Associated Press, 4 Nov. 2017, www.apnews.com/dea73efc01594839957c3c9a6c962b8a.

⁴ Stephens, Hampton. "Belarusian Cyber Attack." *World Politics Review*, 28 Apr. 2008, www.worldpoliticsreview.com/trend-lines/2012/belarusian-cyber-attack.

⁵ "К Некоторым Белорусским Информационным Сайтам Был Затруднен Доступ." *TUT.BY*, 3 Oct. 2015, news.tut.by/society/467089.html.

⁶ "CERT.BY." CERT.BY, Republic of Belarus, cert.by/?lang=en.

Committee: General Assembly 4

Topic: Increasing the Number of Women Involved in Peacekeeping Missions

Country: The Republic of Belarus

On October 31st, 2000, the United Nations Security Council unanimously passed UN Resolution 1325, in which the Security Council called on all member states to “to seek to expand the role and contribution of women in United Nations field-based operations⁷.” In 2006, a staggering 2% of the UN Peacekeepers were women. Ten years later, the percentage of women in the Peacekeepers rose to about 4%⁸. It took ten years to increase female participation by 2%; this means that the resolution was ineffective. Belarus realizes past efforts have been made to increase female representation in the Peacekeeping Forces, but the Republic of Belarus considers them as outright failures. The United Nations is not in a position to be rejecting applicants on the basis of gender. Catastrophic missteps in Srebrenica seriously undermined both member state and public trust in its efficacy, and needs to be remedied. The United Nations must modernize the UN Peacekeeping Forces before it is reduced a toy waveno weight behind its swing.

Balancing the gender demographic of the UN Peacekeeping Force will benefit everyone except those who seek to disrupt peace and democracy. However, the Republic of Belarus urges member states to recognize that this is part of a bigger problem, the advancement of women’s rights. The Republic of Belarus believes that the UN must set an example for the rest of the world, and help to break down the barriers holding women back from success. The Republic of Belarus is one of the most equitable nations in terms of gender distributions. 53% of our labour force consists of women, and they carry a large responsibility in Belarus⁹. Ever since the tragic loss of a third of our population to World War Two, women have stepped in to fill the gap, saving us when we needed them the most. We learned first hand that women can bring valuable unique perspectives and help solve problems that frustrated us before. Seeing women in positions of power, fighting on the front as leaders can really sway civilian opinion, and can inspire other women to speak out against their oppressive leaders, which can in turn inspire many more. The recent #MeToo movement exemplifies women inspiring women. Reports of rape and domestic violence in the Middle East following the rise of the Islamic State have skyrocketed, but few step forward, fearing violent backlash by fundamentalists. An increased involvement of women in Syria would have reduced human rights abuses. The Republic of Belarus hopes that this committee will make use of this but also push for education programs and resources that women can take advantage of, furthering their skills and thus increasing their chances of being recruited in militaries everywhere, not just the UN Peacekeeping Force.

Almost every nation today has enacted some kind of legislation requiring equality between genders in their militaries, but in reality, these measures often fall short and are not unenforced. Informal barriers like stereotyping and cultural pressure often subvert these attempts to improve women’s rights, and due to this many governments resort to quotas, but this only breeds resentment amongst men. The Republic of Belarus believes that the best resolution will choose to tackle the problem not with a quota, but with easily accessible educational resources and programs aimed towards women. Women suffer “many more injustices and obstacles that men do not”, and increasing female participation in the UN Peacekeeping Forces sets an example for others and inspires women to break their chains.

⁷ UN Security Council, Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) [on women and peace and security], 31 October 2000, S/RES/1325 (2000), available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/3b00f4672e.html> [accessed 28 January 2018]

⁸ “Featured Data Archive.” Featured Data Archive | Global Peace Operations Review, peaceoperationsreview.org/featured-data-archive/.

⁹ van Klaaveran, Maarten, et al. “An Overview of Women’s Work and Employment in Belarus.” Wageindicator.org, University of Amsterdam.

Committee: General Assembly 4

Topic: A Means of Creating Communication from the International Community to Taiwan

Country: The Republic of Belarus

Topic 3: A means of creating communication from the international community to Taiwan

On October 27th, 1971, the UN General Assembly passed Resolution 2758, and in the fourth clause, the People's Republic of China (the PRC) was declared the only representative of China¹⁰. At that time, Chiang Kai-Shek's Republic of China (the ROC) tangled with the PRC over recognition as the true China, but nearly fifty years later, the government has gone under a radical transformation. Today, the ROC only wishes to be recognized as its own separate entity.

The complicating factor in this situation is legitimization. Any acknowledgement of the ROC by an organization that represents a nation-state is essentially recognizing the legitimacy of the ROC. The PRC cannot allow this to happen. In the public's eyes this is equivalent to surrender, an admittance that the PRC is weak. Another problem is the ROC's close relations with the West. Conceding the island of Taiwan opens it up to western military powers, such as the U.S. This would undermine the power the PRC currently maintains in the Pacific. But this power struggle has come to an equilibrium position. Today the ROC maintains the non-socialist government it wishes to, while the PRC maintains its strength in the Pacific sphere and maintains its socialist government and semantic claim over Taiwan, and other nations get trading rights with both the ROC and the PRC. The current situation works, and it benefits everyone.

Whether or not a member state recognizes Taiwan as its own nation is irrelevant; it is evident that the current balance should be carefully adjusted. The biggest threats to the current balance are unexpected global events, like when the US President Donald Trump mentioned how he and the President of Taiwan had a quick congratulatory phone call¹¹. The anger that erupted after less than 100 characters written at a whim on social media online is startling. One of the most important things in diplomacy is communication. During the Cold War, an emergency phone line was established between the White House and the Kremlin, ensuring that direct and instant communication was available at the tensest moments¹². But this simple matter of communication is complicated by the fear of legitimization. This inability to communicate with organizations like the World Health Organization leaves the ROC vulnerable to epidemics and other disasters. Belarus believes that the circumstances leave the world incapable of relaying information to them, but the UN can make that information available to everyone, and if that includes the people living on the island of Taiwan, even better. The best way to accomplish this would be to release related information such as epidemic statistics and preventative measures on an easily accessible platform. Any information the ROC might require in times of need that doesn't interfere with the PRC's sovereignty should be accessible online.

Almost every nation today has trade relations with the PRC, and are afraid to antagonize the PRC. This conflict further compounds the complexity of the power struggle in the East Asian sphere, with multiple powers vying for control of small patches of land and maritime territory. But member states should also decide if their economic benefits are worth the sacrifice of millions. Belarus hopes that this committee will be wary of the current balance struck between the PRC and ROC, and to take into consideration historical controversies when forming ideas.

¹⁰ "UN General Assembly Resolution 2758." *United Nations General Assembly*, 25 Oct. 1971, documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/RESOLUTION/GEN/NR0/327/74/IMG/NR032774.pdf?OpenElement.

¹¹ @realDonaldTrump. "The President of Taiwan CALLED ME today to wish me congratulations on winning the Presidency. Thank you!" *Twitter*, 2 Dec. 2016, 4:44 p.m., <https://twitter.com/realdonaldtrump/status/804848711599882240?lang=en>

¹² Byrne, Ashley. "The White House to Kremlin Hotline: Avoiding War for 50 Years." *Public Radio International*, 5 Sept. 2013, www.pri.org/stories/2013-09-05/white-house-kremlin-hotline-avoiding-war-50-years.

