

Committee: UNSC
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MITMUNC 2011 Position Paper

The people of Portugal would like to open by saying that our position on terrorism is absolutely clear cut and not negotiable. As we said to general assembly in December 2007, "Terrorism is criminal and unjustifiable in any circumstances." Here, we believe that most parties concur. In the past Portugal has not been majorly attacked biologically or through cyber warfare, yet there is significant precedent to believe such an attack could happen, and Portugal has been substantially worried in the past about the fact that echoes of such attacks, especially biological attacks, reverberate over large areas, not necessarily contained by the original target. In the past we have signed numerous drastic anti-nuclear proliferation resolutions, and anti-weaponization resolutions. We see cyber and biological threats as having the potential to be just as harmful and unpredictable as other weapons of mass destruction, and in some cases having more long term affects. We therefore assert that action just as drastic must be taken.

Cyber Warfare

Cyber warfare, Portugal believes, is the intentional destruction of a nation's electronic data or programs by any organization existing outside that nation, be it a small private group or a government, on a scale large enough to incite conventional violence. Due to the inherent destructive nature of cyber warfare in its ability to not only cause physical harm to people and resources but also to damage industry and permanently destroy essential information, we cannot condone this warfare on any account. At this point in human history, it is safe to say that a world wide web is very new and complicated thing. Emerging for public use really only in the mid 1990s, this is a gift and a weapon. We know not what the true dangers are of open cyber networks, and believe that to keep regulations loose would be a huge mistake. The Security Council was founded to keep nations secure, and to continue to leave doors open to hackers is simply not that secure way of the future. Today, the era of wiki leaks is upon us, and offers much insight into the potential threats of the nets. We have, of yet, remained fairly untouched by the rampant spreading of classified information, and yet we realized that in some cases the only thing between our confidential military documents is a few lines of code. We do not want the world to read these documents on account of embarrassing information, but rather on account of positions, plans, and data that could put thousands of lives are at risk. But how can we close a dangerous system? Portugal proposes that governments work not off the internet, but off an entirely separate network. This way, people not directly involved in government already will have no access to government computers. There must be the passwords and defense mechanisms now in place as well, on top of these new networks. Not only does this make governments more secure from threats from their own people or from other NGOs, but also safe from other governments.

Bioterrorism

Portugal's stance on bioterrorism is similar to its stance on cyber warfare in that we believe that it is our duty, as a United Nations, to do everything in our power to prevent any form or stage of bioterrorism from taking place, as it is a topic with little studied consequences and essentially unknown yet widespread potential. The scariest piece of it is the development of new organisms never before tested by Mother Nature. We don't profess to be able to properly control all these organisms, many of which could be created by organizations with no valuable resources put into the research of containment, control, and prevention. If we don't know how to use most of these to begin with, than we can certainly not hope to be able to use them responsibly, at least for the time being. The nature of the problem is about spreading and chain reactions, and country borders serve as no limit to that. Portugal believes that action on the part of the U.N. is essential, because if this problem is left to sovereign governments, and one decides against taking firm preventive action, disease and infection from an attack on or by that state could spread to every country on the continent, in the world even. The preventative actions that Portugal recommends include, but are not limited to, resolving to not produce or develop bioweapons of any kind in a given country by any person(s) for any purpose, developing instead modern technology that non-invasively tests for infections, and creating a program by which a someone accused of bioterrorism, found guilty by the victim state, may be punished under the harshest law of those countries that were directly involved or majorly impacted.