

MASTERS
MODEL
UN

MASMUNC III

A Letter from the Secretariat

Dear Delegates, Advisors, Staff, and Friends of MASMUNC II I,

Greetings from Dobbs Ferry, New York! As this year's Secretaries General, we are honored to share the second iteration of the Masters School Model United Nations Conference with you at the beautiful Masters School campus on December 7, 2024. After a successful MASMUNC III, we hope to grow the conference even more. Throughout MASMUNC, we aim to cultivate thoughtful and meaningful debate and compromise in committees spanning current UN bodies to fictional crises.

We've spent our spring and summer preparing and planning for you, and we hope you enjoy the committees our delegates have to offer! As a team, we've been inspired by the many conferences we've attended, and hope you will grow, learn, and have fun at MASMUNC II I. This conference is truly the work of our entire team, whether that be brainstorming, writing background guides, or serving as pages and crisis staffers. We look forward to seeing everyone represent world powers, Shakespearean characters, and even spies in our 'Spy School' committee!

Our dedicated staff of students spanning from grades 8-12 and our devoted faculty advisors are eager to welcome you with open arms to ensure the best experience possible. We hope that you will leave MASMUNC II I with lasting skills to use in more conferences in the future and throughout everyday life.

Thank you.

Jesse Gelman
Secretary General

Sophie Moussapour
Secretary General

A Letter from the Dais

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 3rd annual Masters Model United Nations Conference (MASMUNC)! Our names are Ella Horowitz and Noah Adler, and we are your chairs for this convening of DISEC.

I, Noah, am a sophomore who started Model UN just one year ago when I first came to Masters. Ever since, I have had nothing but incredible and memorable experiences with the Masters MUN team. I also like spending time with friends, and in the summer, I love to spend time at the beach, or anywhere there is a body of water. Throughout the time I have spent writing and researching this topic, I have learned a LOT, and I hope that through your research and work, the same will happen for you. Chemical warfare is a fascinating topic, and we are excited to work on it as a committee.

I, Ella, am a Junior who has been a participant in the Masters Model UN Team for three years. Model UN has been a source of joy, community, and growth for me. It has brought me closer to my teammates and allowed me to learn more about international politics. Outside of MUN, I am an active participant in the political landscape and enjoy learning about history. Beyond that, I love spending time with my dog. Model UN has taught and helped me become a better public speaker and researcher. Model UN has been a genuine passion of mine for the past three years, and I hope it will be one for you, too. I am so excited to be your chair and see you on the committee!

We cannot wait to meet you all and hear your incredible ideas. We look forward to a committee filled with debate, collaboration, and meaningful solutions. Do not hesitate to contact either of us with any questions or clarifications!

Thank you.

Noah Adler, Co-Chair,
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Ella Horowitz, Co-Chair,
ella.horowitz@mastersny.org,

A Note on Cultural Sensitivity

While at MASMUNC, we encourage delegates to bear full participation, tackle their topics with full force, and embrace the dynamics within the international community; it is vital to recognize that the topics and issues being debated influence real places and people. This recognition is crucial to developing a culturally aware mindset that will contribute to an impactful committee. Delegates representing countries, leaders, and governmental figures must acknowledge the cultural aspects that determine the nature of their position.

In addition to maintaining cultural sensitivity, we recognize that we live in a world that is filled with bias. While it may be impossible to completely separate ourselves from our worldview and the many factors that influence us daily, we can make a concerted effort to minimize how our personal biases impact how we interact with each other within this activity. To that end, please remember that:

- Accents do not reflect intelligence;
- Race does not indicate socioeconomic status;
- Gender is fluid;
- Positions that delegates take while competing don't necessarily equate to their personal beliefs;
- Words do not exist in a vacuum. Avoid using charged language toward delegates.

Thank you all for abiding by these guidelines. We look forward to seeing you all on conference day!

Jesse Gelman
Secretary General

Sophie Moussapour
Secretary General

Introduction

The United Nations Disarmament and International Security Committee, DISEC, was the first of the six central committees of the United Nations, established in 1945 at the signing of the UN Charter. For this reason, DISEC is also called the “First Committee” and may be done throughout this committee and background guide. At its founding, the committee’s mission was to take on disarmament (reduction of military forces), global challenges, and threats to international stability and peace. That mission remains true today. The committee collaborates with the UN Disarmament Commission and the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament to create meaningful change and lasting peace.

The First Committee’s work on matters of disarmament and security includes the disarming and handling of weapons of mass destruction, or WMDs, which are specified as nuclear weapons, chemical weapons, and biological weapons.

One of DISEC's influences is its ability to recommend the passing of resolutions in the General Assembly. This is seen in the first resolution of the United Nations, Resolution 1, passed by the UNGA (United Nations General Assembly) upon the recommendation of DISEC. The First Committee can also pass its resolutions. While not binding, it still holds significant political influence in the international community.

Throughout history, DISEC has answered the call in times of crisis and is being called upon once again to address the use of chemical weapons in the current conflict between Iraq and Iran. 1988 will go down in history as a turning point in DISEC history and how this committee creates guidelines.

Goal of Committee

In this committee, we expect you to address issues of chemical warfare in the context of the Iran-Iraq War. This committee will take place soon after December 1988. Working with your peers, you will work

towards a meaningful solution to address the chemical war and its aftermath. Since this is a Historical General Assembly, we ask you not to reference anything after December 1988. Please stay true to your country's

position and accurately reflect how they would handle this conflict.

The Iraq-Iran War

Types of Chemical Weapons

Chemical weapons come in many shapes and forms. Still, the definition the international community has come to agree on is that a chemical weapon is "used to cause intentional death and harm through its toxic properties." Chemical Weapons are also referred to as CW. Other definitions used to expand the encompassing term, that being chemical weapons, include mutation devices that are explicitly designed to weaponize toxic chemicals or a toxic chemical contained in a delivery system, such as a bomb or artillery shell. Chemical weapons are not just the bombs - the final product – instead, they are further defined into three categories:

- Toxic chemicals are any chemical whose action on life causes death, temporary incapacitation, or permanent harm to humans or animals. This includes all chemicals, no matter how they are used in an attack or where and how they were created.

- Munition or devices: A mutation or device that is designed to release toxic chemicals could come in the

form of missiles, bombs, mines, or spray tanks

- Equipment: any equipment specifically designed to directly employ the munition or device that is designed for CW use

To understand the dangers of CW, it is essential to understand the variety of types of CW and how they are broken down into further components. For example, any chemical used to produce a chemical weapon is again considered a CW. Moreover, dual-use items, herbicides, and riot control agents, notably more well-known for their everyday use, are also considered CW in specific situations. Then there is the CW, explicitly designed to kill toxins, synthetic toxins, and central nervous system chemicals. The wide-ranging forms of CW and their broad definitions have prompted the need for control and changes to our international CW guidelines. View Diagram 1 for more info

Further, CW have been developed into chemical agents, creating even more damaging and dangerous forms of chemical weapons; they are broken down into five different forms of CW, each agent with their

own designated purpose to inflict pain and even lead to death. Some of these are designed to simulate the feeling of drowning, suffocating, and burning. These weapons are dangerous in warfare and even more so when used outside of war. These agents have been developed and implemented throughout history, and they must be monitored before their use becomes normalized by governments during times of unrest. View Diagram 2 for more info.

History of the Use of Chemical Weapons

Chemical weapons have been utilized in warfare forever. The history of chemical weapons is displayed in Diagram 3.

Chemical weapons have existed longer than any modern-day weapon, and today, their threat is even more prominent. The use of CW in the Iraq-Iran War displays the possible chaos and pain that CW can inflict on nations and their citizens. Moving forward, we must find a sustainable solution to disarm and avoid the usage of CW in war or at all. Throughout history, we have made strides in such a direction, with the Geneva Convention (1929), which banned the use of chemical and biological agents in war but did not do enough to avoid such a catastrophe from occurring again, as we see in the Iraq-Iran war. DISEC's reaction to this war will set a precedent for future weaponry regulation. It will be consequential in ensuring that nations are fully aware that the use of chemical weapons is a violation of international peace and endangers civilians and combatants across the globe. So, to further understand what steps we must take to ensure a swift response, we can look to history to understand what threats CW has posed in the past.

Background of the Iraq-Iran War

The Iran-Iraq war began on Sept. 22, 1980, when Iraq decided to invade western Iran. This was the start of open warfare, but Iraq disputes the claim that they started the war; they claim that Iran had bombed several border posts, inciting the invasion. These events, although directly correlated to the war, were not the start of the conflict between Iran and Iraq. The tensions can be more directly connected to the 1960s when the United Kingdom withdrew from the Persian Gulf. This withdrawal set in motion the lengthy territorial disputes of Iran and Iraq, which remained a dispute until the start of the war.

In the 1970s, the new Iraqi Ba'ath regime struggled to maintain stability. Therefore, Saddam Hussein, the leader of Iraq, decided to give up the Shatt Al-Arab—a river located at the meeting point of the Tigris and Euphrates—which had great strategic value for commerce and trade. Then, after the Iranian Revolution, which lasted from 1978 to 79, Iraq was able to question the legitimacy of the prior agreement and revisit the Shatt Al-Arab as a region of interest.

This is when border clashes began to occur, and signs of Iranian interference in Iraq started to reappear. Iran was also able to find sympathizers in Iraq who agreed with the Iranian leaders who wanted to continue expanding their land, justified by revolutionary Islamic beliefs. These same sympathizers attempted to assassinate the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, Tariq Aziz, in the name of the Iranian revolution. This created both an external and internal struggle for Iraqi leadership. On the Iranian

side of things, the new revolutionary government had made an enemy out of the United States. After the 1979 Hostage Crisis, isolating Iran from the rest of the Western world. This created an opportunity for Saddam Hussein and Iraq to reassert their claims to the Shatt Al-Arab and assert additional demands, including the right to fire from Khuzestan, a rich oil-producing border region. Saddam also demanded that Iran return the Abu Musa and Tunb islands. The Iranian government disregarded these demands, and Iraq led an invasion of Iran in September 1980.

The Conflict

After Iraqi forces crossed the border and staged a surprise attack on Iran, they were able to cross the border into Khuzestan and take the city of Khorramshahr. Still, they failed to take an essential oil-refining center, Abadan. The Iranians were defended by the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), a state militia. The IRGC had a significant victory in April of 1981, which convinced Iranian leadership to provide a more substantial role in aiding combat developments to the militia group. The Iranian fighting compelled the Iraqis to give ground, being pushed back by the Iranian military. About a year after the war began in September of 1981, the Iraqi forces had been pushed back across the Karun River.

In May 1982, Iran began its offensive, recapturing Khorramshahr. This led to Iraq

The End of the War and Chemical Weapon Use in Iran and Iraq

In July 1987, the UN Security Council called for a ceasefire, which called for both nations to withdraw their forces and settle

voluntarily withdrawing its forces from all captured Iranian Territory and attempting to reach a peace agreement with Iran. Iran declined, as its leader, Ruhollah Khomeini, saw Saddam Hussain as a block to the Islamic Revolution. The main goal of the Iranian forces was to overthrow Saddam Hussain. So, in July 1982, Iran invaded Al-Basrah in Iraq.

Finally, Iraq was able to gather its troops and defend its territory, creating another stalemate inside of Iraq and along its border. Throughout the war, there were sporadic examples of air and missile attacks against oil and military installations and cities. The war had a negligible effect on the global flow of oil until 1984, when the two countries started to attack each other's oil tankers in the Persian Gulf. This led the United States and several other European Nations to become more involved with the war, as they were interested in the oil trade. So, some of these nations began to send warships to the Gulf to ensure that oil would continue flowing to the rest of the world. Many nations held stakes in this war and took sides financially and militaristically—most nations, including the United States, allied with Iraq.

their disputes through negotiations held under UN guidance. Iraq agreed to these terms, but Iran demanded further changes,

asking for the condemning of Iraq as the aggressor of the war, and called on all foreign navies to leave the gulf. This dispute on the terms of the agreement stalled the negotiations, so the war could not end. Instead, after a string of catastrophic attacks on Iranian territory, they finally agreed to the terms of the deal in 1988.

The first event in this strain occurred in early 1988 when Iraq used chemical weapons inside its border against Iraqi Kurds, resulting in around 3200-5000 casualties, a majority of whom were citizens. Using the dangerous nerve agent “sarin” causes people to seize, go into paralysis, and have difficulty breathing. Long-term effects have still been observed, with 12,000 people dying since the attack. Most of the materials for chemical weapons, including sarin gas, were sourced from firms in many countries, including the US, western Germany, the Netherlands, the UK, and France. Dutch, Australian, French, Italian, West, and East German companies were all involved in the direct export of raw materials to Iraqi chemical weapon factories. The specific reason for Iraq’s attack was rooted in the fact that the Iraqi Kurds had been working with Iran in fighting against the Iraqi Government, so this attack significantly discouraged further assistance from the Kurds. The world's reaction to the use of chemical weapons was to ignore the attack since most nations had sided with Iraq. This stayed the policy throughout the further chemical weapon attacks.

Then, in April, the second major attack occurred when Iraq once again used CW, but this time against Iran, targeting al-Faw,

recapturing the Faw Peninsula, and Majnun. This attack resulted in 1000 casualties and allowed Iraq to recapture significant territory. These attacks raised pressure on Iran to agree to a ceasefire.

The third and final attack gave Iran no choice but to surrender and negotiate peace with Iraq. In the same month as the CW attack on al-Faw, Iran Air Flight 655, a passenger plane that was mistaken for a fighter jet, was shot down by the US, resulting in 290 fatalities. After these three attacks, Iran finally agreed to United Nations Resolution 598 on July 20, and the ceasefire eventually came to fruition on August 20, 1988.

These Iraqi attacks were not the only time chemical weapons were used. Throughout the 8-year war, the use of CW resulted in 60,000 casualties. The first recorded use of CW in Iran by Iraq was in 1983, involving the blister agent mustard gas. This was the more generic form of CW used at the start of the attacks. Still, eventually, Iraq expanded its arsenal to use nerve agents. According to Iraqi reports, they used over 19,500 chemical bombs, over 54,000 artillery shells, and 27,000 short-range chemical rockets throughout the war. They consumed around 1800 tons of mustard gas, 140 tons of Tabun, and over 600 tons of Sarin.

Although Iraq started using chemical weapons at the start of the war, in the last 18 months (about one and a half years) of the war, most of the CWs were used. This included significant attacks in al-Barsha, Sardasht, Sumar/Mehran, Halabja, Iraq, al-Faw, Fish Lake, Majnoon Island, the south-central border, and other smaller

villages and towns inside Iran. Each specific attack could result in anywhere from 100 to 10,000 casualties. All these attacks on civilian life are examples of the importance of guidelines and regulations over Chemical Warfare to ensure the protection of innocent civilian life.

Questions to Consider

It is December 1988. Iran and Iraq have finally agreed to a ceasefire deal, which has been active for four months. As a committee, we are faced with a choice on how we will respond to the use of chemical weapons in Iran and Iraq by the Iraqi Forces. You have been presented with a detailed explanation of the conflict, CW history, and the necessary definitions and information regarding CW. Following the damages that CW has caused, it is now up to the members of DISEC to move forward with sustainable solutions.

1. What are the potential impacts of chemical warfare being used in war?
2. Should limitations be put in place in the development of chemical weapons?
 - a. Further, how can we walk the fine line of regulating the development of precursors and other parts of chemicals that have multiple uses, such as weapons and other everyday uses?
3. How should we address civilian injuries and casualties from chemical warfare in the Iraq-Iran War?
4. How do we set a precedent for warfare regulation and DISEC's role in this regulation for the future?

Positions

- | | |
|---------|-------------------|
| 1. Iran | 4. United Kingdom |
| 2. Iraq | 5. France |
| 3. USA | 6. Israel |

7. Jordan
8. Soviet Union
9. China
10. Egypt
11. Sudan
12. UAE
13. Türkiye
14. Canada
15. Kuwait
16. Syria
17. Libya
18. Saudi Arabia
19. Switzerland
20. Spain
21. Italy
22. Greece
23. Ethiopia
24. Brazil
25. Pakistan
26. Qatar
27. Oman
28. Algeria
29. Argentina
30. Columbia
31. South Africa
32. Morocco
33. Nigeria
34. Chile
35. Nicaragua
36. Venezuela
37. Australia
38. India
39. Cuba
40. Sweden
41. Former Yugoslavia
42. Finland
43. Norway
44. New Zealand
45. Belgium
46. Mexico
47. Netherlands
48. Romania
49. Yemen
50. Malaysia
51. Ireland

Diagram 1

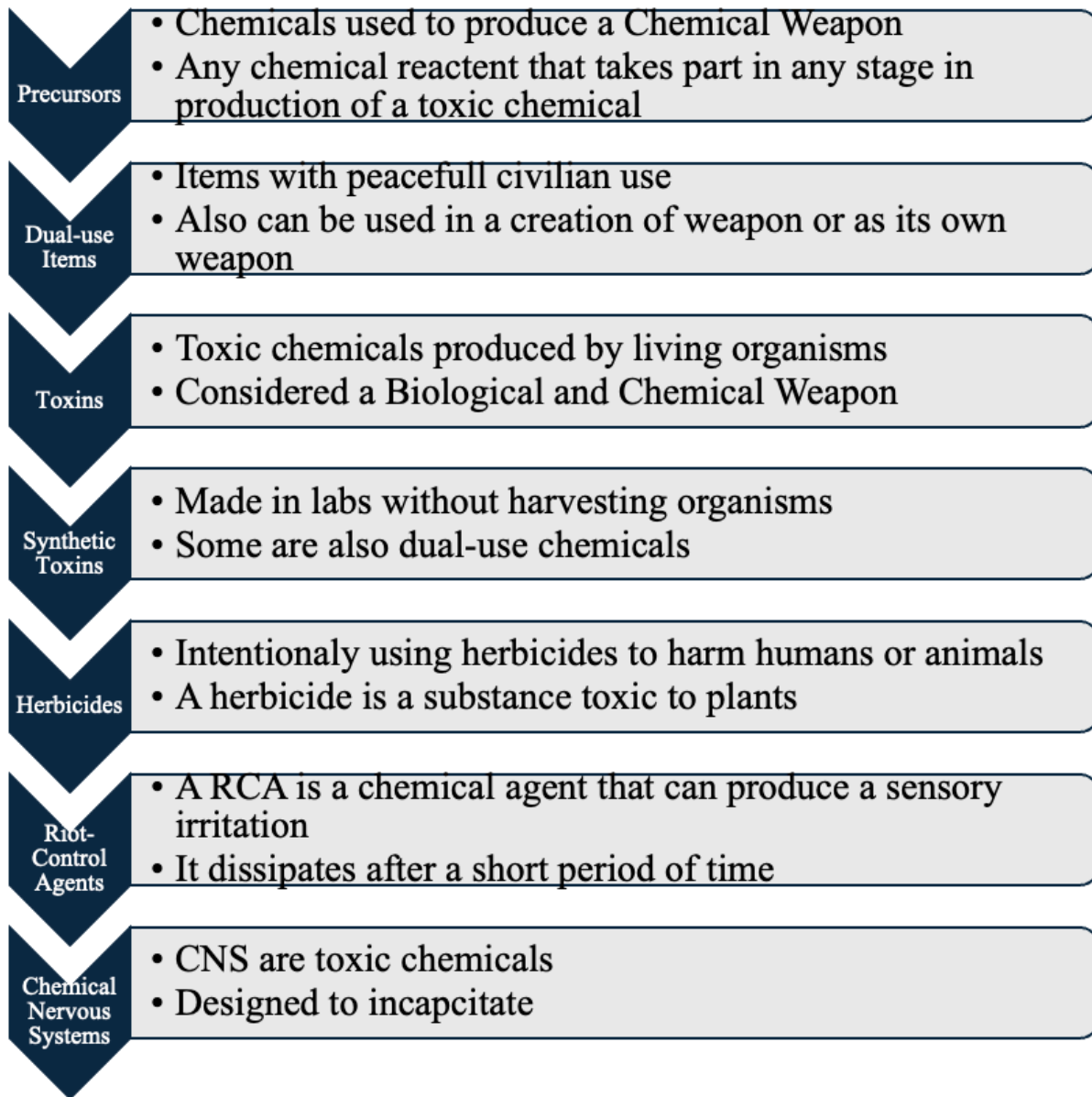


Diagram 2

Choking Agents	Blister Agents	Blood Agents	Nerve Agents	Riot Control Agents
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inflicts Injury on the respiratory track • Dispersed through Gas • Creates a sensation like drowning • Some Examples Include: Chlorine, Diphosgene, Phosgene, Chloropiren 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oily substance that can cause a reaction through contact, and inhalation • It affects the eyes, respiratory track, and skin • Starting as a cell poison and irritant • Dispersed through liquid or vapor • Results in life threatening skin blisters resembling severe burns • Some Examples include Hydregon, Cyandie, Cyanongen chloride, Arsine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It inhibits the ability for cells to use oxygen • Results in suffocating • Affect blood cells ability to transfer oxygen • Distributed through blood and enter the body as a gas through inhalation • Could be hydrogen cyanide, Cyanogen chloride, Arsine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Block an enzyme in the nervous system, causing the accumulation of a neurotransmitter between nerve cells or across synapses. • Leading to hyper stimulation of muscles glands and other nerves • Works fast and is very toxic • Two main groups <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G series <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • short period in air • V series <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longer in the environment • Potent • Threat to skin • Examples include; Tabun, Sarim, Soman, Cyclisation, VX • Dispersed as liquid aerosol vapor and dust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RCAs are intended to incapacitate a person by causing irritation to the eyes, mouth, throat, lungs, skin • RCA's like tear gas are considered Chemical weapons when used in warfare • Could be liquid or aerosol

Diagram 3



600 BCE – The first recorded use of chemical weapons in Ancient Greece



1675 – France and Germany sign the Strasbourg Agreement, the first international agreement to ban poison bullets, an old form of chemical weapons



1874-1907 – Several treaties signed by the most western nations banning the use of poisons and poisonous weapons in war



1914 Germany violates treaty after France develops tear gas grenades for police use



1915 Germany and Britian use a lot of chemical weapons



End of WWI – 1.3 million casualties caused by chemical weapons, 90 thousand to 100 thousand fatalities



1925 – Geneva protocol is adopted banning the use of chemical weapons and biological agents in war. States that only if attacked with CW you can respond with CW



Start of WWII – mustard gas used in Africa by Italy, breaking Geneva protocol



Throughout WWII – no chemical weapons used on European battlefields while the Nazis use poisons to kill civilians in concentration camps



1961-1971 – United States responds with napalm and herbicide agent orange in Vietnam War



1963-1967 – Egypt uses mustard gas and a nerve agent to help support a Yemenis Coup



1972 – The biological and toxin weapons convention completed collaborating on the Geneva protocol



1980s – Iraq uses chemical weapons against Iran, resulting in Iran starting its own chemical warfare program

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