

# Hilton 2022 Chair Letter

GA - General Assembly

## *Committee Overview*

*Space Warfare*

*Preventing Violence over Water in the Middle East*

*Combating Hyperinflation in Zimbabwe*

*Addressing the Puerto Rican Drug Wars*

### **COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION:**

GA is run Harvard Style. This means that delegates are not permitted to draft resolutions until the day of the conference. Additionally, it is highly recommended that every delegate writes at least one position paper as doing so is a requirement for an award, preferably one for each topic. Delegates should come to committee prepared to discuss all three of the topics and be well versed in their assigned country's policy. The purpose of the General Assembly committee is to work to address and solve a wide plethora of diverse political, economic, and social issues across the world. This committee will expose you to global drug and violence issues as well as international issues relating to the economy and the ethics of war. When delegates push their assigned country's viewpoints and ideas, our committee should be filled with interesting and engaging debate.

### **ABOUT US:**

Eddy Wu

Hello delegates! My name is Eddy Wu, and this is my second time chairing and third year in Model UN. I am a junior at Pittsford Sutherland where I play for Pittsford varsity hockey as well as participate in a number of other activities including Math Team and Debate Club. I am looking forward to committee and in the meantime feel free to reach out with any questions!

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Ethan Bingemann

My name is Ethan Bingemann, this is my first time chairing and my third year doing Model UN. I am a Junior at Pittsford Mendon High School. Outside of MUN I do Boy Scouts, Masterminds, OOTM and Science Olympiad. I am very excited to be chairing GA at Hilton!

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## Topic #1: Space Warfare

As our society as a whole constantly pushes toward modernity, many nations' agendas have been focused on weapons development to maintain a grip on their power dynamics and international affairs. Moreover, the recent boom in interest in space has made space arms an area of speculation. This has been apparent since the events of the Cold War.

The arms race has been a long-standing affair between the superpowers of the world, however in parallel with a space race could be detrimental to international peace. Political and economic tensions continue to be high between the world's superpowers including Russia, China, the European Union, India, and the United States of America.



Space warfare has been preemptively categorized into 3 classes. Ground-to-space warfare which includes land-based weapons attacking satellites from the Earth, space-to-space warfare such as satellites attacking satellites, and space-to-ground warfare which entails satellites attacking Earth-based targets. With the development and constant obsession over nuclear firepower, warfare from any one of these categories would be demolition.

The U.S. currently has the United States Space Force, Russia currently has the Russian Aerospace Forces, and India has the Defense Space Agency. These three countries and China hold the capability of launching an anti-satellite weapon (ASAT), designed to destroy satellites. All four superpowers have successfully shot down their own satellites as a show of force. The world's communications systems rely on the presence of these satellites in orbit around Earth.

With American generals citing the space war as inevitable and the recent military advances launched by Russia that violate several international treaties, space warfare remains a source of paranoia for the world. Any conflict that occurs outside of Earth's atmosphere has the ability to affect every single human on this planet, whether through direct loss of life, indirect damages, or unforeseen consequences.

*What can the UN do to put in place a system where initiation of space warfare will never occur? Is it possible for the UN to limit the number of countries with the capability of placing weaponry in space without infringing on national sovereignty? How can current world superpowers be put under a system of checks and balances?*

Space Warfare

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space\\_warfare](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Space_warfare)

The Ripple Effects of a Space Skirmish

<https://www.theatlantic.com/technology/archive/2020/07/space-warfare-unregulated/614059/>

U.S. generals planning for a space war they see as all but inevitable

<https://spacenews.com/u-s-generals-planning-for-a-space-war-they-see-as-all-but-inevitable/>

## Topic #2: Preventing Violence Over Water in the Middle East

The Middle East is an area of high political tension notably stemming from water shortages. The Middle East contains 5% of the world's population however only 1% of the world's fresh water.

Many bodies of water are shared by two or more countries. This has led to disputes over who has the rights to rivers and their resources. Notably, the Tigris and Euphrates rivers that lead through Syria, Turkey, and Iraq as well as the Nile river running through Egypt and much of Eastern Africa and conflicts over the Jordan River Basin. Syria and Iraq had troops along their borders and would have likely gone to war if not for Saudi Arabian diffusial of the situation. The Jordan River basin has been claimed by Israel, limiting water supply to the Palestianian West Bank region and leaving Palestinians far less then the WHO daily water minimum. Ethiopia has built many dams and limited water flow to Egypt leading to political tension.

Building of dams along major bodies of water has the potential to cause further conflict. These dams are likely to cause drought downstream and large ecological damage. Dam construction plans further cause conflict and political instability. Both Turkey and Ethiopia have laid out plans and constructed major dams that serve to benefit their own water and power needs leaving downstream nations with limited water. These dams often provide renewable hydroelectric energy for these countries.

Efficient use of water also remains a problem; over 80% of the available water is used inefficiently according to world bank reports. Nearly 85% of water in the Middle east is used in the agricultural sector. Which is 15% higher than the global average. This is also worsened by the already lacking water supply.



Future violence looks increasingly likely as tensions fail to ease. Without proper aid and cooperation this conflict can only get worse.

*What solutions can be implemented to use available water more efficiently? What agreements can neighboring countries come to? What should be done with existing dams blocking high amounts of water flow to neighboring countries? What resources can the UN provide to the Middle East?*

Water scarcity in the Middle East: Beyond an environmental risk

<https://www.orfonline.org/expert-speak/water-scarcity-middle-east-beyond-environmental-risk/>

The MENA Region's Water Crisis: Avoiding potential Water Wars

<https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/policy-analysis/mena-regions-water-crisis-avoiding-potential-water-wars>

Water in Crisis- Middle East

<https://thewaterproject.org/water-crisis/water-in-crisis-middle-east#:~:text=Agriculture%20uses%2085%20percent%20of,countries'%20already%20undersized%20water%20resource>

### **Topic #3: Combating Hyperinflation in Zimbabwe**

Zimbabwe has had a historic issue with hyperinflation. Hyperinflation is defined as inflation of over 50% over the period of a month.

This crisis began in 2008 with heavy overprinting of paper currency. Then, leader Robert Mugabe continued to authorize money printing despite inflation rates of over 100%. This, partnered with high demand of low supply resources led to extreme rates of hyperinflation. Reaching up to 79.6 million percent inflation as of November 2008.

As money devalued, workers were forced to spend money briefly after they got it because it could highly devalue by the end of the day. Further devaluation brought about larger and larger sum bank notes with generally low market value. The UN did not act on this issue in the past but instead offered humanitarian aid.

Use of other currencies became common practice. This caused the government to rapidly lose money because it functioned on the Zimbabwe dollar. The government finally gave in and removed the Zimbabwean dollar. Unfortunately, this did not solve food shortages or poverty.



Zimbabwe officially switched to the US dollar in 2015. In 2019, the Zimbabwean dollar was reintroduced as the official currency of Zimbabwe. Now, similar signs of inflation are revealing themselves as banks announce the production of higher notes once more. Inflation reached as high as 761% over the toughest part of the Covid-19 pandemic. This is also worsened by now illegal uses of foreign currency.

The government of Zimbabwe looks to be repeating similar actions that caused high rates of inflation. The United Nations recognizes this issue but also recognizes national sovereignty and nation's rights.

*In what way could the Zimbabwe dollar still be used? How can the government of Zimbabwe prevent use of foreign currency? How can the United Nations assist Zimbabwe?*

<https://www.google.com/amp/s/www.aljazeera.com/amp/economy/2022/5/5/dollar-oclock-should-zimbabwe-axe-its-faltering-currency-again>

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-03-11/zimbabwe-now-turns-to-a-task-force-to-end-its-currency-rout>

<https://nypost.com/2019/10/10/zimbabwe-struggles-with-hyperinflation-its-a-nightmare/>

#### **Topic #4: Addressing the Puerto Rican Drug Wars**

Puerto Rico is a Caribbean island and unincorporated territory of the United States. It is also a transshipment point for drug trafficking between resource countries like Peru, Colombia, and the U.S. A number of drug cartels use Puerto Rico specifically as a transfer point for trafficking cocaine to the mainland United States because of the territory's political instability.

A commonwealth of the U.S., Puerto Rico did not have a major problem related to drug consumption or dealing until the 1970s. These problems slowly emerged because of the increased usage of drugs among those under the age of 25. In the 1980s, drug-related crimes skyrocketed because Colombian drug cartels started to send huge amounts of drugs to Puerto Rico.

The government of Puerto Rico has attempted to address these issues, starting the War on Drugs, however with low levels of success. Despite Mexico's more than 50,000 casualties due to the Mexican Drug War since 2006, Puerto Rico's casualty ratios are proportionally higher than Mexico's.



Long sentences for criminals, increased funding for law enforcement, and construction of new prisons have been strategies used by the Puerto Rican government to no avail. Furthermore, the Drug Enforcement Association (DEA) and Puerto Rican police have struggled to work together. The FBI, Department of Homeland Security, and DEA have multiple task forces working on the illegal drug trade in Puerto Rico.

Although Puerto Rico's police force is the second largest among US police forces, they are struggling to succeed in their drug war due to being ill-prepared. The problem lies in an ongoing police and political corruption issue that obstructs the success of almost all operations. According to the FBI and local police forces, these drug dealers fund some local lawmakers and politicians who get profits from their drug trafficking. In addition, Puerto Rico's murder rate is five times more than the US's which many credit to its drug wars.

Despite requests from the Puerto Rican government, the federal government did not send more officials to cover borders and control drug trafficking in the region. Even if the federal government deploys more troops to Puerto Rican borders, these drug cartels use other routes to transmit produced drugs.

*Is there a way the UN can sift out the corruption of the Puerto Rican government and/or police force to resolve a large aspect of the drug problem? How can the UN utilize the international community to apply pressure on the US to aid Puerto Rico? If a resolution is reached, how can these strategies be cross-applied to other drug-plagued areas?*

Illegal drug trade in Puerto Rico

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegal\\_drug\\_trade\\_in\\_Puerto\\_Rico#:~:text=collar%20drug%20users.-,2009%E2%80%93present,many%20places%20in%20Puerto%20Rico](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Illegal_drug_trade_in_Puerto_Rico#:~:text=collar%20drug%20users.-,2009%E2%80%93present,many%20places%20in%20Puerto%20Rico).

Two Leaders Of Violent Puerto Rico Drug Cartel That Committed Dozens Of Murders...

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-sdny/pr/two-leaders-violent-puerto-rico-drug-cartel-committed-dozens-murders-and-bribed-police>

Puerto Rico: A forgotten front in America's drug war?

<https://www.cnn.com/2012/06/09/justice/puerto-rico-drug-trafficking/index.html>