**Letter from the executive board:**

On behalf of the Executive Board of SFHS MUN 2023, it is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that we extend a warm welcome to all delegates attending this year's conference. We are honoured to have you join us for what promises to be an exceptional and transformative Model United Nations experience.

SFHS MUN 2023 aims to provide a platform for you to showcase your skills, knowledge, and passion for international affairs and diplomacy. As delegates, you have a unique opportunity to engage in rigorous debates, negotiate solutions to global challenges, and expand your understanding of the complexities of our interconnected world.

We recognize the dedication and hard work you have put into preparing for this conference. Your commitment to research, public speaking, critical thinking, and collaboration is commendable. SFHS MUN 2023 seeks to reward your efforts by fostering an inclusive, respectful, and intellectually stimulating environment where all delegates can thrive.

Throughout the conference, you will have the chance to engage with fellow delegates from different schools, cultures, and backgrounds. This diversity of perspectives will undoubtedly enrich the discussions and lead to innovative approaches to addressing the pressing issues on the agenda.

We encourage you to make the most of this opportunity. Embrace the challenges, engage in thoughtful debates, build alliances, and seek consensus. Remember that SFHS MUN is not just about winning awards, but also about personal growth, fostering global citizenship, and promoting understanding among nations.

As an Executive Board, we are committed to providing you with guidance, support, and mentorship throughout the conference. Should you have any questions, concerns, or require assistance, please do not hesitate to approach us. We are here to ensure that your SFHSMUN 2023 experience is both educational and enjoyable.

**Regards**

**Pranav Joshi**

**Chairperson**

**Rules of Procedure/Points to Remember**

**Procedure**: The purpose of putting in procedural rules in any committee is to ensure a more organised and efficient debate. The committee will follow the UNA-USA Rules of Procedure. Although the Executive Board shall be strict with the Rules of Procedure, the discussion of the agenda will be the main priority. So, delegates are advised not to restrict their statements due to hesitation regarding procedure. Foreign Policy: Following the foreign policy of one’s country is the most important aspect of a Model UN Conference. This is what essentially differentiates a Model UN from other debating formats. To violate one’s foreign policy without adequate reason is one of the worst mistakes a delegate can make.

**Executive Board:** The Executive Board is appointed to facilitate debate. The committee shall decide the direction and flow of debate. The delegates are the ones who constitute the committee and hence must be uninhibited while presenting their opinions/stance on any issue. However, the Executive Board may put forward questions and/or ask for clarifications at all points of time to further debate and test participants.

**Nature of Source/Evidence:** This Background Guide is meant solely for research purposes and must not be cited as evidence to substantiate statements made during the conference. Evidence or proof for substantiating statements made during formal debate is acceptable from the following sources:

**1. United Nations:** Documents and findings by the United Nations or any related UN body is held as credible proof to support a claim or argument. Multilateral Organisations: Documents from international organisations like OIC, NAFTA, SAARC, BRICS, EU, ASEAN, the International Criminal Court, etc. may also be presented as credible sources of information.

**2. Government Reports:** These reports can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country.

**3. News Sources:
 3.1. Reuters:** Any Reuters article that clearly makes mention of the fact or is in contradictions of the fact being stated by a delegate in council.

**3.2. State operated News Agencies:** These reports can be used in the support of or against the State that owns the News Agency. These reports, if credible or substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any country as such but in that situation, may be denied by any other country in the council. Some examples are – RIA Novosti (Russian Federation), Xinhua News Agency (People’s Republic of China), etc.

**About UNSC (United Nations Security Council)**

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, and its primary responsibility is the maintenance of international peace and security. Here is a detailed note on the functions and powers of the UNSC:

1. **Maintenance of International Peace and Security:** The primary function of the UNSC is to maintain international peace and security. It identifies threats to peace, determines the existence of aggression or breaches of peace, and takes appropriate measures to address conflicts and restore stability.
2. **Peacekeeping Operations**: The UNSC authorises and oversees peacekeeping operations around the world. It can establish and deploy peacekeeping missions to areas affected by armed conflict, where they aim to facilitate peace processes, protect civilians, and support the implementation of peace agreements.
3. **Peaceful Settlement of Disputes:** The UNSC plays a crucial role in facilitating the peaceful settlement of disputes between countries. It encourages negotiation, mediation, and arbitration to resolve conflicts and prevent the escalation of violence.
4. **Imposition of Sanctions:** The UNSC has the authority to impose economic and diplomatic sanctions on states or individuals to address threats to international peace and security. These sanctions can include arms embargoes, travel bans, asset freezes, or trade restrictions.
5. **Authorization of Military Action:** The UNSC has the power to authorise military action to address threats to peace and security. It can issue resolutions authorising the use of force in self-defence, collective security measures, or peace enforcement operations.
6. **Establishment of Ad Hoc Tribunals:** The UNSC has the authority to establish ad hoc international criminal tribunals to prosecute individuals responsible for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. Notable examples include the International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and Rwanda (ICTR).
7. **Appointment of the Secretary-General:** The UNSC has a role in appointing the Secretary-General of the United Nations. It recommends a candidate for the position to the General Assembly for approval.
8. **Veto Power:** The five permanent members of the UNSC - China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States - possess the power of veto. A single veto from any of these members can block the adoption of a resolution, even if it has the support of all other members.

It is important to note that while the UNSC has broad powers to address issues of peace and security, its effectiveness can be influenced by the divergent interests of its member states and the geopolitical dynamics at play.

**Autonomous lethal weaponry**

Autonomous lethal weaponry refers to weapons systems that have the ability to independently identify, track, and engage targets without direct human control or intervention. These weapons are designed to operate autonomously, making decisions on their own regarding the use of lethal force.

Here is a more detailed definition of autonomous lethal weaponry along with examples:

**Definition:** Autonomous lethal weaponry, also known as autonomous weapons or killer robots, are weapons systems that possess artificial intelligence (AI), advanced sensors, and algorithms to perform functions such as target detection, identification, tracking, and engagement without requiring real-time human input or control.

**Technology:** Autonomous weapons rely on advanced technologies such as sensors (including visual, infrared, and radar), machine learning algorithms, computer vision, and AI. These technologies enable them to perceive the environment, identify targets, and make decisions based on predefined rules or algorithms.

Examples:

* **Autonomous Drones:** Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) equipped with AI and computer vision capabilities can autonomously identify and engage targets. They can analyze visual data from onboard cameras or other sensors to make decisions regarding missile strikes or precision targeting.
* **Autonomous Ground Vehicles:** Autonomous ground vehicles, such as armed robots or unmanned tanks, can navigate different terrains and engage targets without human intervention. These vehicles are equipped with sensors, AI algorithms, and weapons systems that allow them to operate independently in combat situations.
* **Autonomous Naval Systems:** Autonomous underwater vehicles (AUVs) or surface vessels equipped with AI and sensor technology can conduct surveillance, detect threats, and engage enemy targets autonomously. These systems may include torpedoes or missiles that can be launched without human authorization.
* **AI-guided Munitions:** Autonomous munitions, such as guided missiles or smart bombs, can independently identify and track targets using onboard sensors and AI algorithms. Once launched, these munitions can make course corrections or target adjustments to ensure accurate engagement.

It is important to note that while the development and deployment of autonomous lethal weaponry are topics of interest and concern, international discussions and debates are ongoing regarding their ethical, legal, and humanitarian implications. The level of autonomy and human oversight in the use of lethal force by autonomous weapons remains a key focus of these discussions, aiming to establish appropriate regulations and guidelines to ensure their responsible development and use.

**AI Based Weaponry System**

As of my knowledge cutoff in September 2021, there are no confirmed reports of AI-based weaponry that are actively deployed in combat situations. However, it's important to note that advancements in AI technology and its potential applications in the military domain are areas of ongoing research and development. Several countries and defense organizations are exploring the use of AI in various military systems and applications.

While specific details may be limited, here are some areas where AI has been incorporated into existing weaponry or defense systems:

* **Automated Target Recognition:** AI algorithms are being employed to enhance target recognition capabilities in military systems. For example, computer vision algorithms can analyze sensor data to detect and classify objects or individuals in real-time, aiding in target identification.
* **Autonomous Drones:** Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are increasingly using AI for autonomous flight and navigation. AI algorithms can enable drones to perform tasks such as automated takeoff and landing, obstacle avoidance, and mission planning, reducing the need for constant human control.
* **Cybersecurity and Defense:** AI is being utilized to enhance cybersecurity and defense against cyber threats. AI-powered systems can analyze network traffic, detect patterns of malicious activity, and respond in real-time to defend against cyberattacks.
* **Predictive Analytics:** AI algorithms are being employed to analyze large volumes of data and generate insights for military planning and decision-making. Predictive analytics can assist in forecasting potential conflicts, optimizing resource allocation, and improving operational efficiency.

It's worth noting that the development and deployment of AI-based weaponry is a topic of ongoing discussion and debate at the international level. Ethical, legal, and humanitarian concerns surround the use of autonomous and AI-powered systems in military applications. Regulations and guidelines are being considered to ensure the responsible and lawful use of such technologies.

**What can AI warfare look like?**
Emerging AI-based weaponry can take various forms, leveraging advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) technology. Here are some potential examples of what AI-based weaponry could look like:

* **Intelligent Targeting Systems**: AI can enhance targeting systems by analyzing vast amounts of data, including sensor inputs, satellite imagery, and real-time intelligence. This can enable more accurate identification and tracking of targets, reducing the risk of civilian casualties and collateral damage.
* **Swarm Technology:** AI can facilitate the coordination and control of swarms of autonomous drones or robots. These swarms can operate collaboratively, communicating with each other to carry out complex missions. They can overwhelm enemy defenses, provide reconnaissance, or deliver synchronized strikes with precision.
* **Cognitive Electronic Warfare:** AI can enhance electronic warfare capabilities by analyzing and adapting to electronic signals in real-time. Cognitive electronic warfare systems can autonomously detect, classify, and jam enemy communications or disrupt their electronic systems, providing an advantage in the electromagnetic spectrum.
* **Adaptive Cyber Weapons:** AI-powered cyber weapons can adapt and evolve to counter sophisticated cyber threats. These weapons can employ machine learning algorithms to detect and neutralize cyberattacks, autonomously analyze network vulnerabilities, and develop defensive strategies in real-time.
* **Automated Defence Systems:** AI can be used to create autonomous defense systems that can detect, track, and engage incoming threats, such as missiles or projectiles. These systems can rapidly analyze trajectories, calculate interception paths, and launch countermeasures with minimal human intervention.
* **Predictive Analytics for Warfare:** AI algorithms can analyze historical and real-time data to generate predictive models for military operations. These models can provide insights into enemy behavior, forecast potential conflict scenarios, and help optimize strategic decision-making.

It's important to note that while these examples illustrate potential capabilities of AI-based weaponry, the actual development and deployment of such systems depend on ethical, legal, and policy considerations. The responsible use and regulation of AI in the military domain are ongoing topics of discussion to ensure that emerging AI-based weaponry adheres to international norms and the principles of humanitarian law.

**Important International treaties and conventions on various aspects of warfare:**
There are several important treaties and agreements that address various aspects of warfare and seek to establish rules and regulations to limit the use of certain weapons or tactics. Here are some key treaties and agreements related to warfare:

* **Geneva Conventions (1949):** The Geneva Conventions are a set of international treaties that establish the standards for humanitarian treatment during armed conflicts. They address the protection of wounded and sick soldiers, prisoners of war, and civilians in conflict zones.
* **Chemical Weapons Convention (1993):** This treaty prohibits the development, production, acquisition, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons.

It requires the destruction of existing chemical weapon stockpiles and establishes framework for verification and inspections.
* **Biological Weapons Convention (1972):** The Biological Weapons Convention prohibits the development, production, and stockpiling of biological weapons. It aims to prevent the use of disease-causing agents or toxins for military purposes and promotes cooperation on peaceful uses of biological sciences.

* **Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (1980):** The Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons (CCW) seeks to limit the use of certain types of weapons that cause excessive injury or indiscriminate effects. It includes protocols addressing specific weapons such as landmines, incendiary weapons, blinding laser weapons, and explosive remnants of war.
* **Ottawa Treaty (1997):** The Ottawa Treaty, also known as the Mine Ban Treaty, prohibits the use, stockpiling, production, and transfer of anti-personnel landmines. It aims to reduce the humanitarian impact of landmines and facilitate their clearance and assistance to victims.
* **Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (1998):** The Rome Statute established the International Criminal Court (ICC) as a permanent international tribunal to prosecute individuals for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. It serves as a mechanism for holding individuals accountable for grave breaches of international humanitarian law.

These treaties represent some of the most significant agreements related to warfare, aiming to protect civilians, limit the use of certain weapons, and ensure compliance with humanitarian and ethical standards. While not an exhaustive list, they reflect international efforts to establish legal frameworks that govern the conduct of armed conflicts and mitigate the humanitarian impact of warfare.

**Case study: UAV (unmanned armed vehicle)**
UAV stands for Unmanned Aerial Vehicle. It is an aircraft that operates without a human pilot on board. UAVs, also commonly known as drones, are controlled remotely or operate autonomously using pre-programmed instructions or artificial intelligence algorithms. They can vary in size, ranging from small handheld models to large, sophisticated aircraft.

Several countries around the world use Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) in their military operations. Here are a few examples of countries known to utilize UAVs for military purposes:

* **United States:** The United States has been a leader in UAV technology and has extensively employed UAVs in military operations. They have utilized drones such as the Predator and Reaper for reconnaissance, surveillance, and strike missions in various conflicts, including in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria.
* **Israel:** Israel is known for its advanced UAV capabilities. The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) have developed and deployed a range of UAVs for intelligence gathering, surveillance, and targeted strikes. Examples include the Heron and the armed variant, the Heron TP.
* **China:** China has significantly invested in the development and production of UAVs for military applications.
 The Chinese military operates a variety of UAVs, including reconnaissance drones like the Wing Loong and combat-capable drones like the CH-4 and CH-5
* **Russia:** Russia has been expanding its UAV capabilities in recent years. They have developed and deployed UAVs such as the Orlan-10 for reconnaissance and

surveillance purposes. They are also working on developing combat-capable UAVs like

the Okhotnik.
 • **Turkey:** Turkey has been actively utilizing UAVs in its military operations. Their

domestically developed UAVs, such as the Bayraktar TB2, have been employed for reconnaissance, surveillance, and armed missions in conflicts such as in Syria and Libya.

These examples are not exhaustive, as many other countries also employ UAVs for military purposes, including the United Kingdom, Iran, India, Pakistan, and others. It's worth noting that the specific types and capabilities of UAVs used by each country may vary based on their military requirements and technological advancements.