



MiddMUNC 2020

**United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
Background Guide**



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Letter from the Secretary General

Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the Secretariat and staff of MiddMUNC 2020, I would like to formally welcome you to the first iteration of MiddMUNC. As a free Model United Nations conference, we are thrilled that MiddMUNC will provide an opportunity to engage in MUN for students from across our beautiful state and surrounding areas. We are very excited to welcome you to our campus this March for a day of debate, sabotage, policy drafting, and more as you explore the world of Model United Nations with us.

For some of you this may be just one conference on a long list that you have attended throughout your academic career and others this will be your first foray into the world of Model UN. Regardless of your experience, we have designed MiddMUNC and all of our committees to offer every student an accessible and engaging day of MUN.

Throughout the past year we have carefully selected the topics each of you will participate in to create engaging, topical, and unique committees that will challenge both new and experienced delegates. In the United Nations Human Rights Council, delegates will be tasked with protecting freedom of the press in a world that is constantly threatening that basic right. Some delegates will be able to champion a free press while others will have to stay true to their country's views and argue against unrestricted free speech. Delegates in the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime will have to work together to combat radicalism in cyberspace as extremists are increasingly using the internet and social media to recruit for, train for, and plan attacks around the world. While tackling radicalism is an admirable goal delegates will have to make sure that they neither restrict freedom of speech in the process nor infringe on member states' national sovereignty. Each delegate in our joint crisis committee, the War of the Three Henry's, can expect to be transported to sixteenth century France as they vie for the crown. Representing a member of King Henry III de Valois of France (Les Politiques), King Henry of Navarre (French Huguenots), or Henry Lorraine's (Catholic League) cabinet, delegates will collaborate, backstab, spy, murder, and more in an effort to gain power and victory in the war. Suffice it to say, regardless of which committee you are in, you can expect a day of excitement thanks to the hard work of your chairs or crisis director in writing your background guides.

While our team has been a consistent force on the competitive collegiate circuit, this will be our first conference that we have ever hosted and, as such, we're just as nervous as many of you were for your conference. In preparation for your arrival, our team has spent months and countless hours writing background guides, training in the proper usage of parliamentary procedure, booking committee rooms, and all the other little details that have gone into this conference. After nearly a year of planning we are beyond excited to welcome all of you to our campus on March 14, 2020.

If you have any questions or concerns about the conference please do not hesitate to reach out to me at svanrajah@middlebury.edu. Good luck with your preparation, I look forward to meeting all of you and seeing the work you do in committee.

Sincerely,

Suria Vanrajah
Secretary General of MiddMUNC 2020



Letter from the Chairs

Dear Delegates,

My name is William Blastos and I am your United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime chair for this Middlebury College Model United Nations conference. I'm a sophomore feb here at Middlebury College, which means I started last spring making this my second semester. I am a Russian major and an aspiring Political Science or French minor, that's still up in the air. Aside from Model UN, I serve on the Student Government Association's Sexual Relationship Respect Committee and will be an orientation leader for the incoming class of febs.

Radicalism in cyberspace is a major issue that is of increasing importance in the modern political landscape. The implications of this issue are varied and complex, and are uniquely tailored to the digital world that we inhabit. I know that through debate and discussion you can reach comprehensive and creative solutions. I hope this background guide will serve as a useful starting point to help focus your research. I'm super excited to be chairing your committee and look forward to reading your positions papers and seeing what creative and effective solutions you will all come up with during committee! See you in March!

Sincerely,

Will Blastos
Chair of UNHRC

Dear Delegates,

My name is Julia Goydan, and I will be serving as your Vice Chair for the Middlebury College Model United Nations conference's UNODC committee. I am a sophomore at Middlebury, majoring in History and minoring in Chinese. Outside of Model United Nations, I am also on the crew team, I am a part of Sister-to-Sister (a mentorship group for middle-school girls), and I serve as a First-Year Counselor.

I am looking forward to chairing this committee, and can't wait to hear your ideas and proposals! Radicalism in cyberspace is a topic that is constantly evolving, and allows for many creative solutions. Utilize this background well, but be sure to conduct outside research too. A delegate can never be over-prepared— the more research you do, the more comfortable you will be when giving speeches on the day of the conference! Also, come to the committee with an open mind. Be familiar with your country's stance on the issue at hand, but also be willing to compromise and collaborate with your fellow delegates. Good luck!

Sincerely,

Julia Goydan
Vice-Chair of UNHRC

If you have any questions/concerns, feel free to reach either of us at wblastos@middlebury.edu or jgoydan@middlebury.edu. We're happy to help!



Introduction to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

The United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime is a body within the United Nations with a central focus of decreasing global drug trafficking and crime in all UN member-states, through the coordinating and standardizing regulations relating to drugs and crime in both UN framework and the governments of UN member-states¹. The UNODC typically handles this overarching goal by conducting impartial research, providing information for the individual governments of UN member-states, as well as providing support for the development of stronger regulations in UN member-states. The UNODC divides its work into five key “normative areas of activity.”² These areas are as follows: Countering Terrorism; Confronting Transnational Organized Crime; Tackling Corruption; Strengthening Criminal Justice Systems; Combatting the World Drug Problem. These five central areas of activity are a guide which the UNODC uses to focus their activities and resolutions, so it is essential to keep these areas in mind when enacting resolutions in committee sessions³. Furthermore, while it is possible that all five normative areas could come up in debate, the most relevant area to debate in committee will be the Countering Terrorism area. This [graphic](#)⁴ from the UNODC website may prove useful to delegates in understanding what the UNODC does.

It is important to note the UNODC is not a body of enforcement or regulation; rather, the UNODC is responsible for providing information about global crime, providing recommendations of regulations/legislation for individual member-states regarding drugs and crime, and providing support for member-states⁵. As crime legislation is very much within the jurisdiction of each sovereign nation, the UNODC cannot enforce regulations within the sovereign territories of member-states⁶, so resolutions should focus on recommendations, research, support, and incentivization of drug and crime legislation. This will ensure that the resolutions produced in committee are as realistic as possible, thus making the simulation as a whole as realistic as possible.

A note on committee: it is essential for vibrant debate that the views of each country be represented with accuracy. Therefore it is expected that each delegate represent the views of their member-state even if these views do not fully align with the delegates personal beliefs. However, this is not an excuse to engage in harmful rhetoric. Therefore, racist, sexist, homophobic, xenophobic, or otherwise, harmful rhetoric is strictly prohibited. Instances of this language will be dealt with by the Secretariat and likely reported to the chaperone of the delegate in question.

¹ UNODC, “About UNODC.”

² UNODC, “Five Normative Areas of Activity.”

³ Ibid.

⁴ UNODC, “About UNODC.”

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ UNODC, “Five Normative Areas of Activity.”



History of Radicalism in Cyberspace

The modern world is much smaller than the world was just three decades ago, not in the sense of physical size, that remains unchanged, nor in the sense of population, that number is rising every day. Rather smaller in the sense that people across the globe are more connected to each other than ever before. Nowadays, news traverses time zones, continents, and oceans in a matter of seconds. We have access to the breaking news in China with just as much ease as we can access the Burlington Free Press. In many ways, this digitally connected world has made our lives more simple, more open, and more informed. However, in the same way, news reaches us from across the globe as its happening, radical groups around the world are harnessing this new interconnectedness to make contact with and radicalize people not just in their geographical regions, but across the globe.

According to the Research and Development Corporation of Europe, the internet provides increased opportunities for people across the globe to become radicalized⁷. This means that as a result of the connections made possible by the internet, radical groups have easier access to like-minded people around the globe, as well as people who are easily susceptible to radicalization. Thus, the internet not only provides a connection between people who are already radicalized, but it also allows terror groups to reach average citizens and use propaganda and brainwashing tactics to instill their radical beliefs, thus expanding their reach from a regional influence into a global one. This is a relatively new development as pre-internet radical groups were generally limited to their respective geographic regions with little external reach. Now we see terror groups recruiting from all over the globe. The Islamic State is a prime example of this effective online recruitment and radicalization strategy, according to Danial Koehler for the Journal for Deradicalization, the Islamic State has employed online recruitment to “[convince] thousands of foreign fighters around the world of the group’s cause and to join their fight.”⁹ Furthermore, according to a counter-terrorism strategy document from the US Department of Homeland Security, white supremacist groups in the US and other western democracies are using social media platforms to disseminate racist conspiracy theories to the general public as a strategy to radicalize laypeople¹⁰. These are just two examples of extremist groups using social media and the internet to recruit and radicalize people to join their cause. These tactics are employed by extremist groups of all sizes and notoriety all around the world¹¹.

One of the most significant challenges to the development of resolutions in our UNODC simulation will likely be defining what constitutes radicalization and radicalism in general. Without such a definition, regulations cannot be recommended, nor can support be for effectively provided to member-states. This issue is further complicated by the

⁷ Von Behr, Reding, Edwards, Gribbon, “Radicalization in the Digital Era,” xxi.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Koehler, “The Radical Online,” 116.

¹⁰ Nakashima, “Domestic Terrorism as Big a Threat as ISIS.”

¹¹ Koehler, “The Radical Online,” 116.



fact that there are no global internet regulations that bind the behavior of individuals online consistently in all UN member-states. This makes the enforcement of regulations and the punishment of crimes on the internet very difficult. Furthermore, a balance must be found between protecting people across the globe from radicalization online and infringing upon the right to freedom of expression that is guaranteed by the United Nations. These are some of the challenges that the committee will likely face during debate. Thus delegates should consider potential solutions to these complications before committee begins.

Recent Developments

Much of the western media discourse surrounding radicalism in cyberspace comes in the form of stories of western teens being recruited and brainwashed online by far-away radical groups. This is such a common issue that many countries have adopted rehabilitation and reintegration programs to undo the radicalization of their citizens on the internet¹². We see similar reports of white supremacist groups using applications frequently used by young people to plant the seeds of violent radicalism. One such report details how a neo-Nazi group placed recruitment content on iFunny in an attempt to disseminate its extremist ideologies to young people¹³; so, the recent development of cyberspace radicalism and radicalization has taken the form of targeted recruitment of young people, not just in obscure corners of the dark-web, but on mainstream social media sites as well. The Wall Street Journal even reports that the Islamic State posted several, now deleted, videos on the popular app TikTok.¹⁴ While these social media websites monitor and remove these posts¹⁵, it is impossible to know how many people they reach in the short time they are posted, and therefore to know how much damage posts of this nature can do. Thus, we again see radicalism shifting again in the space in which it exists, from limited regional recruitment to general internet recruitment, and now from obscure specific posts in deep corners of the web to large scale posts on mainstream social media websites with broad-reaching audiences.

Existing UN Framework

Below are short descriptions of some of the existing United Nations Framework/Literature pertaining to radicalism in cyberspace. The overarching sentiments of each piece of literature are summarized, and a link to a more detailed explanation is included.

[Developing National and Regional Action Plans to Prevent Violent Extremism](#)¹⁶

This is a strategic plan put forth by the United Nations Office on Counter-Terrorism. The most pertinent section of this plan is the strategic communications section (42-44), which explores strategies for member-states to

¹² Nabelah, "Teenage Terrorists."

¹³ Kamel, Lamoureux, "Neo Nazi Terror Groups."

¹⁴ Wells, "Islamic State Turns to TikTok."

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ UNODC, "Developing Regional Actions Plans."



effectively use the internet as a tool to combat terrorism as well as outlines the strategies used by terror groups to recruit and radicalize online. It also includes recommendations for the creation of Prevention of Violent Extremism Actions Plans (PVE Actions Plans). And the plan also outlines several significant clauses of UN resolutions that relate to cyberspace radicalization.

[UN Security Council underlines UNESCO's role in Preventing Violent Extremism](#)¹⁷

This is a brief outline of the role of UNESCO in the prevention of internet radicalization through youth education and empowerment. This is mainly useful as a reference for the kinds of prevention strategies the committee could base some resolution clauses from.

General Information

The issue of radicalism in cyberspace is important for numerous reasons. The principal being that radicalism and extremism pose significant threats to the physical and emotional safety of people all around the world. Beyond that, radicalism of all forms poses a significant threat to the integrity of institutions of the United Nations. Thus, in searching for potential solutions or aids to the issue of radicalism in cyberspace, these issues should be kept in mind. Resolutions may seek to not only provide resources to member-states in how to develop plans to counter radicalism in cyberspace outright but also include strategies for rehabilitation and prevention.

Radicalism, in general, is antithetical to government and governmental structures themselves. Thus it is unlikely that any nation present in this committee would openly advocate for radicalism of any form, specifically in cyberspace. So it is unlikely that debate will not stem from delegates defending radicalism, rather the sources of disagreement will likely stem from differing perspectives on internet regulation, free speech rights, sovereignty concerns, jurisdiction, and other issues of that nature. Delegates should research not only their own country's positions and perspectives on those issues but also those of countries that are likely to agree and/or disagree with those positions. This will allow delegates to be aware of potential allies. To this end, a list is included below of the countries that will be represented in the MiddMUNC UNODC simulation to give delegates a reference for countries to be aware of and potentially research.

Countries Present in the UNODC at MiddMUNC 2020:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Austria, Belarus, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, China, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Eswatini, France, Germany, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Kuwait, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, South

¹⁷ UNESCO, "UNESCO's role in Preventing Violent Extremism."



Africa, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, United States of America, & Uruguay.

When formulating resolutions to answer the issue of radicalism in cyberspace, delegates should remember to accurately represent the views of their respective countries in order to ensure a valuable and realistic simulation. Please conduct research ahead of time to ensure that each country's views are represented with as much accuracy as possible.

Issues

The topic of radicalism in cyberspace is large and unwieldy; beyond the main challenges of reaching a generally agreeable resolution to seek potential solutions there are a myriad of smaller issues that further complicate the creation of resolutions. Below is a short list of sub-issues to consider when conducting research ahead of committee. This is by no means a comprehensive list as there are numerous sub-issues that will carry weight in debate, but this is a starting point to guide research. These issues provide dimension to the formulation of each member-state's position.

National Sovereignty

While this issue is not directly correlated with radicalism in cyberspace, sovereignty is likely to pose challenges to the development of resolutions. Independent nations tend to dislike outside entities asserting control over internal affairs. Thus, recommendations presented by the UNODC that could be perceived as encroaching on national sovereignty could pose a challenge.

Free Speech

Inherent in the issue of radicalism in cyberspace is a question of free speech. What constitutes radicalism on the internet? Where is the line drawn between an individual's right to broadcast an opinion online and schemes to radicalize people? These questions are important, and there will likely be a range of positions in committee on where to draw these lines. Each delegate should be prepared to advocate for their respective country's position on free speech with regard to radicalism in cyberspace.

Burden of Enforcement

As with any issue that involves the physical safety of people and the commitment of heinous crimes there is a significant question surrounding the burden of enforcement. Who is responsible for punishment of extremist groups? Who will rehabilitate former extremists? Who is responsible for incarceration of extremists? Under whose legal system are extremists tried under? All these questions complicate the process of developing resolutions, and each country will have likely have a differing understanding of the responsibilities and burdens of enforcement.



Questions Any Resolution Must Answer

Listed below are some questions that any resolutions presented to the chair must answer. This means that these questions are essential to the development of an effective resolutions, so please keep these in mind when drafting resolutions in committee.

What is the committee's definition of radicalism?

What is the committee's definition of radicalization?

Where does the committee draw the line between free speech and radical speech?

Does this resolution address radicalism in all spaces?

Does this resolution include strategies to prevent the radicalization of people online?

Does this resolution include strategies to rehabilitate/reintegrate those who have been radicalized online?

Suggestions for Further Research

Not sure where to start research? Attached below are some links to relevant documents, websites, reports, and news articles that can serve as a starting point for further research. Begin by reading some of these sources and then see where your research takes you.

UNODC Specific Resources

[About the UNODC](#)

[UNODC Treaties](#)

[UNODC and Cybercrime](#)

General Radicalism in Cyberspace Resources

[Radicalization in the digital era- RAND Europe](#)

[The Radical Online: Individual Radicalization Processes and the Role of the Internet- Journal for Deradicalization](#)

Rehabilitation/Reintegration Resources

[Teenage Terrorists Aren't Lost Forever- ForeignPolicy.com](#)

[Tackling Terrorists' Exploitation of Youth- AEI](#)

News Articles

[Neo-Nazi Terror Groups Are Using iFunny to Recruit- Vice](#)

[Islamic State Turns to Teen-Friendly TikTok, Adorning Posts With Pink Hearts- Wall Street Journal](#)



Delegates are also encouraged to research their country's position on the issues presented in this background guide in order to effectively represent their country in committee.



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